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# The Ramrod

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Volume 1 Issue 1

January 2008

## President's Corner

*Steve Strickland*

I am very pleased to have such a fine group of club officers working with me this year. With their help, we have the potential to have a really great year. Also, we need your involvement as club members. Let us know what you want. We welcome suggestions and ideas. As mentioned to you in our first meeting this year, for upcoming meetings we will still have speakers, but you will also see some different agendas such as a club buy, sell, and trade meeting.

## Election Held

At the December meeting, the nominating committee presented to the club a slate of candidates. Nominations were also accepted from the floor. A special thanks goes out to the nominating committee.

## 2008 Club Officers

President: Steve Strickland

Vice President: Brian Copelan

Treasurer: Jim Hammonds

Secretary: Lynn King

## Club & Events Calendar:

Date	Event
Jan 2	Business Meeting
Jan 16	Find of the Month Meeting
Feb 6	Business Meeting and Find of the Year
Feb 20	Find of the Month Meeting
Mar 7	Business Meeting
Mar 21	Find of the Month Meeting



## Who Are The Members of the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association

Since 1972, the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association has dedicated itself to the preservation of artifacts of the American past. Through the use of electronic detection devices members have collected coins, jewelry and other memorabilia that illustrate in a tangible way, the history and progress of a growing new nation. Each member is a student of American history and collectively we strive to pass on the knowledge we have gained through school lecture programs, living history presentations, and relic shows – to mention a few.

From the beginning the founders of the association stressed the importance of respect for the property of others, reverence for federal lands and obedience of local and federal laws. Today, these ideals are still paramount.

Members of the association cover a wide range of vocations including law enforcement, attorneys, executives, blue-collar workers, technicians, and teachers, to name a few. All are dedicated to the idea that our local, state and national heritage is vitally important and that each person should make an effort to preserve what we can for future generations to enjoy. To this end, association members participate in historical organizations of many types and provide period relics – on a loan basis – to museums and libraries. They also give of their time and energy to preservation programs on a voluntary basis. The association is always ready to assist organized groups whenever possible.

Fund-raising efforts by the association (a non-profit organization) provides money for a variety of charities each year and budgeting for club events and functions. Integrity, honesty, and respect for the property and the rights of others is a code each member lives by. Those who don't are in the minority and are not welcomed in the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association

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## Dues

It's that time again for everyone to pay their dues. You will be asked this year to confirm your address and phone number as well as an email address. Membership runs from January thru December. As a reminder your family membership of \$20 covers children under 16 years old. If they are 16 or older then they need to join as a regular member. Your dues will be the best money spent; as we have 2 coin hunts a year (for everyone to win a prize), you get free admission into our august show, and a free dinner at the end of the year for all those who helped out the club at our yearly show (with more great gifts to be passed out to all members).

Besides, you get free drinks and snacks at the meeting, meet lots of nice people, and have a chance to win a raffle prize or a door prize.

So come and have a good time at the meeting.

## 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.

To all of our 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 at [WWW.NGRHA.COM](http://WWW.NGRHA.COM)

## Metal Detecting Ethics

*Jim Hammonds*

There is probably no one thing that can rile you more than anything else when you are out metal detecting. And that is coming across someone's dig holes (or craters). We have all seen it at one time or another, those holes with dirt thrown up all over the place looking like someone just set off a bomb in the ground. How many of us have been to a place that reminds you of the face of the Moon?

The person who digs these "craters" is doing all of us a disservice. Next time you see the holes, think of the following jingle (from a poem from Ray Duane Ruggles):

While you are leaving those holes,  
When you go out detecting,  
You are saying good-by,  
To relic collecting.

Leaving deep holes,  
Where you dig your finds,  
Is only going to lead,  
To more "Posted" signs.

So when you see any holes, take a second and cover them up. And if you happen to see the person leaving them, remind them what they are really doing to our hobby.

A few years ago, we lost a fine place to relic hunt (everyone who went there found dozen if not hundreds of items – and I am not exaggerating) and the main reason was the craters left behind by relic hunters. It got the owner upset and he posted the land so no one could hunt there anymore. As Ken noted, he and his friends have lost a good place in Vicksburg to hunt. With the number of places around the area decreasing (due to construction and other reasons) we don't need to loose more of them due to unethical practices.

## Horseshoes for Special Olympics

As many of you know Jim is always asking club members to bring to club meetings any horseshoes that they have dug. Jim works hard to clean these and donated them to a very special group. Once again Jim was able to donate 40 horseshoes the Special Olympics this year. Thanks Jim for all of your efforts.

## Find of the Year 2007

It's that time of year again to pull your finds off of your display shelf and bring it back to the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting so that the members can vote on the items they feel deserve the title of FIND OF THE YEAR 2007. If you won the Single Relic or Single Coin Find of the Month during 2007 you are eligible. You must still own the item. For 2007 the following people and items are eligible.

### **SINGLE RELIC 2007**

Jan	Steve Beaver	Breastplate
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Feb	Darryl Shipp	GA Button
Mar	Mike Surcey	Spur
Apr	Darryl Shipp	Sword Plate
May	Larry Shirah	Sword
Jun	Bill Mull	US Buckle
Jul	Ed Wigart Sr.	CSA Button
Aug	Jim Hammonds	GMI Button
Sep	Jerry Solomon	US Buckle
Oct	Jerry Solomon	LA Button
Nov	Bill Mull	NC Button
Dec	Darryl Shipp	GA Button

Dalton, GA

February 1st & 2nd

### Andersonville Trip

It has been suggested that the club should make a trip down to visit Andersonville in the spring of 2008. More details on this as they become available.

