

The Soundoff

EUREKA! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc.
Denver, Colorado



Vol. 52 Issue XII

December 2024

Search With Care!

Visit our Club on the Internet at <http://www.eurekathc.org>

Food Bank of the Rockies October Donation from Eureka! THC 124 lbs. + 138 cash



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Merry Christmas

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EUREKA! THC ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2024

5:00 PM

3 SONS ITALIAN RESTAURANT & BAR

14805 W 64TH AVE, ARVADA

\$32 PER PERSON

TAX & TIP COVERED BY CLUB

(CASH BAR)

RSVP & PAY BY DECEMBER 6



The Prez Sez

by Jeff Lubbert



Winter? I am having a hard time getting into the Christmas spirit with this warm weather, but I also haven't made it out detecting recently either. Life has been getting in the way! Hopefully many of you have been getting out and enjoying this unseasonably warm weather and swinging a detector. Speaking of swinging detectors there is a new Garrett detector that is out, the Vortex. I will have one for members to try out, it is looking like a very nice machine from what I can see online.

The December meeting is always busy with our elections. Yes, we will take more nominations prior to voting for new officers. We will also be voting for the Gene Kotlan Award during the upcoming meeting. The Gene Kotlan award winner is selected by general membership via secret ballot vote at the preceding December club meeting. The recipient is chosen on the basis of the fellow club member who has contributed the most for the good of the club during the preceding year. Since the votes are tallied by an outside source, the winner is not known to anyone in the club until presentation of the awards at the February meeting. December is also our dessert meeting, so bring your favorite dessert to share with fellow Eureka members. We will do our normal voting for Finds of the Month in December.

The January meeting will have voting for Finds of the Month and Finds of the Year. Our annual awards banquet, installation of new officers and potluck occurs in February. That February meeting starts at 6:30 so make sure to adjust your schedule. There will be reminders about the potluck meeting in future newsletters.

I am looking forward to taking some time off from official club business, though I am deeply embedded into this club and will continue to represent it. I am currently working on Rush to the Rockies trying to get a new site lined up and also with a detector manufacturer as a sponsor for RTTR. It is an exciting time to be a member of Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club.

I hope all Eureka members have a safe and happy holiday season and a merry Christmas.

- Jeff



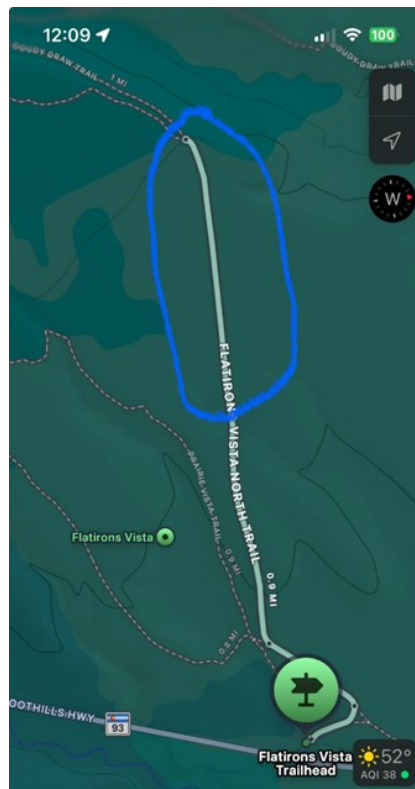


Lucky Find & Return of a Lost Gold Ring

by Allen Jordan

I was browsing the Boulder city news section of the social media website Reddit a few weeks back and saw a posting about a lost 14k gold ring. Peter Dawson, visiting from California, was hiking the Flatirons Vista North trail and throwing snowballs when he eventually noticed that his gold ring was missing from his hand. This was his late father's ring, who had passed away from cancer in 2022 so he really wanted it returned. So after the Eureka Winter Break Hunt on Nov 17th I decided to stop by and give it a go on my way home.

