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# The Ramrod

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## President's Corner

*Steve Strickland*

As hard as it may seem to believe, we are past the half-way point of the year. So far this year, we have had our first relic hunt of the year; and we will have a coin hunt this fall. Right around the corner will be our biggest, and most important, club function of the year, the annual relic show. After that we will have our annual club banquet and Christmas party.

But let's not forget our monthly meetings. These meetings provide time to get together with other club members, swap out stories of recent finds, and just to spend time with folks to see how everyone is doing. We also have had some great speakers at the monthly business meetings, and more good speakers are lined up for the year.

So come on out to the meetings. I am sure you will have a good time meeting with everyone there. And remember, at each meeting we have a great raffle prize and a club door prize to give away. Maybe you will be the one to win the prize. Somebody always wins, but you have to be there to win....

## Annual Relic Show

Time is getting short. That is because the 30th Annual Southeastern Civil War Show and Sale will be held Saturday, August 9th and Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Cobb County Civic Center at 548 South Marietta Parkway.

It is time to start thinking about the show and how you can help to ensure a successful show. If you want to help out with any of the committees that make the show a success, please volunteer.

During the club meetings between now and the show, we will be posting sign-up sheets for various jobs that we will need club members to help out at.

These include:



- Friday Setup
- Front Door Security (Saturday and Sunday)
- Back Door Security (Saturday and Sunday)
- Ticket Booth (Saturday and Sunday)
- Club Table (Saturday and Sunday)
- Sunday Cleanup
- Miscellaneous Help

Please try to help out the club, as the show is our main fund-raising event of the year that helps 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 volunteer to help out.

## Club & Events Calendar:

Date	Event
July 2	Business Meeting
July 16	Find of the Month Meeting
August 6	Business Meeting
August 20	Find of the Month Meeting
September 3	Business Meeting
September 17	Find of the Month Meeting

## Club Dues

Membership runs from January thru December; individual memberships is \$15. 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 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.

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## September Business Meeting Update

Our September meeting will have two special guests; and it is a meeting that you do not want to miss. Jim Wyatt and Cecil Pinner will be at this meeting to do a display of Civil War era rifles. Cecil and Jim were at one of our club meetings last year, and everyone enjoyed the display of period rifles they brought to the meeting – and the fact that they let members actually see-and-touch these rifles.

Cecil and Jim have also indicated that if members bring in any rifles they have in their individual collections, that they will look at the rifles to address questions the owners may have on their rifles.

Stay tuned for more information on this informative meeting

## Andersonville Trip

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the club held a club trip to Andersonville to visit the POW museum and the Civil War Prisoner-of-War camp. There were 25 club members and guest on the trip. The club rented a bus for the trip, and this made the trip very enjoyable (as we could all sit back and relax on the drive down and back).

Club members first visited the POW museum to look at items associated with Americans who have been held in prisoner-of-war camps dating back to the Revolutionary War through the current Middle-East conflict. The museum was very informative in showing what our men and women endured during their trials as a POW. The club members then toured the Andersonville POW camp; making frequent stops at various points throughout the camp so all could grasp and understand the events that transpired at this camp during the Civil War. We then made a stop in the town of Andersonville itself; shopping at the local antique stores and visiting some of the sights of the town. The trip concluded with a stop back at the POW museum for one final visit, then we all piled back into the bus for the trip home.

All seemed to have a good time on this trip; and we will be planning more outings like this in the future.

## 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.

Here are the results for the Single and Multiple Relic.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
<b>Jan Single</b>	Bill Mull	Eagle Militia Plate
<b>Jan Multi</b>	Mike Suercy	Bullets, buttons, and misc relics
<b>Feb Single</b>	Roy Baker	CS Spur
<b>Feb Multi</b>	Mike Suercy	Bullets, buttons (including SC and NY), and misc relics
<b>Mar Single</b>	Darryl Shipp	CSA Button
<b>Mar Multi</b>	Mike Surcey	GA button, bullets, etc
<b>Apr Single</b>	Ed Wigart	CS Wreath
<b>Apr Multi</b>	Roy Baker	Shovel, bullets, cannon hoist, misc
<b>May Single</b>	Paul Shilling	Boreman Shell
<b>May Multi</b>	Paul Shilling	Solid Shot cannonball and misc items
<b>June Single</b>	Ken Myers	3 inch Hotchkiss Nose
<b>June Multi</b>	Mike Hosford	Bullets and misc items

Here are the results for the Single and Multiple Coin.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
<b>Jan Single</b>	Bill Mull	1858 3-cent piece
<b>Jan Multi</b>	Roy Baker	1870 English coins and misc. coins
<b>Feb Single</b>	Ray McMahon	1858-O seated half dollar
<b>Feb Multi</b>	Roy Baker	Misc. coins
<b>Mar Single</b>	Darryl Shipp	1773 Va. ½ penny
<b>Mar Multi</b>	Darryl Shipp	US Large Cent, multiple Coins
<b>Apr Single</b>	Roy Baker	Rhode Island trade token
<b>Apr Multi</b>	Mike Hosturd	5 silver dollars
<b>May Single</b>	Jim Hammonds	1864 Indian Head Penny
<b>May Multi</b>	Keith Cochran	Misc coins
<b>June Single</b>	No entries	
<b>June Multi</b>	No entries	

Here are the results for the year for Jewelry/Misc group.

