



Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

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February 25, 2021

February Meeting Minutes Virtual On-line Meeting

The virtual on-line meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President, Mike McCullough. Mike introduced the club officers: Gary Pennington, Vice President, Steve Cunningham – Treasurer and Web Master, not present, Chris Wisnom, Secretary and News Letter. Mike acknowledged all of the volunteers and thanked them for their service. Anyone would like to volunteer for any vacant Club assignment: Precious metal and diamond testing, Merchandise sales, legal beagle, food for meetings, please contact an officer.

Special Announcement: Due to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, Baltimore County has postponed indoor meetings until further notice. This is the ninth virtual-on-line meeting. Virtual-on line meetings were conducted in the months of March, April, May, June, July, November, December, January and February. Next month's meeting will be held on March 25, 2021, and may be virtual-on line as well. Please check your email for notice from Steve Cunningham.

Treasurers Report: Steve Cunningham reported an account balance of \$ 2,597.72.

Status of Current Meeting room Balto. Co. Rec and Parks activities are on hold until May 3rd. At that time, we may receive notification to resume outside activities on June 5th." Mike requested the use of the Pavilion at Victory Villa. His request was denied.

Attendance: 20 members attended the zoom meeting.

Recognition of volunteers / Leg of Gold

Due to the virtual format of our meetings, volunteer recognition and leg of gold coin drawings have been missing in 2020.

The officers and volunteers of 2020 will each receive a silver bullion walking liberty one ounce coin: including: Mike McCullough (President), Gary Pennington (VP), Steve Cunningham

(T&WM), Christine Wisnom (S & ZH), Andy Cooper, Dave Franz, John Vice, Ron Riggs, Dwayne Meanor, Carole Rinker, Abby, Olivia, Mike Stinemire, Gina Stinemire

For the Leg of Gold drawing the, volunteers, officers and the five names drawn during the in-person meetings for 2020 were drawn for a one-tenth ounce gold bullion coin. The winner is Mike Stinemire.

Guest Speaker: Joe Beechnut

Joe actively posts his finds on the Metal Detecting Maryland Facebook group. He has recovered several gold and silver rings and silver coins from Maryland waters and noted that he would detect year round as conditions permitted. In a year's time he sported full plastic bags of rings and coins. In the words of Steve Cunningham, "Joe Beechnut is a legend in this area for his prolific finds as a water detectorist. I hope he shows off some of his loot." We were fortunate to have him as a guest. Joe shared many tips on water detecting, and answered many questions. We would like to invite him back to share further adventures.

Future Club meetings March 25, 2021(Zoom).

Planning on special guests from Kent Island Historical Society.

Monthly Club Outing: On Sunday, December 19, 2020, the monthly outing was conducted at Leakin Park. Members meet at 9:00 am. The ground was frozen and snow covered, 2 members attended. Finds were minimal.

Upcoming Hunts:

1. James property in Upperco, MD may proceed if owners can have farmer disc fields (approx 8 acres). Club is welcome to detect. Owners have first right to finds.
2. Kirwan property in Chester, MD (Kent Island) will come available after hunting season.
3. Seeded/ natural hunt at Liberty Hall Plantation (Rixeyville, VA) on April 24, 2021. \$100 fee.

1 Year Metal Detecting Permits for Baltimore County are now available on-line and will be sent to members by Steve Cunningham for completion and return via email.

Metal Detecting Permits for Baltimore City are done online. The Boston St office is not open to walk-ins. Login to City Rec and Parks website. Your user name is your email address. You are assigned a temporary password. You select the permit renewal and then pay for that item in your cart. For information contact the permit office by email at Park.Permits@baltimorecity.gov to Shawnte. She will help you navigate the process.

January & February Club Outing: Dwayne reported a small turnout on the January Club outing to Leakin Park and the February outing to the Kirwan property on Kent Island. At Leakin, Bob Smith dug a silver coin and Bear recovered some Civil War bullets. At Kirwan, Bear dug an Indian Head cent and Andy Copper got a wiped British copper. Fields to west of Kirwan house are in corn stubble and fields to south are clear as they were planted in soybean.

Members Finds for February: Members finds for February included a 10K gold service pin for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. Kevin Weis (first seated dime), Mike McCullough (counterfeit cut 8-reale and Gary Pennington (new permission – (finds from War of 1812).

FYI. Future metal detecting opportunities:

1. James property in Upperco, MD may proceed if owners can have farmer disc fields (approx 8 acres). More information to come.
2. Kirwan property in Chester, MD (Kent Island). Linda Collier must be contacted by email prior to detecting. Linda is very easy to work with in this regard.
3. Seeded/ natural hunt at Liberty Hall Plantation (Rixeyville, VA) is on April 24, 2021. \$100 fee. Registration is open with about 36 of 100 slots filled.

New Business: please see club updates on our webpage outlined the Minutes.

New Business; Background Checks: Thank you to our officers and volunteers who have submitted their information for background checks through the BCRP website. For those who have not completed, please contact Mike for assistance.

Next Club Meetings: March 25, 2021.

Adjourned: The virtual meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.