

# Metal Detecting Hobby Talk

# Serving The Metal Detecting Community

## MDHTALK News Brief



World Wide Hobby News



December 2022

Metal Detecting Hobby Talk News Brief

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### 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](#)

### MDHTALK

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**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 November 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 is: Metal Detecting Etiquette

by Lee Wiese [Download This Article](#)

Recreational Metal Detecting is becoming a very popular pastime as more people enter retirement. Due to some great finds in England the hobby is getting greater publicity through the news media, internet forums, individual websites and of course YouTube videos. Many recreational metal detectorists developed their skills and ethics as the hobby developed and matured, however, over the past few years many new retirees have or are about to enter the hobby. These new hobbyists have no prior experience or knowledge as to how to legally or actually practice metal detecting in the field. This article will focus on just one aspect of the hobby - metal detecting etiquette.

### So what might be the definition of metal detecting etiquette?

Etiquette for metal detecting can be defined as a form of ethical behavior regarding metal detectorist responsibility, the actions of detectorists in their dealings with each other, the use of land, abiding by the law, practicing correct and acceptable social behavior in the field and by adhering to the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics.

### Metal Detectorist Responsibility.

The term Responsible Metal Detecting in the U.S. is rarely used or defined. I have used the term in a number of articles but have never really thought about what this term encompasses. Here is a link to a short article that will provide some definition. [MDHTALK Link to Responsible Metal Detecting](#) article.

### The article highlights are:

- *Know and Follow the Law*
- *Gain Permission*
- *Always Apply the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics*
- *Join a Metal Detecting Club*
- *Understand the Potential Cultural Value of Your Find*
- *Volunteer Your Services to the Hobby*

### Detectorist actions and dealings with each other.

Recreational Metal Detecting is a hobby that can either be practiced alone, with a partner or with a group of fellow hobbyists. While metal detecting alone and especially on beaches there can be occasions where another detectorist may be detecting in the same area as yourself. In these situations there are some etiquette standards that should be considered:

Take time out by walking over to the other detectorist, greet (be polite) the other detectorist. Make sure that you turn off your detector before approaching so as to not cause interference in the other detectorist's headphones. Introduce yourself, strike up a short conversation and after a short period of time discuss how each of you can detect the same general area without infringing on the others' detecting space. Most detectorists will respect this approach. If an agreement is not reached and if the other detectorist was on the scene first it is up to you to go off in another direction or leave and go elsewhere.

If a detecting partner shares a special detecting site with you, this site should never be considered a site that you can return to and treat as a detecting site of your own. Being invited to someone's personal site is something special and should not be abused by you or should you communicate the site's location to other detectorist.

### **Detectorist use of lands.** (Public and Private)

Metal detecting requires that the detectorist disturbs the soil or beach sand to retrieve an identified target. This is where the detectorist must have excellent knowledge on how to pin point and retrieve a target or great damage can be caused to the grass. There should be no evidence left behind that the grass was disturbed once the target has been retrieve. After the target has been recovered, replacing the hole contents in reverse order will certainly contribute to a successful conclusion with little or no evidence that someone had made a divot in the grass. The target recovery process must be well studied and practiced before a detectorist strikes out into the field.

Recovering targets from the beach is not as critical but filling the recovery hole is a must so as not to create a situation where beach goers injure themselves by stepping into an unfilled hole.

Remember never unnecessarily disturb land and shrubbery other than for target retrieval.

If water detecting, always try to fill any hole that you create during target recovery.

### **Detectorist being law abiding.**

This is one of the most difficult parts of metal detecting to stay abreast off. Laws, regulations and rules will be different from state to state and locality to locality so if you plan to practice the hobby in many different parts of your state or across the country you will need to be well versed on the law. There are many indirect laws as well that impact the ability to detect i.e.; disturbance of the plant growth, rock displacement, historical and archaeology sites, etc. So just knowing is it ok is not necessarily enough, you will also need to know about the indirect laws that could impact your outing.

Please keep in mind, if artifacts or historical sites are located the local historical authorities should be contacted. Keep a record of your finds, by noting: date, detector used, location found and description of the find for future reference.

### **Detectorist social behavior.**

Many people are intrigued by someone metal detecting and will approach to ask questions. Take time out and always treat the public with respect, be courteous and truthful in your responses.

While detecting you will also encounter people who are not supporters of the hobby. This is probably due to a very bad past experience with a detectorist or a group of detectorist. While most detectorist are polite, considerate and practice the hobby in a non-destructive manner there are others (small minority) that follow no laws, rules or metal detecting practices and can be very destructive. This type of detectorist can cause non-reversible harm to the hobby. As a detectorist we must continually put forward our best behavior, respect property, other people enjoying the outdoors and always act responsible.

