

Upcoming Events

Fellowship Hunt

Join us on Saturday, August 20 for a club Fellowship Hunt. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Meijer parking lot on West Main (meet in the Meijer lot near Arby's) and proceed as a group to the hunt location. While we are not disclosing the exact location of the hunt, the drive will only take about 25 minutes, and be assured that there is plenty of land to hunt and a couple of small water sites. This land has been used for a long time, so there should be some older coins and relics just waiting to be dug up!

If you are not able to meet at the designated time, please talk to Mike W.

Fall Seeded Hunt

September 24-25 at Flywheelers in South Haven

Camp at Flywheelers! (see John D for details)

Buffalo Nickel hunt & campfire on Saturday evening!

Sunday Events:

Church service with Al

Pancake Breakfast

Kids Hunt (12 & under)

Potluck Lunch

Seeded Hunts, possibly on the Beach

Door Prizes

See Brian M. at either the August or September meeting to sign up.

If you have door prizes that you would like to donate, please see Mike W.

This is always a fun event and a great way to get to know others in our club! Join us even if you don't plan to hunt (no cost if you don't hunt)! The fellowship always makes it worth the drive to South Haven!

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Tickets

Our current **raffle** item is a Garrett Ace 250 with an extra coil.

Tickets can be purchased at club meetings during the break. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. This is a "members only" raffle. We should be able to raffle this off at either the August or September meeting!

Tickets for the monthly **Silver Dollar** coins and **50/50** drawings can be purchased at the front table each month. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 per category. Half of the money collected for the 50/50 goes to the club. The other portion is split in half and two winners are drawn. There are also 2 silver dollar winners each month.

Homework Pays By Hal D.

Ahhh! The familiar tone of a lost coin!

We were camping at our favorite State Park and our granddaughters had been helping me in our search for loose change as we had done for years. It is a tradition that at the end of the camping week, we take the money we find and buy ice cream cones as a treat, and this week started out to be quite promising.

On Monday I was alone on the beach and had just taken out my machine when I was approached by two park rangers. They promptly informed me that I was not allowed to metal detect in the park. Now, I had been to the SWMSS website and had linked to the State Park section to see if and where, I could search so I thought I was abiding by the rules and told the rangers that. They told me things had changed and that I was no longer allowed to use my detector there. They said that the state had designated certain parks "historical sites" and that they did not want people digging up artifacts.

Well, needless to say, I was bummed! All that evening I stewed about not being able to do what we had done for 30 years. Our grandchildren were so excited about hunting with me and now I could not share that fun activity with them. After awhile, though, I remembered that the park manager met with the campers each Wednesday and I decided to ask about the change in rules.

Wednesday came and several of the campers sat down with a cup of coffee and their questions for the park manager. He was very cordial so I felt comfortable in asking him about

the changes. He told us that it was true that the park had been designated a historical site and they did not want artifacts dug up and taken out of the park. I said I thought they would want artifacts brought to light to learn more about the park's past. He had only been at this park for one month and said that previously he had been at another park for ten years. In all his time there no one had turned in any artifacts. I told him that maybe in all that time no one had dug any up and then showed him some of the trash that I had picked up and said that metal detectorists are helping to clean up while they search. He thanked me for that and said he appreciated my input.

We talked some more and he said that there still were designated areas to hunt and that he would get me a map so I would know where they were. A couple of hours later I met him in his office and went over the map. It was the one that was on the link at our website! I had been correct in where I was hunting. I told him of my experience with the rangers and he said he would talk to them.

My brother-in-law has been my camping and detecting companion for all of those 30 years. After I had the map he and I carefully went over it again and compared notes on the discussion with the park manager. He then went back to that site by himself and started to hunt. Sure enough, the ranger came up to him and told him he could not use his detector in the park. Well, my brother-in-law was well armed then. He told the ranger that he had just looked at the map and he was able to hunt there. The ranger told him that things had changed and he was not allowed to detect. My brother-in-law then said, "We talked to your boss this morning and found out what we could do. I would suggest you do the same!"

The ranger stalked off, got into his vehicle and left. My brother-in-law went on down the beach, crossed over a river and was out on a point of sand at the end of the river when he saw the ranger parking his vehicle again. The ranger got out and came to where he was hunting. The next thing he did was a pleasant shock. He apologized and said he was sorry for any difficulty he may have caused. He had worked at three different parks before this and the rules varied at each one.

The rest of the week ended up being quite successful. And, yes, we DID have ice cream with our grandchildren.

The moral is that it does, in fact, pay to do your homework!

Find of the Month Winners

Jewelry

1. 14K white gold ring w/5 diamonds (Eric A.)
2. 2013 class ring (John D.)
3. Sterling silver chain bracelet (Steve J.)
4. 10K gold ring w/birthstone & 2 diamonds (Rick B.)
5. 14K gold wedding ring set w/19 diamonds & 5 sapphires (Mike W.)
6. Platinum anniversary ring w/42 diamonds (Bruce W.)
7. 14K bracelet (John A.)
8. 10K engagement ring w/diamonds (Ace C.)
9. 14K gold chain (Deb W.)

The winner was the platinum ring found by Bruce W.

Coins

1. 1941 Silver Britain 2 Shilling (Steve J.)
2. 1900 V Nickel (Tom H.)

The winner was the V Nickel found by Tom H.

Winners!

Our Fishbowl Silver Cache winner was Keith M but he was absent so it carries over to next month.

Our silver dollar winners were Gordon S & Garrett A!

Our 50/50 winners were Andy G & Rick S!

Congratulations, everyone!

We have purchased the new projector for the club. If you are interested in learning how to set up and run our monthly FOTM slide shows, be there by 6:30 on Tuesday for a brief training session.

Fob, Badge & Token

1. 1955 Kalamazoo dog tag (Mike W.)

The winner was the dog tag found by Mike W.

Most Unusual

1. Old harmonica (Mike W.)
2. Fishing Reel (Carlisle F.)
3. Sheffield steel knife (Eric A.)
4. Object with degrees on it (Ace C)
5. Old metal Lucky Strike cigarette case top (Deb W.)

The winner was the cigarette case top found by Deb W.

Congratulations!

Keep finding all those great items!



We have a club member with a great need and will be taking up a collection at the August meeting. If you would like to contribute, just drop it in the bucket as it is passed.

One of the things that I love about this club is that we are here for each other!

August 2011

The Scoop News
6692 Whitehorse Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49048



Look us up on the web!

www.swmss.org

The Scoop News is the official newsletter of the Southwest Michigan Seek & Search Club. The newsletter is edited by Anna M.

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Plainwell Community Center.

From U.S. 131, take exit 49A and go east on M-89. go through three traffic lights, then another 1/8 mile. Turn right into the drive just before the second set of railroad tracks. The building is near the road on the south side of M-89. Parking is in the rear of the building. Enter on the west side.

Meetings are open to the public.

Things You Should Know...

We are considering a club outing, probably in October or early November, possibly to the Air Zoo and pizza afterwards. More details will be available in September. If you have any comments or suggestions on this, please let one of the board members know.

We are drafting a letter to be sent to the Michigan State Parks to make them more aware of what our club does and to offer our services in the recovery of lost items. If you would like to be contacted to help in a recovery, please let Mike W. know and he will add you to the contact list for this.

Remember to continue to bring in your pull tabs! You can drop them in the big jar on the table at the front of the room at club meetings.