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# The Ramrod

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Volume 83

January, 2003

## President's Corner

*Ray McMahan*

It is hard to believe we are starting a new year. We are looking forward to our first coin hunt of the year, as well as all of the other planned club activities.

I think it is important to remember to thank all of our club members for their dedicated support and hard work throughout 2002. Everyone did a wonderful job and a special thank you to those club members who volunteered their time in helping out.

As we start the New Year, let's not forget our monthly meetings. These meetings provide time to get together with other members, swap stories of recent finds, and just to spend time with folks to see how everyone is doing. We also plan to have some great speakers at our meetings.

And remember, at each meeting, we have a great raffle prize and a club door prize to give away. You could be the next winner! But even if you don't win a prize, you'll still have a good time.

See you at the next meeting!

## Club & Events Calendar:

Date	Event
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Business Meeting
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Find of the Month and Year Meeting
Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	Business Meeting
Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	Coin Hunt
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	Find of the Month Meeting

## Club Officers for 2003

As per our club constitution, a nominating committee presented a proposed slate of officers for the coming year at the first meeting in December. Additional nominations



were made from the floor. The election of officers was then held at that meeting, with a majority vote of the members present at the meeting determining the new club officers. As a result of that election, the following are the new club officers for the year 2003:

- ✓ President – Ray McMahan
- ✓ Vice-President – Darrell Shipp
- ✓ Secretary – Todd Lee
- ✓ Treasurer – Dave Pashko



## Yearly Dues

Just a reminder that yearly club dues are due by the March 19<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Dues are \$10.00 per year per member. Please see Dave Pashko to pay your dues or you can mail them to the club at:

N.G.R.H.A.  
c/o Dave Pashko  
P.O. Box 503  
Marietta, GA 30061

## Find-Of-The-Month

For the benefit of new members, at the second meeting of each month members bring to the meeting items recovered since the prior month's award. Members then vote for the item they feel is the best find in the respective category.

A prize is given to those members who win. The find of the month in the single category then becomes eligible for the find of the year award.

Here are the results for the Single and Multiple Relics:

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Nov Single	B. Mull	Stencil
Nov Multi	M. Childers	
Dec Single	D. Shipp	CSA
Dec Multi	K. Cochran	Cannon Balls
Jan Single	S. Riddle	CSA Buckle
Jan Multi	S. Riddle	Bullets and Flat Buttons

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Here are the results for the Single & Multiple Coins.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Nov Single	J. Grant	Large Cent Coin
Nov Multi	J. Grant	
Dec Single	T. Millans	Half Dime
Jan Single	S Riddle	1791 Large One Cent Coin
Jan Multi	S. Riddle	Misc. Pennies

To our “old” members – think about bringing in all of your finds from the previous month. Besides showing new members what kind of things can be found, it may give the rest of us some hope.

Note: Pictures of recent club finds can be found on the Club Web Site.

## Upcoming Coin Hunt

We are planning on having our first coin hunt of the year on Saturday, March 8th. Right now, we are still in the process of getting confirmation on a spot to hold the hunt. The hunt is only open to members whose dues are paid and you cannot join the club the day of the hunt.

Details of the upcoming hunt will be discussed at our next set of Club Meetings. If you have any questions about the planned hunt, please see one of the club officers at our monthly meetings. You can also check the club website for additional information.



## New Members

Please welcome the following new members to the club:

Craig Nesmith, Snellville  
Bill Eviston, Acworth  
Timothy Hammonds, Marietta

## Club Activities for the Year

The club has several activities planned for the year. They include:

Club Meetings- Club meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The first meeting of the month will be a general business meeting. During these meetings, we may have guest speakers. If you have any guest speakers you would like to have present at these meetings, please contact one of the club officers. We also have buy-sell-trade-swap type of meetings, favorite dug and non-dug relic meetings, or a discussion of relic hunting in general. The second meeting of the month will always be our find of the month meeting.

At each meeting, we will have a raffle prize and a door prize. The door prize is a free drawing on a prize for club members only. The raffle prize is \$.50 a chance on a great prize, such as buttons, buckles, and an assortment of other Civil War era items.

Club Hunts – As the club has done in previous years, we will plan on having four scheduled club hunts during the year. We will have two relic hunts and two coin hunts. To participate, you must be a club member prior to the hunt (you cannot join the club the day of the hunt).

