

F.M.D.A.C.

The FEDERATION of METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC. Est. 1984

SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 3 **JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2008**

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Hello from the President's Desk,

In July, I was informed that our Chapter was expanding. At a meeting held at Treasure Week, by the National Board, the South Central Chapter was dissolved and the Chapter states were spread amongst the remaining Chapters. We added Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas and lost Wyoming. I renamed the Chapter from the Western to the Southwestern Chapter to reflect the change. We now have 10 states in our Chapter which is the largest in the Federation.

In July I was contacted by one of our new expanded Chapter members, Mid-Western Artifact Society, about a problem with the City of Overland Park, Kansas banning metal detecting in their city parks. We formulated a plan to overturn this "park directive" through a petition drive and other articles/papers that they will present to their city council. Hopefully you were able to sign the petition that was circulated around the country.

I have one Chapter hunt planned in Phoenix, Arizona on February 15th. There is more information on this hunt in the "Calendar of Events" section. I am looking at another Chapter hunt to take place in Texas at the Texas Council Treasure Clubs Convention in March. There will be more information to follow on the Texas hunt in the next Chapter newsletter.

I will be attending the FMDAC Fall Convention and Treasure Expo in Wildwood Crest, NJ (October 10th, 11th and 12th). If you have any questions that you want brought up before the National Board, contact me soon. First Texas (Fisher/Bounty Hunter/Teknetics) has added a hunt to this 3 day event on Saturday with hundreds of prizes and a few detectors. Hopefully I will be seeing a few of you at this convention.

Keep the communication flowing through emailing and the new forum on the FMDAC website!

Mike Smith
Southwestern Chapter President
www.fmdac.org

Target Masking

By Lee Wiese, leewiese@excite.com

I would like to start off with a couple of common target masking situations.

Ground Target Masking Condition:

When there are numerous iron targets or a high concentration of metal trash targets in the ground, these targets will drive the detector threshold into its null operating zone. When the detector threshold is null-out meaning there is no audible background threshold. The detector does not detect or will suppress weaker non-ferrous signals received from deeper or smaller non-ferrous targets that are located near the iron / trash target.

Target Masking by using Metal Detector Discrimination:

When a detector has a designed in iron discrimination feature it will null over iron and may mask any non-ferrous targets that are near the iron target. Or if the operator is using the detector's discrimination capability to discriminate out iron / trash targets the detector's discrimination may mask a good non-ferrous target.

Basically what this means is that in many cases iron or other trash can be masking a very good non-ferrous target such as a gold ring, old coin, old button or some other valuable target. Ignoring these nulls or setting one's detector discrimination too high could cause many valuable targets from being found and recovered. In the figure below there are three iron nails and one gold coin target under the coil in this situation the gold coin would be masked by the three iron nails. The detectorist would just continue on and not be aware of the gold coin target because of the three iron nail targets.



Target masking is not a new metal detecting phenomenon. Target masking has been around ever since detectors were designed with discrimination capabilities. Many detectorists only want to see "GOOD TARGETS" and therefore will ignore the detector's "NULLS" or will have their discrimination levels set high to eliminate iron / trash. By ignoring nulls or using the detector discrimination they now will only recover good targets as indicated by the detector's target identification capability. This practice of ignoring nulls or setting discrimination high can leave a high percentage of good non-ferrous targets in the ground. Coil selection and sweep speed are very critical in iron / trash infested detecting ground. A large coil can not differentiate between targets as well as a small coil and therefore is very susceptible to target masking. When targets are close together the coil may only see the iron / trash target and therefore ignore a potential good non-ferrous target. In this situation because of masking the detector would only provide identification on the iron / trash target and will not be able to pickup the nearby good non-ferrous target.

There are some detectorists in the metal detecting hobby that feel detectors can overcome target masking by purchasing certain manufacturer detector models. Some detectors will handle target masking better than others but in most cases the detector will usually overcome only the simplest case of target masking. Today, there are more people taking up the hobby of metal detecting and the ground that has never been detected is becoming very sparse. In the future this may lead to going back over grounds that have been heavily hunted. Therefore, following the six suggestions below may yield some very surprising results for the detectorist in what was considered to be hunted-out grounds.

