

JANUARY 2021 RAMROD

CLUB MEETINGS AND COVID

Since we are still under orders from the Governor in regard to the COVID situation, we ask that all who attend observe the guidelines that have been put in place - including maintaining social distances of 6 feet apart (especially when looking at finds or in buying raffle tickets) and wear facial masks. The gym will allow us to spread out more, so this will help with the social distancing.

Please keep in mind that we have a number of elderly members and that you consider wearing a mask for their safety.

Again, if you are not feeling well, or if you have been around someone who has the virus (thus exposing you to the virus) please remain home so as to not possibly spread the virus to others in the club. Remember, we have a number of individuals who are considered in the "high-risk" category, so please be considerate of them.

CLUB YEARLY DUES

Please remember to pay your yearly club dues. For 2021, dues will remain at \$10 per person. Dues paying members will be able to participate in our club hunts, receive a free door-prize ticket at each meeting, and be able to attend our yearly relic show for free.

.CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here are the dates for our upcoming club events. A reminder note will be posted to club members before each event, or you may go to our club website or Facebook page for additional information.

2021 Meeting Schedule

- January 5th – cancelled
 - Facilities being used for election runoff
- January 19th – General Meeting
 - Find of the month meeting
 - Review overall 2020 finances
 - Review 2021 planned budget
- February 2nd – 2020 Find of the year meeting
- February 16th – Find of the month meeting.
- March 2nd – Business Meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Steve Strickland: Georgia Civil War Relics
- March 16th – find of the month meeting.
- April 6th – Business Meeting and Buy, Sell, and Swap meeting
- April 20th – find of the month meeting
- May 4th – Business Meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Jim Hammonds; Civil War related letters and documents
- May 18th – find of the month meeting

- June 1st – Business Meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Carl Sitherwood; something Civil War Artillery related
- June 15th – find of the month meeting
- July 6th – Business Meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Ed Travis; Civil War Bullets
- July 20th – find of the month meeting
- August 3rd – business meeting and discuss the upcoming club show
- August 17th – find of the month meeting
- September 7th – Business meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Carl DiMare; Civil War Edged Weapons
- September 21st – find of the month meeting
- October 5th – Business meeting
 - Guest Speaker - Steve Strickland; Civil War Buttons
- October 19th – find of the month meeting
- November 2nd – business meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Jim Hammonds; Grand Army of the Republic (Union Civil War Veterans) related memorabilia
- November 16th – find of the month meeting
- December 7th – business meeting
 - Election of new board officers to serve in 2022
 - Club charity announcement
 - Buy, Sell, Trade and Swap meeting
- December 21st – general meeting
 - Christmas Party
 - Find of the month meeting

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.

Note: we will plan to have either a guest speaker or a club function at each of our first meetings of the month. Some changes to speakers or events may occur (due to availability) but we will plan on doing something at each of the first meetings of the month.

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.

Here are the club rules for find of the month entries:

1. You must be a club member before the Find of the Month meeting date to enter an item.
2. Items that are submitted for find of the month are subject to board approval.
3. Items found to be ineligible for judging will be removed from the table.
4. Items submitted are for items recovered after the last month’s contest.
5. Items should be mostly dug items but an item that has been found by sight can qualify.
6. Items must be old in nature
7. Items found must be found by the person entering the items.
8. You can only enter once in each category.
9. Person bringing in an item is responsible to sign-in the item

10. The board can request an item be relisted in a different category if the board sees fit.
11. Items should be placed on the table after being signed in.
12. Place item on table according to its category and number sequence.
13. Person bringing items are responsible for items well-being; including, picking the item up at the end of the meeting.

Members vote for their favorite in each category. The winner of the single relic and single coin can then be entered into the Find of the Year event; which will be held January meeting of the upcoming year.

Here are the winning entries at our December find of the month meeting:

- Single Relic – Ed Travis with a carved bullet
- Multiple Relics – Ed Travis with bullets and miscellaneous items
- Single Coin – no entries
- Multiple Coins – Gary Pass with several wheat pennies
- Jewelry/Miscellaneous – Cathy Granger with an Indian Flint Knife.

Note: Additional Pictures of the various finds can be found on the club's Facebook Page.

Raffle Prize - At each meeting, we will have a raffle (\$0.50 per ticket) with two or three choices for the winner of the raffle to select. These items may include (but not limited too) Civil War Breastplates, Box plates, Bayonets, Union and Confederate buttons, artillery shells, and more. All attending the meeting may purchase raffle tickets.

