
The Ramrod

Volume 1 Issue 2

March – April 2008

President's Corner

Steve Strickland

It's our club, and we make it what we want it to be. Get involved in our activities. Don't be just a club coin/relic hunt participant. We have some good speaker/educational meetings where you can learn, and the Find-of-the-Month meetings can be really interesting.

We are also getting a lot of new members so let's make them feel welcomed. If you see someone at the club meeting that you do not know, please introduce yourself. Also, please wear your nametags as this helps everyone to place a name with a face.

2008 Club Officers

President: Steve Strickland

Vice President: Brian Copelan

Treasurer: Jim Hammonds

Secretary: Lynn King

Club & Events Calendar:

Date	Event
March 5	Business Meeting
March 19	Find of the Month Meeting
April 2	Business Meeting at the Kennesaw Civil War and Train Museum
April 16	Find of the Month Meeting
May 7	Business Meeting
May 21	Find of the Month Meeting

Club Dues for 2008

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 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.

April Business Meeting Update

Our April meeting will not be held at our normal location at the FOP lodge; rather, we will hold the meeting at the Kennesaw Civil War and Train Museum in downtown Kennesaw. Harper Harris will give the club a guided tour of the museum (free admission for club members) – so you don't want to miss out on this opportunity.

We will all meet at the museum at the normal club start time of 7:30 PM.

Club Hunt

We will have our first club hunt (it will be a relic hunt) on Saturday, May 10th. Stay tuned for details on this upcoming hunt. Right now, we are looking at a couple of sites that have "natural" relics on this (there was some documented fighting in the area) so this promises to be a good club hunt.

There will be a \$20 fee (per club member) to attend the hunt – you get to keep all you find; plus we will have additional relics to give out as prizes at the hunt.

As a bonus, we will have a cook-out at the hunt; the club will supply the burger, hot dogs, and drinks. Club members are just asked to bring a side-dish.

The Ramrod

To be eligible for this hunt, you must be a paid-up member of the club; and you must have your membership dues paid up one month prior to the hunt.

Andersonville Trip

It has been suggested that the club should make a trip down to visit Andersonville in the spring of 2008. Therefore, the club is planning to have a trip on June 7th. Stay tuned for details on this trip – it should be a good trip and a great time for all.

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.

Find of the Year 2007 Results

It's that time of year again to pull your finds off of your display shelf and bring it back to the February 6th 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
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

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

And the winners are:

- Single Relic: Larry Shirah for the Civil War Sword
- Single Coin: Darryl Shipp for the 1799 Large Cent

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.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Jan Single	Bill Mull	Eagle Militia Plate
Jan Multi	Mike Surcey	Bullets, buttons, and misc relics
Feb Single	Roy Baker	CS Spur
Feb Multi	Mike Surcey	Bullets, buttons (including SC and NY), and misc relics

Here are the results for the Single and Multiple Coin.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Jan Single	Bill Mull	1858 3-cent piece
Jan Multi	Roy Baker	1870 English coins and misc. coins
Feb Single	Ray McMahan	1858-O seated half dollar
Feb Multi	Roy Baker	Misc. coins

The Ramrod

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

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Jan	Glenn Daniels	Rings and coins
Feb	Glenn Daniels	2 rings

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

The Relic Hunter Test – or How Series Are You?

compiled by Butch Holcombe

Okay, it's true. Sometime in the last 25 years, I may have crossed over that fine line between enthusiastic digger and hopeless, hardcore relic hunter. This became clear to me one night when the plumber showed me a handful of rust, some tiny square nails, and a number of lead droplets he had retrieved from one of our sink pipes. I explained how such things could get there, pack rats, water fairies, and black magic being among the possibilities. Still, somehow I think he suspected the truth. Perhaps it was the shrapnel on the porch, the bullets on the countertop, the display cases where furniture should be, or just the way my dog kept walking into the walls (that's been going on ever since he chewed up all those fired three-ring bullets I left on the floor).

Later that evening, as I tried to think of a plumber who hadn't heard of me, I began to think that some hardcore relic hunters like myself have a "problem" - other than the obvious one of never being able to hunt as much as we want, regardless of how much we go. It was then that I decided to come up with this test to rate the degree of affection we have for this hobby just to see if any of us really do have a problem.

