



# SEARCHERS ALONG THE MOHAWK

## Official Publication of E.A.R.T.H.

Electronic Archaeological Recovery Treasure Hunters

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Central New York's Metal Detecting Club

Vol. 12 Issue 10

### Club Hunt September 24, Russell Park, Ilion BY DICK STOWELL

Attending the hunt:

Chris/Kim Altman, Pat DeChristi, Gail Bielby, Ralph Blencowe, John Bradlinski, Ellie Bruce, Gary Lasher, Lisle Sanborn, Dick Stowell, Don Wertz.

Mother nature was not too kind to the members who attended the Club Hunt at Russell Park on Sunday September, 24th. She threw high winds and rain showers at the group, but that did not stop them from having a good time. Like we always say, "the worst day of metal detecting beats the best day at work".

Let me take a step backward and start from the beginning. The day started with the coffee man wanting to be the first person at the hunt site, so when the other members arrived the coffee would be hot and ready to drink. As he rounded the curve in the road just before the meeting site, there were three turkeys already in the road ahead of him, no, I don't mean three members, I mean three wild birds that ran off into the woods. The coffee man got things started and it wasn't long before the first member, Gary Lasher, arrived. It was good to see Gary; he has been absent from meetings and club hunts due to his work schedule and personal health problems. In the next twenty minutes we had a total of eleven members show up - not too bad for

the kind of day mother nature threw at us. After a brief run down on the 160 acres and viewing various hike trails, members headed off in difference directions.

After only a couple hours of hunting, more than half of the group was driven away by the weather. As they left I checked with them as to what they found. In talking with Gail Bielby and Ellie Bruce, they told me they found clad coins and did a lot of park maintenance, by digging a lot of pull tabs, bottle tops and other junk left behind by unconcerned citizens. As it turned out we all found

clad coins and helped out with park maintenance.

The finds that were note worthy are as follows:

**Chris Altman** dug the best find of the day - an 1894 Liberty Nickel and a wheat penny. Sorry Kim I can not, include you in the finds. There is a very stiff competition going on between Chris and Kim, but I am not at liberty to tell you what it is, just get Kim away from Chris and I am sure she would be happy to tell you all about it. Sorry Chris.

**John Bradlinski** - a set of Military  
**(continued on page 2)**



Participants: Standing left to right - Kim & Chris Altmann, Dick Stowell, Pat DeChristi, Ellie Bruce and Gail Bielby. Kneeling - Don Wertz and Gary Lasher

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Dog Tags. John turned them over to me and I will try to get them back to their owner.

**Gary Lasher** - a wheat penny.

**Dick Stowell** - a man's wrist watch, missing the crystal, hands, back cover, most of the movements and half of the leather wrist strap, other than that, it was a great find. My wife wanted to know why I brought it home.

**Don Wertz** - a Buffalo Nickel and BPOE (Elks Lodge 1444 Ilion, NY) pin. Don gave me the pin to give to a member of the Ilion Elks club.

Near the end of the hunt, I received a cell call from Ralph Blencowe to tell me that he and John Bradlinski were heading home when John noticed a very expensive digital camera, cooler and a drinking jug on the picnic table that someone had left behind. I told Ralph to put them into my truck and I would get them back to the owners on Monday night at our meeting. When I returned home I gave the owner of the digital camera a call to let him know I had his camera. He was under the impression that it was locked safely in the trunk of his car and he was getting ready to get it just before I called. I think we saved the gentleman from having a heart attack.

All in all, not too bad considering the limited time we had to cover 160 acres of land. We may want to return to Russell Park in the spring of 2007 after the snow leaves and the ground thaws. In the meantime get out and keep your coil swinging.

## Members' Finds for September

**Ralph Blencowe** ~ 1958D dime; (2) "wheat" cents; (2) 14K gold rings with missing stones; Petite 10K gold ring with microscopic diamonds (nice); Plain sterling band; Old looking tarnished sterling ring with large heart-shaped stone with diamonds on either side; Total of 10 rings; Opal-stoned pendant (old looking); Few other earrings and chains; Apparently beach finds.

**Larry Ehlinger** ~ 1905 Barber dime; 1890 Indian Head cent; Small gold filled signet ring with script "W"; (3) whipped jackknives; (3) miniature Monopoly pieces, Top hat, flat iron, opened boot; Lead hem weight; locket w/ two clear stones and two red stones; Lead horse rosette w/pedal design.

