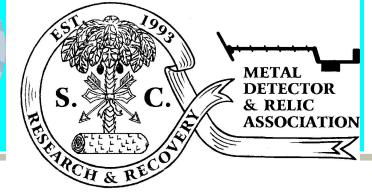


**Happy
Easter**

THE CAROLINA THRESHOLD



March 2008
Volume 3, Issue 15



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

Another month another good find. March's meeting brought 25 of our members and one guest to socialize and show off some good finds. Although the weather was horrible outside we had a great time with one new member Robert Slough, and visitor Jeff Manson. We finally had a chance to recognize Rick Baker for outstanding service to the club, thanks Rick.

Woo Hoo!, our New and Improved best finds page is up and running thanks to Scott Ellman. Check it out The web address is
<http://scmetaldetectingclub.com/bestfinds.htm>

Club Shirts and hats are on order, as of this month we have some hats available for purchase for a low price, grab-em while you can.

On April 19th there will be a relic hunt in Allendale County with "Planted Relics" such as medium quality buttons buckles etc.. on the same day Marion N.C is holding their NC gold festival.

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Lets not forget to attend this months meeting thanks to Scott Ellman we will be having a speaker You don't want to miss this one.

Do you have any old jewelry or gold lying around? If you do then Midwest Refinery is buying scrap gold for a good price, look them up online and take advantage of high gold prices.

We need help with concessions for Randy's treasure hunt of the Carolinas. Volunteers, equipment, supplies, drinks, snacks chips etc.. would be appreciated. The date is March 29th-30th.

Gold Cache in PA worth 20 million

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) -- A treasure hunter wants permission to dig in a state forest in northern Pennsylvania for a cache of gold he believes was lost by a Union convoy transporting it to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia during the Civil War.

The legend has circulated for decades about the half-ton of lost gold - worth \$20 million or more at today's prices.

Dennis Parada believes he has found the site of the missing treasure in an Elk County state forest and is fighting to get state permission to dig it up.

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources said Parada needs to provide more proof before he starts tearing up state

land. The department will not decide whether Parada can dig until he provides more information, spokeswoman Chris Novak said. "There's a lot of people that will say this story is not true, and you'll have your share of people swearing that it is true," said Parada, of Clearfield, who runs a treasure-hunting business called Finders Keepers. "You'll get that with any treasure."

According to the legend, a Union officer received orders in the summer of 1863 to lead a wagon train from Wheeling, W.Va., to Philadelphia through Harrisburg by way of northern Pennsylvania. The story claims that the route was chosen to avoid Confederate soldiers advancing into southern Pennsylvania for what would become the battle of Gettysburg.

Please see Gold cache on page 5

Seek Find Share

Charles D. Perry

LANDO -- Drive to Lando on a warm spring Saturday and look for the little white Mazda.

Near the car, in the woods or a field around this mill village, stands Ellen Allen, 5 feet 3 inches tall, but seeming a bit taller when she's wearing her headphones and swinging her White's Prizm IV metal detector, the machine beeping and blipping to tell her if treasure lies below.

"Every minute I have free, I'm out metal detecting," Allen, 59, said. "It's like an addiction. Every time you find something, you want to go more and more."

But the Edgemoor resident isn't looking for wealth. Since her brother gave her the small black detector for her birthday a few years ago, she has been searching for items that reflect the history of Lando, the community she has called home since she was 14.

"This little village is important to the people who grew up here," she said.

During the past year, Allen unearthed what she considers her greatest find: a World War I victory medal. Like many of the other items she digs up, she donated the medal to the Manetta Mills History Center, the Lando museum housed in the same building as the post office.

The museum was so grateful for Allen's contributions that a small glass case was devoted to her discoveries. Some of them, such as the medal, have historical interest. Others, such as the small metal cars and marbles, are just fun additions.

"It's meant a lot to us," said museum employee Joe Polk. "I'm just glad she's the type of person that's willing to share stuff with us."

