

The *Soundoff*



***EUREKA!* Treasure Hunters Club, Inc.**

V. 44 I. 12

December 2016

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Visit Our Club On The Internet At <http://www.eurekathc.org>



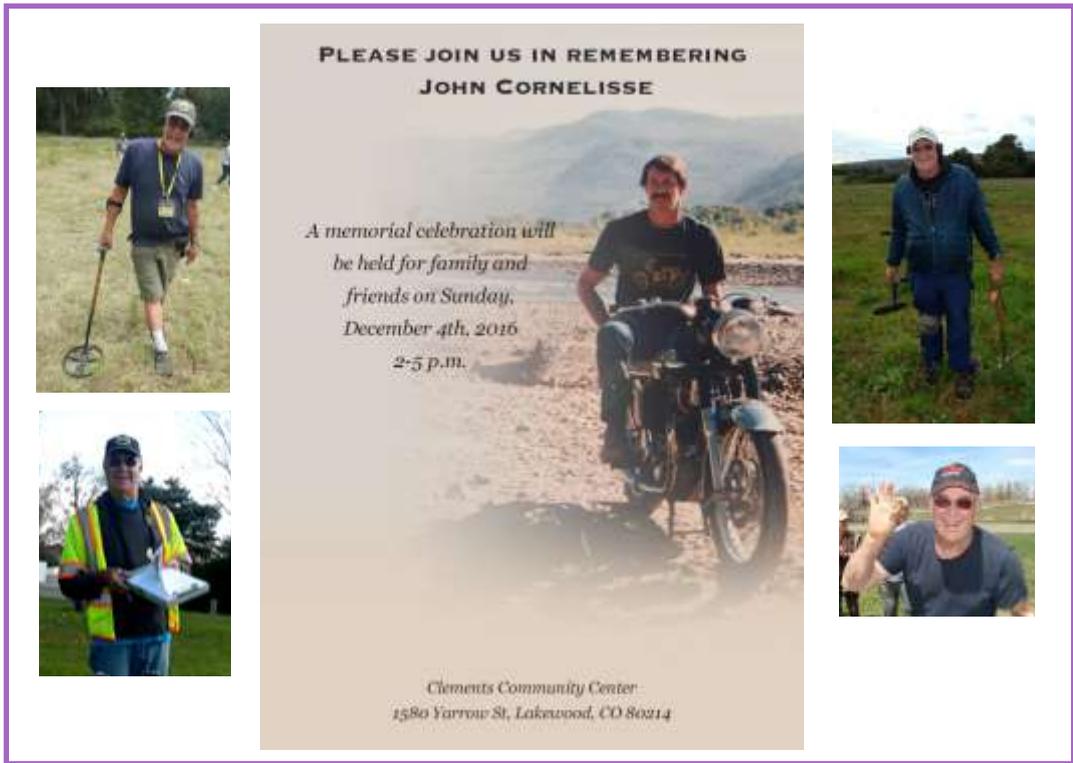
Blue Ribbon Turkey Hunt Report

By Cindy Bockenstedt

On November 12th, an extra warm fall *Saturday*, Abel and Fran Espinosa, Steve Rex, Sheri Muehlbauer, Jay and Jane Reed, Jim Merritt, Nancy Faires, John Olson, Vince and Marilyn DiPrimo, Roy Neys, Chris Davis and I all pitched in to help wherever needed. We planted the dry, dry field, set up, cleaned up, got coins, officiated, etc. and generally acted like huntmaster Brian Henry's well planned hunt never even needed him to run it. The club's members chipped in immediately after learning that Brian's father had

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eurekathc.com is now eurekathc.org



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passed away and Brian had headed out to be with his family. Our deepest sympathies.

With known great hunt weather coming, it was decided to hold the hunt on the originally planned date and not wait for the alternate as the weather may not hold. Majestic View Park was again the site used for this fun hunt.



Brian's hunt was a specialized prize hunt that included customized mugs, keychains, flashlights as well as a specially engraved knife and a Mini Mag Light. Brian made special tokens with graphics that matched each prize. John Hinton found the turkey token and was awarded a huge frozen turkey that would be perfect for Thanksgiving. Many hunters were turning up tokens, and Laura Lewis found the Spyderco token. As the hunt progressed, no one had found the token good for a gold coin.



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Quite a few people were finished hunting as targets were not being found and the day was at least 80 and sunny. The planted silver quarters and dimes all seemed to be found. I checked with the 21 hunters and found that Fran had a token, but she didn't realize it was the "gold" token. The hunt was ended and the prizes were given. Fran was awarded the gold coin!



The hunter with the most targets found was Boots Lewis, who received a Blue Ribbon Award. Nancy Porter won the engraved Mini Mag Light by finding the least targets.



Roy Neys scored a nicely engraved wooden handled pocket knife. Other hunters were awarded the specialized mugs, keychains and flashlights. (Brian's Tenacious Treasure Tracker website has more of these items in case you didn't win one and wanted one.)



Before the hunt, members were treated to turkey sandwiches, chicken, chips, fruit and ice cold water. Nancy Faires made lunch happen. And, a few people brought sides;



thank you! A tip card for a beautiful Indian Head/ Buffalo Silver Round was won by Nancy Porter.

Before the hunt, a moment of silence was taken, and as we hunted, all of us were thinking of Brian and his family (as well as John Cornelisse and his family). While all the cool individualized prizes were given out, we were all checking our pouches and enjoying our finds, the nice day, and each other's company - which seemed ever so special on this day.



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Drawing tickets are \$1 each, take a chance.

T-shirts and caps with the Eureka! logo are available. Metal detector lapel pins - \$2.00, Eureka! window decals - \$1.00, water bottles - \$5.00 and Eureka! patches - \$3.00.

Joining Eureka! Membership Dues

Yearly dues are \$30 per individual or \$36 for a family membership. Please go to Eureka-thc.org and download and complete the application form. Membership dues can be paid to the treasurer at the regular monthly meetings.

Renewals due in April.

TREASURE HUNTER'S CODE OF ETHICS

- I WILL respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the owner's permission.
- I WILL fill all excavations.
- I WILL appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
- I WILL use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I WILL build fires in designated or safe places only.
- I WILL leave gates as found.
- I WILL remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- I WILL NOT litter.
- I WILL NOT destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I WILL NOT tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.

EUREKA!

HOLIDAY DINNER

DECEMBER 17TH 5 - 8 pm

WHITE FENCE FARM

6263 W Jewell Ave

Lakewood

Menu:

Chicken \$22

Broiled Filet White Fish \$25

RSVP by December 9th



About *Soundoff*

Soundoff is the official newsletter of the Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc. (Eureka!). Mailing Address: PO Box 101385, Denver, CO 80250-1385.

Opinions expressed in *Soundoff* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club or its members. Publication of information in *Soundoff* constitutes no guarantee of accuracy. Use of any information found in this publication is at the sole risk of the user. Neither Eureka!, nor its officers, nor *Soundoff*, nor its editors or contributors assume any liability for damages resulting from use of information in this publication. *Soundoff* is typically placed on the club's website the evening of the first Friday of the month.

