

Storm Watch

The Official Newsletter for the Nor'easters Metal Detecting Club!



Volume 1

[HTTP://WWW.NOREASTERS.NET](http://www.northeasters.net)

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Club Info	1
Treasure News	2
Flint and Steel	3
Bone 22	4
One Seated Minute	5



Our Metal Detecting Creed

We are Metal Detectorist. Venturing forth in search of relics lost to time, only to be discovered and secured for future generations.

Diligent in our endeavors to detect, we will not trespass on to posted lands and will always obtain lawful permission in advance.

Detectorist are protective of earth's creatures, nature's landscapes and tributaries. We close all gates and leave no refuse in our wake.

When requested, we will endeavor to assist in the recovery of lost items of sentimental value to the best of our ability.

History being the tie that binds us, any item recovered of a singular significant historical value will be reported to local historians.

Remember Metal Detecting is to be conducted in a respectful and courteous manner; we are the ambassadors of our hobby to all who may survey us.

Yeah, it's been a while since our last newsletter. I am trying again to put this newsletter out. I was trying to rely on Facebook and our website but a lot of folks just are not into the online thingy.

The Nor'easters are plugging along pretty good. We have an ample membership and active participation in our events are really good as of late.



We just had a large group of our members and friends attend the 22nd Best of The North East Treasure Show and Hunt. It is a yearly show thrown by George Streeter and his group up in Marlborough, NH. Check out the all of the information, pictures and finds on page 4.

I wanted all to know that the water company property in Connecticut is still off limits. I tried many things short of paying a lobbyist to get this done. The lobbyist cost and well with no funds, no lobbyist. I did manage to email the top brass at the company thanks to a great person who got involved. But alas they shot us down. No real reason other than insurance and holes. Yes, I did explain we have insurance and that our holes are always covered etc. etc. ,and yes I did ask why others are allowed and we are not and they did not offer a valid reason. They just do not want us digging on water company property. I have not closed the books on this yet, but the pages in this book are dog eared and well read. They did mention that the state controls the Centennial Watershed Property and that the state controls that part so if we could get the state to open up the property...*hmm anyone know the Governor?*



We hope to hold our next Catskills Coin Shoot and Relic Hunt in August of this year. We are getting pricing on lodging and such

and currently have 4 places all set to hunt. The cost will be \$75 per person for all of the natural hunts. All proceeds for the natural hunts go to the Town of Shandaken Historical Museum. Last year we donated \$1,000. to them. This hunt would not have happened if it wasn't for John Michelotti's diligent research and communication. Thanks John!

Our new meeting hall is now at Saint Cecilia Catholic Church. It is in the hall below the church. We are now meeting at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of most months. Many thanks to Tony DeRose for all of his help in obtaining this new site. It can accommodate many more people than our older site could. We have already had a speaker bring out some finds and share his knowledge with us. The new address is 1184 Newfield Ave. Stamford, CT 06905



At our January meeting our Vice President Pat D'Arinzo showed everyone how to turn their coins into coin rings!

Our March Meeting had Mike Meekin from Treasures Unlimited displaying a wide variety of treasures, speaking to us about his adventures, and giving away a Pin Pointer that was won by Rob Mickatavage. Mike is really supporting our club - his website is at treasuresunlimited-ny.com



Our April meeting was an awesome one with Tony DeRose supplying Pizza for the group. Thanks T!

TAMPA FAMILY FINDS PIRATE TREASURE IN ATTIC

April 28th 2015

When you go in the attic you expect to find something old. What you don't expect to find is treasure. "Maybe my great-grandparents were pirates," chuckled Mike Lopez. His sister found a box in their grandfather's attic a few weeks ago while doing some spring cleaning. Inside was a tattered map of the Hillsborough River, century-old coins, a family picture and a hand wearing a ring.

