

**SPRING
2008
EDITION**



THE FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC.
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JAMES W. "JESSE" BEYERS

APRIL 20, 1950 - FEBRUARY 11, 2008

See Jim's obituary on page 10

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
FROM PRESIDENT BILLER
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Board of Directors Chapter Presidents

Mike Smith

Western Chapter: AZ-CA-CO-NV-NM-WY-UT-HI

4650 N Mammoth Mine Rd.
Apache Junction, AZ, 85219
Phone: 480-983-7011
E-mail: promack@quik.com

Lyle Thomas

Northwest Chapter: AK_ID-MT-ND-OR-SD-WA

905 Verbena #11
Kennewick, WA 99336
Phone: 509-582-3895
E-mail: treasjoe@aol.com

Ron David

Central Chapter: IA-IL-IN-KY-MI-MN-OH-WI

2211 West 9th St.
Anderson, IN. 46016
Phone: 765-643-1121
Fax: 765-643-1121
E-mail: redlegron@aol.com

John Howard

Northeast Chapter: CT-MA-ME-NH-RI-VT-NY

34 Bayberry Lane,
Rochester, NY 14616
Phone: 585-663-7368
E-mail: jhoward@rochester.rr.com

Vic Kamer

Mid-Atlantic Chapter: DE-MD-NC-NJ-PA-VA-WV

106 Elm St,
Sarver, Pa. 16055
Phone: 724-295-3046
E-mail: kamer@zbzoom.net

Wallis Swartz

Southeastern Chapter: AI-FL-GA-MS-SC-TN

7791 55th Street N.
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33781
Phone; 727-647-2216
E-mail: wdsthr@tampa.rr.com

Terry Smith

South Central Chapter: AR-KS-LA-MO-NE-OK-TX

P.O. Box 455
Judson, TX 75660
Phone: 903-734-7682
E-mail: termar@skynetcountry.com

National Officers

Duane Biller

National President

184 Grange Road
McClellandtown, PA 15458
Phone: 724-439-1380
Fax: 724-439-2558
E-mail: Snakemandb@earthlink.net

Ed Burke

National Vice President

84 S. Atherton Ave
Kingston, PA 18704
Phone: 570-331-0600
E-mail: Potogold1@verizon.net

Jill McFeeders

National Treasurer

7025 Dover Zoar Road, N.E.
Dover, Ohio 44622
Phone: 330-364-1608
E-mail: jcseeker@core.com

Dave Perry

National Secretary

603 West State St.
Princeton, IN 47670-1347
Phone: 812 385-5676
Email: djperry900@peoplepc.com

Appointed Positions

Frank Colletti, CPA

Manufacturer Industry Representative

1439 Stephen Marc Lane
East Meadow, NY 11554
Phone: 516 481-9244
Fax: 516 481-1845

Mike & Sue Race

Membership Secretary

603 W. Main Street
New Holland, PA 17557
Phone: 717-355-0691
Fax: 717-355-0691

Mark Schuessler

Alliance Liaison

1464 Graff Road
Attica, NY 14011
Phone: 585-591-0010
E-mail: kesmas@localnet.com

Website Manager

Holly Lee
500 ½ Ray Ave. NW
Philadelphia, OH 44663
330 343 7019
fmdac@mail.com

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs

Duane Biller, National President
184 S. Grange Rd.
McClellandtown, PA 15458
724-439-1380



March 21, 2008

Membership,

With the sky rocketing fuel prices, \$3.39, here in southwestern Pennsylvania and the ridiculous prices that silver is bringing, the FMDAC Board of Directors had to make a tough decision.

Over the past few months only a few entries were received for the upcoming convention in Antlers, Oklahoma and this brought many questions to mind. I was able to talk to many of our regular convention attendees about coming to the convention and they informed me that because of both of these reasons they had to make choices and driving 1000 miles was out of the question. I figured that many people are feeling the crunch, which in turn is probably the reason for the low response.

