

Storm Watch

The Official Newsletter for the Nor'easters Metal Detecting Club!



Volume 4

[HTTP://WWW.NOREASTERS.NET](http://www.nor-easters.net)

September 2010

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The Metal Detecting Creed

By Jessie Thompson

We are Metal Detectorists. Venturing forth in search of relics lost to time, only to be discovered and secured for future generations.

Diligent in our endeavors to detect, we will not trespass on to posted lands and will always obtain lawful permission in advance.

Detectorists are protective of earth's creatures, nature's landscapes and tributaries. We close all gates and leave no refuse in our wake.

When requested, we will endeavor to assist in the recovery of lost items of sentimental value to the best of our ability.

History being the tie that binds us, any item recovered of a singular significant historical value will be reported to local historians.

Remember Metal Detecting is to be conducted in a respectful and courteous manner; we are the ambassadors of our hobby to all who may survey us.

Second Annual
Nor'easters
Seashore Picnic
September 19th
11 am to 4pm
Weed Beach, Darien, CT



Chicken, Ribs, Burgers, Dogs, Salads and Snacks

Volleyball, Frisbee, Scavenger Hunt and more for the kids

Cost: \$20.00 per person

(children under 5—Free)

Bring your favorite munchie or dessert

(coordinate with Kim) at next meeting or call

203-918-3784

Handing over History—Update (well...sort of)

A few issues back I told you about a new television show called *Handing over history* which is in the works, and promised to keep you posted.

Well...I inquired as to the status of the show and was told to keep checking their website.

There was no other information available. If I get any more information I'll be sure to let you know.~Allyson

Cranberry Park Hunt July 2010



Manor House and "great lawn" at Cranberry Park, Norwalk, CT

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day for the club's hunt at Cranberry Park in Norwalk. The park is 219 acres which includes a manor house, garage, barn, tea-house and caretaker's cottage. There are walking trails, open fields and the "great lawn", which seemed to be the most popular hunting spot of the day.

An early start and beautiful weather had a relaxing effect on the day. Everyone was in good spirits and eager to go find some treasure.

A few requests to find lost items were made to members, but after a thorough search of the areas, unfortunately, none of the items could be found.

Kim again came to our rescue with food and drink, and we all took a well deserved break.

In the end, no great treasure's were discovered, but a few nice items were recovered. (more photos on page 2)

Cranberry Park



Dick & Dan ready to go!



Nice find by Pat Russo



Where's the loot?!



Bill Dale



Um...not sure who this is,
...but he's with us



Pat Russo



Food!!!!!!



Jessie Thompson

In case you missed the last meeting

- ◆ The next meeting will be on November 8, 2010.
- ◆ The club has insurance-if you find a place to hunt and need insurance, the club can have a certificate of insurance issued to hunt that place for the day.
- ◆ The Nor'easters picnic will be September 19th at Weed Beach in Darien
- ◆ The Sheffield Island hunt is scheduled for October 2nd. There may be a fee, if so, we'll let you know.
- ◆ Welcome to Sean Sullivan, William Dale, Kevin Companaro and Steve Sutter, newest members of the club. Updates were made to the member list, and it was emailed. If you didn't receive a list, let

For Sale: Excal

Works very nicely
\$500

Contact: windhunt@aol.com

For Sale: White's Prizm IV

Still has about a year left on warrantee
barely used-
\$250 or best offer (203)300-6193

Tips & Tricks



Got some metal detecting techniques or coin/relic cleaning tips to share?

C'mon...don't keep 'em all to yourself!

Email them to me at
allyson.cohen@sbcglobal.net
and I'll include them here.

Coin cleaning tip: When using oil to soak coins, in some instances you've got to soak those coins for weeks (check periodically). Also, if oil doesn't work and you're going to soak your coins in peroxide, make sure to get all the oil off, or the peroxide won't work.—Submitted by Allyson Cohen

Detecting Tip: How to use reverse discrimination: After finding a faint whisper in "all metal" mode, switch to "disc" mode and check your target again. If your threshold nulls, then the target is ferrous, if not, dig it, as it should be a good target.

