

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

The Buzzer

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Autumn is a great season for a little MD restoration and relaxation.

Enjoy the Autumn Metal Detecting Season!

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 CLUB MEETINGS STILL CANCELLED

As most of you know, the Calgary Metal Detecting Club was contacted by the Brentwood Co-op in March, and informed that they would be closing their meeting rooms until the Covid 19 crisis was over. We usually meet the first Tuesday of every month, but by the middle of April the Alberta government banned all meetings of over 15 people. Even with the new meeting numbers, the Co-op has still not opened their meeting rooms for public use. As of September 2020, our monthly club meetings are still on hold.

We hope that as the Covid recovery progresses, we will be able to start meeting again soon. This may be a good time to do some thinking about future needs. I know of at least 3 club members who have not been attending regularly because of problems with accessing the basement room at the Brentwood Co-op. This might be a good time to look into a location with better access for some of our less mobile members.

I am hoping that all of you have kept healthy through Covid 19 and have been enjoying the Autumn metal detecting season. The cooler weather, and occasional rain have made for some great digging conditions. Remember to be safe while enjoying the hobby - ensure safe distances and social distancing. We will send out more information when we have it - it will go out on the Facebook group page and by email. I look forward to seeing you at a future CMDC meeting.



CMDC CLUB HUNT UPDATE

The CMDC tries to get together for a club hunt one or two times a month from April until November. With the onset of Covid 19, and the concerns about contagion and social distancing, the CMDC cancelled its Club Hunts for most of the summer. With some recent changes in the Alberta Pandemic regulations, CMDC Hunt Director, John Paterson, planned a few recent club hunts in August and September.

Club hunts were held, provided that social distancing rules were maintained, and that masks are worn during the beginning meet-up and end-of-hunt finds review. So far, it has worked fairly well. We still must be careful, especially with some of members who are immune-compromised or those considered "high-risk". We want to be careful not to endanger our friends and families.

We are all looking forward to the end of this whole Covid situation, and so we continue to meet outdoors safely, and some good finds have been recovered. We are all hoping that we will see the full continuation of the great CMDC Club Hunts when this Covid 19 situation finds a resolution - hopefully soon.

RING RETURN TO A GRIEVING MOTHER

It is every police officers worst fear. In Spring of 1989 Deputy Sheriff Jean Anglin of Gwinen County, Georgia, was one of the first responders at the scene of a traffic fatality. When she arrived on site, Deputy Anglin discovered that the victim was her own son, Donald, who had been killed by a drunk driver.

Time passed, and although the pain faded, Jean Anglin was still grieving. As a means to finding closure – Jean found that she wanted a memorial of her beloved son, perhaps a piece of jewellery that she could wear in his memory. When Jean’s family buried Donald, his class ring and other special jewellery were buried with him. Jean Anglin had nothing she could think of that would work as her hoped-for memorial. Then Jean remembered that a few years before Donald had lost a special gold ring in the back yard of their home while playing with the family dog. This ring had been custom made by Jean’s husband, with Donald’s initials engraved. The entire family had searched the yard for the ring for months, but never located it.

Jean Anglin mentioned the missing ring around the patrol room coffee area one morning in the Fall of 1990. Jean was not aware that two members of her police department who were avid metal detectorists were present. Deputy Richard Norman had been detecting for over 5 years, and his co-worker Deputy Tom Griffin had started detecting the previous year. The two over-heard Jean’s story, and they took a keen interest in the case. The two deputies knew that they wanted to help out a fellow officer in her time of need.

Richard and Tom approached Jean Anglin with the idea that they would take their detectors to the yard to see what they could find. At first, Jean was doubtful that it would work, but she saw no harm in trying. A date for the hunt was set, and they arrived early in the morning.

At the time, metal detecting was still a fairly new hobby. Most metal detectors did not have the ability to discriminate what metal was under the ground, only that metal was there. The common practice was to swing the coil, and if it beeped, you dug. Knowing the trash content of most yards, it was not surprising that the ring had not been located by mid-morning.