Submissions

Articles, letters and short items of interest on prospecting, detecting and treasure hunting topics are welcomed and encouraged. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. Submittals for publication or correction of errors may be made by e-mail in ASCII text format or MS Word. All article submissions must be received by the editor no later than the deadline of the month (see calendar) for inclusion in the next month's issue. Include publication information on articles clipped from other publications. **Let's hear your story, ideas or tips - Cindy - your *Soundoff* editor.**

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Advertising

Classified business-card-sized text advertising is free to members for non-business ads. Commercial display ads are available to anyone at the following charges: business card size, \$6.00 per month; 1/4 page, \$12.00 per month; 1/2 page, \$24.00 per month; full page, \$48.00 per month. Advertisers are encouraged to take out ads for 12 months and receive a 3-month discount. No other discounts apply. The treasurer must receive any required payments for commercial ads prior to their inclusion.

About Eureka!

Eureka! is a Denver-based, Colorado nonprofit organization established in 1973 for the enjoyment of metal detecting, electronic prospecting and treasure hunting. Its purpose is to provide an educational and social forum of mutual benefit for members. Eureka! holds a monthly meeting and conducts various special presentations, hunts and seminars. Members have voting privileges. Membership includes access to all general meetings, selected seminars and outings. Annual dues run April to March and are \$30 for single adult membership, \$36 for a family membership and \$15 for Junior membership. Pro-rating of dues are done for new members joining the club after the April 1 dues date. Club meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado. Come early to socialize.

Next Club Meeting
2nd Friday of December, 7:30pm
at the
Clement Community Center
1580 Yarrow Street
(NW of Wadsworth and Colfax)
Lakewood, Colorado 80214
Hotline: (303) 595-5448
www.eurekathc.org

Gold Prices



Silver Prices



Advertising

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Business card size, \$6.00 per month
 1/4 page, \$12.00 per month
 1/2 page, \$24.00 per month
 full page, \$48.00 per month

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Wheat Ridge requires a permit to metal detect in their city. No detecting is allowed October-March. Permits allow detecting April-September.



LuLubelle's Lost Bling Treasure Puzzle

By
Bill Chapman

A cryptogram is an encoded message. The code used is called a simple substitution cypher. This means that the message is encoded by replacing each character in the message with a letter of the alphabet. Every time a particular character occurs in the message, it is replaced with the same code letter. Word spacing and punctuation are not changed.

Some people like to solve cryptograms much like some people like to do crossword puzzles. The cryptogram is solved by looking for frequently used characters and clues provided by letter patterns and word spacing. Solve the cryptogram shown below, find LuLu's bling and bring it to the next regular Eureka! meeting to collect a prize.

UMWN STWKD UMT UMXKCNDWPWKD MBHWLXV
OTTCHWUUHT HJHJSTHHT OTKU BPTQ
UMT QWPTQ XKL UMQBIDM UMT OBBLN
UB MTQ BHL MBBL WK UMT MWDMHXKLN.
OWNMWKD UB DTU X SBBC UB QTXL NMT
OTKU UB UMT OBBLSJQV HWSQXQV SJU
IBJKL WU RHBNTL. NFVWKD UMT KTO
FHXVDQBJKL NMT MXL UB FHXV BK UMT
NHWLTN. MTQ SHWKD NHWL XO XV UBB.

Last Month's Solution:

This past month Little Lulubelle attended a very fine scavenger hunt. Cindy did an excellent job setting it up. During a break Lulubelle went to the little playground with a nautical theme. She

sat on the wall of porpoises and played on the tiny slide. Somewhere in that area she lost her bling.

Park: Milliken Park

Prize: 5 golden dollar coins. Sponsored by Louise Smyth of Gold-N-Detectors.



Prez Sez

By
John Olson

Ready...Set...GO!

Greetings from semi-beautiful Watkins, Colorado and how's everyone doing?

They tell me that winter is just around the corner and my detecting season may come to an end soon. Today it's supposed to be in the 60s so I might get out with my XLT for an hour or so.

You have your house and vehicles ready for winter. The sprinkler system is blown out, your vehicles are ready for winter and you put gas treatment in the lawn mower and boat, right? Well, you need to winterize your metal detecting equipment also.

The snow is too deep and the ground is frozen solid and you have no more vacation time to go to Florida so get your detector and all your equipment out and give it a cleaning. Take the cover off of your coils and clean them also. Look for loose or missing screws, and make sure the wires and cables are not frayed or cracked. Now is the time to replace the display screen cover. Take the batteries out of your detector and pinpointer and leave them out. Charge up your rechargeable battery packs and put them, along with you detector, in a place where they won't get too cold. Big temperature fluctuations are not good for electronics. Get them off the floor and where you can see them. I like to hang my detectors as they do at Gold-n-Detectors. Use coated hooks or clips to hang you detector by the housing or rod. Do not hang them by the coil. Sharpen your digging tools and repair the handles.

Now your equipment is **Ready** for winter and you are **Set** for next spring. When you **Go** out for the first time next year you won't have any equipment malfunctions.

Is your brain ready for winter? Read your owner's manual. Do research to find a new hunting area. Go to that place and familiarize yourself with the sur-

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roundings and maybe talk to a landowner about permission for next year. Don't know how to do research? Eureka meetings and members will help.

Lastly, thank you to those who have stepped up to run for Eureka! Officer and Board positions! We still need a couple more volunteers. We work as a team on projects and try to help each other on activities and duties.

“I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.”
-Thomas Jefferson

Find treasure and a friend at Eureka!

John

December 2016

- 2nd - Breakfast Club (Canceled)
- 2nd - Newsletter Published
- 7th - Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 9th - General Meeting 7:30pm, Bring a Dessert
- 17th - Breakfast Club 9:00am
- 17th - Holiday Party 5:00-8:00pm
- 30th - *Soundoff* Deadline



January 2017

- 6th - Breakfast Club 9:00am
- 6th - Newsletter Published
- 11th - Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 13th - General Meeting 7:30pm
- 15th - Club Hunt or Outing
- 21st - Breakfast Club 9:00am
- 27th - *Soundoff* Deadline



February 2017

- 3rd - Breakfast Club 9:00am
- 3rd - Newsletter Published
- 8th - Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 10th - General Meeting 6:30pm -Awards Banquet
- 12th - Hunt 11:30
- 18th - Breakfast Club 9:00am
- 24th - *Soundoff* Deadline

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GOLD CATEGORY

Chuck Hedberg 14K Ring with 3 Diamonds
Mary Sable **14K Ring with 5 Large Diamonds**

JEWELRY CATEGORY

Glen Thompson..... Silver Owl Ring
 Tonette Romero Silver Ring
 Tonette Romero Catholic Pendant
 Jim Merritt..... Silver Pedant
 Jim Merritt..... Silver Ring with 12 Diamonds
 Kenneth Martin Silver Ring
 Kenneth Martin Antique Cuff Link
 Cindy Bockenstedt Old Religious Medal
Randy Sable.....**Sterling Bracelet**

