

The *Soundoff*



EUREKA! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc.

V. 42 I. 1

January, 2014

Search with Care!

Visit Our Club On The Internet at <http://www.eurekathc.com>

Happy New Year!



December's Christmas Party - more photos pg 18

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Drawing tickets are \$1 each, take a chance.

TREASURE HUNTER'S CODE OF ETHICS

- I WILL respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the owner's permission.
- I WILL fill all excavations.
- I WILL appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
- I WILL use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I WILL build fires in designated or safe places only.
- I WILL leave gates as found.
- I WILL remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- I WILL NOT litter.
- I WILL NOT destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I WILL NOT tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.



Boots wins the \$2 1/2 Dollar Gold Coin



About *Soundoff*

Soundoff is the official newsletter of the Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc. (Eureka!). Mailing Address: PO Box 101385, Denver, CO 80250-1385.

Opinions expressed in *Soundoff* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club or its members. Publication of information in *Soundoff* constitutes no guarantee of accuracy. Use of any information found in this publication is at the sole risk of the user. Neither Eureka!, nor its officers, nor *Soundoff*, nor its editors or contributors assume any liability for damages resulting from use of information in this publication. *Soundoff* is typically placed on the club's website the evening of the first Friday of the month.

Submissions

Articles, letters and short items of interest on prospecting, detecting and treasure hunting topics are welcomed and encouraged. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. Submittals for publication or correction of errors may be made by e-mail in ASCII text format or MS Word. All article submissions must be received by the editor no later than the deadline of the month (see calendar) for inclusion in the next month's issue. Include publication information on articles clipped from other publications. *Let's hear your story, ideas or tips - Cindy - your *Soundoff* editor.*

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Advertising

Classified business-card-sized text advertising is free to members for non-business ads. Commercial display ads are available to anyone at the following charges: business card size, \$6.00 per month; 1/4 page, \$12.00 per month; 1/2 page, \$24.00 per month; full page, \$48.00 per month. Advertisers are encouraged to take out ads for 12 months and receive a 3-month discount. No other discounts apply. The treasurer must receive any required payments for commercial ads prior to their inclusion.

About Eureka!

Eureka! is a Denver-based, Colorado nonprofit organization established in 1973 for the enjoyment of metal detecting, electronic prospecting and treasure hunting. Its purpose is to provide an educational and social forum of mutual benefit for members. Eureka! holds a monthly meeting and conducts various special presentations, hunts and seminars. Members have voting privileges. Membership includes access to all general meetings, selected seminars and outings. Annual dues run April to March and are \$30 for single adult membership, \$36 for a family membership and \$15 for Junior membership. Pro-rating of dues are done for new members joining the club after the April 1 dues date. Club meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., on the second floor of the Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado. Come early to socialize.

Next Club Meeting
2nd Friday of January 7:30 p.m.
at the
Clement Community Center
1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood,
Colorado
Hotline: (303) 595-5448
www.eurekathc.com



LuLubelle's Lost Bling Treasure Puzzle

By
Bill Chapman

A cryptogram is an encoded message. The code used is called a simple substitution cypher. This means that the message is encoded by replacing each character in the message with a letter of the alphabet. Every time a particular character occurs in the message, it is replaced with the same code letter. Word spacing and punctuation are not changed.

Some people like to solve cryptograms much like some people like to do crossword puzzles. The cryptogram is solved by looking for frequently used characters and clues provided by letter patterns and word spacing. Solve the cryptogram shown below, find LuLu's bling and bring it to the next regular Eureka! meeting to collect a prize.

Hint: The differences between the letters Q, S and T, A and E, U and V are very subtle; decode carefully.

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Last month's solution:
 very recently lulubelle was studying old denver cemeteries. she visited several including the former mount prospect cemetery. now a city park she walked around the memorial pavilion and fountain. two identical rules signs caught her attention. after reading them she realized

her bling was missing.

Park: Cheeseman Park

Prize: 5 golden dollar coins, sponsored by Louise Smyth of Gold-N-Detectors. Prize doubled by Boots Lewis.

