

# DIRT DIGEST

## MAGAZINE



*The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.*



**Lets Take a Look at the Tarsacci 8000!**

**We Interview Tom Turner, Experienced Beach Detectorists**

**Discovery Daisy Discusses Diving for Treasure and Shares Her Metal Detecting Experience**

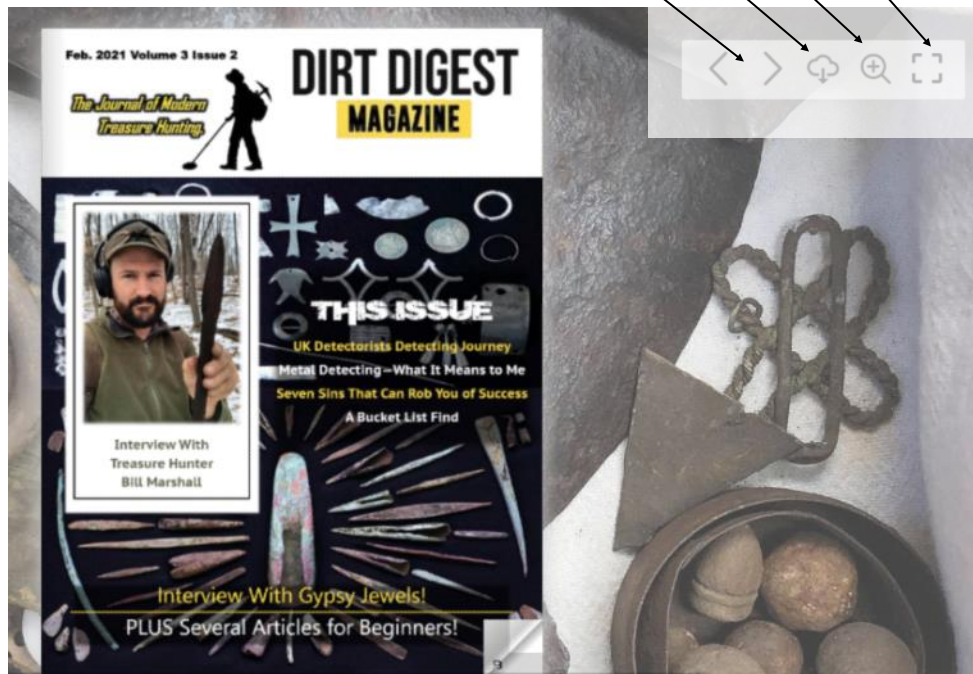
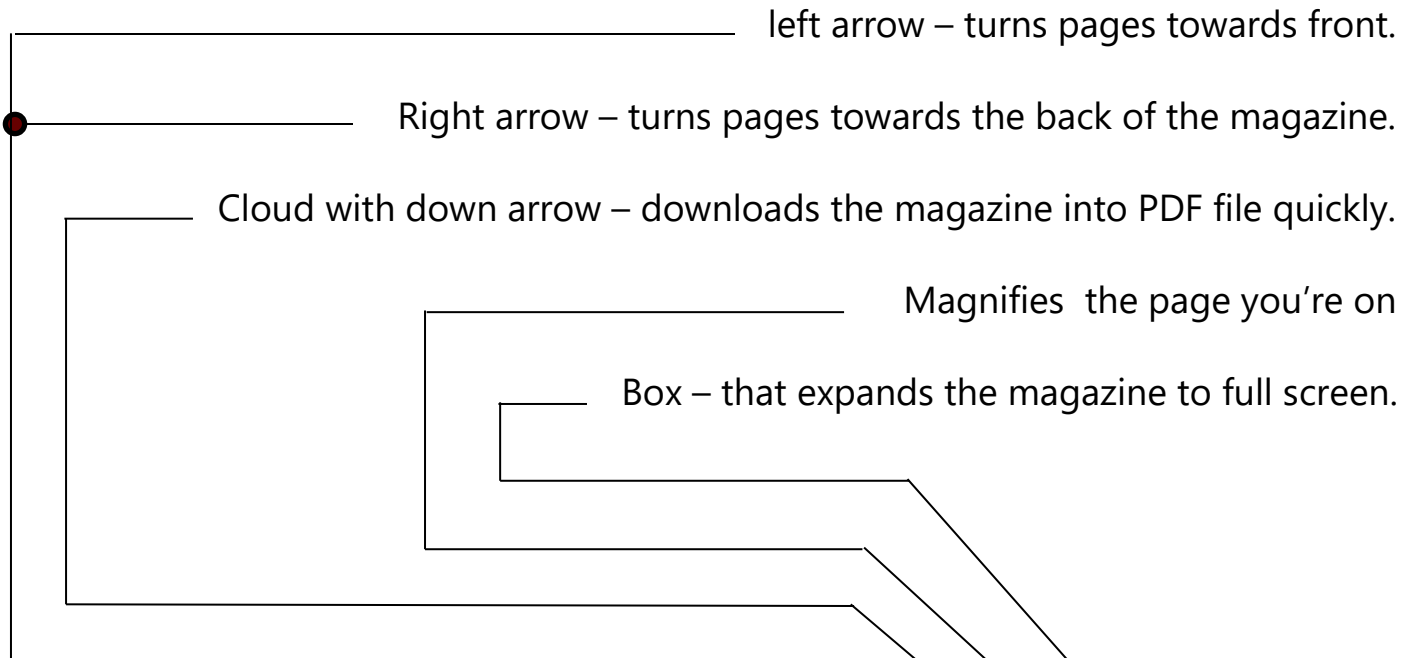


**Tips From Steve Zazulyk, Minelab Detexpert**

# How to get the Most out of the Dirt Digest Experience

Before you get started on this issue of Dirt Digest Magazine, you might want to take a moment to read through this to get the most out of your experience.

First, lets start with navigating Dirt Digest. Top right, outside of the magazine is a navigation bar. From left to right is the following:



The only thing that needs to be elaborated on is the download. If you're on a small device, say your smartphone and you're having trouble reading through the magazine, it will be easier to download it and look through it in PDF format.

## The Magazine Itself

As you flip through the magazine, as you turn a page you might see something quickly flash. That means there is a hyperlink to click on. For example, the Garrett ad and all of our other sponsors will have a hyperlink to click on to visit their website directly if you so choose to do. If you see any text a different color than the surrounding text and underlined it is a link to something else such as a supporting article, a website etc.

## Turning Pages

There are three different way to turn pages. The arrows top left in the navigation pane that was mentioned earlier is one way. Another way is if you hover your cursor at the edge of the magazine a navigation key will show and you can turn the pages that way. A third way is moving your cursor over the corners. The corner will appear folded over and you can either click and drag the page or click the area of the next page showing.

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**April 2021**

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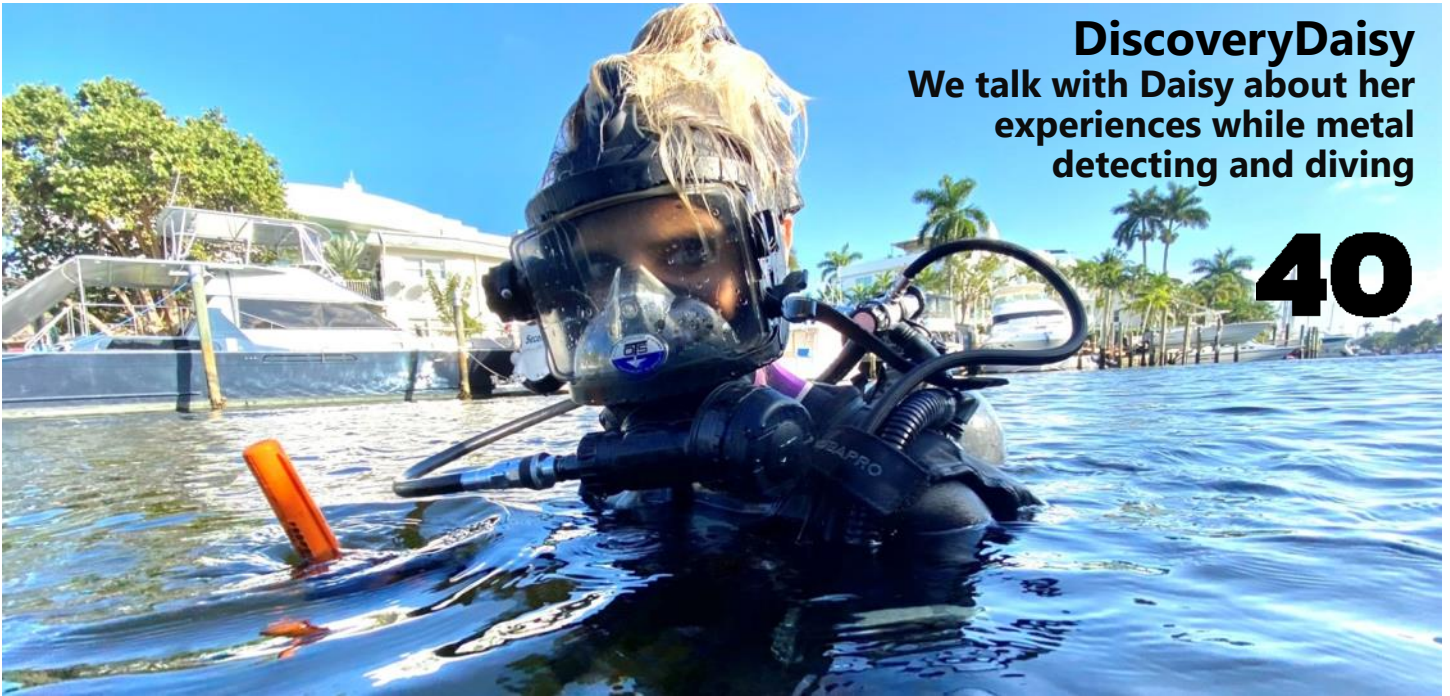
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# DIRT DIGEST MAGAZINE



*The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.*

## **Article Submissions**

Here at Dirt Digest we are always looking for articles.

Please submit articles, along with pictures to:

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Monthly deadline is the 15th

## **Finds Submissions**

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## **Thank you!!!**

We would like to express our appreciation to all who make this magazine possible and for everyone's continued support, without you, Dirt Digest wouldn't be possible!



*The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.*

# From the Editor

This issue of Dirt Digest Magazine you will find jam packed full of Interviews with expert beach and water hunters along with helpful information, tips and even product suggestions all pertaining to beach and water detecting.

My experience in metal detecting water is extremely limited but this month, as we put the magazine together, I learned so much about it. When we started putting it together at the beginning of the month, I felt like a fish out of water (pun totally intended) but by the end of the month I felt like I was ready to go water hunt and with confidence with all the great information packed into this issue. We hope you find it as enjoyable and informative as I have.

This month Dirt Digest Magazine decided to add a couple of new features we are proud to bring to our readers. We are always looking for ways to provide information that can help treasure hunters.

A few weeks ago I was talking to Dorian Cook and he wanted to know what I thought about him putting together leads from the OR's each month. The OR's (official records of the war of the rebellion) is records compiled from the Civil War. Official documents, notes, letters and even diary entries.

Dorian has poured through these records for years that have led to thousands of potential places to metal detect, many that have never been heard of.

It got me thinking, from my years of researching for metal detecting sites I've gotten fairly good at it and why not add some sites in the magazine? So, this month is the first of sites added from around the country. They range from exact locations to just a small lead that will take a lot of research but, it's a start!

***It is important to note if you should pursue any of these leads you must gain permission to metal detect any potential sites we list!***

If you should happen to hunt any of the sites we list we would love to hear about it!

## Metal Detecting Leads

**Erie County Pennsylvania** – In the present town of Waterford sat Fort Le Beouf. Built in 1753 by the French. It was active during the French and Indian war and saw battle. It was located where High Street and Water Street come together. There is a museum at where the fort was supposed to be. Urban setting with large yards and open areas around the creek the fort sat on.

**Washington county Tennessee** – According to a 1778 land grant George Russell was granted 300 acres on a fork of Big limestone creek.

**Washington county Tennessee** – 240 acres was granted to John Wallace on the north fork of Doe River

*Permission must be obtained at any site listed*

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## Treasure's From The Dirt



I found this 1825 British colonies Canadian 1 penny in east central Indiana swinging my Minelab Equinox 800

Found by: Travis Wall



HOW TO USE THE

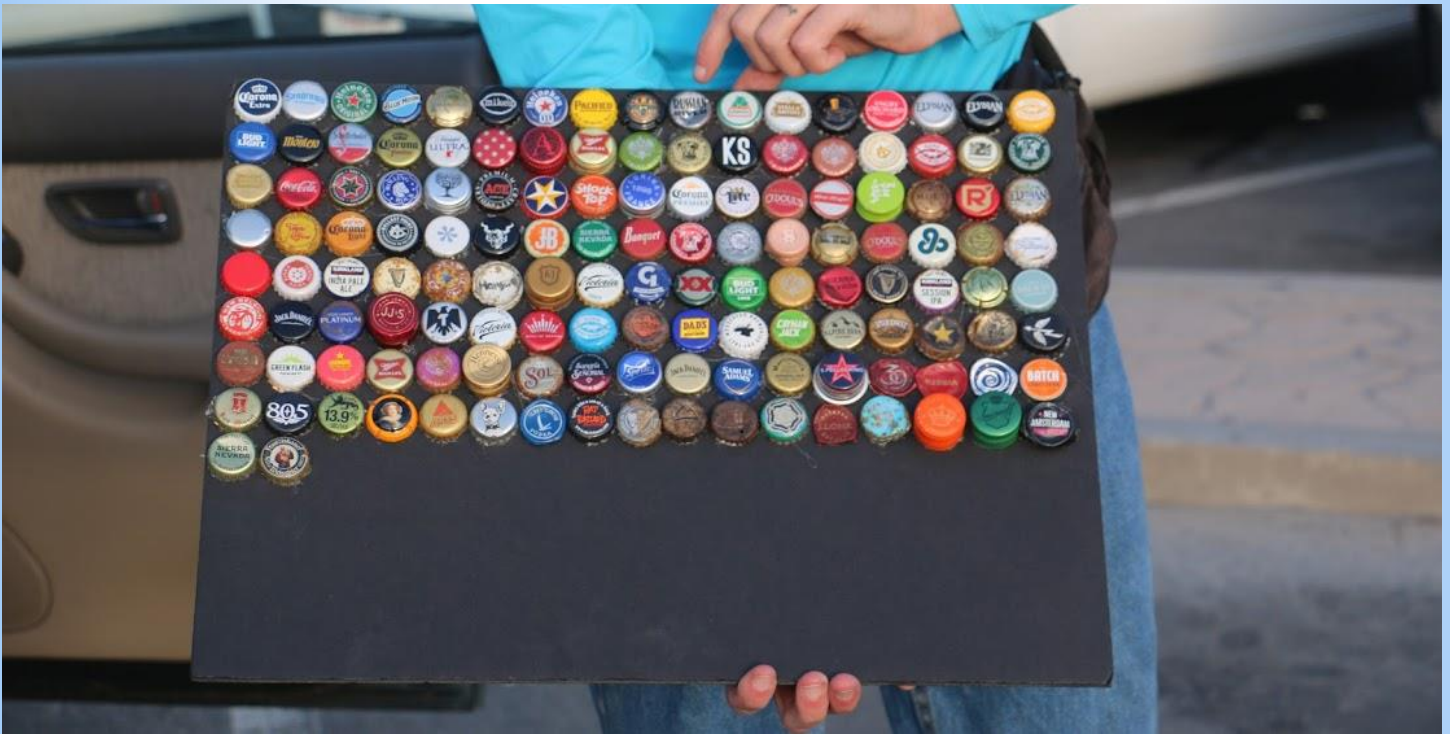
**SIMPLEX**

IN BLACK SAND

NOIKED MAIKRO



Article by: **Rick Hunter**



First off, I'm a relatively new metal detectorist, only upgrading to my Nokta Makro Simplex+ in August 2020 after getting into the hobby with an old favorite, the Bounty Hunter. From then till now, I've had 106 metal detecting trips in the San Diego area and have even made one trip farther up in Orange County.

