

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

February 2026 - 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)).



"The Scoop" is a monthly publication of Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

January 2026 - Finds of the Month / F.O.T.Y. 2025

JEWELRY



Entries:

1. Small ring found in a park in Tennessee – John M.
2. Cute Cat with a bag of fish pin – Mike W.

WINNER...#1 John M.

COIN



Entry: (w/ one entry must have over 50% of vote to win)

1. 1936 Wheat Cent – Mike W.

WINNER...#1 Mike W.

FOB, BADGE, TOKEN



Entries:

1. Reader's Digest 5 Million Dollar Sweepstakes token – Mike W.
2. Vintage Brass and Enamel Cub Scout Scarf Slide – John M.

WINNER...#1 Mike W.

MOST UNUSUAL



Entry:

1. Paige Style Diecast car for Brownie Auto Race, A Game For Young and Old, 1920's Mike W.

WINNER...#1 Mike W.

MISCELLANEOUS



Entries:

1. 2000 Die Error Dime (off center boarder) – Mike S.
2. Christmas gift from daughter, my 1948 birthdate penny in middle – John M.
3. 1844 Jersey States (Island in English Channel) 1/26th of a Shilling – Brian T
4. 2005 - Mackinac Bridge Token, not used anymore, gift from father – Bradley K.
5. Duffel Laundry Horse Bag pin – Marty K.
6. Offset worded Antique Ball canning jar found at 1800's home – Mike W.

WINNER...#3 Brian T.

FIND OF THE YEAR!!



Entries:

1. 14K Gold Bracelet, 35.2 grams – Tim T.
2. Japanese flip lighter, found on grandfather's property, most likely his – Bill B.
3. Civil War 3 ringer found at the site of the battle of Chattanooga TN – Mike W.
4. Gold colored Victorian Filigree – Len S. Jr.
5. Duffel Laundry Horse Bag pin – Marty K.
6. Civil War Union "U.S." Belt plate, first found for me – Brian T.

WINNER...#2 Bill B.!!!

February Meeting

- FEATURE RAFFLE: State Quarters!!



- Reminder: March is chili cook off!!

Miscellaneous category for FOM - final 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.

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.

Newsletter Tip!!!

If you see text in **blue** that has this in front of it: "https" it is a web-link you can click on in the digital newsletter or you can manually type it in to your web browser's URL field to learn more about a particular subject.

***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.

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*

You Don't Know Everything - Detector "Air" tests

4.) Let's do an "air" test of this new machine to see how much depth it has and what the VDI readings are for these coins and how powerful this detector is. Ummm, not so "fast".

This month we are picking back up on the "You Don't Know Everything" series with the penultimate (fancy word for second to last) installment.

I get it, you have been watching your digging pals the last six months jump on the "next big thing" in metal detectors and you want to trade in your old White's Spectra V3i at Pro Stock detectors. While you have the itch to "Keep up with the Joneses" and get that brand new: simultaneous, multi frequency, AI computer brain "Unicorn" or "Centaur" or "Dragonslayer" or "Hurricane XXII, 2.0" mythical detector...You can't make up your mind. I can in part understand because it is increasingly difficult to decide if you are buying a detector or a Greek monster or even an extreme weather event??

One of the temptations is to load up the "interweb" and watch countless hours of videos in which other detectorist influencers drone on via YouTube videos discussing machine XYZ's capabilities. Unfortunately, one of the old standbys in this hobby used in video reviews is the tried and true "Air Test" when comparing machines. I'm going to make a quick disclaimer here to mention, there is "some" validity to using this if you want to see how machines fair when comparing them in conditions you'll never experience doing real detecting in the field, lol.

This is kind of like putting two hot rod cars on a dynamometer and being able to say which one is going to end up with the fastest time on the quarter mile at Martin Speedway. Actually, that analogy might be more accurate than an air test come to think of it. Anyway, some things are left out in this example much as it is with air tests, in this case, primarily the driver

While air testing machines may give a small insight into depth or separation performance of a machine it is only giving a very small myopic view of a machine's capabilities that isn't rooted in how a detector is going to be working in day to day use and so (for me at least) this testing carries about as much usefulness as lead life preserver.

First you must understand that metal detectors are machines that very simply generate an electromagnetic field that penetrates the ground. When this field interacts with metal, it induces "eddy" currents, causing the metal to emit (transmit) its own secondary electromagnetic field, which the device detects and alerts the operator... Okay, maybe not so simple writing it out. This "alerting" or signaling can take the form of sounds, VDI numbers, images, or all of these on most detectors today. Everything else in this process, every nuance created from machine to machine is how that information found in the "transmitted" signal is processed and how quickly. For reference, electromagnetic waves will transmit faster through air than soil and faster through soil than water. It is the opposite for sound wave transmission and (mechanical wave transmission) works better the closer atoms are to each other in a substance. Sound waves move faster through water (as atoms are more tightly packed) than air and much faster through rock.

In general air testing while having no surrounding substance (dirt for instance) that will throw off this electromagnetic field is very misleading. If you consider that in air these waves are going to travel quick and with less loss of energy moving through air than soil, you are going to see the maximum performance of a detector/coil in air. However, once a metal target is under 6" of earth or more not only is there more material that the electromagnetic waves have to navigate through, there are also more minerals (materials that can have the EM waves induce the eddy waves in) present to cause issues with the signal coming back to the brains of the machine for processing. Essentially, more potential for noise and more required of a detector's processing technology to make sense of it all. In an air test this is not an issue. It is almost like throwing a ball to third base on a clear windless day compared to throwing one with a 50 mph head wind in the rain. If you take nothing else from this article please note: **you will under most every circumstance NOT get as much depth in the field as an air test video is showing you for the same object, and certainly not more!** A lot of debate seems to surround the reality of air testing in detectorist forums on-line and between detectorist day to day, I'm not sure why. Mostly I think brand loyalists want to tout their favorite machines and feel air tests help to support their case. Who, knows?

Think of it this way, an air test is showing the maximum potential of a machine under best conditions, however we are never seeking out a target with our machines in conditions even close to this. So, these "air tests" are selling false hope. True if you are using two machines in the air and one performs better or has better depth than the other you could draw the connection that that machine has better depth or even better separation, but this is a perfect world scenario. Once both machines are trying to process through the many varied conditions that soil will present around a target (minerals, moisture, buried power cables, trash), it's anyone's guess which will "see" deeper or better between good or bad targets. In summary, an air test or comparison can be helpful but don't hang your hat on these videos or folks doing them as the sole source of determining a machines capabilities. Talk to friends that have a machine you like, watch them use it, borrow it, decided if you like what you are hearing, that is far more helpful than an air test video.

Brian T.



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www.mytreasureclub.com