



F.M.D.A.C.

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

SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER **Volume 25, Issue 4** **October, November, December 2008**

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Hello from the President's Desk,

Starting out this quarter, I attended the National Convention in Wildwood Crest, NJ in October. This year at the convention besides the regular hunts we added a lot of interesting small hunts at no charge. At the convention the National Board discussed our successes and our failures of 2008. This year the FMDAC has worked with local clubs on problems in California, Kansas, Florida, Texas and New York. We did not win all of the battles but we tried to correct some of the problems in the metal detecting community. For more information on the issues, check out the FMDAC website under "Legislation" or the "Message Board".

We decided to have our next national convention in the Kansas City, KS area. It should be a good one to attend, as the KC area has a lot of history to take in. 2009 will be the 25th Anniversary of our organization so start making your plans to attend.

No one challenged the present National Officers for their positions this year and all volunteered to remain in office for another 2 years. 2009 will be the election year for the Chapter Officers, so if you would like to become a Chapter Officer, please get your club to submit a nomination for you by September 15th to the Election Committee. Independent Members may submit your own nomination.

We did get some of our members to step forward and fill Chapter positions (check Officers box at the top of this page). Please take the time to thank them.

I had hoped to put on a Chapter metal detecting hunt at the Texas Council of Treasure Clubs convention in March but I have not heard back from them on this issue. Maybe next year they will allow us to partake in this event.

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

May the New Year be a great one for you!

Mike Smith
Southwestern Chapter President
www.fmdac.org

From the Chapter VP by Don Vickers

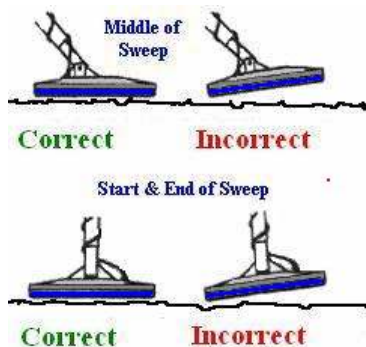
I was bitten by the "Metal Detecting Bug" in 1994 while stationed in Italy with the United States Navy. I have always been interested in history so when a shipmate told me about the old coins and artifacts he was finding with his metal detector I just had to try it for my self. I wish I could sit here and write about his finds with great detail but that was a long time ago and since they were not my finds all the specifics have been erased from memory. It wasn't easy getting my first metal detector I had to turn to my mom back in the states to find me one. My buddy shared some of his old metal detecting magazines with me so I knew the name brands and also knew from his experience that I would get what I paid for. I didn't have a lot of money so my mom helped out by going in half with me on a new Bounty Hunter. It was a low end machine but it was something to get me out in the Italian country side and experience the thrill of finding history in one of the oldest parts of the world. My buddy was soon transferred back to the states so I was on my own to figure out this wonderful hobby. Being in the Navy had its advantages, no matter where my ship went there was sure to be a beach and most of these beaches had never been detected before. The Bounty Hunter was a great machine for simple beach hunting. Although my finds were usually common coins only an inch or two deep it was able to find my oldest coin to date. While in North East France detecting a rocky beach area I was able to find an old Celtic Bronze Coin. Not knowing what I had but realizing it was something old I took it to a local coin dealer only to find out he had hundreds of old Celtic coins on display, he told me it was worth about \$35 and that they were very common in that area. After further research it was dated to about 500 BC, I was beside myself. I couldn't believe I was holding in my hand a coin that was about 2500 years old.

It was only a couple months after getting my detector that I decided to go back to the states and leave the Navy. Since returning to civilian life I was fortunate to stay in the hobby and upgrade from that original Bounty Hunter. In the past 14 years I have owned 2 Water Detectors and 5 land detectors including my current Minelab XE Pro. It wasn't until I joined a Metal Detecting club (The Mid-Western Artifact Society) in June of 2005 that my finds started to get better. Being able to learn from others in the hobby sparked my interest in research and the local history of the Kansas City area. After joining the club I came to the realization that I just couldn't get enough of this hobby. I created the clubs Website which sparked a growth spurt that took the club from 27 members to our current roll of 70 members. I was the clubs Treasurer for a year and am now in my 2nd year as the clubs Secretary. I got involved with the FMDAC this year by taking on the task of maintaining their website and also accepting the position as Chapter Vice President of the Southwestern States. I am currently working with the FMDAC National Officers to bring the 2009 FMDAC Convention to Kansas City in October. I look forward to attending some of your club meetings and seeing you at the Convention next year.

Metal Detecting Tip by Lee Wiese leewiese@rxcite.com

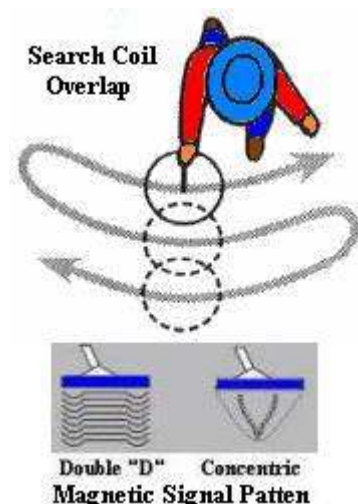
The first thing a detectorist needs to master is the swinging or sweep of the detector's search coil. This is essential no matter which manufacturer you choose or model you purchase. Mastering the search coil sweep or swing will yield far greater results if done correctly.

