

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

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CMDC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



SUSAN DURKSEN
CMDC Member of the Year

Congratulations to the winners of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club "Finds of the Year" Awards for 2018, and the CMDC Member of the Year, Susan Durksen. 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 14, 2019. The CMDC got together at the Danish Canadian Club for an excellent dinner, some conversation, and recognition of the Best Finds of the 2018 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 area, closed-off from the rest of the restaurant.

Club members brought various "recovered items" to display, as well as the items that had been submitted for the "Finds of the Year" voting. We all spent time examining the finds, and plenty of conversations started with - "where did you find that?" There were many different 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 one of the coldest Februaries in Calgary history. All in all, it was a great way to start off the 2019 Metal Detecting season!

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2018 Metal Detecting season were displayed and voted on during the March 2019 CMDC Club meeting. The winners were tabulated but were kept secret until the banquet. The 2018 Metal Detecting season CMDC "Find of the Year" Winners were announced in each of the four categories, and awarded a plaque. Second Place winners were also recognized and awarded a prize. The CMDC Member of the Year Award was announced at the dinner. This 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 "GPS Central, and all the corporate sponsors who donated the nice arrangement of door-prizes that were provided for our awards banquet. Other door prizes were donated by members of the CMDC, and the "coin shop". Our Thanks and Appreciation go out to Brett Buchan for all the time he spent arranging the event. Our Thanks and Appreciation go out to Brett Buchan for all the time he spent arranging the event. Thank you also to Clayton & Jenny Blancher and Judy Taylor for helping out.

Choosing the winners of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club 2018 "Finds of the Year" awards was a hard job this year - as we have had so many great finds in 2018 - but the votes have been cast, and Congratulations to all of the winners!

Treasure: 1st: Ken Kittlitz

Coin: 1st: Terry Turner

Trinket: 1st: Brett Buchan

Relic: 1st: Matt Wilcox

Member of the Year – Susan Durksen



KEN KITTLITZ



TERRY TURNER



BRETT BUCHAN



MATT WILCOX

CMDC 2018 SEASON "FIND OF THE YEAR" WINNERS

Coral Springs Hunt – Special Ring Return

On October 19th, 2018, the CMDC got together for one of the last club hunts of the 2018 metal detecting season. It was a hunt at a community lake in Coral Springs. The lakefront park had a swim area and a beach, so hunting was available for both land and water hunting options. Several great items were recovered, one of which had a great story behind it. Paul Barker was able to research a gold ring he located in chest deep water, and return it to a grateful family a few weeks later. Here is the story in Paul Barker's own words.



This week I was honoured to have one of my ring finds returned to the owners. Here is the story.

I was thrilled to find a ring at Coral Springs yesterday during a club hunt. The ring was inscribed with "Karl & Palma March 7 1975" Through great detective work by Karin the park administrator at Coral Springs and Tia a former investigator, an amazing story has emerged. The family was at the beach 20 years ago when Karl lost the ring. People saw the ring fall into the water and family looked for many hours with no luck.

Karl died in 2007 and Palma died Oct 30th, 2012. Karl had a stroke before his death and lost much of his memory. The ring weighed on his mind, and his son said he talked about losing the ring up until the day he died. Today the family is meeting at Palma's and Karl's grave on the anniversary of her passing and I have been invited to be there with Karen and Tia when the ring is returned to the family members. Should be very special!

I was very honoured today to meet and talk to the family. About ten family members came out. They do it twice a year, once for Palma and once for Karl. They were thrilled to have the sentimental ring back after so many years on such a special day!

Hunting a Trashy Area

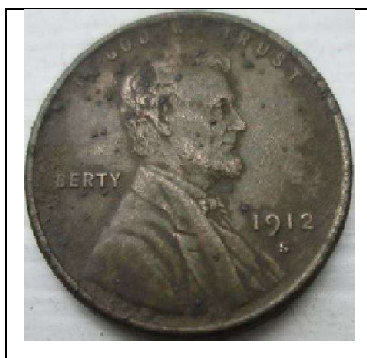
If you find yourself in a location where the soil itself or the surface is covered in litter you need to adapt your strategy. First of all, recognize that most urban areas are trashy - but if you have a hot spot that you think will yield results it may be worth the effort.

