MIDWEST COINSHOOTERS AND HISTORICAL CLUB

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Member FMDAC

Club Website: http://www.midwestcoinshooters.com

NEWSLETTER- FEBRUARY 18, 2016 VOLUME 32, ISSUE 2

MEETING LOCATION: Tharp Civic Center (Jennings),

8720 Jennings Station Road <u>Time:</u> 7:30 PM- 3rd Thursday (Except December)

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2016 MEETING-Next Meeting: MARCH 17, 2016 Attendees: 32 plus 3 board members

Club Officers: President/Newsletter Editor; Roger Horrom; 12683 Shepherd Drive, Florissant, MO 63033;

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Vice-President: Bill Mathews; 1024 Amsterdam, Ballwin, MO 63011

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Treasurer: Kelly Faust; 512 Shepards Crossing; Ballwin, MO 63021

636-394-9604 Email: kellysfaust@yahoo.com

MEETING MINUTES: There was a good turnout for the meeting with first time attendees, Jim Russel and Sam Monroe, welcomed to the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Kelly Faust read the Treasurer's Report and it was accepted as read.

discussion was continued with members on our upcoming plans for meetings, group hunts, presentation ideas, meeting themes, and other items that members want to see accomplished to make the club interesting and rewarding for them. Susannah Kriegshauser and Jim Hammond from the new metal detecting club that just started up in the South St. Louis area-the Gateway Metal Detecting Club were in attendance and brought our members up to date on the progress of their club. Their website is: www.gatewaymetaldetectingclub.com

Michael Beran, Master Falconer and his wife Bonnie were introduced and he gave a presentation on "Falconry". I also read some interesting articles provided by club member Bob Wilderman, and provided info about other club hunts taking place.

MARCH MEETING: I will have a presentation for our members and additional conversation about club plans will take place. I will be working on getting in touch with other clubs or individuals to see if I can get presentations from them lined up for this year's meetings. If any member knows of an organization, hobby club, or individual and have a point of contact for one of these, please let the Board know and action will be taken to get in touch with that contact to see if arrangements can be made to have them come and give a presentation to the club. As usual, if a member has something interesting to pass onto our members such as a hobby, a skill, a good story, a collection, or anything else, just let a Board member know about it and time at a meeting will be made available to give a presentation. We love to hear from our members about their experiences and interests other than metal detecting.

FALCONRY PRESENTATION: At the February meeting, Michael Beran, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on Falconry. Included in his presentation were two live birds; a Harris Hawk named Curious George and an Eurasian Eagle Owl named Bubba Fet. With a bird perched on his gloved hand, Michael gave a very informative talk about each bird. These birds were just two of the ten birds that Michael and his wife, Bonnie, have in their "fleet" of birds. Michael runs a company that is involved with pest control and also uses the birds during hunting excursions. He told us about how the Harris Hawk has no muscles in its feet and that "ratchet" type tendons and its sharp talons allow it to grab a target and hold tightly on to it. He indicated the hawk can lift about 1.5 times its own weight. When hunting with the birds, a small back pack with a transmitter is attached to the bird so that it can be found should it fly out of sight of its handler. The owl that Michael displayed, he got when it was just a hatchling. It was hatched in Wyoming and these birds are native to Mongolia. Weighing in at five pounds, a bird this size is capable of picking up a small fox. This owl has eight to ten power binocular eyes which provide it with very good sight ability. It can rotate its head a full 280 degrees and has a beak that cuts it food instead of tearing it. The owl's wing feathers allow it have silent flight which enables it to pursue its prey without being heard. Michael keeps his birds in cages that are 10 X 10 X 10 feet allowing them plenty of space to be active. The club members had the opportunity to ask questions which Micheal answered fully while demonstrating

his extensive knowledge about falconry. The highlight of the evening was when members were given the opportunity to put on a leather glove and hold each bird and get a picture taken doing so. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and went home more knowledgeable about Falconry. Here are a couple of photos of the presentation:



Michael with Harris Hawk



Michael with Eurasian Eagle Owl

<u>CLUB DUES:</u> Club dues for 2016 remain at \$25.00 for individual membership and \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. Dues are due during the month which you joined the club. I will continue to send a notice of dues payment with newsletters (via email or regular mail). Pay at a meeting or mail your dues payment

to our treasurer, Kelly Faust, at the address at the beginning of this newsletter.

<u>CLUB WEBSITE:</u> The upgraded new club website: www.midwestcoinshooters.com is up and running. If you have a good metal detecting story you would like to add to the website, send me an email with the write-up and it will be added to the website.

INFORMAL GROUP HUNT: Included below is the informal group hunt schedule for 2016. As usual, members can come as early as they wish and remain for as long as they want. This is a good opportunity for beginners to learn from those with more experience. Keep this newsletter for future reference-it will also be posted on the club website.

2016 INFORMAL GROUP HUNT SCHEDULE:

March 20: O'Fallon Park-Hiway 70/W.

Florissant

April 24: Spanish Lake Park-Spanish Pond Road off Bellfountaine

May 22-Spring Hunt: Benton Park-Jefferson

and Arsenal

June 19: Jones Park –East St. Louis, IL-

Highway 64 to 25th Street exit

July 24: Marquette Park-Compton and Osage/ Mt. Pleasant Park-Michigan and Dakota

Aug 21: Hyde Park-Salisbury and 20th Street

Sept 11: (a week early)-Carondolet Park-

Hiway 55/Loughborough

Sept: 18: Fall Hunt-Turner Camp Park

Oct 23: Forest Park-Hampton/Hiway 40/64

Nov 20: (Pending weather forecast)

FMDAC: Membership into the FMDAC for 2016 will be accepted at the March meeting and future meetings or you can mail payment to treasurer, Kelly Faust, at the address above (check made out to Midwest Coinshooters). If you wish to become a

member-cost is \$5.00 again for this year. If you want to learn more about the FMDAC and its activities, you can check it all out at their website: www.fmdac.org .

FINDS OF THE MONTH WINNERS:

Oldest US Coin:

1838 Large cent-Gabe Young

Most Valuable US coin:

1892 Barber Quarter-Mike Tiemann

Most Valuable Item:

Crotal sleigh bell-Jim Russell

Oddity:

Jewish Star of David Pendant-Dan Forth

Consolation Prize:

Silver Onyx Ring-Ed Meyer

Silver raffle winners:

Lorraine Riley, Pam Popp, Jim Russell (2), Tim Popp, Bobby Lewis, Ed Meyer, Mike Heisler, and Bob Wilderman

50/50 winner: Gabe Young

Five members won silver dimes in the door prize drawing.

Billion Dollar Wreck: This is a TV show on the History channel that has been going for about three weeks-Monday nights at 9:00 PM. It is the story of the search for the sunken cruise ship the RMS Republic which sunk in 1909 about 50 miles south of Nantucket. It is in about 250 feet of water and supposedly carries a large amount of gold coins and other treasure. The show features the storyline of how the effort has been renewed after a 35 year hiatus. As you will see, many problems are encountered during the search and the show leaves you wondering if by the final episode the gold will, in fact, be recovered. Here is a link for more info: http://www.history.com/shows/billion-dollarwreck/about