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GOLD CATEGORY

John Olson.....14K Earring

Jeff Lubbert.....14K Ring

JEWELRY CATEGORY

Devin Romero.....Victorian Amber Earring

Charlie Fulton.....Sterling Silver Ring w/ Black Pearl

Charlie Fulton.....14K and .925 Earring

John Hinton.....Blue Stones Sterling Ring

John Hinton.....Ghost Shaped Earring

Pat Lucero.....Coach Ring

Cindy Bockenstedt.....Mexican Silver with Black Chevron Ring

Chuck Hedberg.....18K HGE* White Ring

*Heavy Gold Electroplate

COIN CATEGORY

Chuck Hedberg.....1907 Indian Head Cent

John Hinton.....19?? S Standing Liberty Quarter

John Cornelisse.....1344 Hammered Silver Penny

TOKEN CATEGORY

Devin Romero.....RTD

Pat Lucero.....\$.25 Gold-N-Detector

Ron Erickson.....Adolph's / Pharmacy, Good For / 5¢ / In Trade

ARTIFACT CATEGORY

Ron Erickson.....Hemmingway House, Key West, Flattened Penny

Jan Hallez.....Ink Well Bottle

Devin Romero.....Private First Class Chevron Pin

Chuck Hedberg.....1950 Bicycle License Plate

Sam Knopp.....1900 Paris Expo Horticulture Spoon

Aaron Shipe.....Eagle Button

Tonette Romero.....'Model Dairy' Cream Bottle

Tonette Romero.....Spectacles:12K Gold Filled with Case

Cindy Bockenstedt.....1870s Schuttler Wagon Advertising Medallion

Tonette Romero.....Red Cross Condensed Milk Silver Spoon

FIND-OF-THE-MONTH CATEGORIES

Gold: Natural gold (flakes, nuggets, wire) stamped karat alloy content or obvious custom alloy item.

Jewelry: objects of metal often set with gems and worn for personal adornment, except jewelry qualifying for the GOLD category.

Coin: a piece of metal issued by governmental authority as money (includes GOLD coins of any nation).

Token: a piece resembling a coin issued as money by some person or body not of a governmental authority; can be redeemed for services or specified items.

Artifact: simple object showing human workmanship or modification.

SOME OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MEMBER'S FINDS



Find of the Month Winners - December

GOLD - Jeff Lubbert

14K Ring

Using a Sunspot scoop with the handle modified for travel, Jeff grabbed this gold wedding band off the sea floor in chest deep salt water after getting a good signal on his White's Beach Hunter ID. He was hunting on a warm sunny beach in St. Thomas.



JEWELRY - Chuck Heoberg

18K HGE Ring



Using a new to him Garrett's AT Pro with a DD 8.5x 11.5" coil, Chuck tried out his new machine by going out in front of his house to the curb where he found this old gold ring marked 18K HGE about 3 inches down. (The ring was tested and did not register as gold, so was moved from the gold to the jewelry category.)

COIN - John Cornelisse

1344 Hammered Silver



John traveled to the UK to find this 1344 AD Edward III Reign Silver Hammered Penny. It was minted in London, probably at the Tower Of London. Hammered means a two piece die is used. A silver disc was placed on a die, then a second

die placed on top of the disc and was hit with a hammer. This causes a lot of variances on coins of the same dies. John used his White's MXT Pro with a DD coil to locate this very old hammered silver coin. John talks about his UK trip on page ????

ARTIFACT - Tonette Romero

Red Cross Spoon



This Red Cross Condensed Milk Spoon was found in what used to be the grand-parent's bar. Lots of kitchen material was stored there after the kitchen remodel in the 50's.



TOKEN - Ron Erickson

Adolph's Pharmacy 5¢

Ron was using his White's XLT with a Big Foot coil at a construction site when he found this token at about an inch down.



Jan 2014

The Prez Sez

By Ron Erickson

Wow, just writing 2014 brings an anticipation of what it might bring, and makes me reflect on 2013.

Looking back there were some things I did not accomplish and a lot of great things I did not find. Did you meet your goals or did you even set any of them? I try to make out a list of the things I would like to find in the upcoming year and try and figure out how I can better position myself to do so. If you want to find a jar full of coins, what tools would you need to do that? What type of reaction does your machine give off if it crosses over it and how does the depth of the jar affect your ability to hear it? If you were to bury such a jar, how deep would you bury it and where? What type of person buries their money?

