



Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.
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2nd Quarter Report.

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This report comes a bit late. It has been a very busy period on both the FMDAC and the personal front.

The first issue I must address is with membership. There are several parts to it. The first concerns a lag in getting cards out and the website updated to reflect the membership. We are working on this. With any reorganization there will be some pains and we are having a few. Hopefully it will be back on track soon. My apologies to everyone. We will also be setting up the website so you may join and renew online.

The second part of the membership issue has been a thorn for many years. This deals with email addresses. We do not have many! It is really tough to contact the membership effectively without them. With the technology of today communication by email is the way to go. It's instantaneous. Everyone communicates this way. But for some reasons unknown to us many do not give us their email addresses. We realize that there are a few people who do not have computers. They are very few. If you are reading this very late, online, or did not receive it from your club or in hard copy then you need to check to see if your club contact is forwarding the info from the FMDAC, or if they have supplied your email address to us. When it comes time to send out information then we must rely on that one person to forward the email in a timely manner to the club members. Unfortunately we have found in the past that some of these people do not forward it or only check their email once a month. If we have an issue that needs immediate attention then it doesn't help the cause if you receive it weeks late or not at all.

If you have a concern about giving out your email and getting spammed from it then there is nothing to worry about. We will not give out your address to anyone. It will be used only for FMDAC business and only the officers have access to it. We have never sold or given out the list to anyone and will not do so.

We do have a facebook page. If you are a facebook junkie then drop in and join the page.

The Quest has been put on hold at least until the convention takes place where we will be discussing the future of it. We do feel it needs to continue in some form but exactly how is the question. Most info that would appear in it is old news by the time it would be read. It is a vehicle that served its purpose well over time but the internet may have made it obsolete. Most everything will have been available on the web or by email. Instead of spending resources on it at this time we will evaluate it at the convention.

We will be instituting a sponsorship program for all you businessmen out there. Details will follow as soon as we work them out. We will keep track of the dollar amount of all donations made either in cash or product. This will go toward your business being mentioned on our website. Up to and including a banner on the homepage. For anyone interested in making donations they are tax deductible and we can provide a receipt if requested.

If you have not already heard about the O'Fallon, MO attempted detecting ban then here are the brief details. An ordinance was proposed that would have virtually eliminated detecting in the parks. One person spoke in opposition at the meeting and two councilmen objected to it. It was initially passed but was repealed through the efforts of the councilmen and many who contacted the council. That includes the FMDAC who spoke directly with the councilmen. We also were in contact with the Midwest Coinshooters to coordinate efforts. Roger Horrom, president of the club, spoke at the meeting where it was repealed. Roger was asked to help develop a policy that would allow metal detecting but address the concerns of the parks department. That has happened but the policy is not in effect yet as the council must make a change to the park rules prohibiting any digging. We will let you know when that happens.

In a short time we will begin conducting a raffle in order to start replenishing our treasury. This will provide us with operating funds and start rebuilding our legal account. We do not have specifics but the first and second prizes will be a metal detector and third prize will be a 2 peso gold coin.

The convention is coming up quickly. We hope you will consider attending and supporting the organization that is supporting your hobby. This year we will be in Knoxville, TN with the assistance of the Smoky Mountain Artifacts Research and Treasure Society (SMARTS). They are doing a great job of putting things together. We are planning on a number of informative seminars which will include what is going on in the legislative arena and we may see an appearance from Eddie Black from Louisville who will tell us first hand about the battle he has been waging to open the city parks back up to detecting.

New this year will be Friday evening contests at the hunt site. We will be holding some fun detector games and competitions for both individuals and teams. Saturday morning will feature a hunt put on by the SMARTS club, followed by displays and seminars at the hotel. Saturday evening we will meet for a dinner with a guest speaker. On Sunday we will hold two hunts along with a free kids hunt. It will also be the time for an open FMDAC membership meeting. Come and give us your input and hear what we are doing and what our future plans are.

One more item to note, in the planning stage, is a meeting involving the manufacturers, magazines, the Task Force and WWATS. This is to try to bring everyone back together and work as one coordinated voice. We must act together and with one coordinated voice.

Mark Schuessler
President FMDAC