"Maria came across it and once she told me she found a hand in a box. I was totally blown away," said Lopez. When Maria and Mike were children, their grandfather would tell them stories about his father, Ernesto Lopez, finding Jose Gaspar's pirate treasure. They took the box to a few antique stores around Tampa and the contents were described as "gruesome and authentic."

The map is estimated to be from the 1930s. It shows the Tampa area. Lafayette Street is labeled on the map. That road's name was changed to Kennedy Boulevard later.



The coins are believed to be Spanish and Portuguese from the 18th century. The ring on the hand's ring finger is expected to be from around the same time period.

In an email to 10 News, Maria wrote, "Either my great-grandfather made the best, most elaborate pirate hoax ever and never shared it with anyone or he really did find some treasure on the Hillsborough River. There's really no way to know which is the case." The family thinks the hand belongs to famous Tampa Bay pirate Jose Gaspar. "We are not sure what we're going to do with it," said Lopez. "Possibly keep it forever. It's part of our family now."

Lopez wasn't a fan of pirates when he was growing up. But, now?

"I'm considering it," he said with a big smile. "I'm considering it."

PERMITS:



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

Please, remember to renew your New York City Parks Metal detecting permit. Please visit the website at: <http://www.nycgovparks.org/permits/metal-detector> It will give you all the info you need!

FLINT AND STEEL



How did they start a fire the old days

THE FLINT

Flint isn't really a single rock, it's more like a loose family of rocks at about eight or so on the Mohs scale of hardness. Cherts and flints are multi-colored, depending on their chemical content and vary in hardness. I use Niagara chert because it's easy to find in my area – several unglaciated areas have chert deposits that are easy to harvest. The ideal flint for striking a spark has a sharp, acute edge that will take a bite out of the steel. The flint sometimes needs to be "dressed," or knapped with a hammer or other flint to get that proper edge. A round cobble of flint will not work until it is properly edged. It is a common misconception that the flint particles make the spark. This is due to the average person seeing the little dark flint in a disposable lighter, and the steel wheel that does not wear, while the flint does. The true flint itself does not spark. Rather, the high pressure exerted on the steel causes a small curl of steel to peel off and ignite. To understand why the steel ignites, bend a coat hanger over and over again in one spot. Soon it will be so hot you cannot touch it. That energy warms the metal. Now imagine putting all the force of your downward stroke into a microscopic flake of metal. Of course it burns!

THE STEEL

A good steel is made of a high-carbon tool steel. My favorite is W1, a water-quenched tool steel that I quench in oil to get it to the proper hardness. When oil-quenched, it is hard enough to resist the pressure of the flint, except for the small piece that ignites. A properly treated steel should give off thousands of sparks, if not millions, before being lost. You will certainly not wear one out. If the steel becomes too hot, it must be re-tempered before it can be used again. The shape of the steel is a personal preference. C-steels, which are roughly the shape of a letter "C," are most common. U-steels are often used by folks with larger hands who can't get them comfortably in a C-steel. They are both used in the same manner.

THE CHAR CLOTH

You can make sparks all day without causing so much as a wisp of smoke if you are not giving your sparks a happy and fruitful ground upon which to light. The best material for such fire-starting is char cloth, which is simply linen or cotton cloth that has been burned in a low-oxygen environment (like the small tin in the above illustration). A small hole poked in the top allows smoke and pressure to escape without the oxygen burning the cloth completely. To make char cloth, pack a small airtight tin with linen or cotton patches about 2 inches square. Place the tin on some hot coals in a fireplace or campfire and let it cook for at least 20 minutes, or until the smoke subsides from the hole you poked in the top. Let it cool completely, and don't open it for several hours or even overnight – the cloth will catch flame and burn to a cinder. Once you have char cloth, you need...

TINDER

Everyone knows what tinder is. It's anything that burns if a spark lands on it – dryer lint, dry grass, whatever. Finding dry tinder is another article unto itself, and there are lots of places to do so, but success depends so much on what terrain you're in that it's not worth talking about here. What is worth talking about is a lightweight, portable substitute: oakum. Oakum is made from jute fibers, the same stuff gunnysacks are made of. It is normally pounded into the seams of a wooden boat as sort of a primitive caulking. A little bit of oakum is easily fluffed into a small nest, which can accept your char cloth once it carries a spark. It's available on-line in many places; a pound will cost you about \$7.00 and will last years.