My advice is to sit down and make a wish list or a goal and try to figure out what



will help you achieve your goals. As an example, find a jar and figure out how many parks or schools you will need to search to fill it. Or pick a volley ball court and take 10 minutes daily or weekly and keep track of how much it yields over the course of a year? Looking for rings? Keep track of how many pull tabs you dig between rings. One item that remains on Linda's wish list to find is a bullet mold. I guess we'll have to go to a place where she can try to find one, even if it ends up being a local antique store. Of course, both of us would like to find a gold coin. I'm excited to see what 2014 brings.

Set your metal detecting goal for 2014, have fun and keep searching!

January is hit or miss on weather for a in town hunt so look for info at the meeting for time and location.

Ron

John Steele spoke at December's meeting about his November 10-16 trip with Win Faires to Digging In Virginia (DIV). A clipped corner Confederate Belt Plate, an 1857 Flying Eagle cent, some buttons, bullets, rifle sling hook, J hook, and other relics John found were shown. John discussed the how important ground balancing was in the Virginia soil and what type of detectors participants used. Thanks John.



+-+ Upcoming 2014 Events +-+

JANUARY EUREKA! MEETING

Bring:

Nametags ~ thanks for wearing them to all Eureka! functions.

Snacks ~ as always, treats for the snack table are appreciated.

Cash ~ for drawings, hunts, hats...

Finds ~ to show.

Answers ~ to puzzles.

Donation ~ canned food.

UPCOMING EUREKA! CLUB EVENT

Jan 14, 2014 Sports Hunt? If weather cooperates, more info at Jan meeting or call the Hotline 303-595-5448.

Contact: Ron Erickson 303-466-0453

UPCOMING MEETING SPEAKERS

JANUARY: Jeff Broome, Author, speaking about Cheyenne Indian raids 1860s.

MARCH: Comet Club - Meteors

2014 CALENDAR

January:

3rd - Newsletter published
8th - Board Meeting 6:30
10th - General Meeting 7:30
12th - Sports Hunt
31st - Soundoff Deadline

LINK TO CLICK



Eureka! Sponsor

PLACES TO GO

Museum Of Nature and Science

Off The Beaten Trail, Geocaching Game, Colorado Central Plains

<http://www.ourjourney.info/MyJourneyDestinations/OffTheBeatenTrail/>

Golden History Center "Show & Tell Exhibit" also "Made in Golden: Where Innovation Lives" (Discover the inventive stories behind **Spyderco** Knives, etc) 11am-4:30pm, Tues-Sat, Sun Noon-4:30pm, \$3
923 Tenth St, Golden 303-278-3557

Colorado Railroad Museum
17155 W 44th Ave
Golden 303-279-4591

Colorado Antique Gallery
5501 S Broadway
Littleton 303-794-8100
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12pm-6pm

LINKED WEB SITES TO CHECK OUT

www.mdhtalk.org Detecting Hobby Talk
www.fmdac.org Federation of Metal Detector & Archaeological Clubs
<http://www.relicroundup.blogspot.com> Relic Roundup Radio show (hosted by Jeff Lubbert 7 p.m. Mondays), and blog.

In-Town Hunt Information

As a Eureka! member we want you to participate in and help put on In-Town club hunts. These hunts are meant to be fun, first and foremost. They provide a context outside of the meetings for fellowship with club members. To put on an in-town hunt you need to:

- Schedule with the Hunt Coordinator or President (see the contact list).
- Provide the Hunt Coordinator a plan.
- Send the hunt flyer to the newsletter editor in an appropriate format for insertion into the newsletter (see the contact list).
- Provide flyers at the monthly meeting.
- Ensure the hunt rules are discussed BEFORE the hunt.
- Police the hunt.
- The hunt master for any particular hunt can decide open hunt (non-members may hunt) or members only.
- Write a story for the newsletter and send it and accompanying photos to the newsletter editor prior to that month's deadline.

To ensure the continuation of this hobby and to provide the best impression of Eureka! and its membership, you, as hunt master, MUST enforce all rules, including:

1. Pouches to store finds and trash MUST be worn and used at all times during the hunt.
2. All hunters must wear headphones.