So with all things in mind we decided to cancel the spring convention for this year and focus our efforts to this fall. This was a tough decision and everything and everyone was taken into consideration before this decision was made. I hope that our decision doesn't create hard feelings towards the organization, but when this decision was made we had the best for the organization in mind.

I'm sorry that this had to be done but I feel that with the economy going south, all our clubs will be feeling the effects. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions and we will keep everyone posted about any upcoming events. People who had sent in their reservations will be refunded their money.

Thanks
Duane Biller



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EARLY BIRD RAFFLE WINERS

Treasurer Jill McFeeders announced the winners of the annual early bird raffle.

Club:
Membership for next year: East Texas Treasure Hunters - 18 members

Gold coin: Miami Valley of Ind. - gold nugget

Silver round - Northern Kentucky Treasure Hunters

Independents:

Robert Powell - gold nugget - GA

Carl Somkonis - silver round - KY

Kary Williams - free membership next year - Virgin Islands



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FMDAC SURVEY (RERUN)

We didn't have many responses to this so I am running it again. "Your opinion does matter!" Fuel and motel expenses lead the pack.

A few treasure hunters have expressed the fact that they no longer attend the FMDAC conventions. At the last convention at Butler, PA and the one in the spring in Mesa, AZ., the attendance wasn't like it used to be. At the convention meeting, I asked if we could get the general feeling from the members as to why they no longer come to conventions.

Please take the time to respond to this survey:

1. Has the cost of traveling been a deterrent?
2. Has the cost of the hunt been a deterrent?
3. Have you been turned off by the location?
4. Has lodging been a problem?
5. Or have you just lost interest?

For example: If the location has turned you off, take the time to express where you would like to go. List a few places for the officers to consider. This is our chance to share our thoughts as members of the FMDAC. Go to the web site or take the time to respond by mail, as this is our organization.

I raised the question at the annual open meeting in Butler, PA and was ask to do a survey. I tried to cover the things that might be on the minds of others. If you see an issue not addressed in the survey please write your ideas down and send them in. Again, please respond so the officers can plan ahead for the coming year and beyond.

Alice Bertzfield

FMDAC member

Send responses to: djperry900@peoplepc.com or return address on this Quest.

**DID YOU ASK FOR
PERMISSION?**

FROM THE NORTHEAST

Here we are into a new year. I hope everybody has cleaned their detectors and charged the batteries, and done their research for this year's hunts. I want to welcome 2 new clubs to the chapter, The Richmond Research and Recovery of Staten Island and the Staten Island History Hunters Metal Detecting Club also of Staten Island. Also I want to welcome back the Atlantic Treasure Club. We have had a number of Independent Members join the FMDAC, and I hope the 2007 members have sent in their 2008 dues and stay with us. I have been receiving the clubs news letters from some of you, but not all. If you have not been sending me the newsletter, please put me on your list to receive your newsletter.

We have a new website manager. Her name is Holly Lee, and I think she is doing a great job. If anyone wants anything put on the FMDAC website, send it to me, and I will contact Jill or Holly to put it on the website. Also let me know of any changes in your addresses, meeting info, or e-mails so I can get those changes in.

John Howard, NE Chapter President

The New Year started out well legislatively. An item that turned up in early January was that the bill in Washington State was resubmitted. This is one to further open up the state parks to detecting. It was blocked in committee last year. Let's hope it gets a bit farther this year. It is SB 6253. Watch the website for updates. Then the good news took a nose dive.

The bill in Kentucky has been resubmitted. This was one that went after sites on private property. The number is HB295. This is a very bad bill and is the same one I outlined in my Western & Eastern Treasures in the fall. Stay tuned to the website for more info.

I recently I learned of a change in regulations in Georgia. If you intend on detecting on a historical site on private property you must notify the state before doing so. There is a phone number you can call or a website where you can register. This is actually a change for the good. The prior regulation stated that you had to notify the state in writing 5 days before. What constitutes a historical site is not actually defined. At least I could not get a useable answer from the very office that you are supposed to notify. A detectorist that I have conversed with from Georgia called the number and asks what determines a historical site. The answer was that if you want to search there then it must be historical! That was a real intelligent response. The law also says that you must have permission in writing. Verbal permission is not valid.

