

The Scoop News
1161 Hillview Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058



The Scoop Southwest Michigan Seek and Search Club

June 2024 - 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)).



May 2024 - Finds of the Month

WINNER...#3 John M.



JEWELRY

Entries:

1. Alex & Ani bracelet with 3 charms - Mike W.
2. Stainless steel necklace - Kerry S.
3. Scottish hat pin - John M.

WINNER...#1 Kerry S.



COIN

Entries:

1. 1853 3 cent silver trime - Kerry S.
2. 1979 Susan B. Anthony dollar - John M.
3. 1858 silver Canadian dime - Mike W.
4. 1909 Barber dime - Rick S.

WINNER...#3 Kerry S.



MOST UNUSUAL

Entries:

1. U.S. General service "great coat" button circa 1820 - 30 - Rick S.
2. Antique scalloped spoon - Mike W.
3. Black powder flask - Kerry S.

WINNER...#1 Tom H.



FOB, BADGE, TOKEN

Entries:

1. Key fob for American Bath house, Kalamazoo - Tom H.
2. International Harvester watch fob - Mike W.
3. 1863 CW store card, I. Allen & Son, Schoolcraft, MI - Kerry S.

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.

June Mtg.

Elections/voting on club officers!

Upcoming - July Mtg.

Buy, Sell, Show, Trade night

Feature Raffle: 3 silver eagles, 3 winners

**- Feature Raffle -
\$100 Cash!!!**

Remembrance:

SWMSS is more than a club it is a family of sorts. Many members have a long history with the club and have grown to know not only members but their wives, children, mothers, fathers and friends. We are a tight knit group. Please just know that several members are either personally going through health issues, have family doing the same or have lost family in recent months. Don't forget to reach out especially if we've not seen them at meetings in awhile and say hello, how are you doing and is there anything I can do to help, it takes a village! I know I can do better at this myself.

June Free Hunt:

The June Free Hunt is planned for Saturday the 22nd at 1:00 PM at Kindleberger Park, at 122 N. Riverview Dr., Parchment, MI 49004.

Please check club FB and Email leading up to Saturday as there is a slight chance this could be called due to excessive heat that day.

Please bring plenty of water and dress accordingly providing the hunt still happens, better safe than sorry.

****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, 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 has 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



Look us up on the web
www.mytreasureclub.com

What to do when NOT detecting??

I get asked a lot by friends not in the hobby, what do you do when you can't detect? Well, I realize the perception is that Michigan with it's nearly 8 months of winter sometimes can have a short diggable season. While that is true for some, that isn't the case for many me included. I've had several winters where I detected somewhere here for the full year. But I'm not going to go into that in this article.

Instead, I'm going to focus on other activities I do when not detecting regardless of good or bad weather, essentially, what do I do on those days where I just don't make it into the field or the yard or wherever to swing my coil...but still enjoying some aspect of the treasure hunting hobby! This will be a multi-part series of articles so let's get started. Additionally, if you want to see me cover something not listed for future segments, please drop me a line at brian.tobias@gmail.com

Cleaning, Organizing, and documenting Finds

Yes, it sounds mundane, but I enjoy this almost as much as the detecting sometimes. There are several methods for cleaning and levels of cleaning, and each is suited to a particular find.

Electrolysis – If you've never tried this for some of your relics, iron especially, it is well worth the endeavor. Electrolysis not only cleans the current corrosion that is on a found item, it stabilizes the metal so that it will not rust into dust so to speak. This usually involves a homemade electrolysis tank for larger items like iron axe heads or something you can buy prebuilt like an "Uglybox" for smaller items like coins, jewelry etc. Here is a good resource to get started: https://www.metaldetectingworld.com/electrolysis_rust_removal.shtml

Apple Cider Vinegar – want something to clean off old copper/brass that maybe doesn't have a heavy green patina but is gold plated...try this household item. Soak for 5-10 minutes at a time and then brush lightly with a soft towel, q-tip or other non-abrasive item. If you are worried about how long to soak you can always mix this with water 50/50 to cut down on the acidic percentage which is usually 5% with ACV you can buy for cooking.

Here is another great article on cleaning coins a friend of mine wrote awhile back and he's done these techniques for years tried and tested (I'm not advocating cleaning a coin here to be clear, BUT they are your finds and if you don't care and just want to enjoy them, these methods can work for you):

<https://focusspeed.com/tips-cleaning-older-coins-tokens/>

Organizing - When I say organizing this can mean different things as well. I like to organize by types, coins, relics (locks, skeleton keys, etc. or military relics) but I also like to organize by a site at least in the short term especially sites I know I'm going back to over and over. Why? Well as often is the case I may find pieces of an item and if I've organized well as I find additional pieces, I can glue them back together for display or whatever, sometimes you don't know what you even have found until it is pieced together so it is nice to have a system for this, a box everything goes into from one site or whatever makes sense for you. Coins can be organized in flip folders, cases, plastic coin capsules, etc. The goal is to be able to enjoy them for a long time so whatever is used make sure it protects the coin, stay away from PVC flips even on dug coins.

Journaling – I know, it sounds like homework, and it can be as tedious so it isn't for everyone but there is a lot of value in writing down everything you find and where at least the keepers. Most people I know that do well over the years do this to some extent. It can really help if for no other reason than to save time later organizing finds by site if that is your thing or researching the history of a site and putting a name with a find if possible. If you think you are going to remember where you found every single coin or relic...think again. So spend a few dollars and pick up a notepad or even buy one that is geared to the hobby. You can do the same thing on a computer too if that is your thing but you'll have to remember what was found where long enough to log in the items later in front of your computer. A great program I use for coins especially is free and safe and located here: <https://opennumismat.github.io/>