

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

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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 AWARDS BANQUET

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club Annual Awards banquet was held on Saturday, April 11, 2015. The CMDC got together at the Danish Canadian Club on 10th Street SW, and had a great time. The evening included an excellent dinner, conversation with good friends and fellow hobbyists, and the recognition awards of the Best Finds of the 2014 Metal Detecting Season. The meal was a prime-rib buffet, including several salads and vegetable choices, cheeses, and desert. The food was delicious, and there was more than enough for everyone present. The Danish Canadian Club provided a private dining room, closed-off from the rest of the restaurant area for our evening event. Our Thanks and Appreciation go out to Brett Buchan for working out all the arrangements.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to our local metal detecting retailer, "GPS Central", and to Sunwest Aviation and Hyatt Mitsubishi for providing a very nice arrangement of door-prizes for the banquet. Other prizes were donated by Crowfoot Wine & Spirits, Michaels, Martin Motorsports, and many individual members of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club. Bottles of wine were also provided as gifts for our understanding life-partners, who have supported us in our treasure-hunting quest.

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2014 Metal Detecting season were displayed and voted on during the March 2015 CMDC Club meeting. Individual club members brought their personal best finds retrieved during the 2014 season to the meeting. These were displayed and voted on, but the winners were kept secret until the banquet. The 2014 CMDC "Find of the Year" Winners were announced, and awarded a plaque as a part of the banquet.

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. The Member of the year for 2014 was Brett Buchan, with second place going to his brother, Jeff Buchan.

And now for the moment, we've all been waiting for. Here are the winners of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club 2015 "Finds of the Year" awards: Congratulations to all of the winners!

Treasure

1st place: Lorry Pacheco -- Gold Chain

2nd place: Paul Barker -- Military Ring

Coin:

1st place: Kevin Niefer -- 1820 George IV penny.

2nd place: Jerry Leussink -- 1882 Canadian dime

Relic:

1st place: Ken Kittlitz -- WW1 Canadian Expeditionary Force Cap Badge

2nd place: Iain Paterson -- 1926 Parks Canada Vehicle Pass

Trinket:

1st place: Jerry Leussink -- Heart-Shaped Pocket Watch

2nd place: Andy Coward -- 1928 Postage Tag



Lorry Pacheco
Winner Treasure



Kevin Niefer
Winner Coin



Jerry Leussink
winner Trinket



Ken Kittlitz
Winner Relic

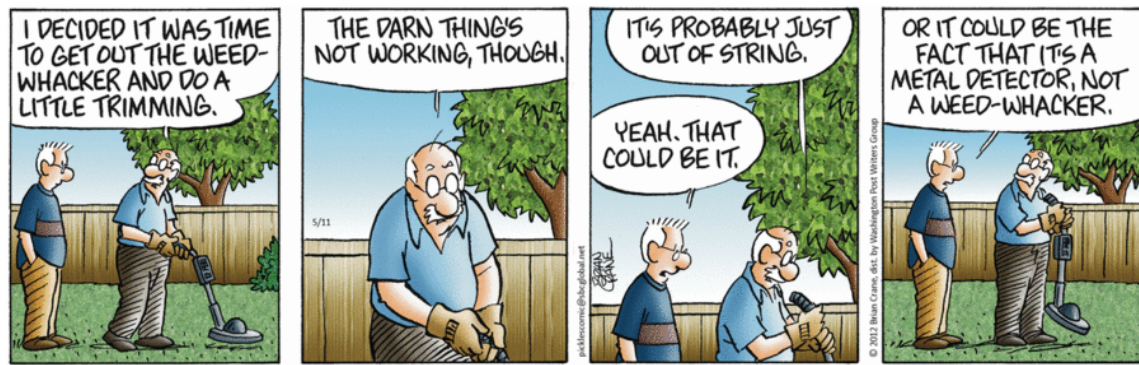
CMDC AWARDS BANQUET



Brett Buchan CMDC Member of the Year



A good time was had by all!



Adventures with Cleaned Coins

by JOSE CHONG



CMDC Member
Jose Chong



Long before the spring arrived I decided to do some spring clean-up. Where to start?

Well, I prioritized, and end up starting from the basement. Again, the dilemma came: where to start? Looking around, I thought I would start with less complicated tasks that would be easier to finish. I started to look into the coins that I dug in 2014.

