

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

April 2025 - Edition

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

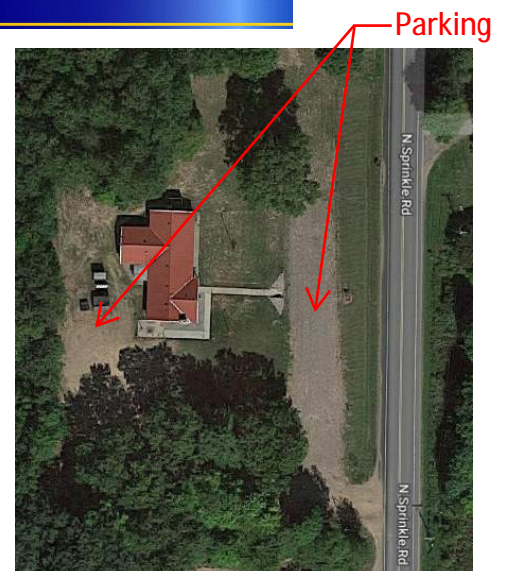
Who: Meetings are open to the public

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)).



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

February/March 2025 - Finds of the Month

February FOM

Entries:

- No Entries for Jewelry, Coin, FBT, or Most Unusual categories this Month.

WINNER...#1 Mike W.



MISCELLANEOUS

Entries:

1. \$20 Star Note - Mike W.

March FOM

WINNER...#2 Tim T.



JEWELRY

Entries:

1. Platinum/silver ring, 9 real diamonds - Mike W.
2. 14K 8" gold bracelet, 35.2 g. - Tim T.
3. Moon and star charm - Bill B.

WINNER...#2 Bill B.



COIN

Entries:

1. 1925D wheat penny, 100 years old - Mike W.
2. 1943 War nickel with P mint mark - Bill B.

WINNER...#1 Mike W.



FOB, BADGE,
TOKEN

Entries:

1. Antique key fob or tool tag - Mike W.

WINNER...#1 Mike W.



MOST UNUSUAL

Entries:

1. Silver-plated brass bell - Mike W.
2. Suspender buckle, patent 1870's - Bill B.

***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.**

April Meeting

- Easter Eggs!!! Filled with Old Coins and Candy
- \$1 per egg, can buy 2 eggs per person first round until everyone has had a chance 2 buy, then up to 3 ea. additional round until gone.
- Feature Raffle will be **Three Winners:**

**Prizes: Pinpointer
Pouch and Digger
Digital Microscope**

- Giving away 4 Easter Hams!

In the News:

- XP (makers of Deus) have announced they will be raising the price of the Deus II about \$200 per machine due to international trade issues.
- Maprika map maker is no longer available for iPhones, if you use this for making maps and research don't delete it from your phone and back up your maps. You will not be able to pull these off the servers any longer.
- Two metal detectorists have unearthed a hoard of 15th Century coins in the Scottish Borders. Keith Young and Lisa Stephenson discovered 30 gold and silver coins in close proximity in the Cappercleuch area which is near St Mary's Loch. These will go to the museum who agrees to pay the "ex-gratia" reward money to the finders.

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.

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**



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com

Why TV is killing our hobby...well, in my opinion

I don't normally write "opinion" or "op" editorials for this newsletter. It however was a long winter and I found myself while not being able to get out as much due to a lot of weeks of concrete level ground conditions watching a lot of...eye roll, the "History" channel.

In particular. I started re-watching "The Curse of Oak Island" and the like on our streaming services. While I hoped this would scratch the treasure hunting itch that I had not being able to swing my machine I found myself instead aggravated, actually almost angry by what I was seeing on the modern day treasure hunting shows. Keep in mind treasure comes in many forms and there are a lot of them now:

- 1.) The OG, "Curse of Oak Island" now in season 12! (that is right this show has been on the air since Jan. 5th, 2014!)
- 2.) Treasure Quest - Snake Island - 3 Seasons
- 3.) Expedition Unknown - 14 Seasons (technically the original treasure show but it covers many different stories)
- 4.) Legend of the Superstition Mountains - 1 season
- 5.) Lost Gold of WW2 - 2 Seasons
- 6.) The Curse of Civil War Gold - 1 Season (Kevin Dykstra is one of my cousin's friends and there is a lot I could write about this show...but can't..top secret).
- 7.) Devil's Canyon
- 8.) Alaska Gold diggers
- 9.) Pirate Gold of Adak Island (don't know what happened to this, rumors of being a hoax) missing in action after 1 season
- 10.) And...most recently The Mystery at Blind Frog Ranch (actually enjoy this one probably the only one I enjoy).

And on and on and on...

Here is what I will say about these in general, they are awful for the hobby. Now I know you'll say "but Brian they shine a light (albeit as a minor side plot device) the hobby of metal detecting" but hear me out.

What I'm seeing is a lot of over hyped sensationalized depiction of our hobby and nothing else. What we have is the "supposed" expert come in to maybe find some "bobby dazzler" to validate a confirmation bias of if the treasure hunters are on the right track, and not much more. We could get into a long debate about Gary D. and if he is an "expert" detectorist or not, I'm just going to say it, from what I see...not on land (get the intentional misspelling here). He's great in the ocean but in the COOI show he pendulum swings his coil, never talks about how to use it, what he's using for settings or even walks a grid very often. He's random at best...just my opinion. That being said, he's the best representation of a detectorist of ALL the shows I listed above, so Kudos Gary on that point.

Every tiny find is some cliffhanger...is this piece of lead possibly a melted seal placed on the Arch of the Covenant placed in the money pit by the Knights Templar?...Gary Drayton things it may be.

This has done far less to educate folks on the hobby and the proper detector use and etiquette of detecting to the next generation and more to spark the unrealistic fire in people's minds of "if I go buy a metal detector I can get rich quick". Now that is great if you sell detectors...short term. I think however this is resulting in an "inorganic growth" of people in the hobby over the last 10 years, and with more and more in any group you statistically add more and more...bad eggs. I think this "boom" of media spawned detectorists is some of the reason you are seeing parks and old public spots closing and an ever increasing rate. People naturally emulate "movie stars" or people in the public eye, even the bad ones. That is the reason for my rant. We need to do our best to counteract this trend, set the hobby back into balance, be ambassadors of the hobby, fill holes, use the right tools, GET PERMISSION first to hunt private property, etc., etc. Above all be the voice of reason to your aspiring detectorist friends, tell them you're probably not going to get rich off this hobby (you'll just buy new machines like you are), so just enjoy the act of it and don't get wrapped up in the hype.

~ Brian T.



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com