**Stu Copperwheat** ~ 1865 Indian Head cent; 1924D, 1937s, 1943 Mercury dimes; (14) wheat cents; Colorful "parrot" pin; Old scout medallion; Very nice skeleton key; Iron Buckle; Round brass number tag; Cheapo ring; Whipped pin with ruby-like stones.

**Ed Netzbund** ~ Full bag of newer coinage; (2) wheat cents; 1/2 spoon; (3) mantles, one large enough to illuminate the neighborhood! Horseshoe; Set of car keys; (2) ladies watches, one fairly new; 1979 class ring.

**Don Wertz** ~ Dateless Buffalo nickel (Russell park); (19) "black" pennies from the Delta lake "speed hunt;" Small Navy button; (4) matchbook cars, toy motorcycle, toy plane, toy boat, toy fire truck; Harmonica reed; vial/w dime inside (Delta Lake;)

**John Bradlinsk Jr.** ~ A few "black" pennies; a few numbered pennies; .925 sterling "peace" toe ring; Toy van, truck trailer; Big stainless spoon; Shotgun shell brass ends; Pair of dog tags.

**Ernie Weissmuller** ~ 1861 Nova Scotia penny (outstanding!) (2) "V" nickels, 1883 other N.D.; 1917 Walking Liberty half w/wheat cent stuck to it (interesting); 1907 Barber dime; 1927 Standing Liberty Quarter; 1918, (2) 1941's, 1943 Mercury dimes; 1947 Washington quarter; (2) religious medallions, one gold; Locket with sterling chain.

**Gary Balch** ~ Ornate gate top; Sterling "Minneapolis" spoon; Veterans brass G.A.R. grave marker; Bat wing buckle; Brass peacock; Saw blade; (2) mantels; Bowling pin; Match box car.

**Mike Eychner** ~ Two matchbox cars; I.D. bracelet w/name & dates; Lock w/key; Tokens; Top to Lysol container; Top to thermos; Brass thingy.

### Directions to the South Rome Senior Center.

The South Rome Senior Center is at 112 Ridge St., Rome NY.

- From Utica, take RT 49 to Rome.
- Take 2<sup>nd</sup> Exit which will bring you into the city.
- Turn left at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light beyond the railroad track - this will put you on South James St..
- Turn right at the 1<sup>st</sup> light onto Ridge St. - make a right turn into the parking lot at the Center.

The center is directly across the street from Transfiguration Church.

## Oct. Meeting

October 30  
7 PM

South Rome Senior Center  
Rome

# Sanborn, Balch & Kennedy September “finds” winners

By Larry Ehlinger



Category: “Coin”  
Winner: Lisle Sanborn  
Item: 1853 half dime

If there was ever anyone who deserved to be a monthly finds winner it would be **Lisle Sanborn**. Ever since taking up this frustrating hobby Lisle has resigned himself to finding a small handful of clad coinage almost ever time out, never complaining and always enthusiastic. He plugged away season after season and thoroughly enjoying every minute of it. On September 9<sup>th</sup> up at Lake Delta Lisle finally dug a spectacular coin that has to rank right up there as one of the best coins any member of the EARTH club has dug this season.

Our club was granted one day to hunt any place we wanted at Delta Lake State Park in Westernville. The beach, the water, the campgrounds, the ball fields, the ladies showers, the picnic areas and even the old Black River Canal that cut right through the place, was all open for us.

After the traditional photo was snapped everyone scattered in all different directions. Lisle, not quite sure just where to go, followed **Don Wertz** to the canal. At first Lisle worked the damp canal bed itself but the mosquitoes chased him to higher ground. So he worked the tow path and began finding his customary new

coinage when after only about 100 yards he got a “sweet” signal right in the very middle of the path. Lying only 1 inch below ground in very hard stony soil Lisle brought to light a beautiful 1853 half dime.

Needless to say Lisle entered his find and after the voting was over, gave a whole new meaning to the word “landslide.” He collected 22 out of a possible 23 votes cast. Nobody’s ever done *that* before! There were only 2 other coins entered, **John Gelfuso** and his 1807 large cent, very nice by the way, and **Stu Copperwheat** entering his 1865 Indian Head cent.

This was Mr. Sanborn’s first ever win in any category. Congratulations!



The front and the back of the coin that Lisle found, showing its very good condition.



