

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop **Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club**

October 2025 - Edition

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

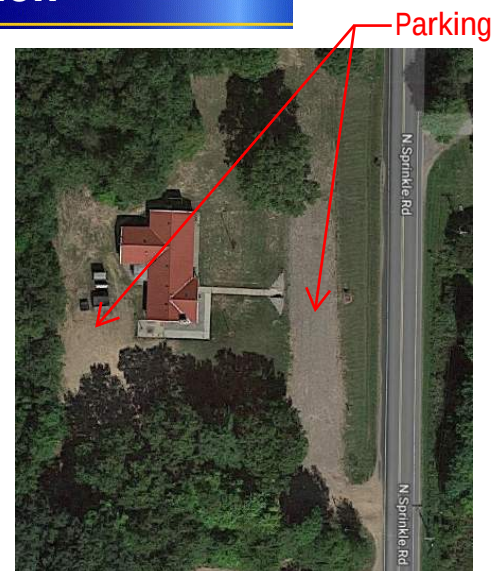
Who: Meetings are open to the public

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

September 2025 - Finds of the Month

WINNER...#4 Rick S.



JEWELRY

Entries:

1. Costume Jewelry Ring (Lake find) – Keith P.
2. Irish "Claddagh" design, Silver Earring stamped .925 – Len S.
3. Looney Tunes bracelet – Mike W.
4. WWII U.S. Public Health Service, Naval Nurse Pin, Sterling by Blackinton – Rick S.

WINNER...#3 Tom H.



COIN

Entries:

1. 1962 Penny cut smaller with slot cut in it – Mike W.
2. 1877 Seated Liberty Quarter – Rick S.
3. 1831 Large Cent (12" deep) – Tom H.
4. 1929 Wheat Cent found in school yard – Bill B.
5. 1917 Buffalo (Bison) Nickel – Brian T.

WINNER...#2 John M.



FOB, BADGE,
TOKEN

Entries:

1. 1938 Chevrolet Master Trunk Badge- Mike W.
2. Pontiac Token from General Motors "Chief of the Sixes" – John M.
3. Elmwood Dairy Token (dairy once located corner of Pipestone/Washington, Benton Harbor – Rick S.

WINNER...#2 Mike W.



MOST UNUSUAL

Entries:

1. 1960s Tootsie Toy Truck – Bill B.
2. WWI Kodak Eastman Anastigmat Camera lens – Mike W.
3. Late 1800s to early 1900s compact with makeup pad intact – Brian T.

***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.**

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.

October Meeting

- Discussion about future give aways and silver
- Free Hunt!!

**October 25th (Saturday) at 1:30 at
Kindleberger Park:
122 N Riverview Dr, Parchment, MI 49004**

- Feature: Pinpointer!!!

November Meeting

- 4 Turkeys given away
- Feature: Silver Arrowhead!!!

Barry County Youth Day Winner!!

We finally made connections to deliver the Bounty Hunter detector package that our club gave away at Barry County Youth Day. This young lady was tickled pink and found her first coin in her driveway before I ever left. Congrats to our winner Kaelyn!! Thanks Al for the donation as always!

She went right to work on her driveway with digger and all, I even showed her how to swing the machine and how to use a pinpointer, to say she was excited is an understatement. Their house was built in 1890 so I said start at your own yard for sure!!



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**

Dating your finds (not with wine and flowers):

(Cont'd from August's Newsletter)

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).*

This is a subject that is more of an annoyance to me than anything, I'll admit that. It seems people in the hobby who do not necessarily do it for the history and haven't done much (or any) research in the time periods of objects they are likely to find detecting are quick to "assume" a relic's age. Coins are easy...for the most part as they are stamped with a date. Patented items also often bear text with a patent date although that is a date of patent issue, not necessarily of manufacture or use. That being said this article will touch upon true dates of dug objects and their contextual ages as well.

Research:

Doing research (as far as sites to dig goes) can be relatively easy, the problem with any piece of land however is the usage of that site can span a long time. We are lucky and unlucky in the United States as our history is relatively short, the country has its 250th birthday next year and the date range of "digable" metal objects is realistically probably only 400 years at best. Every once in awhile a coin older than that is found or some other metal artifact but that is pretty rare. We because of this have a much narrower window of time to establish a true date from. That also means we can't just wander anywhere in the US and find something old. On the other hand go to Europe or The UK and you have at least 4,000 years (Bronze age) of history to detect and find and you CAN pretty much detect any field in those places and find something easily older than 200 years.

Even with our relatively narrow window of history, it can be difficult to establish a date for an item. True it is much easier today with digital apps and AI technology, a lot of times you can in fact take a photo of an item and use Google lens or several other apps to find a "hit" on an object with information on what it was and how it is but what if you find just a piece of the item?

There are several resources still at our disposal. A good place to start is either a digital copy or physical reprint copy of the old Sears Roebuck Co. catalogs. These are primarily later 1800s to into 1900s but these have been indispensable to get a visual look at and stumble on things with a "wait, I found one of those, that is a horse gag loop" moment. True many items may have been an item for much longer but at least we've narrowed it down as to what the relic even is. This is a link for the digital versions at Hathitrust.com (which is a great resource for anything historical):

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb?a=listis;c=1601317962>

Other reference for dating items are the U.S. patent office: <https://ppubs.uspto.gov/pubwebapp/static/pages/ppubsbasic.html#>

The indexes available at Hathitrust.org: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb?a=listis;c=503653486>

Or, the Google's Patent Search: <https://patents.google.com/>

All have their pluses and minuses but sadly the U.S. patent office's site I find to be the least user friendly. I use that mostly for post 1927 patents as those are numbers only and not written dates. It is important to note that patents have always had a number assigned but before the law requiring them to be only numbers (1927) items would have a date written out, usually shorthand on the month like this: "Pat. Sept 19, 1865". You will often find relics stamped "Pat Appld For" these are frustrating because as you can see, there is no date. I have yet to find a relic that had the "Pat Appld For" and a later identical version with the issued date but a boy can dream. Even then it is important to note that patents on an item does not mean it truly is the year that was manufactured and lost, close but not on the money:

Before 1836: Patents were granted for up to 14 years.

1836–1861: The term was 14 years, with an option for a 7-year extension, for a potential maximum of 21 years.

After 1861: The term was a fixed 17 years. (This is now 15 and 20 years depending on type of patent in the US).

There are many sites on FB and forums on the internet where experts in each field can help date items for you. This site does a great job as well, don't let the fact that it is from Maryland deter you from using it: <https://apps.jefpat.maryland.gov/diagnostic/>

At the end of the day you need to look at finds contextually, just because you find an item at a site that was a Civil War campground does not mean it was from that time, chances are better that it is but still do the research. You might find an aluminum beer can on those sites too and chances are really great it isn't from the Civil War! **To be cont'd on part 2.**

Brian Tobias



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com