

# The Loop



Lancaster, California

March 2016

## Antelope Valley Treasure Hunter's Society

Volume 36 Issue 03

Meeting held 1st Monday of every month at 7:00 PM (unless otherwise noted in newsletter).

**Prez Sayz,** Don Duncan said he's not much of a writer, but will let me know when he has something to say. Meanwhile, I'll keep you updated with the activities.

### From the Editor:

Welcome to March, the time spring flowers are starting to bloom, temps are moving up and all is right with the world! Well, maybe not ALL! We had an excellent turnout for the Zuma Beach outing! I didn't get a final head count, but I know it was 20+ We all had a great time. The weather couldn't have been more perfect! Many got to the beach early and got on with their hunting. We broke for lunch around noonish and I think everyone gained a few pounds! So many tasty treats were brought in by the members and \*Don Allen\* the club provided the hot dogs. Thanks you, Rick W., for manning the boiling pot and to Vickie for all your work setting things up while most of the others were detecting. After lunch we gathered for the hunt. We had great borders—the wall between the sidewalk and the beach, the HUGE sand berms piled up to protect the beach, and two volleyball nets! It was a nickel/dime hunt with tokens being painted nickels and dimes for prizes of \$5 and \$10. I'm happy to report I found one \$5 token! I don't have the list of the rest of the winners, but all the tokens were found. In addition to the 5/10 tokens, Mike Snowden planted the mystery token that he recovered from the October outing, since no one found it then. This time it WAS found and the winner of the GPS was Bonnie Forstner! Congrats, Bonnie! After the hunt, most people headed back to the beach.



This past weekend (from this writing), as I mentioned in last month's newsletter, I was working the GPAA Gold & Treasure Show in Pomona. I got an advance from Linda Bravo to buy some goodies and I was able to pick up some decent, inexpensive stuff that will be appearing in the monthly "opportunity drawings" in future months. I also purchased a Minelab GoFind 60 for our special drawing to take place later in the year. We will be selling tickets soon. Most likely at \$5 each. There will be a few other items (TBD) as well, so it will be a multiprize drawing.

Most interesting at the Show on Sunday is that Joe Covey and I won back-to-back major prizes! Joe's ticket was called for a Garrett AT-Gold machine. I saw him going up with the winning ticket and got excited for him and went over to take his picture with it. Just as I took the picture, I heard them calling numbers for the next prize and realized it was one of MY numbers! When I went over to receive it, I saw it was a Minelab EurekaGOLD machine! So AVTHS had two consecutive winners in the Major Prize category at the end of the day. Congratulations to JOE! Congratulations to ME! Yay!



I'll be leaving Thursday afternoon for the Las Vegas show. Maybe I should buy some more raffle tix!

FYI, I won't be at the March meeting or outing. I'm leaving San Diego the afternoon of the day of the meeting with my youngest sister to go see the Northern Lights in Fairbanks, AK! I'll be returning to San Diego on Sunday the day after the outing. We set our dates by the new moon when the sky will be at it's darkest and, hopefully, give us the best viewing. Once we get there, we will be deciding whether to take the expensive tour flying us up to Cold Foot, an oil line workers camp, about 250 miles north of Fairbanks where it's REALLY dark at night, OR stay local and take a bus to Aurora Borealis Lodge, about 20 miles out of town, which also has little interference by city lights or ice fog. The flight is over \$400 and the bus to the lodge is \$75. It will all depend on the weather, and other circumstances. We're keeping our fingers crossed for seeing at least ONE good sighting! Also, our flights into and out of Fairbanks will be in the dark, so I'm hoping that we might even be able to see some from the air as we land and take off. Always the optimist!



## REMINDER!!!!

I hope you all received the Membership renewal forms I sent out last week. We need these filled out, signed and returned ASAP! The Release of Liability needs to be signed and in our records or you will not be able to participate in outings or use the claims. \*Mac & Connie Perkins\* Please be sure to get these to us before or at the March 7th meeting. If you won't be at the meeting, please mail the form to the return address on this newsletter. Going forward, I'll be including copies in the November and December newsletters prior to the January due date, so you can submit both together.