In the state of Oregon comes a more disturbing occurrence. A bottle digger who was featured on a cable show received a letter from the state telling him that he is violating the law by digging artifacts on PRIVATE PROPERTY even with the owner's permission. You must get a permit from the state and be observed by an archaeologist. Yes you read that right. Apparently they managed to slip in a law some time ago that no one was aware of. The real kicker is that you have to hire an archaeologist to observe you. A historical site is defined as an area containing 10 or more artifacts in a concentrated area. If I lived in Oregon I probably would never find more than 9 items in any one "concentrated" area! Had this law been made public during the process I have no doubt that it would have gone down in flames. This is a repressive law, which does not represent American values.

Now on a lighter note I hope everyone is using this winter period to catch up on your research. If you don't mind the cold you might even be getting in a little hunting. I know a few people who have. This is the time to hit the library and the old maps. It is amazing when I hear people say that there is no place left to search. A few minutes spent looking at an 1800's map of my township gives me dozens of potential sites. Many times it is practically an "X marks the spot" scenario.

Mark Schuessler

MID ATLANTIC Surfdigger's Beach Report

What a strange winter season this has been so far. We haven't seen any real big sustained Nor'easters like the kind that we used to get here along the Jersey shore, but we have seen a succession of small coastal fronts and wind events on a regular basis all season.

A small group of folks have been keeping abreast of these and have capitalized on most of them; of course it doesn't hurt to live at the shore either. Many of these have come and gone with little or no fan fare from the TV weather forecasters. In fact the only way to find out about these small events has been to keep an eye on the various Marine weather sites online. One place that has been a great source of coastal weather information is The Boater's Box....

http://www.boatersbox.com/html/bodynjatlantic_city.htm.

Next time that you are planning a trip to the shore for some detecting is sure to do your homework before making the trek. It could mean the difference between success and failure.

As we come into spring, just what opportunities can we take advantage of on an average day at the

beach? Let's face it; the way that this winter has been so far, the prime opportunities below the normal high tide line have been limited at best. Due to most folk's everyday obligations in life we can't always be there at the most opportune moments to take advantage of the optimum conditions.

So what can you do to find at least a few coins and maybe that gold ring when you get down here? Well as some of you may already know March and April is spring maintenance time here at the Jersey beaches. Boardwalks and piers are being repaired to name just one example. When this happens a lot of times you will see sand being moved around by heavy equipment to make these projects more accessible to the work crews, and we all know what people magnets boardwalks and piers are. Do you think that that moved sand just might expose a target or two, perhaps? Can you say old silver coins? Old boardwalks can yield quite a few surprises when the sand beneath it is disturbed and spread someplace where we can get at it with our coils.

Another neat area to hunt is the wooden walkovers in Atlantic City. These are the walkways that traverse the sand dunes to access the beach. All winter long people stand out on these walkways to get a view of the ocean without having to actually walk down to the beach. The part of the walkway at the end closest to the beach is another people magnet on a daily basis all winter long. You would be amazed how many freshly dropped coins, and surprisingly enough in particular quarters are found in this area along with the occasional piece of jewelry. Remember people are rooting through bags and taking off gloves while out here and things readily find there way loose from many a gambler's grasp here.

Another thing to look for when down here (and this is where carrying binoculars at all times comes in handy) is heavy equipment repairing winter erosion damage on the beaches. Again, the popular beaches that are usually crowded in summer are the best spots to look. You would be amazed how much sand a bulldozer can move in a short time. A lot of times they will take sand from the middle (prime people areas) portions of the beach to repair an eroded dune or bring down and dump along an eroded surf line.

Another old reliable spot is any stairway or access onto a beach. Not only are these gold ring magnets (trust me they just are) but they are depositories for coins and other lost items on the off-season as people will actually sit in these many time sheltered areas on sunny days to stay out of the wind.

One more thing, you want to look for are old cuts and depressions up above the high tide line from past storms and oddly enough wind erosion. Spots like these can produce very well on those tough days.

