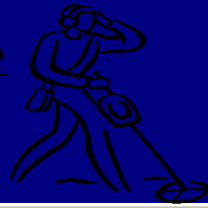




THE CAROLINA THRESHOLD



South Carolina Metal Detector & Relic Association, 915 Cherry Road, Rock Hill S.C 29732
www.scmetaldetectingclub.com, Contact: Chris Watson 803-328-5764 or Jeff Kleparek 803-389-4178

Club Meeting

By Jeff Kleparek

Greetings fellow treasure hunters. Man is it HOT out there. Please be safe when you are out hunting and remember to keep hydrated! I made the mistake last week of not taking water with me for a hunt a mile or two in the woods and boy did I pay for it later. And Lets not forget about the snakes. If you did not hear the story with Lanny, be sure to ask him during the next meeting, That snake was HUGE. Thanks to Bob Batts for donating a new book to the library. I would also like to thank Doug and Judy Kirkland for filling in for me last month, I honestly could not do this job without their help, thanks guys. See you All Tuesday.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday August 5th, 2008 between 7-9pm @ our meeting place, Trinity Bible School, 915 Cherry Road, Rock Hill S.C., 29732. Hope to see you there, and don't hesitate to bring a friend or two, guests are always welcome. Psst... It's my birthday Tuesday.

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Be sure to check out the Hobby Stop and The Grove Racing Center. 939 S. Anderson Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29730. (803)327-4121 Regular Showroom Hours: 10 AM - 7PM Mon-Fri , 10 AM - 6PM Sat, ... Hobby Stop Inc. was founded in May 1992. We were in a 2000 Sq. Ft. space for over 3 years until we moved in July 1995. We now sport 3800 Sq Ft showroom and 3 R/C race tracks. Hobby Stop is a full line shop carrying R/C Aircraft, Cars, Boats, Model Rockets, Metal and Plastic Display Models, HO and N Gauge Trains, Science and More... Please call to check stock and prices (we can get anything that is currently available in the hobby industry) All of your hobby needs will be met as well as any questions answered by the skilled knowledgeable staff. Be sure to let them know you are visiting from the SCMD&RA.

50-STATE QUARTER PROGRAM TO WRAP UP IN 2008

From The News Herald, submitted by Doug Amundson, Cambridge, MN. ates to join the union in 1959.

A grizzly bear clutching a salmon, the Grand Canyon at sunrise and a scissortail flycatcher in flight. Those striking images will be on the final batch of state quarters as the most successful coin program in history draws to a close.

The U.S. Mint recently unveiled the final five designs for the state quarters with the first one, honoring Oklahoma, to be put into circulation in late January with the other four following at 10-week intervals.

The states have been honored in the order they were admitted to the union, starting with Delaware. It was honored with a quarter in 1999. The effort kicked off a collecting craze unlike anything ever seen before in the coin world.

Based on a 2005 survey, Mint officials estimate 147 million people have gotten involved in collecting the quarters with their constantly changing designs.

"The American people have made the 50 state quarters the most successful coins in United States history," said Mint Director Ed Moy.

The final five coins will start with Oklahoma, which entered the union in 1907. It will feature the state bird, the scissortail flycatcher, and the state

That will be followed by a Zia sun symbol for New Mexico, which entered the union on January 6, 1912. Arizona, admitted on February 14, 1912, will be represented by the Grand Canyon and a saguaro cactus.

Alaska's coin will feature a grizzly bear wading in a stream with a salmon in its mouth while the Hawaii coin depicts King Kamehameha. Alaska and Hawaii were the last st Through the first eight years of the program, the Mint produced 31.2 billion quarters. Moy said about 20 billion of those quarters were because of the popularity of the changing designs which attracted collectors in record numbers.

It costs the government about 9 to 10 cents to make a quarter, but the Mint sells the coins at face value. The increased production has amounted to an estimated \$3.8 billion in extra profits for the government.

The quarters are scheduled to revert back to their pre-1999 designs after next year with the "tails" side featuring an American eagle.

From The News Herald, submitted by Doug Amundson, Cambridge, MN.

RARE MEDIEVAL RING UNEARTHED

From The Citizen, submitted by Tom Rifleman, San Antonio, TX.