Enjoy the March meetings and outing. I'll see you in April!!

Connie Smith

Editor, The Loop

Month	Meeting Date	Outing Date	Location	Notes
January	1/04/2016	1/09/2016	Ventura Harbor Village	BYOF
February	2/1/2016	2/6/2016	Zuma Beach	Club food/potluck (Hunt?)
<b>March</b>	<b>3/07/2016</b>	<b>3/12/2016</b>	<b>Lovetta's Mystery Hunt? Lancaster City Park</b>	<b>Club food—Costco pizza/potluck</b>
April	4/04/2016	4/09/2016	TBD Relic Hunt	BYOF
May	5/02/2016	5/07/2015	Map Hunt—Lancaster City Park	Club food (breakfast) (Hunt)
June	6/06/2016	6/11/2015	Kernville park	Club-hot dogs/potluck
July	7/11/2016	7/09/2016	Castaic Lake (lower)	BYOF
August	8/01/2016	8/6/2016	Silverwood Lake	BYOF
September	9/12/2016	9/09/2016	Cajon Creek (sluicing/prospecting)	BYOF
October	10/03/2016	10/08-10/2016	Chili Cookoff—Rocky Road	Chili/potluck (Hunt 1 free, 1 paid)
November	11/07/2015	11/12/2016	AVT claim off 395	BYOF
December	12/5/2016	12/10/2016	Christmas Party	Medrano's Mexican Restaurant

# Full Metal Racket

The perverse thrill of metal detecting, the world's worst hobby.

By Emily Yaffe

*Listen to Emily Yaffe discuss this topic on NPR's Day to Day.*



I bought my metal detector on our summer vacation—we drove from Washington, D.C. to Maine—hoping to add fun and profit to our holiday. As I packed it in the trunk for the trip home, my normally considerate husband had this to say about my latest pastime: "Now that your metal detecting is over and believe me IT'S OVER—we will think of it as a hideous family episode, like something out of a Pat Conroy novel, that we must put behind us and never discuss again."

It's true that I had come to think of metal detecting as the world's worst hobby—frustrating, solipsistic, potentially felonious. But I had to admit that each time I turned the power dial on my Bounty Hunter Tracker IV and swung it over new territory, I understood how Bill Bennett must have felt before pulling that \$500 slot: This time, baby, I'm going to hit the big score.

I started metal detecting for the latest episode of *Human Guinea Pig*, the in which I do things people are curious about but wish someone else would do for them. But metal detecting was something our family actually did want to do, even without *Slate's* encouragement. It was my daughter's idea, actually. She requested a metal detector for her 7th birthday—she had seen a TV commercial that promised diamond rings and other amazing treasure. My husband and I thought it was an original choice, and even something—besides sleeping late—that we could all enjoy. After all, what could be more universal than the desire to find and keep a valuable object that doesn't belong to you?

After being completely confused by the detectors offered on the Web, my husband called one of the retailers. He explained that we wanted a detector that would be easy for a 7-year-old to use, but that would be suitable for finding Civil War artifacts, since we live close to some known encampments.

The salesman found this hilarious. "Believe me, you're not going to find any Civil War artifacts. I've been doing this for three years and I've never found anything valuable." (Presumably, after this conversation our salesman enlisted and is now in Iraq leading the search for weapons of mass destruction.) The salesman also said not to worry about getting a metal detector that would be easy for our daughter. "She might go with you once, then she'll get completely bored and not want to do it again." Instead of taking this advice, my husband insisted on purchasing one, so the salesman recommended the \$130 Tracker IV. Then, perhaps remembering what line of work he was in, he said, "You'll have fun," which turned out to be the equivalent of saying "bon voyage" to the passengers boarding the Titanic.

You've seen metal detectors in action. They are the long poles with the dinner-plate-sized coil on the bottom held by men with Bermuda shorts and atrophied calves who are scanning the beach looking for jewelry and coins. There are millions of metal detectors out there. Debra Barton of First Texas

Products, manufacturer of myTracker IV, estimates the handful of domestic producers sell a half-million a year. Rosemary Anderson, editor of *Western & Eastern Treasures*, a magazine for devotees, says the hobby really took off in the '60s when the machines became lighter and easier to use.

