

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# *The Buzzer*

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Autumn brings us cooler days - but there are still  
many more mysterious treasures for the  
CMDC to rescue from the dirt.

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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](http://www.cmdc.org).

## CMDC FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING

Metal Detecting is a very optimistic hobby - we always hope to find a treasure, relic, or other cool find under our coil. We all know that treasures are there to find – although not every day. We are happy to admire some club member's best finds every year during the CMDC "Finds of the Year" voting. The CMDC voted for club "Finds of the Year" at the September 2024 CMDC club meeting.

The Finds of the Year are always an exciting meeting for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club, as that is when club members bring out their yearly personal bests. There are always amazing items to view and vote on. With all the spectacular items that club members recovered during the 2024 metal detecting season, it was not surprising that the tables were full. There were some pretty cool items out on the finds table.

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## CMDC Annual Awards Banquet

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club Annual Awards Dinner was held on Saturday, October 05, 2024. This was the last CMDC outing held at the Danish Canadian Club, as the restaurant will be closing the end of the year. It was great to get together for a nice dinner, conversation with other club members, and recognition of the Best Finds of the 2024 Metal Detecting Season. The dinner was held in a private area, with lots of seating, and the dinner was delicious. The main course was a prime rib buffet, including several salads and vegetable choices, cheeses, and desert. The food was wonderful, and there was plenty of it.

The "Finds of the Year" for the 2024 Metal Detecting season voted on during the September CMDC meeting. The winners were announced during the banquet. Congratulations to all the winners of the CMDC Best Finds of the Year for the 2024 metal detecting Season! The winners are listed below:

Relic- Peggy Kemp, for a sterling silver 1927 boating trophy watch fob  
Trinket – Kevin Niefer, for a tungsten ring  
Gold – Keith Hoffart for a gold, diamond and emerald ring  
Silver – Michael Morand, for a silver mercury dime cut out and created into a bespoke pendant  
Coin – Wayne May, for a Roman Coin found in a local Calgary playground

Our gratitude goes out club sponsor GPS Central/Radioworld Central for their donated door prizes. Thanks also to Forest City Detectors, to Wayne May and "Treasure Earth", and to Andy Coward's "Coins2Rings" for their donations. The CMDC also thanks the members who donated items or requested door prize items from their employers. The CMDC vote for "Exec of the Year" was won by Club Hunt Director Wayne May. Member of the year voting was also won by Wayne. There was a lot of competition for both awards, but everyone agreed that the right person won. The CMDC is fortunate to have so many members willing to take the time to make this hobby and this club a great experience for its members.

Every person who attended was gifted with a wooden CMDC Christmas ornament crafted by Tara Guthrie. Each CMDC member and guest who attended was also given a door prize ticket. At the end of the evening, door prize tickets were drawn, and everyone who attended took home a prize. Prizes included hats, display cases, wine, coin jewellery and a multitude of other items. The 50/50 draw was won by Keith Hoffart. Overall, the whole evening was a fun night out. It was a great way to get together, and to welcome guests and family members who are often silent observers of our hobby. The banquet was a great way to celebrate the 2024 metal detecting season! We are all happily looking forward to all the treasures to that are sure to be recovered in 2025. Thanks and appreciation go out to everyone who helped arrange this great event!

## CMDC - LEUSSINK HOMESTEAD HUNT - SUNDRE 2024

On August 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Jerry and Martina Leussink hosted the CMDC seeded hunt and camp-out at Jerry's family property. Members of the metal detecting community from the CMDC and other areas in Alberta made their way to Jerry Leussink's rural property just outside of Sundre. Approximately 50 hunters took part, and a few spouses showed up to enjoy the event. Camping was available on the property both Friday and Saturday night. Some detectorists drove in on Saturday morning to take part in the daytime hunt events.

Saturday morning detectorists were geared up and looking forward to a day of fun detecting adventures. Registration was between 9 and 10 am, and the first hunt planned for 10:30 that morning. Hunters were provided with door-prize tickets to be drawn later in the afternoon. Jerry Leussink has a huge test bed of buried targets around his swimming area – all the targets were identified, except 10 special spots. These had a plan for later in the day. The weather was perfect. The morning was a bit brisk but warmed up before noon.