I'm primarily a beach hunter, and this has provided me with a unique set of challenges. San Diego has a relatively large amount of metal detectorists, and these numbers are constantly growing. Many hunters are getting into the hobby with higher-end machines, which admittedly have the edge over the Simplex+. I realized very early on that if I

wanted to be successful with the Simplex+ and find the "fun stuff," I'd have to put in a lot more work and hunt a lot smarter. Southern California is notorious





for its mineralization on the beaches and the dreaded "black sand." The Simplex+ does struggle at times, but it is possible to find the targets! Having hunted a lot in the wet, I have been pleasantly surprised to find that on most beaches, my detector performs amazingly when I'm knee to waist-deep in the water. However, I do realize that's not always going to be the case.

San Diego's low tides often expose vast areas that will be full of targets, thanks to the amazing weather we have here. Just turning on the Simplex and swinging it over these areas will produce a symphony of beeps more akin to *Space Invaders* than your standard metal detecting. However, I've found that dialing down the sensitivity to 2-4 bars and having your ground balance manually adjusted to zero helps

eliminate most of this "chatter." The trade-off, of course, is that you sacrifice depth and might not hear every target that you pass. I had read that using "Field Mode" with these settings would help give a little more depth, but that's not been my experience, so I've consequently fought a lot of chatter and suffered quite a few false signals.



The modes I've found most versatile are "Park 1" and "All Metal Mode," which are my default settings on most days. When I'm submerged in the water, I only use All Metal Mode as I can often push the sensitivity quite high. However, once I'm in that sweet spot at low tide where the water hits your ankles but leaves you with

shiny sand (you know the spot?), I drop the sensitivity and swing low and slow in Park 1. I've learned that by slowly gridding the beach from the edge of the dry to the waterline and back, you'll cover most targets. When hitting black sand, however, everything gets turned upside down and becomes incredibly difficult. And that's even before trying to avoid "hot rocks" that ring up as anything from low iron to beautiful quarter signals. The hack I've discovered for black sand is to rather counter-intuitively raise the ground balance to 100, which has admittedly been somewhat hit or miss, though at times, successful.



Once I had learned some of my detector's limits, I knew I needed an edge to put me in the right places at the right times, so this is where I put in most of my work:



*Black sand typically encountered in Southern California*

### ***Research and reconnaissance.***

Go to the beaches at peak times, watch the live surf cams, note important dates that would draw crowds to the places that you hunt.

Observe where people gather in the water or on land and see where they are most active.

Remember these spots and return either at low tide when they will be exposed or at sundown when most people leave the beach.

I also carefully watch the weather and surf



reports to see when the swells will be largest at high tide, causing "push-in" events (these sometimes yield amazing things that have been lost long ago but have only now been dredged up by the waves).



I found this hobby at a time when I (like most people during this pandemic) needed something to center myself and transport me from daily worries. Being able to get out and walk miles while in this semi-meditative state of anticipation, concentrating on the sounds of the detector waiting for that signal, has helped me greatly through these difficult times. Not to mention: every now and then you get prizes! No matter how bad the hunt goes and how much trash you dig, remember: it only takes one good find to make it an amazing trip, so why not also make it enjoyable cleaning the beach while enjoying a good walk in the sand? Get out there!





# 57<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## SPRING SPECIAL!



1832 silver Capped Bust half dime found by Miguel A. while searching with the Apex with the 8.5" x 11" DD Raider™ searchcoil.

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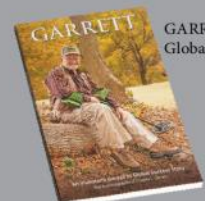
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# Treasure's From The Dirt

Hi mate Ash here aka The Southern Searcher on YouTube, these are some pictures from January 1st this year when I dug a live WWII Mills hand grenade on the beach with my Equinox 800. As I couldn't see what it was being in a lump of crust I hit it with my spade and it split in half and also did the grenade inside. The police, coastguard and then bomb disposal came out and I was lucky enough to get to press the button to detonate it. The bomb disposal expert told me if I hit it an inch to the left it would have detonated, it was also one of the biggest explosions from a hand grenade he had seen which proved how live and deadly it still was.

Found by: Ashley Jackson



**Grenade**



**Boom!!!!**



# Treasure's From The Dirt

Here are some pictures of my two gold coins found on the beach at the end of last year (2020). I had only recently got the Equinox 800 and about a week in I was having a very productive day on the beach digging plenty of pre decimal coins and lead Victorian bullets. I had dug a few lead bullets when I came across a solid 18 which was bullet numbers, trouble is it was wedged down beside a large rock and I couldn't get to it so I soon gave up and moved on. I went and dug yet another lead bullet but something made me return to the difficult 18 signal, I got down there using my pinpointer as a digging tool then got my hand down and managed to free up some stones.

In amongst those stones was an 1874 Victoria full sovereign! I was in disbelief I never expected to find one let alone on the beach.

Six weeks later I was on the same beach in a slightly different area when I got a solid 16 on the Equinox 800, after digging it out I could see yet another shiny gold coin looking up at me. This time it was a Victoria 1880 half sovereign, again I just couldn't believe it was happening to me.



***For those who frequent the Friendly Metal Detecting Forum, you have probably seen Tom Tanner's informative posts. Tom is very experienced in metal detecting on both land and beach in California, with a special niche of Central to Northern California. His knowledge and finds impress even seasoned metal detectorists.***

**Dirt Digest - How many years have you been metal detecting, and what beaches are you most familiar with detecting?**

Approx. 45 years detecting. Since about 8th grade. Most familiar with Monterey, California beaches. Like Del Monte to Marina vicinity. I didn't start hunting the beach (storm erosion events) till 1980. Prior to that, it was just tame-land hunting (turf, sandboxes, etc....).

**Dirt Digest - What machines have you used and are currently using to beach detect?**

In the past for the beach, it was various of the 1980's Garrett Detectors. Then in the 1990s, switched to all the various Whites Detectors of that era. Like the Eagles, the





Spectrums and XLTs, etc.... Then by the late 1990s, the Minelab Excalibur was “all-the-rage”, touted as a waterproof discriminator of that era. That was my introduction to Minelab. Which led to the Explorer II in the early 2000s. Currently stuck with that, for both land and beach. Although various successors have blown that out of the water for the intentions of the beach. Like the CTX, and now the Equinoxes. Both are waterproof, while the Explorer isn't. And both can be made hotter-on-low conductors, if a person so-elects.

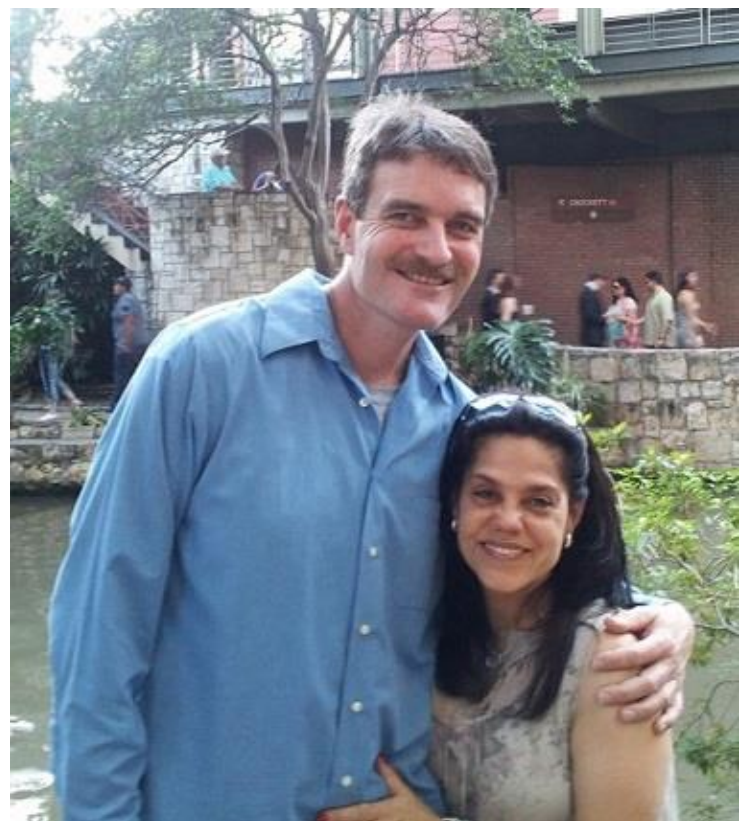
## **Dirt Digest - What are some notable finds you have found?**

16 gold coins so far. Four of which were beach storm erosion finds. The rest of the 16 are land finds. Like stage stops, oldtown demolition tear-outs, etc.... Also have over 100 Spanish & Mexican Reales found in California, dating as far back as

the 1750s, up to the California statehood era times (mid-1800s).

## **Dirt Digest - Besides all the highly informative information you have shared on metal detecting forums, have you had any notable appearances? TV shows, YouTube Videos, Podcasts, Metal Detecting Events.....**

As for “TV”, there was a hidden murder weapon (gun) recovery. I had coordinated between the San Jose Metal Detecting Club & the Monterey County Sheriffs in the early 2000s. The suspected



area where the gun was stashed, was a mile of country terrain. So the club's members fanned out over the remote mountainous region, at the directions of the investigators. After an hour or so, one of the members found the buried hidden gun. Which resulted in the solving & closing of a criminal case. Many years later, one of the Hollywood CSI "Cold Case" type shows profiled that particular case. Several of us, who'd been involved in the original search, agreed to come to pose for the camera. Because they wanted to recreate that part of the story. A few-second clip can be seen, with a few of us in the background. Most of it ended up on the cutting room floor, except for an

interview with the particular member who found it. He got time recounting the actual signal, the recovery, the day's event, etc....

As far as YouTube videos, I've made a few solo videos. Like one where I explain my type of pistol-grip/arm-cuff one-hand-action sand scoop. And several others that my main detecting partner and I showcase some of our ghost-town hunts.

**Dirt Digest - I was blessed to learn how to use my multi-frequency detector on one of the most mineralized black sand beaches in SoCal that even PI machines struggle to detect; it was hard but taught me a lot very quickly. I see even seasoned detectorists have a problem**



## **detecting black mineralized sand. Do you have any tips for handling such beaches?**

For standard coin-machines (of which, yes, Multi-Frequency modern types are the current popular breed), then the only thing you can do is turn your sensitivity down (or go in "auto"). And raise your coil a hair more off the ground. And move the coil much slower (which, for Multi-Frequency, isn't a detriment). But ultimately, for the very bad wet-salt-sand-black, you will simply have to switch to a PI (Pulse Induction) machine. The problem then becomes, is that you have

no way to ID iron (paper clips, bent nails, bobby-pins, etc...) Fortunately, where I'm at in California, we have very few beaches with this jet-black problem. But yes, there's been a few times, even in my part of California, that I wished I'd had a Pulse. At all other locations though, I much prefer to have the full TID of standard discriminating machines. The debate of pros & cons is endless and very nuanced for each site, beach, objectives, etc...

## **Dirt Digest - When a detectorist arrives at the beach, what should they look for when looking at the sand and surf?**



**What kinds of waves and or water conditions should they keep an eye for or avoid.**

If your question is about beach erosion, then: The answer can fill a book. Too much to compile into a paragraph or two. But if you google "Tom's Beach Tips", the top hit is an article I wrote on the subject. Some of the surfer web links might be out of date by now. And others (in this digital day & age) are better. Also, beach webcams now often times can show you certain beaches. Where you can discern if erosion is going on at some beaches where cameras exist, that aim-down on the sand (as opposed to aiming out to the surf).

Basically: High tides combined with high swells and surf, and preferably on-shore or cross-shore winds. If mother nature is eroding the beach, then find if she's made any zones into a natural riffle-board sluice-box effect.

**Dirt Digest - Recently I had terrific success at a very large fresh cut after a storm. What intrigued me was watching the other detectorists tackle**

**the same cut with less success. Some needed to slow down; some I could tell were not understanding sand patterns and where to detect. What tips can you give those detectorists struggling to detect a cut and get good finds?**

Again: Refer to my article. And yes, I've seen many times where only-those-in-the-know are scarfing up on goodies. While others are wandering around the wrong areas and are oblivious to the "right zones", the right sounds, the right machine & settings, etc...

**Dirt Digest - We all hear about if a beach is producing fishing weights, it is good, but let's talk about other metal items. For example, if a beach is producing a lot of aluminum, it shows the light targets haven't been washed up and out. What other metals or finds say the beach isn't ideal for detecting because the erosion isn't in your favor?**

As you say, if you start getting lightweight aluminum on the wet intertidal zone after supposed erosion events, that's a bad sign. E.g.: tabs, foil, etc..... Also, to answer your question: crown bottle caps. They are also

lightweight.

And if you see half-buried fresh seaweed sticking out of the sand, that's a bad sign. And if the sand is soft-to-the-step (you're making footprints on the wet), that's a bad sign. The sand should be firm and hard to the step (such that you could imagine riding a bicycle on it, for instance). Waves should preferably be chocolate brown (rather than glassy blue). Because that means the water is suspending recently pulled-off-sand. Waves should preferably be crashing on-

shore, rather than crashing off-shore and only "rolling" up.

## **Dirt Digest - If our readers want to follow you, where should they?**

I currently enjoy posting on the "Friendly Metal Detecting Forum". And for a YouTube Channel, to find my hunting partner's channel (of which I'm in several of his videos), type in keywords "Spanish Trail" + CalCobra. And then watch any that are attributed to CalCobra. For my video on sand scoops, search for "Sand Scoop" + "Tom Tanner". It'll be the top hit.