That was when Tom Griffon heard what he considered a good solid signal. He dug down six inches, but the target was still deeper. It sounded good and solid, so Tom Griffon dug down further. This time he struck something solid. He reached down into the hole, and pulled up a solid, but heavy, object. It was a ring. Tom wiped off the dirt, and immediately saw the initials “D.A.”

Tom Griffon walked over to Jean Anglin, and held out his hand. He asked her “Is this it? “ Jean’s voice was trembling as she confirmed that they had found her precious son’s missing ring. “I can’t believe you found it.” She declared. “I had given up on finding it.”

Jean Anglin had the memorial token she wanted for her son, Donald Anglin. She started wearing her son’s ring that day. Jean was very grateful to her two co-workers for taking the time to recover the missing ring for her. Jean Anglin told many of her friends and neighbours around town the story of the recovered ring. Tom Griffon and Richard Norman found themselves busy in object recovery and with detecting permissions all over the county, as many others in the local area requested their help in locating lost items.



This Buzzer story was based on an article originally published in the July 1991 issue of “Eastern and Western Treasures” magazine.

HERE'S THE SCOOP

With some of the local beaches or sandy areas - I thought a last-minute sand-scoop might be a great addition to someone's metal detecting kit bag. Here is an easy home-made version using a coffee tin and some 3/8" threaded rod, with four nuts and washers.

The tools you will need for this project are an electric drill with a 3/8 " bit, a hacksaw, and adjustable wrench, wire cutters, a flat head screwdriver. The materials will be a meter and a bit (3 or 4 foot) long section of 3/8" threaded rod, four 3/8 " nuts & washers, a section of galvanized screen, 3 medium hose clamps, and a broken handle from a shovel, hoe, or barbeque tool. The screen should have larger holes, big enough for sand to fall through easily, but not so large that dimes or rings would exit the scoop. I would suggest 1/4 " squares.

To start with, cut the top and the bottom from the coffee tin, so what you have is a metal cylinder 10" deep and across. Drill two 3/8" holes across from one another about half-way down the can. The threaded rod will pass through both of these opening, so it is important that they line up.

Place the can end up on your screen material. Trim the screen into a squarish shape around the outside of the can, leaving 4" (10 cm) around all sides. Put this aside for a while, while you fix the rod in place. Thread one nut onto the rod until it is about a third of the way along the length and apply one washer. This will become the top of the scooping structure. Push the bottom of the threaded rod through in hole on the scoop, and then thread on the second bolt and washer. Repeat this with the third bolt on the inside of the second can side, and then screw in the fourth bolt on the outside of the can. You have now built the structure for the scoop.

You should now have from top to bottom in this order, a nut & washer, one side of the can, a washer and nut, and again on the other side of the can a nut and washer, the other can side, then a washer and nut. Tighten the nuts on the threaded rod so that there is a washer against each side of the can, opposing each other, with no more than 1/2 inch of the rod sticking out at the bottom. Do this in such a way that the shape of the can is not altered.

Grab the pre-cut section of screen and put it into place. Prepare the hose clamps for use. Wrap the screen up around the can and use one of the hose clamps to fix it into place tightly. Use the other two clamps to fix the rest of the material into place. Because of the structural integrity of the rod, you should be able to tighten these without disforming the can. These items can be sharp, so you may want to use gloves for this part of the project. Attaching a couple of rare-earth magnets to the rod should capture most nails and modern coins.

The last part of the project is to size the rod to your height and comfort level. After you have decided on scoop length, find your wooden shovel or BBQ tool handle, and cut it down to a about a 6-inch length. You then take the wooden handle and drill a 3/8-inch hole down the middle. Screw the wooden handle onto the top end of the project, and you have made a form-fit handle to your "custom sand-scoop".