Well there ya go, these are just a few spots that could save your day have I missed any? I'm sure I have. So take advantage of those beautiful early spring days and get off that couch, shake off those winter blahs and get yourself some gold already!!

Brian Mayer
surfdigger07@aol.com

Take a walk through the backyard or a neighboring field and let your mind wonder what treasure is lurking in the soil beneath your feet. Use your imagination.

It's the sense of adventure, the thrill of the hunt.

And, that's exactly what drives the members of the Tidewater Coin and Relic Club. The club holds its monthly meetings in the Bayside Library in Virginia Beach; its membership reaches out into Suffolk.

Club secretary Ina Finn lives near Driver and says Suffolk has been a site for hunts for the club in the past because it is rich in history and has had some great finds.

The club, along with the Hampton Roads Recovery Society, encourages citizens with the hobby of metal detecting.

"It's crazy, it's a great hobby," Finn said. "You go up to beaches and parks, anywhere that's public property or private property with permission and it's a great hobby because you never know what you're going to find."

The club averages an attendance of 30 people per monthly meeting and has set up competitions among its members.

According to the club's Web site, www.tc-rc.com, the club awards prizes to winners of that month's competition. At the January meeting, they will be voting on the find of the year. Members are encouraged to bring in their best coin, piece of jewelry or other relic find from the past year, and they could walk away with the title of "Find of the Year."

Prizes aside, Finn said the club is a source of great friendships and fun for its members. Plus, as a

group, they can do some good.

This year, the club donated a check to the Suffolk Toys for Tots campaign. In years past, they supported the VA hospital and Grandparents Raising Grandkids. Then, the club can even put their hobby to good use.

Finn says the club often has been asked to help people find their lost treasure. She recounted one time being at the oceanfront when a woman lost her ring. Club members banded together and started searching for the missing jewelry. When they found the ring, the woman was ecstatic.

Submitted by Lauren Wicks

Western Chapter Clubs & Independent Members Report

Arizona Treasures Unlimited oldest coin found this quarter was a 1857 dime found by Teri Czuprynski. The members keep coming up with many other good finds. In their November newsletter they had an excellent article on how to research the U.S. Patent Office to find out what you have found.

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs Membership report that this club has now 125 members. George Miskovsky returned a bracelet that had been missing for 53 years in Lake Tahoe. This club holds 2 mini hunts each month in the various parks in their area.

Coinshooters of San Diego Coinshooters of San Diego Annual Awards by Russell Gish

The Coinshooters of San Diego held their annual Christmas Dinner on December 1st, 2007. One of the main events of the evening was the awarding of the Annual Awards. These awards are voted on by club members, prior to the dinner, by secret ballot. Each month a Best Find of the Month is voted on by club members at the monthly meetings. The winning item from each month is entered into the Best Find of the Year and voted on by club members at the October meeting. The winner is awarded an Award Certificate from the club and a cash award. This year's winner was Frank Trutta for his entry of a beautiful heavy gold chain and cross. In addition, Jim Walker has earned the honor of being the Treasure Hunter of the Year and had his name entered on the club's trophy that he gets to keep for one year. This award is determined by winning entries from our monthly show and tell contests. We have seven categories that club members can enter their finds that have been found with a metal detector since the last meeting. Club members vote for the best find from each category. At the end of the year the club member with

the most wins earns the title of Treasure Hunter of the Year. He, or she, has their name entered on the club trophy and receives a cash award.

Siskiyou County Relic & Recovery All club officers stepped down at the end of this year and they will have new club officers taking office in February. It has been a pleasure working with the outgoing officers.

Gold Coast Treasure Hunters This club does not have a newsletter or website. They are looking for someone to stand up and volunteer for these positions. Communication is the key to success.

West Coast Prospectors & Treasure Hunters' Betty Broughton won a nice gold nugget at the National Convention. This club ran Toys for Tots drive with the toys going to the US Marine Corps event.