TECHNIQUE

It's pretty simple, actually. First, make sure your tinder is prepared and ready to accept your char cloth. Make a nest, and put it where you can reach it easily. Your fire bed should be already prepared with kindling and fuel and ready to accept your burning tinder. Now place a small piece of char cloth on the top of the flint as shown. The goal is to shave off a very small strip of metal that will burn and land on the char cloth. Striking down at about a 30-degree angle should create a spark or two, which will cause the cloth to glow red where they land. This often happens on the edge of the cloth and is hard to see in bright sunlight. If a spark lands on the char cloth, wait and blow gently on it until you see either a glowing crescent or nothing. If nothing, go back to striking.

If you do have a glowing piece of char cloth, great! Fold it onto itself and blow gently to encourage the spark to spread. Here's the wonderful thing about starting a fire this way – the best time to do it is in the wind, where matches are blown out quickly. In fact, the stronger the wind, the faster your char will be consumed. Place the glowing char into the prepared tinder nest and carefully fold it in on itself. Remember, you still need oxygen in there. Blowing gently will cause you to see wisps of smoke coming from the bundle. Perfect. Just keep blowing, and pretty soon – POOF! You'll be ready to start a fire.



Nor'Easters
in New Hampshire



The Nor'Easters attended the 22nd Best Of The North East Treasure Hunt and Show.

It was held in April from the 22nd to the 26th and brought out many a detectorist and treasure seeker. This show is put on by the Professional Treasure Hunter's Historical Society

(PTHHS) which was established in 1992 by Streeter's Treasure Hunting Supply to promote to preserve the treasure hunting hobbies. With friends, supporters and help from Garrett, White's & Fisher's and the FMDAC.

2015 inductees to the Treasure Hunting Hall of fame:



Stacy Rosoff is now a Hall of Famer!



Carter Pennington getting his plaque as well!



Rob Mickatavage won a dive watch and an AT Pro at the Sunday seeded hunt.



Tony DeRose Picked up two gold rings in one day and donated one of them to the Saint Jude for Children's Hospital through George Streeter! Nice..



Gary Storm of Detector Pro manning his booth at the Saturday Show!



Tony Sabato hunting one of the many fields.



Pat D'Arinzo received a find of the year for the awesome U.S.A. Button



Having a dinner with the guys . Awesome fun!



The Hunt site of the Grand Hotel!



George Streeter talking to future treasure hunters at the Saturday Treasure show.

JUST ONE SEATED MINUTE!

The Seated Liberty portrait designs appeared on most regular-issue silver United States coinage during the mid- and late-nineteenth century, from 1836 through 1891. The denominations which featured the Goddess of Liberty in a Seated Liberty design included the half dime, the dime, the quarter, the half dollar, and until 1873 the silver dollar. Another coin that appeared exclusively in the Seated Liberty design was the twenty cent piece. This coin was produced from 1875 to 1878, and was discontinued because it looked very similar to the quarter. Seated Liberty coinage was minted at the main United States Mint in Philadelphia, as well as the branch mints in New Orleans, San Francisco, and Carson City. Chief Engraver Christian Gobrecht created the Seated Liberty design. Prior to full-scale production of a dollar coin in 1840, Patterson reviewed the designs then in use, including the Gobrecht dollar's.

Chief Engraver Christian Gobrecht



OBVERSE

The basic obverse design of the Seated Liberty coinage consisted of the figure of the goddess Liberty clad in a flowing dress and seated upon a rock. In her left hand, she holds a Liberty pole surmounted by a Phrygian cap, which had been a pre-eminent symbol of freedom during the movement of Neoclassicism (and in fact traces its roots back to Ancient Greece and Rome). Although it had fallen out of favor in Europe by 1830, Neoclassicism remained in vogue in the United States until after the American Civil War. Liberty's right hand rested on the top corner of a striped shield with a diagonal banner inscribed with the word "LIBERTY." The shield represented preparedness in the defense of freedom. The date of the coin appeared on the bottom below Liberty.



