



Support The Hobby

I would like to point out to the News Brief readers that there are a number of organizations taking on the challenge against various types of legislation dealing with metal detecting and gold prospecting. MDHTALK's recommendation is to visit their website and give strong consideration to joining the fight. In some cases your support may be to send emails and / or write a letter to specific legislators or to provide funds to help with the fight. Here are the organizations and a link to their website.

[Go to the Join The Fight MDHTALK Webpage to read more about each of these organizations](#)

What is a News Brief? The news brief provides a brief look into any news event. The intent of the news brief is to provide you, the reader, with news clips on what was taking place in the hobby last month. To read the whole story select the Article Link or go to [MDHTALK.org](#). There are more news stories placed on the MDHTALK website for February the news stories listed in the MDHTALK News Brief are just a portion of all the hobby related news reported the past month. **The news Brief is now available in Adobe PDF format, there is a link at the top of this webpage.** The news brief is no longer emailed; it is only available on the MDHTALK website and can be downloaded.

The Website's featured article for this month: The Springfield Approach Toward Park Regulation by Graham McCoy

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I (Graham McCoy) am a dealer for White's Metal Detectors in Chatham, Illinois, I began receiving text messages from several friends and purchasers who share this wonderful pastime informing me that as of 2018, all public parks in Springfield "for the most part" were no longer allowing metal detecting. I could sense the anger in the messages and was told that some were declaring that they would detect the parks anyway. I felt that since I am a local dealer, I should get involved, so I asked everyone to cool their heels while I worked through this problem. My first recommendation to those concerned about this situation is to get your local dealer involved if you have one.

While giving this park development some thought, I recalled that some years back I had sold a metal detector to the last Executive Director of the Springfield Park District. He was also a former Board member. I searched my records for his phone number and gave him a call to inform him of the Park Board's recent decision on metal detecting. He advised me to call the current Executive Director at the facilities office and arrange to be put on the agenda for the next Park Board meeting and also to mention that "I (the referrer) was a good friend of his." When I placed the call to the latest Executive Director, he said he would be glad to place me on the agenda but would also be happy to sit down and talk to me first. We scheduled a meeting for the following week which gave me a few days to prepare for my approach which ultimately consisted of three parts.

First, I searched my photo files and pulled out and printed copies of nine pictures to take with me. The first photo, taken years ago, features a huge pile of the trash that I had removed from parks and yards as I detected them and includes a good deal of aluminum can slaw and broken glass. The remaining eight photos are of lost items being returned to their owners. These items include rings, other jewelry of value and a WWII Coast Guard dog tag worn on D-Day while ferrying troops across the English Channel and retrieving bodies on the return trips. An article on this dog tag return was featured in the Journal-Register.

Second, I gathered up the latest White's Metal Detector brochure to take with me to illustrate the capabilities of the newest detector technology.

Third, I prepared my own sample of a permit to illustrate how a permit might be drawn up that would include rules such as the size of digging tools allowed and the necessity of leaving an area the same as found with little or no trace of disturbance.

Now having identified these talking point items, I was prepared for my meeting. Additionally, I felt it was important to go alone and to be polite and respectful. The following was my meeting approach.

I began with explaining that I was there because I had recently been notified about the new regulations being imposed on metal detectors in the rewritten Park District General Use Ordinance effective January 1, 2018. Sec. 4.20 Metal Detectors: No person shall operate any device which is designed for the detection of metal objects on or below District property unless authorized by executive detector. The fine imposed is to be \$100. I asked if the Park Board's decision was the result of complaints. The response was "no." In fact, they had not received any complaints. Rather, the Park District had not updated their General Use Ordinance since 1982-83 and while doing so, they found the State Law governing "JULIE - Call Before You Dig" would present a legal problem for the issuance of permits to those of us who dig for targets. They took the JULIE regulation to mean digging anywhere. I then asked, "What about gardening?" From this question, I think he understood that there needs to be a common sense approach here.

