

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

Volume 43 – issue 3 May 2014

CMDC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



What a Fine Looking Group



JEFF BUCHAN - CMDC Member of the Year

Congratulations to the winners of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club "Finds of the Year" Awards for 2013, and the CMDC Member of the Year. See article on page 1.

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.

CMDC ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club Annual Awards banquet was held on Saturday, April 15, 2014. The CMDC got together at the Danish Canadian Club for an excellent dinner, some conversation, and recognition of the Best Finds of the 2013 Metal Detecting Season. The meal was an excellent prime-rib buffet, including several salads and vegetable choices, cheeses, and desert. The food was wonderful, and there was plenty of it. The dinner was held in a private dining room, closed-off from the rest of the restaurant area. Our Thanks and Appreciation go out to Brett Buchan for all the time he spent arranging the event.

Club members brought various "recovered items" to display, as well as the items that had been submitted for the "Finds of the Year" voting. Even the staff in the dining area stopped to admire all the items on display. We all spent time examining the finds, and plenty of conversations started with - "where did you find that?". There were many different recovered finds brought for display by CMDC members - recovered from many different eras. It is always good to remember that Metal Detecting is such a diverse hobby, and that people enjoy finding different types of items. The evening was great to get out and spend time with other club members and their spouses, especially after almost seven months of the snowiest winter in a lot of years. All in all, it was a wonderful event! What a great way to start off the 2014 Metal Detecting season!

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2013 Metal Detecting season were displayed and voted on during the March 2014 CMDC Club meeting. The winners were tabulated, but were kept secret until the banquet. The 2013 CMDC "Find of the Year" Winners were announced in each of the four categories, and awarded a plaque and an "engraved" Buck knife as a prize. Second Place winners were also recognized and awarded a prize. Our Member of the Year Award is calculated carefully - to select a person who has helped out in the club and in the community - and provided a positive perspective on our great hobby.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to "Sunwest Aviation, Hunting Energy Services, and Crowfoot Wine & Spirits for the nice arrangement of door-prizes that they provided for our awards banquet. Door prizes included a chef knife set, a couple of clocks, bottles of wine, finds cases, MD Diggers, and apparel. Other door prizes were donated by members of the CMDC, and "coin shop"

Choosing the winners of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club 2013 "Finds of the Year" awards was a hard job this year - as we have had so many great finds in 2013 - but the votes have been cast, and Congratulations to all of the winners!

Treasure: 1st: Gold Ring with Diamonds & Emeralds (Jerry Leussink), 2nd: Silver Haida Ring (Fred Van Vaals)
Coin: 1st: 1858 10 Cents (Jeff Buchan), 2nd: 1899 US Barber Dime (Rod Coppock)
Trinket: 1st: 1950 Roy Rogers Lucky Piece (Andy Coward); 2nd: Badge (Jeff Buchan)
Relic: 1st: Calgary Auto Club Placard (Iain Paterson; 2nd: 1919 1-Horse Wagon License (Jeff Buchan)
Member of the Year - Jeff Buchan



JERRY LEUSSINK



JEFF BUCHAN



ANDY COWARD



IAIN PATERSON

CMDC 2013 "FIND OF THE YEAR" WINNERS



CMDC Banquet - an Evening to Remember



Returned Treasures

Clayton Blanchard has been out enjoying the good weather, and recovering some great items. It is always good to see an item returned to its original owner, so congratulations to Clayton on two recent facebook posts in which he did just that. He was out enjoying his metal detecting hobby, and his actions definitely made a positive impact on two families.

The first item was a "borrowed" ring, returned to a very anxious little girl.

- " At a park with my daughter this afternoon and found a silver ring in the Gravel. Half an hour later Molly and her dad approached me saying she had borrowed her mom's ring without permission and lost it at the park. We now have a very happy little girl who won't be in trouble when mom comes home."

The second item was a missing iPod touch near a sports field.

- We'll it's time to find some keepers again.... Found an iPod touch at the playground by my sons soccer game. I waited around and detected till dark and Ashley showed up in a panic looking for it. Another happy customer!"



Clayton Blancher is an active member of the CMDC, and enjoys the hobby as an enthusiastic Detectorist. He continues to get out with his metal detector several times a week, and is well known as a "silver coin magnet".

Mint Marks on US Coins



Recently a 1912 American wheat penny was recovered by Brett Buchan. Right under that date on that coin was the American Mint Mark "S". That mint mark, indicating that the coin was minted in San Francisco, increased the value of that wheat penny in average circulated condition from \$2.00 to \$17.00. In Uncirculated condition the difference in value between that "S" coin and a wheat penny minted elsewhere would be more than \$100.00. What a difference a little "S" makes.