COIN CATEGORY

Tonette Romero 1956 Turkish 25 Kurns
 Tonette Romero 1941 D Mercury Dime
 Tonette Romero 1936 D Mercury Dime
 Chuck Hedberg 1908 D Barber Dime
 Cindy Bockenstedt 1867 Shield Nickel
 John Olson 1889 V Nickel
 John Olson 1890 V Nickel
Jack Hoover **196-197 AD Roman Silver Denarius**

TOKEN CATEGORY

Pat Lucero Trapper's Chop House / \$10
 Cindy Bockenstedt Tenacious Treasure Tracker
 Chuck Hedberg Colorado Tax
Jim Merritt **Ginger / 1 Pack Of Cigarettes**

ARTIFACT CATEGORY

Tonette Romero 1858 Patent Porcelain insert and Jar Lid
 Tonette Romero42 Shot Military Load
 Chuck Hedberg 1950 Uncle Sam Play Dime
 Chuck Hedberg Gibraltar Oil Watch Fob
 Pat Lucero Replica Ancient Coin
 Kenneth Martin32 Rim Fire Shell Casing
 Chris Davis 1942 Colorado Licensed Chaffer Badge
 Jack Hoover 1500-1700 Crotal Bell
 Cindy Bockenstedt Hotel Vendome Baggage Tag, Leadville Colo.
Cindy Bockenstedt..... **Haynes Horseless Carriage Emblem**

FIND-OF-THE-MONTH CATEGORIES

Gold: natural gold (flakes, nuggets, wire) stamped karat alloy content or obvious custom alloy item, except gold coins which are entered in the Coin Category.

Jewelry: objects of metal often set with gems and worn for personal adornment, except jewelry qualifying for the Gold Category.

Coin: a piece of metal issued by governmental authority as money.

Token: a piece resembling a coin issued by some person or entity, not of a governmental authority (with the exception of tax tokens), that could be redeemed for services or specified items. Advertisement tokens with no redeemable value are entered in the Artifact Category.

Artifact: simple object showing human workmanship or modification, and all other items that do not meet the criteria for other categories.

Find of the Month Winners - November

ARTIFACT - Cindy Bockenstedt

Haynes Horseless Carriage Emblem

Advertised as “America’s First Car”, Elwood Haynes manufactured automobiles with a partner starting in 1894. He went solo 1905-1924 under his name-Haynes. This emblem was found by Cindy at 4 inches down while using her White’s MXT with a small DD coil.



COIN - Jack Hoover

196-197 AD Roman Silver Denarius

Jack traveled to England with his Deus. Using an 11 inch coil, he found this ancient silver coin.



TOKEN - Jim Merritt

Ginger / Pack of Cigarettes



Jim took his White’s MXT Pro with a 9 inch DD coil to Maryland where he found this intriguing token in a school field about 4 inches deep.

JEWELRY - Randy Sable

Sterling Cuff Bracelet

Randy was swinging his White’s XLT with a standard coil when he got a quarter hit. He was searching a Lakewood park.



GOLD - Mary Sable

14K Ring with 5 Large Diamonds

This gold stunning man’s ring was found by Mary at a Denver Park on Halloween morning. The standard coil on her White’s XLT was used to locate this ring just 2 inches down. It came up as a VDI of 22-24 on her detector.



Upcoming Events

NEXT EUREKA! MEETING

Also bring:

Nametags ~ thanks for wearing them to all Eureka! functions.

Cash ~ for drawings, hunts, hats...

Finds ~ to show. Tokens ~ to show.

Answers ~ to puzzles.

Ideas ~ for speakers, fun outings.

Snacks ~ as always, treats for the snack table are appreciated.

Desserts ~ Dec Dessert Night

LINKED WEB SITES

www.mdhtalk.org Detecting Hobby Talk

www.fmdac.org Federation of Metal Detector & Archaeological Clubs

<http://www.relicroundup.blogspot.com>

Relic Roundup Radio show (hosted by Jeff Lubbert 7pm Mondays), and blog.

TenaciousTreasureTracker.com

Hunt #8 will start in April 2017.

UPCOMING EUREKA! EVENTS

Dec 17th, 2016 (Saturday)

Jan 6th, 2016 (Friday)

Breakfast Club

Contact: Chris Davis 225 235-2642
for place and time to meet or to get added to the email list.

Sat, Dec 17, 2016

Holiday Dinner Party

White Fence Farm

5:00-8:00pm

RSVP and pay by Dec 9th

Contact: Nancy Faires 303 368-1356

Jan Hallez 303 913-7346



UPCOMING MEETING SPEAKER

December - Bob DeWitt

Colorado Merchant "Trade" Tokens

Please bring your tokens to show.

Bob DeWitt
(719) 473-0330
Please call for appointment

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In-Town Hunt Information

In-Town club hunts are meant to be fun, first and foremost. They provide a context outside of the meetings for fellowship with club members. To put on an in-town hunt you need to:

- Schedule with the Hunt Coordinator or President (see the contact list).
- Provide the Hunt Coordinator a plan.
- Send the hunt flyer to the newsletter editor in an appropriate format for insertion into the newsletter (see the contact list).
- Provide flyers at the monthly meeting.
- Ensure the hunt rules are discussed BEFORE the hunt.
- Police the hunt.
- Decide if the hunt is a members only or an open hunt (non-members may hunt).
- Write a story for the newsletter and send it and accompanying photos to the newsletter editor prior to that month's deadline.

To ensure the continuation of this hobby and to provide the best impression

of Eureka! and its membership, you, as hunt master, MUST enforce all rules, including:

1. Pouches to store finds and trash must be worn and used at all times during the hunt.
2. All hunters must wear headphones.
3. Absolutely no tolerance of holes left open (a first warning, followed by a time-out or expulsion from the hunt).
4. Hunters digging and leaving trash of any sort on the hunt field will receive the same treatment discussed above.

All hunts will need to be okayed by Hunt Coordinator (see the contact list) prior to officially being put in the newsletter and put on.

Failure to follow the guidelines may result in hunts being cancelled.

Hunts may be paid for in advance. This helps the hunt master with planning for how much should be planted in the field. In case a person must miss the hunt, their prepaid fee may be refunded if they call the hunt master before the hunt and cancel, other circumstances will be reviewed. No refund will be given for just plain failure to show up to the hunt.

Westminster requires a permit to metal detect in their city. It will be good for a year.
See Connie at the lower level of City Hall.
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs from 7:00am to 6:00pm.
Please follow the City's guidelines and show that we, as detectorist, are a responsible group.

Secretary's Report

By Nancy Faires

November 11, 2016

President John Olson called the Eureka! THC Club meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He introduced the officers and board members. There were 50 members present.

There will be a "meet and greet" for new members at the end of the meeting tonight.

Nancy Faires presented the Treasurer's report.

Eureka! will buy gold and silver coins – minimum \$5 face value. Please set an appointment prior to Club meeting time. Contact any Board member to schedule.

HUNT CANCELATION POLICY

Notify the Hunt Master by 9 AM the day of the hunt if you can't make the hunt and you have pre-paid.

The speaker tonight is Chris Davis talking about his recent detecting trip to England. Thank you Chris.