There are a number of search coil sweep factors that must be mastered and they are: *search coil height above the ground, keeping the search coil level or parallel to the ground, search coil sweep speed, and overlapping the search coil sweep pattern.*



First the *search coil height above the ground* is one of the most important factors to master since for every one inch you hold the search coil above the ground you will lose an equal amount of magnetic signal penetration into the ground. So if you sweep the search coil three inches above hard packed ground you will lose three inch in ground magnetic signal penetration. This lost of magnetic signal penetration will result in missing the deeper targets. Hint: To maximize your target recovery you should always feel the search coil scrubbing the ground.

Second *keep the search coil level or parallel to the ground* at all times. This meaning that the coil needs to be level or parallel to the ground at the beginning, middle and end of the search coil sweep. This may mean a shorter sweep span but it is important to get maximum signal penetration during the entire search coil sweep. See the figure for the correct search coil positions.



Third the *search coil sweep speed* should be reasonable slow and consistent in speed during each pass of the search coil. A rule of thumb is it should generally take 1 ½ to 3 second for a complete sweep in one direction. To know what sweep speed you should apply, you must read / study the owner's manual. Plus you need to practice with your detector so that you can master the sweep speed required for your detector's target response time. Sweep Speeds that are either too slow or too fast will result in missed targets. Also added to the sweep speed issue are ground conditions (trash or mineralized soil), which will affect your search coil sweep speed.

Finally *overlapping the search coil sweep pattern* is extremely important because a concentric search coil produces a cone shaped ground penetration magnetic signal pattern and without a search coil overlap you will miss many targets. The Double "D" search coil has a wedged shaped ground penetration magnetic signal pattern and overlapping an inch is usually enough while sweeping the "DD" search coil.

The lesson to learn for sweeping the search coil is to scrub the search coil against the ground, keep the search coil level at all times, maintain the sweep speed down to a level that the detector can handle and remember to apply an overlap for each search coil sweep.

Southwestern Chapter Victory

I am pleased to announce that through the efforts of our members across the nation and the Mid-Western Artifact Society that we have gained a small victory. The City of Overland Park, Kansas has voted to allow metal detecting in their city parks, with a permit. This permit is free and good for 5 years. The vote by the city was unanimous and will take affect on January 1st, 2009. It took signed petitions, media exposure and 2 meetings with the O.P. City Advisory Committee to accomplish this task. I would like to thank the members of the MWAS for their efforts in making this happen. It takes local members dedication to make this type of thing happen. Hopefully in 2009 we will be able to make many more announcements like this victory!

Southwestern Chapter Clubs & Independent Members Report

This quarter I figured I would provide you with the clubs website addresses. They will provide you with all types of good and useful information.

Arizona Treasures Unlimited <http://members.cox.net/atu> This club is located in the Phoenix, Arizona area.

Silver State Detecting www.silverstatedetectingclub.org This club is located in the Reno, Nevada area.

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com As the name suggests it is located in the Sacramento, CA area.

Coinshooters of San Diego www.sdcoinshooters.com This club is located in the San Diego, CA area.

Siskiyou County Relic & Recovery This club has no website but their contact by email is John Pryshepa at pryshepa@netwizards.net . This club covers the Montague/Yreka, CA area.

Gold Coast Treasure Hunters This club has no website but their contact by email is Bob Clement at rip039-gcth@yahoo.com . This club is located in Simi Valley, CA.

Albuquerque Metal Detecting www.amdaclub.com As the name suggests, it is located in Albuquerque, NM area.

West Coast Prospectors & Treasure Hunters www.westcoasters.org This club is located in the Orange County area of CA.

Mid-Western Artifact Society www.mwas.org This club is located in the Kansas City, KS and Mo area.

Austin Metal Detecting Club www.amdonline.com This club is located in the Austin, TX area.

East Texas Treasure Hunters This club has no website but their contact by email is Terry Smith at termar@skynetcountry.com . This club is located in the Longview, TX area.

Oklahoma City Dirt Diggers This club has no website but their contact by email is Paul Martin at plmartin139@yahoo.com . The club is located in the Oklahoma City, OK area.

Independent Members Located in all 10 states that make up the Southwestern Chapter.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 15th – 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.

October 16th, 17th and 18th – FMDAC National Convention – Kansas City/Olathe, KS

2009 will be the 25th Anniversary of the FMDAC and we hope to put together a great convention and hunts. Our Chapter and the local club, Mid-Western Artifact Society, will be the hosts of this convention. There will be more information about this convention in next newsletter.

FMDAC - WESTERN CHAPTER 4th QTR (OCT, NOV, DEC) 2008

1st National Bank Buffalo Wyoming

Balance as of 9/30/08	\$ 637.82
Credits:	-0-
Debits:	
Check #1030 VOID	--
Check #1031, FMDAC - raffles	60.00
Check #1032 Printing, Nwsltrs, Postage	112.94
Check #1033 Convention Reimbursement	<u>144.16</u>
Total Debits	\$ 317.10
 Balance as of December 31, 2008	 \$ 320.72

Submitted by: Judy Stobbe - 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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