

The Scoop News  
1161 Hillview Dr.  
Hastings, MI 49058



# *The Scoop* Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

February 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

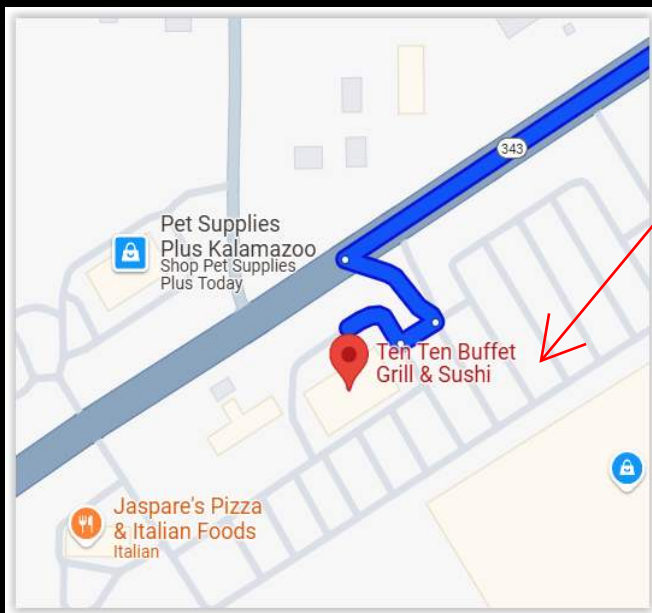
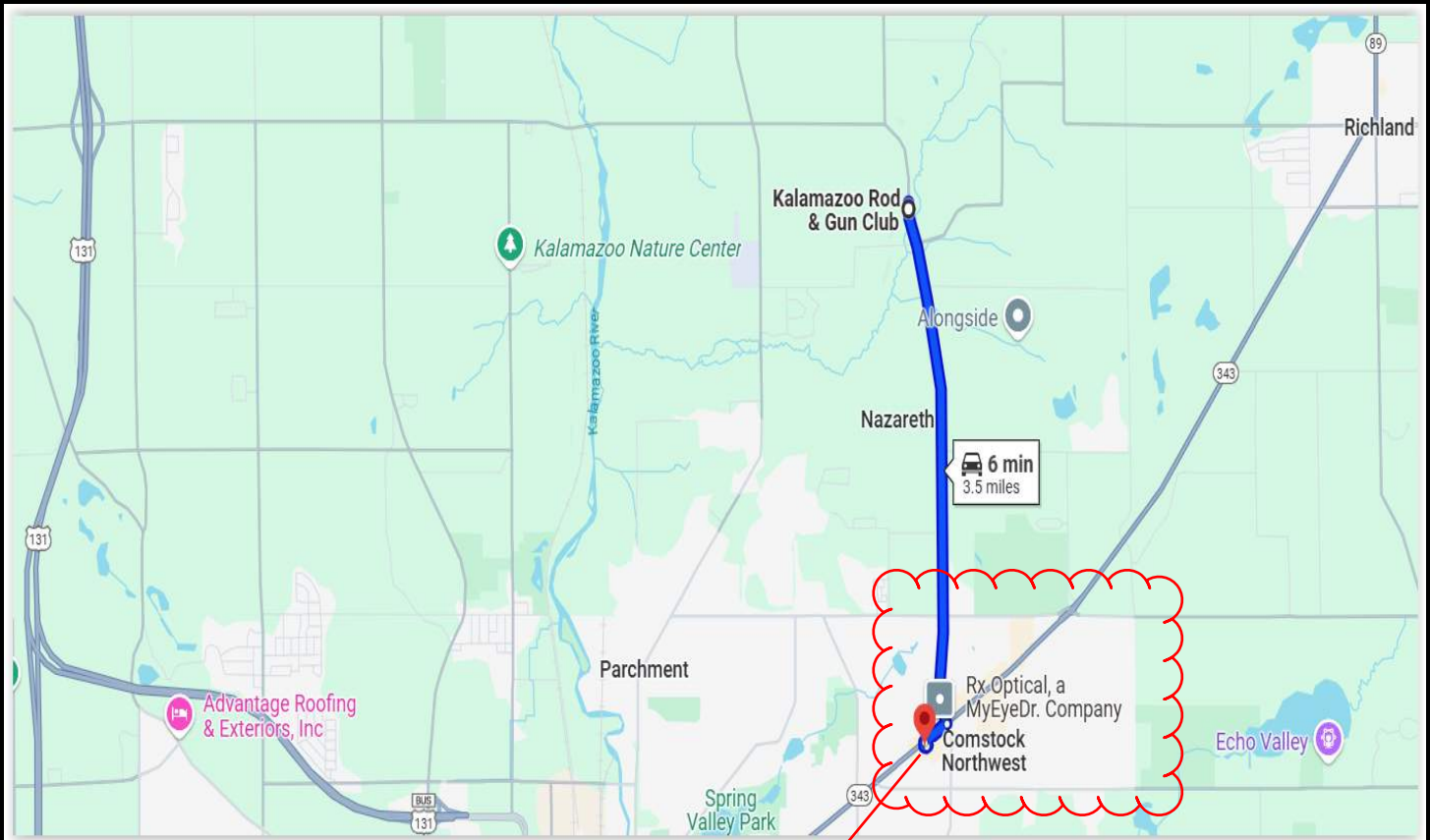
Take U.S. 131 South to D. Ave. exit, take D. Ave. East to N. Sprinkle (directions from here same as Northbound (above)).