3. Absolutely no tolerance of holes left open. A first warning, followed by a time-out or expulsion from the hunt.

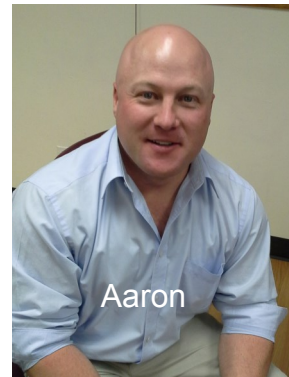
4. Hunters digging and leaving trash of any sort on the hunt field will receive the same treatment discussed above.

All hunts will need to be okayed by Hunt Coordinator (see the contact list) prior to officially being put in the newsletter and put on.

Failure to follow the guidelines may result in hunts being cancelled.

See the 2014 calendar for planned hunts and openings.

Look Who's Joining the Fun



By John Cornelisse

Joining Eureka! at December's meeting is **Aaron Shipe** who lives in Lakewood. Aarons hobbies are metal detecting and birding. To find out whether he watches birds or hunts them, you can contact him at 303-247-2385 or email him at Azz85ead.com. For the metal variety of hunting he uses a White's MXT-Pro.

Contact List

Officers	Name	Phone	E-Mail
President	Ron Erickson	(303) 466-0453	rweuffda@comcast.net
Vice President	Boots Lewis	(303) 941-6251	foxfixer5@msn.com
Secretary	Nancy Faires	(303) 368-1356	photo518@msn.com
Treasurer	Linda Kibler	(303) 670-0899	rlkibler@earthlink.net
Board 2015	Jay Reed	(303) 466-1344	joyrider333.jr@gmail.com
Board 2015	John Cornelisse	(303) 697-5746	joshar5@msn.com
Board 2015	John Olson	(719) 588-7021	jncolson@gojade.org
Board 2014	Terry Weatherly	(303) 423-2228	terrystboss302@hotmail.com
Board 2014	John Steele	(720) 530-6169	johnsteele400@hotmail.com
Board 2014	Sheri Muehlbauer	(303)-838-4119	smuehlbauer@msn.com
Board 2014	Harry Barcroft	(303) 750-1312	paragon65@hotmail.com
Newsletter			
Editor	Cindy Bockenstedt	(303) 523-6735	seychik@aol.com
Internet Web Site			
Webmaster	John Lambe	(303) 840-8094	jlambe@earthlink.com
Volunteers			
PERT	Jeff Lubbert	Nametags	Mary Sable
HART	Cindy Bockenstedt	Nametags	Win Faires
Hunts Coordinator	Jeff Lubbert	Greeter	Rose Abercrombie
Finds Table	Bernice Ortiz	Greeter	Mary Sable
Finds Table	Bob Flier	Speakers	Boots Lewis
Drawing Table	Harry Barcroft	Orientation	Board Member
Drawing Table	John Olson	Coin Purchases	Ron Erickson
For general information contact the hotline: (303) 595-5448			
Visit our club on the Internet: http://www.eurekathc.com			

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 1/2 page, \$24.00 per month
 full page, \$48.00 per month

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Food Drive

By Bernice Ortiz



A heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the December club food drive.

We collected: 19 cans of vegetables, 4 cans fruit, 4 cans of chicken broth, 4 cans of soup, 5 cans of beans, 3 cans of tomato sauce/paste, 1 bottle pizza sauce, 1 barbecue sauce, 1 hot fudge bottle, onion dressing, 1 strawberry drink, 2 jars peanut butter, 3 boxes Jello, 2 boxes of stuffing mix, 1 box hash browns, 1 box cereal, 5 packages of macaroni/spaghetti, 1 box mashed potatoes, 1 box tea, 1 package pancake mix, 2 cans tuna, 5 diced tomatoes, and 19 packages of Ramen noodles.

All of this food was taken to Jefferson County Action Center at 8755 W. 14th Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado. They have a food bank that serves all of Jefferson County and their residents.

We are going to have another **food drive in January and February** so please remember to bring your food items so that we can contribute to another organization.



