

MDHTALK – Metal Detecting Hobby Talk

The Ideal Beach



Overview of Metal Detecting Saltwater Beaches



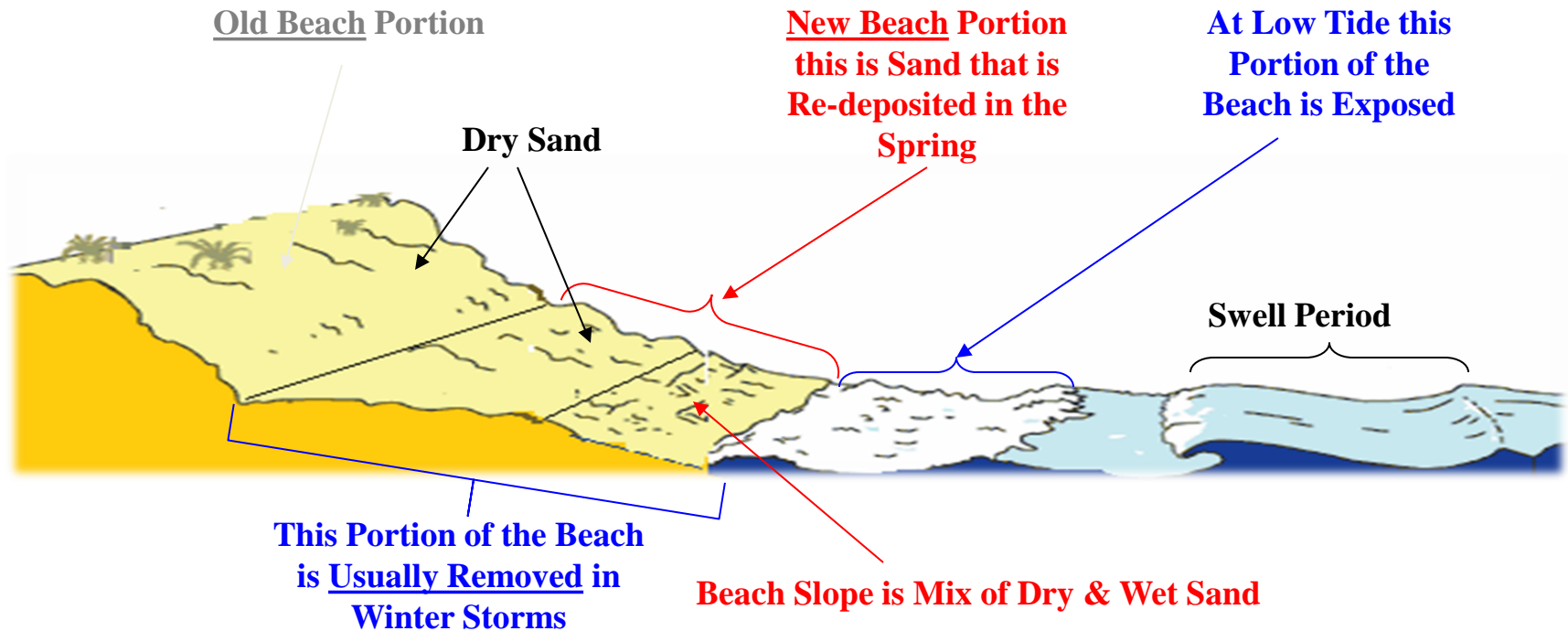
by **Lee Wiese**
Sep. 22, 2013
May 15, 2016

[MDHTALK.org](http://www.mdhtalk.org)