## Treasure's From The Dirt



Southern California Beach finds made with the Equinox 800.  
Found by: Wade Hammans





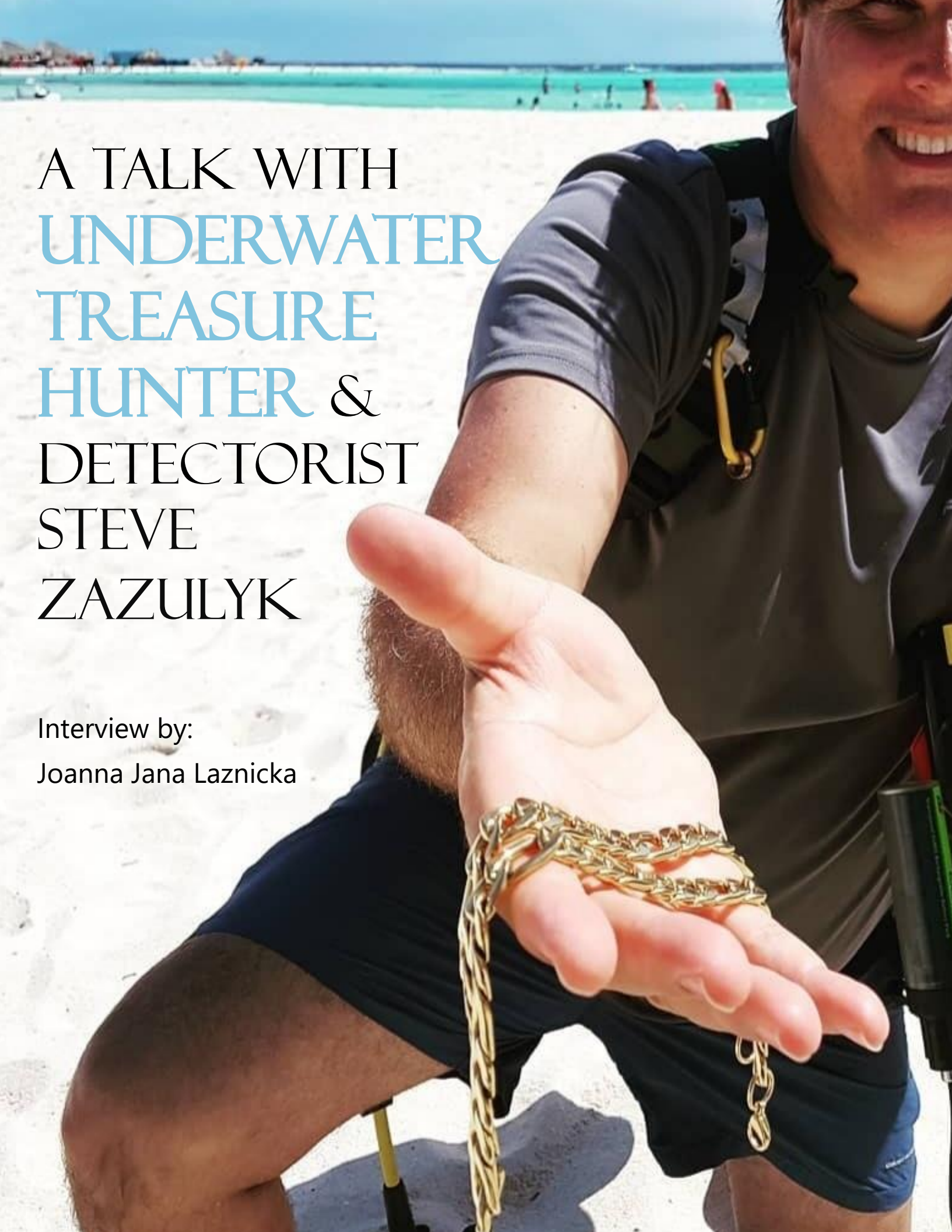
# Treasure's From The Dirt



WWI artifacts and other metal detecting finds made recently

Found by: Bertoldi Marco



A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a dark t-shirt and shorts, is kneeling on a sandy beach. He is smiling and holding a thick, gold-colored metal chain in his right hand, showing it to the camera. The background shows a clear blue sky, turquoise water, and a few people in the distance.

A TALK WITH  
UNDERWATER  
TREASURE  
HUNTER &  
DETECTORIST  
STEVE  
ZAZULYK

Interview by:  
Joanna Jana Laznicka



When it comes to underwater treasure hunting Steve Zazulyk is one of the first metal detectorists that comes to mind. An Ontario, Canada resident, he travels globally, scuba diving, doing recoveries, and treasure exploration.

Steve has an impressive resume. He has done over 500 ring recoveries and is a Minelab Detexpert. He has been featured on past and upcoming documentaries and shows, most notably the first season of the History Channel's *The Curse of Oak Island*. He found the first confirmed discovery and the most significant artifact known as the "Swamp Pirate Coin". Steve is also an accomplished writer, authoring the book *The Ring Finder*, and a new book, *Dive Detecting*, to be released via Minelab in November 2021. Additionally, he is a columnist for one of the popular US-based metal detecting magazines.

As someone who also grew up in Canada and detects both in the US and Canada, I understand the challenges of diving in scuba diving in cold fresh and saltwater. I was pretty excited to interview Steve. Below are my questions and his answers.

**Are you still a brand ambassador for Minelab and noted as a Minelab Detexpert? For readers who don't know what a brand ambassador and a Minelab Detexpert are, can you explain what it means and what perks come with it? Do any other brands sponsor you?**

**Steve:** I am a Minelab Detexpert and a brand ambassador currently working on a new Minelab supported book due out in November 2021 on *Dive Detecting*. The book is an extremely exciting project that will be completely focused on

underwater detecting, treasure hunting, and my many stories from around the world. I love the Minelab Detexpert program because it connects pros like myself with the community and other detectorists to teach and support the product and this amazing hobby.

**Have you had any notable appearances besides being on the first season of *The Curse of Oak Island*?**

**Steve:** I was fortunate to be involved with season 1 of *The Curse of Oak Island* and feel very proud about my involvement in launching the series. Since then, I have been featured in multiple podcasts and had my own column called Below the Surface in the United States magazine called American

Digger. I've been featured in a documentary in Norway and travel to detecting events in Canada, the United States, and Europe. Recently my detecting partner Ryan Fazekas and myself were featured on PBS which followed us on a current hunt we are on searching for the buried treasure of the notorious 1930s gangster Dutch Schultz's called Gangsters Gold. I am also involved in a few projects being shot this summer for Discovery Channel.

**As a Canadian, I understand some of the obstacles and limitations of diving in cold fresh and saltwater. What is the most northern spot you have been diving, and what were you searching for?**





**Steve:** As a Professional Ring Finder, I am hired by private clients to find lost family heirlooms and sentimental items of value they have lost in the water. This service which I talk about in my book "The Ring Finder" has taken me to Italy, Germany, Austria, the Caribbean, and the Northern parts of Canada. Using chainsaws to cut through the ice, I have dove into deep, dark, freezing water to locate these treasures, including a hunt in a tributary off of Canada's James Bay for a \$100,000 diamond ring.

**Do you use a drysuit or wetsuit? Can you give us some tips for purchasing dry suits or wet suits, what to look at, what to avoid, and what manufacturers you would recommend?**

**Steve:** When purchasing any equipment, especially wet suits and dry suits, it's far more important to buy something that works for you specifically rather than rushing to a popular brand. A common mistake because brands act and fit differently. I'm 6 feet tall and over 190 lbs, and it's imperative my equipment is comfortable and reliable. Nothing worse than finding out in the middle of your ice dive, your drysuit is leaking freezing water down your leg. I personally use a Cressi ICE man semi-dry suit.

**Besides finding the Pirate Coin, which is very cool by the way, do you have any other interesting events of finds that happened at Oak Island while you were there on or off-camera?**

**Steve:** Oak Island was one of the strangest treasure hunts I



had ever been on. During my time that I spent traversing the entire Island off-camera by myself, I discovered much more than what was seen by the public on-air and was truly something I'll never forget. I personally know there is a huge super spiritual element to the island and for obvious reasons, the owners keep a lot of information and secrets about the Island to themselves. Only a very small circle of people myself included have been fortunate enough to see and experience it. That being said I do have personal footage I took while I was there locating other finds and possible clues to the location of the treasure.

**I understand Covid makes travel difficult, however as travel restrictions ease, where can travelers find the laws surrounding metal detecting for specific bodies of water or beaches.**

**Steve:** As far as getting permission or finding out where and when you can dive, it is really up to the local authorities and laws in that region you plan to dive. It is imperative for each person who is water detecting or dive detecting to find out what they are before you enter the water. I have dive detected, and water hunted on five continents and have found countries that don't have a problem with people detecting in their water. However, I have also been in countries where the local police were called to arrest me as soon as I surfaced from the water machine guns in hand. Trust me, you want to do your homework before you enter any body of water. As far as Canada is concerned, most areas in the water are free to detect however, what you find can get you into an issue if it is considered historical or

indigenous antiquity. I also tell people to stick to the beach, avoid destroying any marine life at all costs and report any historical find to the local authorities.

**Readers of Dirt Digest have sent me private messages on social media asking me: What's the best way to airline travel with metal detectors? Do you have any tips for those traveling with a detector? Carry on, or check-in? What have you found with specific airlines? I admit I travel from Southern California to Northern Canada,**

**specifically British Columbia, using WestJet and only have experience with that airline and clearing customs in Vancouver with a metal detector.**

**Steve:** As far as traveling or flying with my detector I haven't had much of a problem after I realized your equipment is going to be thrown around very brutally in the process. I suggest buying a Pelican Air case which is made of high-strength polymer designed to protect your equipment from even the most brutal airport handlers. As far as airlines are





concerned, I have found good and bad in all of them but prefer to travel by good ole Air Canada. They have been very accommodating with my diving equipment and detectors, and I find their economy and 1st class service are better than other airlines. Mostly with only three crashes out of 4.75 million flights, the odds are in my favor.



**There are tons of beginner tips on the internet. Can you give us tips for advanced to seasoned detectorists regarding water hunting?**

**Steve:** Tips : Here's some real tips I wish I would have known when I first started



Buy an aftermarket Dive Shaft for your detector! I personally use the under over from Anderson! Your coil should always be within reach of your hand. You can always tell a newbie when they are using the long shaft which should only be used on land and walking in water.

A detecting pouch made specifically for dive detecting will ensure you won't lose your finds. Trust me you won't regret this! They fit around the waist and sit in the perfect position on the front of a diver. Easy to open with 2 separate areas for good and bad finds! Anderson again has a small carabiner for rings that zip up inside to ensure you won't lose your rings.



Use a larger carabiner for your rings on your B.C (Buoyancy Compensator Device). We always use a twist lock carabiner attached to the chest area of our B.C to ensure you don't lose them on your dive.

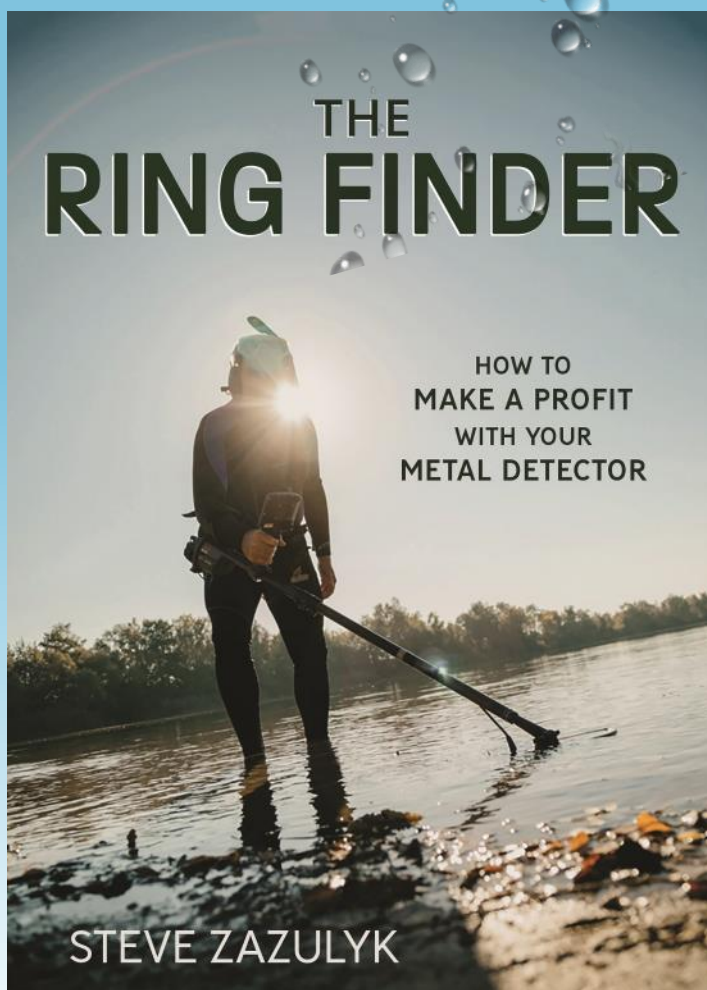


Bonus tip: One on One off rule! More importantly under water than on land keep one earphone on and the other slightly off the other ear so you can hear oncoming boats and jet skis. It may save your life!

**For those who would like to buy your book and keep up with your metal detecting and treasure hunting adventures, where is the best place to purchase it and follow you?**



**Steve:** My new book *Dive Detecting* comes out in November 2021. Readers can buy my book *The Ring Finder* on Amazon, and you can catch me on Tik Tok and Instagram by searching Dive Detecting.



*The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.*

# Treasure Hunter Chris Furr

Interview by: Joanna Jana Laznicka

I started metal detecting with a Tesoro Mojave, and while it was great, I needed a beach detector that could handle black wet mineralized sand. Good beach metal detectors that can handle badly mineralized sand often cost big dollars. I also wanted a machine that was versatile. The best price point at that time, and even now, is the Minelab Equinox. I opted for the 800 and took it down to my favorite weekend beach for a walk and right away felt confused. Little did I know it is known as one of the worst local beaches to detect due to the concentration of black mineralized sand. The machine was

going crazy; it sounded like Star Wars R2-D2 making love, beeping in all different directions,

and the VDI numbers going crazy. Frustrated, I turned to the Minelab Equinox | Beach Hunter Facebook group reading past posts and asking questions. From there, Chris Furr privately messaged me and offered guidance on how to handle mineralized sand. He directed me to have metal detecting success and to not be discouraged and keep going in this hobby. Chris and I stayed in touch, and I began to follow his metal detecting informative posts and metal detecting finds he found along South and North Carolina.

Then, a couple of years back, Mike Haer asked me if I wanted to team up with him and revamp All Metal Mode. Knowing

Chris Furr is a Graphic Designer and I have a design block, we used him to make the All Metal Mode logo. I knew he understood what visually would appeal to a metal detectorist.

There are four people I have to thank for my metal detecting success, four men, Damon, Michael T., Randy, and Chris Furr.

When the Dirt Digest Magazine beach and water detecting edition was getting planned as a tribute to the seasoned detectorists who took time to teach the struggling newbie beach detectorists, I had to interview and give thanks to at least one of my teachers. Make sure you read to the end, Chris points out his favorite Equinox Detector settings and shares some other useful tips.

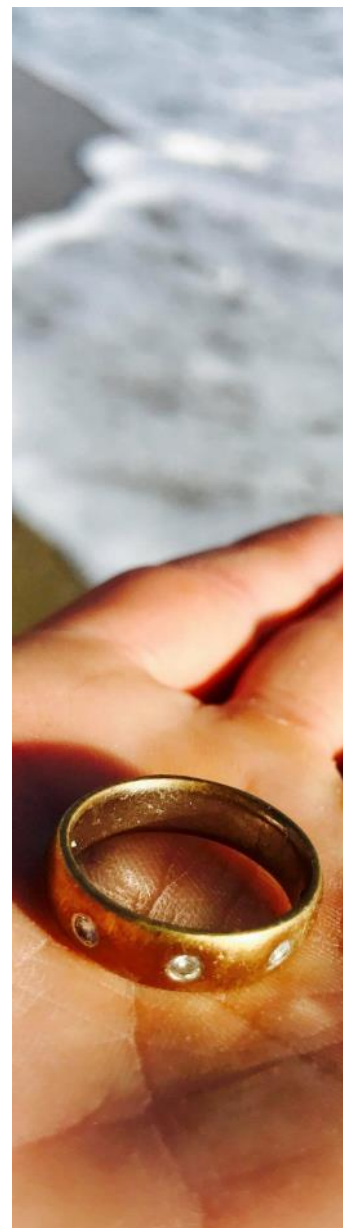
## *Chris Furr Interview*

***Dirt Digest:*** *How long have you been graphic designing?*

I've always been the artistic type, but I've been designing with software for about 6-7 years. I design pretty much everything on the front-end including logos, t-shirts, business cards, web pages, app icons, sports logos, labels, pretty much anything and everything I can.

***Dirt Digest:*** *What sparked your interest in metal detecting?*

Well, honestly it all started about 6-7 years ago when I started watching the Discovery Channel TV series, *Gold Rush*. I absolutely got hooked on this TV show and caught the gold bug very fast. I was walking in a local hobby store one day looking for gold pans and I came across a Bounty Hunter Tracker IV Metal Detector. I thought to myself since I don't live in the mountains this could be the next best thing



***Dirt Digest:*** *Where do you generally metal detect?*

I definitely consider myself to be a beach hunter. I detect anywhere from South Carolina to North Carolina. Saltwater beaches are my favorite beaches to detect. The tide changes are always covering and uncovering treasures!