Every so often we find American coinage - especially pennies. Understanding what mint marks are might help us understand the value of what we find. The mint mark on American coins is a designation of where they were minted. The practice was legislated by an Act in March of 1835 as a means of standardization and quality control. Mint marks were first designed by the US government to locate a problem. If a coin was underweight, or overweight, the mint mark would identify where the coin was minted, and the problem could be located and fixed. Another problem which this act would prevent was a dishonest mint official putting less metal in the coin that directed. Mint Marks have been used on coins (except Philadelphia mintage) since 1835 - except for a few years in the 1940s and 1960s.

Examples of current mint marks in US Coinage include "P" for the Philadelphia Mint, "D" for the Denver Mint, which has been in use since 1909, and W for the West Point Mint. Many American coins lack a mint mark. Any coin lacking a mint mark is from the Philadelphia mint (or extremely recently, it might also be from West Point). Philadelphia was the only mint in operation in the early years, and identification of the coinage was not necessary. This was continued even after the other branch mints were established, so any coin without a mint mark is from the Philadelphia mint.

In past years other mint marks were used

C - (Charlotte, North Carolina) - early gold coinage 1838-1861.

CC - (Carson City, Nevada) used from 1870 to 1893

D - Dahlonega, Georgia) - early gold coinage 1838-1861

O - (New Orleans, Louisiana - 1838 through 1909 and

S - (San Francisco, California) 1845 through 1974.

Philadelphia is the most common mintage, with other mints used only as necessary - so coins minted in other places often had limited runs. As those coins are rarer, and harder to find, they are often considered more valuable by collectors. Rare date coins can increase in value enormously - as in the case of the 1914 D penny, which has a uncirculated value of \$3000.00, while a "Philadelphia" minted coin of the same date is worth only \$50.00.

Mint Marks on modern coinage are most often located near the date - but in the 1800s and early 1900s the mint marks could be located anywhere on the coin. Seated Liberty dimes & half dimes would be in or under the wreath, as would an Indian Head penny. Standing Liberty coins would be near the feet of the figure. An excellent website to show where mint marks are located on various American coins is:

<http://www.littletoncoin.com/LCC/html/features/pdf/guide-to-mint-marks.pdf>



1902-O Barber half dollar - recovered by CMDC member Randy Poirier in 2007. The Mint mark is located near the Eagles tail.

Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

Now that the 2014 Metal Detecting season has started, I thought it might be a good idea to remind our membership about the Metal Detecting "Code of Ethics" Our hobby has been banned from some US State Parks, and some cities in the United States because of a few detectorists who do not treat the land or the hobby with respect.

This can be avoided in Alberta with a little bit of wisdom in how we enjoy our hobby. One CMDC club member recently ran across another detectorist (not a member of our club) who did not replace plugs, fill in holes, and left his found trash on the ground beside the hole. I encountered the aftermath of this type of detecting last year, and spent a portion of the time I would have been detecting cleaning up someone else's mess. This lack of consideration for our hobby reflects badly on those of us who enjoy Metal Detecting. 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.

Code of Ethics

- 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 remove litter and trash recovered during my detecting, and properly dispose of all trash found.
- I will not litter.
- 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.

METAL DETECTING GO-KIT

Most Hobbyists have set-up a Detecting "Go-Kit" or "Tool Belt" that they keep stocked - to grab-and-go when they find time to set out for a "hunt". Around Alberta a lot of detectorists set this up in a workman's "Tool Apron". The contents of these kits will vary from person to person, but the basics remain the same. The apron (with pockets) has a built in Finds Pouch, and Trash pouch. And remember - You will never, ever go out detecting and not find something (trash or treasure).

You will need your basic array of tools - usually this will include a digger, probe, and pinpointer. Some people will also carry small saws (for tree roots) and gloves. A drop cloth to keep your digging area clean is another great item to include. Spare Batteries are a must. I also carry a magnet for a quick "silver" check.

It is always good to be prepared for the weather. Carry a hat, bug spray and sunscreen for sunny days. If the weather might change (Hey - its Calgary), carry clear plastic bags to protect your detector and your finds on rainy days.

A lot of people will pack a magnifying glass or jewellers loupe to examine recovered items closely. They may also carry a small container for "special finds" to make sure that great item isn't damaged. I usually also carry a couple of plastic "grocery bags" in case the area is so trashy that my "garbage pouch" is overflowing.