Metal Detecting Beaches

Beach Profile

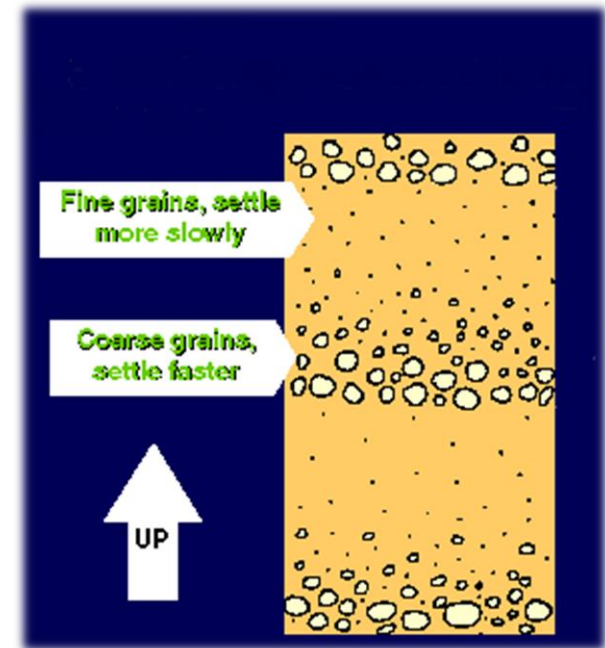
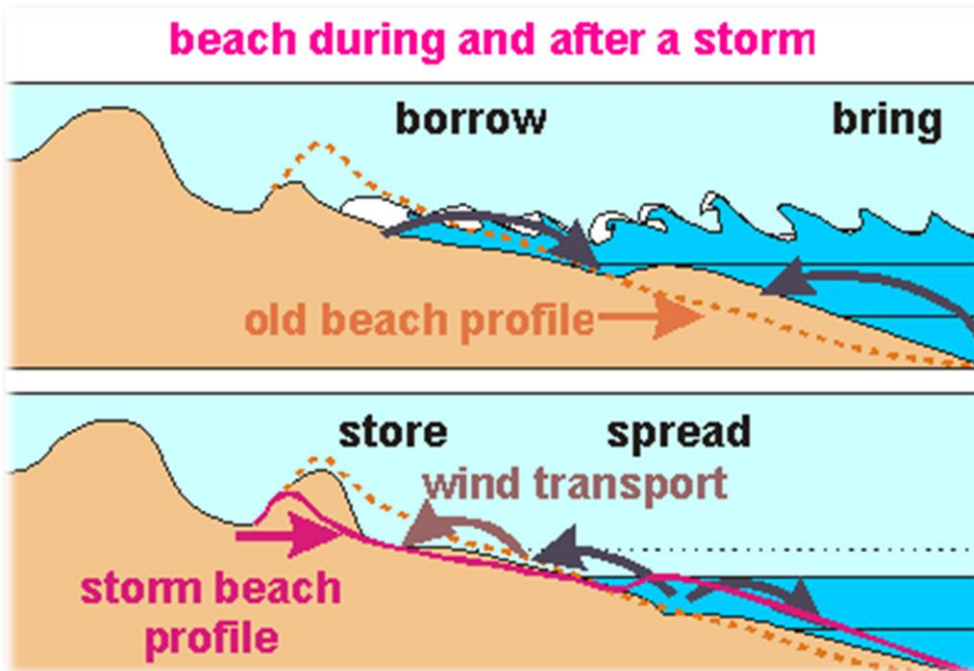
Metal Detecting
Beaches



To Become a Serious Beach Hunter and have Consistent Results You Must Learn to READ the Beach

Metal Detecting Beaches Profile

Metal Detecting
Beaches



Metal Detecting Beaches

Metal Detecting
Beaches

Saltwater Beaches are Ever Changing

The Beach Shore Profile can be Different from **Day-to-Day** and can **Change Dramatically** from **Season-to-Season**.

The Causes for Beach Change or Erosion are:

- High and / or Low Tides
- High Surf / Swell Conditions (5-20 ft)
- Short or Long Swell Periods (7 to 15 sec between Swells)
- High Surf at High Tide can Effect Huge Change
- Swell Direction Southwest vs. West, Etc.
- On Shore vs. Off Shore Winds & Wind Direction
- Storms and Hurricanes Tide Surges

Max Beach Erosion

- ✓ Storm Situation
- ✓ High Tide (+5 to 6 Ft+)
- ✓ Southwest Swells
- ✓ Swells (15 to 20 Ft)
- ✓ Swell Period (7-9 Secs)
- ✓ On Shore Winds
- ✓ Tide Surges

Metal Detecting Beaches

Beach Detecting Locations



➤ Dry Sand

- Old Beach Dry Sand
- New Beach Dry Sand

➤ Blanket Line (25-65 Ft Back from Crest)

➤ Beach Crest

➤ Wet Sand

- Wet Sand Water Line
- Low Spots, Valleys, Surf Pocket

➤ Sand Scallops

- Scallop Left or Right Side
- Scallop Valley

➤ Bed Rock or Clay Bottom (Winter Only)

➤ Beach Cuts

➤ Beach Slope

- Upper Slope (Near Crest)
- Lower Slope (Near Water)

➤ Flatten Beaches (Usually Winter Only)

➤ Water

- Low Tide Trough

Other Beach Locations

- ✓ Beach Events
- ✓ Play Ground Areas
- ✓ Volley Ball Courts
- ✓ Along Wall Areas
- ✓ Beaches in Front of Hotels
- ✓ Beach Chair & Lounge Areas
- ✓ Beach Walk Ways (Entrances)
- ✓ Concessions Areas
- ✓ Picnic Table Areas (Check First)