Treasure hunters have uncovered a rare medieval ring in the Cotswolds. Unearthed by metal detector enthusiast Denis Pople, the ancient ring has been declared a treasure by a coroner.

Only the third of its kind found in the UK, it will be valued and can be bought by a local museum.

Half the cash will go to the finder and half to the landowner.

Mr. Pople said: "I knew it was significant as soon as I cleaned it off. I thought "no more work for me."

"It was wonderful but it isn't about the money and I'd probably give it to a Christian charity."

Council worker Mr. Pople, 51, and his wife Tina, 53, from Mountain Ash in South Wales, were on a metal detecting rally last year when he found the ring in a field in Coberley under six inches of soil.

It dates back to the 15th century and depicts a heart, flowers, a crown and a pair of clasped hands, the Gloucester inquest was told.

"There were 200 to 300 people at the rally, an annual event in aid of charity.

"When I first found it I thought it was an old washer but I cleaned the muck off and could see the clasped hands and realized it was something interesting."

The couple were there to hear county coroner Alan Crickmore record a verdict that the ring was treasure.

Mark Lodwick, finds liaison officer of Cardiff Museum, said in a statement that it was a late medieval silver gilt finger ring, fully intact and depicting a heart flanked by four petalled flowers.

He said: "It symbolises a heart sprouting flowers. This is to symbolize faith and trust. It is over 300 years old and is likely to be well in excess of 10 per cent precious metal and therefore it can be considered potentially treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act."

Mrs. Pople said: "It's a lovely ring. I tried it on. If it goes to a museum, I hope it will go on display."

NEW PRESIDENTIAL DOLLAR COINS GOING "OLD" SCHOOL

Coming soon on new presidential dollar coins: Old Hickory, Old Kinderhook, Old Man Eloquent and the Last of the Cocked Hats.

The U.S. Mint, maker of the nation's coins, today is unveiling the stately images of the next four presidents whose faces will appear on the front of the shiny gold-colored dollar coins next year. James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren will be the new additions to the presidential dollar coin series that started with George Washington in February.

Monroe, the nation's fifth president who was nicknamed the Last of the Cocked Hats, a reference to the hat worn by soldiers of the American revolution, will be the first of the 2008 presidential coins. The Monroe dollar coin was released February 14.

Up next: Adams, the country's sixth president who was nicknamed Old Man Eloquent because of his long speeches. The Adams coin will be put into circulation May 15.

The dollar coin bearing the likeness of Old Hickory, the moniker for seventh president Andrew Jackson because of his leadership in the War of 1812, will be rolled out August 14. The Van Buren dollar coin, honoring the eighth president, will come out November 13. Van Buren's nicknames was Old Kinderhook, a reference to his New York hometown.

The Mint hopes the presidential series will breathe new life into dollar coins, which have suffered from little use in the past. The Susan B. Anthony and the Sacagawea dollar coins flopped, failing to get into cash registers and peoples' pockets.

The presidential dollar series is modeled on the Mint's popular 50-state quarter program, which lured millions of Americans into becoming coin collectors.

Like the quarters, the dollar coins will feature changing designs: four new presidents each year in the order they served in office. The presidents' faces are on the front of the coins, while the backs feature the Statue of Liberty. Some of the lettering, including "In God We Trust," was moved to the edge of the coins.

Some people believe the dollar coins won't gain wide acceptance unless the government gets rid of the dollar bill.

"We hope the next four presidential \$1 coins will not only jingle in pockets but be spent as well," said Mint Director Ed Moy. "These coins are convenient. Each presidential \$1 coin weighs less than four quarters, and they're especially useful for vending machines and mass transit," he added.

More than 800 million presidential coins were put into circulation in 2007, the Mint said. Those first four coins carried the images of Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.



BLACK SOX PAPERS ARE SOLD TO CITY'S HISTORY MUSEUM

With a \$100,000 bid and a vow to put it on public display later, the Chicago History Museum ensured sports fans and historians will have a chance to see a trove of legal documents related to the 1919 Black Sox team.

The museum's winning bid puts the documents pertaining to the eight White Sox players accused of throwing the World Series and their underworld contacts into public light for the first time in over 88 years.

