



The Buckeye Searcher

Established: June, 1982

Buckeye Searchers Association of N.E. Ohio

President: John Pacanovsky Vice President: Terry Stahurski

Secretary-Treasurer: Tammy Kepler



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Silver Keeps on Rising

Club facing Loss of \$500!

Last month we reported on the alarming increase in the price of silver. We reported that due to financial losses, the number of hunts two years ago was reduced from 6 to 4 (not counting our big picnic hunt).

That was when the cost of a hunt had risen to \$57.37. But, the costs are much higher now.

They are even higher than the \$100.00 per hunt reported last month. That figure was based on the early-January internet price for silver coins.

By mid-February, 90%-silver coins had gone up to \$7.22 per face-value dollar. If we continue to seed 125 dimes, 8 quarters and 2 halves (as has been the custom), the cost of the \$15.50 face-value coins now is \$111.91 for one hunt, or \$671.46 for all 6 hunts.

If participation at the hunts remains the same as last year, (which produced only about \$175.00), we will lose nearly \$500.00 this year!

The rising cost of silver has forced a shift in the focus of our meetings from detector issues to - "raising money!" That is probably not a good way to keep our present members or to recruit new members.

Big Auction Set for March

March 9th Festivities

Our annual spring auction is scheduled for our next meeting on March 9th. The spring and fall auctions have been quite successful in the past. This good trend will hopefully continue this year. Success depends on two things:

1. **Items need to be donated.** If nothing is donated, nothing can be sold. So, if you have anything to donate, please bring it to the meeting.
2. **Items need to be purchased.** Bring your wallet. If the past is any guide, this is a good time to take advantage of some *really great bargains*.

Some added auction notes:

1. **Label your donated items.** Please add a tag with your name to the item you donate.
2. **Include partial donations.** By "Partial donation" we mean an item too expensive to donate in its entirety. In such a case, you can set a percentage of the sale price that goes to the club and a percentage that you retain for yourself.

For example, you can choose to donate an item with a 50-50 split, in which both you and the club get half. Or, for that matter, if the item is expensive enough, you can decide to give the club 10%, while you keep 90%. You decide.

We ask, however, that a split donation be reserved only for expensive items. (*Otherwise it becomes time-consuming and also a huge bookkeeping problem to keep track of all small items.*)

3. **Detector-related items are excellent, but other items are welcome too.** One final note: We know that most people do not need to be reminded that a donated item should have some real value. If it is of little or no value, it probably should just be put on a "give away" table.

Fortunately, most donations in the past have been excellent.

So, come to the March 9th meeting and enjoy the fun and festivities of our club auctions.

Metal Detector Insights Feb Meeting

The February meeting was highlighted by an informative presentation by Bernie Benewiat about "How metal detectors work."

Some information about "detector electronics" might be considered abstract by some users, but surprisingly, it is not. This knowledge gives you an edge; a big edge!

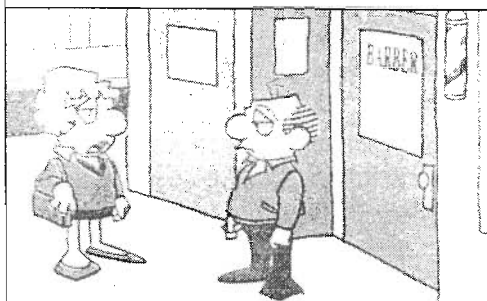
First of all, if you use only the factory preset, you lose. That setting is designed to work just about anywhere. But it comes at a price. It does not go deep.

If you know how to adjust the settings to ground balance a machine properly, you go much deeper.

Another common practice is to sweep the coil fast - to "go over" as much ground as possible. You will, indeed "cover ground," but will miss good targets.

Why? The complex process involved. A signal is sent by a coil; (1) a signal hits a target, (2) the target gets an induced charge and responds, (3) the detector picks up the response, (4) the processor decides if it is a good target.