The seeded area for the hunt was huge, with a special area was set up for younger kids to detect. At 10:30 people made their way to their desired "start" area and waited. Coils were up in the air until the start to the hunt was called. Within the "go-ahead" call - people were busy swinging coils and digging targets. This hunt area was liberally seeded with silver coins, commemorative tokens and pins, and world coins. The targets included coins with bits of playing cards attached. These were to be used to make poker hands. Hunters could select one card to keep, and signed up in groups of five without seeing what cards the other team members had. The winning "poker-hand" won a prize. The hunt lasted about an hour and a half, and then lunch was ready.

Jerry's property has a lovely, shaded picnic area with a fire pit and tables, which was used for the delicious barbecue lunch. Jerry and Marina Leussink really outdid themselves. The meal was great, consisting of several salads, potatoes, and BBQ chicken or steak with several choices of sides. There were also multiple dessert items. Detectorists had a chance to chat over lunch, connecting with others in the hobby, and show off the targets they had recovered during the morning hunt. It was great to spend time swapping a few treasure stories, and to put a face and voice to a people met over Facebook or email.

After lunch the next phase of the event started. The test garden around the swimming hole was tested, as the assigned "poker hand" groups had to use their knowledge of their own detectors to see if they could determine what coin was buried in the 10 pre-selected spots. The "poker team" that came closest to guessing the coin type and year were presented with a group prize. After that event, everyone who wanted to hunt for more coins and treasures could head to the seeded area for a bit more hunting. A few historic (unseeded) treasures came to light during the event, including 3-ringer bullets, car emblems, and a military shoulder badge.

As the afternoon wound down, people made their way back to the picnic/fireside area for the door-prize draws. The prize table was filled with over 60 prizes – to be given out to the hunters. Detectorists attending the hunt walked away with something from the prize table. The 50/50 ticket was also presented, with a hefty sum presented to Al Konesh. Our thanks go out to event sponsors GPS Central / Radioworld, Forest City Metal Detectors, Gyrodata LLC, and Andy Coward's Coins2Rings for donating wonderful prizes. There were also prizes donated by the CMDC, and by metal detecting hobbyists all over Alberta.

After the "day-hunters" made their way home – the night-time event was about to start. The area was reseeded with more silver and world coins, and with various items of jewellery – this time strewn across the hunt area. After dark the "glow-in-the-dark" metal detecting hunt started. Detectorists adorned themselves with glow-stick artistry, and hunted in the dark to recover the seeded targets – everyone had a blast.

We send out a resounding "Well done!" to Brett Buchan, Jerry Leussink, Rod Coppock for coordinating a great hunt, and to all the volunteers who seeded the field, manned registration, cleaned up, and helped create in creating an excellent weekend of fun, friendship and finds. Thanks for providing an outstanding event.

# Metal Detecting - Attitudes for Success

By Peggy Kemp

With all the recent treasure hunting and metal detecting television shows – lots of people are getting into the hobby. I think Covid had a hand in this, too – as people were looking for outdoors activities that were “socially isolated”, and got hooked on it just like the rest of us. Some of the shows display the hobby in a bad light – I’ve seen a lot of Metal Detecting “Code of Ethic” rules broken by “actors” on TV who are in it only for entertainment value. Other reality shows fake the hobby to show hobbyists finding tens of thousands of dollars in jewellery, huge gold nuggets, or selling artifacts for huge prices. Those of us already in the hobby shake our heads and hope that not too many people were taken in by some of the hype.

Unfortunately, these portrayals can be an issue if some folks think about metal detecting as a “get rich quick” fix. Newcomers who think those shows show reality enter the hobby thinking there will be gold under their coil on their first outing, and that finding treasure will be an everyday occurrence. Some will give up the hobby after only a few outings when they realize it takes a bit more effort than 10 minutes swinging the coil to find treasure. What doesn’t come out in the TV shows is the hours of research that goes into locating where to dig – and in the case of private property, the effort put into obtaining permission to dig. Those shows also don’t show the amount of “trash” that we remove from the dirt, or the fact that most of the interesting and unique objects we recover may have “history” but have no “historical value” – if what you are hoping for is dollars.

