

# The Scoop News

## *I Have Always Enjoyed Christmas...* By Brian M.

*I have always enjoyed Christmas; the general festivities of the season bring a smile to my face. Perhaps that is why I enjoy metal detecting so much, it is similar to Christmas. The joy of un-wrapping (digging up) the next find, the suspense of waiting to see what you have found.*

*It always amazing the things we find. I have been in the club for four years now and I am constantly amazed at the variety of things that are found. Today's offering of gifts ideas for Christmas is equally amazing. We are bombarded with commercials, generally starting before Thanksgiving, trying to tempt us to buy for our loved ones such things as:*

1. Chia Pets- now in Presidential Figures. First they only offered the Obama head, but within a short time they started offering Washington and Lincoln.
2. The Clapper- now with a remote control in case you are too tired to slap your hands together.
3. The Snuggie- This is a blanket with sleeves. According to my daughter, who has a roommate that has one, these are only good for generating static electricity. Enough of a charge to jump start a compact car or your old Uncle Bob's erythematic heart.
4. The Eggie- because the perfect hard boiled egg seems to be as elusive as the fountain of youth. Really, how hard is it to cook and peel a hard boiled egg anyway?

*There are a ton of others, but you get the idea. And if you are one the few that have bought one of these gifts, I'm sorry. My point is, what happened to gifts of thought and of love. My wife, much to the embarrassment of our children, has every piece of clay projects they made during Elementary School. A couple of these are barely discernible shapes of something that only a mother could identify. Yet she loves them and could tell you what they are and when they were made.*

*Anyone remember the movie "Robots" and the character Rodney Copperpot? He had a creed he lived by: "See a Need, Fill a Need". What happened to the gift of service, doing something nice for someone, even a complete stranger. I like to say "Random Acts of Kindness, Not Blindness".*

*We have many generous servant-minded club members and it makes me think of Christmas. I have learned over the years that a gift is a blessing, both to the giver and the receiver. I have witnessed within our club this blessing time and time again. So I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of you for being a blessing.*

*My wish for all of you is that this season is one of blessings both given and received. So have a Merry Christmas, the season of our Savior, the greatest blessing of all.*

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### Tickets

*Our current raffle item is an 1812 bust half dollar. 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. Chances are pretty good that this will be given away at the December meeting!*

### FOTY

*We will have our annual Find of the Year event at the January meeting. You can only enter one item and it has to be something that you entered during 2011 (though it did not have to win in its category). Be thinking now about what you might want to bring for this next month!*

## *Thank You for a Wonderful Club Experience* By Hal D.

"Oh, Grandpa," she exclaimed. "Look at all those treasures!" We were looking at the displays of metal detector finds that were laid out on the tables and my granddaughter, Kate, was excited to see each one. Her eyes danced and sparkled as she inspected bracelets, buckles and bullets. It didn't matter that most of the articles were broken or corroded or incomplete. They were treasures to her and her smile (missing the front two teeth) radiated to all around her as she simply enjoyed what each person brought to show.

My little container of clad coins and children's jewelry and odds and ends were there, too. Club members were browsing back and forth as well when Leslie stopped to look at what we had brought. She and Kate had something in common...their striking red hair. Leslie greeted Kate and then we chatted a bit. I told her about an issue I was having trying to clean coins. She freely gave me a tip to try next time. Thank you, Leslie, for being friendly to Kate and for sharing a good tip with a fellow club member.

As we continued our tour of the table, Diane came over and greeted us. I introduced Kate to her and told her that Kate and her family were moving to Parchment. Diane asked where, and when I told her the street, she named the people who owned the house! What an unexpected surprise. She had been *in* the very house that my granddaughter would be moving in to. More friendly chat followed. Thank you, Diane, for being so cordial.

This was typical as the night progressed. Tom teased Kate with her red hair and cheesy grin. John W. paid special attention to her all evening. Everyone who came by made her feel special that night. Thank you for the friendliness of the club as a whole.

When we got into the meeting, Kate could hardly sit patiently. "Grandpa, is this when we get to vote?" Her brother Ben had been at the previous meeting and told her about being able to vote for his favorite find of the month and she was anxiously looking forward to her chance.

"Not yet," I answered. First we do some business and then we vote. Kate was ok with that and listened attentively as there was mention of club members with special needs and the jar of pull tabs to help the hospital. She liked that these people cared for others like that.

