

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EMPIRE STATE METAL DETECTOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.northeast-metaldetectors.com/club1>

Volume 8, Issue 3

March 2009

Upcoming Meetings

March 30, 2009
April 27, 2009
May 18, 2009

Find of the Month Schedule

March: Relic
April: Jewelry
May: Relic

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Raffle for a White's Prizm III

Tickets are \$5.00 for one or 3
for \$10.00

ESMDA welcomes a new member

Pete Stofa
Welcome & happy hunting!

President's Message

Most hunters have at least two tools for metal detecting. They have a 12" digging tool for lawns where you can make a clean cut and repair the ground nicely and a digging shovel for farm fields and woods. Sometimes bringing the wrong tools to a job can get you in trouble as a couple our club members can attest to. They got permission to hunt a super great colonial lawn area and unloaded all their shovels which scared the property owner into thinking they were going to do a major excavation and she asked them to leave. The case in point, sometimes smaller is better. Bob, President, ESMDA

Agenda for the March Meeting

This month's meeting will be an extension of our last meeting on how to prepare for spring hunting. This will be an interactive meeting with many of our best hunters giving you tips on how to make your detecting more successful. I will give you an update on my great detecting cruise to the eastern Caribbean. The trip was so enjoyable that we have booked another cruise for November to the western Caribbean. This trip is also under \$400 for seven days with some really great islands. You might want to join us for this one. Bob

Come join us at the monthly meetings, 7 pm at the SW Pitts Fire Company located at 266 Old Loudon Road in Latham, for a great time. Don't miss the chance to meet with other club members to exchange tips, show off your finds and maybe win one of the nice coins available in the coin raffles. This month, the find of the month category is "relic". Bring in and enter your best relic item for a free chance to win in one of the raffles. Your entry should be one that was found since the last time relic was find of the month.

Mark your calendar for the 3rd annual "Lost Treasure Weekend", scheduled for June 5-7 at the Blackthorne Resort in the Catskill Mountains. Bob will be there for White's. Many of our members will be there as well.

Minutes from the February 23, 2009 ESMDA Meeting

Club treasury balance reported as \$945.85 at present. Most of the upcoming 2009 club hunt silver has been purchased. Our upcoming 2009 hunt will be announced in Western/Eastern, our thanks to Dick Stout. This year's hunt date is September 12, 2009.

Members are reminded that tickets are available to sell and/or purchase for the club's raffle of a White's Prizm III detector. Bob relayed some of the benefits of this machine, which is the type he used while participating in our 2008 club hunt.

\$44.00 went to Charlie Franklin as the 50/50 winner, a 2nd drawing for an 1884 Morgan dollar went to Art Wright.

March coin raffle prizes were: 1853 seated liberty quarter, 1739 British half pence, 1877 cc seated dime and an 1845 large cent.

Entries for miscellaneous find category were: sterling foldout religious medallion, toy truck, large bunch of old skeleton keys and a silver salt shaker. Dan Casey's find of a religious oval medallion with different saints depicted on each "page" was voted #1 find of the month. 2nd place went to the silver salt shaker find of John Kotwas and 3rd place went to the group of skeleton keys found by Pete Gallacchi.

We would like to thank Peter Gallacchi for his very informative program on winter hunting. Winter can be the time to do inside hunting. Dirt floors can be hunted. If trashy, Pete suggests using a big magnet to pick up the surface metal. A small pickaxe is useful in digging hard dirt floor areas. A smaller coil may work well and can be used to "wand" walls of a cellar or sides of any room. The modern day pirates may have stashed valuables. Pete showed us an optic-scope he uses to feed through the smallest hole in a wall to light and peer into to see if anything is in the wall or has fallen to the ground/floor level, especially under windows. Look for loose boards or false closets; bring a tape measure to check out dimensions. It's possible to locate a hidden hollow or room. Check rafters in attics and high and dry spots in cellars, check unused fireplaces for ledges. Sometimes under a hearth was used as a stashing place. For luck a coin was placed under the front step or on a cornerstone while building a structure. (cont'd)

Some cautions: wear a hard hat with a clip on light. The hat can protect against wounds from nails protruding in attics or cellars. Wear a dust mask if going through older houses and buildings. Winter hunting outside can start earlier with these tips: go under trees, especially pine, where leaves or needles have insulated the soil. The hillsides to receive the sun the longest will be ready early, rocky hillsides too, as they have better drainage. Follow rock walls where snow melts early. We can study the land more easily now without the undergrowth and spot depressions and remnants of buildings. Take a walk along the receding edges of snow piles from plowings, such as at malls. The melting snow can reveal lost items. A positive to winter hunting is bugs and undergrowth are both scarce. Winter hunting includes watching and obtaining items online at such sites as Craig's List or eBay. There are always the warmer climes to travel to, if possible, in the winter. (We'll hear from Bob about one such trip made recently.) Thank you to Pete, for sharing his knowledge and stories and for his enthusiasm for detecting. Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Forwarded by Bob Lavoy pres. ESMDA

Some time back in one of your newsletters there was an article about losing water hunting rights. Well I was at a presentation of a new group forming and it is in the early stages. These folks want to assist **metal detectorists from all across the country** not just in one area or one state.

Here is a link to their web site and you may want to ask them to come to the two NY hunts in June and again in the fall. Again it is in the early stages and there are not too many web pages to browse.

If you heard about them then of course as Lilly Tomlin said "never mind".

<http://www.national-land-rights-foundation.org/>

Thanks, Tony Conti

Meetings are held the last Monday of every month except December which has no meeting and the May meeting which is held one week early because of the Memorial Day Holiday). The meetings start promptly at 7:00 pm and the meeting location is the S.W. Pitts Fire Co., located at 266 Old Loudon Road in Latham. Entrance is on the lower North side of the building. Please do not park by the front door; this area is for firefighters ONLY.