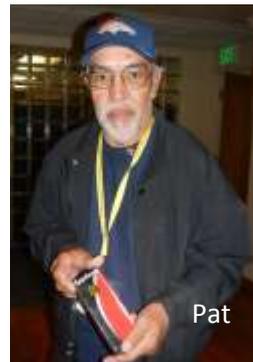
October Hunt – Scavenger Hunt - Cindy Bockenstedt
Milliken Park – October 16th

Pat Lucero found the Spyderco token and was awarded a Spyderco knife by Boots Lewis. Thank you to Boots and Spyderco for sponsoring this hunt.

Tip of the Month

Glen Thompson – don't get frustrated when you're detecting.
Chris Davis – keep detector close to the ground when detecting.

November Hunt – Blue Ribbon Turkey Hunt - Brian Henry
Majestic View Park, Arvada Saturday November 12th \$20 per person



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HOLIDAY DINNER – Saturday December 17th

White Fence Farm, 6263 W Jewell Ave, Lakewood, CO

You may sign-up and pay tonight, at the December meeting or you may mail a check to the club PO Box. **The deadline to sign-up and pay is December 9th.**

RTTR 2017 – Pickle Gulch, Colorado July 21-23, 2017

Jeff Lubbert announced that registration is going well and encouraged members to participate.

LULUBELLE'S BLING – Louise Smyth and Bill Chapman

No one found the Bling this month.

Thank you Louise and Bill Chapman for sponsoring this hunt.

Breakfast Club

Meetings are the 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday each month.

Please come and join us to share stories, finds, have breakfast together and an unplanned hunt to follow. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

This is a good opportunity for new members to meet and detect with some of our Club's excellent detectorists.

Chris Davis reminded anyone interested in PERT to fill out an application and what it would include.

We begin the nomination process for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Board members. Each position entails a 2 year term.

Those nominated and accepted:

President - Chris Davis was nominated, seconded and nomination accepted

VP – none accepted

Secretary – none accepted

Treasurer – Roy Neys was nominated, accepted and nomination accepted

Board Members nominated, seconded and nominations accepted – Norm Ruggles, Vince DiPrimo, Sherry Muehlbauer and John Hinton

Interim Treasurer elected – Linda Kibler

Nominations will continue with elections to follow at the December meeting.

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General Drawing Winners

1931 D (semi-key date) Lincoln cent – Van Romero
1873 Shield nickel – Tonette Romero
1938 D (uncirculated) Buffalo nickel – Laura Lewis
1906 D Barber half – Chuck Hedberg
1872 3-cent nickel – Randy Williamson
1916 Barber dime – John Olson
Silver Round - Morgan-Like – Bernice Ortiz
Dos Peso – Michael Rose
1925 Stone Mountain half – Chuck Hedberg
1866 2-cent piece – Bud Van Gundy
1877 S Seated quarter – Vince DiPrimo
1907 (uncirculated) Indian cent – Gary Porter



Membership Drawing Winner – Walter Hoessle

Holiday Drawing – Joe Johnston

1882 S Morgan dollar



RTTR 2017 50/50 Cash Drawing Winner – Steve Rex



Finds of the Month Winners (must be a member to enter finds and vote for finds)

Gold category – Mary Sable
Coin category – Jack Hoover
Token category – Jim Merritt
Artifact category – Cindy Bockenstedt
Jewelry category – Randy Sable

Winners who won the drawing for the gold coin and the 2 walking liberty half's (tickets sold at September meeting, CoinHuna, October and November meetings):

Gold – Terry Weatherly
Walking liberty half – Randy Sable
Walking liberty half – Linda Kibler

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REMINDERS:

December – dessert meeting / elections

January – Finds of Year

February – potluck meeting (**6:30 PM start time**) – new Officers and Board members

Thanks to everyone who brought food and to everyone who assisted with the meeting tonight.



Contact List

Officers	Name	Phone	E-Mail
President	John Olson	(719) 588-7021	jncolson1969@gmail.com
Vice President	Jeff Lubbert	(303) 618-5179	coindigr@hotmail.com
Secretary	Nancy Faires	(303) 368-1356	photo518@msn.com
Treasurer	Linda Kibler	(303) 6700899	rikibler@earthlink.net
Board 2017	Steve Rex	(720) 270-2471	kiowarex@yahoo.com
Board 2017	Boots Lewis	(303) 941-6251	foxfixer5@msn.com
Board 2017	Chris Davis	(225) 235-2642	aggiefan55@gmail.com
Board 2018	Terry Weatherly	(303) 748-7288	terrysboss302@hotmail.com
Board 2018	Brian Henry	(720) 771-1883	Brian@tenacioustreasuretracker.com
Board 2018	Linda Erickson	(720) 231-8080	linda.erickson@comcast.net
Board 2018	Fran Espinosa	(720) 202-5101	maddoxe29@gmail.com

Newsletter

Editor	Cindy Bockenstedt	(303) 523-6735	seychik@aol.com
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Web Site

Webmaster	John Lambe	(303) 840-8094	jlambe@earthlink.com
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Volunteers

PERT	Chris Davis	Nametags	Linda Erickson
HART	Steve Rex	Microphone	John Hinton
Hunt Coordinator	Jeff Lubbert	Greeter	Board Member
Finds Table	Bernice Ortiz	Hotline	Laura Smith
Finds Table	Van Romero	Speakers	Jeff Lubbert
Drawing Table	Fran Espinosa	Orientation	Board Member
Drawing Table	Abel Espinosa	Coin Purchases	Jeff Lubbert

For general information contact the hotline: (303) 595-5448

Visit our club on the Internet: <http://www.eurekathc.org>



Eureka! Club Members Service Directory



Tonette Romero
Operations Manager/
Health, Safety & Environmental Manager



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(303) 935-6805
Direct: (303) 405-0478

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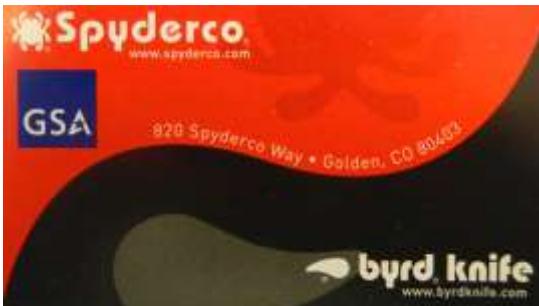
American Digger
Magazine - Relic Roundup

Co-host - Jeff Lubbert
www.relicroundup.blogspot.com
Phone: 678-439-1863
Skype: AmericanDigger
Monday nights 9:00 pm EST
(7:00 pm Mountain Time Zone)
Personal contact:
com-dgr@hotmail.com
Phone: 303-487-0438
Cell: 303-618-5179
Skype: jefflubbert

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Brian Henry 303-451-6870



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LET US FIND YOUR LOST RINGS AND THINGS

John Hinton
303-619-4313

Tom Zawatski
720-206-8671

Eureka! Breakfast Club: The Eureka! Breakfast Club will meet the First Friday and the Third Saturday every month. Everyone is invited!

Contact Chris Davis 225 235-2642 if you are interested in meeting for breakfast and then going out metal detecting with other club members.

If you want to learn more about your detector or how to detect, or cement friendships, this is a great opportunity to tap into other member's experience or to get together for a fun outing.