Most people who are successful in this hobby do enough research to find this out ahead of time. They realize that you have to work at any hobby to be successful. Think of it as a sport – you don’t get better at golf, hockey or basketball without practice. The same applies to metal detecting – you have to learn your machine – you have to do the research to find out where to hunt, and you have to learn about and appreciate the stuff you do find. Some of the satisfaction I get from the hobby is finding something unique, and knowing that it was dropped or buried years ago. I like thinking about the story behind my find, the mystery of how it got there, who may have held it last? Sometimes I research to find out about that 1920s soap dish, or 1940s military button.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying you won’t find valuable items while metal detecting. I have found some nice gold and silver rings, and I know of a dime found by a CMDC member that was sold for more than \$600. Metal detecting is one of the only hobbies that pays for itself – but there is a lot more to it than a “get rich” scheme. That is one of the reasons I stopped dropping my subscription to some of the youtubers I was watching– it became all about the amount of gold or how old the coin was, and there is a lot more to this hobby than that.

This is a great hobby – I have never gone home skunked, although some nights my best find might have only been a penny. I have found gold jewellery, and found some unique historical finds. If you ask whether I go home with silver or gold every outing – the answer is a big fat NO!!! I am able to pay for my hobby with some of the spendables (clad) that I find, and still put change in that bank at the end of the year. I’ve found some very cool jewellery pieces – some gold or silver, but most of what I find is not made from a precious metal.

Get excited about the unique finds that you recover. My recent outings gave me more than enough money in spendables to pay for batteries and coffee, a couple of old toys, some costume jewellery items (still cool to find) and a set of vintage (1960s) keys. They were all really fun to find. Maybe this hobby is not making me “rich” in the monetary sense, however it does make me “rich” in other ways.

For one, I get to find cool stuff. I get to enjoy the beautiful outdoors – at the end of a tough day at work, this hobby is a perfect stress reliever. All I have to do is start swinging my coil, and all the problems of the workday evaporate. For me, metal detecting isn’t about getting rich – it is about a lifestyle. And who doesn’t like going out into nature - and knowing at the end of the night you will have more money in your pocket than you left with – maybe a cool relic or a unique find to make my day, and always the possibility of old coins, gold or silver.

## GPS CENTRAL SEEDED HUNT & BBQ EVENT

The GPS Central / Radioworld Calgary seeded hunt and Barbeque was held on September 28, 2024. Once again, the crew from GPS provided a great event for the Alberta metal detecting community. The GPS Central seeded hunt started at 10:00 am at Elbow Park in Calgary, followed by a BBQ lunch.

The staff of GPS Central was hard at work early in the morning. By the time detectorists started arriving between 9 and 10 – the hunt area had been liberally seeded with silver coins, tokens, and foreign coins. GPS Central planted marked MineLab tokens and coins with playing cards taped to them that would provide a chance to win several special prizes. Every hunter was given some swag, with a mini MineLab bag, a t-shirt and hat, and a few small items. Most of the detectorists who attended were from the Calgary and Southern Alberta area, but detectorists also attended from Red Deer and the Edmonton area.

At 10:00 am the time arrived for the event start. Everyone walked onto the field and chose a start spot, and waited with their coils up in the air until the start of the event. Within moments detectorists were busy swinging coils and digging targets. There were happy smiles, and detectorists were pleased to dig up some pretty cool finds. The hunt lasted for about an hour and a half, and then lunch was ready – GPS central provided a picnic lunch of barbecued hot dogs, chips and pop for lunch.

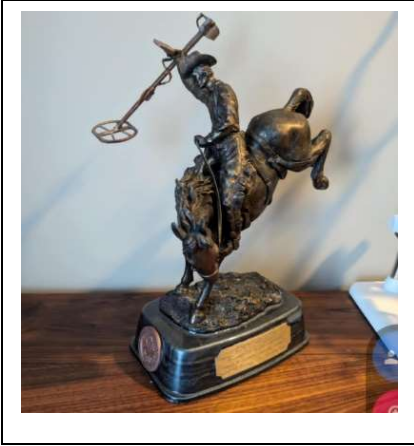
During the BBQ lunch detectorists chatted with others in the hobby, talking about recent hunts and favourite finds. After lunch people could sit and chat, or go out and hit the field again for a few more treasures until it was time for the GPS Central crew to give out prizes. The GPS crew called out different playing cards – and those that had recovered the coin with that card attached were provided with prizes which included gift certificates to GPS, hats, water bottles, metal detector starter sets, and a few other items. Then GPS Central called out the detectorists who had recovered the marked tokens that had been seeded onto the field. Those who recovered the marked MineLab tokens were the lucky winners of three new detectors, silver dollar coins, pinpointers, and a gold coin. As usual, it was a great event.

