

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

January 2025 - Edition

When: The Third Tuesday of Each Month at 7 P.M.

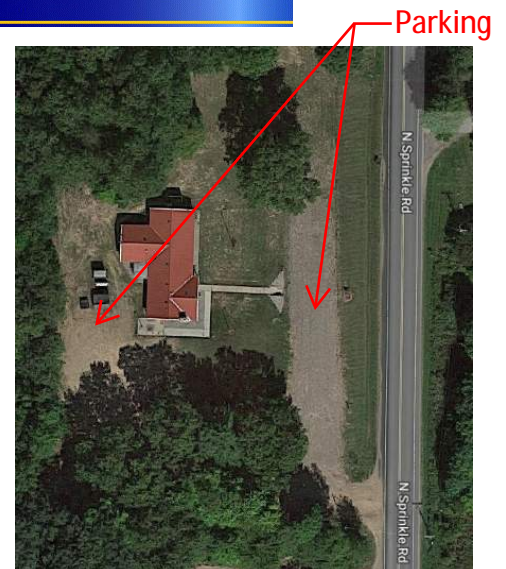
Who: Meetings are open to the public

Where: Kalamazoo Rod & Gun Club
7533 North Sprinkle Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49004

How: From U.S. 131 come North to D Ave. take D Ave. East to North Sprinkle (road curves right and heads south), club is .25 miles on the right from int. of D. Ave. and Sprinkle.

Or

Take U.S. 131 South to D. Ave. exit, take D. Ave. East to N. Sprinkle (directions from here same as Northbound (above)).



December 2024 - Finds of the Month

WINNER...#2 Fred J.



JEWELRY

Entries:

1. Sterling Silver Ring with Plated Hearts on Top – Kerry S.
2. 14K Ring From Construction Site – Men's "Nugget" Ring – Fred J.

WINNER...#3 Dakota P.



COIN

Entries:

1. 1939 Wheat Cent (Penny) – Kerry S.
2. 1945 Wheat Cent (Penny) – Mike W.
3. 1932D (Key Date) Silver Washington Quarter – Dakota P.

FOB, BADGE, TOKEN

Entries:

There were no entries in the Fob, Badge, and Token FOM Category for December.

WINNER...#5 Mike W.



MISCELLANEOUS

Entries:

1. 1933 "Dow Metal" Commemorative Michigan Medallion Pressed for Chicago Exposition, made of over 86% Magnesium – Brian T.
2. Super Smooth Nickel Found in a Coin Star Machine – John M.
3. Necklace, Found in a bag of Half Dollars – Diane J.
4. 1911 Wheat Cent (Penny) – Chris S.
5. 1957 Silver Certificate Dollar Bill found at My Bank – Mike W.
6. Glass Candlestick Found at Saugatuck Antique Pavilion, Matches Dishes inherited from my mom – Julie S.

WINNER...#2 Kerry S.



MOST UNUSUAL

Entries:

1. Cylinder head off an old air compressor, approx. from 1910 to 1920s - Mike W.
2. Nissan "Z" Hot Wheels toy car Kerry S.

FOM notes:

- All items must be found or acquired since the last meeting.
- Multiples must be found in the same hole.
- One entry per category per member.
- Must be a paid member to enter find of the month.
- Write your name on the back of the entry slip.
- Do not look at names on the back of find of the month slips.
- Check with the President or Vice President if you have any questions as to what category to put an item in.

****Raffle Tickets must be purchased before the beginning of the meeting.***

*****You don't have to be a member to purchase tickets for the Silver Dollar or the 50/50 raffles.***

January Meeting

- Find of the Month and Find of the Year voting!
- Perfect Attendance Awards (silver)
- Feature Raffle will be **Antique Paper Money, 1/2 lb Copper Ingot, or a Silver Eagle!!!**



Renewal Time!!!

Happy 2025!! Don't forget, it is renewal time. Don't miss out on our great member benefits. Find of the year, Find of the month, Feature raffle, door prizes, voting, Club hunts, our FB page, and much more. You need to renew by the Jan meeting to be eligible for Find of the month and year, plus feature raffle, door prizes etc... to take part in those at the January meeting.

Club Banquet!!

Feb. 22nd (Sat.) at 3:00 @ Ten Ten Chinese Buffet. This is BYOM. 5282 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Miscellaneous category for FOM - 3rd Month

With the beginning of daylight savings time (November 3rd), the Miscellaneous category begins again.

- This is a **non-metal detecting** category, items can be metal but do not have to be metal and can **not be** found with a detector. Must be found/purchased/given to you since last meeting.
- This category is during the winter months only and is one item only.

SWMSS CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS

1. Find of the Month Entries
 2. Find of the Year Entry
 3. Door Prizes
 4. All Raffle's & the Feature Raffle
 5. Newsletter, Mail and / or Email
 6. Participate in Seeded Hunts
 7. * **Voting Rights**
 8. * **Fish Bowl Prize (drawing every meeting)**
 9. Perfect Attendance (Jan. through Dec.) prize
 10. To Sell or Trade at the "Buy, Sell & Trade Night".
- Exception:** *These items are not extended to associate members.