Albuquerque Metal Detector Association New officers will be assuming their roles for the 2008 season. They are still looking for a newsletter editor. Club was requested to help the local police in hunting for evidence in an old "cold case". I would like to thank your members for the public service!

Southeast Chapter Members Know How to Find Rings

Ironically Jay & Karen Ganz each found nearly identical 14K class rings on consecutive days while out doing what they like to do so much, find rings and return them to their owners.

One weighed in at 16.1 grams while the other slightly larger ring weighed 16.5 grams. The difference was the ring size.

Jay & Karen's primary goal while out detecting has always been the thrill of the hunt but even more important is the opportunity to determine ownership of the item and getting it back to some very happy owners. Suncoast Research & Recovery Club is very proud to count Jay & Karen in the membership.

Through Jay and Karen's research they returned the rings to Andrew Adams and a fellow named Matt (no last name given). Adams lost his ring in the Florida surf about a year ago while playing football. His ring flew off his finger and into the water before he knew what happened. He was very delighted to get his ring back. Matt was in the area also about a year ago on Spring Break and while doing what Breakers do he lost his ring in the water. Luckily for Matt along came Karen (Lucky) Ganz to make the find.

Matt was hunting in New York when he got the word and couldn't believe his luck!

Millions for Pennies. On February 15th Heritage Auction Galleries of Long Beach, California held one of their frequent auctions. Among the coins was a 301 cent collection of Walter J. Husak.

First a 1793 large cent only minted for two weeks and then stopped because the face of Lady Liberty appears frightened.

The other is a 1794 large cent that was minted with tiny stars around the perimeter and in limited supply. Each of these one cent coins sold for \$632,500, a record for the sale of a one cent coin!

The collection was made up of coins dating from 1793 to 1814. Six of the other 1794 coins sold for \$30,000 to \$58,000 each. Husak's daughter, Trina, had to bid \$20,000 each for two coins because dad said, "they were too precious to give away".

And people think it foolish for me to stoop over and pick up pennies in the parking lot. Someday who can tell what I might clutch in my cold trembling fingers.

Wally Swartz, Southeast President

Central States Club Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Midwest Historical Research Society is celebrating 40 years as a club. Ron Guinazzo is President of this Chicago Illinois based club. They have been an FMDAC supporter for many of those years. Other officers of this longstanding club are; Vice-president Pat Anderson, Treasurer Gene Zschernitz, Recording Secretary and public relations Larry Hoeft, Correspondence secretary Doris Patitz, Sgt. At Arms Mike Szymczak, rounding out the Director and other positions are; Lynn Roma Newsletter Editor and Howie Roma Publisher, Rich Gunzy Find of the Month Table, Tom Malcheski, Herb Dodge, John Fitzpatrick, Lloyd Tatman and Keith Leeders.

Those traveling Silver Seekers are on the road again. Jill and Carl are heading to South Carolina for Randy Gatchel's hunt and their first Seeker meeting of the year. Jill made the comment that this is the first year they haven't taken their camper as it was to wet in their yard to hook it up.

Jill also wanted to remind everyone that the Treasure Week flyers are on the Silver Seekers Website. If you don't have computer access you can

give her a call or contact her at the address on page two.

FROM THE EDITOR

Little by little the things around us begin to take more and more resources (money) to achieve the things we used to do. Who is to blame for all this economy craziness? It's hard to say, but it is affecting our hobby to the extremes.

With a silver dime at \$1.58 you can feel the frustration of the regular Huntmasters out there trying to figure out how to put targets in the ground to get the hunters to come to their event. Remember when we could buy dimes for 25 – 30 cents? Well folks those days are over.

We are going to have to come up with innovative ideas for more targets in the fields. Do they have to be coin targets? Not really. If each member of the sponsoring club would talk to the people they do business with and acquire four or five prizes for their hunt the target count could go up. Usually the Huntmaster or a designated person is delegated to get token prizes. If everyone helped it would spread the responsibility around.

Most people donate a prize or two for the smaller local events. Well, the national events put on by all the organizations are hurting also. If you raise your hunt fees too high you'll end up without any participants. Add to that the higher costs of fuel; lodging and food make it a tough decision for some folks.

