

HUDSON VALLEY EXPLORER

<http://www.greattreasure.com>

Spring 2009

From the Vice President's Desk

2008 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday December 5th dawned bright and sunny and remained that way for the entire day. December 5th was the original date for the 2008 P/WMD&AS annual Christmas Party. As the historical record will show it ALWAYS snows on our party. This year was to be the exception. WRONG due to a scheduling problem at the Lantern Pub the date was moved up 24 hours to the 6th of December and as tradition would have it, it snowed. Nevertheless over 40 members and guests showed up and enjoyed a wonderful evening. The food was excellent as always and the staff at the Lantern Pub kept things moving and organized.

This year's raffle was the largest ever with more than \$1500.00 worth of prizes available.



The Whites Metal Detector was won by Sean Shaunessey (Sean missed last year by one number).



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Angelo Perragine held the winning 50/50 ticket and took home more than \$100.00.

Many members made extra effort during the year to make the detecting season rewarding and successful. Their efforts were applauded by all.



Special recognition was given to Joe Snow for his consistent generosity and support of our organization. Maybe next year we will have Christmas in July. Naw, that's inviting a hurricane.

Club News

The club meeting will be the first Thursday, February 5th, at 7:30pm at The Church of the Holy Communion 1055 Route 6 Mahopac, NY 10541

We are still looking for a permanent meeting place.

How to Spot a Fake Diamond

03-28-2008

By Nancy Redd - AOL



When the big question gets popped, about 75 percent of newly engaged women receive a [diamond ring](#) from their fiancé. Given that there are about 2.4 million weddings performed each year in America, it's clear there's a lot of dough in the diamond industry. And that's only part of it. For women and men of all ages, diamond-encrusted watches, [necklaces](#), [earrings](#), [bracelets](#) and other jewelry are always in style.

While it's a safe bet that the blue box (Tiffany's) diamonds are genuine (if overpriced), many dishonest vendors sneakily rip off customers by selling similar-looking but much less expensive diamond-like stones. These criminals count on their not-so-savvy clientele to trust that their jewelry uses real diamonds. By neglecting to check out their jewelry before purchasing, many hopeful diamond buyers unfortunately end up spending their money on costume jewelry.

Though gemstone-swapping scams abound, don't think that all fake rocks exist to defraud customers. The adage "bigger is better" can sometimes ring true when applied to diamonds, but this belief doesn't come cheap. Smaller diamonds are easier to come by, making them more affordable, but diamonds that

are one carat and above are considerably rarer, thus upping the price.

Thus, the love in many marriages and relationships might be very real, but the diamonds in their jewelry are often not. Diamonds might be one of the hardest substances on Earth (real ones are nearly indestructible) but they're fairly easy to fake.

There are many synthetic stones that have very similar appearances to the diamond, including [cubic zirconium](#) (also known as CZ), zirconium silicate and white sapphire. However, there is one faux diamond whose appearance is almost identical to the real thing. To the untrained eye, a [moissanite](#) stone has the same shimmer, sparkle and brilliance of an actual diamond. It's nearly as hard as one, too.

Diamonds might be a girl's best friend, but moissanite is giving it a run for its money. While moissanite is not as low priced as a CZ stone, it looks tremendously more realistic and it's still much less expensive than an actual diamond. This [one-carat moissanite ring from Amazon.com](#) is only \$760. That's more than six times less than a diamond ring of the same size. If you're on a budget, you might want to consider this hidden gem.

Still think that only diamonds are forever? Make sure that your new bling is the real thing. Protect yourself by following these steps BEFORE purchasing:

- Make sure that the diamond isn't damaged. Most diamond substitutes (except for moissanite) are made up of a much softer substance. This causes the stone to easily chip and scuff.

- Make sure the diamond isn't too perfect. While you don't want nicks and cracks, most genuine diamonds have a few imperfections

within the stone, even if they aren't visible to the naked eye. Ask the jeweler for his or her loupe and survey the stone under magnification. Ironically, a common faux-stone giveaway is its lack of imperfections. The replica is often just too perfect to be believed.

- Look for luster, brilliance and fire. Good diamonds aren't dull, and it's nearly impossible for synthetic stones to duplicate their natural sparkle. Try comparing the stone you're considering side-by-side with a diamond that you know to be real.

- Ask if it is real. It sounds crazy, but asking, "Is this a real diamond or a synthetic stone?" might throw a scammer off his game. He very well may back down and tell the truth about the stone. If this happens, run, don't walk, out of the store and report your experience to the Better Business Bureau.

- Have the stone appraised. It's worth the extra expense to have peace of mind regarding this very important purchase. An independent appraiser (don't settle for the one that the store recommends) can put your mind at ease while giving you key details to help you to gauge whether or not the price you plan to pay is fair. You may even wish to take the investigation one step further by requesting a report from a grading laboratory such as the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) or the American Gem Society Laboratories (AGSL)

The process of spotting a fake diamond might be tedious, but with the improvement in look-alikes, it's important to take your jewelry store experience and the risk of fraud very seriously to make certain that your diamond purchase is as solid as a rock.

