



The Scoop News

January 2011

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Winteritis By Brian M.

Holy crow would you look at it snow. Here's hoping that this newsletter finds you dug out from the Blizzard of 2011. What a bunch of hype. First off they (the nay-sayer weather people) started in on Saturday before the storm. The whining and worrying continued up until the first snow flake fell on Tuesday night. Excuse me, but this is Michigan, and it is winter time in Michigan. Add the two together and you come up with snow. Throw in that large body of water west of here and you get lake effect snow.

When did we Michiganders become such a bunch of pansies? I remember when I was a kid, we looked forward to snow. Sometimes it was more fun to figure out if we would get enough to close school, then to actually play in the stuff. Now the weather blah-blahers spoil the surprise for us days ahead of time.

But I digress from a more serious topic; one that commonly affects most metal detectists. A condition that could be prevented if a little effort was made before things got out of hand. I am referring to cabin fever. Symptoms can range from talking about how far away spring is to standing in front of the window lovingly caressing your detector. Fear not, for this condition can be reversed or even prevented with just a few simple actions.

For example, I know there are a few hoarders out there that have saved everything they have detected since starting the hobby. Why not create a display of one type of item, like dog licenses? I recently saw a picture from a fellow

detectist of the dog licenses he found last summer. Quite the difference in size, style and color. Plus reading the different names was interesting. The very first dog license I found had the name Splat on it. Pretty darn funny, and slightly disturbing. With our display table looking a little thin this time of year, what a great opportunity to show off some of the stuff you have found.

Does your collection of finds resemble a pack rat's flea market booth? Organize your finds and score points with your spouse in the process. You can even do it under the guise of "going down memory lane".

What about all the old coins you have accumulated. With silver and gold at all time highs, now would be a good time to cash in. Who knows, you might even have enough for that new machine you have been wanting. Same thing with all that jewelry you have found. Seriously, how many hoop earrings can you hold onto? More importantly, why? I currently have a pile on my workbench that I am going through, double checking for stamps. If there is no gold or silver, I am going to get rid of them. There must be close to 75 of them down there.

What about doing research for new dig sites? I know I probably just spoiled someone's secret, but there are a ton of old spots waiting to be discovered. It just takes a little research to find them. An afternoon spent in the

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

A reminder that if you have not yet paid for your 2011 membership, please do so at the beginning of the February meeting. You must do this if you want to be eligible for the club benefits such as FOTM entries, door prizes, seeded hunt, etc.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker this month will be "Our Club's Coin Guy" - Carl Tackett from T&W Coins. I'm sure he will have many interesting things to share with us! See you on Tuesday!

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Winteritis (continued from page 1)

library could pay off huge dividends in the spring time.

Here is another idea. Create a picture using your finds. I remember one month in the near distant past, where someone in the club made a "picture" of a man metal detecting using the good and the trash finds they had that month. There is a creative lad from Nova Scotia that every winter takes pictures a little carved figurine and his metal detecting finds and creates an adventure story for our

amusement. Very funny stuff.

You could get together with like minded people and start an intervention group. "Hello my name is Brian and I love to metal detect." If an intervention group seems too personal, then take the same like minded people and meet for coffee and tell tall tales of metal detecting. "I swear that dime was twelve inches deep and buried under a rusty nail".

Remember people, if January was a day of the week it would be Wednesday. So in terms of

this winter, we have made it through hump day and are well on our way to the weekend. That's spring and summer for those of you having a tough time with the analogy.

As they say in the Old Testament, gird up your loins. February as fast waning and March is just around the corner. To make this month's meeting interesting, let's have a "just for fun" contest. Bring in your collection of detected hoop earrings. Let's see how many you have amassed!

Club Shirts

We will be taking orders over the next couple of months for the new club shirts. These will be pre-order only. They will either be navy blue or grey.

- T-Shirts \$15.00
- Polo Shirts \$20.00
- Hoodies \$28.00

If you would like to order any of the available items, please complete this form and turn it in with payment to either Mike or Brian at the front table.

Shirt Style	Size	Cost
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Total Amount Due:	_____	_____

Perfect Attendance

The following people had perfect attendance in 2010:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Eric Andrews | Billy Knapp |
| Dave & Doris Arndt | Martin Koziol |
| Leslie Beilby | Wayne Marvin |
| Mike Berghuis | Brian & Anna Matecun |
| Steve Brown | John Newman |
| Rick Burch | Tim Petersen |
| Gene Carruthers | Gordon Sampsell |
| Bill Drake | Linda Sherwood |
| John Dudley | George Skinner |
| Henry Hoadley | Charlie Turner |
| Alex Ignatiadis | Mike Walker |
| Steve Jellison | Deb Wittkowski |

*Find of the Month Winners***Jewelry**

1. 10K gold ring w/pearl-like setting (Keith P)
2. 14 K gold engagement ring w/stone (Ace C)

The winner was the 14K ring found by Ace C.

Coins

1. 1948S wheat cent (John W)

The winner was the wheat cent found by John W.

Fob, Badge & Token

(no entries this month)

Most Unusual

1. Hearing Aid w/battery (Carlisle F)

The winner was the hearing aid found by Carlisle F.

FIND OF THE YEAR (2010)

1. 14K gold Art Carved ring w/4 diamonds (Mike W)
2. 14K gold ring w/15 diamond chips & purple stone (Ron J)
3. 1813 silver Spanish real (Brian M)
4. 1875S 20-cent piece (Eric A)
5. Titanium upper dental plate (Tim P)
6. Silver sewing thimble child size 2 (Dave A)
7. Wizard snake (Billy K)
8. 1880 National hardware padlock (John D)
9. 1851 Eagle sword belt buckle (Rick B)

The winner was the 20-cent piece found by Eric A.

Congratulations!

Keep finding all those great items!

Winners!

Our Fishbowl Silver Cache winner was Tom B!

Our silver dollar winners were John N & Alex I!

Our 50/50 winners were Keith P & Steve J!

Congratulations, everyone!

Detecting Humor...

After detecting a strong target and having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, a New York detector user found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, a California detector user dug to a depth of 20 feet and shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: "California detector users discovery of a 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later. A local newspaper in Michigan reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Houghton Lake, MI. Bubba, a self-taught detector user, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Bubba has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Michigan had already gone wireless."

Just makes you proud to live in (or be from) Michigan, don't it?

February 2011

The Scoop News
6692 Whitehorse Ave.
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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 Matecun.

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...

Winter Banquet

Sunday, February 20

5:00 p.m.

Old Country Buffet

(on West Main in Kalamazoo)

Be sure to join us for a great time of food, fun and fellowship. There will be prizes and detecting/treasure related trivia questions. This is always a great time for families - be sure to bring yours!

The Spring Seeded Hunt will be

May 21-22.

Watch for more details soon!