Anderson pointed out that people who do it call it a "sport." The industry loves to tout the exercise benefits of metal detecting. But metal detecting would most likely constitute a real workout only for those recently released from solitary confinement. I also learned from *Western & Eastern Treasures* that people who metal detect are called "metal detectorists." It was gratifying we had our own "ist" like numismatists, philatelists, or contortionists.

The modern history of metal detecting is ignominious. Alexander Graham Bell used an experimental model in 1881 in order to locate the assassin's bullet lodged in President James Garfield. Unfortunately, no one remembered that Garfield was lying on a mattress with newfangled metal coils, causing the machine to emit a continuous whine, resulting in failure to accurately locate the bullet. Garfield's heart gave out when doctors cut into him.

The beep of the metal detector, like the car alarm, the busy signal, and the colicky baby, belongs in the catalog of irritating sounds. The booklet that came with my Tracker IV instructed me to study the different tones emitted by the machine so I would know the kind of metal being indicated. But I could never keep straight whether the chirp that resembled a dying sparrow meant iron or the drone like that of a truck backing up meant copper.

It was time to find Civil War artifacts. The three of us trooped off to a wooded area behind a public school near where I knew Union soldiers had camped. A man who lived a few houses down told me that a workman once asked if he could metal detect on that property and had found belt buckles and eating utensils. The woods were muddy and swarming with mosquitoes. I turned on my Tracker IV and it started emitting chirps and beeps—it sounded like I had discovered a satellite outpost of Fort Knod. But every time I dug I turned up a hole filled with rocks and worms and roots. Occasionally there would be the pop-top of a beer can. As the salesman predicted, within minutes my daughter was begging to be allowed to go to the playground. She and my husband abandoned me to my attempts to contract West Nile virus.

RICK & VICKIE WYATT (661) 943-1124

## ANTELOPE VALLEY TREASURE HUNTING SUPPLIES

Factory Authorized Deal  
Metal Detectors and  
Prospecting Equipment



White's Electronics  
"See what's in the ground before you dig!"



## The Outpost

(661) 944-1200

More Than Just a Gift Shop (661) 944-1548

Rugs & Blankets - Amer. Indian Arts & Crafts

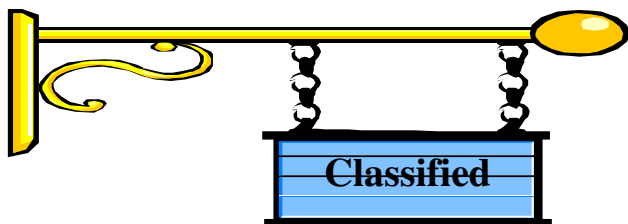
Fine Art Gallery - Coins, Gold & Collectibles

Gold Panning Ins. & Classes - Rocks & Gems

34141 116th St E Pearblossom, CA

**SCOTT SANDAHL**

Proprietor



**FOR SALE:** Minelab GPX5000 plus all accessories. \$6800 investment for \$4500. Must sell due to health issues. Contact **Martin Hill** at 760 305-9956 or [lylehilljr@hotmail.com](mailto:lylehilljr@hotmail.com)

**Wanted:** Bigfoot Coil for Whites DFX Call Ben Molstad at **562-209-2344**

**WANTED:** Old ANVIL—the bigger the better. Call Steve Molstad at **818-891-9778**

All members will be receiving *The Loop* via E-mail to save on printing and postage costs, unless they don't have e-mail. If they are currently receiving it by snail mail and later get an email account they can send their request to me at [avthsnews@gmail.com](mailto:avthsnews@gmail.com) and I would be happy to send it as a .pdf file. It is generally about 2mb for the issue.

