



Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

Newsletter

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January 2018

January 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.

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

Attendance: 38 members and visitors were in attendance.

Meet the Member: **Deb Sprouse** – Deb lives in Harford County and works at the Bank of America as a Fraud Analyst and she is an avid metal detectorist. Her interest in metal detecting began when she was a member of the Archeological Society of Maryland as a youth, and she began detecting when she was eight years old. Her favorite type of hunting is civil war and colonial relics. She has much experience in this area and she is the author of 2 books on Colonial and Revolutionary War artifacts. Her typical hunts nowadays is about 4 hours but she used to hunt over 8 hours a day. Her metal detectors that she uses are Whites, Tesero, Garrett and Deus. Her favorite find is a 2 real from 1727. Her best find was a 1774 Gold Guinea found at "coin beach" in the Delaware Indian River inlet. She typically hunts local but she has hunted as far away as San Diego. She uses old books, diaries and historic aerials to do her research and her best advice to a beginning is to hunt in a close proximity to other targets that you have found.

Legal Beagle Report: **Phil Kolocotronis** brought to our attention the Charles Garrett Code of Detecting Ethics. These ethics should be a code of ethics that we each adhere to. 1. Never Trespass or hunt on property without permission. 2. National and State Parks (without permission) are off limits. 3. Always fill every hole. 4. Do not leave litter. 5. Always carry out all rubbish and dug targets. 6. Use caution when digging your targets especially in uncertain ground conditions. 7. Keep informed and obey all local and national legislation relating to the discovery and reporting of found treasures.

Monthly Club Outing: The January club outing at the farm in Forest Hill was attended by about 20 people. Some of the finds were buckles, coins and buttons.

Leg of Gold: We started the Leg of Gold Contest for 2018. This week's winner was **Paul Sweeney**. His entry and others to follow will be put in a drawing for a gold coin at the end of the year.

Open Hunt: This year's Open Hunt will be on September 30, 2018 and once again going to be held at Sandy Point State Park. The cost will be \$125 for the main hunt and the prices will go up to \$150 after August 1st. There will be a Big Silver hunt which will be an additional \$50 and the price will go up to \$75 after August 1st. We are planning on raffling off an AT Max, Whites MX Sport and a Minelab Equinox.

Closed Hunt: We have set the date for the closed "member only" hunt to be on September 15, 2018.

Gold Coin Raffle: We are selling tickets for a \$5 gold coin which will be raffled off after we sell \$400 in tickets. Tickets are \$1 each.

Club Library: A new book on buckles has been added to our library. See **John Vice**, our club librarian, for more information on this book and others in the library.

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

Club Favorite Find of the Month: 1793 Chain Cent coin found by **Kurt Franz**. A chain cent was America's first large cent and the first circulated coin that was produced by the United States Mint. There are only about 200 of these coins in existence.

Raffle Winners: 50/50 – **Richard Campo** Silver Round: **David Miller**

Door Prizes: **Seth Gewther, Bill Hill, Richard Aro, Charles Gilroy** and **Zach Brewer**

Next Meeting to be held Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7:00 PM.