This year after the Barbecue CMDC president Brett Buchan presented GPS Central / Radioworld Calgary with a special “thank you” trophy created by CMDC member Tara Guthrie, who did an excellent job. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club is fortunate to have GPS Central as one of our club sponsors. GPS Central not only has a brick and mortar store, but provides online sales and shipping. They are dealers for several different detector manufacturers. CMDC members should continue to foster the development of this great relationship by making the attempt to shop there when they can.

**A Big shout-Out, and our thanks to the staff of  
GPS Central /Radioworld Calgary for a great event.**



## CMDC Trophy for GPS Central / Radioworld Calgary



As mentioned in the article about the GPS Central / Radioworld Calgary seeded hunt event, the CMDC has been fortunate to have GPS Central as a sponsor for our club. This year the club decided they wanted to thank GPS, and to honour them with a special thank you gift, and created a special and unique statue. CMDC member Tara Guthrie spent a lot of time designing and creating a special “bronze-look” award representing the CMDC logo of a cowboy on a bucking horse with a metal detector raised high in the air. Some of you will have seen this on hats or T-shirts over the years.

Thanks go to Tara for all her hard work on this project. The finished work was brilliant, and much appreciated. A plaque was attached to the base of the statue thanking GPS Central for all their support for the CMDC and for the metal detecting community throughout Alberta.

GPS Central / Radioworld Calgary appreciated the award, and before the end of the day the statue had a new special location on the counter of the brick and mortar retail store for GPS Central. It was placed in the metal detecting area of the store.



### Tip for the Day – “Go Low and Go Slow”

Many times new detectorists will be told that a key to good finds is to “go low and go slow”. This is excellent advice – but what exactly does that mean?

Going low is just that – the lower you get your coil to the ground, the lower your signal will penetrate the ground. If you are leaving 2 inches of air between your coil and the ground, then you have just lost 2 inches of downward signal penetration into the soil. The lower you can get to the ground, the deeper your detector will be able to detect.

The “going slow” part is a bit more complex. Detectors work by sending out an electromagnetic current that is generated by your coil. Then that signal is conducted through the ground by way of water and air molecules in the soil. The signal goes down through the ground until it “bounces” off a metallic target. The signal then bounces back to the detector, where your machine informs you about a target. When you swing, the signals have to return to your detector and be sensed by the coil again. Note that the coil senses the bounced signal. If you are swinging too fast, the signal doesn’t hit the coil on the return bounce, and that signal is missed. No beep occurs. In that case, the only “beeping” you are going to hear are shallower targets where the signal can get back in time. So if you want those deeper targets, let the detector do the work it was designed for. Slow down your sweep speed, and go a bit slower. See if that helps you hear smaller and deeper targets.



## Lose a Hammer, Find a Horde

The man who discovered the largest collection of gold and silver coins of the fourth and fifth century found anywhere within the Roman Empire was at Hoxne St Edmunds Primary School this week.



Eric Lawes, who lives in Hoxne, brought his trusty metal detector to the school where he explained to Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from both Hoxne and Mendham Primary School what he did to find the Hoxne Hoard.

The pupils visited the British Museum in London last week where the hoard is now housed, so Mr Lawes' talk coincided with that.

Mr Lawes made the discovery when Peter Whatling, the farmer who owned the land where the hoard was buried, had lost a hammer and asked his friend, Mr Lawes, a retired gardener and amateur metal detectorist, to help look for it.

Found on November 16, 1992, the hoard consists of 14,865 Roman gold, silver and bronze coins, and 200 items of silver tableware and gold jewellery. In 1993, the Treasure Valuation Committee valued the hoard at £1.75 million, or £2.66 million in today's money.

