

Minutes of the MTHA Zoom Meeting, February 14, 2021

Recorded by Stepper Camilleis

Sandi & Scott raised the matter that the Zoom meeting reminder is only for Club members. Nobody is allowed to forward the Newsletter to anyone outside the MTHA. There was a situation last month where someone was sent information and made an unsolicited contact.

While we're still living in the "virtual" world created by COVID-19, there were suggestions as to how we can accommodate new guests. There were suggestions of "Detector Q&A" sessions and temporary Zoom memberships (say, for 2 months) but this would require periodic changes to the Zoom login information. Paulo suggested that we conduct quarterly pre-meetings. Another thought was a 15-minute interview, such as a Zoom chat. There was agreement that the Zoom password would be changed about once a year (or as necessary depending on the future of the COVID situation) including during this month of February upon membership renewal reconciliation. It was also suggested that a "public area" be set up on the MTHA web site, in addition to that for members only. Volunteers are planning to send Sandi some typical questions a newcomer may ask that are related to metal detecting.

Glenn Godwin discussed his upcoming trip to North Carolina March 5-7, which is sponsored by Dig Stock Mini of Greenville NC. Glenn also spoke of his great successes in New Mexico, where his family resides, and he mentioned that just after the Civil War, from 1866-69, there was a fort established by the New Mexico Militia, and he hopes to find related military relics such as belt plates, buckles and buttons, perhaps from Indian wars that took place in the vicinity. Glenn and Dan spoke about the military training grounds in New Mexico, where many old coins and relics could have been lost.

Paulo mentioned that after he finished his tour of duty in the Army, he lived in Vermont and then he moved to New Mexico and attended Eastern New Mexico University in Portallis (?) from 1988-92 (?) where he was working for a mere \$3.85 an hour. Paulo and Glenn both spoke about the vast undeveloped land and numerous ghost towns throughout the state of New Mexico, which is larger than all six of the New England states combined! Dan Schwartz also spoke of sites in New Mexico that he has researched.

Scott discussed the possibility of organizing small group hunts at a variety of potentially fruitful locales. Especially, in New Hampshire's White Mountains, towns such as Ossipee, Tamworth and Freedom, as that is the area Scott is from. He mentioned first metal detecting up there in 1973 and finding cellar holes with lots of large cents. Stepper mentioned that he is also very familiar with the White Mountains area since he and Marita go up there every summer to a cottage on Silver Lake owned within the family.

Don Latino spoke about the potential of numerous old home and farm sites on Route 22 in Wassaic County (?) in New York, as well as in the Finger Lakes region. Don and Scott and Glenn were also discussing great TH'ing sites in Pennsylvania that may be fair game for an MTHA road trip. Don also spoke about his antique book shows that he's attended, and how difficult it is to negotiate with book dealers.

Unfortunately, Rick Smith developed a lung mass and was in the hospital during the Zoom meeting. We all wish him a speedy recovery! On a related note, Mark Roberts spoke about the THC solution as a potential remedy to quit smoking (?).

Paulo discussed and displayed his silver coin purchases for the Club: \$70 face value in silver quarters, \$50 in Franklin and \$50 in Walking Liberty halves. The rising price of silver was addressed and that because of this, the raffle process may have to be changed. Paulo had set up a private meeting to buy the coins he was able to get at a good price in today's silver market. Scott emphasized his desire to always have an ample amount of silver coin on hand for Club activities.

Silver raffles: 1922 Peace dollar won by Don Latino, 1963 Franklin half won by John McGillicuddy, who paid it forward to Rick Smith as a "get well gift" and Rick won a 1927 Standing Liberty quarter, which he threw back for a redraw. Dan Schwartz won the redraw but donated the coin back to Rick!

Commemorative coin prizes: Paulo Adams displayed two very attractive uncirculated commemorative half dollars. One was a 1925S California Diamond Jubilee commemorative the 75th anniversary of the admission of California as a state, just two years after the famous discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in Sacramento. The other commemorative was a 1920 Maine Centennial.

Other contests: Mary Jane Tsiakalis drew the steel cent (formerly Indian Head) drawing number but didn't pick the Steelie. So another Standing Liberty quarter was added to the pot for the next drawing. Scott Ferguson won the "Bad Experiences" contest of the last two weeks with his scuba diving entanglement story! Mark Roberts sold 150 tickets for the 50/50 raffle, and Paulo won this.

We had an open forum to discuss the pros and cons of a variety of Minelab detectors, including the Equinox 600/800, CTX 3030, E-Trac, and others. Most of us agreed that the Minelab detectors generally get better depth. Some issues were raised regarding performance of certain detectors on the beach or in water. Scott, Glenn, Dan and Aidan recapped their beach hunts over the last two weeks.