Detecting Tip: For women-Hit the woods! Generally the woods or wooded areas at or around a site offer softer soil which may be easier for women to dig.—Submitted by Jessie Thompson

From the FAQ section of www.ustreas.gov/education



I have some coins that were damaged and the bank will not redeem them.

The Treasury Department has prescribed regulations regarding uncurrent and mutilated coins. Let us explain the difference. Uncurrent coins are whole, but are worn or reduced in weight by natural abrasion. They are easily recognizable as to genuineness and denomination, and they are such that coin sorting and counting machines will accept them. Merchants and commercial banks will generally accept or refuse these coins at their discretion. However, Federal Reserve Banks and branches handle the redemption of uncurrent coins. Mutilated coins, on the other hand, are coins that are bent, broken, not whole, or fused or melted together. [The United States Mint](http://www.ustreas.gov) is the only place that handles redemption of mutilated coins, and they should be sent to the Mint at Post Office Box 400, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

What happens to United States coins that are no longer fit for circulation?

Those coins are classified either as uncurrent or as mutilated. Coins that are chipped, fused, and not machine-countable are considered mutilated. The Mint redeems mutilated coins at the value of their metal content. Mutilated coins are only redeemable through the United States Mint at:

United States Mint
P.O. Box 400
Philadelphia, PA 19105
(215) 408-0203

Uncurrent coins are worn, but machine-countable, and their genuineness and denomination are still recognizable. Uncurrent coins are replaced with new coins of the same denomination by the Federal Reserve Banks, then forwarded to the United States Mint. All uncurrent or mutilated coins received by the Mint are melted, and the metal is shipped to a fabricator to be recycled in the manufacture of coinage strips.

The following article was sent to me by John , President of the Staten Island History Hunters. It was also published in the Minelab newsletter. Thanks John!

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING?

E-TRAC

26th August 2010 - Winner of SUCCESS STORY OF THE MONTH

I was at one of my favorite parks in NY which many detectorists had left for dead. This place has been pounded for 30 years but with each Minelab upgrade, targets still seem to appear!

I had four buddies with me from a local club, The State Island History Hunters, and we each had a different metal detector. I was using the Minelab E-TRAC while the four other detectors were Garrett Ace 250, Fisher CZ-6, Fisher 1280-X and a Minelab Explorer SE. I was at the field about 20 minutes before they arrived and had marked two signals for the guys to check out. The first was an Indian penny signal about 8" down and the only detector that was able to get a solid response was my E-TRAC. It ended up being an 1890 Indian.

The other signal was a beautiful high pitch reading 11-45 on the meter with the depth icon down around 80%. This was exciting. Again, no other detector was able to get a repeatable signal. The Explorer SE sounded off but not repeatably. All four guys were standing around me as I took a large plug out. After clearing about 6" of dirt out, I heard a solid signal with my probe in the dead center of the hole. Now we have attracted the attention of park patrons so there were about 10 people standing around the hole. The dirt was dry and hard so digging was slow. The probe was screaming after clearing about 9" out of the hole. Then after one more "scoop" out came a black disc. It looked like a copper coin until I picked it up and felt the weight. It was a thin 1783 Two Real silver coin! The coin was passed around to everyone as they went "ooh and ahhh". I am pretty sure I sold a few E-TRACs that day. Ask Ron!

Pics are after it was cleaned. Not the greatest condition.

C. Pennington - NY, USA



Please note:

From John, Staten Island History Hunters

If any of the Nor'easter,s want to hunt Prospect Park they **MUST** have a permit and can **only** hunt there on Tuesday's and Saturday's. The Parks Dept. took Prospect away from all Detectorist's but we formed a Task Force and and we got two day's back as well as 3 new parks in the Bronx. This took about 2 years but it was worth it. We are trying to get more parks for 2011..

