

Next Meeting
Dunham Library
Main Street
Whitesboro
February 28
6:30pm -
8:30pm



EARTH

Metal Detecting Club of Central NY • Since 1990



Soon The Snow Will Be Gone!

As the snow melts it will show you old paths and evidence that could lead to treasure. Drive Safely!!!

We have some changes this year that will, we hope, make for a better year.



Photo of the Officers at one of last year's meetings.



Newsletter February 2022

Changes Coming to the Monthly Competition

The monthly finds competition will be going through yet another change making it more exciting and allowing more members to participate. This competition started in April of 2001 by then president the late John Seamon. At that time we only had one simple category, "best item of the month".

Because there were other deserving items being entered, in April of 2002, we split the categories in two... "Coins" and "Other." This continued on until April of 2005 when we felt the need to add another category. With more members hunting beaches and entering rings and jewelry, the club decided to add a "jewelry" category.

Over more recent years three other notable changes in the competition happened. In the spring of 2011, we were beginning to notice more first place ties with an increasing number of members always voting for themselves regardless of what else was on the table. So, in April of that year we eliminated first place ties with a show of hands. The loser was dropped to second place and second place slipped into the third spot.

Another small adjustment in the competition came in 2016. The snow left central New York a month early so we moved the competition up to March. The last notable change came in 2020. With the Coronavirus wreaking havoc on gatherings, we didn't hold meetings much less competitions.

Raffle Table

Beginning this month we will be alternating the 2 raffle contests holding one every other month. One month it will be a 50/50 and the next month will be a raffle drawing. We're just splitting the same size pie in a different way. By doing it this way will make our raffle prizes go further.

At last month's board and officers meeting it was decided to expand the mystery category so it would be on the same plain as the other 3 categories. Beginning this April, instead of the winner of the mystery category being awarded 5 points, there will be 10 points for 1st, 7 for 2nd, 5 for 3rd and a single point for entering, just like the other 3 categories.

Magnet fishing is becoming popular with many YouTube videos popping up online. It was decided to allow iron objects found by magnets to be allowed in the category where applicable.

Dues

When the virus hit 2 years ago many members had already paid their dues for a year that never happened. We allowed members that paid to roll the dues over to the following year. Now, with the virus behind us and holding regular meetings the 2022 dues need to be paid by the meeting in January.

But with that month being in the middle of the winter and no meetings in January, we are allowing a grace period to the meeting in May. If dues are not in by then that member will be dropped from the club. For new members that join in September, prior to the picnic, that payment will also take care of the following year also.

You may also pay by sending payment directly to our Treasurer. Kathy Lenhart, 5770 Norton Road, Vernon Center, 13477. It was also decided to keep the cost the same, \$30.00 for a single and \$35.00 for in-house family.

Life of Peter the Eagle

In the mid-1830s, Peter the bald eagle became a known figure in the city of Philadelphia. Peter resided in the Philadelphia Mint, a contrast from an eagle's typical habitat. Founded in 1792, The Philadelphia Mint was the first mint in the United States and responsible for the production of coins.

During the day Peter would stay indoors and fly around the mint. The workers loved having Peter be alongside them. Every night, Peter was let out and would fly around the city. He would return by morning before the workers arrived.

While perched on a coining press one day, the machine suddenly started. His wing got caught in the coining press and he became badly injured and unable to fly. While many mint workers tried to help Peter, his wing was in too poor of a condition and he ultimately passed away.

To pay homage to Peter, the mint employees took him to get taxidermied. He can be admired with his



wings stretched out at the main entrance of the United States Mint to greet his visitors. He has been on display for over 150 years. Peter is said to have been the model for the image of an eagle on the silver dollars issued from 1836 to 1839 and the Flying Eagle cent of 1856-1858.

Pennsylvania is abundant with forests and water sources, making it a place where many eagles live. The city of Philadelphia, Peter's hometown, is considered a great place to look for eagles due to its proximity to the Delaware River, a place to hunt for prey.

