

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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Time for some Autumn Metal Detecting Adventures!

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.

RADIOWORLD CENTRAL HUNT & BBQ EVENT

September 22, 2018 was a cold and blustery day, but that did not stop a group of metal Detectorists from around Alberta from making their way to Elbow Park in Calgary for an amazing event. RadioWorld Central had sent out an invitation to people in the hobby that they would be hosting their third annual Seeded Hunt and Barbecue. The invitation was received with cheers, as people from Edmonton, Red Deer, and areas around Calgary made plans to attend the hunt.

September 22nd fell on a Saturday morning. By 10:00 o'clock people had started to congregate around the hunt area. Many detectorists were there early, enjoying hot coffee and donuts provided by the crew at GPS Central / RadioWorld Central, and visiting with others until the hobby. Soon the time arrived for the event start, and there were many happy hunters spread out over the hunting field, swinging coils and digging treasures.

George Valentine and the staff of GPS Central / RadioWorld Central must have spent a long time seeding the park, as this year the hunt area was huge, and there were before lunch and after lunch events. The ground in Elbow Park was liberally seeded with silver coins, foreign currency, a few odd trinkets, and a gold coin. Many hunters were thrilled to find silver dollars and silver "50 cent" pieces among their recoveries. It's always nice to find "big silver" under your coil. Jerry Leussink did his own little "gold dance" when he was the one who found the small gold coin seeded for the event.

During the BBQ lunch Detectorists displayed finds in the categories of Relic, Treasure, Coin and Trinket. Prizes were awarded for best recovered item in each category, as voted on by their peers. Each winner was presented with RadioWorld Central gift cards.

There were some amazing finds displayed, including a Hudsons Bay (HBC) trade axe, a cool National Park Buffalo pass, and WWII aircraft memorabilia. Coins included a rare "rounded leaf" dime, a gold coin, and some other remarkable coins. There were several silver and gold rings displayed, and some other multiple bits of jewellery, including a hallmarked Celtic Cross, dated to 1909. I am constantly astonished at the amazing recoveries made by the EMDC and CMDC. The HBC trade axe was a recovery by Allan Konash from Edmonton, and was in beautiful shape. The recovered treasures were displayed by members of both clubs, and by other hunters who made it to the event. Every registered detectorist who attended the event was also entered for a chance to win a new Minelab metal detector.

Lunch was foot-long hot dogs, chips, cookies, and a selection of warm and cold drinks, all prepared and provided by the GPS Central crew. Everyone enjoyed the meal, and milled around visiting with hunters from all over. It was great to reconnect with James, Allan, Colleen, and a few of the other Edmonton Club members who made the trip down for the hunt.



A Big shout-Out, and our thanks to George Valentine, and the staff of RadioWorld Central and GPS Central for a great event.

RADIOWORLD CENTRAL HUNT & BBQ - Continued

After lunch a new event was held - "Metal Detector Poker". For this event, RadioWorld Center Central had seeded the hunt area with 52 big foreign coins that had part of a playing card taped to them. The crowd split into teams of 5, and after each member of the team had to dig up one of the coins with the playing card. After each person recovered a coin, the cards were revealed to see what the team had "been dealt". The team that had the best poker hand was declared the "winner". Each member of that team went home with multiple RadioWorld Central gift cards.

All in all - everyone had a blast, but that wasn't all! Even more fun was soon at hand. RadioWorld Central arranged for a display of "Gold-Panning" with the assistance of the Alberta Gold Prospectors Association. Everyone who attended had a chance to try their hand at gold-panning, and take home the gold they retrieved from their attempt. It may have been a little chilly for some, but others enjoyed the opportunity, and went home with a few flakes of gold recovered from their own panning experience. Thanks again to Dan and Alex Hadash for being excellent teachers.

RadioWorld Central / GPS Central the opportunity to recover treasures, provided lunch, and some very cool swag to every participant. A good time was had by everyone who attended the event. Here in Calgary, we are very fortunate to have GPS Central & RadioWorld Central as one of our club sponsors, and I urge the CMDC members to continue the development of this great relationship by making sure to shop there.

Metal Detecting - Perception versus Fact

METAL DETECTING



What my friends think I do.



What my parents think I do.



What society thinks I do.



What my boss thinks I do.



What I think I do.



What I actually do.