Reminder: Baseball caps with the Eureka! logo are available for \$10.00.

New: Metal detector lapel pins are \$5.00 and Eureka! window decals are \$2.00.

Wheatridge requires permits to metal detect in their city. No hunting is allowed October through March. They are accepting permit applications which will allow metal detecting April 1 - September 30, 2014.

Eureka! Treasure Hunters Members Service Directory

RL Vending Inc.

We Treat you Right!

Richard and Linda Kibler
303-517-1189
rlkibler@earthlink.net



American Digger Magazine - Relic Roundup

Co-host - Jeff Lubbert
www.relicroundup.blogspot.com
Phone: 678-439-1863
Skype: AmericanDigger
Monday nights 9:00 pm EST
(7:00 pm Mountain Time Zone)

Personal contact:
coindigr@hotmail.com
Phone: 303-487-0438
Cell: 303-618-5179
Skype: jeff.lubbert

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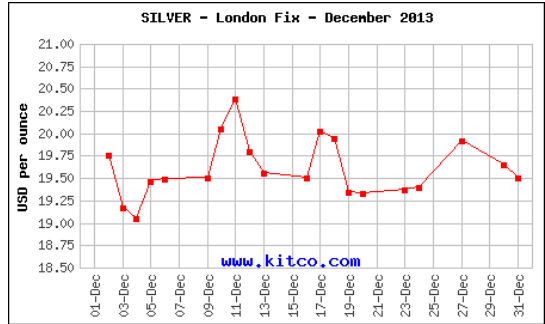
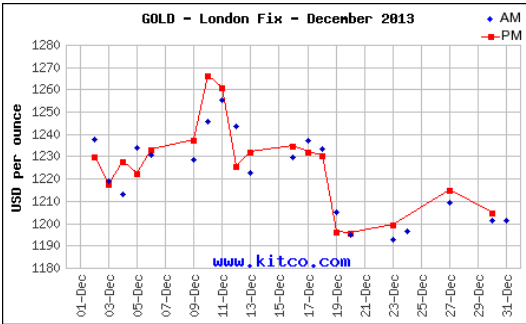
John Hinton
303-619-4313
Tom Zawatzki
720-206-8671

**For Sale: Whites V3i Metal Detector.
10" d2 Coil & Cover, Rechargeable and
AA Battery Packs, Wireless Headphones,
Instruction Books. \$1350.00
Please call John Cornelisse 303-250-3335.**

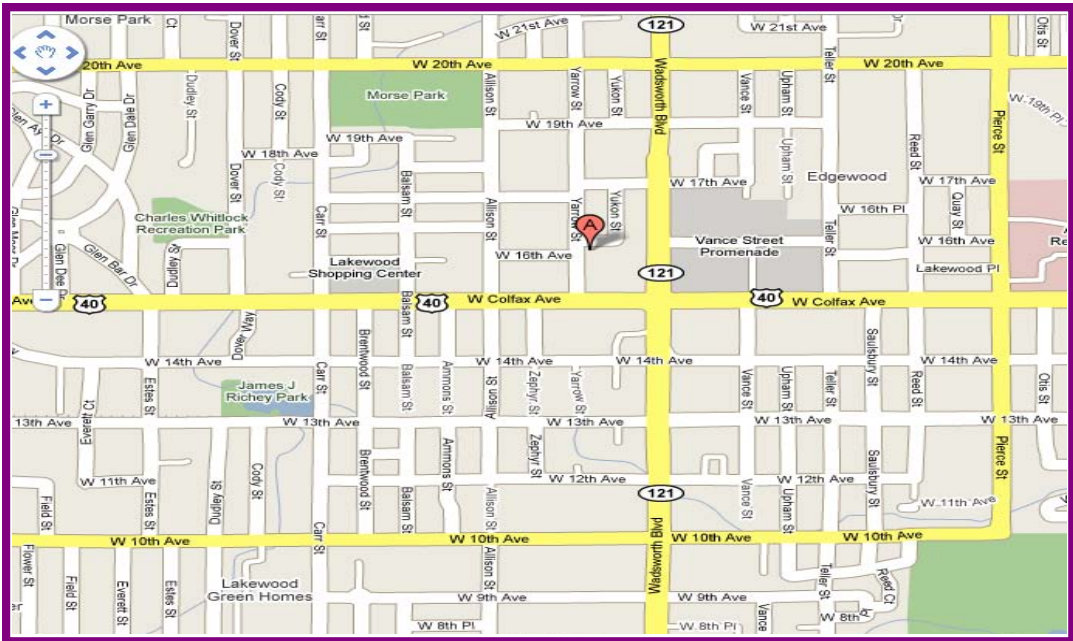
**Wanted: Bird Bands.
Please call Cody Buehler
970-290-5888.**