NEVER Metal Detect the Beach Grass or Grass Dune Areas

Metal Detecting Beaches

Blanket Lines

Metal Detecting
Beaches



Line #2

Line #1

Metal Detecting Beaches

Beach Scenes

Metal Detecting
Beaches



Lounge Area



Blanket Lines

Metal Detecting Beaches

Cut with Some Fill, Crest, Blanket Line

Metal Detecting
Beaches



Metal Detecting Beaches

Cut into the Beach Slope



**Great Cut that goes into
the Sand Dune Area**



Cut into the Slope

Metal Detecting Beaches

Cut into the Beach

Metal Detecting
Beaches



**Great Cut that goes into
the Beach Area**

Metal Detecting Beaches

Cut into the Beach

Metal Detecting
Beaches



**Great Cut that goes into
the Beach Area**

Metal Detecting Beaches

Cut into the Beach Slope & Dune

Metal Detecting
Beaches



**Great Cut that goes into
the Old Beach Slope**



Great Cut into Sand Dune

Metal Detecting Beaches

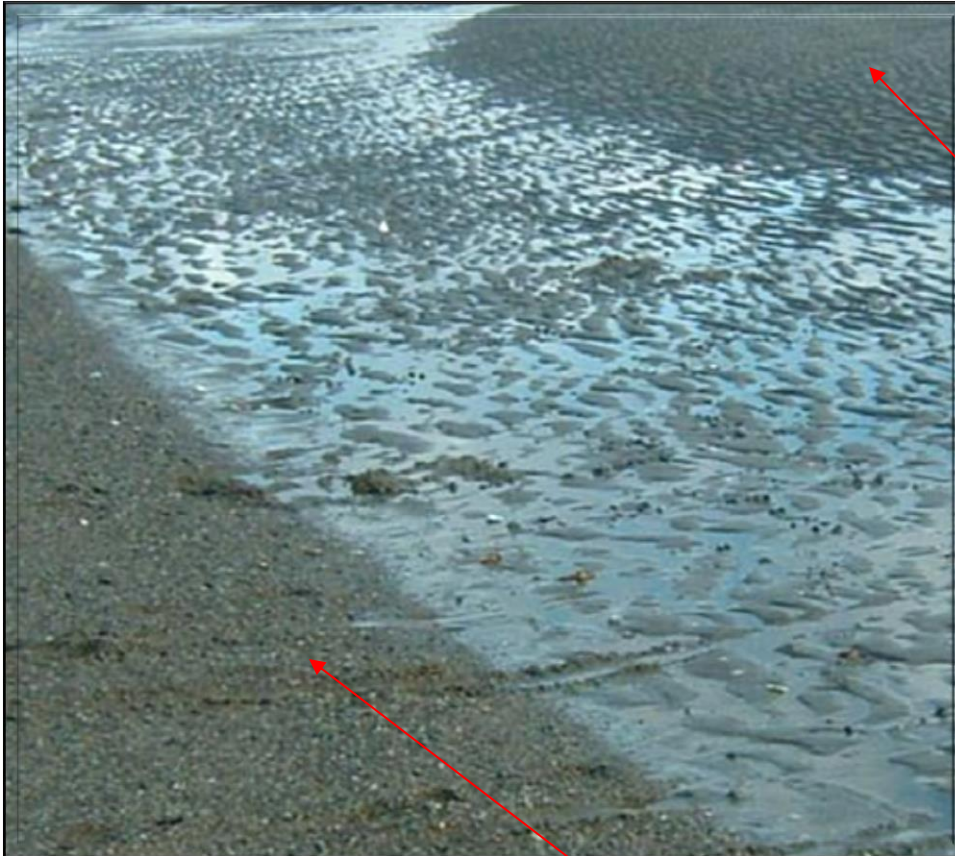
Rock on the Beach



Detect Rock Concentrations

Metal Detecting Beaches

Ripple Surf Action



Slope

**Small Rock Exposure
Small Rock Exposure**

Metal Detecting Beaches

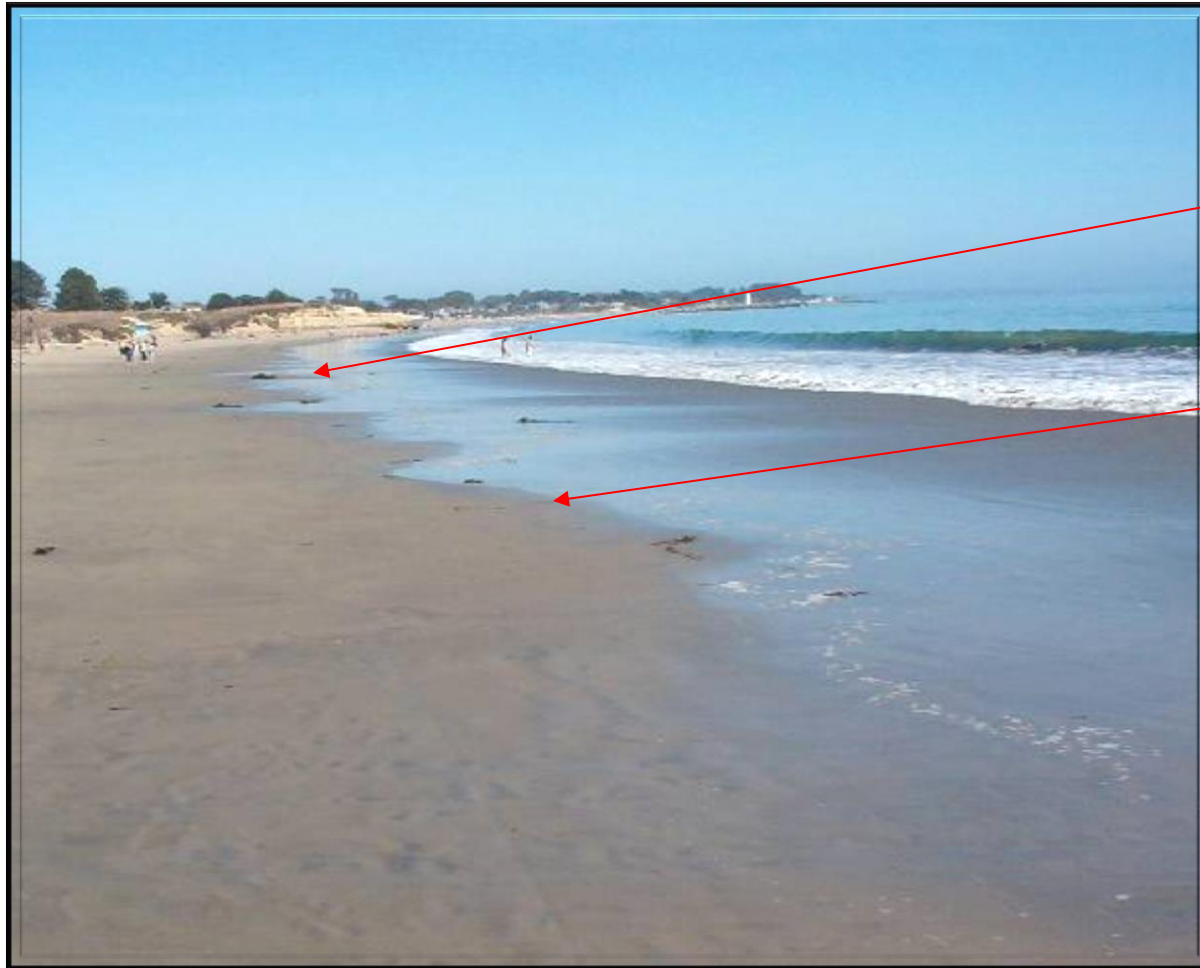
Wet Sand High to Low Tide Region



Low Tide Mark
High Tide Mark
Wet Sand

Metal Detecting Beaches

Wet Sand Water Line (High Tide Surf)



