

GMDC NEWS

July 2016



"Can you dig it? We can!"

**detectinghistory@
yahoo.com**

Club Officers

President

Susannah Kriegshauser

Vice President

Jim Hammond

Treasurer

John Westermayer



President's Corner

By Susannah Kriegshauser

Hello fellow dirt fishers!

Well, we have passed our first six months of existence with flying colors. Thanks to the help and contributions of time and hunt sites, our club has become a vital, interesting place to meet fellow enthusiasts and to reach out to those who have never detected before. You can all pat yourselves on the back!

It is very nice that we have several people who have already contributed articles to our newsletters. In this issue articles by Mark Harris and Pat Reece are featured. We would like to start a new section called "Pay Dirt", where you can tell an interesting story about one of your hunts. Maybe you found something interesting; maybe you met someone interesting; maybe you just like being outdoors and can describe that feeling for the rest of us; maybe just a funny story to share from a hunt. None of us are professional writers (at least I don't think so) so don't worry about your article being all spiffy and polished. We are all friends interested in one another and like hearing about each other's experiences. We would like to hear from you! Send entries to our club email. I'll help get us started this month with the article, "For Whom the Bells Toll".

Don't forget about our upcoming BBQ/Games hunt in September. The officers will soon be contacting those who have signed up to help. If you wish to be included, (and not shanghaied on the day—be warned!), send me your name and phone number and I'll put you on the list. We have begun taking reservations through our club email if you and your family wish to attend. Let us know how many are coming.

September 3, the Saturday before the BBQ, I will be giving another Metal Detecting Basics class. Details are under the Classes tab on the website. I am hoping to get my package from England before then so that we can hunt for medieval thimbles, buttons, and more. Tell someone you know who might be interested. Registration is required.

Happy Hunting!

Susannah

CALENDAR

Jan 05: GMDC meeting
Jan 16: Metal Detecting
Basics Class. MO
Civil War Museum
Jan 23: Metal Detecting
Basics Class. MO
Civil War Museum
Feb 02: GMDC meeting
Feb 21: GMDC hunt.
Willmore Park
Mar 01: GMDC meeting
Mar 12: Metal Detecting
Basics Class
Mar 20: GMDC hunt.
St. Marcus Park
Apr 05: GMDC meeting
Apr 09: GMDC hunt.
Christy Greenway
May 03: GMDC meeting
May 14: Metal Detecting
Basics Class
May 15: GMDC hunt.
Mystery Hunt.
DeSoto, MO
Jun 07: GMDC meeting
Jun 11: GMDC hunt.
Fultz Field.
River des Peres
Jul 05: GMDC meeting
Jul 09: GMDC hunt.
Columbia IL farm
Aug 02: GMDC meeting
Aug 06: GMDC hunt.
Jos. Leisure Park
Sep 06: GMDC meeting
Sep 10: GMDC hunt.
BBQ/Hunt Games
Oct 04: GMDC meeting
Oct 08: GMDC hunt.
TBD

Monthly Meeting *by Jim Hammond*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Minutes were accepted by Dave Steck and Rick Crowell with one correction.

There were 22 people in attendance. Six new members signed on: Roger and Betty Taylor, Todd and Jackie Melugin, Ted Kingery, and Houston Linder. Welcome all!

A finds table was set up separately from the greeting table for better display of members' items.

The need for possible fund raisers was again brought up, with the expense of the BBQ coming. There will be a raffle at the BBQ.

Dues will now be \$10 until December.

More fellowship time will be encouraged at the meetings to allow members to get to know one another. New and old members are encouraged to bring in their detectors and finds if they have questions.

Respect for the museum grounds was asked due to trash being thrown down, and members were asked not to prop open the back door under any circumstances.

Liability waivers were passed out and signed for Saturday's Mystery Hunt. The Genevieve Method and sod hinges will be used.

Pictures of new finds, old finds, articles on detecting-related things, funny stories, and more can be submitted for inclusion in the newsletter. **Someone to give a short presentation for the October meeting is needed. Let any officer know.**

Signup sheets for the BBQ and Community Assistance Team were available.

