



The Buckeye Searcher

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Editor:

Tammy Kepler

39064 East River

Elyria, Ohio 44035

440-865-6062

Club Established :

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**Buckeye Searchers
Association of
N. E. Ohio**

President:

Terry Stahurski

216-573-0761

Vice President

Bernie Benewiat

440-439-7815

Secretary/Treas.

Tammy Kepler

440-306-0152

440-865-6062 cell

Hunt Master

Bob Richards

216-651-6029

This Month's Topics

At this month's meeting our topics will include:

1. Metal detectors: Which to use for deep relic hunting, which to use for competition hunting, the plus and minus of using a light weight detector **VS** a heavier detector that might be used for a deeper find. If you would like advice on your detector or how to set it up, bring it in and we will try to find someone who can help you out with it. We will have a Minelab, White's, Shadow, Garrett, just to name a few of them we will be examining at the meeting. Jim Blackburn will talk about Minelab's and Joe Franchino will talk about White's. Terry will bring his Fisher water machine too.
2. We will also discuss the plus and minus of each water detector. We will discuss which ones are better in fresh water and which in salt water.
3. Discussion of the club's seeded coin hunts continues. We will probably cut the number of seeded hunts down to two. One on the West Side (probably Lowe Park) and the other Mentor Headlands. We will also try to do two "unseeded hunts" – possibly at park on MLK drive in Cleveland and the other at a Metro park or possibly Rockside or any other place that we can get permission to hunt. We are open to suggestions. This would probably be the best way for people to learn to detect.
4. Please bring your recent finds as well as your dues to the meeting.

Two more people have ordered club jackets but Terry needs about four more to put an order in. The jackets are \$26 so, if anyone wants a jacket, please let Terry know. Also, they can get ones without the club logo for \$21.

Dues are due in January so please pay promptly. You must fill out the form at the end of this newsletter completely and either mail it to me or bring it to the meeting. Additionally, if any members know of anyone who would like to join the club, please have them come to the next meeting or give their name and address to Tammy.

If you have any interesting articles or anything related to Metal Detecting that you would like to put in the newsletter for sale you can contact at 440-865-6062 or email me at rtkepler8@hotmail.com.

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This month's topics

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Membership form

**Next meeting will
be Thursday
March 12th, 2009
At 7:30P.M.**

Please join us. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Solon Historical Society Building. It is located at the corner of Bainbridge Road and Route 91 33975 In Solon, Ohio. Our meetings are open To the public. We look forward to seeing you.

Message from our Club President Terry Stahurski

I just want to thank Ken Yuhas who gave an informative presentation at the Feb. meeting about electrolysis and cleaning rusted iron, copper and other artifacts. He mentioned that a simple electrolysis chamber can be made with things from around your house including a battery charger, plastic pail and some household chemicals. Rusted iron can turn from an unrecognizable blob to something neat. There was also a discussion on cleaning clad coins and pennies. It is important to separate the pennies into one group, nickels in another group and clad dimes and quarters into a third group. If they are not separated, the pennies tend to turn the other coins a brown color. A rock tumbler with gravel and water and detergent can clean off the dirt on the coins. The clad coins can be further polished with a gravel and 50% lemon juice and water solution. Sometimes clad coins and nickels can be soaked in silver cleaner and then tumbled to remove any stubborn stains. Cleaning your coins will make them usable for spending.

February Meeting Report

1. Despite the cold weather, about 28 members made it to the meeting.
2. To encourage more participation in the Finds of the Month contest, each entry will get a free raffle ticket for the monthly raffle. This means that a member can get up to four free tickets each month. At the February meeting, we will give out these tickets to the entries from the January Finds of the Month as well as those entries in the February FOTM.
3. Future speakers include: coin dealer, Ashtabula train wreck speaker, person whose relative is a NASA astronaut and any other suggested speakers.

Our club picnic will be held on June 20th the Saturday before Father's Day.

