

Hello to the FMDAC membership

A big thankyou to all who attended the Gettysburg function. Everyone appeared to have a good time. The weather was great on Saturday. Sunday was a different story. The forecast predicted a total washout to begin early morning and continue non stop. Somehow the gods looked down on us and had pitty. Marge Cleaves said it was her late husband Dougs intervention. So thankyou Doug! The sky was fairly clear and the rain held off throughout the first hunt. The second was moved up 2 hours and it began misting before it ended. When the original hunt time came around there was a soaking rain that lasted the rest of the day. We were all cleaned up and on our way out by then.

The Saturday hunt was put on by the Central region director Don Hayes. The token for a Tecknetics T2 (donated by Mike Race) was won by the FMDAC secretary Frank Colletti. After the hunt everyone was off in various directions. Some went to the Civil War Relic show some went to tour the battlefield, and some to the many shops, museums and other attractions scattered throughout the area.

On Saturday evening we gathered in the breakfast area at the host hotel. Pizza and drinks were served. That was followed by a talk by VP Ed Burke whose ancestor was present at Gettysburg. His great grandfather was in the 56th PA infantry who fought in the first days battle. They were forced to flee through the streets of the town being vastly outnumbered by the Confederate forces.

A second speaker then took the "stage". Mary Shafer talked about her book "Metal detecting for beginners". Mary became frustrated when she started detecting. She found it tough to understand the vernacular, the rules and all the other basic stuff. So she put it all together in a book to help out other newcomers. I have only flipped through her book and I will tell you that it is good advice for not just the novice but a good refresher for the oldtimers.

We then had a free drawing for a bunch of prizes, some silver and a Minelab Go-find (won by William Purkey).

Sundays hunts went off well. Both hunts were concluded before the drenching began. As we were in a major Civil War area I thought it only right that there were a few relics in the ground for all to find. I purchased a couple dozen bullets at the show and buried them throughout the fields. All the prize tokens were found which is always a positive. There were 5 top tokens that were randomly placed among the numbered tokens. The finders were called up in the order the tokens were turned in and drew an envelope for the prize. The winners were;

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| Gary Pennington | Fisher F44 |
| Mike Raback | Garrett Z-Lynk |
| Tom Metz | Garrett Pinpointer |
| Jack Armstrong | Minelab Pinpointer |
| Richard Otterbourgh | Garrett AT-Pro |

The Raffle for a Fisher F44 was won by Tammy Kepler and a red, white and blue afghan made by my wife Kathy was won by Mike Race.

Thankyou to all who attended and to all who helped out and donated to the event. The relic show was fantastic and we talked to a lot of people. The artifacts at the show were sometimes in the WOW category. Those who looked around carefully were able to see a very rare belt plate. An Arkansas state plate was there and available for purchase. There are

only 5 known. It could be yours for the paltry sum of \$75,000! I am very happy to say that I have now seen 2 of the 5. The first was on display (not for sale) at the 2017 American Digger Civil War Relic Show in Charleston, SC.

If you are in the Charleston area the first weekend of January then stop in to the show and say hi. The FMDAC will have an informational table there. We will also be at the American Digger Civil War show in Chattanooga, TN the last weekend of July 2018.

I want to thank the board members of the FMDAC for helping to put on the weekend events. Also to Nancy Burke, Peggy Hayes and Sandy Troyer for helping out at the table in the show hall. It cannot be done by one person. It takes a group effort to make it a success. I especially want to thank all who donated:

Garrett

First Texas

Minelab

Whites

American Digger

Lost Treasure

Mike and Sue Race

Ed Burke/Pot O Gold

FMDAC Central Region

Andy Blessing

Check out the facebook page for photos of the event.

We do not have our next event scheduled yet and are always looking for a place to hold it and also for someone or club to help us put it together. If there is an event in your area that we might hook up with then let us know. Or maybe you are in an area that would lend itself to people wanting to visit. Our Southern Region director Art DiFilippo is checking into the possibility of holding one in the Charleston, SC area. Let us know if you are interested in attending there. No dates or anything at this time as we are just looking at the possibilities. But let us know as it will help us make a determination.

Our board meeting was held on Friday. A lot was discussed. Part of which was to be more active on the social media type sites, including Youtube. None of us are really savy in that area right now but we will need to be. The intent is to put some of our messages into video format as well as written.

We will start again sending out a regular news brief. Our temporary legislative officer Lee Weise offered to do this. If you do not receive this through your club then you need to check with your club officers. The information is sent to them to disseminate to their members.

The target recovery program will get off the ground in 2018. The kick off is planned for Treasure Week which takes place at Fox Den Acres Campground in New Stanton, PA in July. The program is meant to be a hands-on certification. There will be a lecture period followed by demonstrations of the techniques. After that will be a practice session. Once each person feels confident in the recovery techniques they will need to demonstrate them in front of an instructor.

After completion they will receive a card that they have been trained in proper recovery techniques. Now there are many who will easily be able to pass this. There will be others who will need to brush up on their techniques and unfortunately there may be a few who need a lot of work.

The whole intent of this program is to educate our own hobby. To curb the growing sloppy recovery techniques that we see rising over the last decade. It is on full display on the internet. Many of the videos display less than desirable techniques. People (newbies) watch this and think that it is proper. So they follow it and some of them even make videos. The problem is getting worse and IT MUST STOP!

We intend to make this program portable so it can be taught all over the country. Now we will not be able to travel all over. It is too cost prohibitive. However we plan on certifying instructors around the country. There will be video made available online but that will not result in certification. Anyone can click a start button for a video and then click print that they watched it. It means nothing. In order to pass this program each person will have to demonstrate that they can properly recover a target. This way we know they can do it as they have demonstrated that they can. So there will be no reason after that for sloppy recovery. This could be very useful in situations where a park is about to be closed or even in attempting to open up any closed areas. It could be part of a permit system or even the permit itself. This will be a work in progress.

Our Southern region Director Art DiFilippo is working on setting up a donation page for the website. Any individual or business can donate to the FMDAC with a few clicks. Those donations are tax deductible. More info will be available on this when it is up and running.

Last of all...its election time. Know this is short notice but if you wish to run for an office or to nominate someone then let us know ASAP. Emails went out recently from the secretary concerning this. Nominations should be sent to the secretary - Frank Colletti by Dec 1.

Once again I must say that anytime you hear of an issue popping up that would be a detriment to the hobby then let us know. We cannot help out if we do not know it is happening.

Mark Schuessler

FMDAC National President