I had one jar full of cleaned mixed coins, and another two jars filled with uncleaned coins mixed with some trinkets. I put the dirty coins in water, and soaked them over night to release the mud and sand. I had to be careful when I was cleaning them - otherwise my home engineer (Carla) would not be happy with the mess.

I carefully dried them before they were going into the tumbler. Some of coins had to have a second tumble round as they were not that clean. Just a note - when using the tumbler do not mix the dark coins with nickels and quarters as the coins end up cleaned, but with funny colours. After few days, I had all the coins rolled and marked for easy transaction.

The next step was the best part. Among the coins dug in the previous year, I also had some loonies and quarters - but these were not in their best shape. Some were so oxidized that the only way to recognize the coin was from its shape and size. Some of the quarters were so badly corroded that I was not sure what to do with them. My recovered coins totalized \$23, and I thought a great way to spend them was to have faith in the lotto 6-49. I went to the store, and at the counter asked the lady for a 6-49 ticket which turn out to be \$18. I gave her the roll of loonies. Uh-uh ... The lady said "These coins are very dirty. No accept, no accept" and grabbed the ticket back. I said they were cleaned, and that they are good clean coins. Again she insisted they were dirty coins and asked me go to the bank. So she kept the tickets and I had to walk away with the "dirty coins".

On the way out I bought some grapes and went to the cashier to pay. When I presented the coins to the cashier I had the same comment "Coins too dirty... Blah, blah, blah.". I said they were clean as I had them like that. The lady end up in accepting the coins and I walked out with the grapes.

Luckily, I had a bank on the way home. I took the remaining oxidized and corroded coins to the bank. After the welcome smile and greetings at the counter, I was careful to start to explain the coins that I would like to be exchanged were dug as my hobby as metal detectorist and that I would take them back if not accepted. The smile disappeared from the young lady, who then commented, "I have to ask my colleague for their advice...". I saw the bank-teller asking for advice and her colleague raising his arm pointing to another colleague. Off she went to other colleague. After spending a few minutes examining the coins, the young lady came and said she would take the coins, and exchanged them.

Moral of the adventure: What would you do? (This reminds me of the TV show).

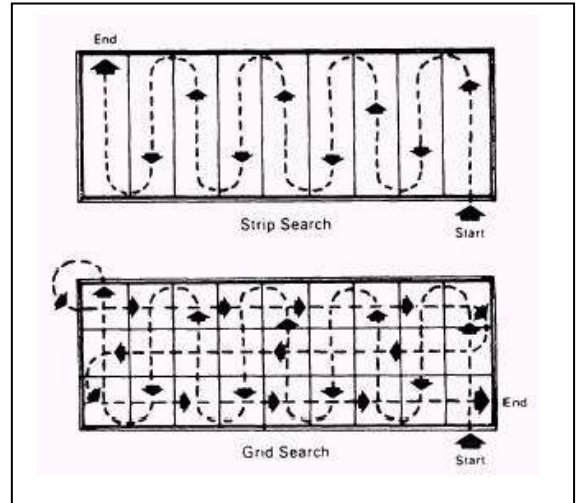


Jose Chong has been a member of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club for over 10 years. His story about his adventure with a few corroded coins may be familiar to some of us.

Patterns for Metal Detecting an Area

If you have found a site you feel is a "hot-spot", and you want to cover a large area, sometimes it is best to plan a systematic search pattern that you will walk with your metal detector. This will prevent you from missing an area, going over the same area twice, or perhaps missing any section in your search area. One favorite way for Metal Detecting hobbyists to hunt an area is a "Strip" or a "Grid" search pattern.

A search pattern is not recommended when "scouting" an area you have never hunted before. If you have an area that you are not sure has anything good to find you may want to pass through it quickly in an erratic manner, hunting wherever you think might be a possible site for an item to be recovered. Some people find it useful to imagine the area in previous use, and do some random hunting or a strip search around areas that they think may have been gathering places in the past - like by a stream or under some trees. If something good shows up in the pouch, then they plan for a more thorough search pattern. If you find nothing in your initial survey of an area, it may be best to move on and not waste time covering the area thoroughly.



Many think the best method for a thorough search is using a Strip search. Even if it's just in your mind, a pattern is an excellent method for a search. It may be a good idea to sketch out your strip or grid on paper to work out the most optimal way to cover the whole area in the shortest amount of time. Walking an area in a Strip search of parallel lines will work well. Walk in a straight line then turn and come back in the opposite direction with a little overlap in you coil sweep. Continue in this fashion until you have covered a nice large block of your target area.