Private collectors unearthed the archive last year, and chose to remain anonymous, said Brian Marren, vice president of acquisitions at Mastro Auctions, the Burr Ridge auction house that handled the sale. There were 36 bidders in the weeks-long online auction, including museums and private collectors.

The foot-high stack of yellowed papers- transcripts of a 1921 criminal trial in Chicago, evidence for a 1924 back-pay lawsuit in Milwaukee, and correspondence among team owners that led to the creation of the office of baseball commissioner- have fascinated sports fans, historians and archivists since discovery of the trove was announced last fall.

"There's lots of reasons [we wanted these]," said Peter Alter, a curator at the Chicago History Museum. "You very rarely see a collection of this volume with this number of pieces on a topic like this. Corrupt politicians don't keep papers. Al Capone didn't keep papers. And rarely are there gamblers and others that keep papers."

Among other things, the trove of papers gives voice to gamblers involved in the alleged fix, Alter said. In handwritten notes between gamblers and lawyers and other sworn testimony, they express confusion at why money from New York was being placed on bets in St. Louis for a World Series being played in Cincinnati. They had a sneaking suspicion they were involved in something much bigger than their own interests, Alter said the papers show.

Otherwise, he said the broad outline of the scandal remains the same.

It involved gamblers from Boston, New York and St. Louis and was allegedly carried out by White Sox pitchers Edward Cicotte and Claude "Lefty" Williams, first baseman Arnold "Chick" Gandil, shortstop Charles "Swede" Risberg, infielder Fred McMullin, third baseman George "Buck" Weaver, center fielder Oscar "Happy" Felsch and "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, the left fielder who seemed at once greater than all the rest and the most out of his league in the conspiracy.

All were acquitted in a 1921 criminal trial in Cook County Circuit Court but were permanently banned from the game after the scandal.

Dr. David Fletcher, the Illinois physician who is president of the Chicago Baseball Museum, offered this estimate of the trove: "It is the 'Holy Grail' of the Black Sox story that fills in hidden holes." His museum was the runner-up bidder, he said.

Though the originals will stay in Chicago, a complete copy of the archive also will go to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY, officials said.

The Chicago History Museum likely will get the papers next week and will make them available to the public.

Some pieces will go to the baseball case at the museum's "Chicago: Crossroads of America" exhibit. The rest of the papers will be available to historians at the museum's research center.

"But I want to pore through them first," Alter said.

PORCELAIN RECOVERED FROM 800+ YEAR OLD SHIPWRECK SITE

From The Associated Press, submitted by Jeff Kehl, Avon, MN.

After 800 years at the bottom of the sea, a merchant ship loaded with porcelain and other rare antiques was raised to the surface recently in a specially built basket, a state news agency reported.

The Nanhai No. 1, which means "South China Sea No. 1," sank off the south China coast with some 60,000 to 80,000 items on board, Xinhua News Agency reported, citing Wu Jiancheng, head of the excavation project.

Archaeologists built a steel basket around the 100-foot vessel, and it took about two hours for a crane to lift the ship and surrounding silt to the surface, Xinhua said. The basket was as large as a basketball court and as tall as a three-story building.

Green-glazed porcelain plates and shadowy blue porcelain items were among rare antiques found during the initial exploration of the ship. Archaeologists have also recovered containers made of gold and silver as well as about 6,000 copper coins.

The ship dates from the early Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). It was discovered in 1987 off the coast near the city of Yangjiang, in Guangdong province, in more than 65 feet of water.

The Nanhai No. 1 was placed on a waiting barge. It will be deposited in a huge glass pool at a museum where the water temperature, pressure and other environmental conditions are the same as where it has lain on the sea bed.

Feng Shaowen, head of the Yangjiang city cultural bureau, said visitors will be able to watch the excavation of the ship through windows on the pool.