But there was a major issue: the possible search area Peter provided was huge. He posted this map with the search area circled, but that stretch of trail is a half mile long, the trail itself is about 10' wide (more of a gravel/dirt road), and it could be off trail or buried in mud due to the snowball throwing and wet conditions when he was hiking.



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I gave this an extremely slim chance of ever being found even with a large team hunting, but I hiked in anyways and started searching at the bottom of the circled section. I was using my Minelab Vanquish 540 and ignoring signals outside of the gold range. There were so many trash signals (it's a very popular trail by a major highway) that I was also ignoring deeper or spotty-sounding targets after a while. I tried to swing off the sides of the trail into the brush as well, but the grass clumps were tall and prevented a lot of my access. I had to explain to a lot of hikers what the heck I was doing, this was on a busy warm Sunday so there were some crowds.

I was getting only garbage and deep spotty targets and the amount of area to cover was dawning on me more and more, so I pretty much gave up after about 200 feet and turned around to detect my way back to the starting spot. After a couple of swings while going down a hill I decided to shove the detector between two clumps of grass on the side of the trail on a whim and I got a clean 18 target ID, without any bouncy tones and the depth indicator showed it right on the surface. Miraculously it was actually the ring, about 1 foot off the south side of the trail:





Peter had described the gold nugget pattern in his original post, so I knew this was it right away. I was so excited to take a picture that I dropped my phone and shattered the screen protector hah.

I met with Peter and his family when he returned around Thanksgiving to visit Boulder and gave back his ring. I brought the detector to show off how it works and what signals the ring was giving vs the trash, and Peter was kind enough to give me a reward as well.

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Here's us with the ring:



This is the second gold ring I've found and returned. Hopefully, I can keep up the streak in the future.

EUREKA! THC BOARD RESOLUTION

TEMPORARY - February 27, 2024

The Eureka! THC Board has adopted a **TEMPORARY** resolution for the addition of two (2) additional categories to the Find of the Month (FOM):

Costume Jewelry
Foreign Coins

By unanimous consent, the Eureka! THC Board decided to “TEST” two (2) additional **TEMPORARY** categories effective April 12 – October 11, 2024, 7 months. The information gathered during the “TEST” period will be reviewed by the Board in November 2024 to determine if the additional categories should be added to the FOM in the future.

During the “TEST” period, members may enter their finds in these additional categories; however, items entered in these categories will be eligible for the standard FOM honors, a silver dime for the winner of the category; however, the winners of these two (2) categories will **NOT** be eligible for the 2024 FOY awards. Like the winners of our five (5) categories, the winners of these two (2) **TEMPORARY** categories will be required to give a write-up of the story of their find(s) to be published in the *Soundoff*. These two (2) new **TEMPORARY** categories are meant to bring back some fun into the FOM competition.

In the future, if this resolution is approved by the Eureka! THC Board, the finds entered will become FOY eligible – 2025.

Questions: please see / contact any Eureka! THC Board member.



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EUREKA! THC BOARD TEMPORARY RESOLUTION

Definitions for New Categories

COSTUME JEWELRY

DEFINITION:

Jewelry designed for wear with current fashions and usually made of inexpensive materials: fashion jewelry crafted from non-precious materials. Materials may include a variety of base metals such as brass, copper, plastic, glass, synthetic/ simulated stones, textiles, leather and gold-plated / silver-plated base metals.

It can range from simple, understated pieces to extravagant, high-end fashion jewelry studded with high-quality, simulated stones.

Costume jewelry is made “en-masse” to satisfy a trend or compliment an outfit.

Costume jewelry may be entered into the jewelry category at the finder’s discretion.

Taken from Merriam-Webster, Dictionary.com and Brite Co.

FOREIGN COIN:

DEFINITION:

A piece of metal issued by any foreign governmental authority as money.

Foreign coins that are of monetary or historical value may be entered in the coin category.

EUREKA THC April 2, 2024



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Additional Notes on the New Temporary Categories

The new temporary categories are merely optional and not hard set in what is required to be in each at this point in time. Meaning, that if a foreign coin is found, it is NOT required to be in the foreign coin category. If a foreign coin is found that has a chance of winning in the standard coin category you may enter it in the coin category.

