

The Scoop News

2010 Christmas Party By Mike W.

As I look out the window while typing this, I can only see about 100 yards as the big fluffy flakes are falling at a good pace. The ground is frozen, but I want to go detecting. Mark my word: I am going soon!

I hope everyone made it home ok from the last club meeting. It was an icy experience with that freezing rain but Shelby and I made it home at 10:45 pm.

I also hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas party. It is my favorite club meeting every year. Of all the Christmas Parties the club has had, I have to say that this one was not my favorite. I try hard to finish the business fast so we can have a longer time of fun and fellowship.

At last month's meeting we got bogged down a little with the By-Laws vote. Then with the Miscellaneous Category discussion and several votes, it took some time to actually get to our party. Don't get me wrong, business needed to be taken care of so we did, but it is obvious that the club is split right down the middle on this issue.

One of the board members called me on my way home from the last board meeting. He shared with me that maybe the right thing to do

would have been to discuss it some then table it until the next meeting so everyone would have time to think about it. That would have also given the board time to be sure that the vote was done correctly under the new By-Laws. What do they say about hindsight? Either way, we took a vote and the decision was made.

A club member sent me an email and shared with me that maybe we were not promoting other forms of treasure hunting by eliminating the Miscellaneous Category. I pondered his thoughts and sent the same email to the rest of the board. We had a lengthy discussion on this matter at the board meeting.

After hearing each of the board members thoughts on the matter, we concluded that the club does promote other forms of treasure hunting. We have speakers come in and talk about subjects like privy digging, gold panning, shipwreck diving, geo-caching, etc... We also encourage everyone to bring in their treasures each month to display, whether it is from detecting or not.

If you asked most people in

the club, they would tell you that we are a metal detecting club. I know that many of us do many other forms of treasure hunting. That being said, as always the board would like to encourage each of you that hunt treasure in other ways to bring in your finds and share them with us all. Many of us enjoy taking the time before the club meeting or during the break to look at the displays that people have set up. You could even offer to be a speaker one month to share with us your other treasure hunting experiences.

Lastly I would like to apologize for the time that was taken from the Christmas party. I hope you had a great time of fellowship that evening.

Thank you to all who brought snacks, and donated auction items and door prizes. Thank you to those who bid on the auction items, to those who set up before the meeting, and to those who helped clean up at the end of the meeting. We couldn't run this club without you!

I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting.

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FOTY

This month we will vote on the FOTY. To enter an item, it must be something that had been entered in FOTM in 2010 (though the item does not have to be a winning entry). Only one entry per person and only one overall winner will be selected.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

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

My Expensive Wheat Cent With a Valuable Lesson by John W.

A beautiful 55 plus degree afternoon in late December prompted me to swing my coil. I chose a nearby City Park and promptly was absorbed in the joy of the hunt. After several junk targets and a memorial cent, I decided to try the border areas of the park where it is dense vegetation in the growing season.

Stumbling on a good signal of \$.50 to \$1.00 I proceeded to remove the leaf cover and dig an indicated 6" deep hole. After reaching 12+ inches I found a large rusted flattened old coffee can. On the way down I had cut

many small roots. I proceeded to look around other spots that I thought might hold promise and did find a clad dime. My best find was a 1948 wheat cent.

The next day I started to develop a small rash on my digging wrist. By the third day I was in the doctor's office getting treated for poison ivy. The cost of a doctor visit and a prescription makes my wheat cent an expensive find! A few days on steroids should heal me.

Now, I know to watch for these

natural hazards in the summer but never thought about it being catching in the winter. The fact that roots still carry the poison oil is one I hope to not soon forget. I am sharing this so others can learn from my experience.

I hope you are thinking and preparing for spring and doing research for your 2011 treasure hunting locations - it will be here soon and we need to be ready. YouTube videos of others on hunts is educational and enjoyable on these dog days. Have a blessed New Year.

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:	_____	_____

Winter Banquet

Save the date!

Sunday, February 20

2:00

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 given for detecting & treasure hunting related trivia questions. This is always a great time for families - be sure to bring yours!

Find of the Month Winners

Jewelry

1. Spill of costume earrings & rings (Ace C.)
2. 14K gold ring w/opal & diamonds (David S.)
3. 14K gold ring w/diamonds (Lester R.)
4. 10 K ladies gold ring w/stones (John A.)
5. Silver "truth" ring (Jean B.)
6. Silver ring w/6 stones & 3 black stones (Steve P.)

The winner was the opal & diamond ring found by David S.

Coins

1. Undated standing liberty quarter (Anne K.)
2. 1864 two cent piece (John A.)
3. 1936 silver Washington quarter (Ace C.)
4. 1840 seated liberty half dime (Keith M.)
5. 1865 Indian head penny (Brian N.)
6. 1905 V nickel (Mike W.)
7. 1912 Wheat penny (Lester R.)
8. 1866 Indian head penny (David S.)
9. 1882 Indian head penny (Ron M.)
10. 1911 V nickel (John D.)

The winner was the 1840 seated liberty half dime found by Keith M.

Fob, Badge & Token

1. 1910 Henry Feis Furniture Co. token (John A.)
2. 1928 Michigan chauffer's license (Keith M.)
3. 1966 Michigan dog license (Lester R.)

The winner was the chauffer's license found by Keith M.

Most Unusual

1. Bung seal (John W.)
2. Key hole plate (Ace C.)
3. Oxford silver plate spoon (Mike W.)
4. 1820's Jacksonian button (John A.)
5. Trombone mouthpiece (Lester R.)
6. Chevrolet insignia (John D.)
7. Partial Roy Rogers cap gun (Steven P.)

The winner was the Jacksonian button found by John A.

Most Unusual

1. 1969 Lincoln cent love token (Dave A.)
2. Silver color earring (Deb W.)
3. Kalamazoo Bottling Works bottle (Greg S.)
4. 1951 Michigan hunting license (Brian N.)

The winner was the Kalamazoo bottle found by Greg S.

Congratulations!

Keep finding all those great items!

Winners!

Our Fishbowl Silver Cache winner was Tom H. but he was not present so it carries over to next month!

Our silver dollar winners were Neil H. & John D.!

Our 50/50 winners were Steve B. & Rick B.!

Our turkey winners were Nan I. & Joshua N.

Congratulations, everyone!

January 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 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...

- *The Spring Seeded Hunt will be May 21-22. Watch for more details soon!*
 - *Please remember that FOTM entries need to be in by 6:45. Entries that come in later than that create extra work for those*
- that put the slide presentation together and can make it difficult to get everything ready in time for the meeting.*