***Dirt Digest:*** *How long have you been metal detecting with the Minelab Equinox, and why did you choose it?*

I actually bought my Minelab Equinox about 4-6 months after it was released.

To be honest the only reason I got the Equinox was that it was the newest Minelab machine on the market and it had all the bells and whistles I needed for beach hunting. I stay in the wet sand 90% of the time and I also wade in the water when the ocean lets me.

***Dirt Digest:*** *What are some of your favorite*

*beach detecting finds?*

That's a good question. I'm gonna be honest my favorite beach finds are the gold ones. Haha...I absolutely love seeing gold in the scoop. But I will say I also love finding old coins and artifacts. There are so many shipwrecks out there and like many other detectorist, I've found my share of copper sheathing, ship spikes, and bullets. There was this one time a few years ago after a hurricane I found a really old cross. It's probably one of my favorite artifacts in my collection. I had local archaeologists look at it to



determine if it was from a shipwreck or not. Let's just say I was very happy to hear it was.

***Dirt Digest:*** *For those who live in your area and/or are traveling to your area and want to beach detect, where do they look up the laws for what beaches they can and can not detect?*

SC and North Carolina beaches are good to detect. The only thing is we have to stay away from National parks. Definitely call local authorities if you question anything and read all the signs.

***Dirt Digest:*** *What are some of your favorite accessories for the Minelab Equinox, specifically for beach hunters?*

My favorite accessory is my beach scoop!



Haha. I use a T-Rex

Yeah to be honest the stock coil is all I need. Also, a carbon fiber shaft is always a good upgrade for a beach hunter!

***Dirt Digest:*** *Do you have any programs for the Minelab Equinox you like for beach detecting? If so can you write it out so others can try the program?*

I love Beach 1 and 2. I will say I gravitate more to Beach 2 because it's a little quieter. I also prefer hunting in 2 tones.





I have the Minelab Equinox 800 so I go into the settings and I change my pitch so all my tones above 0 are to the highest pitch and I set everything below

0 to the lowest pitch I can hear. The reason being is so non-iron target sound the same so I don't miss anything. I honestly dig every good signal I can on the beach. The Minelab Equinox loves gold and the gold range on the machine can be anywhere from 1-27. I've found gold all between. Actually, I know of someone who found a 24k gold ring at a 27. That's a U.S. quarter most of the time. I also dig all 20-22 tones. Most of those are U.S. penny's but occasionally you will also find a gold ring!



***Dirt Digest:*** *Can you give us two advanced tips for beach detecting using the Minelab Equinox?*

Don't be afraid to dig one-way signals. One day I got a signal that was a good



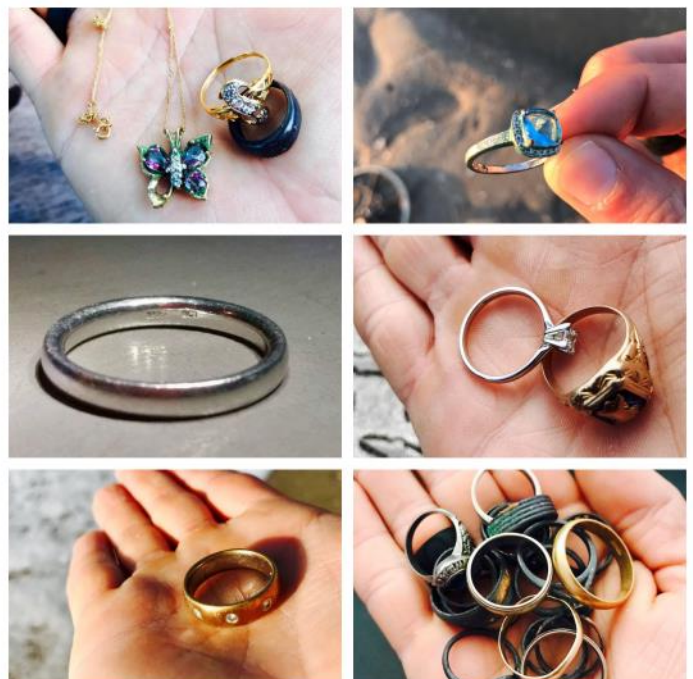
change to a monotone so you are not able to discriminate. On the Equinox all metal mode just gives you those extra iron tones. I have to listen to iron when I hunt. If I'm not hearing iron then most of the time I'm not close to any other targets and that includes gold.

***Dirt Digest:*** *If readers want to follow your metal detecting finds, where is the best place for them to follow you?*

Find me on Friendly Metal Detecting Forum. InShepherdsArms is my forum name.

tone one way but faint in volume and when I swung the other way it was an iron low tone. I was thinking it was another bottle cap. But to my surprise, it ended up being a deep 10k ring!

Hunt in all metal! Why do you ask? Well because when the Minelab Equinox is in the all metal mode it's actually still in discrimination mode because you can still look at the screen to check for good targets and hear good tones. Most other machines in all metal mode normally





INTERVIEW BY: JOANNA JANA LAZNICKA

# DISCOVERY DAISSY



When I was doing research on Predator Tool Shovels for an article I was writing a couple months back, I was looking around to see which detectorists use them and which shovel models they were using. In my research, I came across DiscoveryDaisy on Instagram and started following her feed. After the article published, I sent her a private message telling her that she was one of the detectorists I listed as a Predator Tools Shovel user in my article. From that starting point, she and I exchanged a few direct messages. I quickly saw that she has a real passion for underwater detecting and thought it would be great to interview her.



***Dirt Digest: Which did you do first, metal detect or scuba dive? How did you get started?***

I started scuba diving first back in 2016 when I took it as a college elective. I fell in love with the hobby and have been doing it ever since. Now that I scuba dive and metal detect together, it just adds more fun to the sport and I am able to find more treasure.

***Dirt Digest: What regions, bodies of water, types of water do you generally detect in?***

Typically, where I generally detect is in the South East United States. I have detected in oceans, rivers, and lakes. Some of these include local lakes in South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina, the Cooper River, and the Atlantic Ocean along the East Coast.

***Dirt Digest: What was your first underwater metal detector, and what detector do you use these days?***

The first detector I used underwater was my Garrett AtMax. I didn't go very deep with it but it got the job done. I then

wanted to transfer to something smaller and easier to carry so I started using my Garrett Pinpointer. It worked really well and helped me find more treasure. I now have been using the Nokta Macro PulseDive. This has allowed me to dive deeper and find more treasure.

***Dirt Digest: What are some notable finds you have found underwater detecting?***

Some of my notable finds while metal detecting have been precious metals such as gold and silver jewelry, cell phones, knives, bullets, and coins. Some other amazing finds that I have found while metal detecting in the ocean are fossils and shark teeth. While I haven't been detecting as long as I have been diving, I look forward to adding to my list of finds.

***Dirt Digest: I see you detect with some recognizable faces in the metal detecting world. How did you connect with them and end up in their videos?***

I was able to connect with many of the fellow detectors through mutual friends and social media. We all ended up being great friends and enjoyed detecting together. It's always fun to do something

you love with great people who share the same love for the hobby.

***Dirt Digest: Have you had any close calls underwater detecting?***

I have had a couple close calls while underwater detecting. One of those was getting caught up in a fishing line. I have learned not to panic in these types of situations and was able to get myself unstuck. Another time that was a close call was when I was diving and detecting at night near a boat dock and I got stuck underneath it. That has always been one of my biggest fears while diving and then it happened. Thankfully, like I mentioned



earlier, I have learned not to panic and was able to make my way back out. We do occasionally dive with alligators. Thankfully, I have not had any encounters with them.

***Dirt Digest: What tips can you give for those looking to get into underwater detecting?***



The first tip that I would give anyone that is looking to get into underwater detecting is to definitely go for it. I have spoken with a lot of people who have talked about doing it, but then they say they are scared. I recommend to just do it – you will not regret it. Another tip that I would give is to practice, practice, practice. Underwater detecting can be so fun, but you need to make sure you know what you are doing. Lastly, for those who do end up underwater detecting, don't get discouraged. There will be many days and hunts that you will go diving and detecting and come up empty handed or not finding anything special. Don't let that discourage you. Keep hunting.

***Dirt Digest: Many detectorists understand how to get permission to detect land, but how do you know if you have permission to detect certain bodies of water? Who regulates this, and how do you check if it is ok?***

These are great questions because I am a very big rule follower. Wherever I go, I always make sure I am following rules and have permission. If I am unsure as to what the specific regulations are for an area, I make sure to do my research on

the local laws and regulations. Sometimes, I will also reach out to a local officer who can provide me with the laws for that specific area. If the water is on private property, I am always sure to get permission from the property owner as well.

***Dirt Digest: Do you have any advanced tips for detectorists who have been water hunting but still struggling to uncover good finds?***

One tip would be as I mentioned above: Don't get discouraged and just keep hunting. Make sure you are doing your research to see if the area is well populated and has the potential for

many finds or has a history of relics. I have had many days where I do not find anything notable, but I stay positive because I know that more finds will be found.

***Dirt Digest: For those who want to follow your land and water metal detecting adventures, where should they go?***

For those who want to follow my adventures, they can find me on Instagram @discoverydaisy. I am also starting a YouTube channel called DiscoveryDaisy. I look forward to having everyone with me on my adventures.





# ALL METAL MODE

METAL DETECTING PODCAST

## Tuesday 8pm EST

Hosts:

Dennis Wynne & Dorian Cook

Join us as we discuss metal detecting and history with two of the best detectorist in America.

# History Told through Metal Detecting

# **Recommended Products for Water and Beach Metal Detecting**

**Article by: Joanna Jana Laznicka**



What is the right equipment for getting into water or beach metal detecting? Or what should you look for when wanting to upgrade your current equipment to something better?

It doesn't take much research to know that water can do a lot of damage to metal detecting equipment. Add ocean salt to the mix and the combination can ruin just about anything. Some product marketing material might say that the equipment is waterproof or that it works at the beach. But just because it is waterproof in one area, doesn't mean it will also work on sand where you will be metal detecting. Buying the right equipment saves you money and time researching.

Here's a list of my recommended Water and Beach Metal Detecting Products to help you purchase wisely:

***Best Affordable Detector for Beaches with Black Sand***

**Minelab Equinox 600 or 800**

The price of the Equinox is a little high, but there are few metal detectors that can handle the difficulty of black sand at the price point of the Equinox. The machine is a favorite for most beach metal detectorists, especially since it is fully submersible 3 meters (or 10 feet). It can grow with you as your metal detecting skills grow, which makes it ideal for both beginners and advanced detectorists.



*Equinox 800*



### ***Best Affordable Underwater, Handheld Metal Detector***

#### **Nokta Makro PulseDive**

PulseDive underwater metal detector comes either with 5.5 inch or 8-inch search coil. Used by scuba divers, snorkelers and metal detectorists exploring shallow water, the PulseDive runs on Pulse Induction Technology, allowing it to be a very stable operation in saltwater or in any type of soil.

### ***Best Affordable All-Around Sand Scoop***

#### **CKG Scoops, Hex 9 + Handle/Pole**

CKG Scoops are a staple in beach metal detecting. They are a great sand scoop for beginners and advanced beach detectorists alike. Reasonably priced compared to other scoops on the market, it weighs just 2.66 lbs. and is made with anti-corrosion stainless steel with a carbon fiber handle. It can be purchased either from the manufacturer's website or on Amazon.



### ***Best Sand Scoop for Rough Surf***

#### **Royal Manufacturing 48" Underwater Beach Sand Scoop. SKU: 00102 - US Made**

this 6" round Underwater Scoop is made of 14 gage (.075") Stainless Steel all around. It has a 1" handle and lanyard loop that helps to identify the direction the scoop is facing. The scoop is heavy enough to help keep you balanced in the waves and under normal use, it's nearly indestructible.



## ***Best Travel Sand Scoop***

### **Royal Manufacturing**

#### **Step-On Scoop Beach Sand Scoop, SKU:00101 - US Made**

Weighing just 3 lbs., this sand scoop has a removable handle and easily breaks down into two pieces to fit in a suitcase for easy transportation. It is made with stainless steel hardware and will never rust.

## ***Best Shovel for Rocky Riverbeds or Beaches***

### **Predator Shovel**

#### **Model 24, The Phoenix - US Made**

This shovel is made with quality American Made Steel and will last longer than most shovels on the market. The Model 24, The Phoenix, is especially made for metal detecting in rocky riverbeds and beaches where sand scoops will not work. The blade portion of the shovel is shaped with a scoop that is different from V-shape blades found with shovels. It is ideal for moving rocks and mud out of the way to find your target.



## ***Best Affordable Find Pouch***

### **Calces365**

#### **Metal Detecting Water Proof Mesh Waist Pouch, ASIN:B081K3QJ8**

Best used as a main pouch, it costs just \$12.99 on Amazon and outlasts most brand-name pouches. Should it rip, it is inexpensive to replace. It is light and the mesh bottom lets water and sand fall through. It has a super long 52-inch belt, 10 inches by 11 inches, and has two pockets with a carabiner. Great for beach detecting.



## ***Best Affordable Footwear for Metal Detecting at Beaches and in Water***

**IREENUO**

**Neoprene Diving Socks, 3mm,  
ASIN:B07VVD4CH1**

Carried on Amazon at the affordable price of \$14.99 to \$19.99, they are a favorite for beach and water hunters. The booty goes up the ankle, keeping sand out so your feet don't get shredded. Made with High-Quality 3mm Neoprene for optimum comfort and warmth, they have adjustable ankle straps for a secure fit to minimize water getting in. The soles are tough but flexible with grip. Available in XS, S, M, XL, and 2XL.



## ***Best Affordable Hat***

**Sumolux**

**Outdoor, Rain, Sun, Waterproof, Quick-Drying, Long Brim, Collapsible, Hat,  
ASINB083LW8HBY**

This hat will keep you cool on hot days, is light, keeps its shape, folds and packs easily and can be washed as needed. Will not be damaged by saltwater.



# PULSE DIVE SCUBA DETECTOR

**With 8" Coil**

**NEW**

## LET TREASURE HUNTING BE YOUR NEXT UNDERWATER ADVENTURE!

The PulseDive Scuba Detector gives you the benefits of high end underwater metal detectors at a fraction of the cost and size.

Lightweight & rugged with audio, LED light and vibration alerts!

**\$189**

PulseDive Scuba Detector is available in 2 colors: **BLACK** or **YELLOW**.



**DISCOVER HIDDEN TREASURES BELOW THE SURFACE!**



**IP68**  
Waterproof up to 60m (200ft.)



**Pulse Induction**  
This powerful technology allows for very stable operation in saltwater or in any type of soil.



**Detection Alerts & Indicators**  
1. Audio Only  
2. Vibration Only  
3. Audio & Vibration  
LED Indicator in addition to any of the above



**LED Flashlight**  
Easily see your target at night or when hunting underwater.



**Rapid Retune**  
Ensures stable operation of the device with the push of one button.



**Dive Mode**  
Provides easier operation under water by locking the keys and preventing them to be pressed by water pressure while deep diving.

