



Metal Detecting Club

Since 1963



Meeting Information:

Place: Woodlawn Baptist Church

4600 Manchaca Blvd.

Austin, TX

Day: Second Thursday of each month

Time: 7:00 pm

Membership: \$20.00

March 2024

Club Officers:

President

Sandip Chakraborti

Vice President

Andrew Phillips

Treasurer

Scott Hegel

Secretary

Charles Goertz

Board Members: Sandip Chakraborti
Andrew Philips, Charles Goertz, Scott Hegel, Mary and Leon Prause, Daniel and Susie Mireles, Jim Lawhon, Carrie Rogers, Fred and Jeanne Toewe, Larry Vickers, Dennis Gans, Paul Krugler, Ed Newsom

Huntmasters:

Ed Newsome and Charles Goertz

Newsletter:

Mitch London

newsletter@amdconline.com

Webmaster:

Fred Toewe

webmaster@amdconline.com

Luck of the Irish

You might say metal detectorists have something in common with St. Patrick's Day. Luck! But who is this St. Patrick and was he lucky?

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was a real person; born in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. Ok, so far not so lucky. But he escaped and returned to convert the Irish to Christianity. He established schools and monasteries during his life but legends were also formed around him. He was said to have driven the snakes out of Ireland and that he used a Shamrock (clover) to describe the trinity. Ah! The lucky three leaf clover, now we are getting somewhere. He died March 17th, 461.

What about the pot of gold at the end of rainbows? Well, that is actually attributed to Leprechauns which were figures in Irish folklore that guarded treasures. It was thought, if you caught a leprechaun, you could have it tell you the location of its

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February Meeting Program

The program for last month had people outside in the dark...but not the whole time. It was time for the Lights On/Lights Off hunt. There were a number of tokens spread around in a grassy area near the church along with a few extra regular fifty cent pieces Mitch threw out just before the hunt started. People got their detectors ready and lined up around the perimeter and soon the horn sounded!

Well, more of a "Ready, Set Go!" as blowing an air horn at night would likely not make for happy neighbors. Club members spread out quickly, some detecting as they went, others making a bee-line for uncharted territory and starting their search. The first task allowed people to use their detectors and pinpointers, but no lights. Some folks had to put a finger over the light their pinpointer automatically has when turned on, just to keep it fair. After a good 15 minutes or so, people dug quite a few tokens. Then the announcement that they could turn on their head lamps, or flashlights and uncover their pinpointers.

The search continued for a while longer as it was now easier to see where they were detecting, and as all the targets were surface ones, no diggers were needed (nor were they allowed). At the end, people could trade in their various token for its corresponding prize, some silver dimes, some half dollars. Everyone enjoyed the hunt and the interesting sensation of detecting without lights as it made listening to your equipment vital. See pictures from the hunt on the next page!

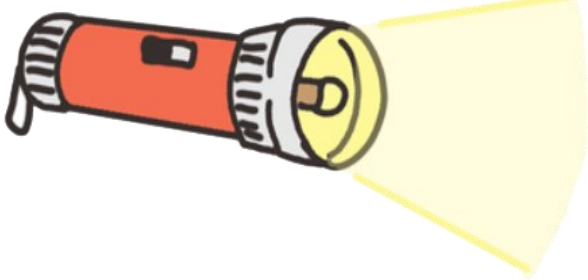
After the hunt, people gathered in the church for the rest of the meeting which was an update on the cache, the newsletter question, upcoming events as well as the Finds of the Month of which you can see the results for at the end of the newsletter!

Next Month's Meeting

March 14th: Mitch will give a short program on the earliest coins ever made. This program was originally given in the 1960's to the Capital City Coin Club.

AMDC Monthly Programs Wanted!

AMDC thrives on its members and there is nothing we like more than to have someone give a program during the meeting. We would love you to be the program for an upcoming meeting! The topic can be anything you like, it does not have to be metal detecting related, but it does help. It could be about your aspect of the hobby, a place you have hunted and found interesting treasures or a variety of tips you know about selecting a hunt site. Just get in contact with our Vice President to pick a month you can present a program!



AMDC Search Team Results

The Austin Metal Detecting Club has a team of searchers that go out and attempt to find lost items. These are the results of our recent searches.



FOUND! **Feb #1 Casey –The Story:** We dropped our mail key likely in the grass on the way to check the mail. Hoping to find it because it takes 4-6 weeks to get mailbox locked change and new keys! – Casey looked later and found the key.

LOST! **Feb #2 Tucker - The Story:** Lost an Aggie ring while throwing food off the back porch to the dogs. Know the rough area is should have landed. – Mitch and I (Paul) spent an hour and 45 minutes searching. Unless we missed an area between grid paths, we covered the entire backyard. Most of it had little trash. But no ring turned up.