Category: “Jewelry”  
Winner: John Kennedy  
Item: 14K Italian gold bracelet

Toad Harbor on Oneida Lake doesn’t sound like a spot for treasure, but after a simple observation and theorizing some “what ifs”, **John Kennedy**, turned the site into a quick money maker. The “harbor” is owned by New York State D.E.C. and is a game preserve of sorts, located on the south side of Oneida Lake. The water’s shallow and kind of sandy and because the water front is state owned with no private camps nearby it was the perfect spot for young drunken boaters to gather. John observed that these rowdies would anchor in the shallows on weekends to play football, wrestle, swim and just hang out. Oh, he also notice that they drank a staggering quantity of beer.

Working on a hunch that this type of behavior may lead to a few lost items John took his Tesoro Tiger shark and had a little fun of his own, without the beer. In less than 2 hours of detecting John found a handful of new money, “around 200 – 300 bottle caps and one absolutely gorgeous, and quite heavy, 14K gold bracelet.

Mr. Kennedy entered his find and took the first spot in the jewelry category beating out 6 other entries. **(continued on page 4)**

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**Ralph Blencowe** took the second spot with his 14K gold band and there was a tie for third between **Ed Netzband** and his 1979 college class ring and **Mike Eychner's** "ring."

John and his wife Brenda joined the club in March of 2004 and live in Liverpool. This was John's first win in any category. Congratulations!

As a footnote, John contacted precious metals dealer Midwest Refineries and based on the bracelet's weight and karat stamping, was guaranteed about \$300.00!



**John's 14K Italian gold bracelet.**

I want to start showing the winners and the articles that win in each category.

I wanted to show a close-up of Gary's spoon, but didn't have one, so I just used a picture of Gary holding it, thereby, killing two birds with one stone.



Category: "Other"

Winner: Gary Balch

Item: Sterling commemorative spoon

The spoon is clearly old, how old is still in question. Gary is still doing research on it and it'll be a nice story when he finds all the pieces of his puzzle. All he knows now is that it came from Minneapolis cause that much is embossed in script on the back that you can read from across the room. It has a meaningful line written along the sides praising "character." Again more questions than answers.

The site where it was found will remain a secret but Gary did say he found it "quite deep" with his Fisher I.D. Edge.

Gary hadn't won since last month when he placed first in the "Jewelry" category with his 14K white gold Lions head ring. This was however, his first ever "other" category win.

First runner up was **John Bradlinski** with his dog tags that he found in Russell Park. There was a tie for third (really far back) between **Don Wertz** and his nice harmonica reed and **Ellie Bruce** with her "surfer keys."

## Raffle results

Ticket seller Mike Eychner reported that Ernie Weissmuller won a beautiful 2004 silver eagle in our monthly raffle. Mike said that the "take" for the raffle was \$32.00.

50/50 ticket seller Steve Martin sold Gary Balch the winning ticket and let him split \$38.00 with the club. Total take for the evening was a whopping \$51.00!

## Minutes for September Meeting

President Stu Copperwheat began this month's meeting by first introducing our speaker for the evening, Samantha Cattaneo, Syracuse Office Coordinator, who would be talking about Camp Good Days and Happy times.

Larry Ehlinger who was filling in for the absent Judy Balch, eloquently read the minutes from the August meeting. This was followed by president Stu who gave the financial report for Dave Lofgren. Stu was taking the place for Dave who was away on business in Spain searching the countryside for some cheaper olives.

The president then reminded the members that there will only be 2 meetings remaining before our Christmas party. He said it will probably be at Kitty's on the Canal once again and hopefully be on the first Sunday in December.

He said that there has been no word yet from Peter Plumbly from the M.O.S.T. museum in Syracuse pertaining to our treasure presentation scheduled for Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. Stu said he'd e-mailed Peter 3 times and called once with no response. John Kennedy agreed to take a trip to Syracuse and look for the guy and find out what the problem was.

Next president Stewart announced that club member Sharon

Macknair will be taking over the newsletter mailings from Pat Nellenbach.

Stu then told a very touching story about his involvement in a benefit fundraiser for a good friend and former band member who passed away recently.