For Allen, giving is natural. Her father spent years toiling in Manetta Mills, the old textile anchor of the tiny village along S.C. 901. Her mother also worked in the mill when she was young, staying home after having her children.

The youngest of four children, Allen loved her tiny hometown. After she graduated from Lewisville High in May 1966, she went to work in the mill. She was happy,



she said, even though it got so hot that you couldn't let your arms fall because of the chance of getting heat rash.

"It was hard work, but it was good work," she said. She spent seven years at mills in Lando and Rock Hill. For the last 21 years, she's been employed by the Rock Hill police department, and she now works as a clerk in the records office.

Allen first thought about metal detecting some 10 years ago when she saw a commercial for White's detectors.

"I thought, 'I'd love to do that'," Allen said. "But I never wanted to spend the money. It was a lot of money to spend for a toy."

Then she came home one night and found her brother had bought her one.

"I found my first penny in my front yard, and I was hooked," she said.

She learned her way around the machine, how to listen for the consistent pattern of beeps that tells her when she's close to something. The metal detector also indicates what the item might be and how far below the surface she'll have to dig to get it.

Because she works afternoons and nights, Allen can go searching on weekday mornings. Then there are Saturdays when, if the weather's right, she'll grab a bottle of water and a granola bar and search the hills of Lando until dark.

She has a wooden-handled digging tool that once was forked but has since been worn to a nub. Along with that, she carries two other gardening tools and blue gloves. She has a small rag to hold the dirt she removes until she finds what she's looking for and can pour it back into the ground.

Please see *Seek Find Share* on page 5

“Allen first thought about metal detecting some 10 years ago when she saw a commercial for White's detectors. ”

**11TH ANNUAL
TREASURE HUNT
OF THE CAROLINAS
MARCH 29-30, 2008**

Largest Open Hunt In The Carolinas

The targets for the weekend will include Silver Quarters, Halves, Dollars, Rounds, Dimes and Gold Coins

*TOKENS WILL BE USED FOR GOLD COINS & NICER SILVER PRIZES

TO BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE AT

ED BROWN'S RODEO GROUNDS BLACKSBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

SPONSORED BY RANDY AND JOYCE GATCHEL (864) 839-3598

CONTACT RANDY OR JOYCE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*****SATURDAY FEATURES THREE HUNTS*****

EXTRA FEE HUNT INCLUDES: A SILVER COMPETITION HUNT

*****SUNDAY FEATURES TWO HUNTS*****

EXTRA FEE HUNT INCLUDES: A SILVER HALF/QUARTER HUNT

**IN OUR FIRST TEN YEARS, WE HAVE BURIED OVER 160,000 SILVER COINS IN THESE FIELDS!!
DEALERS ARE WELCOME TO SET UP TABLES FOR A REASONABLE PRIZE DONATION.
DEALERS MUST BRING THEIR OWN TABLES/CANOPIES/CHAIRS
HUNTERS NEED TO BRING THEIR OWN CHAIRS AND TABLES**

FOOD CONCESSION MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE – CALL RANDY TO VERIFY

**EACH OF THE HUNTS COVERED BY THE MAIN FEE WILL HAVE AT LEAST 3 GOLD COINS
SILVER COMPETITION HUNT USES SILVER DIMES AS TOKENS SO YOU CAN'T LOSE ON THIS ONE.
KID'S HUNT IS FREE. (12 AND UNDER)**