FOUND! **Feb #3 Emeline - The Story:** “The ring flew off my finger in the back yard and I know which direction it went in. I have searched for it for hours already along with my other friends but we have had no luck so far. The ring is a family heirloom and special to me so i am very heartbroken. If you guys can’t help me would i be able to connect with someone who i can rent equipment from to search further? – Emeline was certain she lost her 3-ring 14K set in her backyard while talking with friends. She had made a sweeping motion with her arm while talking. It was already dark when it happened, so no one saw where it went.

The Search: Scott and I (Paul) searched about an hour, covering the small backyard thoroughly. We had also searched underneath a row of tall bushes along one side of the yard. It just wasn't there. But it had to be. As a last ditch effort, we shook the bushes pretty hard and checked underneath again. Walla! I found it with a pinpointter going down the row of bushes a second time, reaching underneath with a pinpointter. It had hung up in the bushes.

When we saw the ring, it was obvious that the type of ring made it easy to hang up in a bush. It was a pretty unique 3-ring set. Each ring looped through at least one of the other rings, but none were bonded in any way to any other ring. So they were three individual rings looking for something to hang up on while falling through the bush it had hit.



FOUND! **Feb #4 Richard—The Story:** My wife said its comprised of Tungsten, I tested a rolling magnet with a tungsten ring from my neighbor, zero magnetism. – Richard kept looking and ended up finding it!

LOST! **Feb #5 Chuck - The Story:** Needs help finding property pin in Driftwood - No rush (still Open)



Getting to Know: Mitch London

When did you first get interested in metal detecting and why?

About 4 years ago. Interested since I was a kid and I found a detector that was not too expensive to try out the hobby.



What was your first detector and what did you find with it?

I got a Garrett ACE 350 used from Cabela's. I guessed it was used and returned. I found many coins and trash. Nothing of great value, yet.

What are some of your favorite places to detect? Why?

Volleyball courts. They are easy to dig and self replenishing. I like parks too, because it give a chance for people to come up and ask questions about the hobby.

If you could go anywhere and detect, where would you go?

Europe. So much history there. Specifically England.

What was your favorite place that you were able to detect? What did you find?

Being relatively new to the hobby, I have not come across a favorite place that I go back to over and over.

What is the best thing you have found while detecting and where did you find it?

32nd degree mason ring that was lost in a big field used for parking for the Circuit of the Americas race. The person lost it while walking to or from their car and our club went to look and I was lucky enough to be the one who found it.

What was the hardest thing you have had to detect and was the result worth it?

I had to search the lake for a lost wedding ring after it slipped off. I had to take deep breaths, go down, search and come back up. Over and over until finally I came up with the ring!

What advice would you give to someone new in the hobby?

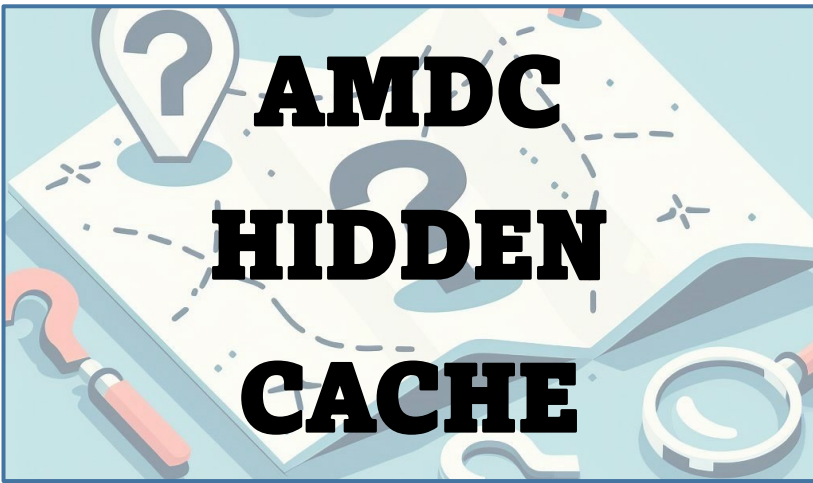
Don't get frustrated. Don't expect to find the "golden treasure" Metal detecting is a pathway to a lifetime of adventure and finding things. Dig the trash to find the treasure.

How many detectors have you owned over your time in this hobby, are there any favorites?

Three. I have my Garrett Ace 350, a Nokta Dive Pulse and my new Garrett AT MAX.

What is your favorite aspect of metal detecting that keeps you going?