REVERSE

The basic reverse design of Seated Liberty coins depended on the denomination. The size of half dimes and dimes necessitated a smaller array of elements. On these coins, the reverse consistently featured a wreath around the words "HALF DIME" or "ONE DIME". Before 1860, this wreath consisted of laurel leaves, a traditional Neoclassical image, but beginning that year, the wreath was enlarged and was filled not only with leaves, but also traditional American agricultural products, such as corn and wheat. On quarter, half dollars, and silver dollar coins, the reverse featured a central eagle about to take flight, with a striped shield upon its breast. The eagle

clutched an olive branch of peace in its right talons and a group of arrows in its left talons. Above the eagle around the rim were the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and below the eagle around the rim lay the coin denomination. Beginning in 1866 the coins featured a ribbon with the motto "In God We Trust" above the eagle.

Modifications

Stars

When the first Seated Liberty half dimes and dimes appeared in 1837, the obverse contained no stars. There are two varieties; the large date and the small date. For the dime, these two types can be distinguished by noting the "3" and the "7" in the date. In the large date variety, the "3" has a pointy serif at top, and the horizontal element of the "7" is straight. In the small date variety, the "3" has a rounded serif, and there is small a knob, or bulge, in the "7" horizontal element. Only the Philadelphia Mint made both varieties. The small date is slightly rarer. The New Orleans Mint made only one variety. For the half dime, the small date can be distinguished by the fact that it is slightly bent in a "smile" orientation, similar to the Bust type of half dime. The large date can be distinguished by the fact that the date is more in a straight line, similar to dates of later years for the Seated Liberty. Only the Philadelphia Mint made half dimes in this year. The Liberty Seated dime of 1838 minted in New Orleans, was the first U.S. coin struck anywhere outside of Philadelphia. In other words, this is the first branch mint coin. The next year, the coins featured thirteen six-pointed stars around the rim, commemorating the original thirteen colonies.

Drapery

The Seated Liberty coins featured a few minor design changes over the years. Around 1840 (the exact date depends upon the denomination), extra drapery was added to Liberty's left elbow.

Arrows and rays

Liberty Seated quarter with arrows and rays.

In 1853 and 1873, the U.S. Mint changed the weight of each denomination of silver coins. Both times, arrows were added to the coins on each side of the date. These were removed from coins in 1856 and 1875, respectively. In 1853, the mint also placed rays around the eagle on the reverse of half dollars and quarters, a feature which endured for that one year only.

Legend and mintmarks

Liberty Seated half dime with New Orleans mintmark.

In 1860 the U.S. Mint eliminated the stars on the obverse of Seated Liberty half dimes and dimes, replacing them with the legend "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," which had previously appeared around the wreath on the reverse of the coins. Before this time, half dimes and dimes minted in New Orleans and San Francisco had featured their mintmarks inside the wreaths. Afterwards, the "O" and "S" (and, later, the "CC" for Carson City) mintmarks were located below the wreath next to the rim. On quarters, half dollars, and silver dollars, the mintmarks were always placed below the eagle but above the coin currency on the reverse.



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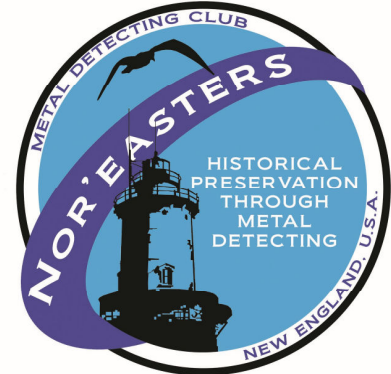
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