



Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

Newsletter

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February 2017

February Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President, **Gary Pennington**. Gary introduced the club officers; **Howard Shettle**, Vice President, **Steve Cunningham**, Treasurer and **Dave Miller**, Secretary.

A special thank you to **Mike** and **Gina Stinemire** who always provides a wide range of delicious food and snacks for the meeting.

Attendance: 55 members and visitors were in attendance as reported by **Dave Franz**.

Treasurers Report: \$5,220.72

Special Presentation: Club member, **Bruce Custer**, gave a special presentation of the Maryland Chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of America. Bruce, who is the member of the Frederick Chapter introduced us to other members of their club and explained various panning techniques with hands on demonstrations. The Gold Prospectors Association of America was founded to preserve and promote the heritage of the North American Prospector by providing member exclusive access to gold bearing property across the country as well as the tools needed to get started in prospecting. Maryland has lots of gold still trapped in its host rock, however, our gold is very fine in nature and takes great effort to amass any quantities of value. Montgomery County has the most concentration of gold in the state. The first gold was discovered in 1829 near Olney. More information regarding the GPAA can found at <http://www.goldprospectors.org>.

Monthly Club Outing: Once again, we held our monthly club outing and once again, many great finds were unearthed. **Phil Kolocotronis** found a 1721 2 Reales Spanish coin, **Kurt Franz** found a NJ Copper dated between 1786 – 1787, and others found many silver coins. Remember to sign up for the next club hunt at our meetings so that you can get an email invitation with the details.

Metal Detecting 101: **Gary Pennington** brought to our attention that he has been seeing uncovered holes and poorly replaced plugs at many of the local sites. He fears that many of our members are responsible and warned us that if this practice continues that we can lose our hunting privileges in Baltimore City and other areas. We need to leave the area that we hunt better than we found it. If we see a hole that was not properly replaced, do your best to fix it, and always leave no trace. Be a good steward for our hobby.

2017 Open Hunt and Closed Hunt: The date for the 2017 Open Hunt will be Sunday, September 17. We will only have two main hunts and the Big Silver hunt for 2017. Remember to get your registration forms in before July 31 so that you can be eligible for a gold coin drawing and also save \$25. See our website for more details and to receive your registration packet. The Closed Hunt, (Members Only) will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Victory Villa Community Center.

Legal Beagle Report: **Phil Kolocotronis** reported that the The Tri-County Metal Detecting Club in Youngstown, Ohio recently received help from the Federation of Metal Detectors and Archeological Clubs, Inc. organization to help with their negotiations with their local area Metro Park agency. They were recently banned from hunting Mill Creek Park and the FMDA will be interceding.

Monthly Board Contest: **Eric Ritter, Matt St. Hours** and **Mike McCullough** were all winners in the coin category. **Darryl Fallis, Eric Ritter** and **Mike McCullough** were winners in the relic category.

Club Favorite Find of the Month: 1721 2 Reales Spanish coin by **Phil Kolocotronis**

Raffle Winners: 50/50 – **Eric Ritter** Silver Round: **Justine Jankowski**

Leg of Gold Winner: **Wendy Huber**

Door Prizes: The club gave away over 20 door prizes at the meeting.

Next Meeting to be held Thursday, March 30th, 2017 at 7:00 PM.