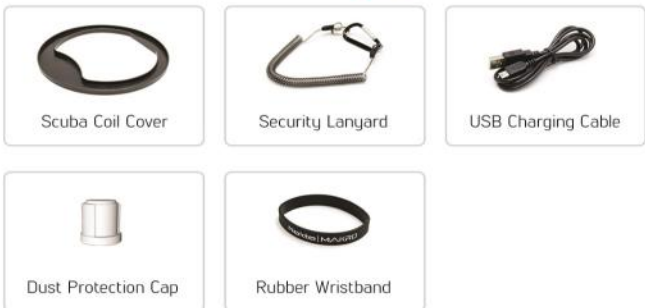


**Lost Alarm**  
After 5 minutes of inactivity, the device emits an audible alarm and LED starts flashing.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

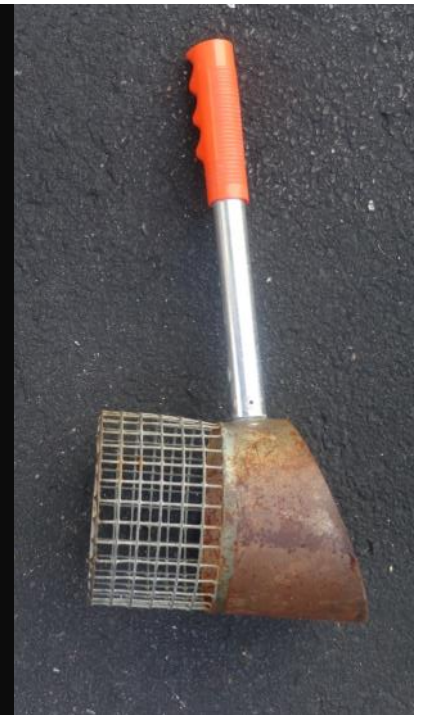
Operating Principle : Pulse Induction  
 Operating Frequency : 3kHz  
 Frequency Shift : Yes  
 Waterproof : Up to 60m (200ft.)  
 Built-in Wireless Module: Yes  
 Detection Modes : Audio / Vibration / Audio + Vibration / LED  
 Sensitivity : 5 levels adjustable  
 Length : 45 cm (17.7")  
 Weight : 550 gr (19.4oz) including the coil cover  
 Battery : 1650mAh Lithium Polymer  
 Charging Time : ≈2 hours  
 Warranty : 2 years

## PACKAGE CONTENTS



# My Early Days of Metal Detecting Beaches

Article by: Rich Creason



Many years ago, my wife, Susie, and I spent two weeks every Christmas visiting her family in southern Florida. I would drive about 90 minutes to the closest saltwater beach to see if I could find any treasures with my White's Coinmaster IV. I hunted the dry sand, then, searched the water about a foot deep. The machine didn't like salt water, and I listened to a lot of weird signals. I found a lot of junk, a few new coins, and occasionally, an earring or cheap kid's ring.

Many years ago, my wife, Susie, and I spent two weeks every Christmas visiting her family in southern Florida. I would



drive about 90 minutes to the closest saltwater beach to see if I could find any treasures with my White's Coinmaster IV. I hunted the dry sand, then, searched the water about a foot deep. The machine didn't like salt water, and I listened to a lot of weird signals. I found a lot of junk, a few new coins, and occasionally, an earring or cheap kid's ring.

Her mom and dad moved to central Florida into a small community on a 20 acre lake. It had a nice roped off swimming beach and I planned on detecting that while we were visiting. It was in walking distance of their house. Christmas morning, I opened a present from Susie. It was a White's underwater machine. After a reasonable amount of time with her family, (a couple hours), I grabbed my new machine and headed for



the beach. She got her detector out of the truck and followed me down the road.

She started hunting the dry sand, while I waded into the water. I was wearing tennis shoes and jeans and even in central Florida, the water was cold in late December. I set the buttons on my new detector and began swinging. I thought the thing wasn't adjusted properly because I began getting two or three signals on every swing. If these were actually real targets, I hoped they weren't all pull tabs.

They weren't! I slid my sand scoop behind the first signal, lifted, and came up with a basket full of black mud. After

a few seconds of shaking in the water, I saw a black coin in the bottom. I thought because of the color, it might be old silver! I soon found everything I brought up from this muck was black, including my hand and arm.

I kept scooping, several times bringing up two targets at once. A few pull tabs, some bottle caps, but very little junk. But, I did find a lot of coins, although nothing old. I brought up a lot of Hot Wheel cars and other assorted toys. Being in a fishing lake, I did find a few fishing lures. This is one (of several) reasons I always wear shoes when hunting the beach. Many of the targets turned out to be sinkers. They kept falling through the holes in my

scoop, and I kept trying to find them. Back then, the detectors didn't have ID screens to tell me to which items to ignore.

Even though the water was cold, I kept looking all around me while listening for signals. I knew during warmer times, the lake was full of alligators and snakes. I was hoping they were all hibernating. Two old guys came by in their boat fishing. They were bundled up like they were in Canada. I heard them talking about that crazy fool wading around in the water. I guess they were talking about me.

After about an hour of scooping up

assorted keepers from the muddy lake, I shook the mud off of my latest find. As the mud fell away, I saw the gold gleam. It was a large man's ring. Just the gold would pay off my new detector. More swinging, more scooping, and more targets in my pouch. Then, another ring. This one was silver, but nice size and design. Three hours after I started, my hands were getting numb and my legs were tired. I hated to do it, but I had to stop for the day.

Rain kept me off the beach for the next three days. Family outings took up several more days. I was the designated cook for three meals a day for 14 people. I was



able to get away to do some ocean fishing a couple days. But, I had to get back to the beach before time to go home.

Back in the water, I continued as before, Coins, toys, some tools, a little junk. The water became deeper as I searched further out. I was getting water in my face bending over so far to get my scoop to the bottom. It was worth it.

I uncovered three more rings, all gold! Several earrings, broken chains, religious medals, and necklace pendants showed up in my basket. A nice pocketknife was also added to my collection. (Maybe the old guys dropped it over the side while cutting fishing bait.)

Susie was not doing quite as well as I was, but not bad. After the two days, she found over 40 coins, plus all the other items like I had. She came up with one silver ring, and a heavy silver belt buckle with the design of a man riding a horse around a barrel. My two day total was four gold rings, one silver ring, 122 coins, and dozens of other keepers.

We returned to Florida every Christmas for five or six more years. I hunted the beach every time. Many of the coins and

toys magically replenished themselves each year, but I only found one more silver ring. While I often detected the saltwater beach, I usually ended up with a pouch full of trash and a few new coins. Someday, maybe I will find another great un hunted beach like this one. Who knows? Maybe if I go back with one of my new machines that detects more than twice as deep, I will find all the things I missed years ago.

## **Metal Detecting Leads**

**Fayette County, Kentucky** – Roughly 10 miles southeast of Lexington ky was Boones station. A very early settlement that was started around 1783. Now a state park but the area is very rural and permission granted in the areas around the park could produce some early Kentucky history.

**Adams County, Ohio** – Between Potts Rd. and Painter Road, on 137 sat the small village of Elizabethtown. Not sure when it started but was known to exist in 1829. Town was said to be gone by 1900. Today it is just farm field.

*Permission must be obtained at any site listed*

A metal detector scoop with a black handle and a silver, perforated metal head is lying on a sandy beach. The scoop is positioned vertically on the left side of the frame. The background is a close-up of the sand, showing some footprints and small rocks.

# **What to Consider When Buying Your First Beach Sand Scoop for Metal Detecting**

Article by: Joanna Jana Laznicka



**F**or a beach detectorist, a sand scoop is just as important as a good metal detector. New beach detectorists quickly realize the design of a scoop adds to factoring whether a day at the beach is good or bad detecting. When people first get into the hobby, they often start with a plastic sand scoop and then upgrade to metal. They continue to upgrade until they find what works for them and the sand at beaches they frequent. Below is the evolution of my sand beach scoops I used and owned as I progressed in beach metal detecting.

Quality beach scoops are not cheap, and a collection of failed choices sitting around isn't cheaper. Thus, I would like to teach some of those getting into beach detecting what to look for and what to consider when purchasing a beach sand scoop. It will help you save money and not have a sizable collection of scoops as I do.

### **The Plastic Hand Beach Sand Scoops**

Plastic hand sand scoops; let's just say if you live near a beach and you are going



*Progression of sand scoops I have owned*

to beach detect more than twice a year, avoid them. If you get one for free, great, but expect to add it to your kids, or grandkids, beach toy collection and to be upgrading to something metal.



## **Metal Hand Beach Sand Scoops**

So much better than the plastic hand sand scoops, but if you go at least once a month to the beach detect you will find that bending over and digging gets old. However, for those who travel and need something small and compact to put in a suitcase, it is a smart choice. They range from \$30 to \$100 usd and

can be found in aluminum or steel.

## **Metal Beach Sand Scoops with Mid-Size Handles**

The range is \$33 to \$150 usd. They are great for travel because a majority of them collapse to fit in suitcases or a small trunk. They are usable, but a serious beach detectorist, will want a real size handle.

## **Metal Beach Sand Scoops with Handles.**

Beach sand scoops with full-size handles are the way to go. There is less bending over and quicker retrieval of targets. When starting to beach detect and looking into purchasing a beach scoop with a full-size handle, you will see prices are steep, from a cheap \$50 to what I call a boutique beach sand scoop teetering at \$700. Beach sand scoops come in a range of designs, metals (aluminum, stainless steel, and titanium), and weights. When considering which scoop to purchase, you need to think of the kind of beach and or water hunting you will do with the following factors, the hole size that the sand filters through, scoop size, and the weight. For regular beach hunting, you want a light shovel because you will be

carrying or dragging it long distances. If you are going to be detecting in the water with rough waves, for your safety you want a heavier shovel to help you balance when a wave hits you.

The handles come in various materials, from wood, aluminum, wood, steel or carbon fiber. Here are the pros and cons to each material as a handle:

**Wood:** Not the lightest but affordable. The issue is by time it will stress and possibility to fracture and or complete break. They tend to break when you are out detecting, making the outing cut short.



**Aluminum:** Lighter, but your hands will get dark grey marks, as well if you rest your scoop on your shoulder your clothing will get black. Some metal detectorists wrap their aluminum handles with hockey stick tape or duct tape to not have the aluminum rub off on hands or clothing.

**Steel:** Durable, but very heavy

**Carbon Fiber:** One of the best options. Pricier but it makes the beach scoop light.

## **The Durability of Beach Sand Scoops**

If you are going to be beach metal detecting often, the durability of a sand scoop is extremely important. Poor design, poor welding, low-grade metals, bad handle design, and the amount you beach detect all add to the factor of how long a sand scoop will last. I see some detectorists need a new beach sand scoop yearly or every couple years because they detect often and the stress of moving heavy sand by force does make beach sand scoops to weaken and break. I have tracked all the different sand scoop manufacturers and probably had each one in my hand at some point

because a detectorist friend owns one. The areas sand scoops mostly break are:

1. The handle, they snap,
2. Where the handle connects to the shovel, it gets weak and breaks.
3. Where the detectorist puts its foot to push the scoop into the sand, the metal gets frail and breaks.

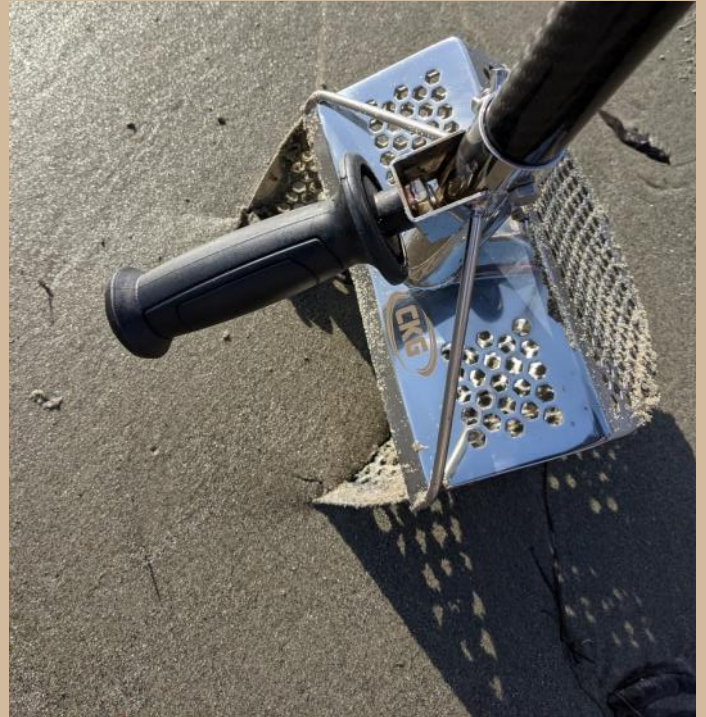
The tip starts off somewhat pointy and sharp but dulls and sometimes even bends and breaks.

Will it get Clogged or Not, Beach Sand Scoop Hole Size

As stated earlier, when considering which scoop to purchase, you need to think of the hole size that the sand filters through. This is subjective to the beaches you detect. Some beaches have finer sand, and some have coarse sand. The holes should be a size that a small coin or gold earring or chain can't fall through, but sand can seep out. This is really an area of trial and error of what size holes are ideal for where you detect. Some sand beach scoops are mesh wire, or round holes or hexagon holes.

## **Extending the Longevity of a Beach Sand Scoop**

First and foremost, wash it off with freshwater after every use. Second don't ignore any stress fractures, things that become loose, or wear or tear. Be proactive in fixing them.



## **Recommend First Beach Sand Scoop**

For those avoiding a collection of scoops like I have as you navigate what suits you best. I would recommend starting with one of the following stainless-steel scoops and a carbon fiber handle.

[CKG Scoop, Hex 9 Large](#)

[CKG Scoop, Hex 9](#)

No beach scoop is perfect, but these are really good. Either one of these beach

sand scoops will last as long as you metal detect and or if you get into detecting often and long hours, long enough for you to understand exactly what you want in your next beach scoop.

Beach detectorists from beginners to seasoned pros use CKG Scoops. The company has been around since 2005, their scoops are the most recognized scoop on the beaches. They are priced right, made from anti-corrosion stainless steel and have great customer service.

I own one and it is my main scoop, it is beautifully light and breaks down easily to fit in any trunk size and make for easy storage. By starting with the Hex 9, or Hex 9 Large, CKG Scoop you will get closer to the right scoop versus ending up with a collection as I have. I also would recommend going right to the Carbon Fiber handle if you can afford the extra cost. It really makes a difference with the weight.

Dede Towry a detectorist friend states *"I had the wooden handle on my CKG Scoop, however, I needed something lighter and upgraded the carbon fiber handle, it made a big difference in weight and my endurance, of how long I could metal detect and how sore I was after*

*metal detecting. I highly recommend the carbon fiber handle."*

CKG Scoops Hex 9 and Hex 9 Large can be bought via the manufacturer's website [ckgscoop.com](http://ckgscoop.com), or it can be purchased through [Amazon](http://Amazon). It can also be purchased through one of their distributors. Shipping is pretty quick because they ship out of Florida.



## Metal Detecting Leads

**Kohrville, Texas** - Originally settled by Freed slaves after the civil war. The town was eventually swallowed up by Houston but there is still a church standing. Located in the vicinity of Hufsmith-Kohrville road and Cossey road.

**Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania**— Fort Allen was built in 1774 after several attacks from native americans. The fort is no longer standing but was located in Greensburg where the current day St. Johns church stands.

*Permission must be obtained at any site listed*



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## Treasure's From The Dirt

We are a brand new channel, we have only been metal detecting for about a month and these are our best finds so far. We use a Minelab Equinox 800 and Nokta Makro Pulsedive with the 8" coil.

Our YouTube channel is **ToDiveAndDetect**

We hunt on beach and underwater. We come out with a new video on YouTube every Tuesday. Our finds: Two musket balls from revolutionary war period. 925 silver necklace, 18k onyx men's ring, 10k diamond ring (tested -21 real diamonds), and a child's size 22k ring, 10k gold and bead child bracelet.

