

# OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EMPIRE STATE METAL DETECTOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.esmda.org>

Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2011

## Upcoming Meetings

March 28, 2011  
April 25, 2011  
May 23, 2011  
June 27, 2011

## Find of the Month Schedule

March: Relic  
April: Jewelry  
May: Coin  
June: Toy

## President

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## 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.

## Welcome New Members

Tim Dixon  
Dennis Donohue  
Christopher Gurdagno  
Bob Harford  
Pete Tagliento

**Happy Hunting**

## President's Message

I have been working with Peter Teal on a metal detecting robot. The robot is programmed to detect an area and when it finds a target it drops a golf ball and records the gps coordinates. It's a very interesting project and should be ready by April. Peter is the brains behind the project and I will furnish the golf balls and a White's metal detector. Thanks Bob Lavoy, Pres. ESMDA.

## Agenda for the March Meeting

One of our great hunters John Kotwas will discuss how different makes and models of detectors use VDI numbers, sounds and other clues to help us decide whether or not to dig. Should be a great program. Bring a friend. Bob Lavoy, Pres. ESMDA, 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 "relic". Bring in and enter your best relic item for a free chance to win in one of the raffles. Your entry should be one that was found since the last time relic 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  
**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 February 28, 2011

### ESMDA Meeting

Treasurer's report read and accepted. The balance in the club's treasury is \$4,028. The 50/50 winner of \$48 cash was Tom Bradshaw. Two additional drawings for 1928 and 1927 standing liberty quarters went to John Lewis and Fred Pfindel. Coin raffle prizes were: 1746 King George Copper, 1838 large cent, 1877 seated liberty quarter, 1901 and 1899 V nickels and a 1907 Indian head penny.

Entries for relic find category were: pipe display, 1840 ornate button and a 350 B.C. bronze statue. The 350 B.C. bronze statue find of Bob Lavoy was voted number one find of the month. The pipe finds of Fred Pfindel were voted second place find of the month and the 1840 button find of Angelo Primo was voted third place find of the month.

Using Fred's pipe finds, Bob Lavoy pointed out how to date pipes by the slope of the stem, size and centering of the hole and the height of the bowl. Finding pipe pieces can help date a home site and even point out where a home may have been. Pipe stems started out long, 25" or so, with the build up of tar the stem would be broken off or the pipe would be placed in a fire to clean the tar out. Nominations were taken and seconded, the current officers were nominated.

Members discussed when to purchase silver, the majority of members present indicated waiting to purchase silver was acceptable. Our thanks go to Tim Myers for his presentation on Where to go and Researching Where to Go. Tim has a master's degree in American History and has taught history. Tim advises to have an idea of what type of detecting we want to do first, schools, parks, old places or cellar holes. Talk to people we know first and talk to older relatives to find out the location of ball fields and ball parks, swimming holes, family reunion locations and picnic groves. Can start with the area grew up in or where we are now. Attend a local historical society meeting; members would be a good source to locate older places. Local town libraries often have older volunteers that may know also. Older maps and manuscripts would be there. Some older documents have been transcribed and uploaded online. New York State library has town histories online. Tim showed us 8 x10 copies of maps he taped together and uses when he's out. The NYS library has Sanburn maps, old maps for insurance purposes showing locations of houses, buildings, outhouses, fields. Genealogy documents and the stories with them can reveal locations. Gazeteer showed wealth of person as it showed number of animals taxed on.

Meetings are held the last Monday of every month except December which has no meeting and the May meeting which is held one week early because of the Memorial Day Holiday). The meetings start promptly at 7:00 pm and the meeting location is the S.W. Pitts Fire Co., located at 266 Old Loudon Road in Latham. Entrance is on the lower North side of the building. Please do not park by the front door; this area is for firefighters ONLY.

Cont'd from page 1 the periodic publications of Historical Societies will have personal recollections of family history. There is information on Revolutionary War encampment locations and where troops traveled. Surveyor's research is another resource. Talking with loggers is a good idea, they know areas and where old sites may be. Tim advises not to be afraid to ask people to detect and reminds us not to go on posted property. Find out who owns it, if not noted on the posted sign and look up through county tax records.

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