Report and Photos by Chris Davis

The Breakfast Club met on Friday, Nov. 4, 2016. Only 5 participants showed up for this gala affair: Bruce, Norm, Mary, Chuck and Chris. I guess everyone else is waiting for the snow to get deep enough. After a fine breakfast (I do not even have to order anymore, the waitress knows exactly what I want), we all ambled over to West-Bar-Val Wood Park.

We started out what I would call extremely well. Chuck found a petite gold ring, with small diamonds, on the baseball field. It registered a VDI in the high foil range. Great find! Norm picked up a nice stainless steel bracelet and a gold earring. On my cheap machine (that French piece of junk) his gold earring was all over the place, but more or less in the high foil range. I would not have dug it, which just goes to show you. Mary did not find any jewelry, but with what she has already found this month, if she does not find anything else for several years, she will still be way ahead. Bruce and I did best, finding some really nice bottle caps.



Eureka!/PPAL Demographic Survey – 2015

By Chris Davis

Demographic and suggestion surveys were run on both the Eureka! Treasure Hunter's Club (Eureka!) and Pike's Peak Adventure League (PPAL) for the year of 2015.

PPAL is based in Colorado Springs and reports a paid membership of 65 during 2015. The Eureka! Club is located in Littleton and has 150 members. I am a member of both Pike's Peak and Eureka! and can tell you from personal experience, they are both great clubs.

Responses were received from 54% of the Pike's Peak folks, and 39% of the Eureka! members.

As with most surveys, there was room for error involved in this one. The more respondents, the better the information. Many respondents did not answer all questions. I could not assume, just because nothing was in the blank, the answer was "0" or "No". If no information was submitted on a particular topic, it was excluded from calculation. Inadvertently, I asked several questions of one club, but not on the other. Never-the-less, all-in-all, I think we got some interesting and useful information.

I discovered both clubs had a very good sense of humor. For example, for "Sex", 3 PPAL members listed "Yes", while Eureka! only had 2 "Yes" and 1 "Seldom".

As you might expect, there were similarities and some differences between the clubs. According to the data:

- The Male-Female Ratio and Age Composition of both clubs are similar. It appears most detectorists in the clubs are mature (older), averaging around 58 years of age. Half were retired.
- PPAL members report twice as many years of metal detecting experience as Eureka! members.
- The average PPAL member has been in the club twice as long as that of Eureka! members.
- The Detectorists own an average of 3 to 4 machines. One PPAL member report-

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ed owning 14 machines. One Eureka! member said he/she owned 18 machines. -While a wide variety of detectors are used, it appears the favorite machine used by PPAL was the Garrett AT Pro. Eureka! members preferred the White's MXT by a wide margin.

-Eighty percent of both clubs used the Garrett pinpointer. White's fell in at 10-15%.

-Both clubs averaged finding one gold ring, 3 silver rings and 3 silver coins per member during 2015. The 2 clubs found a total of 93 gold rings and 236 silver rings last year.

-Eureka! members attended more club hunts (6) than PPAL (2), but Eureka! held twice as many hunts, and the PPAL hunts were often multi-day affairs.

-PPAL members report making approximately 3 hunts a month. Eureka! hunters averaged 4.

-The data seems to confirm PPAL has more of an emphasis on Relic Hunting, while Eureka!, being in the big city, focuses more on Coin and Jewelry Hunting. Most members of both clubs hunt parks to some degree. Eureka! hunts parks the most (92%), while 74% of PPAL hunts parks. On the flip side, 76% of PPAL hunt Private Property, while only 49% of Eureka! hunt private lands.

-Eighty-odd percent of both clubs regularly read their Newsletters.

A breakdown of the data, averages and (ranges) is listed below:

	<u>PPAL</u>	<u>Eureka!</u>
Club Paid Membership:	65	150
Total Responses:	35 (54%)	59 (39%)
Age	60 (39-88)	56 (16-82)
Sex	M (75%) F (25%)	M (70%) F (30%)
Retired or Working		Working (50%), Retired (50%)
Years Detecting	19 (0-61)	9 (0-48)
Years Club Membership	10 (0-43)	5 (0-31)
Ever in Other MD Clubs	No (64%), Yes (36%)	No (95%), Yes (5%)
Number of Metal Detectors	3.9 (1-14) 130*	2.8 (0-18) 142*

*Husband/Wife teams probably double counted machines

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	<u>PPAL</u>	<u>Eureka!</u>
What Activities Are Folks Participating In?		
-Coin/Jewelry Hunting	97%	95%
-Relic Hunting	89%	64%
-Prospecting	49%	36%
-Bottle Hunting	40%	12%
What do Folks Say They Do Most?		
-Coin/Jewelry Hunting	61%	92%
-Relic Hunting	29%	8%
-Prospecting	7%	
-Bottle Hunting	4%	
Gold Rings Career	5.5 (0-50) 176 total	7.2 (0-100+) 371 total
Gold Rings 2015	1.0 (0-15) 33 total	1.1 (0-18) 60 total
Gold Coins Career	2 total	6 total
Silver Rings Career	11 (0-50) 240 total	27 (0-200+) 1,046 total
Silver Rings 2015	3.1 (0-30) 103 total	2.5 (0-20) 133 total
Silver Coins 2015	12.5 (0-200+) 399* total	4.7 (0-100+) 222* total
*2 PPAL individuals listed 200+ and 100 silver coins found in 2015. 1 Eureka! individual listed 100+. May have been quoting lifetime recovery, rather than 2015, possibly included planted coins. That, or they need to invite me over for a hunt. If drop the fliers we have:		
	3.3 (0-25) 99 total	2.7 (0-20) 122 total
# Club Hunts Attended	2.0 (0-6)	5.9 (0-12)
# Hunts per Month	2.7 (0-10)	4.0 (2-23)
Where Are People Hunting?		
-City Parks/Schools	74%	92%
-State Parks	35%	27%
-Private Property	76%	49%
-Other	35% (NF 5, BLM 4, etc)	

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PPAL

Eureka!

Where Do People Hunt The Most?

-City Parks/Schools	92%
-State Parks	0
-Private Property	8%

Read the Newsletter? Yes 88%, No 12% Yes 81%, No 19%

SELL YOUR SILVER

With our national Rush to the Rockies Hunt approaching, Eureka! is open to purchasing U.S. silver coins or gold from our members.

Please contact Ron Erickson 720 633-1967 or Jeff Lubbert 303 618-5179.

**Rush to the Rockies
July 21-23 2017**

The Rush to the Rockies flyer and entry form is available on our Eureka! club's website at www.eurekathc.org. The event, to be held July 21-23, 2017 at Pickle Gulch Campground, (near Blackhawk, CO), will be limited to 85 participants. You can expect five spectacular hunts over the course of two days, a free kid's hunt, fireside chats for those staying the night, guest speakers, prizes and a lot of fun and camaraderie. You can join the fun for an entry fee of \$250.



