Metal Detecting Certification

RESPONSIBLE METAL DETECTING SELF CERTIFICATION CLASS

METAL DETECTING CLASS: MD 103
FOR
METAL DETECTING CLUBS
OR
INDEPENDENT DETECTORIST

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Metal Detecting Certification

Responsible Metal Detecting Self Certification

METAL DETECTING CLASS (MD 103)
CRITERIA

MD 103 class will cover *how* & where to:

- Cache Metal Detecting
- Coin Metal Detecting
- Jewelry Metal Detecting
- Relic Metal Detecting
- Water & Prospecting Metal Detecting
- Search Patterns
- Learn Your Metal Detector
- Detector Settings
- Control Proper Swing and Coil Height Step 1

- Proper Pin Pointing & Probing for a Target Step 2
- Proper Pin Pointing & Probing for a Target Step 2A
- Proper Recovery of a Target Step 3
- Proper Recovery of a Target Step 4 & 5
- Proper Recovery of a Target Step 6 & 7
- Proper Recovery of a Target Step 7 & 8
- Negative Results on Target Recovery
- Field Test Your Detector Skills
- Develop a Test Garden

MD 103 should be covered in a classroom and then practiced under classroom conditions in the field.

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CACHE METAL DETECTING

Cache Hunting

❖ **Pre 1930-40 Homesteads**
   External
➢ **Fence Rows**
➢ **Foundation Edge**
➢ **House Basements**
➢ **Gardens**
➢ **Rock Formations**
➢ **Yard Trees**
   Internal
➢ **Closets**
➢ **Fireplaces**
➢ **Floors**
➢ **Sills**
➢ **Walls**
➢ **Look for False Panels**

❖ **Ghost Towns**
❖ **Ruins**

Metal detecting for a Cache is somewhat different than other forms of metal detecting. Caches (large sums of money) usually requires a great deal of research to be successful. Once the research is done: locating the property, getting permission and formalizing a written agreement can take a great deal of time. The rewards can be great but again the time involved can also be great.

The most important thing to remember is not to use metal detecting discriminate since caches can be buried in any type of metal container.

May need a TWO Coil Deep Detector or Ground Penetration Device for Caches

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COIN METAL DETECTING

Coin Hunting Places

➢ **Camp Grounds**
➢ **Churches**
➢ **Construction Zones**
➢ **Fairgrounds & Amusement Parks**
➢ **Parks & Park Benches**
➢ **Play Grounds (Tot Lots)**
➢ **Schools & Colleges**
➢ **Ski & Sled Slopes**
➢ **Sport Fields**
➢ **Street Media**
➢ **Swimming Pool Areas**
➢ **Railroad Properties**
➢ **Resorts**
➢ **Retreats**
➢ **Unpaved Parking Lots**
➢ **Yards**

Any Where People Gather

Metal detecting for coins can be practiced almost anywhere people are likely to have gotten together. People lose coins whenever they are involved in any type of activity.

Coin Shooting is usually associated with looking for clad or modern coins.

Looking for older coins can be associated with Relic Hunting. The older the site, the better, because you can find some amazingly old coins. However, old coins can be found in today's parks, school yards, etc., as well.

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JEWELRY METAL DETECTING

Jewelry Detecting Places

- ➢ **Beaches (Fresh & Salt)**
- ➢ **Camp Grounds**
- ➢ **Parks**
- ➢ **Play Grounds (Tot Lots)**
- ➢ **Schools & Colleges**
- ➢ **Ski & Sled Slopes**
- ➢ **Sport Fields**
- ➢ **Swimming Pool Areas**
- ➢ **Swimming Holes**
- ➢ **Resorts**
- ➢ **Water (Fresh & Salt)**

Metal Detecting for GOLD Jewelry is somewhat different than hunting for coins. Due to the many different sizes and weights of gold jewelry there is not a complete set of target IDs available that you can rely upon to identify a Gold target before you start the recovery process.