More great finds from the UK



BBC News-2 September 2010 Last updated at 03:20 ET

Rare Roman lantern found in field near Sudbury

The lantern was found in a field near Sudbury in Suffolk. A metal detecting enthusiast has found what is believed to be the only intact Roman lantern made out of bronze ever discovered in Britain. Danny Mills, 21, made the find in a field near Sudbury in Suffolk. The area was dotted with plush Roman villas and country estates in the second century.

The object, described as a rare example of Roman craftsmanship, has been donated to Ipswich Museum where it is now on display. In the autumn of 2009, Mr Mills, a metal detector user, found a large bronze object whilst metal detecting in a field near Sudbury. He immediately reported the discovery to Suffolk Archaeological Unit.

'Magnificent object'

A Colchester and Ipswich Museums (CIM) spokeswoman said: "It turned out to be the only complete example of a Roman lantern found in Britain. "Only fragments of similar lanterns are held in the British Museum and the closest complete example is from the

famous Roman site of Pompeii."

It was found on land belonging to Mr and Mrs P Miller who donated it to Ipswich Museum, said the CIM spokeswoman. Emma Hogarth, conservator at Colchester and Ipswich Museums, said: "It has been a pleasure to work on such a magnificent object."

Mr Mills said: "It was an amazing feeling. It took a while to dig down to see anything and once we found it, we had to go really carefully around it to get it out of the ground.

Sheet of horn

"It took the best part of an hour. I looked it up on the internet on my phone and matched it up with some others from Pompeii." The lantern dates from between 43 and 300 AD.

It is like a modern hurricane lamp and the naked flame would have been protected by a thin sheet of horn which had been scraped and shaped until it was see-through.

The horn is an organic material that did not survive as it will have rotted in to the soil.

The flame would have been produced by placing a wick into olive oil in a holder at the base of the lamp, not unlike a tea light holder.

BRIGHTON NEWS

SUSSEX TREASURE HUNTER UNEARTHES ANCIENT COINS

[By Nigel Freedman »](#)

Treasure hunters have unearthed gold and silver coins at a secret site in Sussex.

The four coins date from as far back as 124 BC and were found on land near Pulborough.

The discovery was made by Anthony Gill as he used a metal detector on the land with the owner's permission.

A 16th century silver sword scabbard decoration, or chape, was unearthed in a separate find near Chichester. The exact locations of the finds are being kept secret to protect the sites from thieves who plunder historic sites.

The latest discoveries were made by responsible metal detector enthusiasts who reported the finds to the West Sussex coroner. They were legally declared treasure at an inquest in Chichester, entitling the finders and the land owners to share their value.

Their exact worth will be determined by a tribunal at the British Museum.

http://www.theargus.co.uk/news/8372178.Sussex_treasure_hunter_unearths_ancient_coins/





One year in: My first year in the hobby of metal detecting

~by Allyson Cohen

I'm officially one year into this hobby, (or should I say obsession) of metal detecting. A year is a short time, in comparison with some of the "hard core" detectorists out there. But if you ask some of my friends and family they might classify my enthusiasm as pretty "hard core" too.

Never being a history buff, or very interested in past events of my community (other than my genealogical pursuits), I'm amazed at how much my skills and knowledge have improved. Matter of fact, if metal detecting had been a subject in high school-I might have finally made the honor roll!

So, now that I'm "one year in", what practical information have I learned that could be helpful to new detectorists out there? Well, for starters, get a pin pointer. My first month without one was maddening. It's time consuming to sift through the dirt for a target, and you don't want to leave that target behind-it could be something good!

Dig most of it. I've read many articles and books on metal detecting where the advice to dig everything was very clear. Of course I didn't want to dig everything, but I wanted to improve my skills, so I decided to dig, dig, dig. Many times I became frustrated, but some of my best finds barely made a flutter, and quite a few of those signals that screamed junk were actually some nice finds. Rely on your machine, but only to the extent that it's telling you something is there. On that note, *common sense goes a long way here*. Do you want to spend an entire afternoon digging every pull tab signal in a trashy area? After a while, you'll get to know what's what-just give it time, and when in doubt—Dig!

