

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop

Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

August 2025 - Edition

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

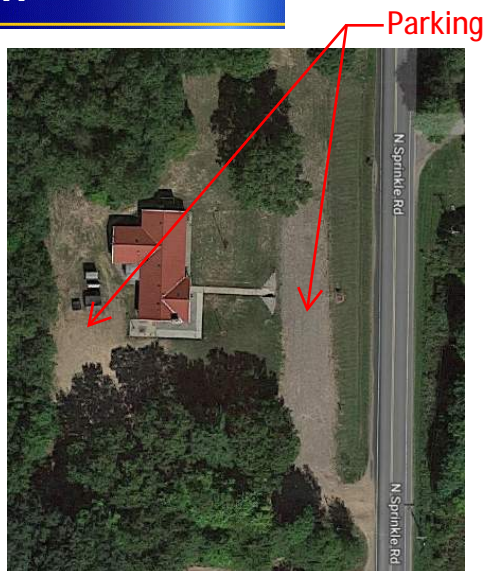
Who: Meetings are open to the public

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

July 2025 - Finds of the Month

WINNER...#1 Keith P.



JEWELRY

Entries:

1. 14K Pendant with 32 small real diamonds - Keith P.
2. Stainless Steel Bracelet – Tom H.
3. My first lake Michigan ring find of the year, not precious but nice in the scoop – Bill B.
4. Sterling ring and dog tag, both in same hole return to couple that lost them - Mike W.
5. Necklace Pendant, water find – John W.

FOB, BADGE, TOKEN

Entries:

There were no entries for the month of July for this category. It's my fault, I should have detected more...I bet I could have won, alas, missed opportunity.

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.***

WINNER...#2 Bill B.



COIN

Entries:

1. The last of an era, 2025 D Memorial (Lincoln) cent – Mike W.
2. 1945 Wheat Cent found neck deep in Lake Michigan – Bill B.

WINNER...#1 Bill B.



MOST UNUSUAL

Entries:

1. Western Michigan University seal, not sure what from, an award maybe - Bill B.
2. Cat Excavator toy vehicle – Mike W.



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.

August Meeting

- Pizza Night
- Feature \$100.00 Cash!!

August Fellowship Hunt

When: To be held on August 23rd (Saturday) at 9:00 AM.

Where: Gun Lake (Yankee Springs Recreation Area) - Meet at the pavilion

What: Please pack your own lunch, we'll try to take a break around noon :)

And: 6 tokens for prizes will be hidden, 3 on land 3 in the water.

Civil War Bullet Reference Guide by Greg Sites



SW MSS 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**

<https://www.detecting.us/civil-war-related-pages-guides-history-references/civilwarbullets/>



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com

You Don't Know Everything - lessons learned and yet to be

I'll be honest, I don't really water hunt often at all. I have a time or two through the years, just not my thing. I realize I forgo some really nice finds by excluding this venue from my detecting menu but hey I'm fine with that. I love water but I'd rather just use my pool and I've been told I can't dig in the sand below the liner...ugh...whatever. As a result, I haven't been detecting as much this summer. Crops got in early this year and it has just been too hot and dry for me to want to door knock for permissions on people's already stressed yards.

So I've had more time to do other things during the summer "boil" this year. Some of those are sorting my finds, cleaning finds, researching sites for the fall, etc. etc. One of the things I've done more of this summer than probably ever is sit back and watch detecting videos on the good old Tele-Vision.

The reason I'm bringing this up is that I've really dialed in on how these "internet influencers" portray the hobby. I know I've ranted on this a bit in the past. But I've tried ("tried") to be more open minded and objective as of late, I swear (pinky style, not cussing).

I've noticed some things both good and bad but both revolve around the same premise...knowledge.

Today humanity faces a bit of a conundrum, we now have at our fingers more access to knowledge than every before, at the same time no real good way to force accountability on or test the accuracy of said knowledge, that's the rub.

I'm actually glad, and feel blessed I grew up when I did and got into this hobby at age 15 almost 40 years ago now. It was a simpler time we listened to our elders and also, there was a bit of trust in experience. For example, if you knew someone was a car mechanic for 30 years, they probably knew a thing or two about adjusting the timing of a Chevy 350. Today, I feel not so much of what people entitles them to think they "know everything" is based on bad examples, bad mentors and faulty logic.

Here is what I'm seeing today out there in the great wild of the "internet" when it comes to detecting, and honestly when dealing with some face to face...people new to this hobby seem to think 10 hours detecting or 100 followers on YouTube means they know...well everything. Don't get me wrong, I don't always know everything either, difference is I don't portray to a thousand people that I do.

Here are some of the things I'm seeing (as I'm sure some of your reading have as well):

- 1.) VDI (Visual Display Indicators) are the automatic go to in deciding to dig or not dig a target...or for that matter, what it will be when you dig. Some people believe that VDI numbers are today's magic 8-ball in detecting technology. [They ARE a great addition to the toolbox on a machine I'll give you that. But relying solely on VDI is like voting for a political candidate based on how many babies they can kiss on a given day.](#)
- 2.) I just dug this relic on a site that had a house from the 1800s, it MUST be from the 1800s or I just dug this old knife or bridal rosette that has a heart, I was on a location that had a CW battle, I know it is from the Civil War, anyone know what it is? [Huh, ok \(sarcasm inserted here\).](#)
- 3.) My buddy said this was public property so we're out here digging today, shouldn't be an issue, we'll catch you on the next target. [Well, I'm sold, everyone watching needs to follow your lead then. Probably don't need to bother doing your own research then.](#)
- 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.](#)
- 5.) I'm gonna try to get a date off this coin so let me take my brass battery terminal brush to it right after I dug it, the mud is still nice and soft (so's the patina) so we should be able to come back and show you the date, be right back...1 minute later, "Wow, sorry folks this one must have just been super slick when it went in the ground, no date to show". [I scream at my TV often when I see this happen, or thumbing silver coins. Well, it is fine as long as you get them wet first and make a fine abrasive slurry, the shiny means it's working! \(again, HEAVY sarcasm\).](#)

I think everyone can see where I'm going with this article. You've also have just been set up per se not in a bad way. Those 5 examples of "faulty" logic will all be the basis for 5 separate articles in the coming months on each topic. Sorry, can't fit all that wonderful subject material into one newsletter. I'll see you on the next article entitled: "V. D. I. need to use my ears too"

~ Brian T.



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com