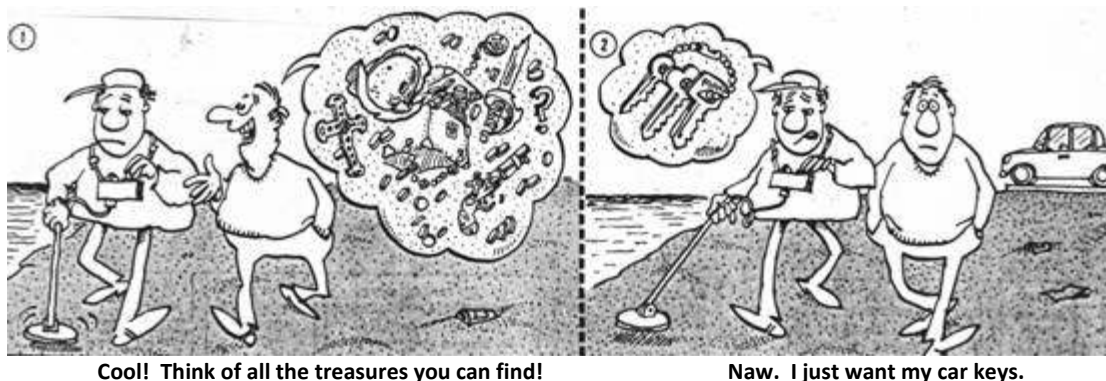
No matter where you are hunting, don't forget your cell-phone. It's can be a life-saver if something goes wrong - but cell phones also have cameras. If you find that one of a kind item - you might want to be able to take a photo in situ.

Coin-Shooting Tips

One of the most common things people use their metal detectors for is searching for coins, a hobby also known as "coin shooting". Coin shooting can be a good way to enjoy your hobby while making a bit of cash at the same time. If you get out frequently enough, you can easily and completely pay for your metal detector within 2-3 years time. There are several tips and tricks for metal detecting coins that will help you recover more coins quicker

1. Know your machine and how each coin reads under your search coil. Do a bench test and learn how it reads audibly and on the visual read out (if you have one).
2. If you are truly coin shooting, discriminate out everything but coins...coinshooting is about using your time effectively. If you are hoping to find any nickels, make sure you don't discriminate them out. On a lot of metal detectors, nickels read much like a small aluminum piece.. Metal detectors like the AT-Pro allow you to discriminate out individual items and be selective of your targets.
3. Decide if you want to waste time digging up pennies. Newer pennies are worth one cent. What is your time worth? Keep in mind that pennies made before 1984 are solid copper and worth between 3 & 4 cents each!
4. Use a Pinpointer. Many coins are small and can be hard to find in a pile of loose soil. A Pinpointer like the Garrett Pro-Pointer is a good option.
5. **DOUBLE CHECK YOUR HOLES!** This may be the most important rule to recovering lots of coins metal detecting. I have dug several times and found a coin only to check the hole again and recover, one, two, three, or more in one hole. Just last weekend I dug a penny signal and eventually ended up digging out 13 pennies (I kept digging hoping there was some silver in the hole). One time I dug a hole with two dollar coins and seven quarters! This is known as a coin spill and they happen frequently. Double check your hole and make sure you recovered all of the valuables!
6. Check the dates on the coins you recover...it can be very telling of an area. Typically the older the better. Even if you are finding pennies, it can tell you what era the property was most heavily used. For instance if you are in a park and only finding coins from the 1990's and newer you may not have much luck finding silver coins, which date pre-1964. However, if you find Wheat Pennies or other coins from the early 1900's you are much more likely to find silver coins.
7. Don't scuff the coins or clean them too much. You can literally destroy a valuable coin by trying to over-clean a coin. It is wise to consider anything you dig up from the ground to be in "poor" condition. However, silver can be cleaned up nicely and assuming it wasn't circulated too much, silver coins can be in great condition. It is recommended that the harshest cleaner you use on coins be either straight water or water with a little soap. Also be careful digging if you think you targeted a coin...a small trowel or spade can put a significant scar on soft silver or gold.
8. Know a coin dealer you can stop in and visit to give you information on coins. It can take a lifetime to learn the values of all of the many coins out there. These guys do it for a living and stay up to date on current pricing.

This article was located on the website <http://highplainsprospectors.com>. With so many excellent Coin Finds being recovered by the CMDC in 2013 - I thought some coin-shooting tips might be a great inclusion in "The Buzzer." The article was altered slightly for space and Canadian applicability.



Cool! Think of all the treasures you can find!

