

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop

Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

September 2026 - Edition

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

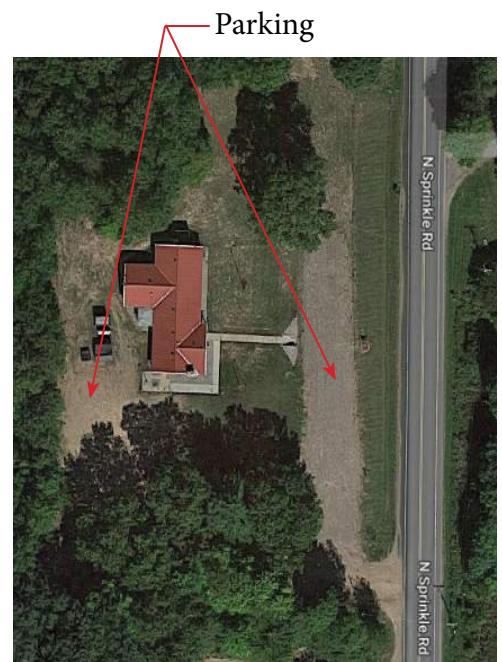
Who: Meetings are open to the public

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)).



August 2026 - Finds of the Month

Jewelry

Entries:
No Entries this month.

Coin



Entries:
1. Quarter – found in a park two dents in it – John M.
2. 1899 Barber dime – Rick S.
3. 188? Canadian Penny – Heaton Mint – Tom H.
4. 1796-1820 Chinese “Cash” coin Qing Dynasty – Brian T.

WINNER...#2, Rick S.

F. B. & T



Entries:
1. Kellogg, 25th anniversary badge, found in burn pit by barn – John M.

WINNER...#1 , John M.

Most Unusual

Entries:
No Entries this month.

FOM notes:

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



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com



September Meeting

- Pizza night
- Feature Gift Certificate to Prostock detectors!!!

October Meeting

- Silver Eagle!!!
- Discussion (details) on October Free Hunt
- October 24th, 1:00 PM, Kindleberger Park

November Meeting

- Cool old Coin (or Type Set)!!!
- Turkey give away (4 available)

Sometimes the coolest treasures aren't underground they're above it - Brian T.



Club Notes

Please note that door prize items are brought in by members, so feel free to bring something to add to the table.

If you bring in a snack to share please see Deb for a ticket for a chance to win a half dollar.

It was voted on at the board meeting that new members will have a 30 day waiting period to be able to vote on things such as by law changes, board member elections and other club business. New members can still vote on find of the month.

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 one 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



Coinage, what was our first and what is a coin anyway? pt. 2

Picking up from part 1 of this series I said I would discuss the coinage used during, immediately after the signing of the DOI, and after the Revolutionary War. During the war, physical metal coins (specie) were incredibly scarce because people hoarded gold and silver.

Foreign Specie:

As hard as it may be to believe it took the United States a long time to establish its own standardized monetary exchange system. The most trusted coins in circulation were foreign. Spain pretty much flooded the whole world with high quality silver for hard “coinage” money. This most commonly took the form of the Spanish Milled Dollar (also known as the “Piece of Eight”) served as the unofficial backbone of commerce. These large silver coins were frequently cut into physical halves, quarters, or eighths (called “bits”) to make smaller change. This is where we get the pirate loved “Pieces of Eight”. British, French, and Portuguese coins also circulated alongside them, with each colony setting its own arbitrary exchange rates.

Paper Money:

The immediate alternative to this hard money chaos was paper. To finance the war effort in 1775, the Continental Congress issued fiat paper money known as Continental Currency beginning. Because they printed these notes rapidly without the backing of physical gold or silver, massive inflation ensued. Coupled with rampant British counterfeiting operations, the paper money collapsed entirely by 1781, spawning the famous idiom “not worth a Continental”

After the signing of the Declaration of Independence:

The 1776 Continental Dollar: An early attempt at a national coin occurred in 1776 with the striking of the Continental Currency Dollar. Though mostly minted in pewter as patterns or limited-run pieces (with a few rare silver and brass examples), it remains an iconic early American numismatic design featuring a sundial and the phrase “Mind Your Business.”

Immediately After the War: The Articles of Confederation Era (1783–1789)

Following the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the newly recognized United States operated under the Articles of Confederation. This framework allowed both the national Congress and individual states the legal authority to coin money, which triggered a wave of localized experimentation:

- **State-Issued Copper Coinage:** Due to a severe shortage of small change, several states authorized private mints to produce copper coins. Vermont (acting as an independent republic at the time), Connecticut, New Jersey, and Massachusetts all minted their own coppers between 1785 and 1788. (see page 5 for examples)
- **The Fugio Cent (1787):** Recognizing the need for a national small coin, Congress authorized its very first official copper coin under contract: the Fugio Cent. Designed by Benjamin Franklin, it featured a sundial on the front and a chain of 13 interlocking links on the back, symbolizing the unity of the original states (see page 5).
- **Private Tokens and Patterns:** Independent coiners minted various sample “pattern” coins in hopes of winning a federal contract. Famous examples include the Nova Constellatio coppers (see page 5) championed by Robert Morris and various privately struck “Washington Pieces” which featured George Washington’s likeness. Washington strongly opposed putting his portrait on official money. He felt it mimicked European monarchies and the tyranny of kings, famously declaring, “We are done with kings”.



Coinage, what was our first and what is a coin anyway? pt. 2

Washington's image did not officially appear on a circulating U.S. coin until 1932, for the bicentennial of his birth (the Washington quarter). His stance also helped establish the tradition against featuring living people on U.S. currency.



1783 Nova Constellatio



1785 Vermont State Copper



1776 Continental Dollar



1787 Fugio Cent

Reused Benjamin Franklin's Continental Design

Comparison of Key Currencies:

Currency Type	Metal/Material	Active Era	Key Characteristics & Significance
Spanish Milled Dollar	Silver	Pre-Revolution to 1857	Unofficial standard of trade
Continental Currency	Paper	1775–1781	Suffered hyperinflation; completely collapsed by the war's end
State Coppers	Copper	1785–1788	Minted by states like NJ and CT to alleviate localized coin shortages
Fugio Cent	Copper	1787	The first official coin authorized by the U.S. national government.

The financial instability and logistical confusion of this multi-currency system ultimately drove the Framers of the Constitution to strip states of their power to coin money or issue paper currency. This shift paved the way for the Coinage Act of 1792, which founded the U.S. Mint and finally established a truly unified national currency.

In the final installment of this series we'll look at some of the rarer coins issued temporarily (while this new nation "figured out" its monetary system) and look at some of the common design elements on the coins.

- Brian T.



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com