Low Spot

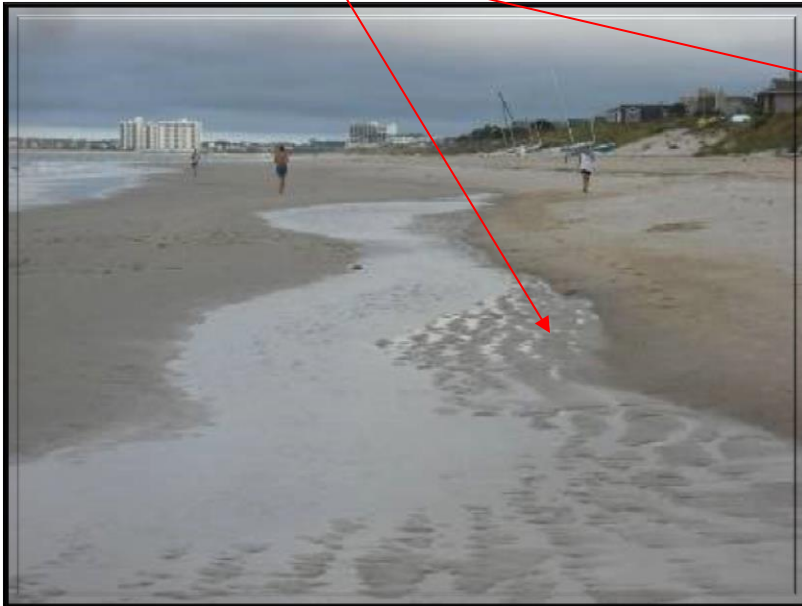
Wet Sand Water Line

Metal Detecting Beaches

Beach Trough & Flat Spots

Metal Detecting
Beaches

Trough or Ripple Cut



Flat Spot or Pockets

May be a Very Small Washout

Metal Detecting Beaches

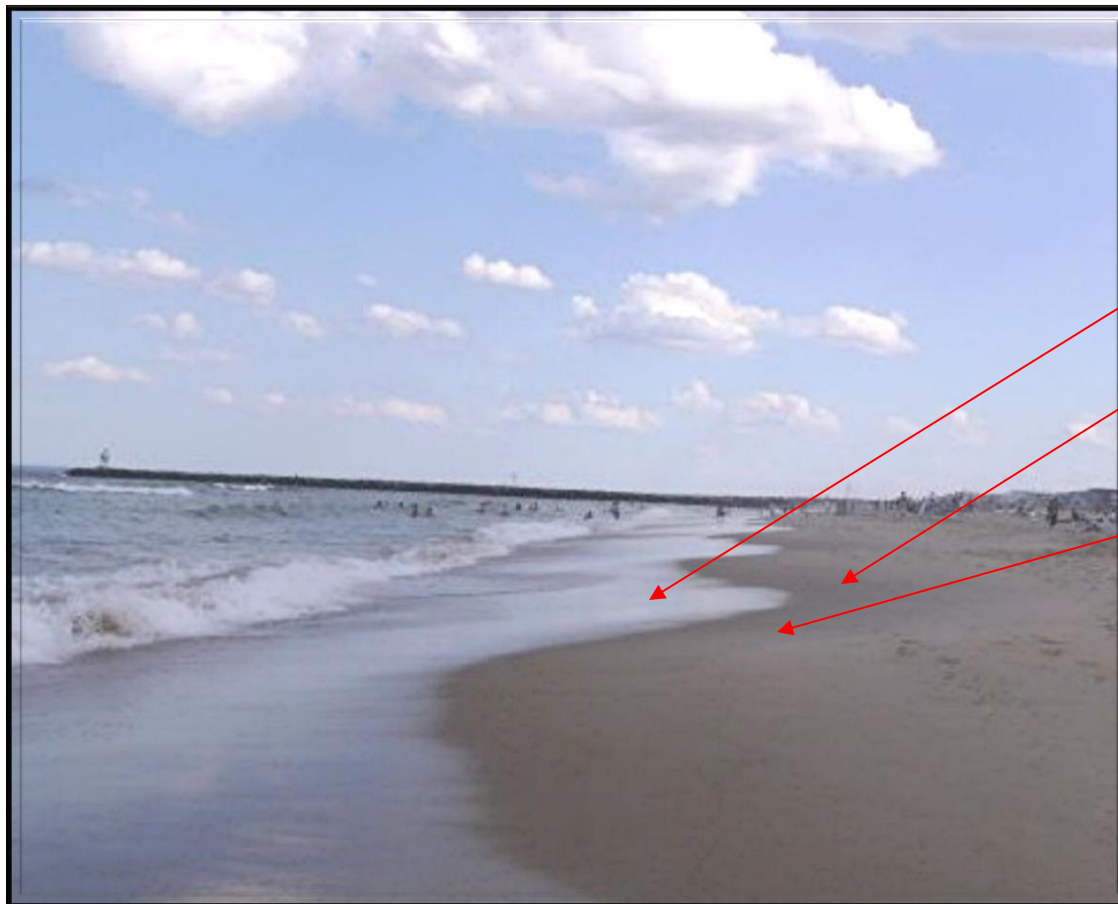
Beach Trough, Ripple Cut, Flat Spot

Metal Detecting
Beaches



Metal Detecting Beaches

Scallops



Metal Detecting Beaches

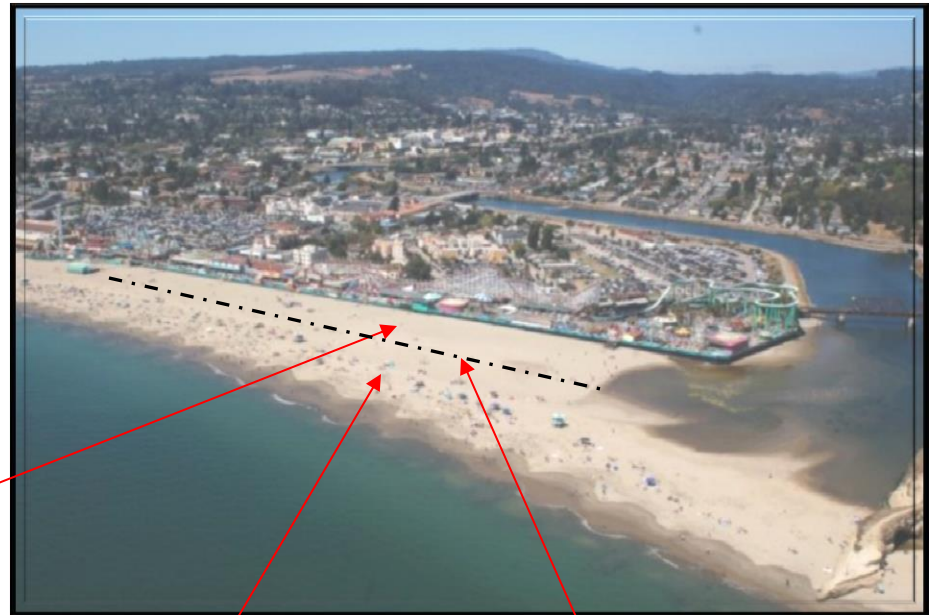
Scallops

Metal Detecting
Beaches



More Scallops

Air View of Scallops & Slope



**Old Beach Dry
Sand Area**

**New Beach Dry
Sand Area**

**Dotted Line is
Winter Shore Line**

Metal Detecting Beaches

Slope



Upper Slope

**Lower Slope is
under Water**

Metal Detecting Beaches

Other Places at the Beach to Metal Detect

Metal Detecting
Beaches

Events



Play Areas



Wall Areas



Beaches In Front of Large Hotels



Metal Detecting Beaches

Other Places at the Beach to Metal Detect



Beach Chair / Lounge Areas & Walk Ways



Concessions



Table Areas-Check with Ranger First



Volley Ball Areas



Metal Detecting Beaches

Detecting Locations & Seasonal Conditions



	<i>Winter</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer / Fall</i>	<i>Storms</i>
Dry Sand	XX	XXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
-Old Beach Dry sand	Some Erosion	XX	XXXXXXXXXX	Some Erosion
-New Beach Sand	Complete Erosion	Beach Re-building	XXXXXXXXXX	Complete Erosion
Blanket Line (25-65 Ft Back from Crest)			XXXXXXXXXX	
Beach Crest			XXXXXXXXXX	