Found by: Angela & Mark



# Treasure Legends

**Texas's Twin Sisters** - Although not much is known about them today, they



*Replica of the Twin Sisters. Photo Courtesy of Jim Evans/Wikipedia*

did indeed exist. The twins were used in Texas's independence from Mexico and during the Civil War.

Although there isn't a lot of documentation on them there are a few letters confirming their existence and also what could have possibly happened to them. About all that is known about them is they came from Cincinnati Ohio, besides that it is still heavily debated

how big they were, whether they were brass or cast iron and even what size cannon ball they used but it is believed they were either four or six pounders.

There are some theories as to the possible outcome and what could have happened to twins. It is presumed that Colonel Ford took them along with four other cannons to the battle of Palmito Ranch and they were left behind at fort Brown. In July 1865, a Union corporal wrote in his Journal that he saw them laying in a scrap pile.

One would have to wonder though if they were the twin sisters or just cannons but one possible theory (and the worst one) is they were melted down for scrap.

A few other theories exist which is the good news. The next theory they are



believed to have been lost to quicksand somewhere around Goliad Texas.

Another theory is they were buried in the woods near Harrisburg Texas.

If they are out there, I hope they are found and returned to their rightful glory!

**Jean Lafitte treasure** – Jean Lafitte was a successful smuggler in Louisiana during the early 1800's who became a wealthy man. Once considered an enemy of the United States was given permission to capture and pirate British

*Photo Courtesy of John Cummings/ Wikimedia*



ships during the war of 1812 and he did a good job at it!

After the War Andrew Jackson pardoned him for his heroics during the battle of New Orleans and was looked upon by many as a national hero.

Once the war was over Lafitte went back to pirating and smuggling. He made his way to Galveston and set up base which was outside the reach of the US and with little population of people in the area he stayed off local government's radars.

It quickly grew to a small colony of a few hundred men but at its height had a few thousand people living there and over 100 structures. In 1818 a hurricane all but destroyed the colony.

In 1821 the US navy arrived to remove Lafitte from the island after attacking an US merchant ship. Lafitte agreed to leave and without a fight he left making his way to Cuba continuing his smuggling and prating operation with an agreement with Cuba he would share his plunders. It didn't last long after ships carrying legal goods to Cuba were pirated and Cuba soon after banned all pirating activity.

Lafitte then started pirating for Great Columbia and continued to patrol the shipping lanes surrounding Cuba. It is believed on a foggy night in February 1823 Lafitte attacked what he believed to be two Spanish merchant ships that

was actually Warships. The ships started to flee and Lafitte took chase but they quickly turned sideways and returned fire and reportedly killing Lafitte. A few newspapers in South America reported his death but the US did not.

There is so much not known about Lafitte and even his death and when and where he died is questioned along with all the possible places he was and where he could have buried his treasure.

Lafitte amassed a fortune from his many years of pirating and smuggling and many believe there are many places he could have buried his treasure and most likely several different locations. A few is around lake Borgne off the coast of New Orleans, in a gum tree grove near the old Spanish trail and of course around present-day Galveston Texas. It was noted that when he left Galveston, he loaded a massive treasure before setting sail for Cuba.



## **Metal Detecting Leads**

**Beverly Ohio** – Fort Frye was built in 1791 to protect the settlers from Indian attacks. The fort no longer exists and is believed to have been between Center street and Cadet Lane.

**Lycoming County, Pennsylvania** – Fort Antes was built during the revolutionary war. A stockade near the house of Colonel Antes. The fort was abandoned before the British attacked it. The area of the fort and surrounding areas could produce some Revolutionary war relics! the fort was located north of Old Fort road just east of River Mill road.

**St. Charles County, Missouri** – In 1799 Daniel Boone settled in the Femme Osage District west of St. Louis. This area had many early settlers including his sons. Much of this area is forest.

*Permission must be obtained at any site listed*

# Treasure's From The Dirt

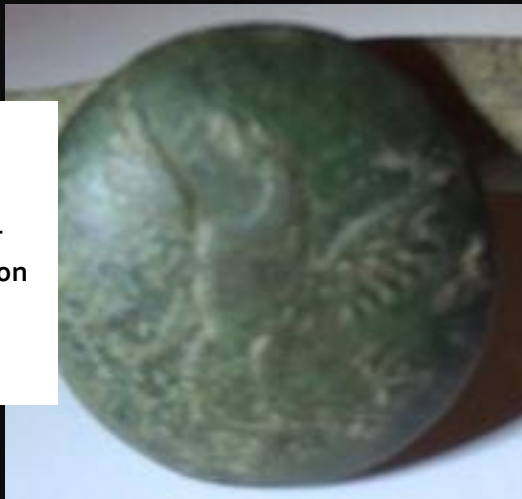


Several civil war artifacts found over the past few months using the Xp Deus. Found in Southeastern Virginia .

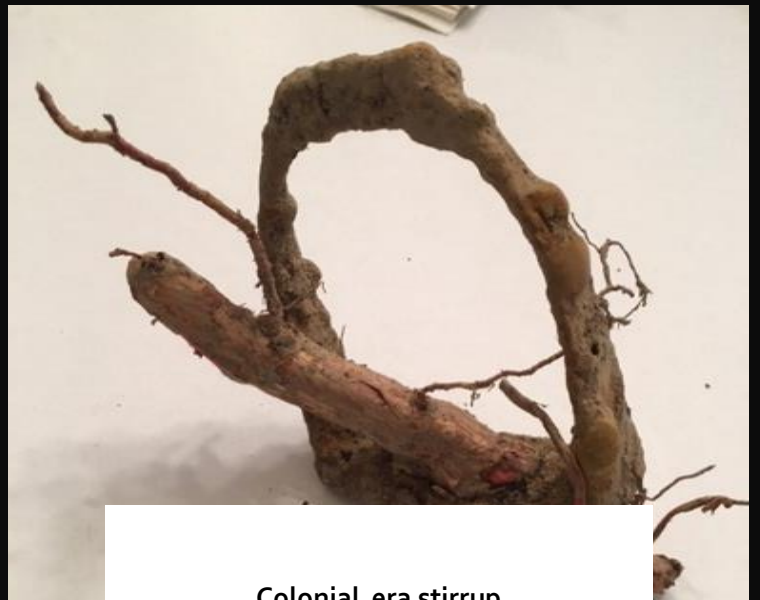
Found by: Cory Rind



Civil War breastplate fresh out of the ground



Civil War eagle button



Colonial era stirrup



# Tarsacci 8000 Metal Detector

## Tarsacci MDT 8000 Metal Detector

Ideal for coin, beach, and relic hunting the Tarsacci MDT 8000 Metal Detector excels where other detectors might struggle with very mineralized ground. It is lightweight, durable, waterproof (IP68 rating, up to 1.5 meters for up to 30 minutes), and made in the United States, California.

First, of its kind, the Tarsacci MDT 8000 has Mixed Domain Technology, making it not a multi-frequency

machine or single-frequency VDI machine but a Selectable Frequency Metal Detector. In short, detectorists choose one of four operating frequencies to run the machine, either 6.4, 9, 12, or 18 kHz. Paired with a unique and powerful salinity balance, the detector makes for an excellent choice for those metal detecting mineralized black sand beaches or grounds with a dense amount of conductive soil and rocks.

### What is Salinity

To understand the value of Tarsacci

MDT 8000 Detector, we need a quick lesson on salinity. The term "salinity" refers to the concentrations of salts in water or soils. The most common way to record salinity is to measure the amount of salt in 1,000 grams of water, so it is referred to as 'parts per thousand' or ppt. Most of the ocean has a salinity of between 34 ppt and 36 ppt, it varies from place to place. Largely at the surface, but there are other ocean areas that tend to be higher or lower. For example, the Atlantic has high salinity due to strong winds and not much rain. The Mediterranean Sea in Europe has very high salinity – 38 ppt or more. The ocean around Antarctica has a low salinity of just below 34ppt, and around the Arctic, it is down to 30ppt in places. The Baltic Sea has a very low salinity of about 10 ppt due to the huge amount of freshwater added from hundreds of rivers.



## Tarsacci MDT 8000 and Salinity Balance

With the Tarsacci MDT 8000, Salinity Balance makes it possible to run the detector in very mineralized sand and soils. Using the Salinity Balance will not have you lose detection depth. To use Salinity Balance in a Tarsacci MDT 8000, choose a place in the water that is between a foot to a foot and a half deep. Move the search coil up and down starting from 1 inch above the water level, up to approximately 6 to 8 inches, while keeping the search coil parallel to the water level and adjusting the salinity level, increasing, or decreasing. Find the salinity setting with which minimum or no sound is produced when moving the coil up or down.

### The Difference between Salinity Balance and Ground Balance

For some reading, how Salinity Balance is achieved will just presume it is a Ground Balance. They are different. Ground balance is a must to do for optimal performance and is used when the ground is mineralized. Salinity balance should be used when detecting salty

environments, alkaline soils, and to compensate for some hot rocks.

For those newer to metal detecting a hot rock can loosely be defined as any rock or stone not containing a valuable mineral (gold, silver, or copper) that generates an audible signal response on a metal detector. The rocks contain predominantly iron oxides, the minerals: magnetite, hematite, limonite, maghemite, and or lepidocrocite.

### **Other Notable Features of Tarsacci MDT 8000**

Now that we understand Salinity Balance, let's talk about some of the other notable features the MDT 8000 has.

**Engineering and Thought Behind the Machine** - Dimitar Gargov has an impressive resume which shows in the thought and engineering behind the Tarsacci MDT 8000. He has metal detected for over 25+ years (relic & beach) and has been developing metal detectors since 1995. Dimitar



started working on metal detector electronic advancements while he was finishing his masters in electrical engineering back in Bulgaria, where he developed an innovative VLF technology. He brought the technology to the United States, working for Fisher from 2000 to 2007. Dimitar developed the Fisher Gold Strike, Coin Strike, ID Excel, ID Edge metal detectors, which use his technology, and he receives a royalty for each detector sold. While at Fisher, he also developed the water leak detectors XLT 16 and XLT30.

**Impressive Depth** - Where other

detectors could struggle acknowledging there is a target, the Tarsacci MDT 800 will get a strong signal a target is there.

**Carbon Fiber Shaft, Arm Rest, and Handle** - Currently the only detector on the market that goes beyond a carbon fiber shaft, making even the armrest and handle from carbon fiber. Marking it light, durable design, minimizing arm fatigue, and maximizing product life.

**Coil Durability** - DD Coils are made to last, with strong ears, designed to not break. The bottom has one of the strongest and epoxies on the market, making it durable to scratches, dings, and soil or sand getting trapped in it.



**Battery** - A rechargeable battery that gives you approximately 20 hours of metal detecting using 6.4kHz operating frequency and 40 hours using 18kHz operating frequency. The Tarsacci MDT 8000 comes with two, giving you 40 hours of detecting, but if you need more, say you are on a camping trip or you can't recharge, you can simply buy extra batteries on Amazon.com for approximately 6 dollars. When the charge decreases and the battery is at its life end, no need to send your metal detector back to the manufacturer; simply buy another one on Amazon.

### **Bonus Notable Features**

**Large Coil Has No Cover** - For us beach hunters, it is nice to see the

large coil have no coil cover. Therefore, there is no need to slow down detecting when sand gets behind a coil cover and have to clean it.

## **Learning the Tarsacci MDT 8000**

I would like to thank the Tarsacci team for traveling a fair distance to let us try their MDT 8000

Three of us spent only 4-5 hours playing with the detector on a heavy black-sand beach in Southern California. We detected the type of black sand where a majority of metal

detectors struggle. The Tarsacci MDT 8000 isn't the type of detector that you can pick up and go like beginner or novice detectors. Like most advanced metal detectors, there will be a learning curve. Make it clear; there are no quick get started modes as you find with beginner to novice detectors. This is truly a detector for experts who are metal detecting enthusiasts. Like any advanced metal detector, expect to spend some hours with the detector to really understand it.



*The Tarsacci at home on the beach. Photo Courtesy of: Rigs Cursan*



## Tarsacci MDT 8000, Owner Experience

A quick search of the internet, you will see Tarsacci MDT 8000 has a decent user base worldwide; we could call it a cult following, by relic, beach, water, and mudlarkers. **Rigs Cursan** (YouTube / Instagram Mudripper) an MDT 8000 user states.

*"I have owned an MDT since September 2020. As soon as I tried the machine, I found it so intuitive that most of my other tools were retired. I hunt in the UK on the Kent coast for now due to Covid restrictions.*

*The MDT is easy to use and offers everything clearly, no subs menu, which I think is a plus. Depth is amazing and Ground Balance which can be intimidating for some chaps, is a breeze. Waterproof, perfect for those rainy days, and to use on beaches, rivers, and lakes. The carbon shaft is a work of art, weight isn't an issue even for Lady owners.*

*What did put a smile on my face is it uses only one battery size 26650, which will give you a lot of detecting time.*

*I use mine in 9khz, ALL METAL mode (-30) Sens nearly max out, Salinity 26, Threshold-1.*

*Identification of targets is great at depth. I'll say 40/45 cm isn't abnormal for medium to large targets, and 35 to 40 cm for coin size targets and rings."*



Photos Courtesy of: Rigs Cursan



## Programs for the Tarsarcci MDT 8000

Below are a couple of settings for specific soil and sand types from the MDT 8000 user manual and a user.

### Suggested Settings for Mineralized (Black Sand) Saltwater Beach


- Set the threshold to -2
- Set the Sensitivity 5
- Black Sand (BlkS) ON
- Salt Mode (St) ON
- Choose the desired Frequency.
- Set the salinity level, if unknown to 28
- Ground Balance the Detector

### Suggested Settings for Saltwater Beaches

- Set the threshold to -2
- Set the Sensitivity 7
- Black Sand (BlkS) OFF
- Salt Mode (St) ON
- Choose the desired Frequency.
- Set the salinity level, if unknown to 28
- Ground Balance the Detector or preset the GB to 500

### Suggest Setting fo Old Settlements Laced with Iron

#### Credit Paul, Forum Name - Apolonio (CA)

- Set Sensitivity 5
  - Disc Mode
  - Discrimination -10 to 0 (avoid going too low on discrimination).
  - Salt Mode (St) Off
  - Black Sand (BlkS) OFF
  - Frequency 18 kHz
  - Threshold -2 or -1
- 

## Tarsacci MDT 8000 Full Technical Specs

- Technology: Mixed Domain Technology
- Operating Frequency: 6.4kHz/9kHz/12kHz/18kHz
- Ground Balance: Manual / Fast Auto
- Tracking: Yes
- Black Sand Mode: Yes
- Salt Mode: Yes
- Salinity Balance: Manual
- Salinity Level: 0 to 50
- Target Identification: Ferrous -30 to 0 / Non-ferrous 1 to 30
- Sensitivity: 1 to 9
- Threshold Level: -9 to 0
- Target Volume: 1 to 15
- Target Tones: 4
- Tone Break: Ferrous and Non-ferrous with an adjustable notch filter
- Audio Modes: All Metal / Discrimination / Mix
- Audio Output: Speaker / Headphones
- Display: 128X64 Graphic LCD
- LCD Backlight: Yes
- Battery: 26650 Rechargeable Lithium-ion battery (3.7V @ 5000mAh)
- Battery Life: Up to 18h@6.4kHz/24h@9kHz/30h@12kHz/36h@18kHz
- Operating Temperature: -10C to +50C (+14F to +122F)
- Search Coil: Tarsacci MDT 11" x 9" DD
- Optional Coil: 12" Elliptical DD
- Shaft: Telescopic 3K carbon fiber with molded 3K carbon fiber "S" rod and armrest
- Length: 965cm to 1346cm (38" to 53")
- Weight: 1280g (2.82 lbs) including the battery
- Waterproof: IP68 (Up to 1.5 meters for up to 30 minutes in still water).
- Headphones (Included): Wired 3.5mm non-waterproof

## The Metal Detector

- MDT 8000 with standard 11X9 coil - \$1495.00
- MDT 8000 with 12" coil - \$1585.00
- MDT 8000 with 11X9 and 12" coils - \$1760.00

*All detectors come complete with two batteries & chargers, 11x9" coil cover, and Tarsacci headphones.*

## Accessories

- MDT-11X9 coil - \$270.00
- MDT-12 coil - \$360.00
- Coil cover for MDT-11X9 coil - \$12.00
- Tarsacci headphones - \$45.00

***Note: Prices are in USD, suggested retail prices, and subject to change.***



*Photo's Courtesy of  
Rigs Cursan*



## LISTEN

Join us as we discuss metal detecting with some of the best detectorists in America. As they share their tips, finds and adventures.