If you are very meticulous you can even knock some stakes (or things like kebab sticks) into the ground and connect them with string, tape, or even a laser pointer to help guide your path. This a technique used by mine sweepers to clear minefields in dangerous areas of the world. If you are very meticulous and the area is yielding some good finds you can then go back over the same area but at right angles or diagonally across the area already searched - Very often this yields more great results in good areas. As long as you have a good plan in your mind and plenty of commitment you will locate your treasures!

Metal Detecting Tips

Have Reasonable Expectations - You are going to find targets, lots of them. Don't expect that every target will be long lost treasure. Patience and positive thinking are important if you want this to be a rewarding hobby. Know when you go out that you will find something to take home most days. It may not be a treasure, but just some new interesting thing. Every time I find something and I don't know what it is, I run to my computer and Google it to see what I have. Having a positive attitude will help you appreciate every new find!

Note - most of the time, You will **dig trash**, and lots of it. It's an unfortunate part of metal detecting. But hey - we are cleaning the environment every time we put the garbage we have recovered from the ground into a trash can. I carry a finds pouch for just that reason. One section is for trash and the other for coins and other finds. It's unbelievable the amount of trash people leave behind, but they are also leaving the good stuff for us to recover. Another tip is to know your detector well enough to know where the good stuff is found. Little did I know when I was discriminating out pull-tabs how many gold rings I may have missed. Remember a gold ring reads in the pull tab area of most detectors.

Finding Treasures in Edmonton

by James Belke

I thought you would all be able to appreciate a couple of pics of my most recent finds from up in Edmonton. It has been a mosquito filled spring so for the majority of my metal detecting outings I have spent hunting the sand playground areas to get out hunting while not getting eaten alive. Lots of coins but nothing too old or exciting.

Last Saturday morning I decided to brave the mosquitoes and hunt some older ground. I had identified a demolition site on Stoney Plain Road in one of Edmonton's oldest neighborhoods which would have been on the old HBC lands that were developed in the early 1900's (historic Westmount for those that know the city). The old house had been demolished and only a ribbon of about 6' of the original grass that edged the lot was still intact as the hole where the house had been was now filled. Anyways, the day started well with my second recovery of the day being the 1941 dime which was only a couple of inches deep. About 6 feet away the 1928 nickel was my third find... wahoo!!! It too was only about 3 inches deep. I didn't imagine it could get any better hunting than that! I was searching the front walkway area where my experience has proven that the best finds are recovered here. As I searched my way around the rest of the front yard and the side yard, the finds were few and far between and were all modern coins.

When I was 3/4 of the way to the back yard and thinking that all the goodies from this site were in my keeper pouch, my coil crossed a penny that was just sitting on the surface. It turned out to be a George V from 1941. The backhoe had scraped the top layer of grass and soil to fill the pit where the house had been, which made the oldies very easy pickings. A few swings later I heard a loud and clear signal and pulled the crusty 1919 large cent from just an inch below the dirt's surface. This coin was so thick, crusty, and green it was impossible to identify in the field other than the fact that I could see the faint pattern of a few leaves around the outer edge that gave me the confirmation that I needed that it was actually an LC. Only a few feet further I hit another very strong signal and with some careful digging, out came another large cent... I hit paydirt as this time it was the 1901 Vickie... my first Queen Victoria LC ever!

As I worked my way around the area that I imagined would have been between the house and garage, I got many good signals that turned out to be copper scraps from the demolition but then pulled the fancy old "silver nickel" belt buckle (top left) followed by the silver "what's it" (top right). As I finished the lot and was slowly making my way back to the area where I found the large cents, I recovered the beautiful "Sesame House" medal with the portrait of Annette H. Schepel and is dated July 6, 1899. Not sure what it would have been awarded for as the Sesame Club was an English group dedicated to the advancement of home education.

My final find of the day was the .925 silver ring with what appears to be a light pink stone framed by 2 tiny diamond chips. By the mounting of the stones there is a good chance that they are real.

All in all a great day out in the field and I hardly noticed the mosquitos!



This story was forwarded to various CMDC members in 2011. James Belke, now residing in Edmonton, was a member of the CMDC for many years. It is a great reminder that treasures are still out there.

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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