Happy New Year

Return to Siscatchiwah

by Bill Chapman

Whether you dream of Siscatchiwah, Xanadu, Camelot, Shangri-La or the Land of Oz, these magical, mystical places, that exist only in the hearts and minds of each of us, hold a special place in our lives. Last year after considerable study and assistance, I was able to pull together a trip to discover Siscatchiwah. I wrote about that trip in the *Soundoff*. While you'll not find it on any map, Siscatchiwah is a very real place to those of us with imagination and who believe in the values of the metal detecting hobby

In Siscatchiwah, there are no magicians, Tibetan priests, wizards, no "little people", good or bad witches nor creatures with super-human powers. What is there, is a group of like-minded individuals based out of New Hampshire who engage in all sorts of outdoor activities. It is the time they call "diggin'" that brought them all together. It is their passion for American history that drives them to explore the abandoned ruins of our country's past. It was this passion that possessed Cliff McGaughey and me to drive across ten states, nearly 2,000 miles each way and be on the road for 34 straight hours to meet with and dig with the Stealth Diggers. The following is the story of our trip in September, 2016.

I first wrote about the Stealth Diggers last year stressing the fun aspect they bring to the hobby. It was only a year later that the Eureka! Club was getting a shout out from the group in one of their weekly videos. Many of the Eureka! Club members are now weekly watchers and have become members of the Stealth Diggers Nation themselves. The SD Nation now numbers more than 7,000 members. There is a Facebook group, subsets such as The Highly Collectibles and the Shack West, and of course the core group operating out of the Stealth Shack in southern New Hampshire. From there, they post a weekly video at 6:00pm EST every Thursday on YouTube. The weekly episodes are informative, educational and without question, designed to be entertaining.

I had such a great experience during my October 2015 visit to the Shack that I was compelled to plan a return visit in 2016. Cliff, tired of hearing of the magnificence of my trip, agreed to give it a try and share in the driving and expenses. No detecting trip could be that good. What he discovered was that it was actually better!

We left the Denver area at 5:00am on Wednesday morning and found ourselves in Siscatchiwah at 7:00pm Thursday evening. We were a full 8 hours ahead of schedule. Time flies when you're having fun! That left us some logistical problems but those were soon resolved. We were not expected at the Stealth Shack until 6:00pm Friday for a pizza party in our honor. We were pleased to be bringing the pizza. We spent Thursday evening in our temporary lodging tucked under the attic eaves like a couple of bats but got some much needed rest.

Friday morning, following a hearty breakfast, found us at a not too distant Jiffy Lube, back on schedule. Driving the back roads from our lodging to the Jiffy Lube was an experi-

ence. The roads were narrow and winding and were very cathedral-like because of the tall trees growing close to the road on either side. It was on this trip of some 45 minutes that Cliff started picking out the rock walls frequently mentioned in the video episodes. Rounding one curve, he spotted two “chickens” right at the edge of the road. I should point out that anything with wings in Siscatchiwah is referred to as chickens. These happened to be wild turkeys.

After getting our ride serviced and fueled, we went looking for a spot I thought I remembered. Try as we might, we failed to locate it but enjoyed the changing colored leaves and some of the beautiful New Hampshire countryside. Then it was back to our lodging to move from our temporary quarters to our reserved room, unload the vehicle, then dash to another nearby town to pick up our pizza order.

At the Stealth Shack, ever so prompt, we were greeted by a small volley of flying spoons. Cliff was introduced all around and we unloaded more of the vehicle and the ever good smelling pizzas. The crowd that evening was a small gathering consisting of Digger Charlie, NinJen, Jay Mo (who had showed up with his “canvas castle” a pop-up camper), Mr. and Mrs. Keebler, Keebler San and Lu (the Shack cat).

Cliff received the grand tour. There are so many things to see inside the Shack. As we munched on pizza, Cliff just knew that there was something in store for him. We had planned a surprise awards ceremony, which was carried out at this time. Sorry, but I cannot talk about the ceremony as it has not been aired yet. Watch for this evening’s ceremony in the first of our episodes to be released probably in December.

Every visitor to the Stealth Shack gets to (has to) be interviewed in the infamous video corner. As part of the interview, the guest is handed a bugle and asked to perform. Unaccustomed as he was, Cliff did quite well on the interview. Watch for this interview on an upcoming episode somewhere in the continuum. The rest of the evening was spent planning the next morning’s get together.

On Saturday, as the scheduling had it, a number of the group was to be at the Silver City Treasure Show in Taunton, Massachusetts. Just Bob, Beardon, Trooper Bri and Jay Mo would be at the show representing the Stealth Diggers while others stayed at the shack and Cliff would hunt with them. Jay Mo rode to Taunton with me and “Bitchin’ Betty”, my verbal navigation system. Jay Mo, a navy veteran, who loaded munitions onto carrier based fighter jets, told me that the pilots referred to these verbal electronics devices as Bitchin’ Betty...“pull up!; decrease speed for landing!; lower flaps!” So the military name was immediately adopted for my Garmin.

Betty got us to our previously unvisited destination, the high school location of the treasure show, right on time. Trooper Bri was standing outside the entry door with a parking spot reserved for us. We hurriedly unloaded the car of the several boxes of artifacts we had brought and set up on our assigned tables. This was a very large show! The attendance was about 400 visitors and there were somewhere between 40 to 50 tables of treasured finds. Behind the tables there were another 60–75 people explaining their displays plus the show staff. To get a feel for the exhibits, look for the *Silver City Treasure Show*

on the Trooper Bri channel on YouTube. Not only will you see some amazing finds but you will get to see my Connecticut and Massachusetts family members who came to the show to celebrate my birthday. You will also get to see the beautiful relic display that Trooper Bri and Dave Wise presented me. Or you can visit the Shack West and see it for real!

Meeting some of my favorite fellow detectorists for the first time was a big thrill for me. It was a long and very busy day. At the end of the show, Jay Mo and I began the two hour drive back to the Shack. We arrived just prior to dark and met up with the hunt crowd. The additional hunters included Tim (The Kerbinator), Phil (Mud Dog) and Wayne (Waynos). One of our requests was to hunt the Swimming Hole Cellar Hole. Cliff and crew spent their morning there and then moved into a large field for the afternoon. After hunting all day, the hunt crew returned to the Shack too. Charlie fired up a grill and Jay Mo did the cooking of dogs and burgers. We all got acquainted while dinner was cooking.

Cliff and I didn't know what the crew had cooked up for us besides dinner. There was a graduation ceremony in which we were properly attired and then awarded advanced degrees from Stealth Diggers University. It was truly in fun but we were quite pleased to receive these honorific degrees. Again, please watch the up coming episodes to see what honors were actually conferred upon us. The remaining evening was spent in music as many of the group played instruments. Phil on 12-string, with Charlie, Tim and Wayne on 6-strings, Keebler on bass and Jen did a little tambourine and 6-string. Thor and KB showed up and joined the group after dinner with Thor taking the percussion lead on a beat box. All too soon the evening came to an end.

Sunday morning came early and with sunrise came a little liquid sunshine. Yesterday's crew members Tim and Wayne couldn't be there on Sunday but Just Bob, Beardon and Kinoodles were, along with Digger Charlie, Mr. Keebler, NinJen and Phil. We had a new fellow, Gary, who we met at the treasure show and had also asked to come along. We split up into about five vehicles and all followed KIT to where we would spend the day hunting. About a mile from the hunt site, we had to leave three of our vehicles and take only high clearance trucks the rest of the way to the site.