Send your "In the Loupe" article about yourself to the club email. We need one for next month.

Anyone interested in an England detecting trip should post a message in the club email. Several people are interested.

Dave Steck gave an interesting presentation on AB memorabilia, including Dave's interesting finds. Detecting beer cans can bring in money!

August's presentation is by John Westermayer, Jim Hammond, and Kelly Linder on defending yourself in the field with detecting equipment and/or your body.

Attendance prizes were given out as follows:

1. Kelly Linder – 1864 2-cent piece
2. Bill Steibel—1865 3-cent piece
3. Dave Steck—1898 Barber quarter

50/50 raffle was won by Rob Willett.

PAY DIRT

"For Whom the Bells Toll"

by Susannah Kriegshauser



My first England metal detecting trip was going great. By the third day I had already found a Royal Fusiliers military button, two 12th century hammered silver coins, two Victorian coins, and four medieval buckles. And of course there were the "partifacts"--"parts" of "artifacts" that were usually hard to identify. I tended to get a lot of those. Lots. Lots and lots. As in a 20-1 ratio. Among those were decorated parts of bells.

I knew they were bells from the general shape, but I'd never seen anything like them. So I asked my detecting buddies what they were and what they were used for. They all told me they were called "crotal bells", but there the agreement ended. Buddy #1 solemnly assured me that they were used by lepers to warn off people. Buddy #2 shook his head at that, and declared, "Naw, those were used on jester's hats, don't you remember in the movies?" Buddy #3 chimed in that HE knew they were used on horse bridles, while his friend said yeah, and cows. Then it got crazy. The other guys all started claiming that crotal bells were used on pilgrims, jesters, lepers, priests, housekeepers' belts, and sleighs. Then they started in on horses, cows, goats, sheep, and dogs. When they got to geese, I called a halt. This was crazy! I knew they were pulling my leg, but where was the truth? There certainly were enough of those bell parts around.

So when I got to my room that night, I began researching. And good grief, the guys were right. Bells like this had been in production for over 4000 years. And yes, they were used on everything stated above. They were also used on hawks, acrobats, as grave goods, and against evil spirits. They hung beside houses and were strung across streets. The 14th century was certainly a very noisy place!

Now that I knew, I really, really wanted to find a whole one. And of course I didn't. Not on that trip, or successive trips, until this year, when I finally found two small intact ones. Nothing fancy, but I'll always wonder what the heck they hung from--human, animal, or house.

What's in a Name?

By Pat Reece

As it turns out, a lot! When you're driving around, take time to really take notice of the street names. Many of them contain hints of their past use or reference well-known people, and may lead to some new hunting grounds!

Arsenal Street --got its name from the St. Louis Arsenal, which was a military equipment storage depot located on the east end of the street by the Mississippi River.

Big Bend --Big Bend Blvd. was laid out in 1840 and followed an Indian trail to the "big bend" in the Meramec River.

Carr Street --named after Judge William C. Carr, who in 1813 built the first brick dwelling in St. Louis.

Chestnut Street --originally named by the French "La Rue Missouri", and was one of the first named east to west streets in colonial St. Louis. After the American takeover of the city in 1804, the name was changed to North "A" Street. In 1826, in a general planning scheme to name east-west streets after trees, it became "Chesnut". The spelling was altered to its current form "Chestnut" in 1893.

Olive Street --in 1821, this road was first named "North C Street". In 1826, it was renamed after the hardy Mediterranean tree and its well-known fruit, the olive. During the 1850s, the road's extension west of Eighteenth Street was called the Olive Street Plank Road due to its wooden construction.

BBQ/GAMES Hunt

September 10, 2016

Jefferson Barracks Park

(Registration Required—[sign up](#) through our email or at a meeting. Tell us how many are coming.)

We have another fun hunt that is for **MEMBERS ONLY** (and their families).

We are a family club, and we invite you and your family to a fun time in the park. There will be BBQ, fun games, and a giveaway of a Bounty Hunter PioneerEX metal detector to all who participated in our contest, plus other goodies.

Bring your **pinpointer** and a **hand digger**, but no shovels, since this is a county park and no digging is allowed. We are playing games with our diggers, not finding relics.