The assist with the planning and coordination of this trip, we would like to have a volunteer trip master to head up a committee to make the necessary arrangements; including time to go on the trip and costs per member going on the trip.

### SINGLE COIN 2007

Jan	Bill Mull	1864 Indian Head
Feb	Steve Strickland	1804 Reale
Mar	Jerry Solomon	1871 Dime
Apr	Darryl Shipp	1799 Large Cent
May	Larry Shirah	Susan B Anthony
Jun	Keith Cochran	1782 Real
Jul	No entry	
Aug	Josh Andrews	1875 CC twenty-cent piece
Sep	George Brumbelow	1863 Token
Oct	Bill Mull	1857 Dime
Nov	Lynn King	Trade Token
Dec	Roy Baker	CW Token

### 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 Ed Travis at [cwspur@bellsouth.net](mailto:cwspur@bellsouth.net)

### Coin Corner – Civil War Tokens

*Jim Hammonds*

During the Civil War, a major coin shortage occurred in the North. People hoarded government coins, and they were worth a premium over other currencies. To try to remedy this situation, some merchants began to issue their own one-cent tokens.

Civil War tokens were generally the same size and weight as standard United States cents being made at that time. The tokens came in two basic themes: tokens issued by tradesmen and pieces made with political or patriotic messages.

Tradesmen's tokens provided change for trade and advertised the dealer's wares. They generally bore some type of promise of redemption in goods or money. To stay within the law, some of the tokens included the word *not* in small letters above the denomination *one cent*. Others, however, were an unauthorized substitute for the government's coins.

Patriotic pieces often carried the likeness of military leaders, politicians (such as Abraham Lincoln), or the Union Flag. Some pieces bear such inscriptions as *The Flag of Our Union* (on the coin face) and *If anyone*

### Gifts of Charity

A long standing tradition of the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association is to make contributions to local organizations. That tradition continued this year as donations were made to the following organizations.

- Marietta Confederate Cemetery Foundation
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Shriner's Children Hospital
- Marietta Parks and Recreation
- Kennesaw Museum

Thanks to all members that make these donations possible.

### Upcoming Shows

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*attempts to tear it down, shoot him on the spot* (on the reverse). Others simply promote Union forever.

## Civil War Curiosities

*from the book "Civil War Curiosities"*

An artillery duel at long distance constituted the first battle of the war. Inside Fort Sumter, eighty-five Federals, who were aided by forty-three civilian workmen, managed to get of numerous shots at installations manned by more than 6,000 secessionists. During the thirty-eight hour exchange of fire from sixty-nine big guns, more than 3,000 shells – some of them hot shot heated in a furnace – were fired. Not a man among defenders or attackers were killed.

Massachusetts's clergyman Stephen Baer was so stirred by Lincoln's first call for volunteers that he gave up his parish and became chaplain of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Regiment. Refusing to be left behind, his wife became a nurse. Though she had no formal training, she served in field hospitals for more than three years before becoming a superintendent for the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

Novelist Martha Caroline Keller, author of *Love and Rebellion*, described a pair of Confederates she believed to have been at Gettysburg. One of them, "a dreaming boy who fought with tiger fierceness," lay beside an older soldier. Instead of sleeping, "this strong, manly warrior" remained awake to "guard the resting youth". Their comrades considered them to be father and son. Actually, Keller wrote, "This fair young soldier is the man's wife." That account is undocumented, but similar stories are buried in records of both Confederate and Federal forces.

Confederate officers and mounted troopers were required to provide their own animals, for which they were reimbursed at the rate of forty cents per day. Its owner had to find a new one when a horse was killed, worn out, or lost; if that proved impossible, he was transferred to infantry service.

By all odds the most frequent function of the sword was to serve as a symbol in surrender ceremonies, yet it played no part in one of the most solemn. Robert E. Lee had at his side a sword described as "very handsome" when he went to Appomattox. Grant appeared without the symbolic weapon and is said to have explained to Lee that he had left it in a wagon several miles to the rear. Breaking with tradition, the Confederate commander did not offer to yield his sword, and Grant did not demand it.

## Club Forum

The club now has a forum on the internet. You can find it at:

<http://www.mytreasurespot.com/forums/list.php?20> This forum is being furnished free of charge from Donnie at mytreasurespot.com. You can post messages and pictures about anything club related that you want. In order to post you will need to register with a users name and password. You do not have to be registered to look at the post. Please take a look. Also, please take a look at the other forums to see what people are doing in other areas. We will post a link to the forum on our web page also. If you have any questions please contact me and I will be glad to help you get set up.  
[cwspur@gmail.com](mailto:cwspur@gmail.com)

Besides this forum, you can also reference the clubs original website at [www.nrga.com](http://www.nrga.com) for the most up-to-date information relating o our club – as it is updated weekly.

## Club Web Site Survey

On the bottom of the clubs homepage is the question "WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?" Please click on this link and give us your answer. The club web site continues to be updated on a regular basis.

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

[WWW.NGRHA.COM](http://WWW.NGRHA.COM)

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