So how does one overcome target masking?

1st: One easy approach is to stop using discrimination. A positive target located behind, beneath or near junk may result in a mixed signal and these types of signals should always be recovered.

2nd: Slow down your detecting sweep speed so that the coil can differentiate between target types as they pass under the coil. The reduction in sweep speed will allow the detector to provide you with multiple different target IDs.

3rd: In high iron / trash grounds reduce your coil size to three to eight inches in diameter. The smaller coil will provide much enhanced target separation and overcome target masking. You may lose some depth but more non-ferrous targets can be discovered and recovered.

4th: This one takes work. Use a small coil and recover all iron / trash targets to clear the area and also recover all good non-ferrous targets found during this process. Once the area is clear install a larger coil for greater depth and go over the area again for the deeper targets also recovering all good and iron / trash targets during this process. Now the ground is hunted out.

5th: Some detectors have a recovery speed adjustment. In high iron / trash covered ground the recovery adjustment should always be set for FAST or a very high number if the detector uses a numeric recovery rating. You must also use a smaller size coil and a much slower sweep speed.

6th: Always recover the whisper target signals.

Southwestern Chapter Clubs & Independent Members Report

Arizona Treasures Unlimited At the August meeting they had Bob Holmes talk about meteorites and where they can be found in the state. Oldest coin found this quarter was an 1889 penny found by John Amato.

Silver State Detecting Tom Farr has assumed the President position for the rest of the year. Oldest coin found was a 1930 wheat penny found by Walter (?). This club has changed its meetings to the first Monday of each month

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs Club members helped locate a lost wedding ring. This club has 137 members. Club conducted a beach hunt at Santa Cruz with 17 members attending.

Coinshooters of San Diego Jim Walker took top honors in the month of August by finding a diamond ring. This club holds 4 "Mini Hunts" a year. Interesting article on the new alloys used in jewelry. Materials like titanium, tungsten and stainless steel are being used. Best coin found was a 1916 Barber dime by John Kinney.

Siskiyou County Relic & Recovery Some how I misplaced their newsletters and have no information on this club this quarter. Sorry!!

Gold Coast Treasure Hunters Our club relocated their meetings from Ventura to Simi Valley, CA in 2006. We are pleased to say that our membership is continuing to grow. We continue to try to be ambassadors for the hobby to the general public. We would be happy to see or hear from any of you fellow detectorists so if you happen to be in our area, come to a meeting or E-mail us at: Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center 3900 Avenida Simi Simi Valley, CA 93063 rip039-gcth@yahoo.com

Albuquerque Metal Detecting 5 members this year have located and returned items to their owners. Cole Smith – Two Gold Rings with Diamonds* Mickey Cone – Two High School Class Rings * Ray Alexander – Class Ring* Robert Wilson - \$50 Mexican Gold Piece on a Chain* Terry Ellis – Gold Wedding Ring* Great Job!! The club held its Annual Hunt in August with 21 members attending and over \$3000 in prizes awarded. This club was featured in the Lost Treasure "Good Hunting" section of their online newsletter.

West Coast Prospectors & Treasure Hunters This club celebrated its 23rd year in July. Kathi and Perry Brown were named “West Coasters of the Year”. This club has 108 members.

Mid-Western Artifact Society Member, Don Vickers, accepted position as FMDAC Webmaster. This club has 69 members. Oldest coin found this quarter was an 1890 Indian Head Cent by Roger Ring. The club members are gathering signatures for petitioning Overland Park, Kansas on banning metal detecting in city parks.

Austin Metal Detecting Club This club was formed in 1963 and has 50 members. Oldest coin found in July was a 1938D nickel by Frank Vick. At this time Frank is in the lead for “Treasure Hunter of the Year” award. Club will participate at Llano Gold Fest with a booth and fun hunt for the public at the end of September.

East Texas Treasure Hunters Oldest coin found was a 1924S penny by Dana Logston. Terry Smith, Former FMDAC South Central Chapter President, has been named as a new Director for the Texas Council of Treasure Clubs (TCTC) Board. The ETTHA is to host the TCTC 24th Annual Show in Longview next March. Professional Treasure Hunter and Write, W. C. Jameson will be their guest speaker in October. This club was formed in 1982.