Professionally manufactured sand-scoops will be better-made, and manufactured from longer lasting materials, but as a short-term project this should last a season. Of course, as always, there are other home-made sand-scoop options available on you-tube videos. I have a home-made scoop that I bought off eBay that is made of PVC piping that uses this type of screening material – while it doesn't have a handle attached, it still works great.

RESEARCHING TIPS

By PEGGY KEMP

One of the tools that Metal Detecting hobbyists use for research is the computer. There are many resources available on the internet that can aid a Metal Detecting hobbyist in researching where to hunt. The internet can also be used to research and identify just what that “unusual” recovered item is. Some members who have been around for a while will recall that I often will share internet sites for I have found useful for research. Below I have listed some web-site addresses that I use for research, and believe would be helpful to others in this great hobby.

The first website I would like to mention is <http://canadianmetaldetecting.com> . This is a metal detecting forum, but with a Canadian focus. It contains helpful information about everything from the best cleaning methods, iron electrolysis (to remove caked-on rust), to catalogues of buttons, coins, and military insignia. If you have found something you are not sure about, it also has a “what-is-it” section. If you upload a photo of that mysterious item, detecting hobbyists from all over the country are available with their years of “find knowledge” to offer information. The forum is home to many encouraging hobbyists, who freely provide tips and advice to newcomers to metal detecting.

One of my favourite sites for Alberta history and research is <http://ourfutureourpast.ca> . This is a site that has multiple uses, as it not only hundreds of books about Alberta communities and history, but also provides access to old newspapers in digitised format. The website was an Alberta Centennial project to digitize Alberta historic information and make it accessible to the public. The community books are searchable by word in chapter and in text. I have used the community history books to locate old parks, railway stations and church locations from early years of East Calgary history.

Another great website is the University of Calgary collection of aerial photos. These can be found at <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides//findairphotos>. Many people in the CMDC have used this, and similar site, to locate old photos of Calgary neighbourhoods, and to compare them using google maps to locate areas of old parks or schools that still might be on searchable land. I used aerial photos to locate possible hunt areas in Pearce Estate Park, old building locations at Baker Park, and park areas in older neighbourhoods. Andy Coward has used these to locate some historic homes and as a guide for possible historic activity.

One of the best research web-sites available to discover information about a “recovered treasure” is the Canadian Archives site for old mail-order catalogues. This is a Government of Canada site, has a searchable archive, and can be located at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/mailorder/index-e.html>. In early Western Canada, it was difficult to obtain merchandise. Only urban areas had stores of any size, and smaller centres carried only the basics. In the Calgary area, these smaller communities would include towns like Bowness, Renfrew, Forest Lawn, and Midnapore. Mail order became big business in Western society. Many items purchased in early Alberta history came through the mail. Eaton’s and Sears catalogues were a common sight in many Canadian homes, particularly around Christmas. This mail-order catalogue website lets you search by item, or by year, and shows digitized images of the catalogue pages. I was able to date a brass soap dish located in Baker Park to the mid-1920s by its appearance in an Eaton’s catalogue from that time.

Sometimes old photographs will aid a hobbyist to discover where to hunt, or where not to hunt. I have found a great resource for finding old photographs by using the Glenbow museum photograph archives. These can be searched at <http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesPhotosSearch.aspx> . The photographs date back to earliest Calgary history, but the available photographs also show other areas around Alberta. This archive was used to research where buildings stood at the Keith tuberculosis hospital (now Baker Park), as well as what areas were in use as parks in Inglewood and Renfrew 50 years ago.

The ABC's of Metal Detecting

A-is for *Artifact*, as in those older man-made objects we are happy to find, like buckles, musket balls, knives, toys, or any older item. This term is not usually applied to coins or jewellery.

B-is for *Bucket-Lister (or wish-list find)* – that very special, once-in-a-lifetime find you've been hoping for.

C- is for *Coin Spill* - a stack of coins in the same hole – the older the better, but 5 toonies are still a fun find.