Wet Sand	XXXXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXX
-Wet Sand Water Line	XXXXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXX
-Low Spots, Valleys, Surf Pocket	XXXXXXXXXX			XXXXXXXXXX
Sand Scallops	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
-Scallop Left or Right Side	XXXX		XXXX	
-Scallop Valley	XXXXXX		XXXXXX	
Bed Rock or Clay Bottom (Winter Only)	Requires Storms			XXXXXXXXXX
Beach Cuts	Requires High Surf		If Available	XXXXXXXXXX
Beach Slope	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
-Upper Slope (Near Crest)	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	If Available
-Lower Slop (Near Water)	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	If Available
Flatten Beach (Winter Only)	Not Good Detecting			Can be OK
Water	Dangerous		XXXXXXXXXX	Extremely Dangerous
-Low Tide Trough	Dangerous		XXXXXXXXXX	Extremely Dangerous
Low Tide	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	Extremely Dangerous
High Tide				Dangerous
Surf / Swell Condition	All Conditions	4-8 Ft	Low Surf & Swells	15 Ft + Short Period

XXXXXXXXXX = Best Area, XXXXXXXX= Good Area, XXXX= Certain Conditions

Metal Detecting Beaches

Beach Detecting Ethics



➤ **I will** check Federal, State, County and Local Laws before searching. It is my responsibility to “KNOW THE LAW”.

➤ **I will** as an ambassador for the hobby, be thoughtful, considerate and courtesies at all times to others & their property. (Stay away from beach goers by 15-20 feet)

➤ **I will not** detect near, between or among groups of beach goers.