Always give high priority to returning recovered lost items to the original owner. This can be accomplished by doing research using social media tools, craigslist, newspapers, and even TV media. Never avoid helping people who have lost items that ask for help. Do not request a reward for your service in any of these situations.

Do not publicly broadcast your finds while metal detecting in the field. This can cause you, the detectorist some very uncomfortable situations if the public becomes aware of a find. People can be aggressive and will at times demand the item found be given to them because they state they just lost it.

There will be times you come upon an individual who will be very aggressive and argumentative who will certainly try your patience. It is best that you move on and try to go detecting in another area close by or in some cases pack up and move. Trying to deal with such an individual is a no win situation.

Beach metal detecting can be a great experience but there are some very necessary etiquette standards that should be followed while detecting at the beach.

1st. It is recommended that beach detecting take place in off hours or in more remote portions of the beach during peak beach hours.

2nd. If you must detect during the busiest part of the day when the beach is heavily populated with beach goers:

- a. Stay well away from those enjoying and laying on the beach. (rule of thumb is 20-25ft.)
- b. While recovering targets with a sand scoop near beach goers, always shake the scoop just above the beach sand so that the wind does not blow the scoop's sand on the nearby beach goers.
- c. Always fill your holes, so that someone will not sprain an ankle or break a bone since beach goers are enjoying the beach and may not see a hole in the sand and step into it.

All detectorist should consider joining a club. This is a great place to learn about the hobby though the friendship of other detectorist . Being a member of a club can also provide you a opportunity for using a skill or expertise that may benefit the club's membership. Always consider volunteering your services to the hobby.

Carry out all trash that is recovered while retrieving targets in the field. Never discard recovered trash on the ground while metal detecting the turf, the beach or in the water.

### **Detectorist Adhere to Code of Ethics.**

## Ethics for Responsible Metal Detecting

- *I will check Federal, State, County and Local Laws before searching. It is my responsibility to KNOW and UNDERSTAND THE LAW.*
- *I will report to the proper authorities, individual who enter and / or remove artifacts from Federal or State Park / Preserves / Historical Sites.*
- *I will never remove or destroy priceless historical archeological treasures.*
- *I will not enter Sacred Church or Parish Grounds or Cemeteries for the purpose of metal detecting.*
- *I will protect our Natural Resource and Wildlife Heritage.*
- *I will not enter private property without the owner's permission and when possible, such permission will be in writing.*
- *I will take care to refill all holes and try not to leave any damage.*
- *I will remove and dispose of any and all trash and litter that I find.*
- *I will not destroy or tamper with any structures on public or private property or what is left of Ghost Towns.*
- *I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.*
- *I will not tamper with signs, maintenance facilities or equipment and leave all gates as found.*
- *I will approach and educate those who do not follow good metal detecting practices.*
- *I will not metal detect in competitive hunts if I am the Hunt Master or plant hunt targets.*
- *I will make every effort to return found property to its rightful owner.*
- *I will be an ambassador for the hobby, be thoughtful, considerate and courteous at all times to others and their property.*

### In Summary:

As a detectorist you must set the highest ethical standard possible and be a model to new detectorists who are learning how to practice the hobby. Without excellent metal detecting etiquette being practiced by all, a few detectorist can make the hobby very miserable for the majority. If detectorists are destructive on public lands; states and localities will pass regulations against the recreational metal detecting and it is very difficult to get regulations changed.

### Hobby Related News

#### General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Can you identify this tool found while metal detecting? [Article Link](#)
- Walnut Cove resident's hobby leads to noteworthy discovery. [Article Link](#)
- 10 Strangest Things Found While Metal Detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Spanish coin surfaces on Brevard County beach after Hurricane Nicole. [Article Link](#)
- Native American remains, Spanish coins unearthed by erosion from Hurricane Nicole. [Article Link](#)
- NOT SO SWEET I found a lost cheque worth £4MILLION – but the reward I got for returning it to its owner left me stunned. [Article Link](#)
- Medal mystery: Moncton man finds First World War medal in empty lot. [Article Link](#)
- Vermont Voices: 'I still dream about stuff'. [Article Link](#)
- Wanted: Big Horn County Sheriff's Office Needs Metal Detectors for Crime Investigation. [Article Link](#)
- Serial hobbyist makes no apology for pursuits. [Article Link](#)
- WWII dog tag found in Czech Republic mailed to Massachusetts soldier's daughter. [Article Link](#)
- Civil War-era relics unearthed on dried banks of Mississippi River. [Article Link](#)