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At this time, I pulled out the White's brochure and showed the Director how the technology has advanced to point out the exact location of a target and that most targets are only 1" - 3" or at most, possibly 5" deep. Then I pulled out the photo of all the trash I have taken out of the parks. He appeared surprised to see this much trash. I told him this pile contained not only broken glass and shreds of aluminum cans, but also 2 1/2" deck screws found in and removed from playgrounds. I also told him that most detectorists remove the trash they find in the parks and take it with them when they leave.

Now, the discussion moved to permitting. The executive director asked if a \$50 permit fee would be appropriate, and I responded that a large fee wouldn't fly. I told him that the largest permit fee I have ever had to pay was \$1.00, but perhaps a \$10 - \$20 fee might be acceptable.

The next thing he asked was what we did with items of value that we find since those items belong to somebody. I answered him, "Yes, that's true, but then, what if they are never found"? I then pulled out the eight photos of me returning items to their rightful owners, and he made a remark on the order of, "Oh, this is what I like to see." It probably didn't hurt that he recognized two of the individuals in the pictures. I then told him that I am a regular reader of the White's Metal Detector Forum and most often when a ring is found, the last comment made is "Now to find the owner."

Our meeting lasted for the better part of an hour, after which he told me that at the next board meeting, they would consider my comments and suggestions and come up with a permit. When I asked, he agreed to send me a copy first. The next morning, I received his call wanting to email me a preliminary copy of the permit form and asking me to look it over but not to share it with anyone. I was told there were probably some changes we would not like and others that we would. After looking over the permit form, I called him requesting one clarification and offering one comment. I believe the Park Board will approve this form, and it will be one that our fellow detectorists can live with.

I have been metal detecting for twenty-three years. I was previously employed by Continental Can Company, Container Systems Division where I was trained in sales and marketing and held the position of Regional Sales Manager for my last eight years. My advice for others who may be faced with this permit problem is to approach it in a calm, respectful manner. Put on a good face for this hobby. Try to get the best qualified person to represent you and let him or her go in alone. This will prevent others from stepping on your "Sales" pitch.

Graham McCoy
White's Metal Detectors
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General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- A gold ingot was stolen from Key West Museum, seven years later two men were arrested BY GWEN FILOSA. [Article Link](#)
- Unearthing Monroe's history. [Article Link](#)
- A rare copy of the Declaration of Independence survived the Civil War hidden behind wallpaper. Later it was tossed in a box. [Article Link](#)
- To find gold, be willing to dig through old crud. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure-hunting diver finds a phone and returns it to its owner. [Article Link](#)
- Arkansas History Unearthed. [Article Link](#)
- Dead bodies, cash, a grilled cheese sandwich – oh, the things people find as the snow melts. [Article Link](#)
- Marindi Metals finds conglomerate gold at second Bellary Dome site. [Article Link](#)
- Surveyors Believe They've Found Old Slave Quarters at Montpelier. [Article Link](#)
- CA Couple Searches Raw Sewage To Find Beloved Engagement Ring. [Article Link](#)
- A treasure trove of treasure-centric titles. [Article Link](#)
- Searching for treasure. [Article Link](#)
- The ring [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Record year for the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. [Article Link](#)
- Woman launches appeal to find 'priceless' necklace she made for her god-daughter. [Article Link](#)
- History buff uncovers rare Vikings horse harness. [Article Link](#)
- Stunned pensioner, 69, finds two halves of the same valuable 14th Century gold ring just a year apart. [Article Link](#)
- Hoard of 100 Roman coins and Bronze Age bracelets found in Devon. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist finds coin minted by 'first Brexiteer'. [Article Link](#)
- Show Me The Money! History of currency comes to life at Norwich Castle. [Article Link](#)
- Medieval ring found by lorry driver sparks bidding battle at Etwall auction. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorist stumble on treasure trove of Roman gold, or so they think. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

