

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

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Find of the Year Winner - Treasure 2008

Don't forget that we vote for "Find of the Year" during the March Meeting.
Remember to bring your Best Finds to the March 2019 meeting of the CMDC!

The Buzzer is published by and for the membership of the CMDC – Canada's oldest Active Metal Detecting Club.

Visit us on the internet @ www.cmdc.org.

FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING

Metal Detecting is such an optimistic hobby - we always hope to find a treasure, relic, or other cool find under our coil. The treasures are there to find, as we see every year during the March meeting when amazing finds make an appearance for the "Finds of the Year" voting.

March is always an exciting meeting for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club. During the March meeting, the CMDC votes for our best "Finds of the Year" and there are always some amazing items to view and vote on. With all the spectacular items that club members have recovered during the 2018 Metal Detecting Season, I am expecting this to be another great year for the "Finds of the Year" voting.

Remember to attend the March meeting, and to bring your best finds for voting. Each Club member can display one item in each of the basic categories of Best Relic, Best Treasure, Best Coin or Best Trinket. The votes are tallied, but the results kept secret until the annual awards dinner scheduled for the middle of April.

Finds of the Year - Categories

The Finds of the year categories are the same ones used for "Finds of the Month" we use at meetings between April and December. Look through your treasure boxes from 2019, and see what you have to display for your personal best "Find of the Year" in the following categories.

BEST COIN

Best Coin includes any piece of metal that represented legal tender for the nation or region in which it circulated. If the coin has been incorporated into a piece of jewellery, it will go into the Treasure category instead. The coin can be made out of any metal. Any attempts to sneak in wooden nickels or Canadian Tire money will be frowned upon.

BEST TREASURE

If it's made out of a precious metal (gold, silver, platinum) and isn't a coin, it belongs here. Gold rings, silver rings, gold bracelets, gold bars, gold dust ... you get the idea. Club members in the past have brought in jewellery, gold nuggets, and Silver Victoria Jubilee teaspoons. The best way to tell is if your item is "treasure" is if it has a hallmark, but that isn't going to present in every case. Some jewellery is Artisan crafted, or was created in a country where hallmarks are not the norm.

BEST RELIC

The CMDC considers relics as items over 25 years of age. That doesn't seem very old, but Calgary is a fairly young area. If your item is a non-precious metal, is over 25 years old, and it's not a coin or piece of jewellery, this is where it fits in. Tokens, buttons, bullets, militaria, watches, tools, antique toys, medals ... anything that is over 25 years old is welcome.

BEST TRINKET

Any other item that you find can be entered under Best Trinket. This can include Costume jewellery, modern toys, newer tools, nifty gadgets or anything that just doesn't look old enough to be really considered a Relic. Think of such things as being "Relics-In-Training".

ROCHON SANDS SEEDED HUNT - 2019



Exciting News - the next Rochon Sands Seeded Hunt is fast approaching. The Hunt is scheduled at the Village of Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake - and is scheduled to be held on Saturday June 01, 2019.

The Rochon Sands Spring hunt sounds like a great day out. Plans for the event are in the works, and at this time, include 2 seeded hunts with hundreds of silvers and prize tokens, and a catered lunch. There will also be a 50/50 draw and a raffle. Future Buzzers will bring more details.

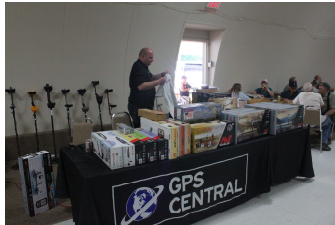
SAVE THE DATE: ROCHON SANDS JUNE 01, 2019

Camping will be available at the Rochon Sands Provincial Park, but you may want to pre-register, as this event will draw people from all over the province. Hotel accommodations are available in the nearby community of Stettler, which is about a 20 minute drive away.

The cost for the event is \$65.00 for EMDC/CMDC members, and \$75.00 for non-members. Lunch only guests will be charged a minimal fee. Registration will be available by mail or by e-transfer, and details about the hunt and about the banking information will be sent out shortly.

I hope to see you all there, as this is a wonderful time to get together with other detectorists from all over Alberta. We are all looking forward to the event, as it promises to be a great hunt.

An event brochure is in development and will be available on both the EMDC and the CMDC facebook group pages, shortly. However, if a Buzzer reader is not on facebook, and would like one of the Brochures emailed to them, send either club an email and one will be sent out to you.



