

# JUNE 2020 RAMROD

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## NGRHA MISSION STATEMENT

The North Georgia Relic Hunter's Association was formed in 1972 in partnership with the City of Marietta Department of Parks and Recreation. The association has over 120 members from all walks of life. The purpose of the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association (NGRHA) is to further the enjoyment of responsibly collecting Civil War relics, old bottles and coins, as well as other items from years gone by. The NGRHA is dedicated to preserving Georgia history through responsible excavation. Membership is open to all persons interested in relic or coin hunting and collecting.

Since 1972, the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association has dedicated itself to the preservation of artifacts of the American past. Through the use of electronic detection devices members have collected coins, jewelry and other memorabilia that illustrate in a tangible way, the history and progress of a growing new nation. Each member is a student of American history and collectively we strive to pass on the knowledge we have gained through school lecture programs, living history presentations, and relic shows – to mention a few.

From the beginning the founders of the association stressed the importance of respect for the property of others, reverence for federal lands and obedience of local and federal laws. Today, these ideals are still paramount.

Members of the association cover a wide range of vocations including law enforcement, attorneys, executives, blue-collar workers, technicians, and teachers, to name a few. All are dedicated to the idea that our local, state and national heritage is vitally important and that each person should make an effort to preserve

what we can for future generations to enjoy. To this end, association members participate in historical organizations of many types and provide period relics – on a loan basis – to museums and libraries. They also give of their time and energy to preservation programs on a voluntary basis. The association is always ready to assist organized groups whenever possible.

Fund-raising efforts by the association (a non-profit organization) provides money for a variety of charities each year and budgeting for club events and functions. Integrity, honesty, and respect for the property and the rights of others is a code each member lives by. Those who don't are in the minority and are not welcomed in the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association.

## CLUB MEETINGS

On the **first meeting of each month** we try to have a speaker to give a talk on subjects of interest to our members. Many times, these talks are given by the members of the club but we often try to bring in guests who have a specialty area to share.

The **second meeting of each month** is dedicated to the "Find of the Month". This is an opportunity for each member to bring in items that they have personally found since the last Find of the Month. There are four categories which finds may be entered:

- Relic
- Coin/Jewelry
- Single Relic
- Single Coin

Members vote for their favorite in each category and prizes are awarded for the winners.

## CLUB HUNTS

Normally, the club will usually hold at least one coin hunt and one relic hunt each year. The hunts may be such that they could be a combined relic/coin hunt.

To participate in these hunts, you must be a paid member prior to the day of the hunt, and have attended one club meeting prior to the hunt. The club hunt rules are in our constitution and they essentially are:

- The participant must be a paid member one month before the hunt date and must attend at least one meeting prior to each club hunt.
- The fee for the hunt is \$20. Children under 13 are free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult family member that is participating in the hunt.
- When the hunt has ended, any token for prizes that are found out in the field or that have not been turned in will become null and void.
- No prizes will be given out until the hunt has ended.
- If the member cannot stay until the hunt ends, you will have to forfeit your prize tokens or find someone who can turn them in at the end of the hunt for the appropriate prize.

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown, we were unable to hold our spring hunt. And, with the weather turning hotter now (due to summer) we may not be able to hold a hunt until the September time-frame.

We will have at least club hunt this year – and due to the time of the year it may be one large hunt (instead of two smaller hunts). This is especially true in light of the fact that we do not yet know if we will be able to hold our club show (see below).

## CLUB SHOW

As you may know, the North Georgia Relic Hunter's Association Annual Civil War and Military Show is scheduled to be held at the

Cobb Civic Center (in Marietta, Georgia) this coming August 8th and 9th.

Due to the COVI-19 lockdowns, many of you may wonder if we will be able to still hold our annual show.

At this time, the club still plans on running the show. We are awaiting word from Cobb County on when they will be opening the Civic Center for events such as our annual show. We are currently working with the personnel at the Civic Center to monitor the situation, and they have informed us that as soon as a determination is made regarding the status of the Civic Center, they will let us know.

Therefore, as soon as we are informed of this information, we will let all know that status of our annual show.

We hope all will be "cleared" by then so we can continue to have our show, and we look forward to the event.

## KNOW THE LAWS TO HUNT IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

We periodically get asked by people visiting or moving to the state of Georgia what the rules for relic hunting in the state are. The answer to this question is on the useful website:

<http://www.mdhtalk.org/cf/city-regulation.cfm?st=GA>

It does describe the laws pretty well but not how they might be applied. For example: they state *“keep in mind that the actual practice for any given area may not represent the actual regulation that exist”* but keep in mind if you get stopped by an official the law (or as stated on the website: regulation) is what matters. You take a chance hunting in a park that everyone says is ok even though the regulations say you can't. So here are the rules in general.