I love looking for the lost items that people contact us to try and find. I find it so rewarding to be able to return something that was lost.



The AMDC has a hidden treasure! Well, sort of. Each month a clue is brought to a meeting that gives a clue to the location of this hidden cache. Each month the clues get more specific. Once the cache is found, a new one is hidden and it starts over. The cache that is found is brought to the meeting and exchanged for a prize! Can you find the cache???



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treasure, usually a pot of gold.

So while no real link between St. Patrick's or Leprechauns and metal detecting, that has not stopped many people and metal detecting clubs from holding St. Patrick's Day hunts. Some clubs will purchase some Irish coins and have those as tokens to be traded in for a prize, perhaps a pot of gold. At the very least perhaps you can try your luck at going out detecting on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. Good Luck!

To Clean or Not Too Clean...

That is the question. What is the answer? I would say it depends. Most of the time what we find buried in the ground is going to be severely corroded and worn. If you are talking coins; they could be pitted, rusted and even have chunks missing. If you are dealing with artifacts, they are likely made of iron and are rusted. Not overly promising, huh?

When it comes to coins, as a coin collector, I would almost always say DO NOT CLEAN! This mainly refers to a nice enough coin that you can tell what it is, read the date and mint mark and can easily tell if it is a key or scarce date. If it is so worn already, it does not hurt to clean the coin. Even if it turned out to be a key date, so much damage has already occurred, it has lost most of its value. Coins coming out of the mud, or dirt are pretty much in need of a rinse at the least, and maybe a little toothbrush work.

Artifacts or relics, depending on the size will require inspection to see if they are of historical value, or just another horseshoe, or bullet that is just one more in the collection. Buttons, buckles and such would be best treated with more care than your iron cannonball as they may be made of a material that can't handle rough cleaning. Old buttons can dent easily and brass can be scratched. The best thing to do is to look at what you found, and say to yourself, is this worth potential damage. If so, proceed with caution. The cleaning can just as much fun as the hunt!



Display	Wyatt Jacobsmeyer
Foreign Coin	Wyatt Jacobsmeyer – 2002 10 Cent Euro
Token	Wyatt Jacobsmeyer – Pokemon Token
Ring	Fred Toewe – 2017 Cedar Park HS Class Ring
Jewelry	Tom Ashworth - Necklace
Button	Debbie Young - Star
Artifact	Tom Ashworth - Knife
Wild Card	Fred Toewe – Solid Brass Monkey “Snuff” Spoon
Oldest US Coin	Scott Jacobsmeyer – 1937 Cent
Most Valuable US Coin	Scott Jacobsmeyer – 1960 Dime
All Categories Filled	None
Newsletter Question	Jeanne Toewe
Visitor Drawing	Carl Wilson, Allen Rojas, Rene LaFonck, Roy Lee Stahl
Member Drawing	Larry Vickers



Upcoming Events



March 14- **AMDC Meeting**- Mitch presents a program on the earliest coins.

March 22-24, 2024: First-ever [Greatest Little Treasure Show](#) in Texas by Larry Vickers at Llano, TX

April 5-7, First Annual Show-Me Pro/AM, Treasure Hunt, Missouri

April 11- **AMDC Meeting**- Underwater Hunting with Tom. How long can you hold your breath?

April 27-28, East Coast Research and Discovery 41st Anniversary Open Hunt, New Jersey

May 3-4, 2024: Nugget Noggin Live by Nugget Noggin at Rock Hill, SC

May 9- **AMDC Meeting**- 3D Printing...can it help metal detecting? Come find out!

June 13- **AMDC Meeting**- Paul presents his target ID game. Bring your detectors!

July 11- **AMDC Meeting**- TBD

August 8- **AMDC Meeting**- TBD

September 12- **AMDC Meeting**- TBD

October 10- **AMDC Meeting**- TBD

November 14- **AMDC Meeting**- Elections

December 12- **AMDC- Holiday Party**

Meeting Topics Subject to Change



BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are open to all Club Members. If you are interested in attending a Board meeting, please contact an Officer, Board Member, or the Webmaster for details. These are held via Zoom on the first Thursday of each month at 6:15 p.m.



AUSTIN METAL DETECTING CLUB

FIND OF THE MONTH

DISPLAY _____ # _____

FOREIGN COIN: _____ # _____

TOKEN: _____ # _____

RING: _____ # _____

JEWELRY: _____ # _____

BUTTON: _____ # _____

ARTIFACT: _____ # _____

WILD CARD: _____ # _____

OLDEST U.S. COIN: _____ # _____

MOST VALUABLE U.S. COIN: _____ \$ _____ # _____

Name _____ Month _____