Development of the Metal Detector

Alexander Graham Bell, the developer of the telephone, is also credited with the invention of the first metal detector in 1881. The device was hurriedly put together in an attempt to save the life of U.S. President James Garfield after an assassination attempt. The machine was hurriedly assembled, and successfully tested on bullets in bags of wheat and on veterans from the Civil War with shrapnel or bullets still in their bodies.

Unfortunately, Bell's metal detector did not locate the bullet in Garfield, who succumbed to his injuries. It was later discovered that the metal bed frame the President was lying on confused the instrument. Bell wrote a detailed article about the incident in a prominent scientific journal in August of 1882.

The modern development of the metal detector began in the 1920s. Dr. Gerhard Fisher was developing a system of radio direction-finding intended to be used for navigation. The system worked, but Fisher noticed anomalies in areas where the terrain contained ore-bearing rocks.

When Dr. Fisher investigated this phenomenon, he found these anomalies to be the result of conductive, mineralized areas. Fisher continued his research and concluded that a portable electronic prospecting instrument could be developed that used the same principle to detect metallic objects and ore deposits. In 1931 he founded the Fisher Research Laboratory out of his garage in Palo Alto, California. That business grew to become Fisher Research Labs, the company that still produces the Fisher Metal Detector series.

Another early developer, Shirl Herr, manufactured a metal detector that was used in Europe to recover sunken Roman treasure in the early 1930s and by Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition in 1933, where it was used to locate objects left behind by earlier explorers.

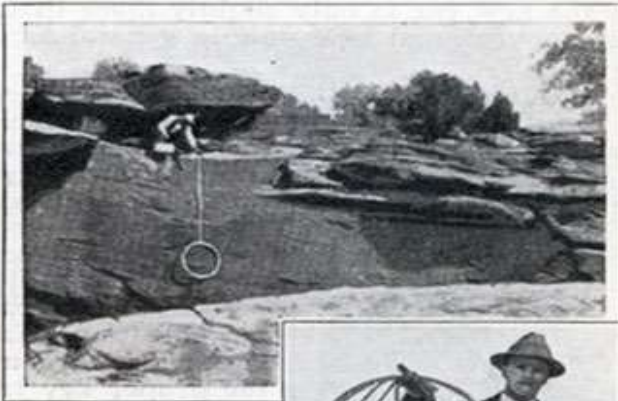
During WWII, Stanislaw Kosacki, a Polish officer attached to a unit stationed in Scotland, refined earlier designs into the portable detector design that most metal detectors still use today. They were heavy, ran on vacuum tubes, and needed separate battery packs. Kosacki's detector design was used during the clearance of the German mine fields during the second battle of El Alamein after 500 units were shipped to Field Marshal Montgomery to clear minefields left by the retreating Germans. It was later used during the Allied invasions of Italy and Normandy.

Many manufacturers of these new devices brought their own ideas to the market. White's electronics of Oregon began in the 1950s by building a machine called the Oremaster Geiger Counter. Another leader in detector technology was Charles Garrett, who pioneered the BFO (Beat Frequency Oscillator) machine. With the invention and development of the transistor in the 1950s and 1960s, metal detector manufacturers and designers made smaller lighter machines with improved circuitry, running on small battery packs.

Modern top models are fully computerized, using integrated circuit technology to allow the user to set sensitivity, discrimination, track speed, threshold volume, notch filters, etc., and hold these parameters in memory for future use. Compared to just a decade ago, detectors are lighter, deeper-seeking, use less battery power, and discriminate better.

1934 Metal Detector Magazine Article

New Device Locates Buried Metal



Above—Photo shows prospector lowering the coil along a rock face to determine the presence of precious minerals. Right—A close-up of device showing coil and battery box. Electrical disturbances are transmitted from the coil to a meter. Note extreme lightness of the complete unit.



REQUIRING no technical knowledge to operate, a new detection instrument is said to be unusually efficient in locating buried metal or virgin ore. Electrical impulses, sent through a hoop-like coil, set up disturbances on a recording meter, indicating metal's presence.

CACHE HUNTING HINTS

A few years ago the Buzzer ran a story about Bill Jones location of a cache - He found a hidden treasure trove of money (mostly pennies) that amounted to over 1600 coins. In locating that cache (pronounced "cash"), Bill crossed something off his wish list that is still on mine, and most other detectorists that I know. Many of us still want to find "A Cache", and it is not a common find.

What is a "cache"? A cache can be many things, but is generally considered a collection of hidden items. In the past many people did not trust banks, or had no banks within a reasonable distance, so they would hide their valuables around their property. Those valuables might be anything, including a bag of bullion, a box of jewelry, a coffee can of loose change, a strongbox of paper money, or even an Aunt Jemima bank filled with silver dimes. A cache is usually not found in parks or ball fields, or in an area where no one has ever been. Caches are usually found near old work-camps, homes, caves, or old homestead sites.