Gold Prices

Silver Prices



Eureka! Club meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., on the second floor of the Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado.



Secretary's Report

By Nancy Faires

December 2013

President Ron Erickson welcomed everyone. There were 61 people present including 1 new member, Aaron Shipe, and 2 guests, Lori Rohan and Tim Robertson.

Linda Kibler presented the Treasurer's report.

Thank you to everyone who brought canned goods for the food drive. We will continue the drive each meeting through February. The Board would like additional suggestions for donation locations. The Food Bank of the Rockies has been suggested.

October Dog Tag Hunt – John Cornelisse
The weather and the park were great. Thank you to John for a good hunt.

November World War II Hunt – John Olson
The weather and park were great. Ron Erickson found the medallion that was hidden – he received a 1775 Bicentennial medallion. Thank you to John Olson for a good hunt. If you were at the hunt and lost any item(s) please contact Joe Johnston to retrieve.

December Holiday Dinner – John Steele and Nancy Faires
There was a good turnout, great food and location. Everyone who attended received a detector pin and Eureka! decal. Boots Lewis won the 1914 D 2 1/2 Indian gold coin. John



Nancy

Hinton won a 1 year subscription to American Digger which had originally been won by the club in an October fundraiser held for a leukemia patient. Thank you to John and Nancy.

The club has the detector pins for sale for \$5 each and the Eureka! decals for \$2 each.

Lulu's Bling

Lori Rohan found the bling in Cheeseman Park. She received 5 gold dollars from Louise Smyth, Gold-N-Detectors. Boots Lewis had challenged anyone who found the bling to double the prize. Lori received 5 additional gold dollars from Boots. Thank you Louise and Gold-N-Detectors for sponsoring this hunt.



(Continued on page 17)

Soundoff January, 2014

Tip of the Month

Always ground balance your Big Foot coil at a 45 degree angle. Keep extra batteries in a small tin that will fit in your pocket.

Sew small cloth strips onto your pouch to carry your tools when hunting.

John Steele spoke about his November hunt trip to Culpepper, Virginia to the 24th and 25th DIV. The January speaker will be Jeff Broome.

There will be a January 2014 hunt with a sports theme. Details at the January meeting.

Thank you to everyone who brought desserts tonight.

Elections were held. The newly elected Board members are: Jeff Lubbert, Linda Erickson, Jan Hallez and John Hinton.

General Drawing

1957 Proof set – Robert Clearwater

1934 Buffalo nickel – Devan Romero

1917 Walking Liberty half – Charlotte Steele

1876 S Seated dime – Boots Lewis

1851 Large cent – John Olson

1869 3 cent piece – Jeff Lubbert

1890 Seated dime – Tom Conroy

1961 Good Luck piece – Tom Conroy

1873 Half dime – Linda Erickson

1864 2 cent piece – Jeff Lubbert

Silver 3 cent piece – Bob Flier

Dos peso – Lori Rohan

2nd Chance

Eureka mug (donated by Charlotte Steele) –

Soundoff January, 2014

James Merritt

Strawberry cheesecake – Charlotte Steele
Eureka mug (donated by John Steele) –

Katherine Ferris

Shadow T-shirt – Robert Clearwater

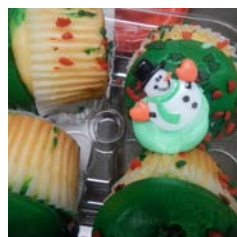
Ghost Towns of Arizona (donated by Linda Erickson) – Laura Lewis

Membership Drawing

Silver dime – Charlie Fulton

Just for Fun newsletter Clue drawing

Silver dime – Mary Norden



Eureka! Christmas Party





'Tecting Tips



John Hinton showed the club how to ground balance a Big Foot coil at a 45 degree angle. He also showed how a trash/treasure pouch could be modified to hold a digging tool by sewing a couple of strips of fabric to the outside of the pouch. Thanks John.

