



**Next Meeting**  
Mon, June 28, 2021  
Whitestown  
Veteran's Club  
174 Whitesboro St.,  
Yorkville, NY 13495  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

### **Got Treats?**

We forgot to find a volunteer to bring in treats for Monday's meeting. So bring some in, it is better to have too many treats than not enough!!

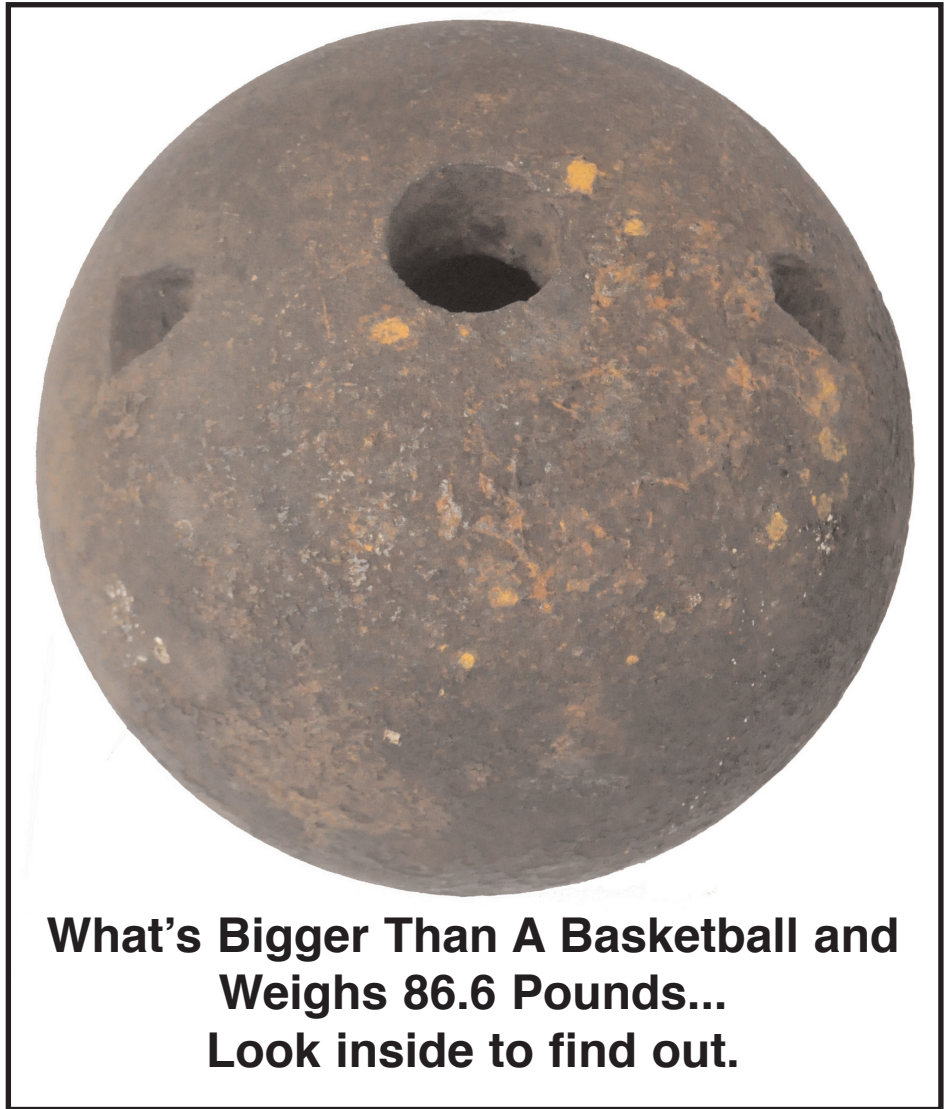
Thank You!

### **Got Money?**

At Monday's meeting we will be discussing the Club Picnic. With are fund-raising at a low point we would like to start selling picnic tickets early so we can give away lots of treasure in the possible 5 hunts. This year it will be \$30 per detector. (We don't charge per person so more people can enjoy the picnic). Dues must be paid to join the fun.

### **Got Prizes?**

We need some nice items to raffle off at the meetings so we can raise some much needed cash.