So, get out a pencil and a sheet of paper, read the questions and write down your answers, and no cheating.

Section I – Multiple Choice

- 1) You own three good metal detectors. Your common sense tells you to:
 - a) sell one
 - b) rest easy, you will always have a spare
 - c) panic – all three could break down.
- 2) It has been two weeks since your last hunting trip, and you are:
 - a) enjoying the rest
 - b) anxious to get back in the woods
 - c) bewildered, confused, and very, very afraid
- 3) While on vacation at the seashore, you:
 - a) Enjoy a nice bit of coin shooting in shirt, shorts, and sandals
 - b) Embarrass the family by coin shooting in a swimsuit and no shirt, wearing a military belt, pouch, and e-tool
 - c) Frighten everyone on the beach by wearing your relic hunting cammos, full woods gear, and combat boots (but still no shirt)
- 4) At Christmastime you:
 - a) Buy the kids new batteries for the toys and hint that you would like some too.
 - b) Buy the kids new batteries and sneak a set for yourself
 - c) You own four metal detectors and the kids have never had new batteries.
- 5) The place you often park while relic hunting is:
 - a) A nicely shaded little pull-off and the local patrolman often waves to you.
 - b) A wide spot in the road and you are lucky you have not gotten a parking ticket yet.
 - c) Currently under investigation as a suspected drive-by shooting site due to the large number of modern shell casings you have discarded there.
- 6) A drink is spilled on the floorboard of your vehicle. You:
 - a) Immediately clean it up.
 - b) Are thankful because it cuts down on the dust.
 - c) Are amazed that three weeks later there is a small tree growing out of the mud and moisture on the floor mat.
- 7) You are holding a hand-full of rusty nails, shotgun shells, pieces of barb wire, a couple of pull-tabs and a few minnie balls. This represents:
 - a) Your entire collection
 - b) Your finds from last week
 - c) The items recovered by your wife in the clothes washer after your last trip.

The Ramrod

- 8) You dug out a reading you had and discovered that you have recovered a CSA Belt Buckle. This immediately evokes in you a feeling of:
- a) Pride in history preserved
 - b) Prides in history preserved and along with a wave of nostalgia.
 - c) Both of the above, a well as sweaty palms, lured vision and an unhealthy level of euphoria.

Section II – True or False

- 9) There is always a relic somewhere in your vehicles.
- 10) You didn't check your pockets and a piece of shrapnel destroyed the clothes dryer.
- 11) You were once refused service at a convenience store for being too dirty.
- 12) You've burned your relic hunting clothes after a frustrating fruitless day in the woods.
- 13) You commonly leave the woods with more than one species of parasite attached to your body.
- 14) Your doctor's son wrote his medical thesis solely based on your latest relic-hunting rash.
- 15) You have tried to bribe a bulldoze operator.
- 16) Your pet has gotten sick from lead poisoning.
- 17) You have gotten a flat tire from a square nail
- 18) You have outrun the same yellow jackets more than twice in a single day.
- 19) You insist on recovering the signal before seeking treatment for snakebite.
- 20) Your considered naming your child Patina, Rosette, or Sabot.

Scoring

Section I: each A is 1 point, B is work 2, and C is work 3.
Section II: Each TRUE is worth 2 point, FALSE is worth 1.

How you Rate:

19-26: You really enjoy the peace and tranquility of this hobby. In general, you are well-adjusted individual who probably meditates with some frequency.

27-35: While enjoying the fun and adventure associated with relic hunting, you also take it quite seriously. You are basically a pleasant, easygoing individual, although you have a

tendency to bore people not interested in the Civil War.

36-44: Although normal at first glance, most of your innermost thoughts are centered only around how to hunt longer in better places, and it is beginning to overtake the basic instincts for food, shelter, and mating. Indications are that you have put relics in the bathtub for cleaning at least once, or you will now that I have suggested it.

43 and over: All things considered, it is probably good that you do spend most of your time in the woods, well away from civilized people. You try to act normal, but people recognize the hollow, vacant look of those who have played in the dirt one too many times. I pity you. I'm sad for you. And I envy you – I bet you have got one hell of a collection.

I hope everyone feels better after taking this test. If you scored "Normal" good for you, and if not, then at least the rest of us know whom to avoid – unless, of course, you will take us to your spots.