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Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Jan	Glenn Daniels	Rings and coins
Feb	Glenn Daniels	2 rings
Mar	Ed Grey	Multiple bottles and Jug
April	Glenn Daniel	Locket wing and pendent
May	Doug Dewberry	Misc jewelry items
June	Paul Shilling	Class ring and misc items

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

## Summer is here .....

And with it comes long warm days to hunt. It also brings poison ivy, sunburn, bugs, snakes, and thick underbrush. Some other tips for you to follow

- Don't forget your bug spray and sun protection.
- Dress appropriately to resist the briars.
- Plan your trips early or later in the day to avoid the worse heat of the day.
- Take a water bottle (or two) with you.
- Use something to protect your hands and wrists if digging near Poison Ivy.
- Wear good leg protection (snakes may be out - so watch where you step).

Don't let these tips scare you from hunting as the weather gets warmer. Just take some precautions and you can still enjoy yourself.

## Battle of Gettysburg

One hundred and forty-five years ago this month, an epic struggle was to take place in a small Pennsylvania town.

On the last day of June 1863 tens of thousands of soldiers were moving toward Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The only troops in the town were two Union cavalry brigades commanded by General John Buford. They were scouting in advance of the Army of the Potomac, which was streaming steadily north in an effort to catch up with General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

A Confederate division, commanded by General Henry Heth, camped four miles west of Gettysburg that night. Heth had learned that there was a hidden storage of shoes in the town and told his corps commander that he would take his division tomorrow and get those shoes.

At 8:00 the next morning (July 1<sup>st</sup>), Heth and his 7,460 men reached the crest of Herr Ridge, about 1.5 miles from Gettysburg and saw Buford's 2,748 dismounted cavalymen deployed for battle along Willoughby Run. Confederate skirmishers moved down the hill into a hail of bullets delivered by the troopers' rapid-firing carbines and a battery of artillery. The Confederates were stalled until reinforcements could arrive to add pressure to the assault.

Those opened the Battle of Gettysburg. Hundreds of books have been written about this battle, explaining the many different aspects of the fighting that occurred there during those three days. Here are some other facts about this epic battle of which you might not be aware of:

- When Robert E. Lee rode by as the Confederate Army marched by on the road to Gettysburg, a patriotic Chambersburg matron ceased waving the “Stars and Stripes” long enough to cry, “O, I wish he was ours!”
- During the three days of the battle, an estimated 566 tons of ammunition were expended, amounting to about 24 pounds for every casualty on both sides.
- Federal gunners fired 32,781 artillery rounds during the battle.
- In a counterattack on the second day at Gettysburg, the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota lost 82 percent of its 262 men, the highest loss in a single action of any Union regiment in the war.
- To blast a path for Pickett's infantrymen, Colonel Alexander placed 75 guns along a front extending 1,300 yards from the Peach Orchard. With A.P. Hill's and Ewell's artillery, about 170 Confederate cannon would join in the most colossal bombardment in the nation's history. Some residents of Pittsburgh heard from a distance of 140 miles the cannonade that preceded Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

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- The 14<sup>th</sup> Tennessee had marched from its point of concentration in northwest Tennessee in 1861 with 960 men. It had moved across virtually all of the battlefields of Virginia and counted 365 bayonets when it went into battle at Gettysburg. After the first day's fight, it was reduced to only 60 men. It took part in Pickett's Charge and at what came to be known as the "bloody angle" of Gettysburg, all but three of these remaining 60 fell.
- A review of the claims of the different units which participated in Pickett's Charge shows that the troops which probably advanced the farthest was a company of the 55<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment.
- After the battle, of more than 37,000 rifles salvaged, 24,000 were loaded and of these 18,000 had more than one load. One rifle picked up actually had 23 loads.
- Both armies were stunned by their losses; The Army of the Potomac had suffered 23,049 casualties, a rate of 25 percent; official Confederate records would place Lee's losses at 20,448, but the actual figure was probably closer to 28,000, or nearly 40 percent of the Army of Northern Virginia.
- A burial detail, going through the streets of Gettysburg, found the body of an unknown Union soldier clutching a photograph of two small boys and a small girl. Authorities seeking to locate the family circulated the photograph throughout the North. In November 1863, a woman whose husband was listed as missing recognized the picture as one she had sent him before the battle. He was Sergeant Amos Humiston of the 154<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry. So much interest was generated by the picture of the children that a movement was launched to establish a home for the orphans of Federal soldiers. When it was established at Gettysburg in 1866, Mrs. Amos Humiston became the first matron and the children (Franklin, Frederick, and Alice) were educated there.

Though the war was to continue for almost two more bloody years, Gettysburg proved to have been a crucial turning point.

## 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)

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

## 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.

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