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Mary knew *THE CLUE* answer and was rewarded with a sliver dime.

THE CLUE

Find the answer in the newsletter to *the clue* to have your chance to win at the next regular Eureka! meeting.

What does HGE mean?

Last month's answer: Nov's speaker was Kevin Briggs (and Maria Torres). They spoke on Bearing Sea Gold.

The park where the World War II Hunt was held: Eisenhower Park.

U.K. FALL HUNT

OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 16, 2013

By John Cornelisse

I left for the UK two days early this time in order to acclimate to the time change and also to sightsee London. I left Denver on Wednesday, October 30th and arrived at Heathrow on Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. GMT. The innkeeper, Allan, met me at the passenger pickup area and took my luggage to his Heathrow Cottages, where I would stay the next two nights.

I then found the tube or underground station at the Heathrow terminal 5 and took the train to London proper. The cost for an all-day ticket was about 8.75 pounds. I had decided to go to the British Museum, my first day in London. I took the tube from Heathrow to Holborn station (the purple line) which was fairly simple as you



stayed on the same train for the entire trip of about one and one-half hours. Arriving at Holborn station, it was a simple matter of walking to the museum, about four or five city blocks. The direction signage was excellent to take me there. After getting to the British museum which is free to the public I was puzzled at how busy it was for mid-week. Later I found out that the whole week was a holiday for school children and parents alike. This crimped my tour of the museum as it was very hard to see the exhibits close up with the crowds that day.

I took the same route back to the airport and then a short bus trip to arrive in the little village of Stanwell where I would be staying. I had previously studied maps, but it got dark at 4:30 and I got lost! I saw a lady walking her dog and she was helpful and led me to the cottages with a shortcut through an old church yard.

The inn where I stayed for two nights was a sixteen-hundreds home where the ceilings were low and you had to duck to get through the doorways. Some of the ceiling beams were original to the house. A problem I encountered the first night at the cottage was that the airport was quite close to the village and low fly-overs rattled the windows. It seemed to happen every ten minutes or so. It finally stopped at 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. The next evening the airport must have changed runways or di-

rections because there were no fly-overs the second evening.

Friday, the second day, I decided to go into London again. I was taken to Heathrow by my B&B host. Being a veteran of the underground, I got another all-day ticket and took the train to the Westminster Station. The station is right on the Thames across from the London Eye (big ferris wheel), Parliament, and Big Ben.

I walked a while but didn't cover much sightseeing ground so decided to take an open double decker tour bus and a boat tour on the Thames for 28 pounds – well worth the price. I took the boat tour first, as it was starting to rain and then got off at the Tower of London. I spent about 3 hours touring that sight, seeing the Crown Jewels and several other exhibits. I got on the tour bus

and took a seat in the upper level to get the best views. As night fell, I decided to find an underground station to head back to the airport and then make my way back to the cottages. The backtracking went smoothly and I had a good night's sleep.

Saturday morning I arrived at Sixt Car Rental at about the same time as the rest of the group of five hunters. We all fit in the small van and headed to the



Wrabness Village to the barn which would be our home for the next 14 days. Arriving at the wheat sheave barn, we were all impressed by the lodging. Yes, it

had a modern kitchen with stainless steel appliances. A barn at one time in the 1700's, now a modern living space with bathrooms with Jacuzzi tub, geothermal heat, large flat screen TV and cable and internet access. The only reminders of its age were some of the ceiling beams and pegged wood joints that were visible as a reminder of what it once was.



Up at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and off we went each morning for a field(s) which was chosen by the group the previous evening. Most mornings were overcast then becoming sunny as the morning progressed. You could almost set your watch as noon came; it would cloud over

and would rain or drizzle lightly. This rain every afternoon would turn the fields into mud. Your boots and detector coil would accumulate twice its weight in mud that was sticky as peanut butter and every so often you had to take your putty knife and remove the goo. New fields were covered everyday although when important treasure was found in a field, we returned to the same field the next day.

