



# EARTH

*Metal Detecting Club of Central NY • Since 1990*



## NEWSLETTER

### AUGUST 2019

# Earth Club of Central New York

## President's Message



Fellow treasure hunters, our July meeting was well attended at the Dunham Public Library in Whitesboro on July 29. Our guest speaker was club member Ed Mcfadden. Ed is also a member of the local coin club and avid collector. If you want to join the Coin Club, meeting are at 7 PM on the 4th Thursday every month at the Whitestown Veterans Club, lower level. Dues are \$5 per year.

The first topic of discussion was the fast approaching annual Club Hunt and Picnic at Delta Lake State Park. The cost for each hunter is \$25. We have a TON of prizes on the line this year including \$500 plus in silver coins, the coveted treasure chest for the lucky key finder, and many raffle prizes including the grand prize, a Garrett AT Pro! We have several metal detecting manufacturers donating to the

event including Minelab, Whites and Garrett.

Lunch will be burgers and dogs, but as in prior years, bring a dish to pass or a desert so there will be plenty of food! Each person should also bring a raffle prize to add to the selection of potential winnings. It doesn't have to be anything spectacular, but something fun, interesting or related to treasure hunting! Please be sure to sign up and pay the detector fee at the August meeting!

On the club hunt front, Mike Parker is looking to line-up some additional scout camps. Please take some time and think about other potential sites that we can use for organized Club hunts and communicate them to Larry Ehlinger and myself. Remember that a Silver round prize is given to any members that come up with new Club Hunt Sites!

Larry Ehlinger made a good point during the meeting that we all need a reminder of this time of year. We should not be digging on lawns until cooler, wetter weather returns later in September. The likelihood of leaving dead spots in the grass has the real potential of giving metal detectorists a bad name. Stick to woods, fields and beaches until the fall weather returns!

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on August 26! We need a volunteer to bring refreshments to this meeting so please contact me if you can bring them for this meeting.

**David Lofgren**

**President**

### Raffle Winners:

- Mike Eychner
- Ralph Blencowe
- Mary Lou Desrosiers

**50/50-** Scott Dunham

# 2019 Calendar of Events:

Date	Comments	Speaker	Snacks	Club Hunt Site/Date
Jan 2019	Board & Officers Meeting	n/a		n/a
2/25/19	<b>Meeting Cancelled due to Weather</b>			n/a
3/25/19	Initial Meeting, Admin Matters Etc.	n/a	M Ferjet	n/a
4/29/19	First Competition Meeting Officer Elections	Ben Simon; Farmer, historian	Dave Brown	Proctor Park: 4/6 &7 Camp Henderson 4/27
May 2019	No Meeting in May due to Memorial Day. Meeting June 3	n/a	n/a	Snow Ridge: 5/4 Vandercamp 5/11
6/3/19			Darcy P	Camp Kingsley 6/2
6/24/19		John Taibe Bottle Diving	Bob T	
7/29/19		Coin Club (tentative)	Dave L	The Cederlands 7/21
8/26/19				
9/8/19	Delta Lake Club Hunt	n/a	All	9/8 - Delta
9/30/19				
10/5-10/6	Pound The Ground Adirondack Coast			Chazy, NY
10/28/19	Dress up Meeting 😊			West Canada Campground (pending)
11/25/19	Last Meeting of 2019			
12/8/19	2019 X-mas Party!	n/a	n/a	n/a

# Pirates Weekend

By Lori Fealey

More fun, more booty on the beach. Pirate booty that is! A successful day usually starts with good weather, good planning, good food and most of all good company. It all fell into place again this year thanks to all of the above. Bob and Randy, Larry and Patty all saved me from the kid chaos that always accompanies our annual Pirate's weekend treasure hunt. The July heat was atrocious this year and I was glad I set up my antique stand-up fan that helped to cool us down just a little. The sand was so hot you could fry eggs and maybe even some bacon too!

While Bob and Larry hit the beach with the junior pirates, the rest of the crew including myself kept watch from the seawall which was just fine with me. After a few hours had passed I noticed a nasty storm approaching from the west heading straight towards us. We decided it was time to pack it up and batten down the hatches. As luck would have it we all abandoned ship just in time! I don't recall ever seeing so many boats lined up on the beach on a single day as I did that day. I have no idea where they all went but they sure scattered real fast and we didn't stick around to watch! The rain came down in buckets but thankfully no problems were reported that I am aware of. I'm sure the kids will have many warm and lasting memories of this experience and it sure is comforting to watch good things happening for them these days.

Finally evening came and the fireworks show was worth the wait! Nothing like having front row seats right on the beach! As I said earlier, everything just fell into place and we will be certainly looking forward to next year's booty bash! Thank you again to all who volunteered this year and those who donated your Pirate's booty for this successful event! Until the next shipwreck hold on tight to your booty and see ya next summer!