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## HOSTS

Amanda "Digger" Degaz  
& Gypsy Jewels

[allmetalmode.com](http://allmetalmode.com)



# ON THE GOLD

with

THOMAS "PENNYWEIGHT" FOWLKES

## Wabash Gold!!!!

I had been wanting to hunt for gold in the Wabash river here in Indiana. It is the descendant of an ancient river call the Teays. It is thought that the last ice age deposited gold in the locations that the river ran. I've heard of people going there and doing pretty good. My problem was, that almost all of the of the property along the Wabash is private. The river however is navigable, So I just needed access and I'm good to go.

So, I started my research. I ran across a forum on [www.GoldProspectorsSpace.com](http://www.GoldProspectorsSpace.com). One of the groups was talking about a RV campground they were having an outing on that river. Bingo!!! I had a place I could go to camp and prospect at. Now that information on that site was several

years old. So, I sent them an email and asked could I camp and prospect at their facility. The answer was sure come on down. So, I setup a date with them. The day came for the trip to the Wabash. I have a 4-inch dredge for looking for that shiny in creeks and rivers. In those days I didn't have a trailer for it. I had to breakdown my dredge into its components and transport them in my 02 Durango, which, amazingly enough it all fix and I still had room for a passenger. We made our way to the campground. I was excited. I stopped in at the office to sign in and pay for my stay. I was informed that the check out time would 12 pm Sunday. I thought that, that was an odd time. 12 pm to 12 pm like I knew. I haven't stayed at RV campground ever.



So, I donated a little extra money to stay until 6 pm Sunday. We setup camp and I put together the dredge.

I changed into my wetsuit and selected my spot to start working. Which was ring in front of our camp site.

The wife had come along, as she like to camp. I fueled and primed the pump and started it up. The beast roared to life. Material was flowing up the hose and I was in my element. After about 40 minutes I hear someone yelling at me. It was the wife and she was pointing at the dredge. I turned around to look at it and ran/swam to turn it off. The dredge, was

sitting at a 45-degree angle, maybe a little less with the engine up in the air. I stopped the engine and looked at the sluice box. It was loaded with rocks. I was new to dredging, so it took me a few minutes to figure out what was wrong. In my haste to get to the river I had forgot my classifying mesh for the sluice box that allowed the rocks flow out of it. Here I am, an hour and a half away from home since this is rush hour time. After a little thought I called my son and we met half way. By the time I got back, it was late. We eat dinner and called it a night.

While in a deep sleep I was awoken by a god-awful noise. What we hadn't notice that about 100 yards away from where we were. Were train tracks on the opposite side of the main street. That happen twice that night.

We got up, had breakfast and I suited up and started dredging again. Everything went smoothly. That night there was full moon. It was shining down on the river. It made me think about the song On The Banks Of The Wabash. It was a sight to behold. Not sure I could describe it even if I tried. The next day was much of the same. I did have a guy come to see what I was doing. He asked how did I choose the spot I was working. I explained that the

material looked good. He then said that he lived there and that he had a two- and half-inch dredge. Not sure after our conversation if he was worried that I might be completion or not. We packed up and headed home. I processed my concentrates.



Welllllllll what do you know. There is gold in the Wabash.

The weather is warming up. Make your plans for getting outside.

After all playing is not just for kids.



*The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.*

## **Metal Detecting Leads**

**Monterey, California** – Presidio of Monterey is still an active base but started life as a Mexican fort in 1768. Although metal detecting is off limits, if any of the numerous parks in the area allow metal detecting they could still be holding artifacts. Urban area with some wooded areas and houses that could be worth metal detecting as well.

**Otero County, Colorado** – Milk fort was a trading post and settlement established in the late 1830's. Its whereabouts are unknown but it was somewhere in the vicinity of the present-day city of La Junta.

**Lehmhi County, Idaho** – fort Lehmi was a Mormon mission built in 1855 and lasted roughly 3 years. The fort is believed to be about 3 miles north of present day Tendoy, Idaho.

*Permission must be obtained at any site listed*



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### General



#### Announcements

13 Topics · 21 Posts



#### Introduce Yourself

tell us where you're from, detector(s) you use, what type of metal detecting you enjoy etc.

12 Topics · 51 Posts



#### General Discussion

metal detecting & treasure hunting related

16 Topics · 65 Posts



#### Feedback

Do you have suggestions on how we can make the podcast, website or forum better?

2 Topics · 3 Posts

### Metal Detecting



#### Coin Shooting

7 Topics · 69 Posts



#### Relic Hunting

13 Topics · 67 Posts



#### Beach & Shallow Water Detecting

4 Topics · 10 Posts



#### Cache & Treasure Hunting

2 Topics · 4 Posts



#### Gold Prospecting

0 Topics · 0 Posts

# Amanda “DIGGER” Degaz

Interviewed by: Mike Haer



*“My parents used to bring us on adventures in the mountains”*

*“My second favorite find is a CSA belt buckle”*

*“I think this may help us gain new permissions”*



Follow along as we sit down and talk to Amanda “Digger” Degaz. Amanda is a former Whites team member, a current host of All Metal Mode podcast, a mud larker and passionate about metal detecting.

**DIRT DIGEST:** *You have some amazing finds. I love looking through your pictures when you post them. What part of the country are you in?*

*I was born and raised in New England. I am*

*incredibly fortunate to live in an area so rich in history.*

**Dirt Digest:** *how long have you been metal detecting?*

My parents used to bring us on adventures in the mountains or out to northern New York growing up my Dad used to metal detect and we used to go out searching with him. Once I became a teenager I "outgrew" many of those adventures including metal detecting. In 2012, I met Jon, my partner. One of his hobbies was to metal detect. Soon after



that I went out and bought my first metal detector. All In all, I will have been detecting for 9 years this May.

*“Over a foot down I pulled up this buckle”*

**Dirt Digest:** *tell us about some of your favorite metal detectors and equipment.*

I have 3 whites metal detectors that I bounce back and forth between. The White's MXT which was my first machine and used for five years, then my White's MX sport and my White's MX 7. I use the MX sport the most in the past few years as I have spent a lot of time near or in the water. I use a bright green neon TRX pinpointer that has been a savior with detecting. I know when I first got started detecting I did not have a pinpointer and finding the item in a hole could be quite difficult and take up time. Now as most detectorists know- once you have a pinpointer it is hard to not have one.

**Dirt Digest:** *Can you tell us about a few of your favorite finds and why they are your favorite?*

I have two favorite finds. Both are relics and each have their own story. The first is a silver trade annular brooch. I honestly had no idea what it was when I first found it. Jon is the one who identified it. And I honestly could not believe I was holding something potentially so old and that may have been traded for items in the past. My second favorite find is a CSA belt buckle I found in the first couple of years detecting. Jon and I offered to help search for a missing wedding ring on a property near us. We both searched for a couple of hours and I got a great signal near some rose bushes. The property owners had told us that they thought they had lost the ring while transplanting some rose bush, but they weren't sure if perhaps it had fallen off at a different time. Over a foot down I pulled up this buckle. I immediately knew what it was! After a little while longer we met back up with the property owner and pulled out everything we had

*“No metal detector is needed, just a good set of eyes”*

found to show them. When I pulled the buckle out Jon got so excited and almost yelled “Do you know what that is!?”. I did, but the property owner did not. I handed it over to the property owner who took and brought it inside to research. We continued searching for the ring. After a while,

the property owner came back out and handed it to me and told me that it was probably a fake and he didn't want it. I let him know that I was fairly sure it was real, and he said he didn't care. I never thought I would find a CSA belt buckle, let alone find one in Maine.

***Dirt Digest:*** *You probably give finds back to the landowners more than anyone I know. Can you share some of your experiences with that like what are their reactions, does it make getting permission*



easier?

Honestly bringing back cases of treasure that was found on a return property is a bit like Christmas morning. I do not think I will ever get over how good it feels and how awesome the look awe is on the property owners faces. I know some of these property owners share the story and the displays with family, friends, and neighbors. I think this may help us gain new permissions. Some of these properties have been in the family since the area was settled and these items



found belong to their family. I think we build up a trust with property owners and that feels great. I have in the past asked a property owner if I might keep

*“We had dubbed that area the buckle hoard beach”*

something here and there and they have allowed it and I have also given up items that I am not sure I will ever dig again. I have the memory of the adventure and the look on their face when I returned it though. And have asked that if a property owner is contemplating selling any of the items, that I have first chance to purchase those artifacts I returned to them..

***Dirt Digest:** I have always associated mud larking with the British but that’s exactly what you do. Can you tell us a little bit about mud larking and how you got into it?*

Mudlarking is a bit like playing I spy except looking down at the ground or in the water. No metal detector is needed, just a good set of eyes. I originally started creek walking in an older area near my home. While walking the creek I would find clay pipe stems, marbles, buttons, and other interesting items. From there I had found another area on the water that also had treasure to be found. In our area

the dumps were on the water whether it is the river, bay, or ocean. Over time the layers of soil have washed or eroded away. This has also washed-out items that may have been tossed out in the past. I have found that the items you find metal detecting you can commonly find while mudlarking.



**Dirt Digest:** *can you share with us some of the types of things you find mudlarking?*

Well like I was saying a lot of the items I find metal detecting I can find while mudlarking and then some. I find things like lead bale seals, jewelry, buttons, coins, flatware and toys, which can all be found with a metal detector. But I also find items that would not be picked up with a metal detector such as marbles, beads, clay pipes, glass bottles, bottle stoppers, and other nonconductive items. One of my favorite adventures last

year was spotting a couple buckles on top of the mud, so I started scraping the mud away, and digging down. From that hole I pulled out hundreds of brass buckles. I haven't been able to figure out why they were all tossed away together, but it is still an area I mudlark by. We had dubbed that area the buckle hoard beach.

**Dirt Digest:** *Can you give the readers a few tips on how to get started mudlarking?*

Your best bet on getting into mudlarking would be to do some research on your area and figure out where the old part of town may be and if it sits near any water. If not, expand the search to neighboring towns. Some point either after it has rained or at low tide take a walk along the shoreline or sides of the river and look at the ground. If you are spotting pieces of broken glass or pottery, there is a good chance you have an area to search. With last year's drought our rivers were significantly lower than they have been in the past, so walking the banks was more easily accessible as well.

Some tools of the trade are Boggs or wellies that will keep your feet dry. I also have a friend that uses waders. Those would work as well, but I have not spent the money on a purchase like that. You

want a pouch or bag to put your finds in. A mesh bag would be best for larger items as you can spray it with a hose to help clean the muddied items.

If anyone has any questions on mudlarking they are more than welcome to reach out and ask me!



***Dirt Digest:*** How can people find you?

I am on Facebook under Amanda Digger Degaz, on Instagram as @adiggerdegaz, and TikTok as @diggerdegaz I also have a youtube channel A Digger Degaz, but I haven't spent as much time on that platform.



# *How to Successfully Metal Detect Beaches*



*“I also study the most active areas of the beach during peak hours”*



One of the most frequently asked questions I get is, "Where's the best place to hunt on the beach?"

What I can tell you are the steps I take for the best possible ratio of treasure to trash when I'm charging toward the shore equipped for the day, covered in sunblock, heart pounding in anticipation.

The first step I take is before I even get there. I do my homework. (Yes, I was always the teachers' pet.) Search online for tide prediction charts so you can map out your day.

If you've never looked these up, you will discover high tide and low tide points throughout the day and night.



Using this information helps me to determine when and where I will focus my time and energy detecting. For instance, if it's low or negative tide, I will focus my time near the shoreline. If it's high tide. I will focus my time in the dry sand.

### **Wikipedia States:**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tide>

"Tides are the rise and fall of sea levels caused by the combined effects of the gravitational forces exerted by the moon, sun and the rotation of the earth. The most extreme tidal range occurs during [spring tides](#), when the gravitational forces of both the Moon and Sun are aligned... reinforcing each other in the same direction ([new moon](#)) or in opposite directions ([full moon](#)).

The largest annual tidal range can be expected around the time of the [equinox](#) if it coincides with a spring tide."

If you are not a regular to beach detecting and tidal affect, connect with a local and experienced Detectorist in the area for some great pointers on the beach you will be detecting. You just might get the scoop.

Once I personally know where I'll be focusing my hunt for treasure, I begin to grid an area. When gridding an area, I make sure to overlap my coil sweeps and stick to a small section of the beach. I usually increase my amount of finds when I do gridding.

I have found that usually more trash is found in the dry sand than the wet sand, so I try to focus my detecting times around the lowest tides possible to gain the most exposure to wet sand and depth of shore (swimming area) as possible. Why? Most people will lose rings while swimming. When hands are cold, our fingers can shrink up to two ring sizes - depending on the temperature of the water. Result? A lesson in NOT wearing rings to the beach AND more opportunities.

I also study the most active areas of the beach during peak hours. I look at where people place their towels (booty in the sand) when it's high tide vs. low tide. This can absolutely vary depending on the time of the day. I also look for the areas where people are participating in

active play: throwing balls, frisbees, and playing games. This area is usually above the towel line in the soft sand. It can be quite lucrative when gridding as well. (Jump, set, spike!)

When the crowds arrive and the space between towels, chairs, seagulls,



umbrellas, games, coolers and sandcastles shrink - I usually detect in the water. I would advise the same.

You will want to use a long-handled water scoop for retrieving your targets. If your scoop has larger sifting holes than you may prefer, grab a scrap of tight grid chicken wiring-type mesh, cut to size, and zip-tie it to the inside of the scoop. (It's functional and also allows us country folks to bring a piece of the farm to the

seaside!) Small pendants, chains, earrings and smaller items will have a better chance of hanging on when you add this secondary layer.

A final tidbit to make the most out of your beach visit: Look for low spots with beach cuts and erosion. These are the areas where water has pushed in and created a bit of a pool, shelf, or a drop in the sand. Sometimes after big storms offshore are best times find deep cuts/shelves in the sand. These cuts can be a few inches to a few feet in differential. If I see any areas on the beach with these shelf-like cuts, I will usually gravitate to these areas first. They are a result of recent turbulence that can stir up long lost items and push them freshly onto shore - just waiting for you to discover them!

### **As a Recap:**

Research tides, make a local friend, learn the beach, map out your day, work a grid, have your tools prepared, and enjoy the hunt! Wishing you all the best of luck your next time at the beach.

~ Gypsy

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

## *Metal Detecting Leads*

### **Arkansas County Arkansas -**

*Arkansas post* and the surrounding area is rich in history. First known established trading post and semi-permanent French settlement in Arkansas.

Confederate troops built earthworks in the area during the Civil war. The union troops would later destroy what was known as Fort Hindman. This area has been used by many cultures for hundreds and maybe even thousands of years.