Treasure In The News

Israeli archaeologists find rare gold coins

JERUSALEM (CNN) -- Some Israeli archaeologists are having a particularly happy Hanukkah, thanks in part to a British volunteer who took time off from her job to work on a dig.

The Israel Antiquities Authority reported a thrilling find Sunday -- the discovery of 264 ancient gold coins in Jerusalem National Park.



The coins were minted during the early 7th century.

"This is one of the largest and most impressive coin hoards ever discovered in Jerusalem -- certainly the largest and most important of its period," said Doron Ben-Ami and Yana Tchekhanovets, who are directing the excavation on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Researchers discovered the coins at the beginning of the eight-day Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, which started at sunset on Sunday.

One of the customs of the holiday is to give "gelt," or coins, to children, and the archaeologists are referring to the find as "Hanukkah money."

Nadine Ross, a British archaeological volunteer, happened onto the coins during the dig just below the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem.

"To be honest, I just thought, 'Thank God I didn't throw it in the rubbish bucket,'" said Ross, who had taken four weeks off from her engineering job in England to work at the site. "I was just glad I sort of spotted it before I disturbed it too much."

The 1,400-year-old coins were found in the Giv'ati car park in the City of David in the walls around [Jerusalem](#) National Park, a site that has yielded other finds, including a well-preserved gold earring with pearls and precious stones.

They were in a collapsed building that dates back to the 7th century, the end of the Byzantine period. The coins bear a likeness of Heraclius, who was the Byzantine emperor from 610 to 641.

The authority said that while different coins had been minted during this

emperor's reign, the coins found at the site represent "one well-known type."

In that style, the emperor is clad with military garb and is holding a cross in his right hand. On the other side is the sign of the cross.

Authorities said the [excavation](#) of the building where the hoard was discovered is in its early stages. They are attempting to learn about the building and its owner and the circumstances of its destruction.

"Since no pottery vessel was discovered adjacent to the hoard, we can assume that it was concealed inside a hidden niche in one of the walls of the building. It seems that with its collapse, the coins piled up there among the building debris," Ben-Ami and Tchekhanovets said.

The find is a golden moment for Ross, who said "it is a pity that I can't take it home with me. But there you go."

Reported on CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/meas/12/22/israel.rare.coins/index.html>

Precious Metal Value Calculator

Weigh and then calculate the value of your finds at this web link.

<http://dendritics.com/scales/metal-calc.asp>

Metal Prices as of January 6, 2009

Gold \$848.30 /oz

Silver \$ 11.14/oz

Platinum \$955.00 /oz

Copper \$1.4990 /lb

Treasure In The News (con't)

German battlefield yields Roman surprises

HANOVER, Germany (CNN) --

Archaeologists have found more than 600 relics from a huge battle between a Roman army and Barbarians in the third century, long after historians believed Rome had given up control of northern Germany.



"We have to write our history books new, because what we thought was that the activities of the Romans ended at nine or 10 (years) after Christ," said Lutz Stratmann, science minister for the German state of Lower Saxony. "Now we know that it must be 200 or 250 after that."

For weeks, archeologist Petra Loenne and her team have been searching this area with metal detectors, pulling hundreds of ancient Roman weapons out of the ground. They paint a picture of a highly organized, technologically superior Roman army beset by Germanic tribes in a forest about 80 km (50 miles) south of the modern city of Hanover.

The hillside battlefield was discovered by relic-hunters

illegally searching for souvenirs of more recent wars near the town of Kalefeld-Oldenrode. One of them brought some of the items he found to Loenne, who works for the local government.

The artifacts are so well preserved that the scientists can already retrace some of the battle lines.

"We believe the Germans ambushed the Romans here, but the legions quickly fired back with catapults and archers -- and then it came to a massive man-on-man onslaught," Loenne said.



The items unearthed so far include an axe, still sharp after nearly 1,800 years; horseshoes; shovels; spearheads; and dozens of arrowheads for a Scorpio, a cross between a catapult and a crossbow -- the ancient equivalent of artillery.

"With a very high speed, on a very long distance -- about 300 meters -- you can hit targets precisely," said Henning Hassman, of Hanover's archeological institute.

Researchers say the evidence suggests the tribesmen lured the Romans into the forest to keep them from making full use of those long-range weapons and draw them into hand-to-hand combat, outside of the formations the imperial troops had mastered. However,

they believe the Romans ultimately prevailed.

Other relics include coins depicting the late second-century Roman emperor Commodus, depicted in the Oscar-winning Hollywood epic "Gladiator" -- a film that opens with a scene of battle against a barbarian horde that scientists say appears to be largely accurate. And Loenne said her team may have only begun to scratch the surface of the forest.

"We hope we might find fortifications and if we are lucky, maybe even battlefield graveyards," she said.

See it on CNN.com here

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/01/05/germany.battlefield/index.html>

Call for Classified Ads

Have equipment you are looking to buy, sell, or swap? Want to arrange a car pool to the Membership Meetings?

