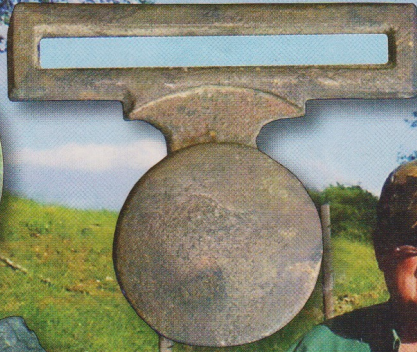


# WESTERN & EASTERN TREASURES

*World's Leading How-To Magazine For Metal Detectorists Since 1966*

Volume 49  
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- Early Land Patent Site Reveals Historical Artifacts
- Metal Detecting Club Websites Exposed
- The Schrade Survival Tactical Pen
- Two Tennessee Relic Hunters
- Treasures Beneath Our Feet
- Pot Luck

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# WESTERN & EASTERN TREASURES

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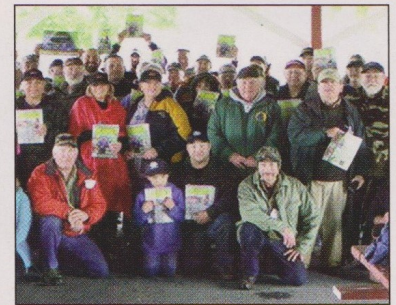
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**Our Cover:** Author Quindy Robertson holds a U.S. belt plate found while hunting in Tennessee.

### Odds & Ends

The Winston-Salem Coin Club, Winston Salem, North Carolina, has a wonderful motto that would fit well with the detecting hobby, too: *We educate the future by preserving the past.*

Chief George Johnson has been a loyal member of the Prospectors Club of Southern California, Big Bear Lake, California, since the early 1980s. In 1990 he created the PCSC Crime Research Unit and provided leadership for it. At that time he was 65 years old. Recently, he prepared updated renewal stickers for affixing to

the club ID cards. If you want to know something about the Prospectors Club of Southern California, ask George. Martin Milas, the club newsletter editor, reports that George is still going strong at only 90 years old!

### In Memoriam

The Twin Territories Treasure Hunters Club in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is deeply saddened to announce the death of Jack Smart. An active member of the club, Jack had been ill for some time. He will be sorely missed.

\* \* \*

“We are hunters; we are only truly alive in those moments when we improvise: no schedule, just small surprise and stimuli from the environment”—Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *The Bed of Procrustes*. □

Please send club newsletters directly to William Purkey, via 1st Class mail if possible:

**William W. Purkey**  
**1031 Prestwick Court**  
**Clemmons, NC 27012**  
**Email: wwpurkey@aol.com**

# Metal Detecting Club Websites Exposed

By T.D. Bunce

For the past three years, I have been collecting information in support of writing a book on metal detecting. In the course of my research, over 100 club websites have been reviewed and used as a source of contact. The breadth and depth of club website designs runs the gamut from extremely weak and confusing to world class, and everywhere in between.

After spending hours and hours navigating through club websites to find specific information or responsible individuals to gather information from, I feel qualified to make the following observations and suggestions:

### Opening Page

This is where the web designer can demonstrate creativity and elegant simplicity. To be more specific, a view of the club's logo and perhaps an

outline of the state where the club is located is the very basic requirement. Now that the user can identify the names of the club and the state of origin, it is time to display what is referred to as the “dashboard.” As a very minimum the following categories need to be addressed:

### About Us Or About Our Club

Provide background information on the year of the club's formation, its purpose, and by whom it was founded. Club meeting locations and timing, as well as a statement about the bylaws and ethics are appropriate in this section. This section may contain the club's bylaws to allow visitors to understand the rules and regulations that support consistency and organization.

### Contact Us

This is one of the most sig-

nificant items on the dashboard. The idea is to have a name and a web address for the individual who is the initial point of contact. Many clubs have now gone to an e-mail form that is routed to an individual to respond to.

### Club Meeting Schedule, Location & Directions

Potential members may choose to attend a meeting to judge how the club is run and its charter or specific areas of treasure hunting interest. Posting a schedule and directions helps to provide a welcoming invitation to increase membership numbers.

### Members Only

This area is reserved for member-specific information that is not for public view. An example might be a “buddy list”

that gives names and contact information for members who would like to partner up to detect. Often this section contains equipment for sale by members, as well as whom to contact about a given item.

### Monthly Newsletter

Each club may have a different view as to whether the monthly newsletter should be open to the public. I fall on the side of sharing as much information about a club as possible, in that it projects the image of the club and its inner workings. Many judge a book by its cover, making the opening page and the ability to view as much non-sensitive information as possible to the public.

### Club Officers & Executive Committee

I do support the addition of a picture with the names of those who are responsible and accountable for the running of a

club. This includes the officers, committee members, and appointed department heads. All members and the general public should have the ability to recognize those having stepped forward in the interest of the club. This page must be updated immediately after each annual election in order to maintain its value.

### Membership Application

A must for all clubs is to have an online application and the specific individual to route it to. Some organizations require the application to be hand carried to a meeting, and the individual submitting it to introduce himself and tell why he would like to be a member.