GOLD targets have the same characteristics as foil, pull tabs and very small pieces of iron so be prepared to recover lots of foil and pull tabs. This means no discrimination **for foil and pull tabs.**

Do not calibrate your detector using a nickel this technique will not get you the smallest gold items and you will miss many ladies rings.

Silver jewelry detecting can be practiced in the same locations but the detector characteristics are closer to the detecting of coin.

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RELIC METAL DETECTING

Relic Detecting Locations

➢ **Around Old trees**
➢ **Abandoned Structures**
➢ **Battlefields (Private Lands Only)**
➢ **Carnival Sites**
➢ **Creek Beds**
➢ **Demolition Sites**
➢ **Disaster Areas**
➢ **Fairgrounds & Amusement Parks**
➢ **Ghost Towns**
➢ **Older Parts of Towns**
➢ **RR Track Construction Camps**
➢ **Ruins**
➢ **Sidewalk & Street Construction Areas**

To start Relic hunting try to visualize what the site may have looked like a hundred years ago or more. Then scout the area and pick different parts of the site for a quick pattern search to see what targets maybe present. Also look for tell tale signs of former human habitation: this is a good indicator of where to start your search.

Once you have established the productive areas go slow and be thorough. Bring a good digging device like a spade or hand pick to help you get to your discoveries.

Research old maps, postcards, history books, county platt maps , etc.

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WATER & GOLD PROSPECTING METAL DETECTING TIPS

Water Metal Detecting

This type of metal detecting takes specialized waterproof detectors and usually is practiced from wading to diving depths.

Water detecting should be done with caution since being in the water can expose you to many unseen dangers.

Other equipment required besides owning a special water detector is a water scoop to retrieve targets. Or you can learn to fan the sand to retrieve a target. (Fanning required additional underwater skills.)

Gold Prospecting Metal Detecting

Detecting for Gold requires a number of things that other methods of detecting do not require.

1st You need to have access to lands that are know to produce Gold.

2nd You should use specialized detectors that can find the smallest piece of Gold. Be ready to spend a good deal of dollars for these detectors.

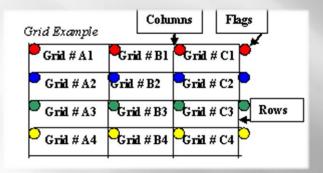3rd You should be well equipped and be able to stay in the field detecting for long periods of time.

4th You should know and be an expert with your chosen detector.

There are many books available concerning water & prospecting detecting. It is recommended that you spend some time reading up on these two methods of detecting before investing and trying your hand at it.
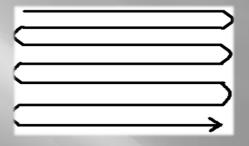
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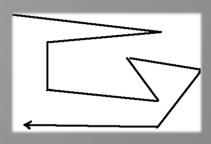## SEARCH PATTERNS

Grid Search Pattern

The recommended search pattern for EVIDENCE Searches is a grid pattern. Each club member should be assigned to a specific grid element and reassigned once their portion of the grid has been searched until the object is located. The searcher should use a overlapping coil swing in the grid.

Overlapping Pattern

This pattern can be used for any type of metal detecting the benefits are that each pass overlap on the previous pass. Leaving no undetected ground.

Random Pattern

This search pattern is very common but as you can see there are many areas left undetected.

Spiral Pattern

This search pattern is used once a target has been detected and recovery from the sand. Do a Spiral Search around the target for additional targets that may have been lost at the same time.

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Learn Your Metal Detector

Complete the Following Steps to Become an Expert Operating Your Detector

Step One: Read the detector manual cover to cover.

Step Two: Watch a video about your detector.

Step Three: Read your detector manual again but this time have your detector in hand and do the adjustments as you read about them - go though the complete detector manual.

Step Four: Take your detector and go into your yard with some coin targets. Put these coin targets on the ground away from power lines and sidewalks.

