

# **THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2017**

## **January**

Twenty seventeen found the P/WMDAS in strong financial health with a treasury balance near \$4000.00. Plans were formulated to fund a progressive raffle, to provide a fee free hunt to the members and to consider more prizes and coins to be made available at meetings and the Jimmy See Classic.

The new meeting site at the Trinity Lutheran Church has provided a very satisfactory venue for Club meetings. The year started off with noted member and detectorist Todd Yerks presenting a program on successful techniques for gaining access to prime Colonial sites. With adequate parking and good lighting available more programs are planned for the New Year.

## **February**

February kicked off the long awaited progressive raffle. Limited to 310 tickets sold to members only the initial sale generated nearly \$100.00 in sales. As the cyber generated world continues to turn Don Mituzas announced that P/WMDAS now has its own Face Book page and will soon provide members with access to Pay Pal to facilitate funding Club business and activities. Members continue to make spectacular finds in some of the NYC Parks. A glitch unfortunately has developed regarding detecting in Prospect Park. Hunting is currently under suspension but it is hoped that calls made by President Mituzas will have it reopened soon. The unusually mild winter has made detecting possible both at the coast and many inland sites. The Finds of the Month display for both January and February has been exceptionally well stocked. We continue to be unsuccessful in filling the position of Events Coordinator.

## **March**

The progressive raffle continues to be well received with ticket sales going well. Still a lot of frozen ground but the April hunt at Flanders in Connecticut is only a few weeks away. Members continue to detect the beaches at low tide as the weather allows. Prospect Park continues to be an issue but currently it appears to be open on the weekends. Members are urged to be VERY diligent in their digging and filling of holes.

## **April**

In an effort to minimize controversy at the New York parks copies of "Proper Digging Techniques" was made available to all members. Nor'easters have two hunts on the books for 2017. Attendees must be members of the Stamford Club. The first outing is the new Holcott-Catskill hunt scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a first come first serve event limited to 40 detectors. The great Catskill hunt will be held August 11<sup>th</sup>-August 13.

As obtaining hunt sites becomes more and more difficult small parcels may have to be considered. If necessary these will be filled by lottery with spots drawn according to the acreage available. The finder of the site is automatically included in those allowed to detect.

## **May**

Prizes for the Christmas Party continue to be added to those already on hand. New items acquired include Bronze Coins from 400/600 BC, a Celtic Ring and a Sing/Sing coin. Members are encouraged to join local Historical Societies, Land Trusts and civic organizations in an effort to make contacts leading to hunt site acquisitions. The Flanders hunt went well and the staff has encouraged us to make a return visit in the fall. The Club will make up a display case which will eventually be donated to the Nature Center. Family memberships are available to encourage young hunters to join in Club activities. Each child under 16 years of age is a full member for \$5.00 BUT must be accompanied by an adult for insurance purposes while in the field.

## **June**

The Club and the hobby received some great publicity when member Rick Kerner found and Bob Cullen returned a gold ring to its owner. The ring's owner in turn wrote a "thank you" check for \$50.00 made payable to the Club. The September meeting time will be changed to avoid conflict with the Labor Day Holiday.

## **September**

After a two month summer hiatus the September meeting was well attended and the Finds of the Month table was loaded. Finds were highlighted by the appearance of a 1652 Pine Tree Shilling recovered from a cellar hole by Don Bailey. Fred Romano announced that his new book has been published and is available to members at a reduced price.

President Don Mituzas recovered a diamond engagement ring from FDR Park. The ring was returned and its owner graciously attended the September meeting to thank Don and the metal detecting community for saving her most precious possession.

## **October**

Momentum builds toward the Jimmy See Classic and the Christmas Party. Additional prizes have been purchased and \$400.00 has been expended to upgrade the web site. The Stormville Hunt was well attended and the day was blessed with wonderful weather. Finds were abundant and included several silver coins, silver jewelry, a copper or two even a miniature 1903 Indian penny. The Christmas Party will again be held at the SE Grill House. All tickets must be purchased in advance. Elections will be held in November. There were no nominations presented at the October meeting. A number of items were brought to the meeting for sale. These included detectors and high end pin

pointers. A new category was instituted for the Finds of the Month Competition. This was done to “even the playing field” for items found in the US competing against much older items dug in Europe.

## **November**

Elections were held with the entire 2017 slate re-elected for 2018. President Mituzas will continue acting as Events Coordinator as no one has agreed to take that position. Carter Pennington demonstrated 2 new digging tools which he highly recommended. Club members can get a 10% discount if purchased from Gold Digger. The fall hunt at Flanders has been confirmed. This is a free hunt paid for by the Club. Two hunts have been confirmed for 2018. Both are located in Sommers, NY. The first meeting of 2018 will be held on Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>. The change has been made to avoid the New Year’s Holiday. The Jimmy See Classic was well attended. Thanks to Kathleen and Brian for procuring the food. Kudos to Larry and Andrea for handling the finances and a shout out to Ben and Rick for seeding the field and setting flags. Hot coffee was not available on site but can be purchased from local coffee shops in the future. And now we all know who the Club’s best poker player is-way to go Matt.