## DIG-IT METAL DETECTORS

*Because Fortunes Await, U Dig.....*

[www.dig-itmetaldetectors.com](http://www.dig-itmetaldetectors.com)

**Gregg Bergman**

OWNER

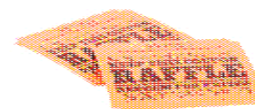
[sales@dig-itmetaldetectors.com](mailto:sales@dig-itmetaldetectors.com)

**(760) 677-1201**

8201 PEACH AVE  
CALIFORNIA CITY, CA. 93505

## Club Apparel is available

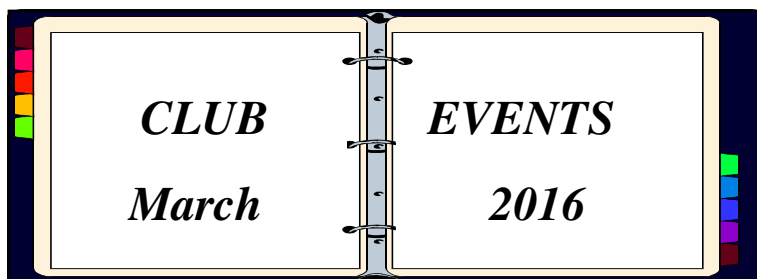
Support your Club by purchasing one of our new hats or shirts.



## FREE RAFFLE TICKET

If you find your name in the newsletter and it looks like this: \*Your Name\* You get a free raffle ticket at the next general meeting. Bring it to the attention of the ticket seller. If two names appear (i.e. husband/wife) ONE ticket is given out.

Refreshments volunteers for 2016	
<b>March:</b>	<b>Rick and Vickie Wyatt</b>
April:	Mary Black
May:	Mike Snowden
June:	Connie Smith
July:	Harry Surtees
August:	Linda Bravo
September:	Gary Spain
October:	Don Duncan
November:	Jay Zeigler
December:	Steve and Peggy Howard



**Mar. 7, 2016**    **General Meeting - 7:00 pm**  
**Leisure Lake Mobil Estates**  
**48303 20th St. West**  
**Lancaster, CA 93534**

**Mar. 7, 2016**    **Board Meeting following**  
**immediately after the General**  
**Meeting**

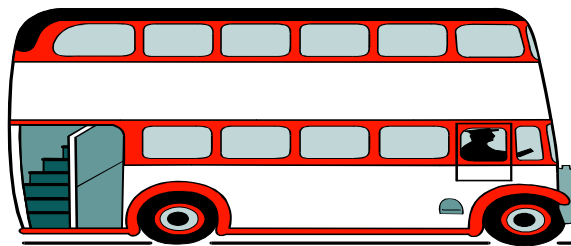
### ***1st/ Qtr. 2016 Scavenger Hunt***

**Scavenger Hunt items for**  
**January 5, 2016 to April 4, 2016\*\*\***

- 1 - bobby pin
- 2 - bottle cap - King Cobra
- 3 - bottle opener
- 4 - earring - any metal
- 5 - earring - stud
- 6 - mirror
- 7 - nail - square
- 8 - necklace
- 9 - nickel - 1980
- 10 - ring - toe
- 11 - weight tire
- 12 - Quarter - Nebraska
- 13 - Quarter - Massachusetts
- 14 - Quarter - Maine
- 15 - Quarter - Kentucky

Finds must be brought to the April 4, 2016 General Meeting or earlier if all found. Display owner must be present to win. First member that finds all 15 items will win a Silver Half Dollar \*If there is a tie, the winner will be decided by the cut of a deck of cards and runner-up will receive a Silver Quarter. If all items are not found, the member finding the most will win a Silver Quarter. If there is a tie, a cut of a deck will decide the winner. Members finding at least 10 items will get a Silver Dime. \*\*\* Only Items found between Jan, 5, 2016 meeting and the April 4, 2016 meeting, qualify to be displayed. All items must be found ***in the act of*** treasure hunting or while prospecting. Items found with the naked eye qualify. ***No purchased items or planted hunt finds allowed.***