D-is for *Discrimination*, as in, I don't want to detect with him/her because they wear mismatching Camo. haha. Or, as in limiting the "type" of metal you are hearing in your headphones (discriminating out iron).

E- is for *EMI – Electromagnetic Interference*, as in the sound the detector makes close to power lines, or if another detector is operating in close vicinity (otherwise called "chatter").

F-is for *Ferrous or Find*, in other words *Junk, Target, or Relic*, depending on what you are interested in finding. Sometimes F may also be used as part of an expletive when you find gold or a really old coin.

G-is for *Gold*. Is elaboration necessary? The higher the karat, the better.

H-is for digging *Holes (Plugs)*. Let's fill them in nicely when we're done please! Leave no trace.

I-is for IH penny – Slang for American Indian Head penny (in use from 1859 – 1909).

J-is for *Jewelry*. The home front never complains when you come home with that in your pouch.

K-is for *Karat*. Best when it follows the numbers 14 or 18, although we won't object to 22 or 24.

L-is for *Lucky*, as in going home with gold, silver, or that relic you wanted to find. Lots of Luck in this hobby.

M-is for *Mysterious*, like where did that signal disappear to. Or like that good clear signal that leaves you itching to know what that target is going to be.

N-is for *Nicked* - This is what you don't want to do to an old coin or other target you are recovering.

O-is for *Obsession* - What some people call our activity – Just tell them it is a "healthy outdoors hobby."

P-is for *Pull-tab*, ie.the little doohickey off the top of pop-cans. Why does anyone pull them off anyways?

Q-is for *QVC (Queen Victoria Crown)* – This indicates a Canadian military item created between 1839 & 1901.

R-is for *Re-check your Holes! Or Relic* – that old object you know you want to bring home.

S-is for *Silver* – Silver jewellery, silver coins, silverware – we all want to find it. .

T-is for the *TREASURE* we know is just waiting for us. Will they still call us obsessed if we find it?

T-is also for the Tudor Crown (Kings Crown) – found on Canadian Military Items from 1901 to 1952.

U-is for *Underground* - Where we find most of our targets, and why we need to know how to dig good plugs.

V-is for *Virgin Site*. Finding that rare target filled site that has never been metal detected. .

W-is for *Walker or Wheatie* – American Walking liberty half dollar (1916-1947, or Wheat Cent (1909 – 1957)

X-is for *X marks the Spot* - That special find from your special spot – the site you always go back to.

Y-is for *Yelling* and it is heard frequently at good detecting sites.

Z-is for *Zincoln* – a modern USA penny made of zinc, sometimes also used for newer Canadian pennies.

METAL DETECTING IN THE DARK

Summer is ending, and around our area those long days of summer when we could detect til 10pm at night are ending too. Sunset last night was 7:45, and the days will be getting shorter from now until December. While some of us can go out and metal detect during day-light hours, with many people returning to work after the Covid 19 slow-down, our after-dinner hours are almost non-existent.

Have you ever considered metal detecting after dark? Many detectorists detect after the sun goes down, especially in the Southern USA when it just plain gets too hot for daytime detecting. Of course, the biggest difference hunting at night instead of during the day is that you will need light. You don't want to damage any finds while digging because you couldn't see them clearly, or trip and fall and injure yourself, or damage your detector. Lighting up the area you plan to hunt can be tricky – you can't easily handle your detector, your pinpointer, your digger, and a flashlight – all at the same time. There are some simple solutions for lighting your search at night though, that don't require you growing a third hand. The following are five great ideas.

#1 – Take a Detecting Partner

Perhaps the easiest fix for light when you're detecting at night is to bring someone along with you to hold a flashlight. Even those who may not share your passion for metal detecting might find it more exciting to hunt at night. If you are hunting with a fellow detectorist, you can take turns being a "street-lamp".