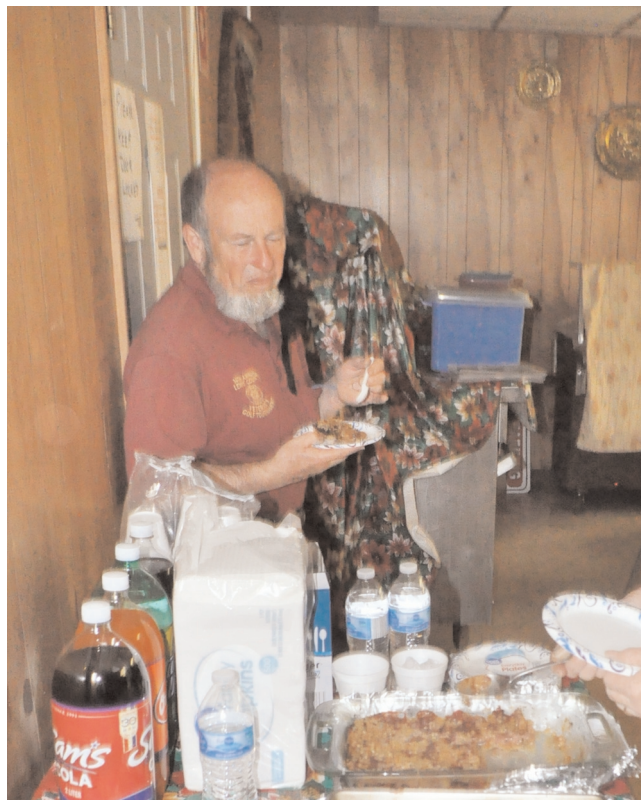


**What's Bigger Than A Basketball and  
Weighs 86.6 Pounds...  
Look inside to find out.**

***- Newsletter -  
June 2021***



**Happy  
4th of July!!**



## Members Finds For May

Mike Wusik: 1796, 1803, 1817, 1838, 1847, U.S. large cents; (2) King George II no dates; 174? King George Hibernia; (2) New Jersey Coppers no dates; 1787 Fugio Cent; 1788 Connecticut Copper; 1880 Canadian 5 cent; 3 Dandy buttons; Crotal bell.

Thomas Ferjet: 1831, 1832 U.S. large cents; 1832 caped bust half dime; flower button.

Lori Fealey: 1838 Agriculture & Commerce \_ penny token (Bank of Montreal) Roosevelt silver dime: 3 wheat-back cents; (2) plated spoon; horseshoe; (4) flat buttons (one fancy gold gilt); Sterling silver pin w/stones; horse-head lucky horseshoe pocket watch fob; small belt buckle; 1951 aluminum dog tag; tiny lead soldier; William J. Burns International Detective Agency, Inc. coat button circa 1920s (found in woods on my property, excellent condition!).

Larry Ehlinger: 1870 2-cent improvised washer; 1943 Mercury dime; 1961 Roosevelt dime; 1918 Chauffeur badge; Silver plate bridal Rosette; Sterling Cherub hat pin top; Sterling salt shaker w.o. top; (2) "No Cash Value" tokens; 1957 aluminum dog tag; brass toe tap; Silver plated Richard Hudnut Deauville compact lid; Silver plate dress pin.

Ed Netzband 4/26/21: 1883 Indian Head Cent; Large Cent (no date); Bag 'O Clad; 6 rings; gold earring w/stones; Bell; flat button; 5 toys; keys; oxen shoe; sun glasses; buckles; pot pipe; phone spigot; spoon handle; spoon bowl; wrench.

Mike Parker - Railroad spike, a pile of clad, silver quarter, two silver dimes, a rosy and a Barber, aluminum dog tag, toy car, pieces of a cowboy cap gun.

Dave Dylis = 1956 Silver Roosevelt Dime - Found at the Proctor club hunt. Yankee Stadium Medal - Found at McCauley Mountain club hunt (believe it is part of a spinner keychain)

**Wanted used Equinox 600/800"  
Also buying silver coins at current  
spot price. My cell number is  
315-750-0556 Or my email  
Jlatham69@gmail.com Or my  
Facebook contact John Latham**

**2021 EARTH CLUB SCAVENGER HUNT** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Objects must be dug during the 2021 calendar year. Total # of Items Found: \_\_\_\_\_