All this takes a split second. If there is a piece of junk next to a good target, the coil is gone by the time the junk processing is completed. So, (especially in trashy areas) go slow. Give the detector some time.



Ten dollars? That's over a dollar a hair!

Spring Cleaning Checklist for Your Detector

When you grab your detector for the first time in spring, you probably head out with great anticipation. However, you could be in for a shock. Why? The detector might not work. It's been idle all winter and things go wrong. What can be done to be sure that everything works when you start the new season? Here are a few suggestions that may help.

1. BATTERIES. If you try to use the batteries that you used last year, they may not work anymore because:

(A) **They are old** and the long period of idleness finally caused them to die. The fix is easy. Just replace with new cells.

(B) **They have lost their charges** (if they are rechargeable). The long idle period of winter takes its toll. This is also easy to fix. Just recharge them.

(C) **A layer of grime** has formed to block the current. *This is the most overlooked problem of rechargeable batteries!* Since they are used over and over, they slowly collect oils (from our hands) and grime (from everywhere).

This layer of oil and grime will eventually block the current - *even if the batteries are still good and are fully charged!* Do not discard them. The problem is easy to fix.

To remove the grime, (a thin layer of crust), use a very fine grade of sandpaper. It gets rid of the crust.

To remove the oils, wipe the ends of the cells with alcohol. These two simple steps will do wonders!

2. BATTERY TERMINALS INSIDE YOUR DETECTOR. What happens to the batteries also happens to the detector. The contact points inside the detector's battery case will gradually accumulate a deposit of oils and grime.

Generally, this does not form as quickly as on the batteries. (*After all, we don't usually get our hands on those contacts.*) But, slowly, the crud forms anyway.

In some detectors the contacts are not easy to reach. One method is to glue fine sandpaper to the eraser of a pencil and reach inside to clean the terminals.

A special note about some White's detectors. White's sponsors a forum on the Internet in which comments are exchanged among users from around the world. A few years ago, the postings revealed a problem with the XLT battery case. The contacts can be bent flat when cells are dropped in too hard. When that happens the cells become loose inside.

The machine then gives off a lot of static sounds, caused by the loose connections as the cells shift around. The fix: carefully loop a string or wire around the contacts and just pull them up again.

3. BROKEN SOUNDS - BROKEN WIRES. Anyone who does a lot of detecting will experience this problem. The sounds that are normally smooth are now broken - resembling static. The cause: broken wires.

Wires that constantly flex will eventually break. The most common places:

- (a) the headset - **by the earphones**
- (b) the headset - **by the plug-in.**

To locate the problem, turn on the detector and listen as you flex the wire; first by the headset and then by the plug-in. You should be able to tell where the wire is broken.

A broken wire is easy to fix if you know how to use a soldering iron. Just solder the wires, seal with electric tape, and you are back in business.

(c) **Broken wires between the coil and the control box.** This wire does not break very often - but it does happen. You should probably not attempt to fix this unless you know what you are doing. A factory fix is usually recommended.

4. CORRODED PLUGS AND RECEPTACLES. This is just another variation of the problems with batteries. Only, this time, it is with the plugs (*usually from the headset; sometimes from the coil*) that go into the control box. The plugs and their receptacles both collect the same oils and films that collect on batteries - as described earlier.

We encountered this problem a few years ago when the sound coming from the headset gradually began weakening. We found that the problem could be given a temporary fix by just taking the plug out and pushing it in again.

By trial and error, we also found that moistening the plug would give a temporary fix. (*Moisture is a good conductor of electricity.*) But, soon, the sound faded away again.

The problem was inside the plug receptacle on the control box. It was covered with corrosion. We used the method to clean bat-

teries as described earlier; (*attaching a piece of fine sandpaper to the end of a pencil eraser*). That fixed the problem.

We hope that these suggestions help you get the detecting season started without problems.