You will need to get a Metro parks permit by calling this contact number and requesting one. The number is 216-635-3200. Call and order it soon so you have it in time for the picnic.

**Here are some quick facts and reviews from <http://gometaldetecting.com>
For a complete list of reviews on all detectors go to their web page
Metal Detector FAQ's**

Can one metal detector really do it all?

Most **metal detectors** are designed to excel at one type of hunting or another but can be used for other types of hunting as well. For example, most gold prospecting machines use some form of higher gain in the circuitry to get better sensitivity to small gold nuggets in the ground. While this is a good thing for prospectors, coin hunters may find it annoying that their detectors are picking up every bit of a pull tab that has been run over with a lawnmower. The art of metal detector design is the art of compromise. By accenting certain characteristics of any detector, you lose other features. Any metal detector that does it all may not work as well for certain very specific treasure hunting. To people as is possible and be realistic about your hunting needs. Finding a detector with the features that will best suit your style is the most important choice you can make when deciding on a new metal detector.

What is the best metal detector?

This is probably the #1 question that I get asked. Unfortunately, there is no one single answer. Each metal Detector needs that cannot be answered by one single detector. The easiest way to find the "best" detector is to evaluate your style, your experience level, and the time that you will spend hunting. After taking all of these things into consideration you will be able to find a detector that fits your needs and your budget.

Web pages of general interest:

<http://www.losttreasure.com>

<http://www.fmdac.org/>

[http://www.treasurenet](http://www.treasurenet.com/westeast)

[.com/westeast](http://www.treasurenet.com/westeast)

[http://www.](http://www.buckeysearchers.com)

[Buckeysearchers.com](http://www.buckeysearchers.com)

<http://www.youtube.com>

<http://gometa.detecting.com>

***Are detectors with a lot of knobs better than those with just a few?
How much better is a \$1000 detector than a \$200 detector and in what ways?***

The answers to these questions are connected, so I will try to answer them together. Generally speaking, the higher the price of a detector, the more features that it will have. More features translate into more knobs. The more features and/or knobs that a detector has, the more you are able to tune the detector to the type of hunting conditions that you are likely to encounter.

With that being said, the downside to a large number of features is that even though you are able to fine tune the detector to match the local conditions, there are also more ways of setting up the detector incorrectly. Setting up a machine "wrong" may result in a decrease in depth and sensitivity and your [\\$1000 machine](#) may be outdone by a [\\$200 one](#).

Will metered detectors find coins deeper than a non-metered?

The use of a meter on a detector is no longer any indication of its depth capabilities. When metered machines were the top-of-the-line machines, engineers matched the detectors with the best possible circuitry. With the advent of more cost effective digital signal processing and LCD displays, there are a number of units available that are inexpensive and have meters. While these detectors have acceptable depth, there are plenty of other machines that have better.

The main thing to remember is that a metered machine will give an accurate audio signal on a target much deeper than an accurate meter reading. Air tests are a good indication of the ability of any display-type detector, but once the target is in the ground, there are several variables that may come into play affecting the reading. The most common is the fact that pulls tabs and gold rings fall into the same area based on the mixing of alloys. The orientation in the ground can also cause some confusion for the detector. If you choose to get a metered machine, dig any target that gives a good audio signal regardless of the meter reading. You may dig up more trash, but in the long run, you will find more desirable targets.

Is a crystal-controlled detector better than one that is not crystal-controlled?

Most manufacturers use crystal resonators in their machines because of the tight tolerances of the resonator. If the part is listed as 15.7 kHz, all parts will be exactly that frequency. The downside of these super tight tolerances is that the detectors are more likely to crosstalk with each other. In other words, the transmitting and receiving signals from two or more different machines will start interfering with each other.

[Tesoro detectors](#) use an LC or tank circuit to generate operating frequency. A capacitor and an inductor are paired together and create a naturally occurring efficient frequency. Variation in the capacitor and inductor cause slight variations in the operating frequency, which reduces the likelihood of crosstalk with other Tesoro machines. The variation is small enough that it does not affect the performance of the detector.