➤ **I will** remove and dispose of any and all trash and litter that I detect on the beach.

➤ **I will** take care to refill all holes in the beach sand before moving on.

➤ **I will** shake sand scoops low to the beach so that the sand will not be sprayed on beach goers.

➤ **I will** return all lost items to beach goers that ask for help in locating their lost item.

➤ **I will** approach and educate those who do not follow good metal detecting ethics on the beach.

Very Important on the Beach

Metal Detecting Beaches

Detecting Methods

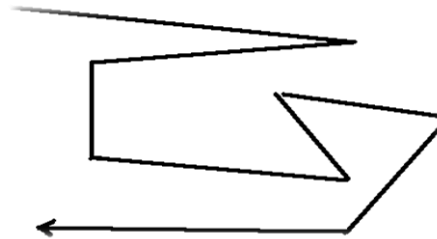


Search Patterns



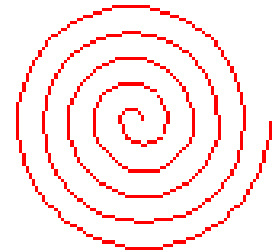
Overlapping Pattern

This pattern can be used for any type of metal detecting the benefits are that each pass overlap on the previous pass. Leaving no undetected beach.



Random Pattern

This search pattern is very common but as you can see there are many areas of the beach left undetected.



Spiral Pattern

This search pattern is used once a target has been detected and recovery from the sand. Do a Spiral Search around the target for additional targets that may have been lost at the same time.

Metal Detecting Beaches

Recommended Detecting Method



Dry Sand Detecting

Select a spot where there is high Beach Traffic and do a Pattern Search perpendicular to the shore line. Swing the coil slow, low, level and scrub the sand with the coil. Listen for LOW signals this usually indicates small or deep targets. Use a Sand Scoop to retrieve Targets.

Wet Sand Detecting

Select a section of the beach where swimmers enter the water. Do an Overlap Search Pattern perpendicular to the water's edge up the beach slope to the Beach Crest. Listen for Low signals this usually indicates small or deep targets. Use a sand or water scoop to retrieve targets. After retrieving a few targets look back to see if there is target pattern (*Drop Zone*), if there is a pattern search this portion of the wet sand going forward.

Water Detecting

Select an area of water that appears to get many swimmers during the day. Start an overlap search pattern in the water perpendicular to the shore line moving deeper into the water. Continue this pattern back and forth looking for a potential target zone in the water. Also look for troughs that may run parallel to the shore line. Troughs collect targets and can be very productive. Use a water scoop to retrieve targets.

Drop Zone: This can be found on a wet sand slope. This is caused by the surf's action during high tide and as the tide recedes, a zone of targets may be left behind. This can occur anytime there has been some noticeable beach erosion.

Metal Detecting Beaches

Salt Water Beach Detectors



Detectors	Dry Sand	Wet Sand	Wading	Water
Most Low Price VLF Detectors	Bounty Hunter, Fisher, Garrett, Minelab, Teknetics, Tesoro, White's. <i>There are ~ 80 Models in this Grouping</i>			
Most High End VLF Detectors	Minelab Explorer 1&2, SE, ETRAC, Quattro, Safari, Sovereign Series White's 6000 DI Pro, XLT, DFX, TDI, Vision			
Salt Water Detectors	Fisher CZ-20 & 21, 1280 Minelab Excalibur Series White's BHID Series			
Most PI Detectors	Garrett Infinium LS, Sea Hunter Mark II Tesoro Sand Shark White's Surf PI, PI Pro, PI Dual Field			

Metal Detecting Beaches

Beach Detecting Tools



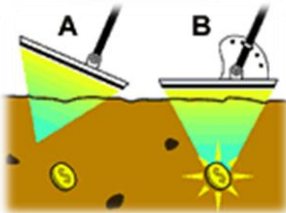
Sand Scoop



Water Scoop



Rain Cover



Loop Support
(Optional)



Larger Coil
(Coil Cover Optional)



Knee Pads
(Optional)