Today it is a national park but any area outside of the park would be worth research, exploring and metal detecting as the park only takes up 600 acres. It is also worth noting that the first French settlement/trading post was often moved due to flooding.

*Permission must be obtained at any site listed*

# Civil War Detecting Site Leads

*From the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*

Article by: Dorian Cook



*After 45 years of Civil War relic hunting with a metal detector, I still know of no better source for outstanding leads on the location of Civil War battle and camp sites that can possibly be found and permission to detect them secured. The "O.R's" (The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion), as we relic hunters call them for short, comprise 128 very big volumes containing all the officer's battle reports and other war related correspondence that could be found and gathered up after the Civil War and published for use by the general public.*

*These records contain literally hundreds of thousands of clues to where units of both armies camped and how and exactly where they fought in over 22,000 known battles and skirmishes. Many of these sites have not yet even been found by detectorists... or historians. But... THEY*

*CAN BE! Diligent research in the O.R.'s followed up by common sense searching for them in the field can still pay off big time by rewarding the detectorist with previously un-detected sites sometimes containing thousands of historic and valuable relics. If discretion is used by the finder, these sites can often provide years of profitable and highly enjoyable discoveries with a metal detector.*

*In this issue of Dirt Digest Magazine, we inaugurate this new feature dedicated to providing our readers with leads to possible great Civil War relic hunting sites.*

*This has NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE in ANY treasure hunting or metal detecting related magazine that we know of. But then... you should expect Dirt Digest to blaze new trails for detectorists to follow because... we ARE the Journal Of Modern Treasure Hunting!*

Naturally, it is not within our power to either guarantee these sites have not been previously found or hunted or that permission to hunt them can be obtained from the site owners. We can tell you, from our own past experience in researching the O.R.'s, however, that the odds are very good that a number of these leads will lead you to some great detecting sites that can be hunted, if you persevere. Even if several do not pan out for you, keep hunting for more and the odds are high that you will find and obtain access to some great detecting sites... and when you do... they will

provide you with *MANY* enjoyable outings with your detector.

*In this introductory article I will give some leads from the O.R.'s from several different states involved in the Civil War. I will highlight in yellow the parts of these reports that show potential for relic hunting opportunities. Please feel free to submit questions or comments about this new feature to us here at the magazine. We would love to hear from those who find good sites from these leads and especially to see good relic finds they make on them.*



## *Let's get started*

### **LEAD #1 - TENNESSEE**

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,  
Cumberland Gap, September 11, 1862.

GENERAL: I have already had the honor of reporting to you the success of expeditions against Baptist and Rogers' Gap since their investment by the enemy,

and I now report that on yesterday Rogers' Gap was blockaded by Lieutenant Colonel [M. L.] Phillips at the head of 200 picked men from the First and Second Tennessee Volunteers, and that big Creek Gap was blockaded by Colonel Cooper at the head of 400 picket men taken from Spears'

brigade. Colonel Cooper likewise attacked a body of McAfee's Kentucky cavalry on their march through Big Creek Gap to join General Smith, and Colonel McAfee and 95 officers and soldiers were made prisoners, while 10 or 12 of the enemy were left dead upon the field; among them was one of the aides-de-camp of Major-General Smith and 2 captains. Colonel Cooper also brings in 98 horses and equipments.



I ordered the expeditions so that both Gaps should be blockaded at the same

time and that each party should cover the other's flank.

It is a remarkable fact that in these affairs we did not lose a single man, while they lost 230 prisoners. These were complete surprises.

## **LEAD #2 – (Now) WEST VIRGINIA**

HEADQUARTERS MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION,

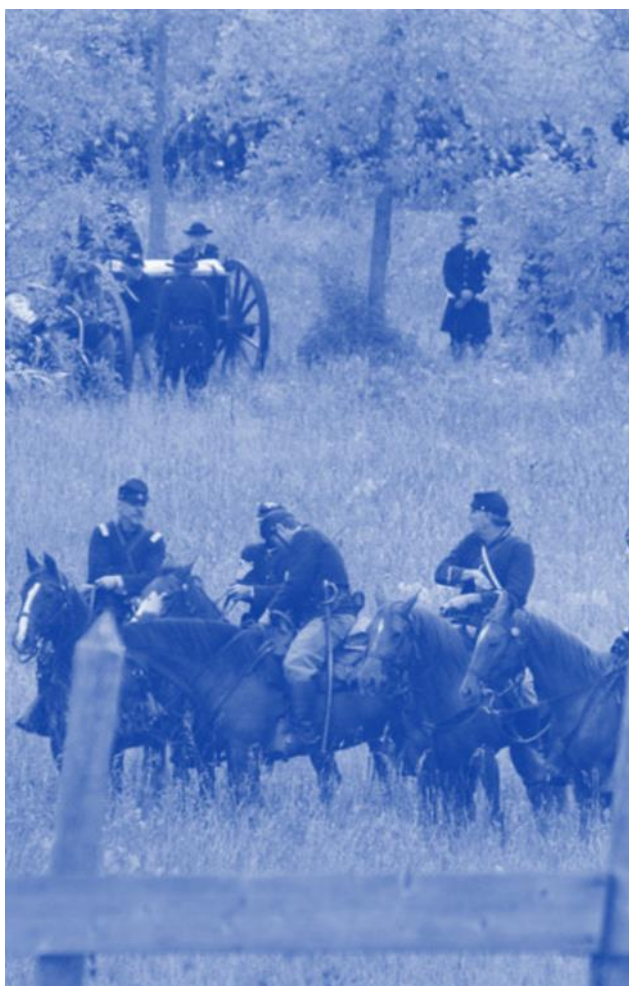
December 9, 1864.

SIR: In accordance with instructions received from the commanding general on the 5th instant, I proceed to New Creek, Va., and have the honor to make the following report:

The position of New Creek is at the intersection of the valley of the New Creek with that of the Potomac, the general direction of the former being from southwest to northeast, and of the latter from northwest to southeast, or nearly at right angles.

The New Creek valley is bounded on the east by a range of abrupt wooded hills or mountains, some 800 or 900 feet high, immediately at the base of which the creek runs. This stream is in general shallow, with stony bottom, of very variable width, from twelve to forty feet

or more, and is reported easily crossed at most points. The main road or approach from the southward follows the west or left bank and is said to be for miles good at and cleared for a width of some 300 or 400 yards, then rises gradually for about the same distance to a range of steep wooded hills or mountains, forming the western boundary of the valley, the practicable width of which averages



probably half a mile. At the northern extremity of this valley, and nearly at right angles to it, is a ridge some 200 feet high, separating it from the valley of the Potomac.

This ridge is about 500 yards long, and closes the New Creek valley, leaving, however, at each of its extremities a gap some 300 or 400 yards in width. The one at the west end afford passageway for a wood road; the other is nearly closed by a spur or lower continuation of the ridge, at one point leaving merely room for the main road and the bed of the New Creek.

To the northward of the ridge, and a parallel to it, is the Potomac valley, a mile and a half in length by from one half to three-quarters of a mile in width, the river being on the north side. Beyond the Potomac the ground rises rapidly to a wooded tableland about 250 feet above the river. This plateau is terminated at the eastward and westward by the ranges bounding the New Creek valley, which also closes the Potomac valley, leaving passage for the river, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (which bisects the valley), and for a road to Piedmont, &c.

The Potomac is from forty to sixty yards in width, rapid, and fordable at three or four points in the valley, the bottom stony. At once ford the depth was about three feet. The village is at the east end of the valley.

The ridge spoken of heretofore as crossing and terminating the New Creek valley command it and the Potomac valley, forming a strong position.

The southeastern summit is occupied by a work of moderately strong profile, the length of the interior crest being upward of 350 yards. This work sees the approach from the southward for upward of two miles, and also overlooks the valley of the Potomac. At the western extremity of the ridge is a one-gun epaulement, and some thirty or forty yards below it is a rifle-pit around this end, commanding the wood road referred to before; 600 or 900 men ought to hold the position against any party likely to be sent there by the enemy. The work is commanded from the top of



the high hill about three-quarters of a mile to the eastward, but the approach to this hill is very difficult, and the enemy having attempted, in the fight of August 4, 1864, to occupy it, was, it is said, easily driven from it. This hill was formerly occupied by us, and a rifle-pit constructed part way down its southern slope. A road from the Potomac valley leading to the summit was then built by us along the northern slope. From portions of this hill a mountain road from Rommey to the east end of the Potomac valley is seen and well commanded.

Extensive repairs are needed in the scarp revetment of the fort at New Creek. The forge should be close, leaving merely a passage to be obstructed when required by a barrier. The four iron guns (two 12-pounders, one 6-pounder, and a rifled ordnance gun) were spiked by the enemy in the late raid. This work might be strengthened by an abatis. A tracing made to show the battle-field of August 4 gives roughly the general features of the position.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. SEAFORTH STEWART,  
Major of Engineers.



## Treasure's From The Dirt



White gold engagement ring found in the wet sand with the Equinox 800.

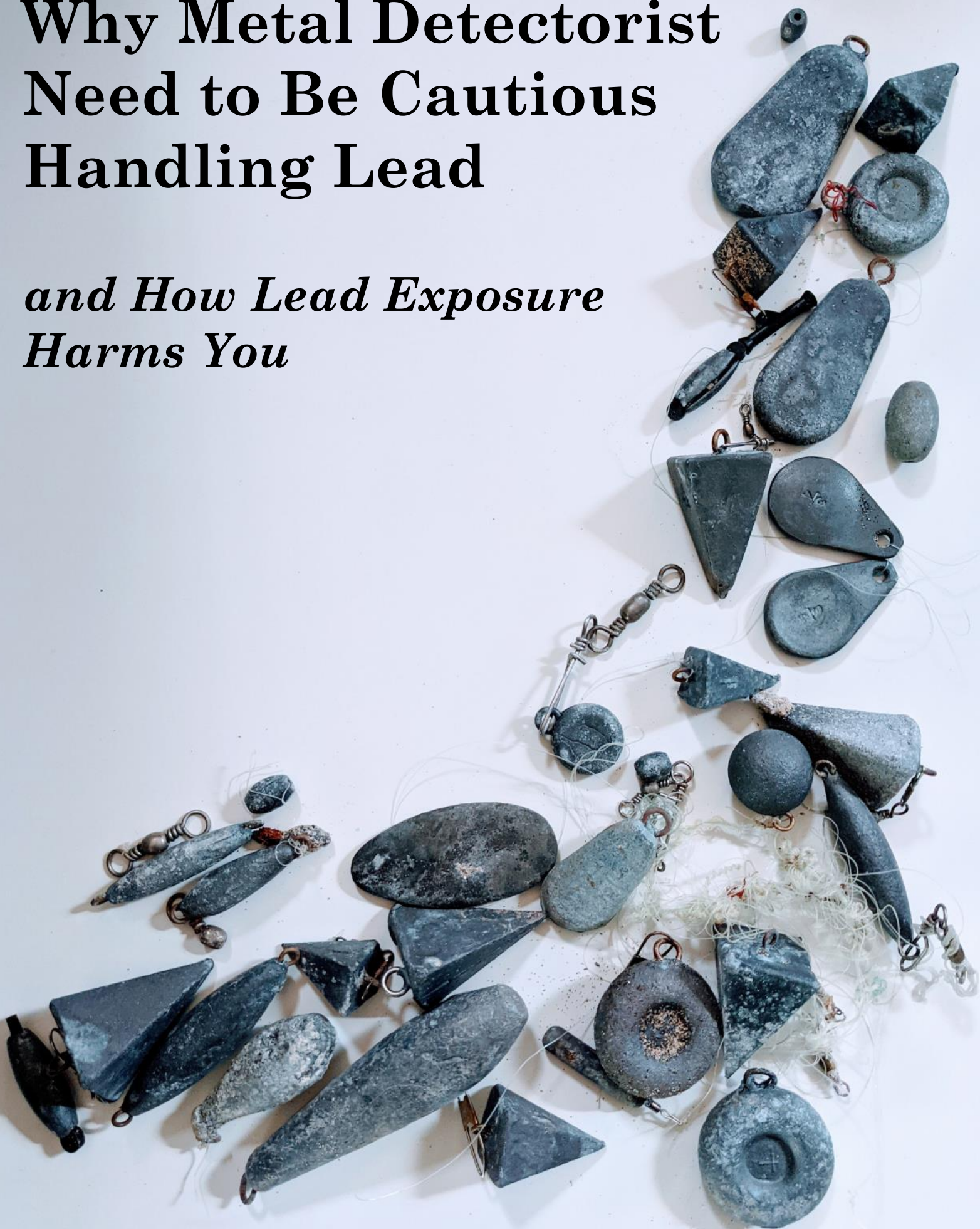
Found by:  
Mike Trollmann  
@Surfcityringfinder

### *How to submit a find*

Would you like to see one of your finds in Dirt Digest Magazine?! We would love to put it in! Please include a description of the find, what state, what kind of site you were hunting and any other detail that is relevant. Please include your full name and what metal detector or equipment you were using. Email your find to [mhaer@dirtdigestmagazine.com](mailto:mhaer@dirtdigestmagazine.com)

# Why Metal Detectorist Need to Be Cautious Handling Lead

*and How Lead Exposure  
Harms You*



## **A Little Lead Never Hurts Anyone — or Does It?**

As a beach and water metal detectorist, you will be exposed to lead when you find **lead** fishing weights also known as sinkers. Handling them improperly can result in elevated lead levels.

The absorption of lead into your body will affect your health. Lead is stored in the blood, liver, kidney, and bones. Frequent exposure to lead, particularly at high levels, can harm the nervous, digestive, and reproductive systems, the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the body's ability to make blood.

When the nervous system is affected by lead exposure, you might become irritable, exhibit aggressive behavior, be depressed, have a loss of sensation in your fingers and face, or weakness in the fingers, wrists, and ankles. You might also experience headaches, lose sexual function and become impotent. Other symptoms of exposure to high lead levels may include loss of appetite,





joint pain, and changes in sleep patterns.

Lead exposure affects men causing reduced sexual function and impotence if lead levels reach high enough concentrations. Lead also can alter the structure of sperm cells potentially causing birth defects.

Pregnant women are especially vulnerable to lead exposure due to metabolic changes caused by the pregnancy. Lead passes through the placenta to the fetus potentially causing miscarriages and birth defects.

Adults absorb about 20 percent of the lead they ingest; children absorb about 70 percent of the lead they ingest. Exposing a child to lead may result in slow learning, slow growth, hearing loss, and behavioral problems.

Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling lead sinkers or cleaning out your metal detecting find's pouch or anywhere they were stored. Never let children play with them, children are especially vulnerable to lead because

their bodies are not able to eliminate the lead they absorb.

### **How Do I Know If I Have Lead in My Body? Have Your Blood Tested**

You can have lead poisoning and not have any symptoms. Contact your health care provider or local health department to get your blood tested. Your doctor can take a blood sample and test for lead. These tests give results in micrograms per deciliter of blood. They are a simple and inexpensive way for individuals to know if the precautions they are taking to keep their lead exposure down are working. Enjoy metal detecting, and handle lead carefully.

#### Reference

EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency  
<https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/humans.html>

Written by: Joanna Jana Laznicka



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## Metal Detecting Leads

**Custer County, Colorado** – Fort Le Duc was built around 1835 as a trading post and fort. Today nothing is left except a small pull over and a historical marker. Located just south of 196 on 67.

**Costilla County, Colorado**- Spanish Fort was Built in 1819 to protect the Spanish colony of Sante-fe from the U.S. Nothing remains of the fort today. Roughly 1.5 miles east of 572 on 160.

**Washington County Tennessee** – In 1778 400 acres was given to David Reese above Great falls on Lick Creek.

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