Cleaning "Greenies"

One thing to love about recovering coins from Alberta's soil is how well it treats lost coins. Silver and copper coins often come up looking like the day they were lost. However, when the area is a bit on the damp side, instead of the rich red colour of copper, pennies come out with a sickly green tinge. That isn't how we want them to remain, so how can we restore them to their rightful colour?

There are a lot of answers for this one - If there isn't any value to the penny you have found, you can use ketchup or hot sauce. Leave the penny in the ketchup for 10 minutes, rinse it, and dry it, and you will find that the acid in the mixture has been at work to remove the tarnish. I have tried this on rusty coins, and found that it does help the rust flake off more easily. When you have a lot of coins at once, you can put them in a rock tumbler with wood chips and a bit of baking soda for 10 minutes for a quick clean. Note - both these methods are NOT the methods to use for valuable coins.

Another cleaning method that several members of the CMDC uses is a treatment of heated hydrogen peroxide. You can heat a glass container with Hydrogen peroxide in the microwave, and drop the coins in the mixture after it has been removed from the microwave. I shouldn't have to say this, but make sure that you do not heat the mixture in the microwave while the coins are in it. When you are placing the coins in the solution (If you are cleaning multiple coins), make sure that they do not overlap. The edges of the coins should not touch each other.

Let the coins sit until the Hydrogen Peroxide (H_2O_2) reaches room temperature. This will usually be around 15 minutes. After the mixture is cool, rinse the coin thoroughly with water, and then pat it dry with a soft cloth. This procedure will have to be repeated for the other side, but when it is completed, you should notice a big difference. After the cleaning is complete, leave the coin in cooking oil for a 15 minutes, and then take a wood toothpick, and gently try to remove any "crud" that is left. change toothpicks whenever it seems too "soft". If the debris it does not come off easily, you may want to repeat the hydrogen peroxide procedure a second time.



Heated Hydrogen Peroxide can also be used to clean silver coins, but any time this method is used, only one type of metal should be in the container. Never clean silver at the same time as pennies, as the copper will plate the silver coin and turn it pink.

For valuable coins, you should not use any of these methods. Cleaning should be completed very carefully. A method used by many Metal Detectorists is that of "soaking in oil". While some will use olive oil, others find that high-grade mineral oil will work equally well. The hope is that the oil will penetrate through the debris to the coin, and make it easier to remove. This method may take a while, as the coin should be left in the oil for at least a week. Sometimes the coin may need to sit in the oil for several weeks in order to soften the crusty surface of the coin. Then the "crud" can be removed from the oil, and carefully cleaned using a soft brush and a toothpick. More than one repetition may be needed. If using this method, it is recommended to find a way to prop the coin up so that both sides of the coin are in contact with the oil.

"Un-banked" Cache Recovery



Many years ago a lot of people didn't trust banks, especially after the failures and losses of family fortunes during the "Depression Era" of the 1930s. This story is based on one such gentleman. There was an old farmer in the United States who was a successful farmer and cattleman, but who hated banks. It was a common belief within his family, and his community, that the old farmer had hidden his money somewhere on his farm. After the farmer died unexpectedly, his wife and family searched for the money, but his relatives could not find any clues to where the money had been hidden. The family searched extensively, but no trace of the old farmer's money was found.

Some years later, the farmer's grandchild, John Smith* purchased a metal detector and started to enjoy the hobby. After a while, his relatives mentioned family stories about the old farmer, and his missing money. The fellow talked to others in the hobby about cache hunting, and did some library research. He thought he was ready to try to find that missing family fortune. John asked his grandmother for permission to hunt the old homestead. After talking to the family, John figured that the best place to start was the old livestock shed. The old farmer was known to spend a lot of time there, and the structure was visible from the farm house.

He checked all the floorboards and baseboards, and then checked the walls, feed bins and lofts. After searching the entire barn, he made his way to the rear cattle-stalls. He studied the structure, and gave the building a lot of thought. It dawned on him that the stall entrance supporting posts were not made up of a solid piece of wood, but had been manufactured by nailing four 1X6 posts together, forming a square. On a hunch, John Smith knocked on each post with a hammer. On a rear post next to the wall, John Smith heard a different sound than the others. He used his detector on that post, searching from the bottom to the top, and found a lovely silver sound about 5 feet (162 cm) from the floor.

John found a crow bar, and split the boards apart on that post. a shower of sawdust fell to the floor of the barn, along with a canvas bag filled with coins. John's grandfather had created a false post with a cavity, filling the area surrounding the bag of silver coins with sawdust. It looked exactly the same as every other post supporting the stall. Nobody would have thought to search that well-disguised post for money, unless they already knew it was there. When John opened the canvas bag, he found that it was filled with Morgan and Liberty silver dollars, half-dollar coins, quarters and dimes. The coins were in almost perfect condition, having spent decades in the dry post, well above ground level.