From US Mint

Do you know the place where you can buy EARTH CLUB clothing and accessories? A portion of each sale comes back to the club

Here is the website:

<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/earth-club/>

***Almost Time
to Get Down
and Get
Dirty...***

**Nothing Like
Local Honey,
It Goes On
Anything!
Bob's Honey
is Available at
Our Monthly
Meetings**



The Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club
will host its 26th Annual

Utica Bottle Show & Sale
Sunday May 1, 2022

at the Utica Maennerchor in Marcy, NY

(map available at our web site)

Show location

Utica Maennerchor
5535 Flanagan Road
Marcy, NY 13403
(2 miles from Thruway)

Show details

Show hours: 9 am – 2:30 pm
Admission: \$3
Dealer tables (6 ft.): \$20
Lunch available

Directions from NY Thruway Exit 31

From toll plaza, turn right onto N. Genesee Street.
At 2nd light, turn left onto Riverside Drive.
Go 0.1 mile and stay straight to go onto River Road.
Go 1.4 miles and turn right onto Flanagan Road.
Go 0.3 mile until 5535 Flanagan Road is on the left.

For information and dealer contracts:

Call Peter Bleiberg at (315) 735-5430 or email pmbleiberg@aol.com

or visit www.mohawkvalleybottleclub.com

Mohawk Valley Coin Club's Annual Coin Show Opens the Door to American History

by **Michael Parker**

You would be amazed at the history of the United States that you can learn by exploring our nation's currency.

On Sunday, March 27th you will have a chance to do just that by attending the Mohawk Valley Coin Club's annual Coin Show, which is being held from 10am to 3pm at the Deerfield Fire House, located on the corner of Trenton Road and Fire House Road.

The admission is only \$1.

The Coin Show features over 15 vendors with coins and bills from the United States and from countries around the globe. There will also be door prizes and raffles.

Coin collecting can be an inexpensive hobby as some coins may be purchased for just a couple dollars. You may make some serious investment too. The vendors would be glad to share their knowledge.

They also sell bullion coins. The Chinese Panda can be purchased for under \$30 and some of these bullion coins have risen in value to almost \$500 in about 20 years.

Did you know that the first time the motto "In God We Trust" appeared on a coin was in 1864 and was on a two-cent piece? There was a public demand for the motto on coinage beginning during the Civil War.

During WWII, the metal composition of the Jefferson nickel included 35% silver as they needed nickel in the war effort. They also needed copper, so in 1943 the USA made zinc coated steel cents. There were a few copper 1943 cents made but they are extremely rare. Recently, a boy found one in the change in his school's cafeteria line. The value was estimated to be well over \$1 million dollars. There were also a few 1944 steel cents made. Coinage made from 1944 through 1946 were made from recovered cartridge casings

Did you know the United States never made a penny? A penny is a British coin. The USA only made cents as there are 100 cents in a dollar.

The variety of paper currency is quite remarkable, and their artwork make them very collectible today. Most of the first bills were printed by banks. The highest denomination was the \$100,000 bill, featuring Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Counterfeiting was a problem, not only for paper money, but for coins too. The author of this article, while metal detecting, found an 1823 counterfeit large cent in Steuben and a counterfeit 1839 half dollar in Trenton Falls.

In April 1833, a Town of Trenton toll gater, Newman Smith, took a \$10 counterfeit bill while working the toll gate on the Deerfield/Trenton Town line. The board of directors of the Utica Turnpike Company (the name of the road through Trenton to the Remsen town line) deducted half of the cost of the fake bill from his pay.

The Mohawk Valley Coin Club holds their meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Whitestown Veterans Club, 170 Whitesboro St. in Yorkville beginning at 6:30.



Above is a Spanish Reale from the 1700s minted in Mexico. For many years, Spanish money was popular in international trade. This coin was a "Piece of Eight" some might call it pirate treasure and many still lay at the bottom of the ocean from ship wrecks. If you notice the two pillars on the coin above, they were the origins of the dollar sign that we use today.



News for the Junkman

Welcome back Earth Club treasure hunters (2022) to a new year with all new challenges on the horizon! It's always exciting to begin a new season with hopes of finding the BIG ONE, not specifically speaking of cannon balls per se, well you know what I mean!

Just a reminder to everyone that I will be collecting all your metal junk you have been hoarding this past winter hoping to soon send another generous donation to our charity, Camp Good Days. The heart breaking challenges these kids and their families are facing especially at this time of uncertainty are without a doubt unbelievably overwhelming.