 Toy Plane	 Square Nut	 Homemade Fishing Weight	 Golf Ball	 Metal Detecting Community Svc.
 Watch Fob	 Wheatback Cent	 Barber Coin	 Pewter Spoon Bowl	 Sunglasses
 Ring With Stone	 Seated Liberty Coin	 Clad US Quarter	 Button w/Gold Gilt	 Civil War Token
 Multiple Keys on a Ring	 Silver-Plated Fork	 Silver Thimble	 Hair Fastener, Any Type	 Iron Strap Hinge
 Spanish Reale	 Battery	 Drawer Pull	 Any Silver Half	 Fired Lead Bullet
 Railroad Spike	 Gold Ring	 Charm	 Water Valve Handle	 Military Button
 Bottle or Screw Cap	 US Large Cent	 Ox Knob	 Zipper Pull	 Automobile Emblem
 Whole Sleigh Bell	 Ink Pen	 Buffalo Nickel	 Aluminum Dog Tag	 Bridle Rosette

# Mike Parker Made History with the Memorial Day Cannonball Find.

At the May 24th meeting of the EARTH CLUB, Mike Parker said that he often would find things that reflected the holiday that he would hunt near. The prediction was accurate as on Memorial Day afternoon he uncovered a cannonball.

"I was on a search for the site of where the Continental Army had camped after the battle of Oriskany," he said.

He climbed down a hill that lead him to an area that looked a little like the land of the lost. While swinging his coil as he dodged trees his Whites XLT lit up. Parker turn toward the sound and could see the top of what appeared to be a round ball. However, when he put his detector over the top of the ball the machine went silent.

"I thought it was a round stone but when I touched it with the pinpointer, it went off."

So I got on my hands and knees and rolled it a little in its hole in the ground and could see a hole in the ball with ants coming out of it.

Anyway it was too heavy for Parker to carry, and too heavy to get out of the hole. He had to leave it behind.

The next day he returned with his brother to carry it out. We put it



in a backpack and put a shovel through where the arms would go and the brothers could lift it but it was too heavy to walk with.

"We decided to drag it but the straps broke."

One again they had to leave it behind.

Parker explained that as they walked back to the car empty handed, his phone went off and it was none other than the EARTH CLUB president himself Dave Lofgren with some club business.

"Normally when we talk it is via email or facebook, so it was unusual for him to call. I told him about the find and he told me that the cannonball could be the best find of my lifetime.

"I have been hunting off and on since 1972 and I was a little bullish at the idea that this would be my best find."

Later that afternoon Parker returned with three friends and they brought all the wrong things to carry a cannonball of this size and weight, through the wilderness and up a steep tree-covered hill.

But they brought one thing with them that saved the day and that was Mike Agen, a member of the Sons of the American Legion, a fireman and a former security guard at RFA.

He said, "To hell with all that crap."

He bent over and picked up the cannonball and started the 1/2 mile walk or so out of the woods. He took several breaks. Once he set it on a moss covered stump and the stump started to wither. Then another time he set it on a large rock and when the ball hit



the stone you could feel the vibration travel through the woods.

Anyway we made it back to the real world.

But as President Lofgren said: "this is one of your greatest finds."

Boy, was he right. The excitement began as we stoped at the local gin mill and people were stoping and looking into the truck... to see the cannonball. We had placed it in a spare tire which worked well.

Whenever you find something metal detecting, you start looking it up.

Parker reached out to club member and celebrated metal detectorist friend Peter Sorrell to see if he had any idea of what kind of cannonball it was.

You will remember that Peter Sorrell made national headlines in metal detecting circles in 2019, when he found a 1652 silver Pine Tree Shilling. He also produces metal detecting events on the East

Coast which attracts hundreds of participants. (His next event is on October 8-11, 2021 in Chasy, New York.)

"It is similar to a cannonball I was gifted, if so, it is a Navy cannonball from the Civil War and weighs approximately 96 lbs." Sorrell said.

Sorrell contacted Riley Bryant of Memphis, Tennessee. Riley has found many cannonballs in the battlefield from the Civil War. Pete asked him to see what he thought. Riley has a wealth of knowledge on the subject.

"I was told it was a common shell but still valued about \$250," Sorrell said.

The location of the find may be announced at a later date but it is a possible historic site.

Parker said that he was offered \$200 for the cannonball but wanted to do more research on the find. The EARTH Club suggests that any member who finds an item valued over \$100 on someone's property, the find is split with the landowner.



Farmer Jones declined the offer and let Parker keep the cannonball.