So put those thinking caps on. Send us an email, letter or give us a call. Post a constructive message on our Website Forum. The survey isn't written in stone. You may have a "great" idea so put it out there.

To the other metal detecting groups and supporters out there put your ideas out for all to see. We have to all work together so our hobby will survive.

Dave

GONE HUNT'N

From Ron David

Leroy Palmer

It is with much sadness that I must tell you of a friend and fellow Treasure hunter has passed away. Leroy Palmer. Cancer finally overcame Leroy last Tuesday. Leroy and I bought our first detectors in 1969. Together we hunted, traveled and competed against each other through the years. During these times we met some of the best friends a person could have ever asked to meet. In the 80's due to work obligations Leroy was forced to reduce his hunting trips. Off and on you would occasionally find Leroy on relic trips and once in a while hunting locally. In 2000 health problems hit him. I'll personally miss another hunting partner. For those of you who remember him, he was a one of a kind, for those of you didn't you missed a jewel. He was a friend, a partner, a competitor.

1931 – 2008

James W. "Jesse" Beyers

James W. "Jesse" Beyers, 57, of Siloam Springs, Ark., died Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at his home. He was born April 20, 1950, in San Antonio, Texas, to Walter and Georgia (Hooper) Beyers.

He worked for years at the B & K Grocery Store and most recently worked at the Sav-A-Trip Convenience Store in Siloam Springs.

He re-enacted Civil War battles and was president of the Arkoma Coin and Relic metal-detecting club. He was Southeast Chapter President for the Federation of Metal Detecting and Archeological Clubs Inc. 2001 – 2003. He then went on to become National Vice-president until he resigned for health reasons in 2006. Jim was very active in the treasure hunting hobby working to protect the hunter's rights.

He was a member of Key Lodge No. 7 Masonic Lodge in Siloam Springs and a past master of Highland Hills Masonic Lodge No. 1373 in Texas.

Survivors include a son, Matt Beyers of Gentry, Ark.; two daughters, Christie Beyers of Siloam Springs and Tammy Butler of Loranger, La.; his mother, Georgia Beyers of Liberty, Ill.; a sister, Terry Mueller of Hastings, Neb.; and two grandchildren, Noah Beyers of Gentry and James Carrey Butler of Loranger.

Roy Volker

FLAG, Roy Volker, 83, of St. Charles County died Jan. 29, 2008, at home. He was born Dec. 21, 1924, to Clark and Rhoda Volker in St. Louis.

Mr. Volker was a salesman for Capital Records for 23 years and later owned Search Electronics for 11 years. He also was a professional boxer and a treasure hunter and diver, founded the Midwest Coinshooters Club and wrote two books, "Treasure Under Your Feet" and "In the Wake of the Golden Galleons." He founded Midwest Coinshooters Treasure Club in St. Louis. He served in the Navy during World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Volker of St. Charles County; four daughters, Deborah Davis and Angela Volker, both of St. Charles, Cynthia Bumb of Lake Saint Louis and Lauren Edelstein of Defiance; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Rhoda M. Chilton; and one brother who died in infancy.



BEVERLY Y. BOES

Beverly Y. Boes age 59 of Princeton, IN Went to the Lord Friday November 23, 2007. She was born in Washington, In. November 12, 1948 to John Marvin and Rosemary (Craig) Spraggins.

Beverly was a medical secretary in Dr. Foley's office until retiring after 18 years. She was a charter member of Living Waters Church in Princeton.

She is survived by her husband, Harold, a charter member of Three Rivers Treasure Club and step-father Leonard Seibe, Evansville, eight children and their spouses, one sister / brother-in-law, nineteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and special friends Cathy and Rollie Clark.

The Boes family has been a treasure hunting family for many years. They have been staunch supporters of the hobby.

Editor's note: Beverly's and Roy's information was in the last eQuest but not the mailed Quest.

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THE FMDAC'S CODE OF ETHICS

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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.

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FMDAC QUEST
DAVE PERRY
603 W. STATE ST.
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