

# THE DIXIE DIGGERS

## WARRIOR BASIN TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION (WBTHA)

There were no meetings in December, so I really do not have anything to report. So, this issue will be a little different.

One thing that comes to my mind, that needs to be repeated from time to time is the Code of Ethics of metal detecting. Different organizations have slightly different wording for their codes of ethics. For example the FMDAC has as its Code of Ethics the following:

*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 all 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 leave gates as found.*

*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.*

Lost Treasure Magazine and Lost Treasure Online have the exact same Code of Ethics in their magazine and on the website. It is called the Treasure Hunter's Code of Ethics.

White's Electronics' Code of Ethics is very similar and is as follows:

*#1 I will respect private property and will not metal detect without the property owner's permission.*

*#2 I will not destroy property, build*

*ings or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.*

*#3 I will not litter, always pack out what I take in and remove all trash found.*

*#4 I will leave all gates and other accesses to land as found.*

*#5 I will not damage natural resources, wildlife habitats, or any private property.*

*#6 I will use thoughtfulness, consideration and courtesy at all times.*

*#7 I will abide by all laws, ordinances or regulations that may govern my search, or the area I will be in.*

*#8 I will fill all holes, regardless how remote the location, and never dig in a way that will damage, be damaging to, or kill any vegetation.*

*#9 I will report the discovery of items of significant historical value to a local historian or museum in accordance with the latest legislation.*

*#10 I will be an ambassador for the metal detecting hobby.*

*Be polite and informative to those who inquire about your hobby - you are the ambassador of a pastime we want to protect and we will be judged by how you act & respond.*

In our hunts we emphasize over and over to "fill your holes!" The reason we do this is for the simple reason that, if we leave a bunch of holes in the Park, we will lose our chance to use the Park. When we detect in the woods in the "middle of nowhere" we must fill in our holes and take the trash we find out of the area for proper disposal. The reason is the same, if we don't we run the risk of losing the access to those areas. When a thoughtless TH'er leaves holes or leaves the trash he dug up at the site anyone who later sees those holes or trash will assume that everyone in the hobby does the same. Unfortunately, it may only take one person stepping in one of those holes or one Ranger seeing trash left in the woods by the hole to make all areas off-limits to detecting. As for having permission to hunt private property, if we do not get permission we run the very real risk of being arrested for trespassing.

Ok, I am off the soapbox now!! I am very excited about the next item I want to discuss. In our last meeting someone mentioned several people had asked about our website...of course, we don't

have one!! Well, one of our members has set out to do something about that. Eddie Bradley has begun making a website for the WBTHA. He has done a lot of work and he has allowed me to put it on my laptop. At the January meeting on the 15th, you will have a chance to see what Eddie has done so far. Eddie will not be able to attend the meeting, because he is taking a class on building a website at UAB. Unfortunately, his class meets on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Eddie is asking WBTHA members for ideas for sections of the website, information you would like to see on the website, and any Club pictures you may have to add to the photo gallery. Eddie is also in need of a history of the WBTHA, so if anyone has one please get it to him. I know a few years ago when we had presentations each month, Linda Barnett presented a history of the Club, and I thought I had gotten a copy of it from her, but I have not been able to locate it. If you have a copy please bring it to a meeting or either send it to Eddie or Lawrence.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### **January**

**15th WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

#### **February**

**5th WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

**19th WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

#### **March**

**4th WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

**15th Wabasso, FL.** 21st Annual Treasure Coast Archeological Hunt at Kiwanis-Hobart Park, 9 Am - 4 PM. Right off US 1 and only 5 minutes from the 1715 Spanish fleet wreck beaches.

Multiple hunts— Competition, Pin Point, Silver and Reale hunt. Grand Prize is a Garrett GTI-1500! \$65.00 for all 3 hunts, lunch included. For more information and maps log onto [http://www.geocities.com/tcas\\_club/tcasbenefithunt.htm](http://www.geocities.com/tcas_club/tcasbenefithunt.htm) or contact Mitch King at [mking11@earthlink.net](mailto:mking11@earthlink.net)

**18th WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

**29th and 30th Blacksburg, SC.** Treasure of the Carolinas, the largest open

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hunt in the Carolinas, at Ed Brown's Rodeo Grounds. For more info, contact Randy Gatchel, 1536 W. Cherokee St., Blacksburg, SC 29702, (864)839-3598, email [lincolnrg@aol.com](mailto:lincolnrg@aol.com).

#### **April**

**1st WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

**15th WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

**19th & 20th Susquehanna Valley M.D. Club** 29th Annual 2 day treasure hunt.

For info contact [potogold1@verizon.net](mailto:potogold1@verizon.net) or [coop6347@msn.com](mailto:coop6347@msn.com)

**25th, 26th & 27th Great Southern Beach Shootout.** Daytona Beach, FL.

For info: [peyton@gsbsdaytonahunt.com](mailto:peyton@gsbsdaytonahunt.com) or [Huntmaster@gsbsdaytonahunt.com](mailto:Huntmaster@gsbsdaytonahunt.com)

#### **May**

**2nd, 3rd & 4th FMDAC Treasure Festival.** K-River Campground, Rt. 2 North, Antlers, OK. For info call Duane Biller (724)439-1380 or Terry Smith (903)734-7682.

**6th WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

**17th Virginia Beach, VA.** 21st Annual Spring Hunt sponsored by the Tidewater Coin and Relic Club. For info, send a SASE to Tidewater Coin & Relic Club, P.O. Box 3462, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 or email Ina Finn at [sanddigger@charter.net](mailto:sanddigger@charter.net).

**20th WBTHA** meeting at 7:30 PM at Niki's West Restaurant.

So until next month Happy Hunting and may you find your treasure!!!

