

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop

October 2026 - Edition

Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

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)).

Parking



September 2026 - Finds of the Month

Jewelry



Entries:

1. Nice .925 ring with rutilated quartz stone – Fred J.
2. Earring .925 silver – John M.
3. Big Honkin' 10k gold glass ring – Rick S.

WINNER...#3, Rick S.

Coin



Entries:

1. 1860 (Fatty) Indian Head Cent – Tom H.
2. Quarter with sticker – John M.
3. 1892 Indian Head Cent – Tim T.
4. 1891 Indian Head Cent – Rick S.
5. 1853 Seated Liberty Quarter – Dakota P.
6. 1854P Seated Liberty Half Dime – Brian T.

WINNER...#6, Brian T.

F. B. & T



Entries:

1. 1936 Walking Weather Prophet Badge Promoting Lum and Abner Radio Show Rick S.
2. Oil Company Token – John M.
3. 2003 Allegan County Dog Tag – Rob K.

WINNER...#1, Rick S.

Most Unusual



Entries:

1. Brass Eagle Finial – Rick S.
2. Old Lipstick holder, lipstick still inside – Tim T.
3. Model #2 Daisy BB gun Trigger and guard "white whale gun" for collectors – Brian T.

WINNER...#1, Rick S.

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.



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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)

December Meeting

- 100 Dollars!!!
- Turkey give away (4 available)
- Don't forget to bring food if possible for an expanded Christmas snack break :)
- Christmas gift!!!



Club Notes

With the beginning of daylight savings time (Sunday, November 1st) this year, 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.

We will be discussing the possibility to open this category up to a year round category for FOM at our next meeting. More to come!!!

***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**



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Coinage, what was our first and what is a coin anyway? pt. 3

Following the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, and prior to the establishment of the federal United States Mint in 1792, the newly independent nation entered a chaotic monetary period known as the Confederation Era. Under the Articles of Confederation, both individual states and private entities had the right to issue their own coinage. This environment resulted in some of the rarest, most historic, and highly sought-after "Pre-Federal" coins in American numismatics.

The King of Colonial & Confederation Rarities:

- The 1787 Brasher Doubloon: Struck by New York City silversmith Ephraim Brasher, this is widely considered the "King of Colonials". It was the first gold coin with a distinctly American design (featuring an eagle and a sun rising over a mountain) minted to a strict weight and purity standard. Only handful exist, and specimens have broken auction records, selling for millions of dollars.



1787 Brasher Doubloon

Experimental Confederation Patterns:

- 1783 Nova Constellatio Silver Patterns: Proposed by Robert Morris (the Confederation's Superintendent of Finance), these were the first experimental decimal-based coins explicitly inscribed with "US". While Congress did not adopt the system, the copper versions struck subsequently in England (dated 1783 and 1785) became highly successful circulating tokens.
- 1785–1787 Immune / Immunis Columbia: These rare copper and silver experimental pieces features a seated Liberty holding a flag and scales. They represent early attempts to pitch a unified national currency system before the U.S. Constitution completely centralized coin production.

Rare Local and Private Token Issues:

- 1783 John Chalmers Silver Tokens: Outraged by merchants cutting up Spanish silver coins into crude "bits" to make change, Annapolis silversmith John Chalmers minted his own threepence sixpence, and shilling silver tokens. Because they were privately issued and heavily melted down later, high-grade examples are incredibly rare.



1787 - Immunis Columbia

1783 - Chalmers
Six Pence Obv.



1783 - Chalmers
Six Pence Rev.



- 1784–1789 Machin's Mills Coppers: Operating secretly near Newburgh, New York, this private, unofficial mint struck millions of copper pieces. While they mostly produced lightweight counterfeit British halfpennies to fill small-change shortages, they also created incredibly rare George Washington bust coppers (like the 1784 Washington Head V 14-84A, of which fewer than 30 are believed to exist).

State-Authorized Coinages (1785–1788):

Faced with a massive shortage of hard currency, several states stepped in to license private minters or build state-run facilities. Rare varieties among these include:

- Massachusetts Cents & Half Cents (1787–1788): Highly respected for being among the few state issues officially machine-struck to a professional standard. They feature a Native American holding a bow and an American eagle with a shield on its chest—visual motifs that later inspired federal U.S. coinage.
- Connecticut and New Jersey Coppers (1785–1788): While millions were struck, specific "die variations" (such as the 1787 Draped Bust Left in Connecticut or the Small Head, Outlined Shield in New Jersey) are exceptionally rare and highly sought after by collectors.

Coinage, what was our first and what is a coin anyway? pt. 3

Finally, the coinage Act of 1792, was signed into law. It did many things to standardize a hard currency system in the United States:

- It established a national mint located in Philadelphia.
- Congress chose decimal coinage in parts of 100, and set the U.S. dollar to the already familiar Spanish milled dollar and its fractional parts (half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth).
- This resulted in coins of the following metals and denominations:
 - **Copper:** half cent and cent
 - **Silver:** half dime, dime, quarter, half dollar, and dollar
 - **Gold:** quarter eagle (\$2.50), half eagle (\$5), and eagle (\$10)



**1783 - Private
Minted - Draped
Bust Washington**

Also with the Coinage act of 1792, the design elements of early United States coinage were strictly defined giving the visual and symbolic framework for the nation's first official coinage.

Preference for Liberty:

Early U.S. coinage featured allegorical figures of Liberty and eagles instead of presidents or living rulers (again, thank George Washington for this). Private mintings depicting Washington were made in limited quantities.

Obverse (Front) Elements:

- Every coin was required to show an allegorical figure or head of Liberty (often styled as a Greco-Roman goddess) rather than a monarch, emphasizing republican ideals over individual rule.
- The Word "LIBERTY": Mandated as a primary inscription on the face of all coins.
- Year of Coinage: The specific year the coin was minted.
- Early Stylizations: The earliest issues featured the Flowing Hair design (1794–1795 and hated by most) followed closely by the Draped Bust design (1795–1807).



**First Officially Minted Coin
1792 Silver Half Disme**



**1793 - Flowing Hair
Copper Cent - First Coin for Circulation**

Reverse (Back) Elements:

- The Bald Eagle: Gold and silver coins were required to feature a representation of a bald eagle. Early iterations featured a small, naturalistic eagle or the Heraldic Eagle with spread wings, holding an olive branch (representing peace) in one talon and a bundle of arrows (representing strength) in the other.
- "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA": Required inscription on all gold and silver coin reverses.
- Denomination (Copper Coins): Copper coins (such as the half cent and large cent) did not require an eagle; instead, their reverses initially featured a simple written denomination or a laurel/olive wreath.

The first coin struck was the **1792 Half Disme**, about 1500 given to dignitaries etc., however the first coin minted at the mint were **11,178 Flowing Hair Liberty cents**, minted March 1st, 1793 for general circulation - Brian T.



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