After a kidney pounding ride in Just Bob's new truck, we arrived at a hole that I recognized. It had been explored in episode #142 (The Nylon Job). In that episode, Smokin' Joe Canalori found part of a door hinge (@19:33). While hunting in the collapsed bricks of the chimney, I found a complete matching one. We pounded the area around the hole for a while but I stayed on the rim along the north and west sides. I was finding colonial relics but felt completely inadequate when Gary, hunting on the south side uncovered a large pair of fireplace tongs under a rock, and Phil, a seated liberty dime across the road. This seated dime turned out to be the only coin find of the day.

After hunting around the hole for a few hours, Cliff decided to go on deep, deep orbit. When he returned some time later, he announced that he had lost his pinpoint. As NinJen and I were the nearest to him, we followed Cliff through the woods spreading out to try to locate it. At the end of a considerable time, we had to call our search a failure. To Cliff, all the trees started looking alike and he was uncertain to what path he had actu-

ally traveled. Bummer!

There were a couple of other cellar holes and fields down the dead end road, so we all walked and hunted. Hunted and walked. At day's end, the sun setting, we piled back into the trucks and left this day in Siscatchiwah as a memory. There were, other than Gary's and Phil's, no great finds this day but those precious memories of time in the woods with friends are priceless.

Monday morning was a scheduled trip to another place that Cliff and I had requested to visit, an abandoned insane asylum, episode #145 (Dept. of Mental Stealth). Spoons are a big thing in the land of the Stealth Diggers, and the spoons found at this spot were exceptional. We wanted one. It was a long drive of nearly two hours to get to this spot. As soon as we pulled into a nearby parking lot, it began to rain. It had rained a bit Sunday morning but that soon passed. Charlie told us that it had not rained in several weeks, but after our arrival, it now chose to rain two days in a row.

We had to sit out some rain but not for more than an hour. We were then able to gear-up and walk down into what was now a large, harvested corn field. We had done some preliminary research on the place and knew where the institute buildings had been located. Here on the ground we soon found out where the clinkers from the furnace had been spread, as they registered on our machines as hot rocks. Just Bob showed us the hillside, now wooded, that had been the cemetery. Respectfully, we stayed out of those woods and limited our searching to the fields.

Hunting corn fields is not my favorite kind of hunting but I wanted one of those special spoons. I established a systematic search, up and down parallel rows of corn stubble, running the length of damp soil. Clinkers, a 4-hole button and some unidentifiable iron pieces were my treasures this afternoon. No one else was calling out targets either until Jay Mo called out, "Spoon!" Cliff and I immediately went over to him to give congratulations but also to run our detectors over a target that we were looking for. There would be no missing one of these. I was able to hear Jay's spoon up to 12" away.

Back to pounding the now, dry earthen rows again, the search continued with greater resolution. Too soon it seemed, the sun's setting was announcing the close of the day and I had little to show for it. While those of us nearest the path -NinJen, Cliff, Just Bob and I - started up the hill, the remaining hunters, Keebler, Charlie and Jay Mo started out of the field slowly.

What happened next is one of the reasons we travel 2,000 miles to hunt with this group. I was personally feeling pretty down and inadequate as a detectorist. I knew I could find things if I pass over them but today had not been that day. Just Bob tried to pick up my spirits but when Charlie came back to the cars, I once again saw why I appreciated the Stealth Diggers attitude of generosity. Charlie called Cliff and me to the rear of KIT and after a short speech, presented each of us with one of those unique crazy spoons. Though I hadn't actually found it, my resolve was renewed for the next day.

For those who have followed Stealth Diggers for some time, you know that Just Bob has

a reputation for losing things. In various episodes he has lost (and found sometimes) his vehicle keys, his relic shovel and his pinpointter (still lost as of episode #160). This evening, he was commenting, borne up by others in the group, that he hadn't lost anything for about 6 months. Bob suggested that we dine at a local restaurant he knew of, prior to our returning to home base. Amusingly, he managed to lose the restaurant of his choice. It was not his fault that it had been sold and the name changed, but we were driving all around and around before he recognized the building with a different name on it. After a fine meal (Cliff picked up the check) with lots of comradery, we left the restaurant and drove back to the Shack. Just Bob realized that he had lost his smart phone which he had used at the dining table.

If that weren't bad enough, Just Bob had unwittingly created another 'lost item' issue. When we got back to the Shack at about 10:00 pm, Digger Charlie realized that his detector was missing from KIT. He knew that he had laid it against KIT, and assumed that someone had placed it inside, but where had it gone? In reviewing that day's video footage, Charlie's machine could be seen being picked up, with only the hand and arm showing, and placed into the bed of Just Bob's truck. The hand and arm were those of Just Bob. Of course we couldn't call Bob as he had lost his phone; that's when the phone's loss was discovered.

In any case, the next morning, and a quick trip of about an hour and a half, Charlie had his detector back and we were ready to travel. All the video footage from our visit will probably be broken up into three or four weekly episodes. This will be the fourth day of our visit and I expect this episode to be titled "The Last Virgin in Siscatchiwah". "Why that?", you might ask. The answer to that question is that back in May, while doing research on a particular area, they chanced upon an unmapped, unmentioned and a believed undiscovered cellar hole.

Perhaps, though it is a bit late into the story, I should explain just what a cellar hole is and why they get hunted. When a colonist was granted or deeded a parcel of land, it was usually in the middle of woodland in the middle of nowhere. The occupying family cleared the land and built roads to get from their plot and to connect to those of other community dwellers. These roads were usually nothing more than a path across the unimproved ground. In clearing the rock strewn fields, the occupants stacked the field stones up along the sides of the roads to form parallel walls. Where people were to turn off the road to the house, between the two parallel walls, a proper break would be built into the wall. That is, there would be an opening left with edges resembling a doorway. In some places, these 200+ year old walls have partially fallen, but that sort of break is not a "proper" one.

Where the home was to be built, a cellar was dug first. These holes in the ground were made for storage and protection, and the house was then built over the hole. The earth dug out of the hole generally formed a berm around the hole. The cellar hole was often lined with rock, though some were not. In the instance of suggested wealth, the stones would be of cut granite, not simply field stones. The footprint of the house structure was usually larger than the size of the hole. Often, the houses were multi-story dwellings. Fireplaces and chimneys were usually built of brick. When these cellar holes are located,

the extent of the size/shape of the house is estimated. The area of berm sloping away from the house is termed the “lip”. Ideally, much of the evidence of household activity can be found around the lip or the rim of the berm. There will be a hand-dug well nearby which needs to be located for the sake of safety and to find the path between the house and the well. It is sort of like locating the clothes line of a house today. As much of the household activity was done near the house, that’s where the colonial artifacts tend to be congregated.