Likewise, not all non-precious metal jewelry is required to go in the costume jewelry category.

These two new temporary categories for finds were created to add more fun and added chances to bring in finds. We are not wanting to cause confusion, animosity or angst amongst club members.

This isn't rocket science; if you want to enter your finds in one of the 5 standard categories for a chance at a silver dime and maybe a FOY opportunity, then do so. If you have finds that correspond with the new categories that more than likely will not win in either coin or jewelry but are fun, they just might win a silver dime in the foreign or costume jewelry category.

Jeff Lubbert

President, Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club





Winter Break Hunt

by Marcus Lieberman

We finally had our club hunt on Sunday. With the early chilly morning, we assembled and started our hunt at 11AM. For the first few minutes all you could hear was detectors and pointers chirping madly. After a while the weather warmed up a bit and it was just lovely. The grass was cut short so the planters could not deeply bury the coins. Eighteen people were out collecting silver coins, tokens, and a few rings. Coins ranged from wheat pennies through dollar coins. At 11:48AM the field was deserted and cleaned out.



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There were fifteen tokens to be changed for prizes.

Fossil fishes – Mary S, Raffi, Joe K

Silver and gold crystals – Joe K, Joyce, Greg, Shellie

Pink gemmy topaz crystal – Joyce K

Morgan silver dollar – Marty S

Cell Phone lens system – Mary S

Tactical Pen Set – Jay R

Club Stein – Emmitt J

Silver Kennedy half dollar – Cindy B

Roll of clad quarters – Joyce K, Joe J.

Waiting for the collectors to return, Robert A. treated us to some warm, delicious chili. I must sincerely thank all the people who helped in setup and take down.



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Breakfast Club 11/1

by Chris Davis

It was finally getting a hair on the cool side, so we moved the hunt starting time back to 10:00. Of course, there was a fair number of us who, being either unable or disinclined to read the Reminder, showed up early and wondered why no one was there. Oh well.

We went over to Crestmoor Park for our hunt. The ground was fairly dry and most of the targets appeared to be fairly deep.

We had some 17 participants in the hunt. Of these, 13 reported information/photos of their finds. The group reported finding 6 rings (Chris D. - 2, Lee P. - 1, Roy N. - 1, Brice Y. - 1, Tom F. - 1). The rings Roy and Brice found were silver. The ring Lee found was titanium. The 2 rings I found were garbage, because I forgot I had the Deus set on the "Garbage Mode" Program.

Roy also found a nice silver locket. Tom got a neat Green River Whisky Token. Jeff got a pretty knife. Four foreign coins were recovered, Randy got an English Pound coin, Joe K. got an Italian and I got Korean and Hungarian coins.

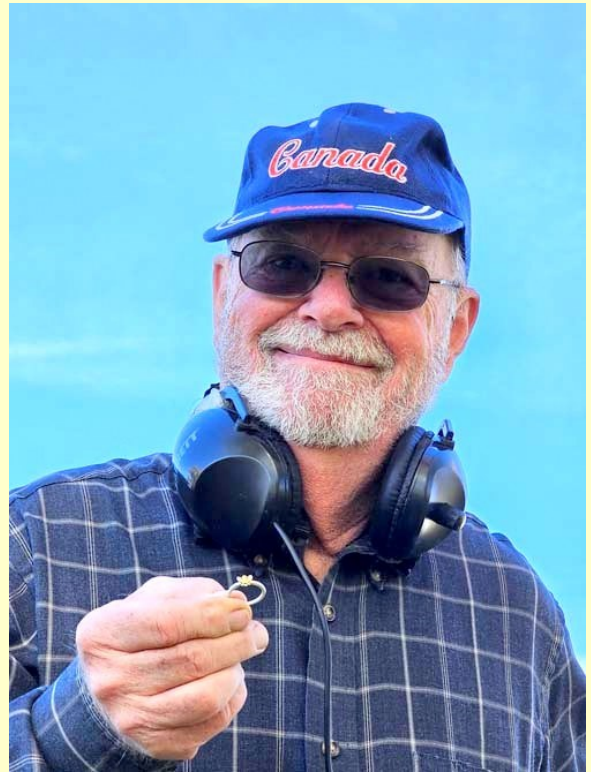
The 13 reporting hunters said they got a total of \$27.05 in dirty coins off of the park. Once again, it was a tight race to see who found the most change. I came in second with \$3.54, but Jeff M. narrowly squeezed by me with \$9.58 (I do not think he cleans his pouch out but once every month or so, at Breakfast Club).