#2 – Use the Moonlight

If you pay attention to the phases of the moon, you'll know when the best nights for hunting by moonlight are – anytime there is a full moon and a clear night your eyes will adjust, and you should be able to see pretty clearly. This would still mean staying in well-tended parks. Hunting the brush areas at night could still be dangerous. Of course, it doesn't matter what the phase of the moon is when the sky is overcast.

#3 – Buy a Pinpointer with a Light

You probably have a pinpointer already, but did you know that you can get one that has a light built in? If you want to detect at night, this could be a helpful tool. You may have to be diligent about keeping the dirt out of the way, but pinpointers with lights can be a great addition to your detecting toolbox.

#4 – Use a Headlamp

Using a headlamp that straps right onto your head is the smartest way to go for night detecting. They use LED lights, so they are bright, they are relatively inexpensive. You can easily find them online or in the camping section of most out-doors retailers.

#5 – Install a Flashlight App

There is an app for everything these days, so if your smartphone doesn't already have a flashlight app, you can easily install one (most flashlight apps are free). This isn't the number one choice for lighting up your search area at night, but it is a good option if you find yourself without alternatives. Be sure that you have a cover on your phone so that it doesn't get dirty. Note that some of the modern "selfie sticks" come with a tripod function that will provide a steady focus and would bring a bright standing light to illuminate the area while you hunt. Note that this does use up phone batteries rapidly.

Give night detecting a try. You'll stay cooler in the summer months and you'll be able to detect longer in the cooler fall nights - and that's great news for detectorists.



Bicycle Head Badges

In the early 1900s, bicycles were so popular in North America and Europe that over a thousand companies were sending out products into the marketplace. Bicycles were considered a primary source of entertainment and transportation by both adults and children. Every major city had a cycling club, including the bustling metropolis of Calgary. Even with the multitude of manufacturers, most bikes looked almost identical. In such a competitive industry, bicycle manufacturers wanted to make their product stand out. They latched onto the idea of placing an artistic label on the bike as a “special identifier”. This was usually a metal “badge” bolted to the front bar (or head) of the bike. These bicycle “head badges” became an artform, with manufacturers competing to produce the most interesting, elaborate, and fanciful creations. Before long bike head badges weren’t just about distinguishing between brands, but became the centrepiece of the entire bike brand. The head badges were the bicycle equivalent of the Rolls Royce hood ornament!

In the early days, badges were often acid etched. This process required a copper, zinc or steel plate (among other metals) to be covered with wax that is resistant to acid. Artists then use etching needles to scratch the design right down into the bare metal. The plate was then dipped into a bath of acid, dissolving all of the exposed line sections. The wax was cleaned off the plate and it was inked over. Only the ink in the etched lines remained after the plate was wiped down. Some went so far as to create engraved or enameled badges.

Through the 1920s and 30s, the heyday of comics, “B” movies, and adventure stories, bike manufacturers worked hard to create the image of the bike-rider as an adventurer. This was the start of the bicycle’s change into a market with advertising plainly geared towards children. Bicycle head badges took on the persona of cowboys, adventurers, pilots, etc – each one daring the imagination to act out the fantasy associated with the bike. Some called on popular radio show or movie stars for their imagery. Some bike-owners with “boring” bicycle head badges purchased custom head-badges to replace the manufacturers brand.

Unfortunately, by the 1960s and 1970s, the public was not willing to pay a premium for a bicycle, which was viewed either as a tool or a child’s toy. Teenagers and adults wanted cars or motorcycles, not bikes. Nobody cared about the bicycle “head-badge” anymore. As a result, the bicycle manufacturing world descended into generic corporate logos, many of them just stickers or painted on.

Bicycle head stamps haven’t been common in 50 years, which make those beautiful artwork items from the early days all the more valuable. They have become a collector’s item. We have seen a couple found by CMDC members over the last couple of years, but they are pretty rare. A good place for a detectorist to find these is around old garages, near where bike-stands were in old schoolyards, or where bikes were left standing when not in use. Other places are old ball fields, swimming holes - anywhere where youngsters rode and then parked their bikes. It is quite a coup to find one whole and undamaged, but what a neat piece of history when you do.