Join a metal detecting club! The members are generally enthusiastic about digging in the dirt and coin cleaning. You can see what other people are finding, get help identifying an object, get tips on detecting, find new sites to detect, go on group hunts, and meet some truly awesome people. I learned a lot from club members, and it's a great to be able to express and discuss your hobby with others who share your interests.

Learn the art of patience. Occasionally coins or jewelry will just jump out at you, but for the most part, you search.

Find the detector that works for you—to heck with what everyone else has. If you decide to buy a more sophisticated machine, be prepared for the learning curve. It's taken me almost the whole season to distinguish some of the tones that come out of my machine, but I figure I only have to learn it once.

Finally, and most important. Research is key! Read books and articles on metal detecting and local history. If you want to find the old stuff, you've got to find the old places.

That about sums it up for year one. So if you're a struggling "newbie", have faith. With time comes success. I can't wait to see what I learn (and find) in year two.

Happy Hunting! ~Allyson



Helpful books for identifying old tools & metal objects

You may be able to find them online with the ISBN number. If not, try your local library or Historical Society.

A Museum of Early American Tools

By Eric Sloane
Ballantine Books, NY
Copyright 1964 by Wilfred Funk Inc.
ISBN-345-24675-6-295
Library of Congress catalog # 64-13741

The Colonial Silversmith His techniques and his products

By Henry J. Kauffman
Copyright 1969 by Henry J. Kauffman
ISBN-0-88365-136-X
Library of Congress Catalog # 73-90836

With Hammers in Hand (a book about metalworking tools)

The Dominy Craftsmen of East Hampton, NY
By Charles F Hummel
Published for the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum
By the University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville
Copyright 1986 by the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum Inc.



Gold Ring found by Jessie Thompson



Hey Mister, Whatcha Find? Recent Club Finds!

<http://www.noreasters.net>



Rings found by Dan Godleski



Ring found by Allyson Cohen



Wedding band found by Richard Spezzano



Rings found by Pat Russo



Pin found by Allyson Cohen



Box o' Stuff found by Dan Godleski



1915 Quarter, 1944 Quarter, 1944 English 3 Pence, 1950 Quarter, Mercury Dimes & Indian Head found by Pat Russo



Hey Mister, Whatcha Find?

Recent Club Finds!

<http://www.noreasters.net>



Some great finds by Russ Bergensen, including a 1718 Reale, 1776 Reale, 1776 1/2 Reale, 1843 Seated Dime, 1829 Large Cent, Colonial buttons, buckles & musket Balls



Chest full of finds Found by Camille Lahr



Dolphin bracelet found by Pat Russo



1875 Dime and Indian Heads found by Allyson Cohen





Silver rings found by John Wirtemberg



Hey Mister, Whatcha Find?

Recent Club Finds!

<http://www.noreasters.net>



Some nice finds by Tony Gagliardi



Croatian bell, stamp holder, 1930 Standing Liberty quarter, cosmetic case, 1956 quarter and Boy Scout items found by Pat D'arinzo



Ring found by Dick Spezzano



Silver Bracelet & Coins found by John Wirtemberg



Check out these rings found by Mike Spasiuk



Hey Mister, Whatcha Find?

Recent Club Finds!

<http://www.noreasters.net>



How about another view



Silver Ring and 10k Sapphire ring found by Pat Russo



Nice finds from a variety of sites found by Dan Lewis



Wheat pennies, toy motorcycle, ring and misc. found by Camille Lahr



<http://www.yankeemetaldetectors.com>
521 Glenbrook Road Stamford, CT 06906
(203) 356 1020

<http://www.nationalmetaldetectingleague.com>



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Empty rectangular box for delivery address.