

The *Soundoff*

EUREKA! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc.



V. 45 I. 1

January 2017

Search With Care!

Visit Our Club On The Internet At <http://www.eurekathc.org>

Wedding Ring Lost For Six Years Recovered

by Chris Davis

Six years ago Mr. Dan P. of Superior, CO, lost his wedding ring, worth an estimated \$400, while working in his back yard. A month ago, Bruce Morton was contacted by Dan's wife after she saw that Bruce had offered to assist someone search for lost keys on "Nextdoor", a social media site for neighborhoods. Bruce went over and took a look using his Bounty Hunter Land Ranger Pro detector in "Jewelry" mode (everything but iron). Despite a search lasting 3½ hours, the ring could not be located. Just as it was getting too dark to continue, he got an encouraging signal in the rock garden next to the small patio, but could not dig the multiple layers of golf ball sized stones.

Weeks later, Mr. P. called and said he had moved some rocks. So, Bruce returned on January 1st, to give it another shot. A fun filled 1½ hour search in the rock garden, produced loads of trash (rusty nails and screws) but, again, no ring. While packing up to leave, he thought, "just hit the grass one more time". He took only one step into the yard, at the edge of the area he searched previously, and immediately got a hit ("44", generally an Aluminum signal and higher than most gold rings on this detector). Merely two inches down, he recovered the ring. Bruce put it on his finger and called out to Dan to advise him he was leaving but wondered if the lost ring looked like anything like "his". "Yeah it does...IS THAT IT?" Dan and his wife were very happy, and offered a reward, which was politely declined. What a great way to start 2017!



Bruce (left) returning Mr. P's lost ring. (Notice, Mr P. had replaced his lost ring, but the old one still fits.)

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Drawing tickets are \$1 each, take a chance.

T-shirts and caps with the Eureka! logo are available. Metal detector lapel pins - \$2.00, Eureka! window decals - \$1.00, water bottles - \$5.00 and Eureka! patches - \$3.00.

Joining Eureka! Membership Dues

Yearly dues are \$30 per individual or \$36 for a family membership. Please go to Eureka-thc.org and download and complete the application form. Membership dues can be paid to the treasurer at the regular monthly meetings.

Renewals due in April.

TREASURE HUNTER'S CODE OF ETHICS

- I WILL respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the owner's permission.
- I WILL fill all excavations.
- I WILL appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
- I WILL use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I WILL build fires in designated or safe places only.
- I WILL leave gates as found.
- I WILL remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- I WILL NOT litter.
- I WILL NOT destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I WILL NOT tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.

January Activity – Denver Public Library



We will meet on January 15th at the Denver Public Library

Denver Central branch, located at 10 west 14th Ave Parkway

The library opens at 1:00 PM on Sundays

We will meet up on the 5th floor (Western History and Genealogy Department)

Come see what we dig up for information

January 2017

6th - Breakfast Club-Canceled
6th - Newsletter Published
11th - Board Meeting 6:30pm
13th - General Meeting 7:30pm
15th - Library Research 1:00pm
21st - Breakfast Club 9:00am
27th - *Soundoff* Deadline

February 2017

3rd - Breakfast Club 9:00am
3rd - Newsletter Published
8th - Board Meeting 6:30pm
10th - Awards Banquet 6:30pm
12th - CSM Geology Tour 1:00pm
18th - Breakfast Club 9:00am
24th - *Soundoff* Deadline



December Holiday Dinner

By Nancy Faïres

The Eureka! THC visited White Fence Farm in Lakewood on December 17th for our annual Holiday Dinner and party. Sixty-one of our members and guests attended and enjoyed the Farm's famous fried chicken, broiled fish, country sides and cheesecake.



Everyone received a holiday "treat bag" with one of the new Club pins and a ticket for prize drawings. After temporarily "misplacing" his ticket, Roy Neys won the Panda gold coin.



Thank you to Jan Hallez, Diane Dengah, Cecelia Merritt and Addie for all their assistance and the following for donations: Gold-N-Detectors, Brian Henry, Jan Hallez, Diane Dengah, John Hinton, The Cut, Dry Dock Brewing Co, Spyderco, Boots Lewis, Jeff Lubbert, American Digger, Emich Chevrolet, Alpine GMC/Buick and Eureka Holiday Fund.