While doing research on the cannonball he observed that there were many headlines on people finding cannonballs. As Mike has a newspaper, he was going to put something in the paper, however, Mike thought putting the find on his front page, readers might think that he is just blowing his own horn. So Parker sent out a news release and sure enough his story ended up on TV, Radio and other newspaper including the front page of the Rome Sentinel.

That is when it got exciting. The question was still how heavy is it? Parker bought a scale, went to the Holland Patent Legion to see if someone could help him weigh it. A crowd gathered and it weighed... drum roll... 86.6 pounds.

The weight help confirmed it was a Civil War era mortar ball with a

range of 2,100 yards, a little over a mile.

The hole is for the fuse, and it looks like it would be a wood drive-in fuse if there's no threads for a brass water cap fuse.

Before long some police showed up at Mike's office but not to arrest Parker but to see the ball and they were interested in joining our club. Several other people are also interested in joining the club because of the attention the find has made.

Four members of the Army National saw the mortar and asked Parker if he was interested in possibly selling the cannonball to the Saratoga Military Museum. Parker said he might be interested but thought later that perhaps club members who have military finds could join together and give a talk and have a display at the museum. The mortar is a museum quality piece so the story isn't over yet.



**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/>



Mike Wusik, Best Coin, with his Fugio cent



**Best Jewelry**

Winner: Larry Ehlinger  
 Entry: 1800s Sterling Cherub Motif Hatpin top  
 Location Found: 1850s Occupied Homesite Lee Center, NY  
 Detector Used: Whites Classic III W/mid-sized closed coil  
 Value: \$100.00 with attached pin  
 2nd Place (no information)  
 3rd Place (no information)  
 Number of Entries (no information)

**Best Other:**

Winner: Larry Ehlinger  
 Entry: 1918 NYS Chauffeurs Badge  
 Location Found: 1850s Occupied Homesite. Lee Center, NY  
 Detector Used: Whites Classic III W/mid-sized closed coil  
 Value: Collectable  
 2nd Place (no information)  
 3rd Place (no information)  
 Number of Entries (no information)



Randy Cowles won in the "Best Mystery" category anything made of lead and she had a Net Weight

## 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, home-ward, accessories and drinkware which includes anything from stickers, to mugs to t-shirts and the like. [www.sorrellcreativeworks.com/](http://www.sorrellcreativeworks.com/)

Club Hunt of 56 acres of freshly cut farm fields in Remsen

The fields will soon become a solar farm so this may be our last chance before it is turned over to the contractors.

The fields are around the Remsen Town Barn (the old Buck Farm) at 10761 Buck Rd.

The hunt will be Saturday, 12 June and run from 9 until 5.

Contact Bob Thomas with questions at 315-796-7069



## Pull Tab Challenge- 2021

By Larry Ehlinger

When I first joined the EARTH club back in 1996 our club held contests to see how many ring pull tabs one could find in a season. Parks, playgrounds, schoolyards, and ball fields had a staggering number of these tabs buried. They are so numerous that most metal detectors have a "pull tab" icon on their displays. Detectorists have dug countless thousands of these little pesky nuisances over last quarter century, but it seems that we haven't put a dent in their numbers.

As soon as the snow melts and the ground thaws, the EARTH Club will once again be holding a Pull Tab Challenge! Here is a list of the rules: (1) We will be counting ONLY complete vintage ring pull tabs. The "beaver tail" section and the "ring" part, often found separately, cannot be counted. It must be a complete pull tab. The current square tabs that we're all used to seeing today, which were designed to stay on the cans, will not be counted. We've even added a little twist to the game. At the start of the season, every member can submit a guess on the total number of pull tabs they think the entire club will find this year.

This contest is based on the honor system so we ask that you don't team up with another member... it's every man or woman for themselves. This will be fun and we're anxious to see just how many tabs our little club can remove from the ground. We will be awarding prizes down to at least 5 places and maybe all the way to the tenth place. The prize list has not been established yet but could include U.S. mint sets, silver rounds, Franklin & Kennedy halves, along

with detector-related equipment. Members may turn in their Pull tabs at our November meeting or at our

December Christmas Party when the awards will be handed out.

# Silver and Gold and Junk Update

## Gold Coin Update

By Larry Ehlinger

Two months I was lucky enough to have one of my numbers picked from the squares board raffle, and won the prize of a 2\_ dollar Indian Head gold coin. The Indian Head 2\_ dollar coin weighed 4.18 grams, was .900 pure gold, and was minted from 1908 – 1929.

