

FMDAC Presidents Message September 2015

I am happy to report that at this time we know of no new attempts to close areas to detecting. Now if areas have met that fate they have done so without our knowledge. I did hear of one recently but it was after the fact. We need to know of these before the actions are taken by a city/county board or parks department. Once enacted they are near impossible to reverse. We have been very successful in stopping actions but we need to know about them.

The raffle is going well. Tickets have been sent out to all clubs and independent members. If you did not receive any or your club does not have any left then contact me and I will get some to you. The Information is on the website. The book is really a treasure.

The Gettysburg event is coming up fast. There is a lot of interest in it so get your reservations made. The flyer is available on the website. There is a lot to do around Gettysburg so you may wish to go early and stay later. The relic show should not be missed. You can take that in right after the hunt on Saturday as you will already be there. We will be posting a schedule when we get a little closer to the date. Tentatively the Saturday hunt will take place at 8:30 AM. The informal get together at the hotel with a pizza meal will be at 6 PM. This will leave plenty of time for evening activities around town. I would suggest a ghost tour. It is Halloween time after all.

Now please note: The early entry deadline is fast approaching but not to worry as we are extending the early deadline until Sept. 30.

On Sunday the first hunt will start at 10:00 AM and the second at 1:30 PM. We will also have a couple seminars and an open meeting. The first seminar will take place at 9:00 am. These times are only approximate right now. At this point we have received replies from most of the detector manufacturers and at least one will be sending a representative. I will post more info on the website and facebook page as we get the schedule set for certain. Whomever is in charge of weather should start working on it now. Oh and bring a chair along.

If any individuals or metal detector dealers would like to make a donation to the hunts then please contact myself or VP Ed Burke. Each and every item helps make for a better event.

I need to address one issue with the event that may be getting misunderstood. Some have been concerned about the page of the flyer dealing with detecting laws in the national military park. It was stated that it would be a good idea to leave your detectors in the hotel room. Some have expressed that they do not want to do that for fear of being robbed. That is a valid concern. I will reiterate that if you have a detector in your vehicle just be smart about it. You can be certain that there are many detectors in cars that tour the battlefield without any problem. Make sure it is completely covered up and not visible. Even in your trunk you should cover it and all your gear in case you happen to open the trunk. Do not talk about detecting. Do not draw any attention to yourself and you will be fine.

This is the first time we are trying the annual event by linking it up with another. We are optimistic that this will be a new start for us and bring renewed interest and enthusiasm to the organization. We hope you will make an effort to join us and give us your input. We are looking at linking with a gold prospectors show in the near future. The only drawback to doing it this way is that we are slave to the dates of the other event. We welcome your input and suggestions for events to link with.

Once again I must take time to ask for your help. We are all volunteers. There are no paid positions. We can use your help. There is one appointed position open that need to be filled. It is being filled by a temporary person at this time but we need someone to take it over. In addition there are several items that I would like to get accomplished that will take someone to dedicate a little time to. It is really quite painless and you may even enjoy it. The organization cannot grow if no one steps forward to help out.

A new item that is hitting the drawing board is a target recovery certification program. This will go beyond simply watching a video and printing off a certificate. Anyone can hit play and print. All it means is that they can click the mouse. We intend to go much further than that. We will give more details at the Gettysburg event. The first seminar that takes place will be on proper target recovery.

We will see you in Gettysburg.

Mark Schuessler

FMDAC President