## **CLUB OUTINGS**



**March 12, 2016—8:00 a.m.**  
**LANCASTER CITY PARK (10th St. W**  
**near Ave. K-8)**

**Everyone will meet in the same area/**  
**parking lot that we do when we hold the**  
**Map Hunt (see map on back of The**  
**Loop.)**

**This will be a Mystery Hunt designed by**  
**Lovetta Burns, who will give you the**  
**details when you get there. She's being**  
**very secretive! Maybe it will be the**  
**same as last year's Mystery Hunt—**  
**Maybe NOT! This should be a lot of**  
**fun. It's a Bring Your Own Food**  
**outing.**

**I hope there is a great turnout and that**  
**everyone has loads of fun!**

**I'd love to get reports from those who attend so that I**  
**can report on it in the April Newsletter. Please email**

## ***Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics***

I will always check federal, state, county and local laws before searching; it is my responsibility to know the law.

I will respect private property and will not enter private property without the owner's permission. Where possible, such permission will be in writing.

I will take care to refill any holes and try not to leave any damage.

I will remove and dispose of any and all trash and litter that I find.

I will appreciate and protect our inheritance of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.

I will, as an ambassador for the hobby, use thoughtfulness, consideration and courtesy at all times.

I will work to help bring unity to our hobby by working with any organization of any geographic area that may have problems that will limit their ability to peacefully pursue the hobby.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only.

I will report to the proper authorities any individuals who enter and/or remove artifacts from federal parks or state preserves.

# ***"THE END OF THE LOOP"***

## ***February Finds of the Month*** *Member must be present to display finds*

***Most Unique***  
Brian Skerston  
***Best Gold Item***  
Gary Spain  
***Best Natural Gold***  
Anna Valenzuela  
***Best U.S. Coin***  
Scott Sandahl  
***Best Foreign Coin***  
Ron Renter  
***Best Silver Item***  
Dan Petrozzi  
***Best Overall***  
Brian Skerston

### ***Attendance Drawing***

Thomas Baker—not in attendance - \$40 next  
month  
**50/50 Draw**  
Didn't get name



### ***March Birthdays***

***JoAnn Covey, Kent Hess, Allen Klommhaus,  
Mike Kuzio, Ellen Susi, Don Reed, Adreinne  
Sherwood, Mike Temple, Linda Zeigler***

***Please note:*** If your birthday isn't listed in your birth  
month, you probably didn't give us your information.  
This information is gleaned from the active membership  
roster. Contact Linda Bravo to update.

## **OFFICERS**

President:..... **Don Duncan**  
H 661-478-2409  
Vice-Pres..... **Lovetta Burns**  
E-mail - lburns57@att.net  
H 661 256-1654 C 661 428-0797  
Treasurer..... **Linda Bravo**  
E-mail - lsb7203@yahoo.com 661-480-5642  
Secretary..... **Lorelei Paland**  
**661-273-3932**

## **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Robert Weaver..... 661-948-8350  
Connie Smith ..... 661-526-7494  
Mike Snowden..... 661-269-2937  
Rick Wyatt..... 661-943-1124  
Vicky Wyatt..... 661-943-1124  
Linda Reitz..... C 661-478-7938  
Jerry Paland..... 661-273-3932