Twasn't a bad hunt.



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Breakfast Club 11/16

by Chris Davis



The Eureka! Breakfast Club went over to Cranmer Park for their second hunt of November, post snow storm. With the multiple soccer ("football" to the English) fields and numerous dog walkers, the park had very good potential for the finding of jewelry/rings. Hunting conditions were excellent! No snow, nice temperature and great soil moisture.

I apologize for not adding any photographs (and fully understand most of you cannot read anyway). Like everything else this year, my computer is in the process of frying and would not process any pictures. I am supposed to get my new replacement computer tomorrow. My brain replacement is still on backorder.

We did pretty well on the day. Seems like we had some 14 attendees. Of the 13 reporting finds, we accumulated \$25.14, 1 silver earring (Greg L.) and 5 rings. Mike M. found 2. Randy S., Dock and I found 1 each. Dock had the best. Other items picked up included: a stainless steel cross (Chris), 7 wheat-ear pennies (Roy N. - 4, Jeff M. - 2 and Chris - 1). Two silver Mercury dimes were recovered (Roy N, Tom F.) Bill C. and I collected an impressive pile of very nice pull tabs (ringpulls).

Tom F. kicked everyone' fanny perpendiculars in the change category with \$8.28. Jeff M. was a distant 2nd with \$3.95.

It was a great day to be out.

Oh yes, on the way home I stopped by one of my favorite pawn shops and picked up a very small (size 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ US) gold ring with two tiny diamonds. The ring appeared to be white gold, but was not marked. So, I am sure all of you are wondering just how I reached the opinion/conclusion the ring was gold (other than just being Mr. Wonderful). Well, I am glad you asked.

1. First and foremost, was the VDI. On the Deus II the VDI came up at 33-34, but the number bounced around from 27 to 45. For you poor folks unfortunate enough not to be using such an advanced machine, a 33 VDI on the Deus II falls in the foil range, well under that of a nickel (which would read 63-64 on the Deus II). As you all hopefully know, the VDI on gold items can range all the way from foil up all the way up thru that of a dime, depending upon size/mass, shape, karat and alloys. The VDI of this tiny ring (1.1g) was consistent with what one would expect of a gold ring of this size.

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2. The ring was a silver color and had considerable wear. The normal shiny Rhodium plating on most white gold jewelry did not appear to be present on this ring, apparently having worn off, as frequently happens to well worn white gold items. The ring looked silver, even thou the VDI was well below what one would expect from a silver item this size (~80 on the Deus II, or similar to that of a zinc penny). So, I used one of those Acid Test Kits to determine if the item was silver. The silver test was negative.

3. I used the Acid Test Kit again, this time to test for gold. When testing gold karat, you make a scratch mark on the stone with the item. You then place a drop of the 10K acid on one scratch, a drop of 14K acid on a scratch and a drop of 18K acid on a scratch. If the item is 10K, the stone mark will remain more or less unchanged under the 10K acid, but under 14K or 18K acid, the mark will disappear. If the item is 14K, the stone mark will remain unchanged under both 10K and 14K acids, but will disappear under 18K acid. In the test of my ring, the stone scratch with both 10K and 14K acids remained unchanged, but disappeared with the 18K acid, so this would indicate my ring is 14K.