Finally, the find of the month. "Here is your voting slip, Kate."

"I can vote for any one I like?"

"Yes, any one you like," I assured her.

"Oh, good," she said with anticipation as the slide show began.

First the jewelry, then the coins, then fob, badge & token. And lastly, most unusual. After each category Kate would ask, "Is it O.K. if I put down this number?" Each time I let her know she could vote for what she liked. What a thrill for her!

The voting came to an end and it was time for snacks. Kate liked that part, but she especially liked the veggie pizza. "This is good!" she beamed. "I'm going to tell my brothers about this." Thank you, Pizza Maker!

Shortly, it was back to see who won "Find of the Month". Even though her choices didn't win, she was very happy for those who did.

Then, ah yes, then...something wondrous happened. John called Kate up to help him with the drawings. How much fun she had with that! After each draw she would look at me with wondering eyes and arched eyebrows to see if she had drawn my number. Time after time I had to smile and shake my head, no. It was a fun little game we played that added to the pleasure of the night. Thank you, John!

Then, the night was over. It was time to go home. Kate watched as we all put away our chairs and collected our things and then we went to our van. On the way home, Kate, sitting in the back had a sudden thought. "Grandpa," she asked, "did you remember to get your treasure?"

I took a quick glance in the mirror at her tired but happy face and thought about our evening together. "Yes, Kate," I answered, "I did!"

As I thought about all of this later, it crossed my mind about how grateful I was to have something that was truly family oriented to take my grandchildren to. People were very friendly and the atmosphere was truly wholesome. Thank you to the club leadership, and to the club members for providing such a nice environment. I am sure that it is appreciated by all.

## *Find of the Month Winners*

### Jewelry

1. European gold ring WWII era (Ron J)
2. 14K gold children's ring (Jason W)
3. Victorian brooch (Mike W)

The winner was the ring found by Ron J.

### Coins

1. 1865 2-cent piece (Jason W)
2. 1907 Indian head penny, 2-1910 wheat pennies, 1917 mercury dime (Lester R)
3. 1934P walking liberty silver half dollar (Ron J)
4. 1942 walking liberty half dollar (Tracy O)
5. Ger1935 aluminum German coin (Charlie T)
6. 1868 shield nickel (Anne K)
7. 50 piastres Egyptian coin (Mike W)
8. 1925 German reichspennig (Ace C)
9. 1901 Indian head penny (Myrl M)

The winner was the coin found by Jason W.

### Fob, Badge & Token

1. 1950-60's heads & tails token (Jason W)
2. 1920's Patterson & Fletcher good luck token (Lester R)
3. German Luftwaffe rank insignia lapel pin (Ron J)
4. Vicksburg invitational track/cross country medal (Mike W)
5. Foster, Martin Co token (Anne K)
6. Girl Scout pin (Hal D)
7. Petoskey parking meter token (John M)
8. Girl Scout pin (Ace C)

The winner was the lapel pin found by Ron J.

### Most Unusual

1. Thimble (Anne K)
2. German dog tag (Ace C)
3. Old brass or copper buckle (Charlie T)
4. Tootsie toy car (Lester R)
5. Police/Fireman suspender clip (Rick B)
6. Play money dime (Hal D)
7. Tootsie toy car (Mike W)

The winner was the dog tag found by Ace C.

*Congratulations!*

*Keep finding all those great items!*

### *Winners!*

Our Fishbowl Silver Cache winner was Marj R but she was not there so it carries over to next month.

Our silver dollar winners were John M & David F!

Our 50/50 winners were Rick B & Al H!

Turkey winners were Tom L & Mike B!



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The Scoop News  
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**Look us up on the web!**

**[www.swmss.org](http://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.

## *December Club Christmas Meeting*

At our December meeting we will have our annual buy-sell-trade-show night. Bring family-friendly items only.

We will also have our annual silent auction. We will have coins, tokens and much more available for auction. You can bid on items during the break.

Speaking of the break, please bring food items to share if you are able. We will have an extended time of fellowship at this month's meeting.

We will also give away two turkeys again as well as many other door prizes.

Hope to see you there!



We are planning a club potluck for Sunday, February 26, at the Plainwell Community Center. Watch for more information in January!