June 2008 Contest Board Results

Category	Place	Name	Item
COINS: SILVER & GOLD			
	1 ST	Randy Gatchell	1916d Barber Quarter
	2 ND	Mike Plyler	1960 silver dime
	3 RD	Donnie Brazzell	1924 mercury dime
COINS: OTHER			
	1 ST	Donnie Brazzell	1891 Indian Head
	2 ND	Randy Gatchell	1852 Large cent
	3 RD	Mike Plyler	no date Indian head
JEWELRY			
	1 ST	Mike Plyler	10kt Gold Ring
	2 ND	Donnie Brazzell	Old Brooch
	3 RD	Frances Alexander	Silver Bracelet
RELICS: PRE-1865 (MILITARY)			
	1 st	Randy Gatchell	Minnie Ball
	2 ND	(No Entry)	
	3 RD	(No Entry)	
RELICS: OTHER			
	1 ST	Mike Plyler	Silver Rifleman's pin
	2 ND	Donnie Brazzell	1800's lock keyhole
	3 RD	Randy Gatchell	Old Cap Gun
BEST FIND			
	1 ST	Mike Plyler	1851 3 cent piece
	2 ND	Randy Gatchell	1943 Half Dollar
	3 RD	Ray Correll	Silver Pin
EYE SPY			
	1 ST	Mike Plyler	Arrowhead
	2 ND	Frances Alexander	Pyrite, Fools Gold
	3 RD	Doug Kirkland	Silver Cross

Gatchel, Randy	74
Lanny Irby	70
Plyler, Mike	67
Bill Styles	64
Donnie Brazzell	59
Frances Alexander	53
Chris Watson	43
Donnie Catoe	37
Steve Herring	34
Jeff Kleparek	31
Correll, Ray	24
Bobby Hallman	22
Rick Baker	19

Treasure Hunter of the Year Rankings as of June 2008

Jimmy EarnHeart	17
Mark Norris	16
Shaler Willis	15
Scott Bradley	11
Doug Kirkland	9
Judy Kirkland	8
Arnold Couick	8
Jerry Greasman	8
Ellman, Scott	7
Randall Wolfe	7
Rogers, Rickie	4
Ron Montgomery	4
	3

Coin cache found in backyard

SITE HONORING FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT ROME UNVEILED

From The Providence Journal, submitted by Bill Ladd and Bob Bolek.

Archaeologists recently unveiled an underground grotto believed to have been revered by ancient Romans as the place where a wolf nursed the city's legendary founder Romulus and his twin brother Remus.

Decorated with seashells and colored marble, the vaulted sanctuary is buried 52 feet inside the Palatine hill, the palatial center of power in imperial Rome, the archaeologists said at a news conference.

In the past two years, experts have been probing the space with endoscopes and laser scanners, fearing that the fragile grotto, already partially caved-in, would not survive a full-scale dig, said Giorgio Croci, an engineer who worked on the site.

The archaeologists are convinced that they have found the place of worship where Romans believed a she-wolf suckled Romulus and Remus, the twin sons of the god of war Mars who were abandoned in a basket and left adrift on the Tiber.

Thanks to the wolf, a symbol of Rome to this day, the twins survived, and Romulus founded the city, becoming its first king after killing Remus in a power struggle.

Ancient texts say the grotto known as the "Lupercal" - from "lupa," Latin for she-wolf - was near the palace of Augustus, Rome's first emperor, who was said to have restored it, and was decorated with a white eagle.

That symbol of the Roman Empire was found atop the sanctuary's vault, which lies just below the ruins of the palace built by Augustus, said Irene Iacopi, the archaeologist in charge of the Palatine and the nearby Roman Forum.

Augustus, who ruled from the late 1st century B.C. to his death in the year 14, was keen on being close to the places of Rome's mythical foundation and used the city's religious traditions to bolster his hold on power, Iacopi said.

"The Lupercal must have had an important role in Augustus' policies," she said. "He saw himself as a new Romulus."

Andrea Carandini, a professor of archaeology at Rome's La Sapienza University and an expert on the Palatine, said the grotto is almost certainly the "Lupercal."

"The chances that it's not are minimal," said Carandini, who did not take part in the dig. "It's one of the greatest discoveries every made."

Most of the sanctuary is filled with earth, but laser scans allowed experts to estimate that the circular structure has a height of 26 feet and a diameter of 24 feet, Croci said.

Iacopi said a new dig would start soon to find the grotto's original entrance at the bottom of the hill.