# January 2025 - Finds of the Month/Banquet directions

Due to our canceling of the January Meeting, no finds found from the December meeting to the January meeting were able to be entered. Those finds will be entered at our meeting on Tuesday the 18th, along with entries for find of the year.

## Visual Directions to Ten Ten for Saturday's Banquet:



### 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.***

5282 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49058



Look us up on the web  
[www.mytreasureclub.com](http://www.mytreasureclub.com)

## February Meeting

- Find of the Month and Find of the Year voting!
- Perfect Attendance Awards (silver)
- Feature Raffle will be **Antique Paper Money, 1/2 lb Copper Ingot, or a Silver Eagle!!!**



## Renewal Time!!!

Happy 2025!! Don't forget, it is renewal time. Don't miss out on our great member benefits. Find of the year, Find of the month, Feature raffle, door prizes, voting, Club hunts, our FB page, and much more. You need to renew by the Jan meeting to be eligible for Find of the month and year, plus feature raffle, door prizes etc... to take part in those at the January meeting.

## Club Banquet!!

Feb. 22nd (Sat.) at 3:00 @ Ten Ten Chinese Buffet. This is BYOM. 5282 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

## Miscellaneous category for FOM - 3rd 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 and is one item only.

## 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*



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## Treasures in Michigan!!! - The Bronson Michigan "Gold Farm"

As is most often the case with any good treasure story, the back story is quite often far more interesting, and honestly more documented than the "myths of treasure". But I will need to start at the end of this particular tale and move backwards to the back story.

Surprisingly there isn't a lot surviving on the topic of the Bronson Michigan "Gold Farm" story. I have found several articles in 1939 issues of the Battle Creek Enquirer that focused on this story as it evolved...and that is about it.

As the story goes the Belote family was renting what was called the "Old Phillips Farm" in Bronson Michigan (which is Branch County) essentially this was located around sections 32 and 33 of Bronson Township. While renting this from the owners, the Kregger family, two separate iron pipes full of gold coins were found! The first section of pipe held \$1,880 in face value of coins, this pipe three of the Belote sons had found buried in the front yard, it was a pipe or tile that was sealed on one end with concrete. Inside were the gold coins, they came spilling out when the boys tilted it vertically to build a makeshift smoke stack for a pretend threshing machine. After this the father, Frank Belote found another pipe filled with an additional \$1,120 face value of gold U.S. coins. The total was now \$3,000. This would be around \$70,000 today with inflation!!

Unfortunately loose lips sink ships and word soon spread of the discovery, the landowner immediately came to the property to find Frank poking around under the front porch where he dug the second pipe up and an argument ensued between them. The renter was asked to stop digging after the first gold was found the landowner surprisingly made no claim to the gold found on their land. Frank refused to stop digging and that is where the owner found him shortly after finding the second gold dug from under the porch.

The Belotes were served notice to vacate (Mrs. Belote was pregnant with their 4th son) . They were offered to stay until the end of the year but they had to stop digging. The Belotes wanted no more trouble and decided to vacate from the farm and move to another farm on M-7 north of the Phillips farm. Soon after they had their 9th child as they had the three gold finding sons and 4 daughters. The previous owners laid claim to the gold soon after (the Phillips family who'd sold the property to the Kreggers. Belote had already filed proper treasure trove petition which would have given him 50% and 50% to the township. I found an article that the hearing was delayed in the case the Phillips made, but nothing after. If I were to guess the township ruled in Belote's favor...as the township would get 50% instead of nothing :)

The legend was that Canaris (Canary) Phillips had buried this \$3,000 he'd found in an old safe on the property before his death in 1904, the safe he'd found is believed to have belonged to the famed James Francis Ruggles....he's the interesting part of this story and the subject of part 2 of this story next month, and more treasure.

~ Brian T.



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