Mr Lawes, who still pursues his metal detecting hobby, said: "I am very proud to tell these schoolchildren of what I managed to find in this area, and it always means a lot to me coming back here as I was at this school 83 years ago as a five-year-old."

Sadly, there is no word on whether or not the hammer was ever found.

This article was published in May of 2011 in the "Diss Express" a local Newspaper in the county of Norfolk, England



### "TREASURE HUNTING TIPS FROM THE HEART"

Written by Dick Stout & originally published in Western & Eastern Treasures

*It's hard for this detectorist to offer up any unheard of, hidden, bet you did not know this, kinds of tips or hints that will put you on easy street. Are there such things at all? Perhaps....and just maybe you've discovered all there is for the moment, the day or the year. Setting this control to this or that, lessening or increasing your discrimination, cranking up your sensitivity, changing out your search coil....all ideas and theories that have been passed along for months and years. Some have worked for me, and others have not.*

*At the age of 64 I've mellowed quite a bit when it comes to metal detecting, treasure hunting, whatever you care to call it. The tips I now offer to anyone who will listen are based on many years of in-the-field trials and errors, and lots of valuable good friends and life experiences. I feel certain they might not make your to do list for this month or year, but I hope you will put them on the back burner, and consider them down the road.*

Remember Day One - *First piece of advice I can offer is to never forget what it was that got you interested in this pastime. There was a seed, a sincere interest, something that prompted you to find out more about metal detecting and treasure hunting. The unknown, the desire to look under that rock, the urge to seek what is around the bend or down the road....whatever it was, strive to keep it alive! That curiosity, that desire to find more is exactly what keeps the ardent treasure hunter going day in, day out, and will keep you going till you can't function anymore. No one else has to understand or sympathize. It's your passion, your thrill and that's all that matters.*

## Funny Questions from other clubs

Sometimes the locals have no idea about what a detector is or how it works – as is shown by some of these incidents that have shown up in other club newsletters and forums.

I was metal detecting a local park when a young woman came up to me and asked “are you cleaning up this park?” I answered, “Yes ma’am, I’m cleaning the local parks one pulltab at a time.” Her response was to ask, “How much do you get paid for that?”.

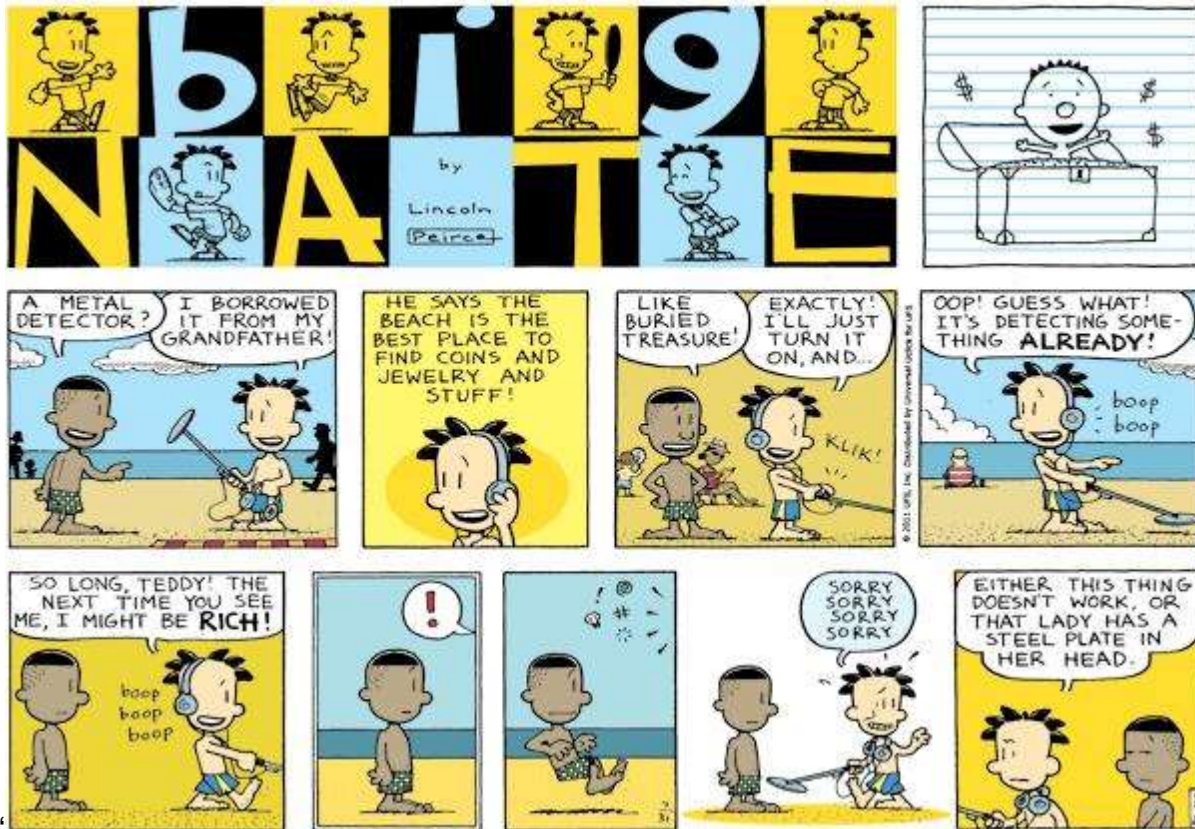
I was detecting in my sister’s yard and the guy next door had been watching me for about 30 minutes. When he finally came over to talk, he asked me why I was running a vacuum cleaner over the yard.

