



# Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

## Newsletter

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January 2017

### January Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 **Phil Kolocotronis** for recording the minutes of the January meeting.

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

Attendance: 49 members and visitors were in attendance.

Meet the Member: **Bob Horst** (Bob was a stand-in for Barney, who wasn't able to attend) Bob is recently retired so has more time than ever to go detecting. He was first introduced to the hobby by his uncle, who would often get out his detector at family gatherings. Bob first started detecting himself in the early 1980s, using a machine purchased at a flea market. Bob does just about any kind of detecting except beach or water detecting. His favorite type of location is recently-plowed farm fields. He will hunt for 6 hours or more at a time, often for an entire day. He currently uses an AT Pro, and prior to that used a Garrett GTA 350 for about 15 years. His favorite find is a 1561 Elizabeth I hammered sixpence. His best find is the large gold ring that won last year's club Find of the Year. His favorite hunt was the Hoover Boys "Dream Hunt" on the Eastern Shore. He and Kurt said the newest coin found that day was from the 1830s. Bob said he isn't really a bucket list guy, but if he had to identify a bucket list item, it would be a 2-Cent piece. The farthest he has traveled to hunt is Ohio. He used to do a lot of bottle digging as a child in West Virginia. He does not do a lot of research, normally relying on maps from Google. His one piece of advice for newbies is to buy the best machine you can afford.

Bob Taylor: Club member and local dealer, **Bob Taylor**, brought us up to date with the current metal detecting equipment news. The new AT Pro with wireless headphone capability is due out Feb. 1. It will, however, require a special adapter. Bob made the announcement that he is getting out of the detector sales business and this was his last meeting where he would be selling merchandise. A number of factors went into his decision, mainly due to how the suppliers have been treating retailers like him the past couple of years. He said at prior meetings how Minelab had made it tougher by allowing big box retailers to sell more cheaply than he was allowed. Now, XP (makers of the Deus) have allowed a new salesperson to be located less than 10 miles from him. Bob still has a lot of merchandise

and is allowing 2 weeks for any club member to come by his shop and receive a discount on pricing. After that, he will open it up to the general public. Please be advised he has already turned off his credit card machines.

2017 Open Hunt and Closed Hunt: Gary requested a date of Sunday, September 17 for the Closed Hunt. This will help avoid conflicts with Navy football and the Annapolis Boat Show in terms of hotel rooms for out-of-town participants. We will only have two main hunts and the Big Silver hunt for 2017. The addition of other hunts last year got a bit overwhelming. Registration will be at 10:00 AM and the hunt will start at 11:00 AM. This is one hour later than previous years. The Closed Hunt will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Victory Villa Community Center.

Legal Beagle Report: **Phil Kolocotronis** said much of the information on sites we link to through the MFSTC site has gone stale. He did find an interesting story through a Google search. The Tri-County Metal Detecting Club in Youngstown, Ohio recently found that detecting has been banned at one of their favorite parks, Mill Creek MetroParks. The parks director said that someone complained after seeing a person at the end of last year detecting around a statue. The director further explained that his predecessor had been issuing detecting permits despite a 1936 law that bans metal detecting. Only the parks board can overturn that law. The local club plans to state their case at the next parks board meeting. As we all know, metal detectors were not used by the general public until the 1960s, so it would be interesting to see how that law is worded. I will try to contact that club and get an update.

Monthly Club Outing: The January club outing at the Claiborne Plantation was much nicer than December's, including the weather. Lots of interesting finds in general were made. The next outing is planned for February 11 at the same location.

Other news: Gary recently received an email from a lady from Hollywood CA, claiming to be putting together a TV show involving metal detecting. She asked if anyone in our club would be interested. Kurt Frantz agreed to receive the email from Gary and look into it. Gary was told at the MARS club meeting about a few used machines for sale, including some Minelabs. Contact Gary for details.

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

Club Favorite Find of the Month: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gold Ring by **Mike McCullough**

Raffle Winners: 50/50 – **Kurt Frantz**                      Silver Round: **Zach Brewer**

Leg of Gold Winner: **Harry Morrison**

Door Prizes: **Kurt Frantz, Julio Perla, Oliva** (Gary's granddaughter), **Sharon Powell, and Bill Pfaff**

Next Meeting to be held Thursday, February 23th, 2017 at 7:00 PM.