#### U.K. News

- Ancient coins lost hundreds of years ago in Shropshire 'would have bought a goose and some candles'. [Article Link](#)
- Tales from the riverbank - the woman pulling treasure from Britain's streams. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist finds medieval ring worth £40,000 in Dorset field. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorists' possible treasures 'worth thousands' vanish from safety of store room. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorist reunites lost trophy with soldier's Wiltshire widow. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist finds Roman coin worth thousands on first ever hunt. [Article Link](#)
- Nighthawk metal detectorists target St Benet's Abbey. [Article Link](#)
- Lincolnshire metal detectorist's Iron Age bull rider up for auction. [Article Link](#)
- Police seize gun and ammunition after metal detectorist finds them in Newcastle nature reserve. [Article Link](#)
- Heiress reveals astonishing history of \$70k emerald ring she is auctioning for Ukraine: Her husband pulled gem from Spanish galleon that sank in 1622 after relentless 16-year search that cost him millions . . . but resulted in finding a lost treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Why detectorists have made Norfolk treasure capital of the country. [Article Link](#)

#### Other News Sources

- **American Digger Relic Roundup.** For diggers and collectors of history. An hour long program every Monday Night at 9:00 PM eastern standard time. Join your hosts Butch Holcombe, Jeff Lubbert and Heath Jones as they explore the past. Learn more about Metal Detecting, Treasure hunting in all it's forms, and the preservation of history. [November Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [November News](#)
- **Garrett Searcher** [September Searcher](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [November News](#)
- **Mel Fisher Salvage Update**
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ) News**
- **The Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** The Archaeology and Metal detecting magazine are one of the lead online sites in their genre. Offering multiple platforms for Archaeological, Historical and metal detecting news, articles, research areas and much more. [November News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [December Newsletter](#)

#### Jewelry Returns

- Man helps neighbor find wedding ring lost six decades ago in potato patch. [Article Link](#)
- For a Crestwood man who lost his everything, a missing wedding ring was too much. [Article Link](#)
- The ring's the thing – 77 years later in Port Orange. [Article Link](#)
- Couple finds lost ring in sand thanks to engagement photographer. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist told to put found wedding ring back in the ocean. [Article Link](#)
- Former football player reunited with championship rings years later. [Article Link](#)

- Brothers 'rally' aims for Christmas joy in Cambridgeshire. [Article Link](#)
- Join two real-life treasure hunters to learn why people enjoy metal detecting as a hobby. [Article Link](#)
- Morecambe metal detectorist's rare find could have links to Lancaster's slave trade past. [Article Link](#)
- Large Stash of Viking Silver Found in Central Norway. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist who failed to declare £5.2m Viking hoard claims he gambled cash away. [Article Link](#)
- Isle of Man metal detectorists reminded to speak to landowners. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure found by metal detectorist on grounds of Paul Hollywood's former estate, in Adisham near Canterbury. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorists discover 'once-in-a-lifetime' historical find in Derbyshire field. [Article Link](#)

- Cork's wedding ring king finds woman's late mother's ring after two years in the ocean. [Article Link](#)

#### W.W. Meteorite News

- SCHOOL OF ROCK Panicked Scots parents left stunned after 'meteorite' lands in school playground. [Article Link](#)
- They made a material that doesn't exist on Earth. That's only the start of the story. [Article Link](#)
- '2022 AP7: 'Planet killer' asteroid found hiding in sun's glare. [Article Link](#)
- Man finds suspected meteorite at Chesil Beach in Dorset. [Article Link](#)

#### North America Archaeology News

- Mississippi Drought Reveals Hidden Civil War Relics in River. [Article Link](#)
- US Army bullets unexpectedly found at 1918 Mexico border massacre site. [Article Link](#)

#### Event News

##### Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2022/23 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.