Oklahoma City Dirt Diggers This club formed this year and has 18 members. FMDAC contact member is Paul Martin. He can be reached at plmartin139@yahoo.com.

Independent Members David Spieler found a very nice 1919S Standing Liberty Half in Berkeley, CA in September.

FMDAC CARIBBEAN CRUISE FEBRUARY 1st through the 9th

This cruise will take you from Ft Lauderdale, FL to Panama, Costa Rica and Belize. You will travel with other metal detectionist and have the opportunity to detect some fantastic sites. You can book this trip by following the links on the FMDAC website www.fmdac.org or go to www.fmdactravel.org click on the “Groups” link and scroll down and click on the “FMDAC Feb 1-9, 2009” link. If you want to go on this cruise you will need to be signed up by November 1st.

NEW FMDAC FORUM

We have a new forum for you to post questions, comments and finds on. Lets us make this the most used forum on the internet. Please sign in and start using this as a way to communicate to the metal detecting community! Go to www.mymdforum.com/forum/index.php

THINGS TO KEEP YOUR CLUB ACTIVE

1. Start your meetings on time.
2. Introduce your guests to your members.
3. Keep your club business to a minimum.
4. Provide time for interaction and socializing.
5. Provide incentives to promote new membership and volunteers.
6. Provide a good program (speaker) each month.
7. Maintain a tight control/time schedule at the meeting.
8. Recognize and give credit to all volunteers and businesses that provide services and donations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 10th, 11th and 12th 2008 – FMDAC Treasure Expo and Convention – Wildwood Crest, NJ

Three days of hunts with seminars and banquet on Saturday night. For more information or forms go to www.fmdac.org or call Jill McFeeders at 330-401-6539.

February 15th, 2009 – FMDAC Southwestern Chapter Hunt – Phoenix, AZ

This will be the 4th annual Chapter hunt held in conjunction with the GPAA Gold Show. Silver coins, gold nuggets and donated prizes to be won. Last year we had over \$4500 in prizes and donations for 29 hunters. For more information or hunt package contact Mike Smith at promack@quik.com or call 480-983-7011.

FMDAC - WESTERN CHAPTER 3rd QTR (JULY, AUG, SEPT) 2008

1st National Bank Buffalo Wyoming

Balance as of 6/30/08	\$747.05
Credits:	-0-
Debits:	
Check #1029, 7-8, 2 nd QTR Newsletter, Postage, Paper, S&H to National (UPS), Printing	<u>109.23</u>
TOTAL DEBITS	109.23
Balance as of September 30, 2008	\$637.82

Submitted by:
Judy Stobbe
Secretary/Treasurer

PLEASE FOLLOW THE CODE OF ETHICS AND ENJOY THE HOBBY

FMDAC'S CODE OF ETHICS

I WILL ALWAYS CHECK FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL LAWS BEFORE SEARCHING. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO "KNOW THE LAW".

I WILL RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WILL NOT ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE OWNER'S PERMISSION, WHERE POSSIBLE SUCH PERMISSION WILL BE IN WRITING.

I WILL TAKE CARE TO REFILL ALL HOLES AND TRY NOT TO LEAVE ANY DAMAGE.

I WILL REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ANY AND ALL TRASH AND LITTER THAT I FIND.

I WILL APPRECIATE AND PROTECT OUR INHERITANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

I WILL, AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE HOBBY, USE THOUGHTFULNESS, CONSIDERATION AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES.

I WILL WORK TO HELP BRING UNITY TO OUR HOBBY BY WORKING WITH ANY ORGANIZATION OF ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA THAT MAY HAVE PROBLEMS THAT WILL LIMIT THEIR ABILITY TO PEACEFULLY PURSUE THE HOBBY.

I WILL LEAVE GATES AS FOUND.

I WILL BUILD FIRES IN DESIGNATED SAFE PLACES ONLY.

I WILL REPORT TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO ENTER AND OR REMOVE ARTIFACTS FROM FEDERAL PARKS OR STATE PRESERVES.

**FMDAC SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER
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