As far as my score, well, I am exempt since I wrote the test. Just rest assured that I am as normal as I have ever been for some time now.

Gotta run, the grandkids are here and I just heard a cannonball rolling across the floor. "Hey! Groundburst" You and Casteye come on in here now. And bring little Accoutrement with you."

Georgia Troops in the Civil War – 3rd Georgia Infantry Regiment

Never Give Up This Field – Rodgers and Harrison

In their booklet *Never Give Up This Field – Georgia Troops in the Civil War*, Rodgers and Harrison provide a series of dramatic sketches of some of the Georgia units and their parts played in the war. As a reference, it provides brief regimental histories and is especially informative for uniform researchers through the accompanying illustrations.

Throughout the year, we will highlight portions of the booklet by presenting some of the information in it. This month will discuss the 8th Georgia Infantry Regiment.

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The Ramrod

June 1, 1862. More young Georgians are about to receive their baptism of fire. Advancing cautiously in a line of battle four ranks deep, men of the 3rd Georgia Infantry move against a thickly wooded enemy position at Seven Pines, east of Richmond, Virginia. Suddenly a volley of musket fire rings out from the woods ahead. The Georgians are in the middle of a brisk fifteen-minute firefight with the 52nd New York Infantry.

The Confederacy is now in the second year of the war. Federal forces under General George B. McClellan have advanced up the Peninsula east of Richmond threatening to capture the Confederate capital. It is a critical time for the South. The Confederate commander, General Joseph E. Johnston, is seriously wounded and is put out of action for the present. He is replaced by General Robert E. Lee. In a series of "Seven Days" battles in the forests and swamps east of Richmond, Lee will block the Northern invaders; but the cost will be high.

Formed in May 1861, the 3rd Georgia Infantry Regiment was commanded by Colonel Ambrose R. Wright, a native of Louisville in Jefferson County, who later became a brigadier general. The regiment served for a while in North Carolina, and then was transferred to Virginia in time for the battle of Seven Pines.

The 3rd Georgia took part in the heavy fighting of the "Seven Days" battles in the summer of 1862. The conclusion of the campaign found Lee's army preparing to launch a major frontal assault on strongly defended Northern entrenchments at Malvern Hill on July 1. The 3rd Georgia was posted on the far right of the Confederate attack.

Lee's attack failed to dislodge the enemy. Delivered piecemeal instead of in a coordinated fashion, the Southern attacks were beaten back with heavy casualties.

The 3rd Georgia continued to serve faithfully with the Army of Northern Virginia until the end of the war. Wright's brigade (which included the 2nd Georgia Infantry Battalion as well as the 3rd, 22nd, and 48th Georgia Infantry Regiments) saw heavy combat on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 2, 1863. The Georgians came close to breaking through Union lines at the northern end of Cemetery Ridge. The following day Lee ordered the famous infantry assault against the center of the Union position.

Wright remarked, "It is not so hard to go there as it looks; I was nearly there with my brigade yesterday. The trouble is to stay there. The whole Yankee army is there in a bunch."

Wright's comments proved prophetic. The great Southern attack failed, with enormous casualties. The broken Confederate force retreated; and never again was the Army of Northern Virginia able to pose an offensive threat to the Union Army.

Wright's brigade lost 668 men killed, wounded, or missing at Gettysburg. The 3rd Georgia lost 196 men.

Most of the companies of the 3rd Georgia were from central Georgia. They reported for duty in 1861 dressed in their own distinctive uniforms, most of which seem to have been gray with black trim. The Dawson Grays (Company C), from Greene County, wore gray caps, jackets, and pants with black trim.

The Madison Home Guard (Company D), from Morgan County, also wore gray uniforms. A photo of three members of this company taken in 1861 shows all three men dressed in heavy gray overcoats. Their headgear differed, though; as one wore a blue kepi, while another sported a black hat, and another a gray kepi.

Troops of the 3rd Georgia were described in an Augusta newspaper account in 1861. The Burke Guards (Company A) from Burke County wore slouch hats, dark gray jackets (frock coats for officers) with green trim, and gray pants. Eatonton's Brown Rifles (Company B) wore gray uniforms with red trim.

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@gmail.com

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](http://www.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

The Ramrod

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

Besides this forum, you can also reference the clubs original website at www.nrgha.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

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.**