In a trashy area it is a good idea to screen out iron and other non-valuable metals on your detector. You can select this on your detector keypad. Most detectors can discriminate out iron, and most low frequency metals. Unfortunately, pull tabs are in the same range as gold rings and bottle caps often overlap with some silver coins. Every detectorist will dig a certain amount of trash on every hunt. Don't be discouraged. Keep at it!

It may be a good idea to turn the sensitivity way down. Very often metals that you have screened out will still register due to varying compositions, especially if the sensitivity dial is cranked to the max. This may also lead to a false reading even if the detector recognizes this as a screened-out metal. Take sensitivity down and you will get less false readings.

Make use of a smaller search coil or even a "Sniper coil", if you have one. These are smaller coils that allow you to focus on smaller patches of earth beneath the coil, and limit false readings. If you were using a larger coil for example, a diamond ring, 3 bottle caps and a doorknob could all be underneath the coil at the same time. Using a smaller coil will allow you to focus on each individual item and prevent the detector getting confused by the numerous targets presented in trashy soil beneath the coil.

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 an 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.

FINDING TREASURES

"There comes a time in every rightly constructed boy's life that he has a raging desire to go somewhere and dig for hidden treasure. " Mark Twain.
(For some of us, that raging desire doesn't end until we are 90, or older)

We all know It's the thrill of finding amazing treasures that makes the hobby of metal detecting so exciting and interesting! There are a lot of people who are deterred from metal detecting when after a few trips out the only things that you found were a few pennies or some trash, and the metal detector would probably wind up in a closet gathering dust. So what are some ways that you can find the rare treasures that you're searching for and craving?

When you're out metal detecting, don't expect to only find good stuff. Be prepared to come home with a lot of junk! There's just no way to get around it. Typically, when coming home from a day of detecting, you'll wind up throwing sixty to eighty percent of what you find into the bin. But a lot of what you find depends on where you go, and how much knowledge you have about metal detecting.

One way to find really great treasures is to research places in your area where you might find aged relics. You're looking for historical sites that might contain old coins, or even treasures such as toys, buttons, etc. The local library is bound to have information on the historical sites in your area. You could also search the Internet as well. With the growth of metal detecting as a hobby, new sites containing ideas of where to go metal detecting are always popping up. Type in "History of ..." then your state, province, or town, and see what comes up. You'll want to understand the history of the place where you're detecting. Such information will be useful on the hunt as you gather items. Something that you might normally toss into the trash bag will look differently to you if you have an idea of the kind of things that you might find at the site. The history of the site will also be useful to you when you're trying to date your treasures after you've recovered them.

Another option is to look for metal detecting forums on the internet, by joining in online communities such as these you can develop friendships with like minded detectorists and share information on the best locations.

If researching new spots is not your forte, join a metal detecting club. Many metal detecting clubs organize hunts at a particular site that you can join. Here, the work is done for you with regards to historical research, the ownership of the property, and the local laws. The only thing you need to do is to pack your gear and go.

If you know of a good place that you think has been well hunted or overhunted, don't count it out just yet. Try going back and detecting the site after a big rain, when the ground is soaked. The wet ground has more conductivity, and you may find deeper treasures. You can also try the site after a hard winter. The ground shifts after it thaws, possibly revealing new targets where there weren't any last year. This might allow you to gather some hidden, valuable treasures.

Metal detecting takes more skill than just running around chasing a beeping sound. You really have to know what you're doing to find really valuable items. Do your research and get involved in a club. Being involved in a club will not only give you valuable sites to go detecting, it will offer you the opportunity to meet and talk with other people who are into metal detecting, and gain tips for digging up your next great find.