Are multi-frequency detectors better than single frequency types?

The tank circuit described above generates a sinusoidal or SINE wave form. The SINE wave is efficient to generate and has no harmonics. Two frequency machines may combine a pair of SINE waves but are more likely to use a square wave. Multi-frequency machines almost always use a square wave or modified square wave. Square waves are rich in harmonics and take more battery power to generate. Harmonics and take more battery power to generate. Harmonics generated by a square wave can be counted as individual frequencies and can be used to give more information as to target type and depth.

Coils

Why are there so many types of search coils?

There are two main types of [search coils](#) currently on the market - the concentric and the wide scan. The concentric coil uses two round antennas, one inside the other. This coil is used on most detectors that are designed for coin, jewelry, and relic hunting. Concentric coils discriminate very well and pinpoint very easily due to the fact that the strongest signal is always in the center of the coil.

Wide scan coils use two D-shaped antennas that are placed back to back. Because of this configuration, they are also called "double-d" coils. The wide scan coil is less affected by mineralization than the concentric, so it is generally used for gold prospecting or relic hunting in bad ground. Pinpointing is done with the heel or toe of the coil. After determining the type of coil that is best for your type of hunting, the next thing to consider is the size. Larger coils go deeper than smaller coils but only on larger targets. When using a large coil, you may lose sensitivity to small targets. A large coil is also more susceptible to masking. Smaller coils will concentrate the signal and make the detector more sensitive to the little targets. Unfortunately, smaller coils tend to lose depth when compared to their larger cousins. Being that these coils don't have as wide a search pattern, they are also less likely to mask targets in trashy hunting situations.

Are aftermarket "Hot" coils that are advertised any good and why don't the manufacturers making them?

If you look closely at the advertisements of most so-called hot coils, you will find that they are slightly larger than the stock coils that they are replacing. As noted above, a larger coil may go deeper, but it has other drawbacks that may make it unsuitable for your particular style of hunting.

Relic and Beach Detectors

We'll try to give you some information about the metal detectors we have used, or are still using while treasure hunting. Including the pros and cons for each one and some tips how to use them. All these metal detectors are good for beginners. Learn more about [Metal Detectors](#) from user submitted reviews.

Whites Spectrum XLT

When we started this hobby it took us quite a while to make our choice on which metal detector to purchase. On January 31, 1999 we found a local dealer and bought a Whites Spectrum XLT. At the time it was considered one of the best machines on the market, yet simple enough for a beginner to use.

Later we found out that the Spectrum XLT has been on the market since 1995. So it has withstood the test of time.

The learning curve wasn't as bad as we thought. We did have to eventually read the whole manual through several times. We started using the Spectrum XLT at the beach in Jewelry/Beach mode. After awhile we got tired of the icons, and decided to try the Relic mode. We dug everything just to see what it was. And this is how we learned to read the signals.

Relic mode turned out to be our favorite mode, because of the extra depth it gave us. But we have found that this mode won't work on some beaches, because of the black sand, too many targets, or hot rocks, so we switch it to Jewelry/Beach mode. We haven't had any problems with the Whites Spectrum XLT for 2 years now. We have also learned to take it with us wherever we go. Once we went to a wedding in Niagara Falls, and didn't take the Spectrum with us, and wound up being sorry we didn't, because a lady at the wedding lost a ring her grandmother gave her.

White's Pro XL 6000

We bought this White's Pro XL metal detector because we both wanted to search the land, and sometimes we couldn't get into the water. Why did we choose the White's Pro XL 6000? We liked the looks of it, and the fact that you didn't have to scroll through lots of buttons to change something, like you do on the Spectrum XLT. It takes a little getting used to the Pro XL 6000, but it has worked out fine for us. My wife has come along behind me when I was using the Spectrum XLT, and found things with it that I missed. I feel the Pro XL has a little more depth than the Spectrum. One thing bad about my Pro XL unit is that the knobs are loose on it, and when I adjust something, I have to be careful not to hit it with my arm, because then I have to reset it. So I put a rubber band around the knobs to keep them from moving so loosely. I don't know if this problem is the same for all the Pro XL's.