Today’s detectorist walks down the roads which now might have trees growing in them and no longer go anywhere, between the parallel stone walls. When a proper break is encountered, the detectorist walks through the break searching for that hole in the ground with a berm of earth around it. Once the cellar hole and the well are located, hunting begins. The problem with this method is that it’s what everybody with a metal detector in that part of the country knows to do. So often, when you get there, you are not the first or even the second to do so. To find a cellar hole that has never been detected is a rarity and is called a virgin cellar hole.

As previously stated, back in May, a cellar hole atop a hill was located simply by chance. There were no signs, or walls, to follow. The stone lined hole had some large cut granite blocks on the south edge. It was some distance away from today’s road system, which often overlay colonial roads. There it sat, trees growing inside the hole and plenty of brush disguising it. It had every indication of being undiscovered. Here again, is yet another reason that I love these guys. Rather than break out their detectors, they sat on the hole’s location knowing that Cliff and I would be there in September. They wanted us to have not just a good experience, but a great one. Just weeks from our arrival, they went back with machetes and cleared a lot of the brush. Such is the generosity and unselfish attitude of the Stealth Diggers.

We drove to the virgin hole’s location, and parked our vehicles near the wooded edge of a field at the base of a hill. We geared up, and started up the hill following an old logging road. Those present were Digger Charlie, Mr. Keebler, NinJen, Jay Mo, Cliff and me. We hiked up the hill using a logging road for easier travel until we arrived at our destination. We relieved ourselves of our EDC (Every Day Carry) bags and got ready to hunt. “Not so fast”, Charlie ordered, “As you guys are our special guests, you get a head start!” Our head start was to be in the form of a duel. He had us stand back to back on the east side lip, typically the side with the front door facing the rising sun, and when he said “hunt”, we were to walk several paces and start swinging.

Charlie was recording video nearer to Cliff when on practically my first swing, I received an ear-blowing sound. Charlie said he could hear my target even though I was wearing headphones. A second set of swings told me I had two targets. I always try to recover the quieter sound first as it is more likely to go silent if it falls deeper into the dig hole or changes position. “A button!”, I exclaimed. My first colonial button! Charlie came over to record the find then turned to go back toward Cliff. “You may want to come back this way”, I said, “Bingo”! The louder sound was a large cent in beautiful condition.

While Charlie was recording this find, not to be outdone, Cliff called out, “Bingo!” In less

than a couple of minutes, we had both scored large cent coins, but I had been outdone. Cliff had TWO 'largies' in his hole plus a large colonial 'dandy' button AND a hem weight. A spill! The head start was over. Immediately everyone went to work on what was obviously a site that had never been hunted - a virgin!

The finds kept coming and didn't slow down until the sun started going down. It was an amazing afternoon. I should not say anything more about what was found because it hasn't aired yet, but I can say that the artifacts showed occupation from the late 1700s through the American Civil War. It had been an amazing afternoon to be certain. As the sun was getting lower, we stumbled our way down the logging road toward the vehicles finding them in the near pitch black of evening. Keebler asked if we would be able to drive out without our headlights on, so that we might not be spotted by other detectorists. This we gladly did and literally floated back to the Shack to clean our finds.

Back at the Shack, our feet planted once again on the ground from the euphoric high of such a great afternoon, we passed the finds around and oohed and aahed over each other's finds. I was feeling much better than I had coming out of the field the day before. I felt worthy!

That evening too came to an end all too quickly. We had a busy schedule to keep for tomorrow's activity. What the group didn't know was that Cliff and I had yet another ace up our sleeve so our day started a bit earlier than everyone else's. All I will say at this time is that once upon a time a gypsy in Siscatchiwah would point her bony finger at someone and put a hex on them. She was also a thief. The townsfolk found a remedy to ensure this would never happen again and it took place at the Swimming Hole Cellar Hole. We managed to get to the Shack on time for a great trip and a tour of the local town museum.

The museum is a building and barn built in the mid 1800s, right around the time of Colorado's gold rush. Inside the building are numerous glass display cases filled with relics recovered by the Stealth Diggers. The oldest U.S. coin is a Fugio Cent found by Charlie in episode #148 (Time Flies). There is a George Washington funeral cufflink found only a short distance from the inn where Cliff and I stayed. We were literally immersed in colonial history wherever we were.

As a surprise gift to the two of us, the entire group which included the museum's curator, known to us as The Guru, was being permitted to hunt the museum grounds. WOW!!! What a special gift indeed. It was explained that all we found there was to remain on display at the museum. We were also informed that although The Guru and Digger Charlie had detected it some, that a spoon had never been found there.

We geared up and started working between the barn and the house. Charlie and NinJen had to run an errand so we got a head start on them. It wasn't too long after their return that I called out, "Spoon"! I had unearthed the first spoon ever found on the museum property. It was something of a special spoon too. The usual colonial spoon might be either pewter or iron, but this one was silver! What a great contribution to be left at their local museum by a guy from Colorado. As the hunt progressed, we laid our finds on a

low concrete wall. After a few hours the wall was filled and it was time for us to be traveling.

Charlie directed us to follow him along with NinJen and Mr. Keebler as we travelled in a direction that was *away* from the Shack. Since this was my second visit to Siscatchiwah, I was beginning to get a feel for directions in the local area. In a mere matter of about ten minutes, I saw a building I recognized. I had marveled at this old converted dairy farm building on my previous trip.

It was a long low one-story building built to service hundreds of people at the same time placing orders of their locally made ice cream. There are, no exaggeration, FIFTY count 'em, fifty order windows! Imagine a Dairy Queen with fifty windows to order from. Mr. Keebler informed us that in the heat of summer, all fifty windows would be open with lines of people. All of the picnic tables would be filled with people eating their ice cream. The parking lot would be filled and the highway that runs in front of the parking lot would be lined with parked cars - both sides, for hundreds of yards. This is where Digger Charlie took us to buy ice cream for my birthday. Fortunately, late September was not the busy season so we didn't have to stand in a line other than the one we five created. An ice cream cup from this dairy was featured on a parking lot in episode #150 (Stealth Stock Part 1). David Purdue tasted then consumed the contents which would have cost about \$8. Surface find!

I loved the ice cream. Thank you Charlie! Back at the Shack, it was band rehearsal night. Charlie is a talented guitarist and song writer. He still regularly performs with a four piece band. None of the other band members are detectorists. Wednesday is their practice night at the Shack, and we were to receive a ringside seat for the rehearsal. It was a concert just for us. You may have noticed the drum kit sitting in the corner of the Shack in some of the videos. Having it there, Dave, the group's drummer doesn't have to lug and set up his drum kit each week.

The rest of the band is an electric bass player (Steve), Sean on lead guitar and Charlie on rhythm guitar. They ran through quite a repertoire of music, most of it familiar to us, before the 10 o'clock hour marked the end of band practice. It was pretty nostalgic as we prepared to leave the Shack for the final time this trip. Hugs and handshakes; few words were spoken; silently, Cliff and I drove out of the driveway, watching Jen and Charlie disappear in our rear facing mirrors as we turned the corner onto the road. The magic of Siscatchiwah had cast its spell on Cliff as it had me a year earlier and did so again. We'll miss you every one...until next year when the magic beckons to us once again. Live long and prosper my friends.

That's all this month - find something good!

Merry Christmas!