The coin hunts will be “seeded” with various types of coins (modern and older coins, including silver coins). The relic hunts may or may not be “seeded” hunts. If you have any places that you know of where we could hold a relic hunt, please let any of the club officers know. If the club cannot find a place (where we would have a good possibility of finding relics) then we will have a seeded hunt.

Besides the items that you find at the hunts, prizes will also be awarded at each hunt to the participants. More details of the time and location of these hunts will be forthcoming at our regularly scheduled meetings.

Club Relic Show – This is our main fund-raising event of the year. This show helps to support all of our club activities and charities (to which we contribute to at the end of the year). The success of the show benefits everyone, so please plan on helping out to ensure that the show is a success. The show is held in August, and it is a great way to help not only the club, but also see a wide arrangement of Civil War related items.

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Confederate Cemetery Clean up – Every year, the club gets together and goes to the Confederate Cemetery in Marietta in April to help clean up the area.

Club Banquet – Each year we hold a club banquet. The banquet is always a lot of fun. It's a time to get together with all of the club members, enjoy a good meal with friends, and share stories about the year's hunting. We also give away a new detector at this banquet.

Christmas Party – At our second meeting in December, we hold our annual Christmas party. This gives us time to get together with other club members and celebrate the holidays, and see if Santa has any gifts (relics) for club members.

We welcome all suggestions and ideas on other club activities. Just bring them up at any of our meetings, or talk with one of the club officers.

## 2003 Find-Of-The-Year Entries

Our February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our 2003 Find-Of-The-Year meeting. Each member who won the find of the month for single relic and single coin can bring that item to this meeting. Club members will then vote for the 2003 Single Relic of the Year and 2003 Single Coin of the year.

To be eligible for the Find-Of-The-Year, the relic/coin must be exhibited and the person who found the relic/coin must be present.

Here are the entries for the find of the year in the Single Relic category:

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Jan Single	J. Grant	Button
Feb Single	D. Shipp	Button
Mar Single	D. Pasko	Bridle Ring Chain
Apr Single	S. Beaver	Cast 1 button
May Single	R. Holder	University of Alabama Button (Civil War Era)
June Single	R. Holder	US Box Plate
July Single	L. Schiller	Spur
Aug Single	S. Beaver	CSA Buckle
Sept Single	B. Harris	Cast 1
Oct Single	C. York	CSA Buckle
Nov Single	B. Mull	Stencil
Dec Single	D. Shipp	CSA

Here are the entries for the Find of the Year in the Single coin category:

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Jan Single	J. Grant	1835 Half Dime
Feb Single	B. Mull	1799 Coin
Mar Single	M. Grannemann	Spanish Cob
Apr Single	R. Baker	1872 Seated Liberty Quarter
May Single	R. Baker	1787 Spanish Real
June Single	L. Shirah	1814 ½ dime
July Single	R. Baker	
Aug Single	S. Beaver	Gold Ring
Sept Single	M. Childers	1927 Quarter
Oct Single	J. Grant	1784 Cent
Nov Single	J. Grant	Large Cent Coin
Dec Single	T. Millans	Half dime

## Ten Commandments of Metal Detecting

Courtesy of Fisher Research Laboratory

With all of the “bad-talk” we seem to be getting lately about our hobby, I thought it might be a good time to remind everyone that sometimes, we are our own worst enemies. Therefore, here are some “commandments” that we have published in previous editions of the Ramrod that you should take a minute to read, and more importantly, remember while you are out there enjoying our hobby. These are the judgements and edicts which should be obeyed by all those who wield detectors of metal:

1. Thou shalt not leave behind unfilled excavations.
2. Thou shalt not trespass or defy in any way the lawful decrees of thy city, county, state or country.
3. Thou shalt not harm vegetation, the creatures of the field, natural resources or the personal property of others.
4. Thou shalt not covet the finds of thy companion. Nor shalt ye covet his metal detector, digging tool or the hallowed ground in which he diggeth.
5. Thou shalt not ignore nor neglect thy family whilst in the endless pursuit of thy hobby.
6. Thou shalt assist the distraught owners of lost goods, and the archeologists, and the enforcers of law, and

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all others who may need thy skill as a metal detectorist.