4. I Acid Tested other possible ring materials to see what reaction would be obtained:

Aluminum - Even the strongest of acids will not remove the stone scratch.

Titanium - 10K and 18K Acid will not remove the stone scratch.

Stainless Steel - 10K and 18K Acid will not remove the stone scratch.

Nickel - 10K and 18K Acid will remove the stone scratch.

Tungsten - Is too hard to make a stone scratch.

So, based upon the tests and observations above, it appears my ring is indeed 14K White Gold. And yes, I am modest, shy and "Mr. Wonderful".

-- Chris D.



Eureka 2024-25 Calendar



December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
1:●	8:○	15:○	22:○	30:●		

December

Friday, Dec 6 - Breakfast Club

Friday, Dec 13 - Eureka! Club Meeting at the Clements Center, 7:30 pm

Saturday, Dec 21 - Breakfast Club

Sunday, Dec 15- **Holiday Party**

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
6:○	13:○	21:○	29:●			

January

Friday, Jan 3 - Breakfast Club

Friday, Jan 10 - Eureka! Club Meeting at the Clements Center, 7:30 pm

Saturday, Jan 11 - **Swap Meet**

Saturday, Jan 18 - Breakfast Club

February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
5:○	12:○	20:○	27:●			

February

Friday, Feb 7 - Breakfast Club

Friday, Feb 14 - Eureka! Club Meeting at the Clements Center, 6:30 pm

Saturday, Feb 15 - Breakfast Club

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Club Dates

Friday, Dec 6
Saturday, Dec 21
Friday, Jan 3
Saturday, Jan 18

Contact: **Chris Davis 225.235.2642**
for details or to get added to the email list.

Joining Eureka!

Membership Dues

Yearly dues are \$33 per individual or \$42 for a family membership.
Please go to:

Eurekathc.org

Download and complete the application form under the *About* tab. Membership dues can be paid to the Treasurer at the regular monthly meetings.

LINKED WEB SITES

www.mdhtalk.org Detecting Hobby Talk

www.fmdac.org Federation of Metal Detector & Archaeological Clubs

www.spreaker.com/admrr

Relic Roundup Radio Show (hosted by Jeff Lubbert, 7pm Mondays)

TenaciousTreasureTracker.com

See Brian Henry's website for the TTT Hunt clues, and new merchandise available.

www.Youtube.com/AdventuresInDirt

Compilation of the best weekly metal detecting channels and finds, by Ken King (Eureka! member). See his **Weekly Dirt** show at 3:00 PM on Sundays (and available thereafter)

www.Youtube.com/5280Adventures

A variety channel of metal detecting, coin hunting, and other outdoor activities by Tony Frangella (Eureka! member) with his son, Caden.



Eureka! Club Member Services Directory

JEFF LUBBERT
Sales Representative

● **303-618-5179**

● JeffLubbert@historyseekers.net
www.historyseekers.net

● **Authorized Dealer**

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www.youtube.com/adventuresindirt



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)

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www.spyderco.com

GSA

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byrd knife
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HART	Ken King	970.420.8278	ken@adventuresindirt.com
		Welcome Table	(Floating)
Finds Table	(Floating)	Nametags	(Floating)
Breakfast Club	Chris Davis	225.235.2642	aggiefan55@gmail.com
Speakers	Mark Cochran		

To be notified of updates/changes in schedule, contact Roy Neys to join the email notification list

Visit our club on the Internet: <http://www.eurekathc.org> or on Facebook

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 - contact 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.

