



Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

Newsletter

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December 2015

Annual Membership Renewal - Now 'til February : Every year we ask that our members renew their membership by paying the annual dues of \$25. We use this money for prizes, literature, refreshments and meeting room rent. Those who do not renew their membership will be dropped from our roster in February 2016.

Mini Hunts: Our pre-meeting mini hunts will resume in March, 2016.

December Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President, **Gary Pennington**. Gary introduced the club officers; **Howard Shettle**, Vice President, **Steve Cunningham**, Treasurer and **Dave Miller**, Secretary.

Treasurers Report: The current balance is \$5046.90 with approximately \$120 in petty cash.

Attendance: **Andy Cooper** reported 52 members in attendance.

Award Presentation: President, **Gary Pennington** presented a lifetime membership to **Sonny Stewart** for his years of service to the club.

Christmas Dinner: An intermission was called so that the members could partake of our Christmas potluck dinner. Many thanks to all who brought food for the feast. Delicacies included shrimp scampi, meatballs, fried chicken, venison chili, dips, chips and fabulous deserts.

Election of Officers: **Gary Pennington** was nominated and elected unanimously for President. **Howard Shettle** and **Brad Johns** were nominated for Vice President and Howard was elected by majority vote. **Dave Miller** was nominated and elected for Secretary. **Steve Cunningham** was nominated and elected as Treasurer.

Find of the Year: There was a tie in the votes and the Find of the Year awarded to **Bob Horst** and **Kurt Franz**. Bob's find was a silver, wax stamp, which was found about 4" deep in Essex MD. Curt found a Continental Navy button in an old cellar hole in New Hampshire.

Newsletter: **Dave Miller** is now in charge of preparing the newsletter.

New Purchases: The club will be purchasing a diamond tester and a gold test kit. These will be available for our member to use at our meetings to test their finds.

Meet the Member: There was no Meet The Member this month due to the Christmas party but it will resume next month. The Meet The Member feature will be expanded to include the demonstration of their equipment and any specialized tools and routines that they have found useful.

FMDAC: The Federation of Metal Detector & Archeological Clubs, Inc. is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and protection for the hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting. We, as a club, will be joining this federation to give them our support. Each member will be donating \$5 toward this cause.

Club Photographer: **Laura Lindsay** has volunteered to assume the responsibilities of the club photographer. Thank you, Laura for your help.

Monthly Club Hunt: Our monthly club hunt was held December 12th at Leakin Park. This was a combined hunt with the MARS club and was organized by **Barney Dolt**. Barney donated over 500 targets from his own collection for the seeded hunt. Over 20 people were in attendance and a great time was had by all. The club hunt for January is pending based on member input. More details to follow.

Closed Member Hunt: Sometime in April or May we will be scheduling our club closed hunt. This hunt will only be open for current members. More information will be forthcoming. **Andy Cooper** has volunteered to organize the hunt, and he will be looking for volunteers.

Open Hunt: We will again be hosting an Open Hunt in October. This will consist of 2 main hunts with a Gold Coin Hunt option. We will also have a team hunt (Hunter/Digger) consisting of 20 teams. We will be voting next month on what type of optional hunts to have.

Raffle Winners: 50/50 - **Scott Horst Jr.** Silver Round-**Eric Ritter**

Leg of Gold Winner: **Dave Franz**

Door Prizes: **Scott Horst Sr., Dave Miller, John Vice, Bob Taylor, Brooklyn Ritter, Kurt Franz, Luke Ritter, McDowell Warner, Sonny Stewart, Andy Cooper, Dave Franz, Rick Pack, Teri Graf**

The Meeting was closed at 8:45 PM.

Next Meeting to be held January 28, 2016 at 7:00 PM.