MEDIEVAL RING – Trash to treasure

A long time Buckinghamshire metal detectorist discovered a piece of lost history in his garage. A pensioner clearing out some junk from a garage recently had a shock when a ring he thought was a “junker” turned out to be a valuable artifact. Tom Clark has been detecting since the 1970s. In 1979 he discarded a gold-coloured ring in a tin-box of other finds after the local museum told him it was worthless. He recently discovered that it was real gold, very old, and that its estimated value is £10,000. (approx \$17,000. CAD).

Tom Clark, now 81, dug up the buried treasure while scanning an area of farmland near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, in 1979. The retired leather craftsman came across the rare seal ring a few years ago while sorting through items from his mother's house after she passed away. Taking another look at the item, after 40 years of detecting experience, Tom thought that the museum might have made a mistake. He sent the ring out for another valuation. It turns out that his eye was right – the valuation came back as a 670 year-old medieval artefact dating back to 1350. It was to be auctioned in August of 2019, but failed to make its reserve.



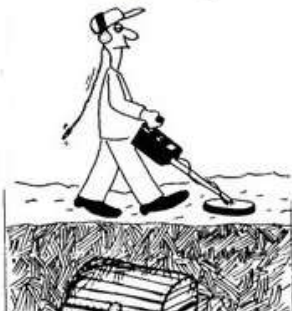
Mr. Clark said: "I had completely forgotten about it. At the time I'd only been metal detecting for 10 years and didn't realize the ring was anything special. It was all twisted and broken when I dug it up." Tom Clark, now a much more experienced collector, said that when he saw it again, he instantly knew it was a seal ring dating back to the 1300s and would have belonged to someone important given its decoration and quality. He added: "It's rare and elegant. I'd love to know who it belonged to." A Latin inscription on the ring translates as 'I hide the true message'



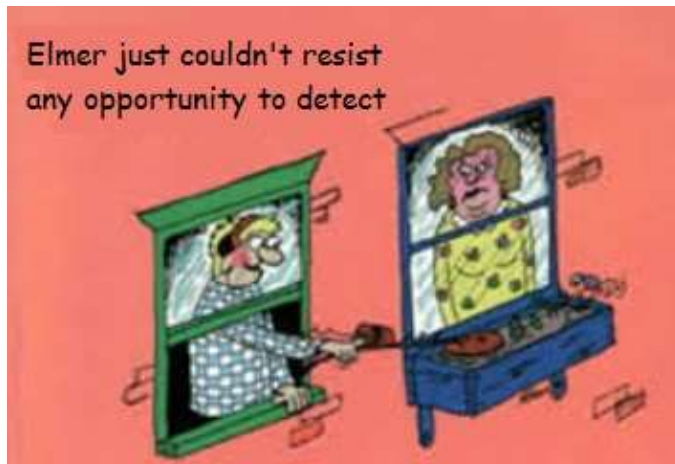
Back on the beach Elmer was thinking to himself -
"now where did I set my detector down at ?"



Not realizing his headphone plug was out, Elmer simply thought the area was completely hunted out





Elmer just couldn't resist any opportunity to detect



LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Although cancelled until further notice, the Calgary Metal Detecting club usually meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store, 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. We will restart the monthly meetings after the Covid 19 crisis is over.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

<p>GPS Central & RadioWorld</p> <p>Central</p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools. Visit them on the web at gpscentral.ca , or the store at:</p> <p>#8, 711 - 48 Avenue 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: cmdcclub@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist</p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Kevin Niefer</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><i>See Below</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">403-968-1496</p> </div> <p>To find out more information send Kevin an email @ kevin@kevinniefer.com, or give him a call at 403-968-1496</p>	<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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