

# OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EMPIRE STATE METAL DETECTOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.esmda.org>

Volume 10, Issue 2

February 2011

## Upcoming Meetings

February 28, 2011  
March 28, 2011  
April 25, 2011  
May 23, 2011

## Find of the Month Schedule

February: Miscellaneous  
March: Relic  
April: Jewelry  
May: Coin

## President

**Bob Lavoy**  
518-356-0564  
[metal@nycap.rr.com](mailto:metal@nycap.rr.com)

## Vice President

**Pete Gallacchi**  
518-785-9170  
[artifactualdo@aol.com](mailto:artifactualdo@aol.com)

## Secretary

**Peg Grippin**  
518-296-8814  
[squarepeg49@hotmail.com](mailto:squarepeg49@hotmail.com)

## Treasurer

**Peter Teal**  
504 Nathaniel Dr  
Schenectady, NY  
12303  
518-810-9461  
[peter@peter teal.com](mailto:peter@peter teal.com)

## Raffle:

**Drawing for a White's  
M-6 detector to be drawn  
at the May 23, 2011  
meeting**

Tickets for sale, \$5.00  
for one, 3 tickets for  
\$10.00.

## Cont'd

January 2012 winter  
detecting- Travelling tips  
for those going south or on  
a plane somewhere to  
detect

## President's Message

The program committee has released a list of monthly topics for our upcoming year. Let's have a good response from members to volunteer to present these topics. If you have not done a program, step up to the plate. We don't want the same people doing programs. It's more interesting when we have other members present a program from their point of view. We can all learn from seasoned veterans as well as from our newbies.  
Thanks Bob Lavoy, Pres. ESM DA.

## Agenda for the February Meeting

This month's program will be on where do I go? How to find places to detect? The program will be presented by long time hunter Tim Myers. We will have nominations of officers from the floor as per by-laws.  
Bob Lavoy, Pres. ESM DA,  
Come join us at the monthly meetings, 7 pm at the SW Pitts Fire Company located at 266 Old Loudon Road in Latham, for a great time.  
Don't miss the chance to meet with other club members to exchange tips, show off your finds and maybe win one of the nice coins available in the coin raffles. This month, the find of the month category is "Miscellaneous". Bring in and enter your best miscellaneous item for a free chance to win in one of the raffles. Your entry should be one that was found since the last time miscellaneous was find of the month.

## From Program Committee: Topics for Monthly Meetings -2011 email [tmvers3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:tmvers3@nycap.rr.com) with ideas or to present a program

March Detecting techniques, Detector Sounds, VDI number vs. ICONS, break into groups to discuss different detectors

April Getting Permission and election of officers

May Discussion of Special Finds, stories of detecting, 3 or 4 mini presentations

June Cleaning "Stuff" You Have Found, bottles, ceramics, etc. Alternative topic, Detecting Parks and Schools

July Science & History of Metal Detecting – Alternate Interesting Metal Detecting Sites We Use, (members email sites to program committee)

August Weird Stuff We Have Found – Identifying –bring our stuff, Displaying Finds-bring displays  
September Review of Club Hunt, discussion of any changes, no other presentations

October Detecting Cellars, Roads, Forest Sites

November Cleaning and Storing your detecting supplies – getting ready for the winter

December No Meeting

## Minutes from the January 31, 2011

### ESMDA Meeting

Treasurer's report read and accepted. The balance in the club's treasury is \$3,833.  
The 50/50 winner of \$55 cash was Ray Mitchell Conrad. A second drawing of an 1853 ½ dime went to Angelo Primo.  
Coin raffle prizes were: 1829 capped bust dime, 1853 large cent, 1906 Indian head cent, 1858 flying eagle cent, 1791 one real, 1883 V nickel and a 1912 V nickel.

Entries for coin find category were: 1804 ½ cent, 1816 two real and an 1850-51 Hard Times token. Fred Pfindel's Hard Times token find was voted number one find of the month. The ½ cent find of Tim Myers was voted second place find of the month and the two real find of Angelo Primo was voted third place find of the month.

The members took a vote to suspend the club's forum at this time due to minimal use, moderation and permissions problems.

Members discussed purchase of silver, working well obtaining silver through Ferris and eBay. It was decided there would be no club buy back of silver from members.

Nominations for officers from the floor will take place at the February meeting.

Our program was presented by Bill Valosin, Park Ranger and Tinsmith from Saratoga National Historical Park. Bill's been a ranger for 13 years and has been a tinsmith for 8 ½ years.

Bill explained the process of tinsmithing dressed in colonial dress. He demonstrated some of the skills and tools used in tinsmithing. A tinsmith would work with sheet iron pounded out thin, this would be dipped in an acid bath with molten tin, and this sheet would be cut using patterns, pounded and molded around tools if needed. One piece could be soldered to another. Although the tin was thin, about 28 gauge, it could be made strong with bends and punched designs. . It was considered the poor man's silver, shiny, and functional but some pieces could be quite decorative. He showed some iron pieces worked by a blacksmith, then some tin pieces. The benefits of tin were explained in the description of soldier life; the heavy iron cook pots could break. Lighter tin kettles were more portable and could be fixed. Tradesmen traveled with armies to provide services. The tin for the American colonies came from the Cornwall area of England, when hostilities broke out, tin was not plentiful; making life difficult as tinsmithing apprentices were committed for about 6 years, not much choices, could work with iron. cont'd p 2.

Once hostilities were over tinplate could be obtained again. America had some big areas known for tinsmithing in Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Bill demonstrated his skill by fashioning a candle holder's handle, marking tin, cutting the piece, turning over the edges, cleaning the area where the handle was to be attached and soldering it in place. Brick dust was used with a damp piece of leather to clean tin if needed. The tin coating in many cases would wear away with use and would be replaced with a rusty patina. The shine of tin was useful in tin lanterns for reflecting more light. An 18<sup>th</sup> century "flashlight" demonstrated this; the tin door could be opened if more light was needed. The punched hole designs in this lantern were cone shaped with the narrower hole to the outside, dispersing any wind making it harder for the flame to blow out. Bill also showed us a repaired canteen. Scrap tin could be used to fix holes, a copper block was heated, and solder consisting primarily of lead was placed on the heated copper and used to solder the scrap tin where needed for the repair. He showed us some patterns, demonstrated crimping (decorative and added strength to the tin piece) and demonstrated punching a design in tin. Our thanks go to Bill for a very interesting demonstration and talk.