Sincerely,  
Junkman Lori



# Finds Competition Winners for July 2019

## Best Coin

Winner: Michel Wusik  
Entry: 1800 Large Cent  
Location Found: Schuyler NY, Hayfield  
Detector Used: Minelab Equinox 800  
Value: \$35.00 in AG-3 condition. 2019 Redbook  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Larry Ehlinger, 1864 2-cent piece  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 2-way tie: Dave Lofgren, Coronet Head Large Cent; John Gelfuso, 1896 I.H.  
Number of Entries: 5



## Best Other

Winner: Dave Lofgren  
Entry: Chocolate Spoon c. 1900 – 1910  
Location Found: Clayton NY, Old Inn  
Detector Used: Minelab Explorer II  
Value: Collectable/Historical  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: John Gelfuso, Tom Mix Kids Badge  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Marg Ferjet, 1814 Canadian Halfpenny Token  
Number of Entries: 8



## Best Jewelry

Winner, 2-way Tie: Dave Lofgren & Lori Fealey  
Entries: Vintage Coral Brooch & Pewter Fox Pin  
Location Found: Clayton, NY & Sylvan Beach NY, Beach  
Detector Used: Minelab Equinox & Deus XP  
Value: Collectable/Historical  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place 2-way tie: Mike Wusik, Old Cross & Bill Wilson, Rhinestone Cross  
Number of Entries: 4



## Mystery Category

Best Horse Tack  
Winner: Robert Thomas  
Entry: Whipple tree Ring  
Location Found: Remsen NY, Field  
Detector Used: Garrett AT-Gold  
Value: Collectable/Historical/Scrap  
Number of Entries: 3

# A True Bucket Lister

By Pete Sorrell

Everyone out there has a bucket list. Those items that have evaded your coil but remain at the top of your mind every time you get the detector out. Most contain the usual suspects, a George Washington Inaugural button, a Civil War belt plate, or the ever-elusive Gold coin. These lists aren't standard across the board and vary from place to place and person to person. Here on the east coast, we're lucky to have access to over 400 years of history, which allows us to at least have an opportunity to find some of the items on our list. I have been fortunate enough to cross a few things off my list in the 9 years that I've been detecting including a Gold coin on my third time out. However, there are items not on my list that would be considered a bucket lister on many others due to lack of access to a site where such an item could be found. The following story is about one of those items.



I was vacationing in Gettysburg, PA when some new friends invited me out to Connecticut to go digging. This would be my first time travelling to Southern New England to go detecting, and boy was I excited at the opportunity. My guides were two US Veterans, Alex Metz and Chris Tracy, founders of Grunt Diggers, a group put together exclusively for Veterans that enjoy the hobby of metal detecting. Although I'm not a Veteran myself, these guys welcomed me with open arms. My first night there, we rehashed old stories, looked over each other's best finds, and spoke about that next great item we might find. Our first day detecting brought us to some productive colonial fields in a little town. I was able to scrounge up some

neat relics and a 1723 Woods Hibernia coin from amongst the iron and remarked to the guys that it was officially the oldest coin I've dug in America. Being from the northern Adirondack mountains of New York, there are few places where I could recover such a coin near my home. As we drove back to the house that night, one of the guys remarked that now we needed to find some 1600's coppers to accompany it. Shortly after that remark, we stopped at a property where they had permission to dig a field next to a beautiful old colonial home. The home owners said come on back tomorrow and you all can detect the property surrounding the house.

It was a balmy 90 degrees when the guys and I descended upon the standing 1740's home in rural Rhode Island. As we stepped out of the car, the homeowners met us and proceeded to tell us about the history of the home and the area. They said based on information they have read, one of the original settlers of the town had built his home not far up the road sometime in the late 1600's. This was interesting news and made us even more eager to dig on this beautiful property. My first hole was a partial piece of a fancy shoe buckle and I thought to myself, this is going to be a great day. Over the next several hours, we started to amass relics from many different eras in between filming digs for a YouTube video that would be featured on XP Team USA. Alex was able to snag a fired musket ball and Chris had found the first coin, an 1830's Matron Head Large Cent. Around 1pm, the homeowner came out and spoke to Alex and I about our recent finds while Chris continued to swing around the lawn behind us. We continued our search on the side lawn when Chris called us both over to show us what almost certainly would be the find of the day, an engraved Victorian era Sterling Silver baby spoon! We all agreed that was going to be hard to beat, but we still had the whole front lawn to cover, so there was still time for Alex and I to pull out a winning find. About 20 minutes later we all jumped to the front lawn at the same time. Chris was the first to get a good target, a 1905 Indian Head penny, his second coin of the day. Alex meandered around the area where a recently demolished wrap around porch once stood and pulled a big nondescript dandy button in front of a set of old granite steps. I wasn't far behind with a flat button. We spent another hour or so in the front yard, with Alex scoring a beautiful 1865 2 Cent piece. Shortly after that find, Alex and I decided to jump across the road to the small field, they had detected 6 weeks prior.