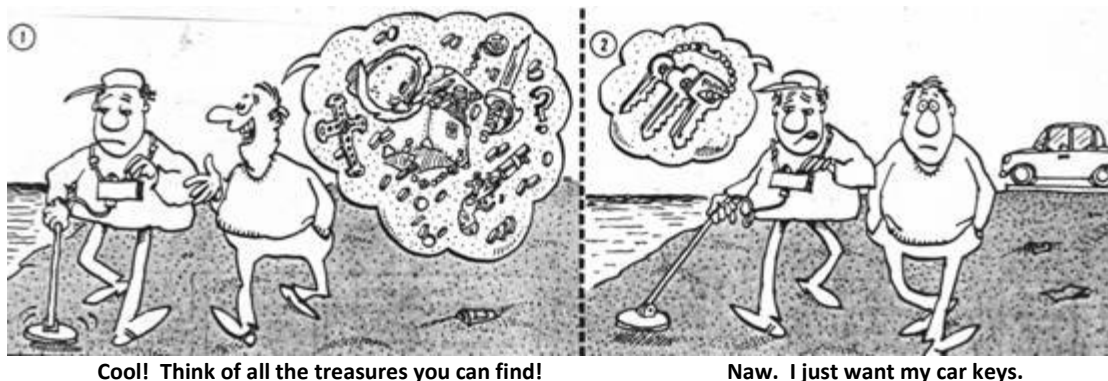


Coin-Shooting Tips

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 2018 - 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.

Metal Detecting in Creston

by Gunter Pusch

This story is a flashback to 2013, when the following article was sent to the Buzzer by Gunter Pusch. Gunter was a CMDC member who retired to the Creston, BC area in 2011. He has continued to make some fabulous finds around the Creston and Kimberley area.



Gunter Pusch also founded a friendly group of hobbyists who hunt the Creston area.



I went to the local Canyon Park just outside of Creston for probably the 7th or 8th time this year with Jeff Meyer. We are both members of the Creston Metal Detectives...our local club with about 18 unofficial members. Most times we have found much small change in this park & Jeff called me up to do some metal detecting since he had this week off work .

I said sure & suggested Canyon Park because I was at Lister Park recently and only found 22 cents in change. Since we had scoured most of Canyon park in past hunts we picked an area near the back of the park where he hadn't hunted much. After each finding about a dozen old bottle caps & pull tabs we were wondering if we should be here again.

Suddenly Jeff yells at me to come over & see what he found. He saw a quarter in the hole and it looked silver & had a George the 5th head. We slowly looked at the date and noticed it was 1928. Not a bad find for a slow day. After another hour of looking we did find a little more change but that quarter was the find of the day.

The Moral of the story ... no matter how many times you hunt a park there is always a special treasure for the patient. The proof of the truth of this moral lies in the quick email that I received from Gunter the next day after this article arrived in my mailbox -

Well, we were at it again today metal detecting in Centennial Park in Creston & had a good day. Check out the 2 silvers ...Liz & Vicky...my lucky day this time. I Thought I'd send you it in case you wanted to add it to the Buzzer story. There's always treasures to be found in little towns. The Vicky was only down about 2 inches too.







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.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

<p>GPS Central & RadioWorld Central</p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools.</p> <p>#8, 711 - 48 Street SE Calgary AB Canada T2G 4X2 403-239-1400</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The CMDC's yearly dues are:</p> <p>In-town membership : \$25.00 Out-of-town membership: \$20.00 Family Membership \$40.00</p> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC) c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2 email: cmdclub@gmail.com</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Kevin Niefer <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i> 403-720-9501</p> <p>To view Kevin's listings visit him on the internet @ www.kevinniefer.com - or give him a call at 403-720-9501 Email: kniefer@calgaryrealestatepros.com</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">BONNA-JEAN CAMPBELL Brand Promotor The Thrive Experience by Le-Vel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing BURN BURN calories, BURN fat, and Ignite your body into Thermogenesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing PROTEIN BARS Premium Nutrition – Sequential Bar Technology Lemon Meringue – Cinnamon Roll – Cookies & Cream – Birthday Cake Check this out and more on my website: www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com Email: Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com</p>
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WE NEED STORIES. Do you have an interesting story, idea for an article, or a comment that you would like to see in "The Buzzer". Write it down and email it to kempp@telus.net with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.