Unfortunately, this was the only cache that John Smith found on his grandmother's land. The family is sure that there is another cache containing "paper money", and several more containing "ready money" for quick use. The cache that John discovered was hidden so well that John believed his grandfather intended this money to stay where it was for a long time. Otherwise he would not have spent so much time or effort concealing it.

John Smith is convinced that his grandfather had other, more easily accessed, caches hidden around the farm. However, those hidey-holes were never located by John or any other member of the old farmer's family.

The article this story is based on was located in the August 1992 copy of the "Western and Eastern Treasures" magazine. The Detectorists name was never published in the story, for privacy concerns. The detectorist has been designated "John Smith " for this article, simply as a convenience.

The Lost Ring was Nicely Chilled

By BILL JONES



Bill Jones is a long-time Metal Detecting Hobbyist - and is a member of the RingFinders organization. Bill has used his years of experience, volunteered his services - and recovered many sentimental objects for people all over Southern Alberta.



I got a call out to find a white Gold and Diamond Ring this weekend unfortunately it was inside a condominium today, they knew the ring is still in the apartment as he had given it to her the evening before and they hadn't left home at all. I explained that finding rings in doors can be troublesome due to all the other metal holding the place together giving the Detector false signals , but I agreed to go out and try.

The young couple explained that they hadn't left the unit since it went missing so I asked when she saw it last, it was the night before when he had given it to her, he even took a picture of it on her hand, which he showed me. I asked what had she done after, putting the ring on her finger.

She explained how she had gone up to the kitchen and made lasagna, then after went and had a bath. I asked if it could have come off her finger in the bath, but she didn't think so, as that was when she noticed it missing.

I asked about the lasagna, if it could have ended up in the dish, she said maybe she had made two, they had eaten one but there wasn't a ring in it. So, we scanned the glass dish the other lasagna was in but nothing. I asked if she had prepared anything else, and she explained a salad and the left-overs were in the fridge, which she took out in a Tupperware container. BINGO!!! Yep, you guessed it! The ring was in the salad, she was ecstatic to get her ring back and so was her fiancé. I love giving people their smiles back!





More Handy Metal Detecting Tips

Magnets can be your friend. Line your sand scoop with strong magnets glued in place, and the elusive nails and bobby pins will no longer get away. Another bonus is they will also attract most Canadian coins. A lot of metal detecting hobbyists also carry a magnet to test coins they suspect might not be silver - newer clad coins are attracted to the magnet

Around the prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan, look for clusters of trees or hedges. In the flatter part of the prairie provinces, except for in river valleys, a cluster of trees would have been hand planted. A grove of trees on the flat prairie almost always marks an early homestead or other site of interest, where there are often buried treasures. Always remember to ask permission before you hunt on private property.

Pay attention to the community news around your city. Check out community festivals, holiday events, or concert sites the day after a happening. The morning after big events, there are almost always valuables, including cash and electronics, to be found.

Locate old-timers around your neighborhood and community. Find people who have lived in the area for a long time, and ask about life in the community in the past. Many people are delighted to tell you about the old swimming hole they used, where they went to school, or about where they skated in the 1940s. You can find out about some valuable places to hunt with a friendly attitude and taking the time to listen.

Rain can be your friend. Wet ground is much better suited for conductivity, and can help boost the frequency of faint signals in the earth. Your detector will detect deeper targets, and faint signals will appear stronger, when you are detecting wet earth after a rain.

Fall Buzzer Contest

This is just a reminder that the Buzzer Annual Story Contest is approaching fast. We want to hear from you - so send us a story or article about our hobby. With the colder weather approaching, this is a great time to sit down and write something down about your metal detecting experiences.

Every story or article submitted to the Buzzer editor between October 15th and December 15th, 2018 will be entered into a draw for a Silver Dollar - Look at the November Buzzer for more details, but if you want an early start, you can send your story or article by email to kempp@telus.net with Buzzer Contest or Metal Detecting Story in the subject line in order to enter the contest.

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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GPS Central & RadioWorld Central

Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools.

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The CMDC's yearly dues are:

In-town membership :	\$25.00
Out-of-town membership:	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$40.00

Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDCC)
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Kevin Niefer
See Below

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