Fisher 1212 X

This Fisher 1212 X turned out to be a nice little metal detector for us. We bought it because we needed another relic detector after we sold our Spectrum XLT.

It's a basic turn on and go metal detector, suitable for beginners and for competition hunts.

Because of it being light weight, you can detect longer without getting tired. The solid coil took some getting used to because we always had the open coil.

Carol was pleased with it because she found her first large cent with it metal detecting on a riverbank. We've used the Fisher 1212x on the beach too with no problems. It is a nice little standby metal detector.

Garrett Treasure Ace 100

This is Garrett's basic metal detector model in their line of detectors. The Garrett Treasure Ace 100 costs about \$125.00 and is simple to use, yet it will take you some time to be able to discern the different tones that it makes. We didn't have to buy this metal detector because we won it at a competition hunt, .one thing that Carol liked about the Garrett Treasure Ace 100 was that the stem breaks down for even a small child to be able to use. She can even crawl under porches and bushes with it. Since it doesn't have target ID, the best place to practice with this model of detector is at the beach. Basic metal detectors work really good for competition hunts since everything planted is on top of the ground and you dig everything that beeps because it is going to be a prize.

Tesoro UMAX

So we finally get to try a Tesoro. This is our latest metal detector purchase. We bought it at a competition hunt because we were short a detector. Well, it worked real well that day at the hunt even though I was just learning how to use it. I found a lot of the buried keys for the treasure chest, but alas, none of them fit. The Tesoro runs at a different frequency than other metal detectors, which makes it good for competition hunts. Carol has been using the Tesoro a lot down on the riverbank. Because of the fact that it has an 8 inch open coil, she is able to get between all the nails and iron better to find some goodies. She came home with another large cent last weekend. The Tesoro Silver UMAX metal detector is lightweight and easy to use. It uses one 9 volt battery. The important thing to remember is, to turn it off. We also found it is difficult to use in parks, unless you want to dig everything.

Waterproof Metal Detectors

We will try to give you some information about the waterproof metal detectors we have used, or are still using while treasure hunting in the water or on the beach. In this next section we will be describing the pros and cons for each detector, and some tips on how to use them. You may even want to visit: [Metal Detector Reviews](#) at <http://gometaldetecting.com> to see what others have to say.

Barracuda by Anchor Electronics

After a couple months of detecting, we joined a treasure hunting club in Rhode Island. We started thinking about getting a waterproof detector since both of us were enjoying the hobby. So this is our second detector.

We found ourselves preferring to detect the beach rather than ground hunting. After doing research on all the detectors we felt the Barracuda fitted our needs, and we located someone who had a used one for sale. Fortunately, we have not had any problems with the CUDA, except that we had to replace a defective coil recently, and it wasn't Anchor Electronics that replaced it either. Anchor Electronics doesn't sell replacement parts.

The Barracuda is a waterproof pulse detector and it's not cheap. This unit normally comes with an 8 and a 12 inch coil, but we've found it difficult to pinpoint with the 12 inch coil. We have 2 of these detectors now.

Fisher Impulse Detector

This is the newest to our arsenal of waterproof detectors. I've used the Fisher Impulse in fresh water and it does really good. However, it doesn't perform well on the beach; it has to be in water. It has a 10 inch coil and it is wickedly hard to use. You need three hands to operate this detector. I use it mostly in salt water and it seemed to do okay, as long as I have the unit on a strap hanging around my neck. For some reason, the further the unit is away from the salt water, the better it works. You need to stay in the same level of water; sort of walking in a straight line at the same depth or you continually have to tweak it.