Step Five: Turn on your detector and sweep the coil over the coin targets and view the display target id information and headphone audio changes. Check to view the different responses for the various coins type and size.

Step Six: Change one adjustment of the detector and scan the coins again looking for what change may have taken place in the detectors response.

Step Seven: Continue this process till you understand how the detector responds to diffent adjustments.

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Key Detector Settings

IMPORTANT DETECTOR SETTINGS

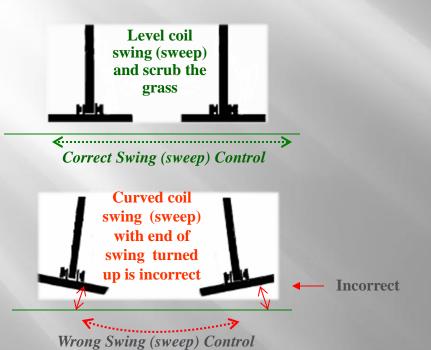**Always Used the Recommended Manufactures Settings Until You Gain Experience**

➢ **Detector Audio Volume – usually max**
➢ **Detector Discrimination – easily detects a nickel** (Jewelry Detecting Caution)
➢ **Detector Ground Balance – manual or auto**
➢ **Detector Sensitivity or Gain – adjust until false signals start – than back off**
➢ **Detector Threshold – adjust for minimum background tone**
➢ **Detector Recovery Speed – Fast for Trash, Slow for Open Areas**

These are minimum MUST adjustments before starting to detect

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How to Recover a Target Step 1
CONTROL PROPER SWING (SWEEP) AND COIL HEIGHT

Step 1:

Level coil swing (sweep) and scrub the grass

Correct Swing (sweep) Control

Curved coil swing (sweep) with end of swing turned up is incorrect

Incorrect

Wrong Swing (sweep) Control

The proper coil swing (sweep) is the first of the two most important attributes a metal detectorist must learn.

The second must learn attribute is to pin-point the target's location with the detector before probing for the target or creating a hole to recover the target.
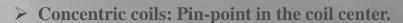
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How to Recover a Target Step 2

PROPER PIN POINTING & PROBING FOR A TARGET

Step 2:

Slowly walk forward sweeping the coil (<u>Always Move Slowly</u>) once you have located a target you will need to identify the location of the target in the ground. The process to identify the target's location is called **pin-pointing.**

Pin-pointing is accomplished by slowly and evenly swinging (sweeping) the coil over the target listening to the audio response while centering the detector coil over the target. Audio is max when center of coil is over target.
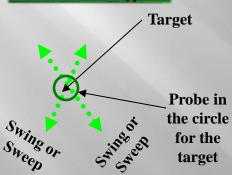
This can be done by swing (sweeping) the center of the coil in one direction or by swing (sweeping) the coil in two directions over the target forming an "**X**". The goal is too identify the exact position of the target before any probing and digging is to take place.

Target

Probe in the circle for the target

Swing or Sweep

Swing or Sweep

➢ Concentric coils: Pin-point in the coil center.

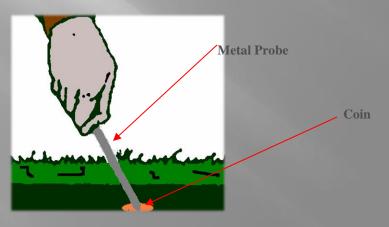➢ Double "D" coils: Pin-point on the leading edge or heel of coil.

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How to Recover a Target Step 2A

PROPER PIN POINTING & PROBING FOR A TARGET

Step 2-A:

Many detectors provide feedback as to the depth of the target. If the detector indicates the target depth at 3-5 five inches you should always **probe** the target to find its exact location and depth. Once the target is found with the probe you can usually just pry the object from the ground rather them cut the sod and create a hole.
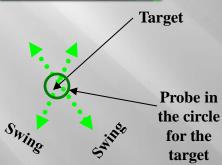
Probes can either be an eight inch thin shaft screw driver or a specific made brass probe for target recovery. **BRASS** probes are used so as not to scratch the target while probing since it may be an old coin.

