



Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

Newsletter

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March 2017

March Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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: \$4,615.81

Legal Beagle Report: **Phil Kolocotronis** reported via email that there are some state level bills being introduced at the government level which will seek to restrict the use of recreational gold prospecting dredging. New Hampshire, Oregon and Washington State has had recent hearings and due to testimony and support of their local interest groups, many of these bills have been killed or tabled.

Meet the Member: Our meet the member for this month was **Barney Dolt**. Barney, who is also a long standing member of the MARS club, has been metal detecting since the early 1960's. He began hunting in Manassas Virginia where he lived and started hunting Civil War areas. He said, "back then he would find so many bullets that he needed to dig a hole and temporarily bury them until the end of the day, because his pockets got too heavy." One of his first metal detectors was a Metrotech which was heavy and bulky. Barney occupation as a State Inspector, in Virginia brought him to many construction sites where he would find bullets, coins and buttons. Over the years, Barney has used various machines, including Whites, Fisher, and Minelab. His favorite find is his North Carolina, 6th Infantry Civil War buckle. There are not many things on Barney's bucket list but one thing he would like to find is a Civil War buckle or button from Pennsylvania. Barney has travelled to England to hunt in what they call a "rally", and found coins that were minted before the Time of Christ. Barney has utilized Regimental Histories as a source of research to help locate Civil War areas in which to hunt. His greatest piece of advice to beginners is to keep on trying because your efforts will be rewarded.

Training Program: **Andy Cooper** who is head of our training program is still looking for volunteers to sign the buddy list. This program is designed to help new detectorists with learning their detector and this list will pair up people who need help with operating of their detector with someone who is an experienced user.

Monthly Club Outing: There was no Club Outing in February due to bad weather conditions. Remember to sign up for the next club hunt at our meetings so that you can get an email invitation with the details.

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. The registration will be \$25.

Donations: A special thank you to **Charles Fonner** who has donated books, hats, and shovels as prizes for our Open Hunt.

Mini Hunt: Those who found tokens were awarded a ½ Silver Round. The winners were **John Vice, Dwayne Meanor** and **Luke Ritter**.

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

Club Favorite Find of the Month: Handgun by **Nancy Jelich**

Raffle Winners: 50/50 – **Frank Ziemski** Silver Round: **Chris Jacobs**

Leg of Gold Winner: **John Manzari**

Door Prizes: **Renate Stinemire, Chris Wisnom, Mike Stinemire, Luke Ritter, Keith Summers, Jim Hooper,** and **Nancy Jelich** were all door prize winners.

Next Meeting to be held Thursday, April 27th, 2017 at 7:00 PM with a mini hunt starting at 6:30PM