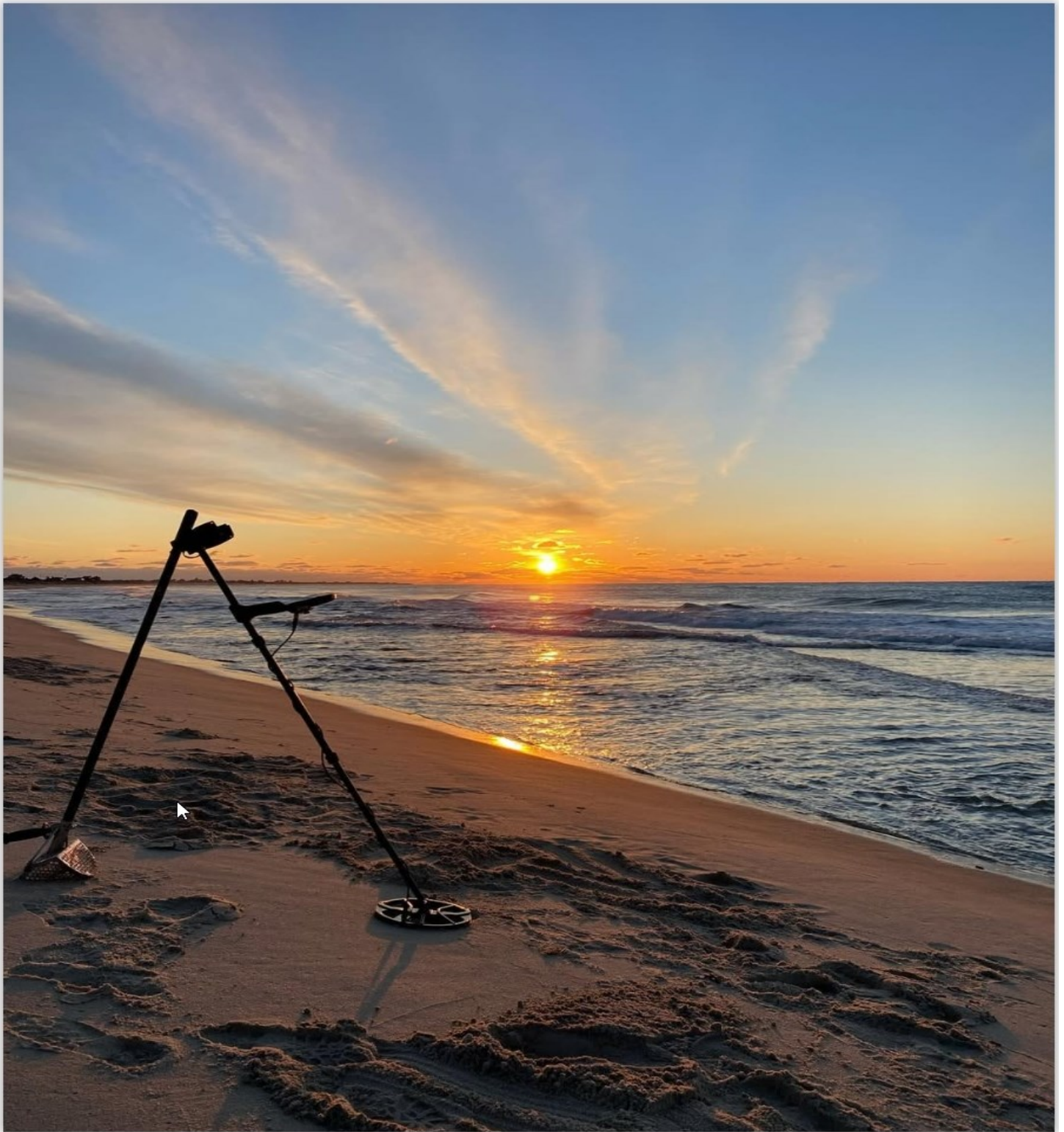
About Eureka!

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 \$33 for single adult membership, \$42 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., at the Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado. Come early to socialize.

Next Club Meeting

**The Dec 13th meeting will
be held at the Clements
Center at 7:30 p.m.
www.eurekathc.org**





“The happiest people I know are not those who find their golden ticket; they are those who, while in pursuit of worthy goals, discover and treasure the beauty and sweetness of the everyday moments.” - *Dieter F. Uchtdorf*

Photo Credit: <https://www.instagram.com/diggingack/>