

and fight the negative impressions some people have through the behavior of a few. Tom Miller may set up a meeting with the St. Louis Parks Director to show him our code of ethics, demonstrate how we remove targets, and show how metal detectorists actually clean the areas they are allowed to detect. Doug Bierce, Roger Horrom, and Pam Popp volunteered, (Thank You!) but we could use a few more members. Also, if anyone has an idea please contact one of them or any club officer.

Special thanks to Steve Marcus and Tom Reynolds from the Gateway Knife Club for giving an outstanding presentation on collecting knives. Interesting brief, AND one in which it is possible to find an interesting knife with a metal detector!

In July, we will have a presentation by a ham radio operator. Finally, still looking for members to give a short presentation or talk on themselves, their machines, and favorite finds. This would be a terrific way for the club members to get to know each other better.

Additional presentations are being put into to place as plans and details of arranging them are worked out. Inputs from members was requested as to what they want to see take place at meetings and should any member wish to do a presentation or knows of someone that would be willing to do a presentation, can inform Tim McNiff, Programs and Presentations committee chairman, or one of the Board members. As we try to bring exciting new opportunities or ideas to our club, suggestions for informal hunt sites or other special hunt events are welcomed by the Board members.

JUNE HUNT:

The June Hunt was held at Eco Park in St. Charles, MO., but due to Father's Day, minimal people attended.

TRADE/SWAP/SELL:

We are starting another new aspect to our meetings! Bring your extra detectors, detecting equipment (hats, pouches, headphones, etc.), finds (coins, tokens, etc.) For those interested in trading, swapping, or selling, show up 30 minutes early (6:30-7:00) to meet with other members. How many of us have extra gear to trade or sell? How many folks collect coins, but are missing a relatively common date and have extras of other dates? If members are interested, this will become a monthly thing!

NEW "SCAVENGER HUNT" CONTEST FOR 2017!!

The club has decided to host a "Scavenger Hunt" for 2017. The hunt began 20 January and will end at the November Meeting. Prizes will be for the first, second, and third place winners. Below is the list of things to find and the rules:

ITEMS TO FIND: (must be detected)

1. National Park US Quarter
2. Metal Toy – Soldier, Cowboy, or Indian
3. Box or Open-end wrench
4. Red, Green, and Black pulltab
5. Brass hinge, architectural knocker, knob, or drawer handle
6. Ammunition
7. Pocket knife
8. Pre-1970 Dog License or Vaccination Tag
9. Token, not a Tax Token (see #16)
10. 2 Foreign Coins
11. 1958 Wheat penny
12. Skeleton Key
13. Gold Ring with Stone
14. Religious Item
15. Old Car or House Key
16. State Tax Token
17. Silver Charm
18. Knife, Fork, AND Spoon
19. Button with Maker name
20. A RED Die cast or Matchbox-type vehicle

RULES: Member with the highest number of finds is the winner. A found item can be used in only one category and only one item

per category. Tracking sheets are at each meeting, and summary is below. The Honor System will apply, but it would be interesting if the items were brought to the monthly meeting so we can keep a status of who is currently leading and what items were found. Tie breaker will be by date. Prizes are 3 silver rounds (or free membership and 2 silver rounds) for first, 2 silver rounds for second, and 1 silver round for third. Please contact a board member if you have any questions.

CURRENT STANDINGS as of the May Meeting:

NAME	POINTS
Richard Thies	4
Eric Hanewinkel	10
Tom Miller	14
Sam Allard	2
Andrew Machens	3
Sam Monroe	2
Tim McNiff	4
John Quinn	12
Jerry Ganahl	3
Jim Russell	1
Christine Zika	4
Chris Koehler	5
Carl Boekemier	5
Mike Tiemann	7
Jesse Draper	8

FINDS OF THE MONTH WINNERS:

Oldest US Coin: 1888 V nickel – Tom Miller
 Most Valuable US Coin: 1898 Barber Dime – Mark Avery
 Most Valuable Item: 14K gold/diamond ring – John Quinn
 Oddity: Sterling silver thimble – Jim Russell
 Consolation Prize: Tungsten/Carbide ring – Eric Hanewinkel

Silver raffle winners:

Mike Teiman, Tim Popp (2), Bob Wilderman

Carl Boekmeier, Kelly Faust, Roger Horrom, Tim McNiff, and Kelly Linder. Five members won silver dimes in the door prize drawing.

CLUB DUES CHANGED!!!!: Club dues for 2018 process has CHANGED!! Dues will now be due during January of 2018 for the 2018 year. Members whose dues are normally due in OCT/NOV/DEC 2017 will NOT have to pay for this year. This change is due to the time-consuming task of attempting to keep track of the by-month system. This will save the officers a significant amount of time each month. The dues will remain at \$25.00 for individual membership and \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. Pay at a meeting or mail your dues payment to our treasurer, Kelly Linder, at the address at the beginning of this newsletter.

CLUB WEBSITE: The club website: www.midwestcoinshooters.com is still in place. Roger will serve as webmaster and update the site as necessary with help from the new officers. If you have a good metal detecting story or another item you would like to add to the website, you can email him at rhorrorm@charter.net with the write-up and it will be added to the website.

FMDAC: Membership payments for the FMDAC for 2017 will begin at the January meeting. If you want to learn more about the FMDAC and its activities, you can check it all out at their website: www.fmdac.org. It is assumed the membership cost will again be \$5.00 for 2017 and the new officers will bring you up to date on this early next year. The club treasurer will accept payment and mail payment off to the FMDAC and new membership cards will be distributed once received. It takes five members to become an “official FMDAC club” and currently our club is not listed on the FMDAC website as there are not five members who joined last year.

INFORMAL GROUP HUNT: As the new year begins, an informal group hunt schedule will be developed with dates and locations provided. It will be posted on the club website. Inputs for sites to hunt are welcomed and members were asked if they know of sites large enough to allow up to 20 hunters. As in the past, these hunts provide new inexperienced members and the more experienced members to get together to share comradery, provide guidance, share tips, and provide a teaching experience. Detector machines can be compared as well as retrieval techniques, new types of equipment and technology can be demonstrated, and finds can be compared and enjoyed by all. These hunts are completely informal with starting time and quitting time at the attendees' discretion. Hunt sites are determined by their potential chance to provide older, historic finds and are available with proper permission for a group of members to hunt. These sites include older parks, school grounds, or even private property.

MINELAB EXPLORER XS FOR SALE: Jerry Ganahl, 314-434-6590, has for sale a Minelab Explorer XS for \$400. This detector includes 2 coils (8 and 11 inch), headphones, 2 battery packs (1 rechargeable, 1 for 8 batteries), the manual, a hip mount kit, and a real good book by Andy Sabisch called "Mastering the Minelab Explorer XS & S". Please contact Jerry if interested.