



Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

Volume 6

Issue 31

July 30, 2020

The virtual Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by President, Mike McCullough. Mike introduced the club officers: Gary Pennington - vice president, Steve Cunningham - treasurer and webmaster, Chris Wisnom - Secretary and Newsletter. Mike acknowledged all of the volunteers and thanked them for their service.

Due to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, no "in-person" meeting was conducted in the months of March, April, May, June or July.

The August meeting will be in-person on August 27, 2020, 7:00pm at the Victory Villa Community Center auditorium, Middle River Recreation and Parks building, 404 Compass Rd. East, Essex, MD 21220.

The large auditorium, located immediately to the right as you enter the building. With social distancing and chairs spread 6 feet apart, it can accommodate approximately 36 people. Members will be required to wear masks, sanitize their hands, maintain social distancing and have temperatures monitored and COVID-19 symptoms evaluated. No food will be provided. Water bottles will be provided. For safety, members should not congregate in groups prior to, or after the meeting outside the building. Waiver forms and screening forms must be completed. Screening for members who wish to participate in the mini hunt will begin at 6:00 PM. The mini hunt will begin at 6:30 PM, and end at 7:00 PM. The field will be spread in a larger area, to allow members to maintain 6 feet between them when hunting.

Mike is requesting volunteers to participate in the following areas:

- 1-2) Volunteers to screen persons who wish to participate in the mini-hunt
- 1) Volunteer to assist with the 50/50
- 1) Volunteer for the secretary position who keeps the minutes of the meeting.

The Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks has created new protocols and put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Steve will notify members via email of the plans to move forward and the appropriate forms required.

Activities may move forward pending the following provisions:

- 1) Completion of the Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19 by all members wishing to attend the meeting which was, and will be, emailed to all members.
- 2) Compliance with the protocols and policies put in place by Maryland Free-state Treasure Club and the Baltimore County Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

New Members: We welcome Steven Ralston, Rob Minjock and Thomas Burleson and look forward to meeting them in person.

New Business: Baltimore City Parks are closed during July and August and will reopen September 1st. Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia parks are open for metal detecting. Always check with the Rangers for permission.

Attendance: 22 members attended the on-line meeting. A few members attempted to join, but had technical difficulties.

Mini Hunt: To be held prior to the August 27, 2020 meeting from 6:30 to 7:00 PM. Coins and tokens will be cast across the lawn outside of our meeting place. No digging! Surface finds only. Bring your detector and pinpointter.

Treasurers Report: We have a total of \$2,531.93 in the bank and currently have 72 active members.

Virtual Members Finds: President Mike McCullough asked members to present their finds on-line. Andy Cooper found a 1732 KG coin in beautiful condition at a local church.

Monthly Club Outings: No club outing was scheduled in July. The August and September outings are pending the ongoing situation with the Pandemic. Steve will notify club members as the situation unfolds.

Members-Only Hunt: Tentatively planned for October 3, 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19 and the extenuating circumstances under which the club has been operating in order to comply with all of the guidelines.

Old Business: Mike announced that we have received permission to hunt on eight acres on a property located on Mount Carmel Road. The owner has not decided how the finds will be handled. More information to follow.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Joe DeMarco, who announced that the White's Company is currently out of business making this is a great opportunity to purchase their equipment. He is graciously granting all club members a 10% discount on purchases, 15% to veterans. Shipping is also provided free, as is sales tax. Please consider purchasing your equipment and supplies from Joe. We are fortunate he is supporting our club and we look forward to working with him for many years.

Joe has a long history of metal detecting, and enjoys beach and water detecting. He has found multiple gold coins and Spanish reales on the Jersey shores. He established himself as a reputable dealer for metal detectors in 1996 and has been providing products and services to metal detecting clubs and enthusiasts for many years. He is especially excited about the Minelab Equinox 800 machine which is versatile in many conditions and operator friendly.

Next in-person Club Meeting: August 27, 2020 at 7:00pm. Mini hunt starts at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.