I was detecting a vacant lot when a lady came up and asked if I was with the gas company (I was wearing a yellow safety vest). I said “No ma’am.” Then she asked if I was with the electric company? Or with the cable company? My response to both was “No ma’am.” After that she huffed “Well you SHOULD be, with the ridiculously high rates I’ve been paying them.”

Once when I was metal detecting a yard, I had a guy watching me. After a while he asked if I was trying to make worms come out of the ground with electricity.

I was hunting in an urban park that had paved walking trails connecting the park and surrounding neighbourhoods. I had been there a while when a guy came up to me and said that




I missed something. I wondered how in the heck he would know if I missed anything, but then he pointed to weeds growing around some trees. He thought I was a park employee using a weed-whacker.



## LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

With the end of Covid – in-person meetings are being scheduled for the upcoming months. CMDC meetings will be held at the Horton Road Legion and are scheduled for the first Thursday of every month. The meeting dates will be published on the CMDC.org website calendar, on the CMDC Facebook group page. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting.

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

<p><b>GPS Central &amp; RadioWorld</b></p> <p><b>Central</b></p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment &amp; tools. Visit them on the web at <a href="http://gpscentral.ca">gpscentral.ca</a> , or the store at:</p> <p><b>#8, 711 - 48 Avenue SE Calgary</b>  <b>AB Canada T2G 4X2</b>  <b>403-239-1400</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The CMDC's yearly dues are:</b></p> <p><b>In-town membership:       \$30.00</b>  <b>Out-of-town membership: \$25.00</b>  <b>Family Membership           \$45.00</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)</b>  <b>By email at</b>  <b>email: <a href="mailto:cmdc.club@gmail.com">cmdc.club@gmail.com</a></b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist</b></p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p><b>Kevin Niefer</b>  <i>See Below</i></p> <p><b>1Finding Houses - Creating Homes</b>  <b>403-968-1496</b></p> </div> <p>To find out more information send Kevin an email @, or give him a call at 403-968-1496</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>YOU COULD BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you have an interesting story, An idea for an article, or a comment that you would like to see in “The Buzzer”?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Write it down and email it to <a href="mailto:cmdc.club@gmail.com">cmdc.club@gmail.com</a> with</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>METAL DETECTING STORY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">in the subject area.</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEAVY METAL DETECTOR</b></p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANDY COWARD</b>  <b>Custom Coin Jewellery</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COINS2RINGS</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Facebook - <a href="#">coins2rings2</a>  IG - <a href="#">@coins2rings</a>  Email <a href="mailto:coin2rings2@gmail.com">coin2rings2@gmail.com</a></p>

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