Based on my many years of carpentry and maintenance experience, I am aware of the constant need for repairs and upkeep that is necessary to maintain a safe, efficient and most of all FUN environment for all involved to enjoy. Again, I am pleading with ALL our members who don't regularly participate in our junk collecting effort to PLEASE help us raise those much needed dollars for Camp Good Days. Any questions you may have, please see me at our February meeting.

Now shifting gears to more treasure hunting excitement, I recently had the unique opportunity to visit the Mel Fisher Treasure Museum located in Sebastian Florida on the east coast also known as the Treasure coast. Unfortunately, I did not uncover any gold doubloons but was excited to learn that

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Silver & Gold & Junk Update

Coin value calculations use the 4:23 AM PST silver price for February 23, 2022: Silver \$24.15/oz 0.03 Gold is at \$1903.62 Feb 24, 22 at 6:50 PM

| Description | Face Value | Silver Value |
|--|------------|--------------|
| 1942-1945 Nickel * | \$0.05 | \$1.3587 |
| 1892-1916 Barber Dime | \$0.10 | \$1.7469 |
| 1916-1945 Mercury Dime | \$0.10 | \$1.7469 |
| 1946-1964 Roosevelt Dime | \$0.10 | \$1.7469 |
| 1892-1916 Barber Quarter | \$0.25 | \$4.3674 |
| 1916-1930 Standing Liberty Quarter | \$0.25 | \$4.3674 |
| 1932-1964 Washington Quarter | \$0.25 | \$4.3674 |
| 1892-1915 Barber Half Dollar | \$0.50 | \$8.7349 |
| 1916-1947 Walking Liberty Half Dollar | \$0.50 | \$8.7349 |
| 1948-1963 Franklin Half Dollar | \$0.50 | \$8.7349 |
| 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar | \$0.50 | \$8.7349 |
| 1965-1970 Half Dollar (40% silver) | \$0.50 | \$3.5716 |
| 1878-1921 Morgan Dollar | \$1.00 | \$18.6788 |
| 1921-1935 Peace Dollar | \$1.00 | \$18.6788 |
| 1971-76 Eisenhower \$1 (40% silver) ** | \$1.00 | \$7.6370 |
| 1986-2013 Silver Eagle (.999 Silver) | \$1.00 | \$24.1258 |

* The U.S. Mint issued two compositions of the nickel in 1942. The standard copper-nickel composition used today and the 35% silver version listed here.

** The 40% silver version of the Eisenhower dollar was issued as a collectible only, they are generally not found in circulation. The best way to distinguish the two versions is by weight. The copper-nickel version weighs 22.68 grams, the silver Ike dollar weighs 24.59 grams.

https://www.coinflation.com/silver_coin_values.html

Sorrell Creative Works

Club member Pete Sorrell has started a web page titled Sorrell Creative Works. The site features a variety of items for sale with the theme of artwork that appears on coins and military items. Products range from apparel, homeward, accessories and drinkware which includes anything from stickers, to mugs to t-shirts and the like. www.sorrellcreativeworks.com/

News for the Junkman

Continued from Last Page

one had been recently found just before I arrived. I am planning to give a talk about my experience at a future meeting and will let you all know in advance. As you who are truly addicted to treasure hunting as badly as I am, this is what Mel Fisher always said before each of his many underwater excursions, " Today's The Day ".

My advice is to take his advice seriously! Keep digging and NEVER give up!

Looking forward to seeing you all Monday night!
Your favorite junkman,

Lori

Your

Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

1. Respect the rights and property of others.
2. Observe all laws, whether national, state, or local, and aid law enforcement officials whenever possible.
3. Never destroy priceless historical or archeological treasures.
4. Leave the land and vegetation as it was; fill in all holes.
5. Remove all trash and litter when you leave.
6. All treasure hunters may be judged by the example you set; always conduct yourself with courtesy and consideration of others.



Thank You for Paying Your Dues
Before We Pick You Up By the Heels

Earth Metal Detecting Club of Central New York

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Website Submissions:
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“Get involved, make a difference,”
Former EARTH President John Seamon

Door Prizes

Please take a bit of time to look around the house for something that you could donate as a door prize. Anything new or nearly so can be used. Homemade crafts, books of a historical nature or anything related to our hobby make excellent prizes.

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