**THE FIELDS ARE GETTING CLEANED OUT
BUT THERE IS STILL A LOT OF TRASH SO BE PREPARED!!!!!!!**

SATURDAY SCHEDULE HUNT SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 7:30 - 9:00 | REGISTRATION |
| 9:15 | ORIENTATION |
| 9:45 | KID'S HUNT |
| 10:15 | LOST SILVER PLATEAU |
| **11:15 - 11:45 | SILVER COMPETITION HUNT** |
| 12:00 | LUNCH AND DEALER HOUR |

| | |
|------|---|
| 1:30 | GOLD AND SILVER RAFFLE HUNT |
| 2:15 | COMPETITION AWARDS /GOLD & SILVER RAFFL |
| 3:45 | GOLD & SILVER LUCKY PICK HUNT |
| 4:30 | REDEEM GOLD & SILVER LUCKY PICK TOKENS |

****SEPARATE ENTRY FEE REQUIRED**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 8:00 - 9:00 | REGISTRATION |
| 9:45 | SPECIALTY HUNT |
| **10:30 | SILVER HALF/QUARTER HUNT** |
| 11:30 | SILVER BONANZA HUNT |

MAKE CAMPING RESERVATIONS THRU:

PINECONE CAMPGROUND, 160 SARRATT SCHOOL RD., GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29341
(864) 489-2022

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
JAMESON INN

GAFFNEY, SC
GAFFNEY, SC

(864) 489-1699 11 MILES FROM HUNT SITE
(864) 489-0240 10 MILES FROM HUNT SITE

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
COMFORT INN

KING'S MOUNTAIN, NC (704) 734-0014 12 MILES FROM HUNT SITE
KING'S MOUNTAIN, NC (704) 739-7070 12 MILES FROM HUNT SITE

FOR INFORMATION -CALL RANDY GATCHEL (864) 839-3598

March 2008 Contest Board Results

| Category | Place | Name | Item |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| COINS: SILVER & GOLD | | | |
| | 1 ST | Rick Baker | 1792 Reale |
| | 2 ND | Mike Plyler | 1944 Quarter |
| | 3 RD | Randy Gatchell | 1905 Barber Dime |
| COINS: OTHER | | | |
| | 1 ST | Bill Styles | 1890 Indian Head |
| | 2 ND | Mike Plyler | 1908 Indian Head |
| | 3 RD | Francis Alexander | \$1 Coin |
| JEWELRY | | | |
| | 1 ST | Steve Herring | 14kt Gold Band |
| | 2 ND | Ray Corell | Gold Necklace |
| | 3 RD | Frances Alexander | Silver and Gold Diamond Bracelet |
| RELICS: PRE-1865 (MILITARY) | | | |
| | 1 ST | Chris Watson | Eagle Cuff Button |
| | 2 ND | Rick Baker | Round Ball |
| | 3 RD | Randy Gatchell | Knapsack Hook |
| RELICS: OTHER | | | |
| | 1 ST | Jerry Creasman | WWI Horse bridal Rosette |
| | 2 ND | Steve Herring | WWII Hat Badge |
| | 3 RD | Randal Wolf | Old Reed |
| BEST FIND | | | |
| | 1 ST | Mike Plyler | 1851 Quarter Dollar |
| | 2 ND | Donnie Catoe | Diamond Ring |
| | 3 RD | Steve Herring | WWII Engineers Pin |
| EYE SPY | | | |
| | 1 ST | Donnie Catoe | Arrow Head |
| | 2 ND | Scott Ellman | Gold Chain |
| | 3 RD | Randal Wolfe | Small Seashell |

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Gatchell, Randy | 43 |
| Stiles, Bill | 41 |
| Plyler, Mike | 38 |
| Alexander, Frances | 36 |
| Irby, Lanny | 33 |
| Catoe, Donnie | 23 |
| Herring, Steve | 22 |
| Watson, Chris | 22 |
| Brazell, Donnie | 19 |
| Hallman, Bobby | 18 |
| Correll, Ray | 17 |
| Earnheart, Jimmy | 13 |
| Kleparek, Jeff | 12 |

Treasure Hunter of the Year Rankings as of March 2008

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Baker, Rick | 10 |
| Willis, Shaler | 8 |
| Jerry Greasman | 8 |
| Norris, Mark | 7 |
| Randall Wolff | 7 |
| Kirkland, Doug | 5 |
| Kirkland, Judy | 4 |
| Arnold Coinick | 4 |
| Ellman, Scott | 3 |
| Otterboug, Richard | 2 |
| Rogers, Rickie | 2 |
| Ron Montgomery | 2 |

Seek Find Share from page 2

A friend in the field

Although she often goes searching alone, last March she got some company when Lt. Dart Raymes began tagging along.