Being the last team of the fall season we were at a disadvantage in that there had been dozens of hunters that had been on these fields before us, witnessed by the filled dig holes we repeatedly walked over. It seems our group did not find as many finds and relics as the pouches of previous groups. Our group found 5 gold items, 3 Celtic Staters, a hammered ¼ Noble, and a beautiful gold sewing thimble. Hammered silver coins were found; I

found a 1552 Queen Mary Groat (four pence).



Two seal matrices were found; I found a silver one identified as 13th century. It is at the Colchester Museum being evaluated. It may not be returned to me and will be kept as treasure. If so, I

will be paid a value established by a committee and this value will be shared by the landowner.



Several Roman coins were also found. An important coin I also found was a 1689 copper/brass half-crown coin called emergency coinage or gun metal

money made from bells and cannons for King James II to pay his troops during the civil war at that time.



One hunter who only stayed a week brought an older Garrett detector and after three days in the rain gave up the ghost even after opening the cases and using a hair dryer to no avail. The rest

of the group, myself included, had Minelab CTX 3030 detectors.



When returning to the barn in the evening, they were all laid in the driveway and hosed down to remove the mud.

The GPS feature on these machines worked great when you were on vast fields and were gridding an area; you never walked the same path twice.

Where one of the gold staters was found, I was within 7 feet of that point according to the GPS. DARN!!!!

From day one, we as a group, stayed out in the fields until 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.; one time until 6:30. A good headlight was a

necessity. The hunter with the Garrett did not have one and plodded through the dark with only the light from the detector console. I found out the first time I went to the UK in the winter, to get the best equipment possible to use in the worst conditions. The cheap stuff usually fails when you need it most.

I also learned the first time to layer clothing to stay warm; a good rain coat and head wear such as a balaclava, tightly knit cap, tights and socks, and most important good boots that fit well and won't come off when the mud tries to suck them off.

Back at the barn, in the mud room where we cleaned our finds each evening, the barrel where we disposed of our trash finds and lead must have weighed 40 pounds by the time it was taken out to the trash.

We made our own lunches in the morning and when we got back in the evenings, the wife of the group leader had a hot dinner ready for us. Those who found gold, by prior agreement, had to buy drinks or meals at the pub (not a good deal if the museum won't let you have it to take home). We went to pubs several times and broke up meal monotony with McDonalds once. They have a 1955 burger that is sold only in Europe and really is exceptional!

Some thoughts and comments: Never throw away anything that you think is scrap or junk. Have an expert look at it first; it may be a keeper. Last winter, the first time on the field in the morning, spreading the yoke of the headphones, SNAP, they broke at the yoke. I repaired them with borrowed tape and put up with a dangling earpiece for nine more days and replaced the yoke when I returned home. Forward to November

– first day of detecting I spread the same headphones to put them on and SNAP, the other yoke broke. Luckily another hunter lent me a spare he carried or I would have had to use earbuds for the term. I purchased some noise cancelling Bose headphones and they sure made for a quieter flight; expensive but well worth the cost if you fly often. I had a seat in economy with British Airways on the return trip home. I had printed out the boarding pass the evening prior and when I presented it, they replaced it with a business class ticket. Boy did I appreciate that – wider seats, more leg room and much better food. If you want to go on this type of UK hunt, expect to spend about \$3800 - \$4000 for 10 to 14 days which includes airfare. Some of the tamer hunt groups, not as hardcore, will cost more, but it is an experience of a lifetime; the only chance of finding stuff that is really old. I hope with my

age that I can continue for a few more times, as that kind of metal detecting ten or more hours a day is right at the limits of what my body can withstand. So go now –young man or lady – while you still can!!!

For more information:

Google:

Wheatsheaf Barn, Wrabness, Essex

Clickable Link to November Finds:

[http://
www.colchestertreasurehunting.co.
uk/2013Novfinds.html](http://www.colchestertreasurehunting.co.uk/2013Novfinds.html)



13th Century Medieval Silver Seal Matrix

Crossed Hands and Flowers

Lombardic lettering

Edward type E's and barred A's

Esto Fidelis, which means "Be Faithful"



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