We need many people to help with this, and we will have a signup sheet at all future meetings. Thanks to those who have already indicated their willingness to help! We need chefs, people to run the games, and crews to setup and takedown.

The club will provide the hotdogs and hamburgers, buns, and condiments.

We ask that those whose last names begin with A-M bring a side dish, and those whose last names begin with N-Z bring a dessert.

The club will provide water—you will need to provide any other drinks you want. Bring a chair and sunscreen!

Come on out and play with us!

IN THE LOUPE...

Mark Harris

It all started about 15 years ago when my mother, who still insists on getting her 4 "children" Christmas gifts, asked me what I wanted. I literally did not want, let alone need, anything, but I came up with "a metal detector". The unit she bought through WalMart was the Bounty Hunter 505. It is manufactured by First Texas and marketed through several big box stores. Mine came with the 2 coil package, and an 8" concentric and a 4" coil. I found it confusing with all of the ground balance, notching etc. that I really didn't understand that well. I still managed to find some fun items and even quite a few coins. I would get it out maybe twice a year when I had some spare time. It was a fun hobby but I never got seriously into it.

I have always been a huge YouTube fan and a few years ago I discovered all the videos being uploaded by treasure hunters. First I bought a pinpointer which really made locating of finds so much faster--it kinda got me hooked. Soon, I upgraded to the Teknetics Omega 8000. I bought it used from the classifieds on FMDF. This was a big upgrade with VDI (Visual Discrimination Indicator) which means you actually get an ID number speeding up the "guess" of what's beneath the surface. I have since added a Teknetics EuroTek Pro along with a Tesoro Vaquero to the collection.

I really enjoy the hobby and am so happy the weather has turned nice for some hunting. I mainly coinshoot the local parks and even after hunting them over and seeing other detectorists, they still deliver. The last few years I have managed to pull close to \$100 yearly and lots of neat "treasures".

One of my most memorable finds came straight out of my back yard. A "Mothers Ring", buried and lost for several years. I was able to return the ring to my next door neighbor.

I hail from Festus MO in Jefferson County. When I'm not detecting I enjoy spending time with my son and his family in Columbia. I also spend time with my parents and family in Springfield MO, camping, hiking, ATVs, music, playing poker, and of course YouTube browsing. You can contact me via: mailharris@yahoo.com. You can visit my YouTube channel searching for: Got Pulltab?

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChXy8KsleIyv6tSNwSGangA>

TECH TIPS

by Susannah

Taking Care of Your Investment

Just how much did you pay for your detector? Unless you were very, very lucky, you probably shelled out several hundred dollars. So why did you just now let it drop to the ground when you found a target? No, no, no. Although detectors are tough, their continued wear, plus grit, will make parts brittle. It only takes one second to lay it down gently, but dropping it will sooner or later cost you in repair bills.

How about your batteries in the winter when you aren't hunting? Do you take them out to foil corrosion? You should. What about getting the mud off it (and your other tools) after a hunt? Replace or fix loose cables. Clean coil covers. Get a carry bag instead of slinging the detector in the trunk. Then you can pass your investment on to your kids.

Gateway MD Club

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"Can you dig it? WE can!"

For either the **CLASSIFIEDS** or **HUNT BUDDIES**, please send them through detectinghistory@yahoo.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Club patches can be bought from the officers for \$2 at the meetings.

HUNT BUDDIES

Pat Reece: I'm **looking for a hunt buddy, any level of experience. I live in the Wildwood area, but hunt anywhere.
Phone: 314-276-9286

Email: parreece@aol.com

****Anyone wanting to go to England** next year, leave a message on the club email if interested. Several members are thinking of going and could meet up.

WHO WE ARE

We are a group of detecting enthusiasts whose aim is to get out there and have fun, find fellowship, and find and preserve our nation's history. We dig responsibly, act respectfully, and operate legally. We invite you to join us. You won't be disappointed!

MEETINGS

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at

**Missouri Civil War Museum
222 Worth Road
St. Louis, MO 63125**

at

**7 pm
(Doors open at 6:30 pm)**

Open to the public

