

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Southwest Michigan
Seek & Search Club

The Scoop

Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

December 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

November 2025 - Finds of the Month



JEWELRY



Entries:

1. Gold colored ring – Mike W.
2. J. L. O'conner's Perpetual Calendar, Pat. 1905, Copr. 1900 – Brian T.

WINNER...#2 Brian T.

COIN



Entries:

1. 1946 Walking Liberty Half Dollar – Mike W.
2. 1934 Silver Washington Quarter – Tim H.
3. 1883 (First Year w/ Cents) Liberty (V) Nickel – Brian T.

WINNER...#1 Mike W.

FOB, BADGE, TOKEN



Entries:

1. 1950s Junior Police Badge "Kid's Toy" – Bill B.
2. Good for 5 cents in trade token, Maverick – Mike W.

WINNER...#1 Bill B.

MOST UNUSUAL



Entries:

1. Silver Thimble – Brian T.
2. 1906 Michelin Tire Co Advertising Tire Gauge, Milltown N.J. – Mike W.

WINNER...#1 Mike W.

MISCELLANEOUS



Entries:

1. 1976 Canadian dime, Coin Star Find – John W.
2. Soil from the Necropolis beneath St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican – Rob K.

WINNER...#1 John W.



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Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com

December Meeting

- 4 Turkeys given away
- FEATURE RAFFLE: \$100 Cash
- Christmas Party Meeting
- Buy, Sell, Trade and Show collections night

Miscellaneous category for FOM - Second Month.

With the beginning of daylight savings time (November 3rd), 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.

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.

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**

You Don't Know Everything - Part 3, The 4 "R's" of Respect

I know it is the Christmas season and not to be a modern day Ebenezer Scrooge but this article is probably a bit overdue and just happens to land in December. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas this year and a happy New Year as well! but...I have to be honest; this is going to be a segment on common sense metal detecting etiquette, self-reliance, and how people have allowed their bad interpersonal skills to infect this hobby as it does the rest of their lives. Please note, this isn't directed at anyone in this club or the behavior of anyone in this club. This is something we need to be mindful of moving into 2026 though and help those we encounter be better stewards of the hobby :) This segment has probably affected me personally one too many times. I guess the argument can be made that some folks really don't know any better but I think a lot of what I'm about to say is just sadly commonplace.

We all love to detect in this group and we also all love to find, and to spend time with folks that enjoy the same. Unfortunately, the priority "to find" all too often masks our sense of fairness and loving thy neighbor. This being the holidays I'll also say that we all need to do better, myself included, not just this time of the year but all year. Okay, so what am I getting at? Detecting ethics really fall into what I'm going to call here the 4 "R's" of Respect:

Respect of Owners: If you are out door knocking or making calls, please make sure that if you secure a permission, you are up front with the landowner from the beginning. What do I mean by that? Well make sure you discuss what happens to finds, does the owner keep everything? (offer, offer often to share the finds you'd be surprised most don't want anything). How often will you be back, are you being granted a onetime hunt? You'd be surprised how often it happens that folks outlive their welcome, not so much because a landowner doesn't want you there more than once, but you never asked. Ask. Also, be clear about the size of your holes, that you'll take your trash with you, that you'll be good stewards of their property. Last but not least, if you are going to show up with a truckload of detectorists and not just yourself, clear that first. I once inquired about a field permission from a farmer that was super hesitant to let me detect it. Why? Because one of my detectorist friends had gotten permission around his farmhouse the year before and showed up with two trucks full of people and Go-pro cameras to film the hole rat race...they were asked to leave shortly into this event. Common courtesy can stop sudden disappointment. Also, make sure if you are detecting a public or detectable area that you've confirmed that it is open to detecting and please no night hawking. Night hawking is the practice of detecting (mostly fields) properties you don't have permission for at night so that people don't see you are there...night hawking without permission is still trespassing. Lastly, always make sure you check to see if you can detect property during deer season. I shouldn't have to say this but not asking about this is a no no.

Respect of History: (not talking about history of the finds, but that is important): How many times have you gotten a permission, even a long standing one and drive by or hear that someone (and in the worst cases one of your digging buddies) is out detecting that very site? I have. It is awkward and problematic. In most cases the landowner doesn't care, he or she may have let many people detect their property (oddly that is often an excuse made not to let you have permission yourself). Let's be honest though, if you get a permission and you have an agreement with the landowner that it isn't a one-off, that you can come back many times through the years and you bring a friend with you who 2 weeks later just shows up there without you, that is bad form. If you are that person, please be considerate to the time it took your friend to secure the permission for the both of you, I'm not even suggesting you should detect without them but if you do, please be honorable and ask the friend who currently has the permission. It also confuses owners. You may have permission for all a farmer's fields and now he's seeing different people on different pieces of land constantly and now has to check to see who they are. Respect a permission holder's history of the site.

Respect of Others (other detectorists): Piggy backing off of the last Respect of History, there are other situations that come up from time to time that fall in line with respecting our detecting brethren. If you detect with others and you let the other persons/s always be the one to door knock, research, line up permissions and transport you to the site PLEASE consider taking your turn. Now, not everyone is good at every one of those things but if you don't try you won't grow as a person. It is good to step out of your comfort zone. Also, if you make a plan try to stick to it, regardless of time to meet, where and even as far as bringing all your gear...maybe an extra pinpointer is helpful sometimes, leave it in your trunk and you won't be the one that always forgets something. Also, if you have someone researching sites and they are on the down low, like maybe nobody knows something was there please don't get on social media and disclose the location, even if your digging buddy didn't mind the landowner probably doesn't want countless people asking for permission. Just be kind and considerate above all. Also, please try to resist the urge on FB and other social media sites or even at club meetings to belittle someone else's finds, maybe you find key date silver every time you go out but the new person in the club may not and you were the newbie at one point as well.

Respect of the Environment: Remember, when we are detecting we are guests on that land, don't tear up driveways, dig bad plugs, leave plugs open and always pick up your trash and take with you ...why (because as the Hoover Boys always say) "All holes matter".

~ Brian T. (p.s. - follow this link for another good article on this sort of topic)

<https://focusspeed.com/unwritten-rules-of-metal-detecting/>