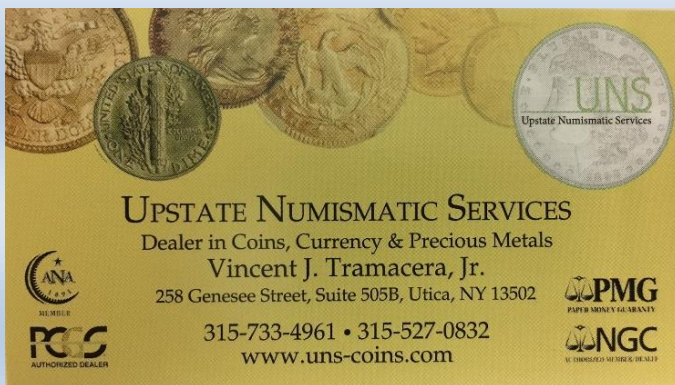
When they detected it last time, quite a few nice relics and coins were recovered including a silver spoon, dandy buttons, shoe buckles, and some King George coppers. We commenced swinging around the field, me on one side, Alex on the other. My first target sounded pretty good, ringing in the high 80's and low 90's on my XP Deus. Wishful thinking led me to believe this may be the large copper I had been waiting to dig all day. To my dismay, it was a crumpled aluminum can about six inches deep. The next target was a little jumpier and quite a bit deeper, so my hopes for a decent relic were heightened. I cut the plug, got down on my knees and threw the pin-pointer into the newly revealed soil. Nothing. No sound or vibration to indicate that my target was close, so I took out another shovel of dirt and again threw my pin-pointer into the hole. Nothing. Was I in the wrong spot? I was beginning to think that whatever I was digging was going to be deep, big, and rusty. One more shovel full and again I put the pin-pointer in the hole which was now about 11 inches deep. It began to sing like a canary, my target was right underneath it. I brushed away the soil to reveal a nice intact brass colonial shoe buckle frame. A foot of soil later and another artifact had come to light after 200 plus years. I was very excited and got up and continued along the straight path I was on, hoping to sniff out more "treasure". The next target rang in the high 80's, low 90's, and once again I was duped by a crushed aluminum can. It was at this point, I changed my trajectory and started towards the inner part of the small field. I was moving along slowly, stopping to listen to every squeak and chirp that came through my headphones. We needed to leave by about 3pm, so I was being very selective, so as not to waste the little time I had left to dig on iffy targets. I got a great signal which sounded like a copper and had Alex rush over to film it. To our surprise, it was a shallow flat button. At this point Alex said he was going to head back to the lawn for the last few minutes, leaving myself and Chris to compete for any remaining signals. I started wandering towards the very center when a squeak stopped me in my tracks. I put the coil over the signal and tightened my swing. It became more pronounced and rang up 91-92. I looked down at my phone, 2:54 pm was the time, this was going to be my last signal for the day. Two thoughts ran through my head, the first was, this is most likely another aluminum can. The second was more of a motto than a thought, when in doubt, dig it out, you may regret it if you don't. With that fresh in my mind, I dug the plug. I grabbed the pin-pointer and plunged it into the dark orangey soil. It started to faintly vibrate and beep, telling me the item was another shovel full deep. I took my shovel and dug out one more good chunk of soil. There in the bottom of my hole, no more than seven inches down lay a round flat object. Knowing this was my last target of the day, I called over Alex and Chris to film it just in case it was something good. Alex grabbed the phone and started recording as I described my endeavors so far. He pointed the phone down into the hole as I put my hand in to retrieve my "treasure".

As I pulled the item from its dirt nap, I remarked that it may be a big flat button, Alex suggested maybe it's a Reale. When it came to light, I knew instantly it was something special. I grabbed my little squirt bottle of water and sprayed it onto the surface to confirm my suspicion. There beneath a thin layer of dirt, a scraggly looking pine tree shone through. It was at that moment, we all knew that



this was one of the rarest coins we will probably ever witness being dug. I flipped it over and gasped as it revealed the date 1652. We then said some words that cannot be repeated here, words of wonderment and excitement at the prospect of finding the Holy Grail of Colonial Coins. In my hands lay an especially beautiful example of a Pine Tree Shilling. I was completely awestruck, flabbergasted, and any other word that describes disbelief. As I started to think about this coin, I realized it was never on my bucket list. I had found something so special and unique, yet I never considered it for my list based on the simple fact that such an item was literally impossible to find in my area. So the next time you're sitting there thinking about all those incredible items to put on your list, don't discount the ones that seem unreachable. They are out there, and all it takes is a few good friends and a bit of luck to find them.

# EARTH Club Classified Section



If you are looking to buy or sell any coins, contact Vincent at Upstate Numismatics. The Club has been acquiring coins from this organization for the past few years. He is very knowledgeable, courteous and also a member of the local coin club.

Looking for a metal detector or metal detecting accessories? Contact Stan Blazek at S&B Metal Detectors, 315-732-5212.

Larry Ehlinger has numerous topographical maps or area towns. Touch base with him to see if he has one of a town that you are interested in!





## **Earth Metal Detecting Club of Central New York**

### **Contact Information:**

#### **Lost Items:**



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