The following categories may be included as determined by the membership:

### Finds of the Month/Year

Some members may not want their finds displayed on

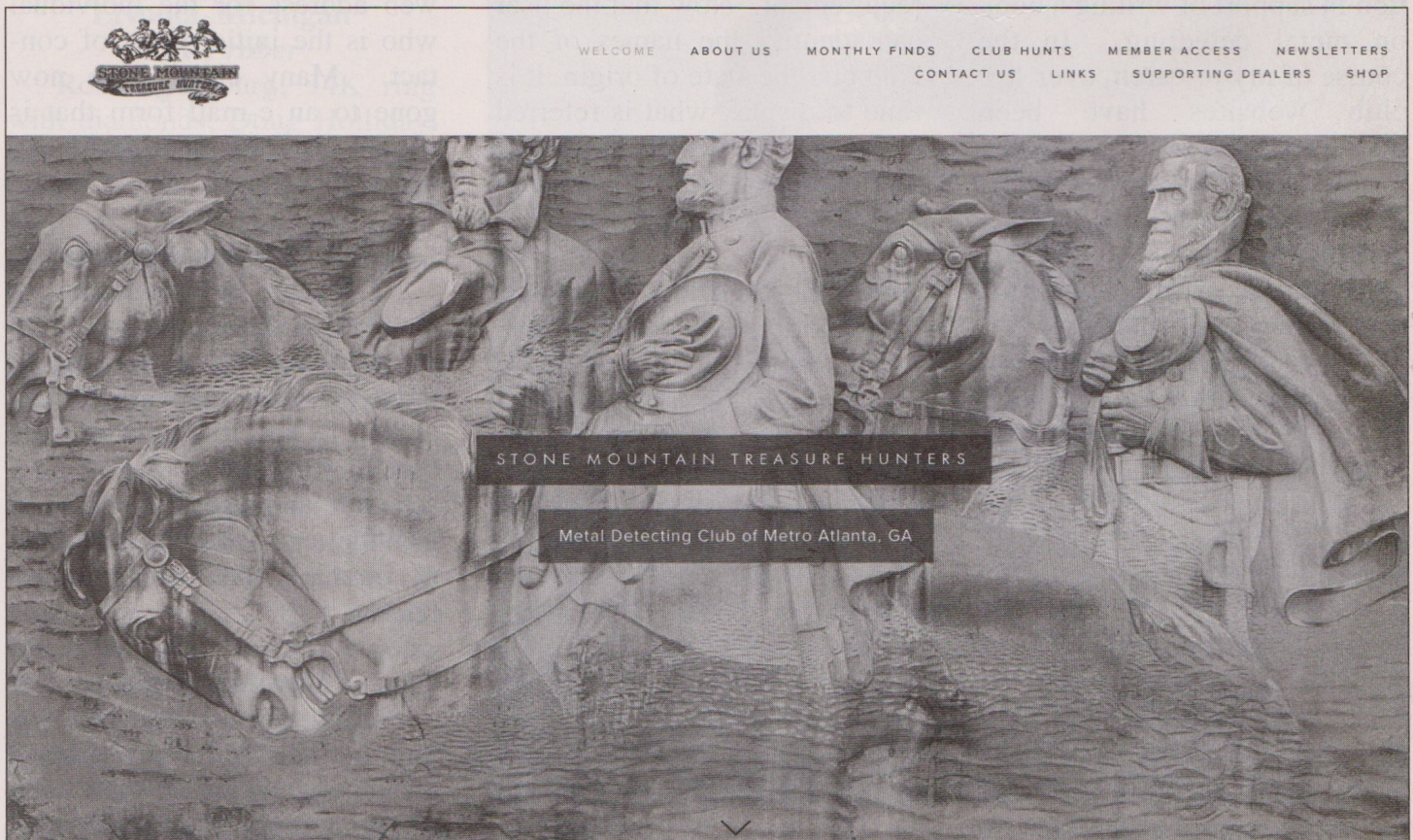
either a public or members-only section. In respect to all members, the inclusion or omission of recording finds of the month on the club's website is better served through a membership vote.

### Links

This is another elective portion of the dashboard, but an important one. This area may link to state and federal regulations, pending legislation, sponsors, equipment reviews, etc. A club committee may be chosen to develop the input that the webmaster can then implement.

### Public Support

Some clubs offer assistance in police evidence recovery, as well as volunteer to find missing items for both members and non-members. This activity promotes good citizenship and presents a very positive image to the public. Pictures of rings or valuable items being returned to



the original owner paint a favorable picture of the hobby and club, too.

### Summary

The message is to keep club

websites informative and useful for members, prospective members, and the general public. The dashboard needs to be very visible upon opening the website so that viewers can quickly go to

their areas of interest. The most important part of any club website is that a specific individual must be tasked with keeping it up to date. This includes reviewing a number of areas on the World Wide Web where club information is displayed.

### Web Sites of Merit

A representative list of user friendly sites:

- Mount Diablo Metal Detecting Club
- Mid Valley Treasure Hunters
- Central Florida Metal Detecting Club
- Stone Mountain Treasure Hunters
- Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association
- Tidewater Coin & Relic Club
- Empire State Metal Detector Association

- Home
- About
- Calendar/Events
- Pictures
- Forum
- Membership
- Annual Show
- Detection Etiquette
- Sponsors of NGRHA
- Contact Us
- Links

#### About Us

The North Georgia Relic Hunter's Association was formed in 1972 in partnership with the City of Marietta Department of Parks and Recreation. The association has over 120 members from all walks of life.

The purpose of the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association (NGRHA) is to further the enjoyment of responsibly collecting Civil War relics, old bottles and coins, as well as other items from years gone by. The NGRHA is dedicated to preserving Georgia history through responsible excavation.

Membership is open to all persons interested in relic or coin hunting and collecting.

(read more)

#### Club Officers

- President: Bill Gilmore
- Vice President: Jim Black
- Treasurer: Charlene Black
- Secretary: Lauren Hammonds
- Show Chairman: Ray McMahan
- Sergeants at Arms: Darryl & Jan Houston