An "Associate" membership is extended to a paid member's spouse (*must be legally married*), their children and grandchildren. Anyone 18 years and older are considered an adult and will need to purchase their own membership.

A new member can enter their finds in the "Find of the Month" after 1 full month's membership.**

A "new" member is someone that has never been a member before.

Renewal Memberships are due before the meeting starts to participate in the "Find of the Month".

Club Membership is \$25 for the calendar year (January Through December).

Members, Please, "Sign in" at every club meeting. The "Sign In Book" is used to keep record of perfect attendance for the year. The sign in book is on the table with the name tags.

Be sure to renew your membership before the meeting starts to get in on the drawings and raffles.

****Please note:**

To be guaranteed a photo in the slide show for "Find of the Month", there is a **6:45** cut off time.

Please be mindful of this as Anne and Bradley our photographers most months have 60+ photos to take and incorporate into the slide show for judging. We need to maintain this cutoff if we are to finish in a timely manner and ensure everyone has a chance to compete.

***** If any club members would like to be added to the SWMSS Club Facebook group, please contact Mike Walker or Brian Tobias**

Treasures in Michigan!!! - Still not found

As this IS the Search and Seek club it appears to me that what we are most often looking for is treasure, some sort of yet uncollected buried loot, booty, TREASURE, the kind of thing that keeps us up at night. We love our old coins, relics and jewelry and let's not forget silver and gold don't we, it is what keeps our hearts beating every time we dig a new hole on a new permission.

As amazing as the finds we show off each month for a FOM competition, they are just chump change, mere scraps compared to some of the "BIG" treasures that surprisingly still remain out there somewhere in our great state of Michigan. These are 5 of those treasures and their stories to wet your appetite for adventure, who knows maybe you'll be able to be the one that finds one of these historic caches of loot lost to time!

Douglass Houghton's Lost "Gold Mine" - AU in the UP

Douglass Houghton was born in New York in 1809, he was a brilliant student who after going to college moved to Detroit. He was a well known teacher, speaker and even Doctor. Henry Schoolcraft, chose Houghton in 1831 to join him on an expedition to find the source of the Mississippi River at the young age of 22. Later, when Michigan became a state, Houghton became it's first geologist and surveyed the land drawing maps and writing mineralogy reports, he detailed about the salt beds in the Lower Peninsula and charted the vast copper deposits in the UP, this was instrumental in the copper boom that was to begin in 1841.

What many do not know is that Douglass Houghton reportedly had been the first to strike gold in Michigan in 1845 locating a sizable deposit of gold old AU in the UP. In actuality he'd panned enough placer gold from a stream to fill an eagle quill. But the story had been there was plenty of gold there. Unfortunately Douglass Houghton drowned later in October of 1845 in a canoe on Lake Superior, taking the Michigan gold location to his watery grave. This early gold location has yet to be rediscovered.

Here's more on lost UP Gold: <https://mikelbclassen.com/lost-gold-of-upper-michigan/>

Silas "Sile" Doty and his Swamp/Farm Treasure Caches

Notorious Silas "Sile" Doty was an outlaw who eventually made his way to Michigan and Indiana in the mid to late 1800s. Growing up between St. Albans Vermont and Bangor New York, young Sile was an "enterprising" youth, very skilled at everything from trapping to blacksmithing he delighted in well...stealing things. Not because he needed them but for the thrill of taking them. He also put his blacksmith skills to use making keys and other lock picking items to open things up holding items that were not his own.

His exploits with the gang he formed are numerous and he was out of jail/prison more than once landing in Jackson Prison for a 17 year term of which he only served 15.

It is said that Doty would hide out on farms and swampy areas in Steuben County near Fremont and Angola Michigan. He also spent many a night at his his son's and daughters' farms near Coldwater, Michigan as well as his friend's farm near Hillsdale, Michigan. He died in Reading Michigan in 1876.

It is said that Doty would bury small amounts of \$100 to \$1000 in gold in silver coins in various places on these farms and the woods near the swamps in Steuben County. Swamps have snakes...why does it have to have snakes? Good luck finding these Doty caches, might need your waders and snake bight proof gloves.

Here's more about Sile Doty: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sile_Doty

Stumped - The lost payroll of Swan Creek Saginaw

This story is about a lost payroll that was intended for workers at a lumber camp in Saginaw County Michigan in the 1860's.

Two men who were transporting the payroll for a lumber camp on their route up the Shiawassee to Swan Creek they kept passing other parties of canoes saying a group of natives intended to attack settlers and rob those heading up the river through the area. They decided to hide their payroll (as night was approaching and a dense fog was covering the creek) and come back the next day for it when things were safer. They'd just passed under a bridge over Swan Creek, headed inland a ways and buried the payroll, \$15,000 face value in gold coins in the ground under leave litter etc. and noted a freshly cut stump from lumbering near it. The next morning when the sun had rose and the fog lifted they headed back to reclaim the payroll...unfortunately upon arriving at the spot they realized that in the fog they'd not noticed the stump was one of thousands in the area. The acres of "stump" covered land was searched by a whole party of searchers for weeks but the gold was never found. This story is more legend than verified fact as payout for lumber crews was never gold as records would indicate and there isn't much proof of this one ...still, they lost something in a see of stumps it would appear. Largies??

~ Brian T.