Raymes, who has spent nearly 25 years with the Rock Hill police, said he'd been interested in metal detecting for years and told Allen after she got hers that one day he'd buy a machine and go with her. When his daughter's boyfriend told him his family had one gathering dust, Raymes gladly accepted it and started joining Allen on her searches, learning the ropes.

Like Allen, Raymes gets joy in searching for items with historical value to local folks, people with memories of the mill who visit the history center.

"When you can find something and put it in that history center and somebody else can get some enjoyment out of it, that makes it all worth the find," he said. "For either one of us, it's not about things that are necessarily of monetary value."

Allen does keep a few items for herself. She places her treasures in a small wooden chest at her home. That's where she stores her wheat pennies, her silver dimes, game tokens and her oldest piece -- an 1865 2-cent coin.

When asked why she gives away the items she values most, Allen talks about Lando and coming to this post office to check the mail as a child. She remembers shooting marbles here, breaking her arm at age 6 and wrecking the bicycle she'd had for three days when she was 12. She recalls crying when her family moved to Edgemoor and crying again decades later when her old home was finally torn down.

That's why she offers so many of her earth-stained treasures. "My whole life was right here," she said, "in this little village."

Charles D. Perry

Gold cache continued from page 1

As the story goes, the convoy - with two wagons, eight soldiers and 26 50-pound bars of gold - got lost in the wilderness, and the gold vanished.

Parada, who won't reveal details of the location, said he and his partners made some initial digs in 2005 and found bones, a shattered bottle, a pocket knife, tin cans and two bullets. The state halted that effort, saying it's a crime to remove historical artifacts from state lands.

Officials later examined the items and said they were newer than the Civil War era and of little value.

"The circumstances arouse my suspicions that this is some very old wives' tale," said Allen Guelzo, a Gettysburg College history professor who specializes in the Civil War.

He doubts that Union troops hauled gold through northern Pennsylvania, and believes it more likely would have been transported by rail through Altoona to Harrisburg. Even in summer 1863 the

train would have been safe, he said.

Parada, 55, first heard the legend more than 30 years ago. In 1975, he and some friends obtained a map he thought would lead to the gold but the search was unsuccessful.

He resumed the quest in 2004, taking his case to state officials.

"They shot everything down. Everything," Parada said.

Parada said he and his three partners hope for at least a 10 percent finders' fee if they find the gold - which would be more than they'd get on the black market if they took it without permission.

"We stand to make as much or better and sleep at night instead of going to jail," he said



Gold Bars and nuggets

"He resumed the quest in 2004, taking his case to state officials. "They shot everything down. Everything," Parada said.

Executive Committee

Bill Stiles – President

Scott Bradley – Vice President

Frances Alexander – Treasurer

Jeff Kleparek – Secretary
Newsletter Editor

Scott Ellman – Program Director
Web Master

Jimmy Earnhart – Librarian

Rick Baker – FMDAC Contact



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 Scott Ellman and Kelly Ellman for the refreshments at the March meeting. That Cookie Cake of our club logo not only looked good but was delicious too. Jeff Kleparek and Mary Beth Schwallie will provide Refreshments in April.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.scmetaldetectingclub.com

**Our next club meeting will take place on Tuesday
April 1st from 7-9pm @ Trinity Bible School, 915
Cherry Road, Rock Hill S.C 29732
We hope to see you there.**

SCMD&RA
915 Cherry Road
Rock Hill S.C 29732