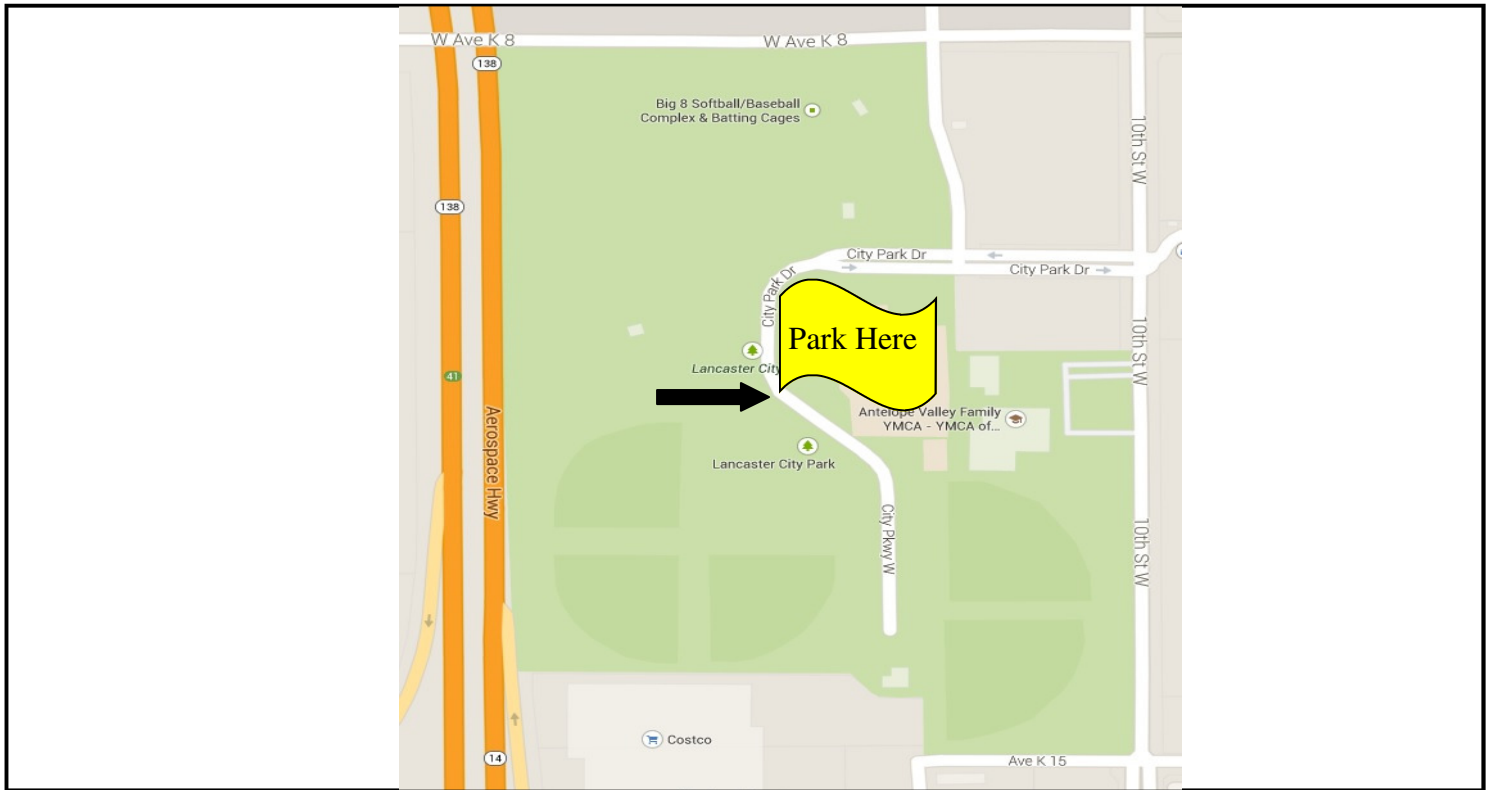
## **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Welcome..... Vivian Sexton  
Raffles..... Connie Smith, Harry  
Surtees, Larry Blair  
Club Photographer..... Anyone With Camera  
Find of the Month..... Scott Sandahl  
Claims..... Linda Bravo  
Metal Detecting..... Scott Sandahl  
Refreshments..... Volunteer for each meeting  
Club Apparel..... Mike Snowden  
Club Public Web Page..... Rick Wyatt  
Newsletter..... Connie Smith  
(H) 661 526-7494  
(C) 818-414-6707  
Membership..... Vivian Sexton  
661 478-0174  
Recycling..... Jay Zeigler  
661-943-0397



Remember, as with the recycling collection, the  
proceeds from the sale of apparel are put back in  
the club to fund prizes and food at the outing.

# Outing Map—Lancaster City Park



*Antelope Valley Treasure Hunter's Society*  
*P. O. Box 4718*  
*Lancaster, California 93539*



**This Month's Club Outing**  
**Lovetta's Mystery**  
**Hunt—Lancaster City**  
**Park**