## **December**

The mild weather of late November and early December enabled members to get in a few last licks with the coils before the season’s first snow a snow which fortunately came just one week **after** our annual Christmas Party. Forty-two members and guests enjoyed two antipastos, mimosa punch a fine buffet with apple pie with whipped cream along with the drawing of the Progressive Raffle and over 80 prizes in the general raffle. A big Ho Ho Ho and Merry Christmas to Bob Lane the 2017 winner of the Garrett AT Pro. Members should thank Garrett, Valley Coin, Ken Sterling, Don and Carol Mayers, and Russ Bergeson for their generous donation of quality raffle prizes. And now the long awaited compilation of the 2017 BEST FINDS.

## **Best Finds 2017**

**February:** 1883 Seated Dime-Don Mituzas, 1786 to 1788 NJ Copper-Frank Giammattei, 1789 one Reale-Don Miyuzas, 1749 Farthing-Boris Privaliklin, Pair of Silver Crosses-Don Mayers, Shoe Buckle-Andy Eichorn, Gold Bracelet-Todd Olson, Colonial Floral dandy Button-Boris Privaliklin.

**March:** 1902 Barber Half- Frank Giammattei, 1787 Fugio-Don Mituzas, 1760 One Reale-Frank Giammattei, 1747 Half Pence-Don Mituzas, Silver/Turquoise Ring-Roy Roos, Bullet with Mini Dice-Don Mituzas, Bat Wing Buckle-Don Mituzas, 10K Gold Ring-Conrad Rasinski, Silver Plate Lady’s Button-Paul Marciante.

**April:** 1898 Barber Quarter-Jeff Pelletier, 1783 Nova-Fred Romano, 1792 Two Reale-Todd Olson, 1792 Half Pence-Don Mituzas, Sterling Ring-Andrea Cohen, 1863 Army/Navy Token-Ralph Dykeman, Silver Match Safe-Carter Pennington, Suspender Buckle-Don Mituzas, Engraved Dandy Button-Don Mituzas

**May:** 1809 Capped Bust Dime-Ralph Dykeman, 1788 Mass. Copper-Frank Giammattei, 1844 Half Reale-Andy Marussich, Gold Wedding Band-Steve Barrett, 1863 Civil War Token-Ralph Dykeman, Lead Toy and Old British Button-Ralph Dykeman

**June:** 1899 Barber Quarter-Frank Giammattei, 1808 Large Cent-Bon Cullen, 1754 Farthing-Andy Eichorn, Sterling Tiffany Heart Bracelet-Todd Olson, 12K Yellow/White Gold Signet Ring-Don Mayers, 1837 Hard Times Token-Bob Cullen, Native American Shaft Abrader-Don Mituzas, 1700's Shoe Buckle-Don Mituzas, 1870's NY Militia Button-Don Mituzas.

**September:** 1652 Pine Tree Shilling-Don Bailey, 1792 Large Cent-Matt Winchester, Early BC Coin-Charles Grenon, Philip III Spanish Coin-Charles Grenon, Sterling ID Bracelet-Mike Lemoigne, Diamond Engagement Ring-Don Mituzas, 1910 Good Luck token-Don Mituzas, Roman Lead Sling Projectile-Charles Grenon, Bat Wing Buckle-Andy Marussich, Elite Troops Napoleonic Button-Charles Grenon 1925 Caldwell NJ Medal-Roy Roos, 1936 Tootsie Toy Car-Matt Winchester

**October:** 1838 No Stars Seated Dime-Todd Yerks, Machin Mills Copper-Rick Kerner, King George 1/2 Pence-Todd Yerks, One Reale (1784) Todd Yerks, Sterling Scout Eagle Ring-Todd Yerks, 14K Art Carved Ring-Matt Winchester, Air Compressor Token-Matt Winchester, Ca 1640 Kettle Point-Don Mituzas, Butterfly Buckle-Don Mituzas, War of 1812 Excelsior Button-Todd Yerks, Sports medal Todd Yerks Colonial Barrel Tap-Don Mituzas, 1844 Kopek-Boris Privaliklin.

**November:** 1855 Seated Dime-Ralph Dykeman, 1877 Seated Quarter-Andy Eichorn, 1787 Fugio-Don Mituzas, 1722 British Farthing-Todd Yerks, 1781 One Reale-Frank Giammattei, Sterling Cocktail Ring with Diamonds-Don Mayers, 24K Chinese Neckless-Carter Pennington, Brunswick Bar Token-Don Mituzas, carriage Bell-matt Winchester, Suspender Buckle-Don Mituzas, Miniature 1903 Indian Head Penny-Don Mayers, Gold Plated Pocket Watch-Matt Winchester.