This is not a metal detector I would recommend for a beginner. I gave it to my wife to try out once, and she gave it back to me.

Garrett Seahunter Mark II

We bought the newest Garrett Seahunter Mark II early last summer. We were attracted to it because of the easy "change the batteries and go" feature which is very convenient. A lot of times when we go water hunting we don't have any place to plug in a metal detector to recharge it. We were surprised to see that this waterproof detector has 2 modes, a Standard Elimination and a Discreet Elimination, (which you can use with the Discrimination knob). And we're still not sure what the difference is between the two. We have been detecting in the salt water and normally pull everything that beeps anyway. We started out by using the Standard Elimination and found that it does not maintain a steady threshold in salt water. It kind of fades in and out, or sways. Because of this, you're unable to hear the whisper of a deep target (which is normally gold). And when the tide comes in, the swaying gets worse. Plus when you find a signal, and remove the first scoop and rescan it, the target produces a loud blast to your ears, even if it is a tiny target. We talked to the company we bought it from, and all they could recommend was moving the headphones away from your ears. Who wants to do that?

We tested the Discreet Elimination mode by finding a target in Standard Elimination and then switching it to Discreet. When we did this, the target became a whisper and we could hardly find it, couldn't tell if it was tiny, or deep. It seemed to be easier to pinpoint in Discreet for larger targets, but we're not sure yet how deep it is finding things.

We tested the Discrimination by putting it all the way to 9 to see what it would detect, and we were still pulling nails and wires. We took the Seahunter Mark II to a freshwater beach, and didn't seem to have any problem with maintaining a threshold in Standard mode, yet your ears still get blasted.

Garrett needs to do something about the audio, or put volume controls on their waterproof headphones. The company that we bought it from states that you can't beat it for the money. But it was costing us in missing deep gold. We recommend this for someone who wants to find recent losses. We sold this detector 2 months after we bought it.

Minelab Excaliber 800

We got this Minelab Excaliber 800 waterproof detector by trading a flat screen monitor for it. We wasn't sorry we got it either. First we practiced by turning the discrimination all the way up and seeing what kind of tones we were getting. After awhile, we turned the discrimination off and realized that even with it off we were still able to distinguish what kind of target we were going to retrieve. We found that using the Excaliber detector was good experience for us. We didn't have any trouble with it like some of the stories you hear. We used only the 8 inch coil on it, even though we had the 12 inch. The 12 inch really didn't give much depth it just covered a larger area. And we didn't have a waterproof connection for it. Even though the weight of the Excaliber are to be dealt with, I eased Carol's arm by making a special mount on the arm grip to give it better balance. We don't have our Excaliber 800 anymore, and sometimes we hit areas where we wish we did have it, but we know the person that bought it from us is very happy.

Tesoro Tiger Shark

This little water detector finds the smallest gold in water that we have ever had experienced before. It works great in fresh water.

Fisher CZ 20

This is a good water detector, but we have experienced several leaking problems and have had to send our detector off for repairs several times. It is a pain when your detector is in the shop during the prime time of water hunting. We will say that Fisher aka Texas has handled the repairs promptly and even upgraded our detector to CZ 21 under warranty at no cost to us personally.

Fisher 1280 X

This has been a highly dependable machine for us in fresh water hunting. We have used ours for many years with no maintenance except battery changes.

General Everyday Detectors

Troy Detectors:

The X3 is a multipurpose detector that allows the owner the convenience of owning just one machine that covers several different types of Treasure Hunting including coins, relics, and jewelry. It is a sturdy well built metal detector that is weather proof, you can hunt in the rain and not worry about damage to the detector. Weighing in at only 2.2 lbs. with the 7" coil allows anyone the ability to swing the detector for extended periods of time under a wide variety of conditions. All of the Troy coils are interchangeable. This includes the 5", 9" and the DD. It has great depth and sensitivity. I have dug 22 short cases at 6" and coins at 11". This is definitely a keeper. I recommend it to anyone trying to decide which metal detector to purchase.