There are no Federal metal detecting laws other

than the ARPA laws which protect ALL Federal Government owned lands. This law doesn't address private property. But this law is far reaching and severe. This includes national historical parks, national seashores, national forests, military bases or any land considered US government property. Note that it is a felony to dig on Federal property and they are pretty committed to enforcing it. You don't want to be caught there so I suggest you stay far enough away from any federal property lines that there is no question about where you are hunting.

All private or state owned property is governed by the state laws. These governing laws are described on the right side of the above web site. Bottom line is don't hunt state or Federal property and you can hunt any private property as long as you have the land owner's permission. The above link states you must have written permission from the landowner.

The exception to the state laws is when cities or counties pass local laws that restrict state laws even more. An example of this is the Jekyll Island law shown on the above link stating no metal detecting is allowed on that island.

So in general you can hunt anywhere in the state other than Jekyll Island, State of Georgia property, Federal property or burial grounds with the land owner's written permission.

For the written permission, I suggest taking a copy of the web page above to show the land owner why you need it and then carrying a form permission sheet that you can fill out on site with the land owner's name, address, date and signature stating they give you permission. That makes it faster and easier than having to explain things and draw up a document.

Good luck and happy hunting! There is plenty of private property that with a little effort you can get permission to hunt

### **CLUB WEB SITE**

The club web site can be viewed at the following address:

[WWW.NGRHA.WEBBLY.COM/](http://WWW.NGRHA.WEBBLY.COM/)

### **OTHER WEB SITES**

If you have any web sites (URLs) that you think other club members would be interested in (for example; to research information about the Civil War, find out about upcoming relic shows, check out relic shops to purchase artifacts, etc.) please let us know, and we can list them in upcoming issues of the Ramrod.

Here are some sites that we have been told about:

[www.civilwarcourier.com](http://www.civilwarcourier.com)

[www.warbetweenthestates.com](http://www.warbetweenthestates.com)

[www.blockaderunner.com](http://www.blockaderunner.com)

[www.southerncivilwarmall.com](http://www.southerncivilwarmall.com)

[www.civilwardata.com](http://www.civilwardata.com)

### **CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE**

More club information can be found on the club's Facebook site. This site not only includes information on club activities, but also a variety of information regarding the Civil War and articles of interest relating to history and our hobby.

You can subscribe to our site on Facebook by going to our page at:

North Georgia Relic Hunters Association

Take a few minutes to subscribe and view this page.

You can also make posts to this page with anything that you think will be of interest to other club members – including online articles and information from other Facebook sites.

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## RELIC HUNTING TIPS

The following article (TIPS ON CLEANING CIVIL WAR RELICS) was written by David Keith and posted at the following web site:

<https://www.minelab.com/community/treasure-talk/tips-on-cleaning-civil-war-relics>

Per David:

Far too many times I've seen great civil war finds over cleaned by a novice relic hunter. In a word, don't! Less is best when it comes to cleaning and preserving relics. I recommend doing nothing until you gain experience on how to clean and care for your civil war finds. This could also apply to coins and stone artifacts, but in this article, I'll cover civil war relics.

First, I recommend you get your finds kit ready before you ever leave home. I always take water with me, mostly to keep hydrated even during cold weather, but there are times when you might, and I say might, want to rinse a little dirt off a relic, especially if it contains a lot of sand. Just a gentle rinse, NO RUBBING! I've seen many buttons crumble by over anxious diggers dying to see what the button face was stamped with.

Aside from water, I carry empty medicine bottles (amber plastic with snap off caps) filled with 6-10 cotton balls. All buttons, coins and delicate, small relics should be stored in between cotton balls so no rubbing or contact can be made. Other times you might need to store several tiny pieces of broken relics. This is a great way to keep from losing them before you get home.

Another good item is clear fingernail polish. If you dig a relic (buttons especially) that appears to be about to fall apart, brush a thin coat of polish over the button; dirt and all. It will hold the pieces together and if it happens to be a rare example, the polish can be dissolved later with acetone. Keeping in possession of all the tiny parts will make restoration much easier if required. Once the polish dries, place it in your medicine bottle.

Bubble wrap and some tape is a great way to keep belt plates and other important finds protected until you get home. Wrap and tape each piece instead of leaving them bouncing around in your pouch. I've know of several plates that never made it to the car because of careless handling.

When home, use only a soft tooth brush (not your spouse's either... lol) and water to carefully remove dirt. If there is a heavy patina or "egg shell" bonded dirt, leave it. Better to let it remain than ruin your relic. Never shine, buff, polish or add any type of coating to a relic. You can devalue your find in a hurry.

Good finds, and good hunting,