The Case of the Missing 300 Silver Dollars, or What In The World Is Something Like That Doing In A Place Like This, likely will never be solved. That they were actually uncovered is astonishing enough, but to find out why 300 Morgan silver dollars from 1887 in mint condition were under a foot of hardened soil on former Amarillo Mayor Jerry Hodge's property, well, let your imagination be your guide. Our story begins June 11. Plumbers were digging a trench to run utilities for a pool house and swimming pool on property Hodge had purchased adjacent to his home on Oldham Circle in Amarillo. Randy McMinn had a backhoe about a foot deep when on one particular scoop, mixed in with the dirt, was found a bunch of dingy little objects. Whoa, time out. Work came to a halt, and closer inspection revealed them to be coins - old coins from 1887. Careful digging found a lot more in some kind of fine plastic, what Margaret, Hodge's wife, described as sort of an old version of Saran Wrap. Lest anyone think plastic is a recent invention, plastic was used as early as World War I. The coins had Lady Liberty on one side and the American eagle on the other. A little bit of homework found them to be Morgan silver dollars, which were minted from 1878 to 1904. A count of the coins totaled 100 ... 150 ... 200 ... 250 ... 300 of them. Avast, matey, buried treasure! "I'm thinking, 'Oh my stars, this is unbelievable,'" Margaret said. "Then all these questions start running through my head. Were they stolen? Who did they belong to? Were they really ours just because we owned the lot? "After you get over the initial excitement of buried treasure, then I'm thinking, 'I don't want to keep them if they're not ours. Is this illegal? I don't want to break the law. We're not going to end up in jail, are we?' " Let's see, the answers would be don't know, don't know, yes, no and no. So, how much of a buried treasure do we have here? The coins had no mint identification. The Hodges did some research and asking around, and no identification meant the coins were made in Philadelphia. It also meant the coins, in their uncirculated mint condition, were worth about \$20 to \$30 apiece. Franky Hill of Amarillo Coin Exchange confirmed as much. And too bad the coins didn't have an 'S' on them. "If they had been made in San Francisco, they would be worth about \$200 each starting out," Hill said. "And if they are in real good condition, they are worth hundreds of dollars, depending on the number of contact marks." Well, it's known now how much they are worth, and how they were found. What's not known, and what's most intriguing of all, is how these 300 1887 mint condition Morgan silver dollars got there. "When was Billy the Kid shot?" Jerry Hodge said. "And Frank and Jesse James were in this part of the country, too." Alas, Billy the Kid went to his maker in 1881, and Jesse James was shot in the back in 1882, too early for the 1887 coins. What about Bonnie and Clyde? What about some unsolved bank robbery when the bad guy was killed before he could get away and find his stashed loot? Hodge, chairman of the board of Maxor National Pharmacies, recalls a conversation 40 years ago with the late Dr. George Royse. Royse told of his tending to Clyde Barrow back in the 1930s after a car wreck. Royse also told Hodge of two men he knew in Oklahoma who'd robbed a bank and came to Amarillo in a getaway. Hmmm. Hodge has tried to piece together the history of the property, which the city first owned in 1927. Before that, it was the Wolflin family farm. The property, which is actually on Parker Street, has gone through several owners, including two former attorneys in the 1940s and early 1950. The most likely theory is that someone, probably during the Depression, was afraid of banks and buried some valuable coins and may have died without telling anyone of them. Sounds good to me, though not quite as thrilling as Clyde Barrow's ill-gotten gains. Interesting times in those days. Former Amarillo National Bank President Tol Ware told Hodge he used to play baseball in that area back in the 1930s and it was not uncommon for a fun-loving fellow to hide his alcohol near there during those Prohibition days. "I've told Tol we have not yet found his Scotch," Hodge said.

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Remember to provide your support of the club by keeping your dues up to date and inviting your friends to join us. Adults: \$15 (add \$5 for optional FMDAC membership) juniors \$5.00 If you are unable to attend the next meeting, you can mail your check made payable to SCMD to:

Frances Alexander
43 Fairway Ridge
Lake Wylie S.C 29710



We want to thank Doug and Judy Kirkland, and Richard Otterbourgh for the refreshments at the July meeting. We would also like to thank Bobby Hallman and Jimmy Earnheart for refreshments in June. Scott Bradley will provide Refreshments in August.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.scmetaldetectingclub.com

**Our next club meeting will take place on Tuesday
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We hope to see you there.**

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