Target

Probe in the circle for the target

Swing   *Swing*

Metal Probe

Coin

Note: Coins usually lay flat in the soil.
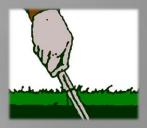
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HOW TO RECOVER A TARGET STEP 3

Step 3:

Do not Cut

Take a sod cutting tool or a six inch hunting style knife and cut a 4-5 inch horseshoe shape arc around the pin-pointed target. Leave a section as shown un-cut for a sod hinge this will keep the sod roots in-place to promote re-growth once the sod plug is replaced. Plus this helps to prevent power mowers from lifting the sod plug.

While cutting hold the knife at a slight slant to a depth of 4-5 inches. Keep in mind while cutting the sod you do not want to damage the target. It maybe a rare coin.

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HOW TO RECOVER A TARGET STEPS 4 & 5

Step 4:

Take your cutting tool or knife and pry the sod flap up hinging the sod back over the flat surface of the ground. Make sure not to break the root hinge.
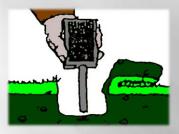
Step 5:

Take your metal detector and scan the sod flap to see if the target is in the flap. If the target is in the flap carefully use your electronic pin-pointer or probe to locate the target. If not scan the hole to find the target's location.
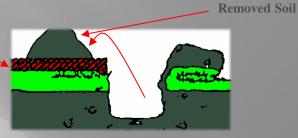
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HOW TO RECOVER A TARGET STEPS 6 & 7

Step 6:

If the target is not in the sod flap, use your electronic pin-pointer or probe and scan or probe the hole to locate the target.

Step 7:

Ground Cloth

Removed Soil

If additional soil needs to be removed, lay a ground cloth next to the hole and place the removed soil on the cloth.
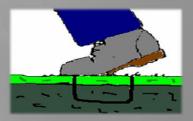
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HOW TO RECOVER A TARGET STEPS 8 & 9

Step 8:

Once the target has been removed from the flap or hole the process is reversed. The soil from the ground cloth is now dumped back into the hole and spread evenly.

Step 9:

The final step is to place the sod flap firmly back into the hole. Next, take your foot and place your body weight on the flap to level it into place. The result should be little or no damage to the grass lawn area and no evidence a hinged plug was cut.

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NEGATIVE RESULTS ON TARGET RECOVERY

Lawn Damage

The over use of Steps Three to Ten for target recovery can result in this type of lawn damage (see photo on the left). This usually can occur during the heat of summer.

Use steps 2 to 2A to recover 95% of your targets. It just takes a little practice and will save a lot of lawns and keep our parks open to metal detecting.

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FIELD TEST YOUR DETECTOR SKILLS

Final Certification Step

Field testing of your detector's setup, coil swing, target pin-pointing, probing and recovery.

Practice, Practice, Practice coil swing, target pin-pointing, target probing and target recovery.

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DEVELOP A TEST GARDEN

Test Garden

Build a test garden with coins buried at different depths to test and practice your skills.

Practice, Practice, Practice target pin-pointing, target probing and target recovery.

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SECURITY AND SAFETY
Be Aware of your Surrounding at ALL Times

Car

- Do not leave any belonging visible in your car

- Do not put metal detector stickers on windows or on car bumpers

- Do not put any sticker on your car that relates to metal detecting or metal detectors

- Park in open and lighted areas and make your car visible to you while detecting

- Never leave a metal detector visible in a car

- Always be aware of your surrounding while getting ready to detect

Self

- Metal detect with a partner for safety

- Park and public places are becoming more dangerous

- Detect together not far apart. Two people provide greater strength

- Do not metal detect at night alone

- Lookup and be aware of your surrounding while detecting