**Check out your event before going it may have been postponed or canceled.**

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

- **December 02, 2022** (Four Days)  
Congress, Arizona  
Gold Prospecting Adventure  
Lost Dutchman's Mining Assn
- **December 02, 2022** (Three Days)  
Stanton, Arizona  
Mining Event - Push Dig  
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn

[Select here to View the Complete Event](#)

- **December 04, 2022** (Five Days)  
Sparks (Reno), Nevada  
AEMA's 128th Annual Meeting  
AEMA- American Exploration & Mining Assn
- **December 17, 2022** (One Day)  
Corsicana, Texas  
Christmas Silver Hunt  
Blackland Prairie Treasure Club
- **December 30, 2022** (Two Days)  
Johannesburg, California  
New Years Gold Mining Adventure  
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn

#### It's time to stop sneering at metal detectorists by John Gimlette

The vast majority of significant finds are now unearthed by amateurs – including the Nebra Sky Disc, the centrepiece of the British Museum's recent Stonehenge exhibition [Web Page](#)

As a teenager growing up in Cheshire I had a metal detector. Although I was slightly ashamed of it, I found all sorts of intriguing things: shrapnel, a French coin, a Khartoum Racing Club key ring, an adze and a silver brooch in the shape of a lobster. All went well until I found a second world war bomb in Tatton Park. They had to call out the army, and I got a Grade A bollocking. People hated metal detectors.

Since then I haven't given them much thought; but Nigel Richardson has. An acclaimed travel writer, he was grounded by the Covid pandemic and, like many of us, began to reflect on the course life had taken. It worried him that he was rootless: the northern kid who went to boarding school in Sussex, the 'citizen of nowhere', without tribe or peers. For no particular reason he took up metal detecting. The Accidental Detectorist is the story of how he found himself again, along with a few bits of treasure.

It's a bucolic tale of magnificent pre-historic landscapes and marginal people. Rendered in simple, fresh prose, here are some of the finest downs and uplands in the country, such as Beachy Head 'where England ends in a toothpaste smile of despair'; even Portsmouth harbour is deftly described, with its muddy creeks, convict graves and warships looking 'a camp shade of teal in the afternoon sun'.

But it's the other detectorists who really bring this tale to life. They're a motley, amiable, anti-authoritarian lot: old soldiers, hayseeds, a few women (such as 'Digger Dawn') and one man who's 'a bit Swampy the eco-warrior and a bit nutzo surrealist'. Together they turn up in 'camos, tats, buzz cuts and tool bags', but always with hearts of gold and pockets full of rust. Had Laurie Lee been alive, he'd have been out among them, listening to the earth and sleeping rough.

Class is a recurring theme. Detectorists know they're sneered at and Richardson never quite shrugs off the shame. The academic establishment accuses them of theft, plunder, ignorance and salting away the nation's heritage. Archaeologists are everything they're not: educated, entitled, and left-wing. In fairness, they and the detectorists see the world from opposite angles. As one wag put it, it's like the disparity between fishermen and marine biologists; they both like fish, but for different reasons.

Richardson defends his new friends against the continual jibes. True, there has been plunder. Everyone remembers the Herefordshire Hoard, where Viking artefacts worth perhaps £12 million were disposed of or destroyed in 2015. But most detectorists are only too happy to report their finds, even when they don't have to. In the past 15 years, more than 1.5 million items have been logged under a voluntary scheme. These days, about 90 per cent of significant finds are unearthed by amateurs.

Nor is this Wurzel army necessarily ignorant. Self-taught and intuitive, its members have their own clubs, websites, magazines and jargon ('nighthawks', 'grots' and 'Lizzies' – i.e. thieves, junk and Elizabethan coins). They also know the best places to seek out treasure. East Anglia is easily the most productive. This, says Richardson, is probably because mankind has been there for more than 950,000 years, leaving Norfolk with the world's oldest footprints outside Africa. Scotland also yields great hoards of Roman coins, because it was money for 'protection' to keep the Picts at bay.

Like me, most detectorists find little of any value. But it's still thrilling to hold something that's lain untouched for perhaps hundreds of years, and Richardson becomes the historian of everything he finds – such as the coin made for a penal colony and his hammered Lizzie. And just occasionally the finds are stupendous. The Cunetio Hoard, unearthed near Marlborough in 1978, comprised nearly 55,000 coins. Even the centrepiece of the British Museum's recent Stonehenge exhibition, the Nebra Sky Disc, was found by detectorists.

Remarkably, some 50 Roman hoards are registered every year. How could anyone lose a giant pot of sesterces and denarii? It makes you wonder how careless (or violent) Provincia Britannia was. As Richardson puts it, every hoard is, or was, a tragedy; but without detectorists, most of these dramas, whether small or large, would go undiscovered, perhaps forever.

There is much to think about here. Should all ancient finds belong to the state, as in New Zealand? And are detectorists to be regarded as merely looters, as they are in parts of Europe? Or can the public be trusted as participants in the hunt for our past? At a personal level too there are lessons to be learnt. Richardson writes beautifully about his return to the land, about listening to the soil and about understanding the ancient world, which, lest we forget, forms part of our everyday lives.