- At our December 1st meeting, Rod Hall won a 6-pound cannonball (solid shot)
- At our December 15th meeting, Ben Martin won a Garrett AT-Pro Detector.

Door Prizes - Each attending club member is also entitled to a door prize ticket, where winning numbers are pulled for various items (such as book, bottles, pictures, relics, coins, and other items). Only club members who are at the meeting can participate in the door prize drawings.

2021 CLUB OFFICERS ELECTION...

At our December 1st meeting, the club elected officers to serve on the 2021 Board. The following is the list of officers who will serve in 2021.

- President – Steve Strickland
- Vice President – Brad Leatherwood
- Treasurer – Jim Hammonds
- Secretary – we are still looking for someone who wants to be the secretary for 2021; until we have a volunteer, Jim Hammonds will serve as Treasurer/Secretary (as outlined in the club's bylaws)

Metal Detecting Tips & Tricks You Haven't Considered

The following "tips and tricks" information was copied from the following site:

[Metal Detecting Tips & Tricks You Haven't Considered - Kellyco Metal Detectors \(kellycodetectors.com\)](http://kellycodetectors.com)

Every detectorist wants to continue to get better and better at hunting and finding treasures. They do so through experience, of course – the more you hunt, the more you find, and the better you get at it. But, you can also learn a lot from the experiences of others, so that you have even more information at hand, and sooner. The following list includes some tips you may not have considered that might just help you get better at detecting sooner rather than later.

Don't Abandon Iffy Signals

Digging the signals that don't sound encouraging or that you don't think indicate anything of value can prove to be worth your time. Sometimes those iffy targets turn out to be something great, so if you have the time, dig them. If it doesn't turn out to be anything worthwhile, then at least you're clearing the surface junk away for a more rewarding return hunting trip.

Carry Extra Batteries

There's nothing worse than having to cut a hunting trip short because you run out of batteries. Always carry an extra set of **new batteries** with you. The batteries that you have in your equipment are going to run out sometime, being prepared will save you the hassle of having to stop searching to go buy more.

Take an Extra Metal Detector

All detectorists know that the first step to hunting a site is to **obtain permission to search there**. Next time you ask a property owner for permission and you get some push back, ask them to join you (if you have an **extra detector**). They are likely to be intrigued, and that will make them more likely to say yes.

There is No Such Thing as "Hunted Out"

Never discount a site because it's been "hunted out." If a site has produced significant finds already, it's probable that there is more treasure there. Changing the depth and sensitivity settings on your detector may help you locate more finds.

Pack Your Tool Box for Every Trip

Maybe you've only got enough time to search a small area sometimes so you don't think you need to take all your gear. But it really is worth it to have all of your tools packed and ready to go, and to take them all with you every time. It's better to have the specific tool you need, than to wish you had it when you're out hunting.

Rescan and Re-dig to Find More

Don't stop just because you find one target when you dig. Take a few extra minutes and dig a little deeper and use your **pinpointer** to see if there is anything else there. This tip is especially useful when you find coins – where there is one, there is often more.

Use a Frisbee When Digging

Whenever you dig for a target, you want to be able to fill in the hole, leaving it looking as close to what it looked like before you dug as you can. Some detectorists use a piece of fabric or paper to place the dirt

that they dig out so that it's easy to dump it back into the hole when they are done. A Frisbee turned upside down works even better for that, and it can be washed and reused forever.

Hunt After Rain

Next time you have some rain, try going out searching while the ground is still wet. This helps detectorists in two ways. First, it's much easier to dig in wet dirt than hard, dry dirt. And second, wet ground provides better conductivity so you may be able to detect targets that are buried deeper.

Remember

You'll come up with your own tips and tricks as you gain more experience detecting. Be sure that you take the time to share them with your fellow detectorists; they will appreciate it.

Tips to Find More Valuable Targets While Metal Detecting

Every detectorist has metal detecting hunts that have no finds (or very few) that are worth anything. It can be discouraging and lessen your excitement for the hobby. The good news is, there are a lot of ways that you can improve your metal detecting outings by using strategies that increase your chances of finding more valuable targets. We've put together some tips to help you be more productive on your next detecting trip.

Strategies for Making Better Metal Detecting Finds

1. Hunt sites that likely have valuables. This may seem like an obvious tip, but it seems like there is always a newer place to search that will have less trash, that is more convenient to get to, or for which it is easier to obtain permission for detecting. While it's true that there could be a few lost items or coins in a newer area, but the odds of that – or of finding them – is pretty slim.

Though older sites likely have more trash because they have had a lot more human traffic, they are also more likely to have lost jewelry or coins for the same reason. So, unless a newer site is a prime area for lost items (like a new resort, for example), then it's most productive to stick to older sites that have had more traffic.

2. Don't neglect your research. It's downright tempting to search areas where you have simply seen as you commute to work every day. You may even know a little bit about the history of the area. However, the place that you are looking at may very well have been searched over and over by other detectorists for the same reason.

If you take the time to do some research to find some lesser-known areas where people used to hang out, you may find a detecting goldmine that few people know about or have hunted. Your odds of finding better, more valuable finds increase greatly when you find those types of sites.

3. Work sites backwards. Wherever you are hunting, a school, or park, or other sites, try starting with the last area you would normally search. There's a good chance that other detectorists feel similarly to you, so the "last area" may not have been searched as much as other areas of the site.

4. Reduce discrimination on your metal detector. Many of the best sites for [finding lost jewelry or coins](#) have been hunted by detectorists. These spots are typically areas with high-traffic that detectorists look for. While it sounds like that might be a negative thing for future detectorists who hunt the same site, that isn't always the case. What it means is that old coins and jewelry that may have been lost may also

have been missed by previous hunters. That's because sites that have a lot of traffic tend to also have a lot of trash. Other detectorists likely missed some targets because jewelry alerts are often mistaken for foil or pull-tab alerts, and coins may be close enough to trash that their alerts are blocked by those of the trash.

The way to ensure that you don't fall into the same category as previous detectorists is to turn down the discrimination on your detector and swing much slower. This will allow you to differentiate between targets that are close to one another – even those coins buried close to trash.

5. Talk about your metal detecting hobby. You probably have many opportunities to talk about your hobby with others, and that can lead to some great new sites to hunt. This is especially true when you share the information with older residents who have lived in the area for a long period of time.

They may be a gold mine of information about areas near you that were used for different purposes (decades ago) than they are today. Perhaps they know about old swim holes that have long dried up, old parks or schoolyards that are not there anymore, or old churches or homesteads that now have newer buildings on the land. If you're lucky, you may find someone whose grandparents lived near and has an old home and property they will allow you to search.

Happy Hunting

Give some of the above strategies a try – or come up with some strategies of your own. Finding interesting or valuable targets may sometimes seem like it's too good to be true. But when you get creative, do some research, use the right detector settings, and talk about your hobby, you may just find that those elusive targets aren't as hard to find as you thought.

SPECIAL CLUB RAFFLE

To raise funds for our club, in lieu of our show being cancelled, we had a special raffle starting at our August club meeting – and running through the year. This raffle was for a professional framed picture (29 inches by 36 inches) entitled “The Christian General” – a painting of Robert E Lee (in uniform) reading a bible to a child.

We held the raffle at our December 15th meeting, and the winner of the portrait was Ray McMahan.

If you have any questions about this raffle, please let me know.

CLUB WEB SITE

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

WWW.NGRHA.COM

This site is continually updated with club-related information, so we encourage you to visit to site to learn about the latest club activities and events.

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.

CONTRIBUTORS TO NGRHA

The North Georgia Relic Hunters Association (NGRHA) club and their members wish to thank the listed companies and individuals who have supported our club and the hobby of treasure seeking, metal detecting and the pursuit of history.

Through their donations and support and through responsible excavation, we are able to preserve, share and further the enjoyment of responsible collecting of Civil War relics, old bottles and coins as well as other items from years gone. We urge our members and others to support these supporters of our club. Thanks again to all!

- **Fisher Metal Detectors**
<http://www.fisherlab.com>
- **Minelab Metal Detectors**
<http://www.minelab.com>
- **Teknetics Detectors**
<http://www.teknetics.com>
- **Whites Metal Detectors**
<http://www.whiteselectronics.com>
- **Garrett Metal Detectors**
<http://www.garrett.com>
- **Kellyco Metal Detectors**
<http://www.kellycodetectors.com>
- **Nokta Detection Technologies**
<http://www.noktadetectors.com>
- **Bullet And Shell**
<http://www.bulletandshell.com>
- **Fisher Metal Detectors**
<http://www.fisherlab.com>
- **Minelab Metal Detectors**
<http://www.minelab.com>
- **Teknetics Detectors**
<http://www.teknetics.com>

FUTURE ITEMS

If you have items or ideas on what you would like to see added to the Ramrod, please let me know.