Finds / Trash Pouch



Web Belt



Headphones

Metal Detecting Beaches

Beach Detecting Clothes

Metal Detecting
Beaches

Water Detecting

Wet / Dry Suit



Scuba Boots

Strom Gear

Rain Jacket & Waders



**Web Belt
for Safety**



Safety Concerns

Sand Detecting

✓Normal Street or Beach
Clothing

✓A good Hat and Sunblock
Lotion

✓May want to Consider
Gloves

✓Good Shoes with High
Sides Best for the Sand

Or

✓Scuba Boots

Metal Detecting Beaches

Tide Table Example

Metal Detecting
Beaches

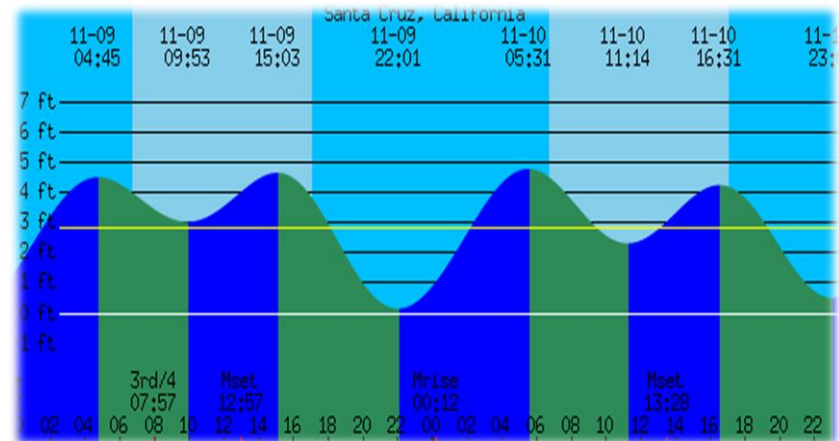
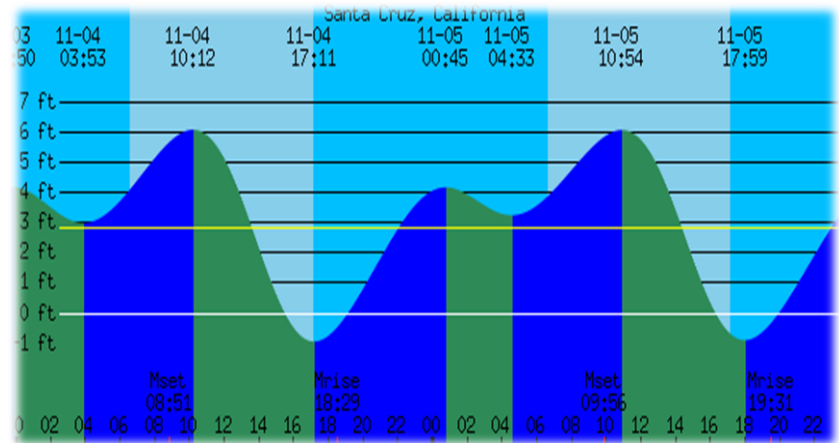
Santa Cruz, California

19 September 2009 - 20 September 2009

36.9667° N, 122.0167° W

✓2009-09-19 04:54 PDT 0.46 feet Low Tide
 ✓2009-09-19 06:53 PDT Sunrise
 ✓2009-09-19 07:59 PDT Moonrise
 ✓2009-09-19 11:27 PDT 5.43 feet High Tide
 ✓2009-09-19 17:30 PDT 0.07 feet Low Tide
 ✓2009-09-19 19:09 PDT Sunset
 ✓2009-09-19 19:25 PDT Moonset

✓2009-09-20 00:01 PDT 4.77 feet High Tide
 ✓2009-09-20 05:32 PDT 1.07 feet Low Tide
 ✓2009-09-20 06:54 PDT Sunrise
 ✓2009-09-20 09:08 PDT Moonrise
 ✓2009-09-20 11:59 PDT 5.53 feet High Tide
 ✓2009-09-20 18:16 PDT -0.07 feet Low Tide
 ✓2009-09-20 19:07 PDT Sunset
 ✓2009-09-20 19:57 PDT Moonset



Metal Detecting Beaches

Some Web URLs



Beach Forums

Findmall: <http://www.findmall.com/list.php?26>

Friendly Forum: <http://metaldetectingforum.com/forumdisplay.php?f=14>

Treasure Depot: http://www.thetreasuredepot.com/cgi-bin/bbs62x/class_config.pl

Treasure Net: <http://forum.treasurenet.com/index.php/board,10.0.html>

Tide Tables

Tide Predictor: <http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/>

Region Predictions: <http://www.saltwatertides.com/pickpred.html>

Wave Predictor

Northern California:

<http://magicseaweed.com/Moss-Landing-Surf-Report/259/detailedLongRange/uk/>

Santa Cruz

Beach Cam: http://www.surflife.com/surf-report/cowells-central-california_4189/

Tide Table: <http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/tideshow.cgi?site=Santa+Cruz%2C+California>