Other News

- **American Mining Rights Association** is not a gold club but rather an advocacy group for miners and public land users to preserve and maintain their rights as they pertain to access to their public lands. [February News](#)
- **Garrett Searcher January Magazine**
- **Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [February News](#)
- **JW Fisher Selfless Servants, Always Ready; Public Safety Dive Teams** [March Press Release](#)
- **Lost Treasure E-Magazine** [February Issue](#)
- **Minelab Go-Find Detectors** [Press Release](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [December News](#)
- **Western Mining Alliance** [February Newsletter](#)
- **White's Discover** [March Magazine](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [March Newsletter](#)

Jewelry Returns

- Owner of lost Royal Oak class of 1951 class ring located, to get ring back. [Article Link](#)
- Buried gold: Class ring dug up in Argentina returned to Vietnam vet 50 years later. [Article Link](#)
- 50 years later, Grafton High class ring is a treasure to hunter and girl who lost it. [Article Link](#)
- MPD officer, father find woman's missing wedding ring. [Article Link](#)
- Facebook helps McAdam man reunite with lost class ring after 24 years. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Lab notes: So long Indiana Jones? Archaeology goes high-tech. [Article Link](#)

- Prescott's 'Space Cowboy' has the largest meteorite collection in the world. [Article Link](#)
- Arizona Meteorite Fetches Record-Breaking \$237,500 at Auction. [Article Link](#)
- McSween Says Some Are Meteorite, But Most Are 'Meteor Wrong'. [Article Link](#)
- 'Meteorite ball of fire' spotted in night skies. [Article Link](#)
- RPI student fulfills dream of finding meteorite. [Article Link](#)

- Surveyors Believe They've Found Old Slave Quarters at Montpelier. [Article Link](#)
- This Archaeological Site In Virginia Should Be On Every History Buff's Bucket List. [Article Link](#)
- 1,000-Year-Old Hunting Weapon Found in Melting Yukon Ice. [Article Link](#)

Event News

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2018/19 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

- **March 07, 2018** (Five Days)
Johannesburg, California
2018 Duisenburg Outing
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **March 10, 2018** (One Day)
Johannesburg, California
2018 Open Detector Hunts: Kids to Pros
Gold Prospectors Assn of America & the Lost Dutchmans Mining Assn

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

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the Complete Event Details for March](#)

- **March 10, 2018** (One Day)
Wabasso, Florida
31th Annual TCAS Hunt
TCAS - Treasure Coast Archaeological Society
- **March 10, 2018** (One Day)
Longview, Texas
7th Annual Piney Woods Relic Hunt
East Texas Treasure Hunters Assn
- **March 17, 2018** (Two Days)
Martinsville, Indiana
2018 Outing Morgan-Monroe State Forest
Indiana Gold Prospectors
- **March 17, 2018** (Two Days)
Coeur d Alene, Idaho
19th Annual Gold & Treasure Show
NW Gold Prospectors Assn
- **March 17, 2018** (One Day)
Morristown/Wickenburg, Arizona
2018 Common Gold Dig
AAGP - Arizona Assn of Gold Prospectors
- **March 24, 2018** (Two Days)
Jefferson, Texas
Charles Garrett Memorial Hunt
Garrett Metal Detecting and Texas Assn of Metal Detecting Clubs
- **March 24, 2018** (One Day)
Baker City, Oregon
Porch Panning
Eastern Oregon Miners & Prospectors, Inc.
- **March 24, 2018** (Two Days)
Fresno, California
Central Valley Prospectors Gold Prospecting Show
Central Valley Prospectors
- **March 24, 2018** (Two Days)
Ridgefield, Washington
2018 Gold and Treasure Show
GPAA-Gold Prospectors Assn of America
- **March 26, 2018** (Six Days)
Fairbanks, Alaska
2018 Spring Convention & Trade Show
Alaska Miners Assn (AMA)