You have to remember that in the past, a cache was considered "safe-keeping". People may not have trusted banks, or they may not have had easy access to a bank. The person who hid the cache intended to find it again. It is most likely to find a cache somewhere close to human habitation, past or present. It is rare to find a cache in the remote countryside UNLESS at some point some sort of habitation was there.

In modern days a cache might also include a "short term" stash of items that a robber took and hid with the intention of a later retrieval. There are a few cases in the CMDC where a bag of jewellery has been found buried for some years, where the detectorist is almost positive this was the case.

Points to keep in mind when cache hunting include:

- A cache is usually buried one to three feet deep (between 30 cm to one meter). If you are hunting an area where you believe that a cache may have been buried, you will want to adjust the settings on your metal detector for maximum sensitivity.
- There are a few general rules when searching for hidden treasures around houses. A person would usually hide their treasure in an area that they can see from a major window (bedroom or kitchen). They may leave themselves a clue, like a nail in a tree with the cache buried below, or a fence post that is taller than the rest.
- The cache container you are looking for will probably be fairly small – the container will usually be some sort of common around the "homestead" item that has been re-used as a container for the cache. You should not plan your hunt as if you are excavating "Oak Island" when you are looking for a "normal" cache. You are most likely to find a buried change purse, a jar, or a small tin with 10 or 20 coins squirrelled away. Remember that 100 years ago, a dollar was a good day's wages, and most people made less than that.
- Caches are usually found in proximity to iron / metal containers. These might include an aluminum or tin container, an old coffee tin, iron box, mason jar with a metal lid, or even a steel strong box. Note that ALL OF these metals will be eliminated by most detectors once you turn on "low tone" discrimination. An old Nabob coffee tin will sound like iron, even if there was a large amount of silver, pennies, or gold in the same metal container. If the cache is buried in a container made of a metal you have discriminated out, you will not hear the sound. Your detector will not emit a tone unless you're operating with the "low-tone" discrimination off.

Metal Detecting “Code of Ethics”

The Metal Detecting Code of Ethics has been around a long time - It is a good common-sense approach to the hobby. I remember seeing it included in the instructions that came with my first metals detector almost a decade ago and know that it has been around much longer than that. The future of our hobby is affected by public perception of it. If we all abide by these basic “common sense” rules, Metal Detecting will be around as a hobby for our enjoyment for a long time.

- I will respect private property and do no metal detecting without the owner’s permission.
- I will fill all holes, and replace all plugs neatly.
- I will leave my digging area just as I found it.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural and cultural resources, wildlife and private property.
- I will use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I will make sure all gates are closed behind me.
- I will not litter. I will remove litter and trash recovered during my detecting, and properly dispose of all trash found.
- I will not destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.
- I will return an item, by any means, if someone can adequately describe it.

Remember-We are an ambassador of a pastime/hobby that love, and that we want to protect, and we will be judged by how we act and respond.

Ring Recovery in New York

Erin Carrozzo, of Flushing, New York thought all hope was lost when her 1.3-carat engagement ring, and the matching wedding band went missing in the sands of Robert Moses State Park. The park has a beautiful sandy beach, and she removed the rings to apply sunscreen. She forgot to put them on again, and although a search was made, her family could not locate the rings. She was heart-broken.

Only two days later, retired FDNY firefighter Mike Cogan, was out enjoying his favourite hobby of metal detecting when he discovered the two missing rings. Cogan knew he found something spectacular, but new that whoever lost the rings had to be devastated. He was determined that he would try to find the owner. Mike Cogan advertised on Craigslist, but it wasn’t until the ring was posted on facebook that he got the response he was hoping for. He posted a picture of the wedding band in a Facebook post Aug. 21 that was shared a few hundred times. Eventually, a couple of Carrozzo’s Facebook friends tagged her in the post — and she instantly recognized the ring.

Erin Carrozzo phoned Mike Cogan and explained that she had lost both rings, but was happy to get the band back. Only then did Cogan reveal he had found the engagement ring, too. In early September, the pair finally got together to exchange the rings near the spot in the sand where Cogan found them. Carrozzo, who celebrated her 10th wedding anniversary this year, still can’t believe her rings are back on her finger. “It’s so encouraging knowing there’s good people out there in the world,” she said. “Someone could have easily done the wrong thing.”

PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE

