

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

April 9, 2013

President Matt called the meeting to order. Visitor Pat was introduced to the club. It was sadly announced that Dr. Ron Marshall, cousin of Verge Marshall, was killed in a plane crash in Tulsa, OK.

Mark reported that the club made \$159 on the coin club show. Special thanks to Chris for organizing the show and to all of the other members who either had tables or staffed the raffle ticket table. Well done!!

Chris also reported that he had done a survey on how attendees learned about the show. The number 1 reason was through word-of-mouth. They heard about it at the barbershop or at Pop's Collectables. The number 2 was through the Manhattan Mercury. The club spends \$80 for the scroll on the Cox weather channel with no one stating they had seen it there. Chris recommends for next year having brochures for the club members to distribute.

Doyle reported he had a good show with lots of attendees asking questions. Reports were given on KS, Salina, and Ogden gun and knife show. Matt said that even at his age (I think he is still very young), he learned that buyers must be wary of buying at auctions and unknown sellers.

Member Allen did the presentation on metal detecting. (I am very sorry I missed this.) Coins in the ground weather differently based upon the metal composition of the coins. There are more coins in the soil than most people believe. Allen said the iron content of soil could cause detector problems. In choosing a detector you want to select one that can discriminate between bottle caps and coins.

1. Understand and appreciate your metal detector. Get to know its functions, its abilities and its drawbacks. The features used to entice you to buy the detector you now have were put there for a reason. Read the manual that came with the detector. And then experiment with each control, adjusting up, down, sideways and backwards. Sometimes one or two small tweaks may make the difference between a good or bad day of detecting, and with today's computerized features there's no reason for that to happen, or for you to be bored.
2. Utilize the all-metal mode when possible. Yes, discrimination is great, and yes, it's necessary, but learn how your detector reacts in the all-metal mode on any given site, and then decide how to proceed. Note the metered readouts as you do this. If the constant chatter offends, certainly switch to the disc mode. The first search of any site is an investigation, if you will. A chance to get a "feel" for the area. All metal will let you know immediately what it has to offer. Remember too, that sites used by a great many people over the years will provide you with a great many responses.... and not all of them are bad by a long shot!

3. Don't overdose on discrimination. Most detectorists set discrimination much too high. Any increase in this feature generally decreases depth proportionately. Yes, bending over and digging pulltabs and bottle caps is a pain, but leaving a gold coin or ring behind would be downright agonizing. For years I have used the notch below nickel acceptance as the standard for all my detectors, and I can tell you that many of my good finds would have been left in the ground if the setting had been any higher.
4. Always increase the sensitivity when possible. Not all areas will allow this, but whenever possible, go for that extra advantage, that extra inch. I have also found that by changing to a smaller coil I can usually increase sensitivity where I couldn't do the same with the standard coil. This combination in a trash-laden area often makes a great deal of difference, in part because it also necessitates a slower sweep speed.
5. Know when to change search coils. Never give up on a site until you've tried searching with either a larger or smaller coil. Like the features on your detector, search coils of various sizes were manufactured for a reason. An area seemingly void of any metal targets demands a search with a larger coil, while an extremely trashy area calls for a smaller, "sniper" coil. No matter which you opt for, go slowly. A hasty hunter may see extremely deep targets and offers only whispers easily missed by the larger coil. The smaller coil dictates a tighter sweep pattern to ensure adequate overlapping, and such disciplined detecting cannot be done at a racehorse pace.
6. Know when to search and when to research. Weather does indeed make a big difference in your success, as does the region of the country you live in. For example, the hot dry weather that Kansas suffers in some areas makes detecting almost impossible. The ground is as solid as a rock, and fissures appear in parched areas. You will not only get a blister trying to recover a deep target, but you will often find a brand new penny at 12 inches. The time it takes to find this out is better spent researching in order to be prepared for those ideal days ahead.
7. You won't find old coins where they don't exist! Spending two hours in an area void of coins is extremely frustrating. A little more time reading, asking questions, or surfing the web will pay off down the road. There are many productive sites simply waiting to be detected. What makes them difficult to discover is that they are not labeled? There are no big signs saying "I used to be a picnic grove" or "I'm an old ball field". I recently found a few turn of the century coins in an old field at an intersection I drove past every day. It turned out to be a ball field used years ago, abandoned when a newer one was built. Do an adequate job of researching, and you will find your productivity going up each time out.

Pat was the second presenter on metal detecting as a hobby. He seconded Allen that an individual needs to buy a quality detector. Take a look at the overall weight and configuration of the model that you are considering. Some models are pole mounted, while others have the option of being pole mounted or hip mounted. As many of the newer detectors are produced from lightweight microelectronics, weight has become less of a factor but it is still a good starting point. The next point to consider is the target

identification feature. Some models include basic to more elaborate meters that can identify the targets in the ground before you dig them up. Other models feature audio tone identification or a combination of the two. If you are a more visual person, you will probably be most in tune with a digital display meter. If you have a keen sense of hearing, the tone identification feature might appeal to you. If you will be metal detecting in an area with heavy ground mineralization you will want to consider either a detector with a ground balance control or a multi frequency style detector. Most detectors come with a standard, medium sized search coil. These standard coils provide good depth and sensitivity to coin sized objects. You can also choose a larger search coil as an option for locating deeper targets or a smaller coil for isolating targets that are close together. Finally, if your budget allows, get yourself a model that includes a built in pinpoint control. With it you can precisely zero in or pinpoint your target under the search coil, so you know exactly where to dig. The best detectors cost around \$1,500.

There was great interest in Allen and Pat's program. (I have elaborated on Ray's notes of the meeting and comments made by Allen and Pat.)

There was a spirited silent auction. Chris won the 1974 silver Ike coin door prize and C.J. won the 16 and under door prize of a roll of pennies.

Thanks to Ray for taking the minutes in my absence.