Mike Parker said a few words about his newspaper the Rural Oneida Star and his recent story about Harold Covey who turned 100 on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Parker also said he wrote a short article on the late Paul Keesler and a highway that was recently named after him. Mike said that since Keesler, who was an author and wrote 3 books on the West Canada Valley, spoke at one of



**Samantha Cattaneo had all of the members excited due to her own enthusiasm and excitement!**

our meetings; we may be interested in reading the articles.

Lisle Sanborn gave a short update on his successful conversion of our newsletter to PDF file format so it could be easily sent to our friends in England. Sanborn got some help from Revere printing and with the help of his old computer was able to send our last newsletter to the club in England. Lisle said they got it before we did. Lisle also said that he hopes to have a short write up from our English friends in all newsletters.

There was a discussion on the possibility of sending newsletters to members via e-mails, thus saving on printing and postage.

Dick Stowell gave a short update on the Russell park hunt in Illon.

After the break our guest speaker, Samantha Cattaneo spoke about Camp Good days & special times. For those who have forgotten, all of the money collected by the Junkman Project goes to support this fine camp for cancer victims. Samantha, who is a cancer survivor having been in remission since 14 explained the functions of the camp, where it's located and how it got it's start. She spoke around a half hour and afterwards fielded questions.

There were 25 regular members in attendance with Samantha being the only irregular one.

### **Refreshments for the October Meeting**

John Bradlinski has volunteered to bring in the refreshments for our next meeting.

We thank John & Brenda Kennedy for bringing in the goodies for the last meeting; they were very good and greatly appreciated.

For those of you kind enough to bring in refreshments don't forget to bring cups, beverage, ice and enough goodies for at least 35 people. If you bring cans of soda, cups are not necessary.

**Visit the E.A.R.T.H. Web Page at: [www.geocities.com/tominrom/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/tominrom/index.html)**

# THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THERE HILLS!

NEWS FROM THE WEYMOUTH CLUB U.K.

Hi All,

In September 2000 I became only the second member of the Weymouth MDC to own the new 'all conquering' Minelab Explorer XS metal detector.

Minelab was late coming into the metal detecting market having only been formed in 1985.

Minelab is an Australian company whose machines were specifically designed to hunt for gold nuggets in the outback. Perhaps the best way to describe the Explorer to people who have never used one, it is a little like jumping into a Ferrari motor car when you have never driven before.

The Explorer is unlike most other detectors with an amazing array of different features. When they first came on the market they were very expensive costing over £1000 about \$1800. Many people bought them, only to find that the machine was so much more sophisticated than their old one. A lot of these machines were soon being sold on the second hand market as people didn't take time to practice with them.


I have to admit that in the first week I had mine it nearly ended in the nearest hedge, so fed up was I with the constant 'chirps and blips' that constantly came from the machine whilst in use. I remember many people, who have never owned one, coming up to me giving advice like "don't bother looking at the display screen, just listen for the sounds". I remember thinking to myself, what is the use on paying all that money for a machine and then ignoring what it is trying to tell you.

I decided to persevere with the machine, spending many hours 'playing' around with different

objects, and reading the instruction manual. I was out in a nearby field when I picked up the faintest of signals. I asked my friend Ron to come and check the signal for me with his Tesoro Laser machine. Ron came over, checked with his machine and in colourful Anglo-Saxon language told me there was definitely nothing there.

I told him that there was a faint signal that was well worth digging, whereupon Ron started to dig a large deep hole. I saw a rye smile come across his face, and there in his hand was the most amazing Roman coin of Victorinus. Imagine holding in your hand a coin that has never seen the light of day for over 1700 years!

As time went on I became more and more use to the Explorer going on to use the advance features of this truly amazing detector. I saw a local building site and gained permission from the site foreman to detect there. I spent hours digging the usual junk that is abundant on a building site. I was just about to give up for the day, when I once again picked up a very faint signal. Turning over the soil, there staring back at me was a little gold coin. Literally shaking I gently picked it up, and immediately recognised it as a Celtic gold stater from the Atrebatas tribe. It turned out to be 2030 years old, before the days of Christ. I can assure you that if you ever find anything like it in your de-



Middle Bronze Age torc fragment

Found by 'Golden Balls'


(we know who but we ain't telling!)

10 20

Report to HM Coroner on find of potential Treasure:

Circumstances of discovery - Metal detector find

Description:



Some of the gold items that Paul found with his Minelab Explorer.

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tecting career, then you might as well go straight home as you just can't think straight.