Treasurer's Report

by Tammy Kepler
(for Dec 1, 2005)

Start: \$562.92

Income: 216.62
Outgo: 687.70
Loss: 471.08

End: \$91.84

Income: Raffles: 136.00, Memberships: 65.00; Coffee kitty: 15.62

Expenses: Party foods & supplies: 221.42; Payouts: \$270.00; Award frames: \$39.35; Newsletter: \$69.88; Coin (2 batches): \$82.00; Office supplies: \$5.05

(for Jan 1, 2006 2005)

Start: \$91.84

Income: 200.50
Outgo: 37.50
Gain: 163.00

End: \$254.84

Income: Raffles: 161.00, Membership: 25.00; Coffee kitty: 8.00

Expenses: Refreshments: \$37.00

FOTM Rules and Notes

1. Contests are for club members only.
2. You must be here to enter.
3. Items must be found with a detector.
4. Items (for each category) must be from a single hole.
5. Items must have been found since the last contest.
6. Categories:
 - (A) Non Silver Coins
 - (B) Silver-gold Coins;
 - (C) Jewelry including watches; and
 - (D) Misc including tokens and all other items.
7. Seeded coins from competition hunts are NOT eligible.

Finds of the MONTH: February

Coin (Non-Silver)	Coin (Silver-Gold)
T. Stahurski - 1773 colonial Virginia half-penny (63) A. Friedl - 1862 British half-penny (39) Joe Franchino - 1910 wheat cent (17)	T. Stahurski - 1941 silver quarter (57) A. Friedl - 1943D mercury dime (54)
Note: 5 points added for each contest entered.	

February FOTM Notes

Winter again reduced the February entries in the FOTM contests. But, at least the 11 entries were better than last year's 10 entries, and much better than the 6 entries of February, 2003.

The big winner of the month was Terry Stahurski who came back from a trip to Virginia loaded down with the top entries in all four categories. Remarkable finds indeed!

Let's hope that the weather breaks in time for us to get out for the great finds that usually await us in early spring when the ground is soft, penetration is deep, and mosquitoes are not yet here.

Jewelry	Miscellaneous
Terry Stahurski - 14 K gold ring (64) Rick Culp - 14 K love charm (47)	Terry Stahurski - 1800s wax seal (54) Al Friedl - D-Day memorial lighter (46) Joe Franchino - St Christopher key (17) Marian Offenhartz - matchbox car (13)

Note. Remember that a single tray is used for both silver and non-silver coins. If, for example, there is only a silver coin, and then vote for a non-silver coin, that vote is lost. So, please check the trays carefully. Thank you.

Finds of the YEAR: 2005

Coin (Non-Silver)	Coin (Silver-Gold)
Al Friedl - 1807 half-cent (54) J. Blackburn - 1868 shield nickel (28) Joe Franchino - 1871 Prince Edward Island penny (28) T. Stahurski - 1867 two-cent piece (26)	Joe Franchino - 7 silver (1800s) coins in one hole (59) Al Friedl - 1837 half-dime (31) Jim Blackburn - 1841 Spanish 8-reale silver coin (22) Terry Stahurski - 1919 quarter (16)

Finds of the YEAR Notes

The February meeting was the site of our annual **Finds-of-the-YEAR** contest. (It had been postponed from the usual January date.)

Since these represented the best finds of the entire year of 2005, it was obviously a powerhouse of great items. (*People unfamiliar with this hobby would find it hard to believe that so many historic and valuable items could be found with a detector.*)

The jewelry contest drew the most entrants and included no fewer than 6 gold rings, many with diamonds or other cut stones.

The top 3 places in each category were awarded silver coins.

Jewelry	Miscellaneous
Rick Culp - 14k diamond ring (53) Ron Hobson - huge 14k gold ring (26) Al Friedl - diamond ring (21) Bill Akers - 14 k gold ring (17) Joe Franchino - G.A.R. item (15) T. Stahurski - gold ring + stones (15) Jim Blackburn - gold ring (9)	Jim Blackburn - "pop out" Barber coins watch fob (59) Terry Stahurski - 1897 Cleveland Expo silver spoon (27) Joe Franchino - brass bell (26) Al Friedl - 1830s button (21)

Did You Know

100 years ago the average life expectancy in the US was 47 years. In 2003 (most recent data I could find) the figure was 77.6 years.

