

Hello FMDAC members

It's been awhile since I have put out a message. Life has been busy.

Good news is that it has been a while since we have seen anything in the legislative department. Maybe it was the election cycle that has kept everyone's attention off of us. However as I always say. There may be things happening that we do not know about so do not hesitate to contact us if you hear of something.

That silence was broken early on this year as there are two ongoing situations right now in which detecting has been banned. I will not divulge the locations right now as they are being worked on a local level. The first one involves the changing of a decades old ban that has not been enforced. A new parks department administrator took over and decided to enforce it. The local club has met with him and they are working on it. It appears to be on a good path at this point.

In the second a ban was suddenly put into place with zero public knowledge or input. The city attorney wrote it on his own and presented it to the city council who immediately voted unanimous approval. No discussion, no representation from those it effects and no public notice. This ban affects ALL city property including curb strips. It is in the fact finding stage at this point. The local community has been instructed to contact the council to get a lot of questions answered.

We have been asked if we are having a convention this year. Due to declining attendance it is not very cost effective to have a yearly gathering so we are going to every other year. It is also very time consuming to put on a quality event. We do not feel that is the best use of our time and resources. Our last one in Gettysburg went well. By holding it in conjunction with another event it makes it much easier. We had a number of people request to go back to Gettysburg. So we are. The flyer is attached.

If anyone has an idea for an event that we could hook up with then please let us know. Just as important is helping us to put it together. It is far easier if we have someone on the locality to help work out the local details.

We are still working on the target recovery program. It may seem like a simple thing to do but the details of making it transportable around the country and still keep tight control causes it to get a bit complicated. We want to do it right to make it a viable program. Some will be internet based and some will be face to face. Many have mentioned that this is a great idea and sorely needed. Will keep you updated.

This brings me to the next item which concerns exactly what the program is about. That would be target recovery and ethics. In some areas of the country this last summer it was very dry. In my general area we went with near zero rain for well over a month and a half. Every patch of grass you saw was brown. Here is my question. When should you be using a detector in a lawn during a period of drought like this? The answer should be simple. NEVER! Any disturbance of the grass will kill it. In this condition even probing could damage it. That is if you could even get

the probe in the ground. No amount of watering of the “plug” will work. Unless you plan on watering the area several times each day until the drought ends.

Why am I bringing this up you may be thinking. A church in a nearby town was hit three times during this dry period by the same 2 people. Over 75 round loose and dead plugs were readily visible to anyone on the property. The church was not happy and I totally understand that. The priest at my church also takes care of that church so they contacted me. I let them know what happened was WRONG. It was not any responsible person that did this. They also did not have permission to be on the property. The good news is that a neighbor saw them there each time and noticed the damage. Best part is that she took photos of the vehicles with the plates clearly visible. I do not know if they pursued any action with the sheriff's department but I recommended that to them. I don't know if these people are stupid, ignorant or just don't give a damn and I don't care either way as the damage is done. How many other places did these two hit? How many other areas are off-limits to detecting now? The next person who does the right thing and asks the church for permission may very well get turned down because of the actions of these two derelicts.

Lastly I want to say that we are only as strong as our membership. The membership is the organization. Renewals are due. If you know of someone who is not a member then please ask them to join. Some people are members of more than one club. If one is not a member then ask them to join. Remember the hobby you save may be your own.

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<http://www.FMDAC.org>