According to the 2020 Red book if the coin was in at least a VF-20 condition, with a readable date, it would have had a value of \$300. However, the coin was encapsulated in a benzal and worn on a chain around the neck. Over the years of continual wear, obliterated some of the date, "Nineteen" was all that showed clear. Because of this damage the only value the coin had was in scrap.

I boxed up the coin and sent it off the Midwest Refineries in Michigan. Ten days later I received a check for \$234.00, which was 95% of the gold value of the coin. A paper accompanied the check which had the breakdown in figures. It said that the benzal was only "gold-filled" and discarded.

## Silver Coin Prices as of June 23, 2021

1942-1945	War Nickel (35% Silver) *	- \$1.4764
1916-1945	Mercury Dime	- \$1.8982
1946-1964	Roosevelt Dime	- \$1.8982
1916-1930	Standing Liberty Quarter	- \$4.7455
1932-1964	Washington Quarter	- \$4.7455
1916-1947	Walking Liberty Half Dollar	- \$9.4909
1948-1963	Franklin Half Dollar	- \$9.4909
1964	Kennedy Half Dollar (90% Silver)	- \$9.4909
1965-1970	Kennedy Half (40% Silver)	- \$3.8807
1878-1921	Morgan Silver Dollar	- \$20.295
1921-1935	Peace Silver Dollar	- \$20.295
1971-1976	Eisenhower (40% Silver) Dollar **	- \$8.298
1986-2021	American Silver Eagle (99.9% Silver)	- \$26.214

<http://coinapps.com/silver/coin/value/>

## Lori Fealey's Junkman's Corner

Welcome back! Slowly but surely, we are gaining momentum with our club's exciting activities on the horizon! Summer is here & it looks like maybe we could have a mask burning ceremony someday soon! We also hope to return to the Dunham Library ASAP and start feeling normal again! I just wanted to remind everyone that your junkman is still in business and collecting metal for

Camp Good Days and Special Times. Bring anything metal to our monthly meetings and I will turn it into cash! Please separate any aluminum from your pile and rinse any food cans, this saves me precious time. Whatever you donate helps tremendously.

Thank you all and see you soon!

~ **Junkman Lori**



# Tips for Successful Hunting Sites

## Changeable Signals

"The good things in life are not to be had singly, but come to us with a mixture." - Charles Lamb

Some of the most interesting finds come from objects that produce ambiguous signals on our detector indicators. These are the items that defy electronic dis-



crimination, requiring us to bring out the heavy artillery, the most potent form of discrimination - digging.

An example of this dithering by a microprocessor-controlled detector was a signal I received at an old playground in East Utica. During the recent installation of a modern plastic jungle gym the ground had been turned over, re-spread, and re-graded. At one spot I got a reading that wavered continually between cent and pull-tab, then settled awhile on a marker about halfway between the two indications.

The depth indication also varied inconsistently between two and four inches. Then, suddenly, as though it were forced to make a permanent decision, the display produced a steady reading of pull-tab at two inches. (Had I kept scanning, chances are that the reading would have begun to waver again.)

I dug down about three inches for this strange item and would up with a clean pull-tab, a rusty bottle cap, and an 1864 Indian Head cent with spots of greenish-blue corrosion, all within an inch of each other.

Now, I ask you: "What right do we have to demand that our detectors give us an absolute, binding, and correct decision in a situation like that? I was glad that it did act that way, and even gladder that I had decided to dig. From then on, I made it a practice to dig all ambivalent signs, and usually emerged with a good find. Sometimes the fluctuation was caused by multiple items close together, other times the item was made of an unusual metal combined with a common one, and at other times the indecision was probably caused by corrosion and tarnish.

When you get a nervous reading, it pays to dig.

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

**Contact Information:**

**Lost Items:**

**Larry Ehlinger**

**(lpehlinger@hotmail.com)**

**David Lofgren (dlof20@hotmail.com)**

**Membership Information:**

**David Lofgren (dlof20@hotmail.com)**

**Newsletter Submissions:**

**David Lofgren (dlof20@hotmail.com)**

**Website: earthmetaldetecting.com**

**Website Submissions:**

**dlof20@hotmail.com**

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**Whitestown Veteran's Club**

**174 Whitesboro St.,**

**Yorkville. NY 13495**

**Meeting 6:30pm - 8:30pm**