The X5 I have owned more than twenty detectors of other brands ,during 10 years of Treasure Hunting this detector was one of my best and favorite , all terrain detector - it's true , one of the deepest and the lightest machines , fast response , I love it!

The X2

We highly recommend this detector for competition hunts, and for everyday metal detecting of every kind. It is light weight and highly dependable. Again Texas repairs all the machines under warranty fast and without cost to you if under warranty.

Tesoro

The Conquistador uMax is one of Tesoro 2001'ish line of detectors. It was replaced by the Cibola a year or two ago. That DOES NOT make this a detector to avoid, quite the opposite! I have used it in the park, school yards, and in the woods & fields with great success.

This is the little detector that can! It's not the deepest digging dog in the yard, but makes for some nice finds. It's a very forgiving detector on sweep speed. The discrimination works great and it ignores iron as well as any detector ABOVE its class, running very quiet in bad or trashy dirt. The frequency shifter is a nice item to have around power lines or other detectors. The Conquistador has an all-metal mode that can also be used for pin-pointing or close target separation. Pin-pointing on it is as with other modern Tesoro, a snap.

My son loves it more than his Ace 250, and uses it more and more now. I will end this by saying" it's a real detector for a little money. Get one today new or used."

Minelab II Detector

We feel this is a great relic or deep seeking detector. It goes very deep on small finds. The only two bad characteristics are the weight and the pin pointing. It is a bit heavy at lbs. and once you've mastered pinpointing the machine or buy the pin pointer that can attach to the machine it is an awesome machine. We have not found a machine that goes deeper than this one for those hard to find targets. It also has several coils to choose from.

Bounty Hunter Time Ranger

I have had this detector for over 6 years. I also have experience with other detector manufacturers. After about 6 years old faithful finally started acting up. I shipped the unit and the coil back to First Texas Products and had an answer back in 5 days. The estimate was \$55. I OKed the repair and I had it back in another 5 days, besides replacing a board my detector came back with a new front plate. It looks like it is brand new. How can you beat that? I don't know if they updated the electronics in my machine but it is working better than it ever has. The Time Ranger is the best all around machine I have ever owned. Bounty Hunter stands behind their products, they deserve our business. Don't let anyone tell you they are inferior products, just show the other guys the items they missed with their \$2000 detectors.

Whites Spectrum XLT

I have used this detector since late summer of last year. At first I was wondering if this was a good choice. After checking the XLT Classroom forum I was able to pick up lots of tips on the operation of this machine. I'm able now to change the settings and get the best of the XLT. I mainly use the coin and jewelry program with different settings. (VCO -on), (Tone ID-on) for example. These two settings really help, other settings are secondary.

I think this is a great detector because of the many features it offers.

Another great feature is the battery, easy to change and as I have the Whites BHID can also interchange batteries with this machine. I would highly recommend the XLT.

Fisher CZ 70 Pro

One thing that is very noticeable on this machine is that there are no maybe/disc signals. All targets lock squarely in a category with a clear sharp tone, even at depth. Iron disc is much more effective and accurate if you manually ground balance the unit. The pushbutton method, while good, is not as accurate and lets the iron objects play games when you disc out a category...it's gone!!! This unit ranks right up there with the best/deepest disc machine you have got to use it to believe it.

Membership Renewal Form-January 2009

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 the same.

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (Area code included) _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

FMDAC MEMBERSHIP () Yes () No (\$5.00 Fee to join)

Ok to publish your home phone number and e-mail? () Yes () No

Type of membership:

Individual (\$20.00) _____

Family (\$25.00) _____

Senior over 70 (\$15.00) _____

Senior Family (\$20.00) _____

For a family please list your spouse and your children and their ages:

Spouse _____

Children names and ages:

Name _____ **Age** _____

Name _____ **Age** _____

Do you wish to be contacted for the police hunts? Yes No