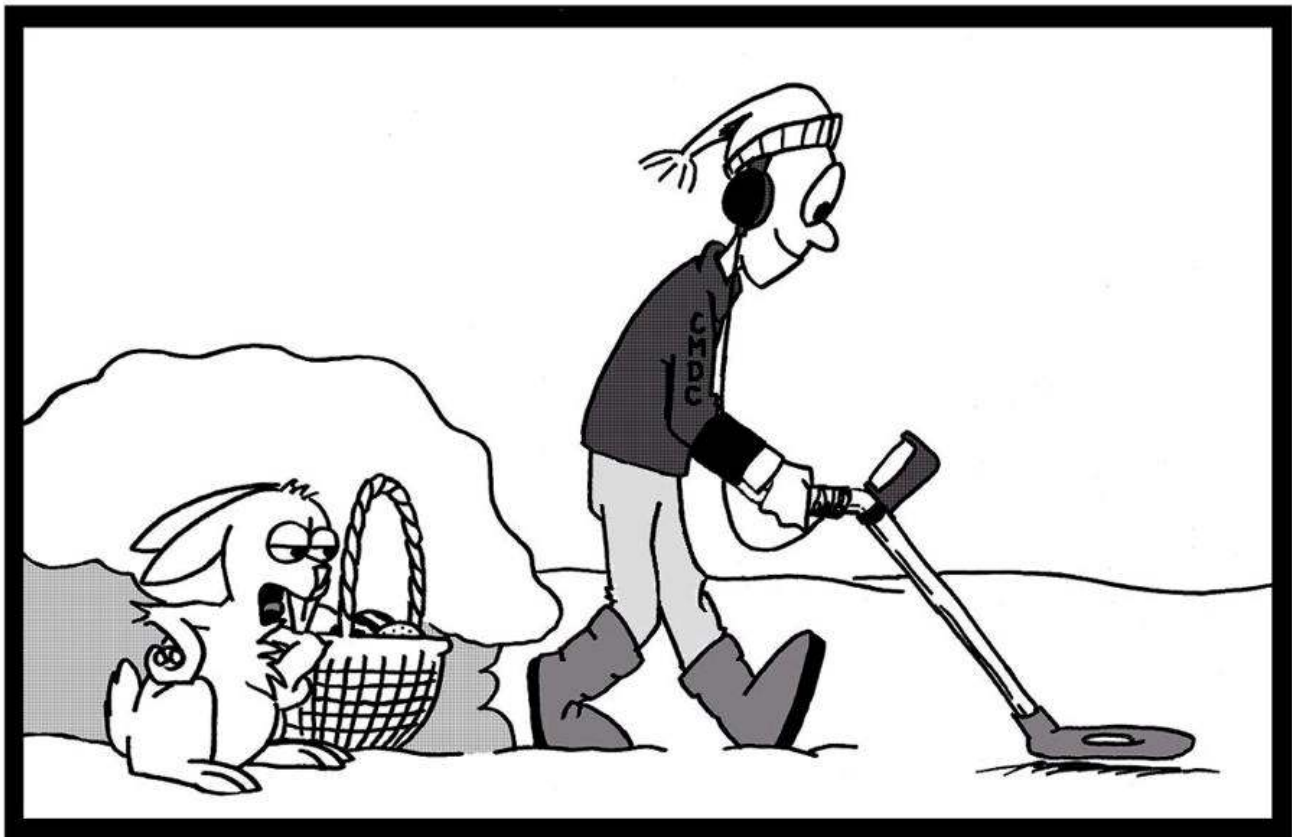
Naw. I just want my car keys.

CMDC ARTICLE IN SWERVE MAGAZINE

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club was recently immortalized in print. The April 4th, 2014 issue of The Calgary Herald's "Swerve Magazine" included an article about our great hobby, titled "Metal Heads". The article, by Jacquie Moore, featured several CMDC members, and photographs of some of their favourite recovered items.

The article states " While some all-weather obsessives hunt year-round in Calgary, most start appearing alongside the crocuses, panning the warming earth, seemingly oblivious to the joggers, dog-walkers, monkey-bar-climbers and picknickers who populate the grassy places they search. I say "seemingly oblivious" because, in spite of appearances, it's precisely you—with your holey pockets and your butterfingers and your careless habits—they're interested in. Metal detectorists may be searching for inanimate objects, but they're rarely motivated by fantasies of striking it rich by discovering Alberta's equivalent of the Staffordshire Hoard (a mother lode of seventh-century gold relics found in 2009 by a lucky Brit with a run-of-the-mill detector); more often, they're seeking human connection—whether contemporary or ancestral—and the chance to restore a little happiness. "

The full article is available on the "Swerve Magazine" website at <http://www.calgaryherald.com/swerve/features/When+your+wedding+ring+goes+missing+need+call+metal/9691748/story.html>



"DARN! EVERY YEAR IT GETS HARDER
AND HARDER TO HIDE THESE THINGS!"

Cartoonist: CMDC member Dwayne Hinz. Dwayne & his Cochrane Dental Practice are also Buzzer sponsors.

LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store which is located just off Crowchild Trail between Charleswood Drive and Brisbois Drive N.W. You have to enter the store and go down-stairs (door by the Bakery) to find the meeting room.

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The CMDC's yearly dues are:

In-town membership : \$25.00
Out-of-town membership: \$20.00

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