Run your metal detecting-related classified ads in the Hudson Valley Explorer (the online version is included). It's free, and your ad will run for two issues (6 months) before it needs to be renewed.

For inclusion, Please send your ad to:

Paul Maloney
26 N. Third St.
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Or email the information to pemalon@optonline.net Include pictures if you have them, hard copy or digital acceptable.

Support Those Who Support Us

American Digger Magazine
P. O. Box 126
Acworth, GA 30101

Lost Treasure Magazine
Box 451589
Grove, OK 74345
<http://www.losttreasure.com>

Western & Eastern Treasures Magazine
P.O. Box 219
San Anselmo, CA 94979
<http://www.treasurenet.com>
1-800-999-9718

Hudson River Metal Detectors Detector Pro™
Innovative hunting concepts since 1996
1447 Route 44
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
<http://www.detectorpro.com>
info@detectorpro.com
1-845-635-3488

Minelab USA
871 Grier Dr., Suite B1
Las Vegas, NV 89119
<http://www.minelab.com/consumer>
1-702-891-8809

White's of Long Island, Inc.
240 Route 112
Pachogue, NY 11772
Phone/Fax 1-631-447-7196

Snows Metal Detectors
Authorized Tesoro Dealer
1-860-488-5694 – Joe
<http://stores.ebay.com/snows-metal-detectors>

Kellyco Metal Detector Superstore
1085 Belle Avenue
Winter Springs, FL 32708

Valley Coins
Ed Zehall, Owner
37A New Haven Road
Seybridge Plaza, Rt. 67
East Seymour, CT 06483
http://www.angelfire.com/planet/valley_coins/index.htm zehallco@aol.com
1-203-888-1186
Buy – sell – trade US & World Coins, Paper Money, Gold & Silver Coins, Bars & Scrap..Confidential Appointments
Mon-Wed, Fri 10am – 5pm
Thur 10am – 8pm
Sat 10am – 4pm

J-Tech Industries
Custom Welding & Fabricating
Steel, Aluminum & Stainless Steel
130 Silvermine Road
Seymour, Ct 06483
Jason Lubinski
(203)545-9828

FMDAC Treasure Hunter's Code of Ethics

I will always check federal, state, county, and local laws before searching.

It is my responsibility to know the law.

I will respect private property and will not enter private property without the owner's permission. Where possible, such permission will be in writing.

I will take care to refill all holes and try not to leave any damage.

I will remove and dispose of any and all trash and litter that I find.

I will appreciate and protect our inheritance of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.

I will, as ambassador for the hobby, use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times. I will leave gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only.

I will report to the proper authorities any individuals who enter and/or removes artifacts from federal Parks or state preserves.

Metal Detecting Permit Information

Take the time to renew your permits now for Spring! See the list of locations where you may send to receive yearly metal detecting permits below. If possible, call first for any updates or instructions.

1. Palisades Interstate Park Commission
Permit Section
Bear Mountain, NY 10911-0427\$20.00
For: Harriman State Park (845)-786-2701

Lakes: Sebago, Tiorati & Welch

2. Long Island State Park Region
Beaches
Permit Office
PO Box 247
Babylon, NY
11702.....\$20.00
(631)-669-1000 ext. 223

3. City of New York Parks & Recreation
Arsenal North
234 Fifth Ave. Room 213
New York, NY
10029.....FREE
(212)360-2778
(MUST SEND IN COPY OF YOUR DRIVERS LICENCE)

4. Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Taconic Region
Staatsburg, NY
12580.....\$10.00
(845)889-4100
For: Lake Taghkanic, Rudd Pond & Canopus Beach

5. NY State Offices Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation
Central Region
6105 East Seneca Turnpike
Jamesville NY 13078-9516
(315)-492-1756

Tentative Schedule of
Events for 2009*

*contingent on finalization of
search agreement

**Note: February Meeting will be
the first Thursday, 2/5/2009, at a
new location see page 1 col. 3
bottom for details.**

**Thursday, February 5, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting, Mahopac,
NY**

TBD, March TBD, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting, TBD, NY

TBD, April TBD, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting, TBD, NY

Saturday, April TBD, 9:00am
Search Outing Newburgh, NY*

TBD, May TBD, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting, TBD, NY

Saturday, May TBD, 9:00am
Search Outing Granite Springs, NY*

TBD, June TBD, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting, TBD, NY

Saturday, June TBD, 9:00am
Search Outing Yorktown Heights, NY*

TBD, September TBD, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting, TBD NY

Friday - Sunday, September TBD,
9:00am
Search Outing Cape Cod, MA

TBD, October TBD, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting, TBD, NY

Saturday, October TBD, 9:00am
Search Outing Stormville, NY

TBD, November TBD, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting, TBD, NY

Saturday, November TBD, 10:00am
Fall Classic Seeded Hunt, Fairfield, CT

Saturday, December 5, 7:00pm Annual
Christmas Party,
Ye Old Lantern Restaurant, 728 Route
6, Mahopac, NY (845)628-7302