7. Thou shalt return found treasures to the proper owners whenever their true identity can be rightfully determined.
8. Thou shalt report to the proper authorities any finds relating to criminal activity or of archeological significance.
9. Thou shalt be considerate of others on the beach and in other public places whilst waving thy search coil and digging holes in the sand and the soil.
10. Thou shalt speak out against the unjust laws and stand firm against the philistines who would cast out all those who use detectors of metal.

And if thou dost not abide by these Commandments, may you be plagued with the mineral-bearing rocks, hard-cracked soil, pestilence, serpents, locusts, poisonous vegetation and great multitudes of pull-tabs, bottle-caps and rusty nails. May you spend the remaining years of your wretched life digging signals of false origin. For thy iniquities shall surely bring the overzealous wrath of the ignorant, heathen bureaucrats down upon those of us who are innocent. For we are the righteous and the just, and ye who disobey the Ten Commandments of Metal Detecting are bad.

## Tetanus

You may be wondering what tetanus has to do with Metal Detecting. Well, let me explain. Detecting is a great hobby for helping you stay fit and healthy. It gets you out in the fresh air, and walking is one of the best forms of exercise around.

But you must be prepared. It is important to keep up to date with tetanus shots. Any small scratch can become infected, whether around the home, at work, in the garden, or out detecting in a field.

Tetanus lives quite happily in the stomachs of animals, especially horses. Through their droppings, animals transfer tetanus into the ground, where it can survive for up to 100 years!

Another tip is to always wear gloves for detecting. They can help to protect your skin against any cuts and scratches.

So don't take any unnecessary risks. Always make sure your tetanus shot is up to date. We want everyone to have happy and safe hunting.

## This Month in the Civil War

**January 1861** – When Abraham Lincoln, a known opponent of slavery, was elected president, the South Carolina legislature perceived a threat. Calling a state convention, the delegates voted to remove the state of South Carolina from the union known as the United States of America. The Secession of South Carolina was followed by the secession of six more states and the threat of Secession by four more

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**January 19, 1861** - Georgia seceded from the Union.

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**January 31, 1862** – President Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1 calling for all United States naval and land forces to begin a general advance by February 22<sup>nd</sup>, George Washington's birthday.

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**January 1, 1863** – President Lincoln issues the final Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in territories held by Confederates and emphasizes the enlisting of black soldiers in the Union Army. The war to preserve the union now becomes a revolutionary struggle for the abolition of slavery.

Major General John B. Magruder, who became the Confederate commander of military forces in Texas on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1862, gave the recapture of Galveston top priority. At 3:00 a.m. on New Year's Day, 1863, four Confederate gunboats appeared, coming down the bay toward Galveston. Soon afterward, the Rebels commenced a land attack. The Union forces in Galveston were three companies of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts volunteer Infantry Regiment under the command of Col. Isaac S. Burrell. The Confederates captured or killed all of them except for the regiment's adjutant. They also took Harriet Lane, by boarding her, and two barks and a schooner. Cdr. W.B. Renshaw's flagship, U.S.S. Westfield, ran aground when trying to help Harriet Lane and at 10:00 a.m. she was blown up to prevent her capture by the Confederates. Galveston was in Confederate hands again although the Union blockade would limit commerce in and out of the harbor.

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**January 25, 1863** – The president appoints General Joseph (Fighting Joe) Hooker as Commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Burnside.

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**January 29, 1863** – General Grant is placed in command of the Army of the West, with orders to capture Vicksburg.

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**January 26, 1864** – The Confederate force fails in its attempt to take Athens, Alabama. Confederate cavalry, numbering about 600 men, attacked Athens, held by about 100 Union troops, around 4:00 a.m. After a two-hour battle, the Confederates retreated. Union forces, although greatly outnumbered and without fortifications, repulsed the attackers.

## A Friendly Reminder

Each member should have their own name tag. Please wear these at each club meeting so our new members can get to know each person. See Todd Lee to pick up your name tag or let him know if you need a new one.

## Wanted Newsletter Articles

If you have any Civil War articles , or any other club related items that you would like to have published in The Ramrod, please let me or the other Club Officers know. You can also email articles to me by sending them to [ToddCLee@cs.com](mailto:ToddCLee@cs.com)

## Club Web Site

The club web site continues to be updated on a regular basis. Take a minute and view the site and let us know what you think of it, and if there is anything else you would like to see done with the site

The club web site can be viewed at the following address:

WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/GA\_RELICHUNTERS

**That's all for this issue.  
See you at the next club meeting.**