Weather: Warming Up

	Feb	Mar
Avg High:	35.0	46.3
Avg Low:	19.3	28.2



"Well then - I want you to keep trying different foods until you find one that doesn't taste good."

**Next meeting: Thursday, Mar 9, 2006, at 7:30 PM at the Solon Historical Society. Doors open at 7 PM.
Located at the corner of Bainbridge Road and Route 91.**

Dealer Who Supports Our Club
Silver Eagle & Gold Coin Shop,
(Jose Ortiz) 4979 West 130th, Cleve-
land, OH 44235 Ph: (216) 267-6760

Club Hunts for 2006
Tentative Schedule
(If We Can Afford Them)

The club hunts were set up at the January meeting. But because of cost, the list will be reviewed at the March meeting. Here is the schedule:

April 29, Saturday, Bedford Glens
May 20, Saturday, Garfield Park
June 25, Sunday, annual club picnic
at Longwood Park, Macedonia.
July 23, Sunday, Lowe Park
Aug 13, Sunday, Mentor Headlands.
Sep 16, Saturday, Polo fields
Oct 14, Saturday, tentative

MetroPark Permits
Another Way to Go

If you missed the club meetings (to sign up for the MetroPark permit), there is another easy way to get it.

Just call 216-635-3200 ext. 3222, and speak with "Paula." She can take the information and send you a permit. Do it now and you will be ready when the weather warms up.

Important Dates

Mar 9. Meeting of the **Buckeye Searchers.** Details above.
Apr 22-23. **Susquehanna Valley Hunt (PA.)** Contact: Ed Buck (570) 287-5022
May 5,6,7. **FMDAC Spring Convention and Treasure Expo.** Niagara Falls, NY.
Entry forms and info at the FMDAC web site (shown below). Or contact: Jill McFeeders, 7025 Dover-Zoar Rd, Dover, OH 44622.
May 19, 20, 21. **Old National Pike Treasure Hunt.** Contact Duane Biller, (FMDAC Pres) Ph: (724) 439-1380

June 25, Buckeye Searchers Annual Picnic. Longwood Park, Macedonia.
Mark your calendars for this super event!

July 8-15. TREASURE WEEK, Shreve, OH, Contact: Jim McFeeders at this email address: jseeker@core.com

Web Sites

Federation of Metal Detecting & Archeology (FMDAC): www.fmdac.com
Lost Treasure Magazine: www.losttreasure.com
US Patent Office Search site (for information about - and dates of - old patent numbers): <http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/srchnum.htm>
North - South Hunt info: thetreasuredepot.com
Treasure Hunt Fliers: silverseekers.com
Button dates: www.detectingfun.com/buttondates.htm

Winter Battery Warning
Gases Can Harm

Remember to remove the batteries from your detector during the winter months. Batteries give off gases that can corrode the contacts.

Important Phone Numbers

John Pacanovsky (President) (440)232-1719
(Please no phone calls after 9 P.M.)
Terry Stahurski (Vice President) (216) 573-0761
Tammy Kepler (Sec-Treas) (440) 748-3538
Bob Richards (Hunt Master) (216) 651-6029

Membership Form - through July 2006

Applicants agree to abide by club rules and show good fellowship and to participate in club activities. No member will do anything to harm or degrade the club's name or reputation and will work toward the preservation of same.

Name: (print) _____ Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

OK to publish your phone and e-mail address (among members only)? OK _____ Prefer not _____ FMDAC? Yes ___ No ___

Check type of membership: Individual (\$20) _____ Family (\$25) _____ Age 70 or over (\$5 discount) _____

Eligible family members include spouse and **minor children living at home.** Please list their names here: _____

Please make check payable to Tammy Kepler and bring this completed form to the next meeting - or mail to Tammy at 31650 Bagley Road, Box A, North Ridgeville, OH 44039