Later that year I was out detecting on our local 'searched out' club site. I picked up a dull sounding signal that sounded almost certainly like a shotgun cartridge. Turning over the soil I saw a piece of twisted metal lying in the ground. Picking it up I saw that it was gold and very old looking. I thought that it was probably Celtic about 2000 years old. When it was examined, the lady said to me: I think that you are a little bit out with your dates, as it is a middle Bronze Age piece of gold torc dating back 3300 years ago".

The piece of torc was declared as Treasure under British law, and it is now displayed at the County museum in Dorchester. I have struck gold twice more since this time with a very old 22ct ring, and a 200 year old gold cuff link.

Sticking with the Explorer has gained me 65 hammered coins, dozens of Roman coins with three being made of Silver, and many other old artifacts.

Minelab has just brought out the new Explorer SE model which is more advanced than my machine. It is well worth considering trading in your old machine, especially as they are so much cheaper over there than over here.

regards to you all,  
Paul.

**I hope that we can receive more articles from the members of the Weymouth Club, U.K.**

**We love to hear from you folks in the U.K.!!**

**I hope that all our members check out the Weymouth Club website at: [www.wpdetectingclub.org.uk](http://www.wpdetectingclub.org.uk); it has many very interesting pictures.**

..... Lisle

## National Metal Detecting League Hunt

by Ralph Blencowe

Four of our Earth Club members made the trip October 6th to Woodbury, Connecticut for a two day hunt at the 2006 National Metal Detecting League (NMDL) Championship Hunt. Dick Stowell and Ralph Blencowe met Chris and Kim Altmann at the hunt site Saturday morning. The morning started off a little hectic but soon things were beginning to calm down. There were approximately 150 people there representing states from all over the country. Some came from as far away as California, Wisconsin, Washington State and most of the northeast.

The first hunt of the day was for the NMDL Championship where each state had teams of at least four people. The teams hunted for seeded colored coins and the teams with the most coins would participate in a hunt off Sunday morning. People who did not attend this hunt were free to hunt the 500 acre farm for natural finds. We were disappointed that much of the corn had not been

cut or the fields plowed due to rain over the summer, which put the farmer behind in cutting his crops. Never the less, we were able to hunt some of the hay fields and pastures. Many coins, buckles, and a few other relics were found and turned in for the best finds of the day for prizes.

Saturday night a dinner was served at a local church with a speaker and awards were given out.

Sunday morning the teams from Saturday had their championship hunt-off. Shortly after that a field was seeded for a fun hunt with silver, tokens, keys to a treasure chest, and other items which were turned in for prizes. The rest of the time, we hunted for natural finds.

Kim found a 1920 Mercury dime by an old house foundation; Chris found a 1927 wheat penny. I found a badly worn coin, possibly a large cent. Dick found his share of metal trash items as we all did. It was an interesting weekend being able to talk to people from other states and hear some of their stories.



Dick Stowell, Ralph Blencowe with Kim & Chris Altmann

# Junkman's Report:

As of Sept. 11TH there has been no change to donations received for the Junk Man's Challenge.

As of September 11, 2006 we have received donations from 11 members for a total of \$160.00. Eight members continue to bring in pull tabs and beverage cans. If you are not one of these 19 members would you consider making a donation of \$5.00 to Camp Good Day and Special Times, in memory of John Seamon.

Dick Stowell  
The Junkman

## Searchers

### Along The

### Mohawk

**Official Publication of  
E.A.R.T.H., Electronic  
Archaeological Recovery  
Treasure Hunters**

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Vice President - Mike Parker  
Treasurer - Dave Lofgren  
Secretary - Judy Balch

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## *whites*

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**Larry mentioned that we discussed the possibility of e-mailing the Club Newsletter to each of the members instead of mailing it. This is certainly an interesting idea I had and could save the club a lot of money for printing and postage.**

**It is not without its difficulties; however. We need to insure that all of the members have e-mail addresses and that they are correct. At the present time, I am getting back several undelivered newsletters that were mailed to an incorrect mailing address. Secondly, I have to get a better copy of Adobe Acrobat to make sure that I will be able to convert the newsletter to PDF format without a glitch - right now I have a very old version running on my old computer. A new release version to run on my current machine would cost quite a bit unless I am able to get my hands on a late second hand version from someone. I am currently active in the persuit of just such software. I will keep you all posted.**

..... Lisle

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*"Get involved, make a difference!"*

*John Seamon*