

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

August 2026 - Edition

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

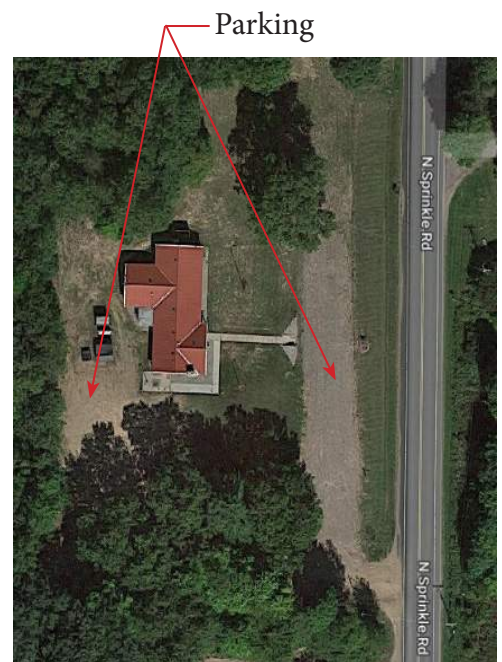
Who: Meetings are open to the public

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:

1. Letter "A" necklace charm with several stones – Mike W.
2. Bracelet, water find – John W.
3. Bracelet found in a wooded lot next to a school – John M.
4. Size 1 toe ring w/turquoise stone, gold filled – Tom. H.

WINNER...#2, John W.

Coin



Note: Representational photo

Entries:

1. 1876-S Seated Liberty Dime – Rick S.
2. 1925 Mercury dime found in a road tear out – John M.
3. 1955-D Wheat Penny – Mike W.
4. 1937 Buffalo Nickel – Jeff M.
5. 1854-O Seated Liberty Half Dime – Dakota P.

WINNER...#5, Dakota P.

F. B. & T



Note: Representational photo of reverse

Entries:

1. Parking token found in road tear out – John M.
2. Civil War store card 1863, Morris & Messinger Pontiac Michigan – Tom H.

WINNER...#2, Tom H.

Most Unusual



Entries:

1. Mid 1900s 52 caliber Musket Ball – Jeff M.
2. Pocket watch winder key – Rick S.
3. Master padlock found in road tear out – John M.
4. 1800s oil lamp part – Mike W.

WINNER...#2, 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.



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com



August Meeting

- Ice cream night,
- Feature raffle: **A silver round!!**

September Meeting

- Pizza night
- Feature raffle: **Gift Certificate to Prostock detectors!!!**



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**



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Coinage, what was our first and what is a coin anyway? pt. 1

I wanted to start a new series this month given that we've just celebrated our semiquincentennial for this great nation of ours the United States. It marks **250 years** since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence (DOI) in 1776 that most agree signaled the birth of our country. If you are any fan of history at all you realize even though **July 4th 1776** is the date attached to our birth and it is when the Declaration was signed, a lot had to happen after this point...and wait a minute, this wasn't the end of the Revolutionary War. What's that you say? I think if you did a question on the street and could get people to answer the question of when did the Revolutionary War end most would venture July 4th 1776...wrong. The official end of the war was actually the signing of the "Preliminary Peace" articles in Paris France on September 3, 1783! That is then actually 7 years, 1 month and 30 days after the signing of the DOI.

- Key Dates of the End of the War -

October 19, 1781: British General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia. This major battle effectively stopped the heavy fighting.

Late 1782: British troops left Savannah and Charleston, showing the war was winding down.

November 30, 1782: Preliminary peace articles were signed in Paris.

September 3, 1783: The final Treaty of Paris was signed, and Congress ratified it early next year in January 1784

Sorry, I realize this article is supposed to be about coins, I'm getting to that but I feel like this history is important, and it is nice to revisit this information from time to time to remind us that our freedom wasn't easy or instantaneous and that nothing every truly worth doing is easy or without sacrifice. The Rev. War actually began in 1775 so it was nearly 7 years of bloody battle endured on both sides. So what is a coin?

"A coin is a small object, usually round and flat, usually metal, used primarily as a medium of exchange or legal and tender. They are standardized in weight, and produced in large quantities at a mint in order to facilitate trade."

Most coinage (legal and tender) is minted and was minted back in the early days of settling of this continent by a government that controlled a territory or colony, country, state (whatever it was organized as). It was issued in that area as the source of exchange and was backed by the issuing nation, controlled and regulated by the same. In the early days of the United States however, it was a bit of free for all.

The earliest coinage issued by a colony was done so by a man named John Hull, authorized by Massachusetts legislature in 1652 and so was born the infamous Pine Tree Shilling. Foreign coins were used and in circulation in the 13 colonies from both Spain and Portugal, this is why detectorists find so many of the coveted "Reale", "Reis" and "Pistareen's".

Then there were the Highly coppers minted by a private source (Dr. Samuel Highly) between 1737 and 1739. These served to fill gaps in available change when other "official" coinage was in short supply.

Of course, there were also issued before the Rev. War many coins for use in trade by the British government. British copper pennies and halfpennies, farthings, (carrying King George II and II profiles) both British and the Irish Hibernias, British silver shillings and pence and the Virginia Halfpenny minted shortly before the Rev. War broke out (1773) specifically for the Virginia colony. These are rare to find detecting as most of these copper and silver coins were used for payments of imported goods and shipped back to Britain.

There were others sprinkled in here like the Rosa American and some counterfeit and tradesmen's tokens, but I won't touch on those in the next article. The dominant coin across the British colonies really was the Spanish Milled Dollars (Pieces of Eight) this was due to the extensive trade network with the West Indies. Again, this would make for another great installment on this early coinage topic.

At the same time there really were 3 forms of monetary exchange or "cash" the coins mentioned already, "flat", paper, or "fiat" money which were really for the most part worthless as they had no intrinsic value, couldn't be exchanged for gold or silver and to make matters worse began to be printed in such excess as to quickly inflate the economy (not that this happens ever in the modern world). The last type of cash was commodities, actual grain crops, tobacco, furs, and wampum were used as exchange when the other cash types were scarce and also in trade with Native Americans.

I'll discuss the coinage used during, immediately after the signing of the DOI, and after the war in the next article. After that I switch gears and talk about some of the rare coin issues out there and the first officially minted coins of this country. See you on the next one.

Brian T.



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