See everyone in December 2017!

Happy
New Year



About *Soundoff*

Soundoff is the official newsletter of the Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc. (Eureka!). Mailing Address: PO Box 101385, Denver, CO 80250-1385.

Opinions expressed in *Soundoff* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club or its members. Publication of information in *Soundoff* constitutes no guarantee of accuracy. Use of any information found in this publication is at the sole risk of the user. Neither Eureka!, nor its officers, nor *Soundoff*, nor its editors or contributors assume any liability for damages resulting from use of information in this publication. *Soundoff* is typically placed on the club's website the evening of the first Friday of the month.

Submissions

Articles, letters and short items of interest on prospecting, detecting and treasure hunting topics are welcomed and encouraged. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. Submittals for publication or correction of errors may be made by e-mail in ASCII text format or MS Word. All article submissions must be received by the editor no later than the deadline of the month (see calendar) for inclusion in the next month's issue. Include publication information on articles clipped from other publications. **Let's hear your story, ideas or tips** - Cindy - your *Soundoff* editor.

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Advertising

Classified business-card-sized text advertising is free to members for non-business ads. Commercial display ads are available to anyone at the following charges: business card size, \$6.00 per month; 1/4 page, \$12.00 per month; 1/2 page, \$24.00 per month; full page, \$48.00 per month. Advertisers are encouraged to take out ads for 12 months and receive a 3-month discount. No other discounts apply. The treasurer must receive any required payments for commercial ads prior to their inclusion.

About Eureka!

Eureka! is a Denver-based, Colorado nonprofit organization established in 1973 for the enjoyment of metal detecting, electronic prospecting and treasure hunting. Its purpose is to provide an educational and social forum of mutual benefit for members. Eureka! holds a monthly meeting and conducts various special presentations, hunts and seminars. Members have voting privileges. Membership includes access to all general meetings, selected seminars and outings. Annual dues run April to March and are \$30 for single adult membership, \$36 for a family membership and \$15 for Junior membership. Pro-rating of dues are done for new members joining the club after the April 1 dues date. Club meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado. Come early to socialize.

Next Club Meeting
2nd Friday of January, 7:30pm
at the
Clement Community Center
1580 Yarrow Street
(NW of Wadsworth and Colfax)
Lakewood, Colorado 80214
Hotline: (303) 595-5448
www.eurekathc.org



LuLubelle's Lost Bling Treasure Puzzle

By
Bill Chapman

A cryptogram is an encoded message. The code used is called a simple substitution cypher. This means that the message is encoded by replacing each character in the message with a letter of the alphabet. Every time a particular character occurs in the message, it is replaced with the same code letter. Word spacing and punctuation are not changed.

Some people like to solve cryptograms much like some people like to do crossword puzzles. The cryptogram is solved by looking for frequently used characters and clues provided by letter patterns and word spacing. Solve the cryptogram shown below, find LuLu's bling and bring it to the next regular Eureka! meeting to collect a prize.

VO QRMNFBEP ICQQIT IMIMLTIIT FEQ
BVKO QV KEQXR QRT FQTEIQR BCHHTNF.
RTN JVJXVNO KEF EII HVOT FV FRT KTOQ
QV QRT ENSEBE XVFQXV QV LMP FVGT.VO
RTN KEP RVGT FRT FQVJJTB EQ E JEND
FTSTO QTOQRF VA E GCIT KTFQ EOB E
ICQQIT OVNQR JIEPTB VO QRT FICBTF
EOB IVFQ RTN LICOH.

Last Month's Solution:

This being the Thanksgiving holiday week Little Lulubelle went over the river and through the woods to her old hood in the Highlands. Wishing to get a book to read she went to the Woodbury Library but found it closed. Spying the new play-

ground she had to play on the slides. Her bling slid away too.

Park: Highland Park

Prize: 5 golden dollar coins. Sponsored by Louise Smyth of Gold-N-Detectors.

Almost A Millionaire

Greetings from semi-beautiful Watkins, Colorado and how's everybody?



Prez Sez

By
John Olson

Would you still metal detect if you had a million dollars? In your quest for treasure and riches, are you also after a monetary goal? For some of us, it is a supplement to our income and for some of us it is purely for the love of finding relics and artifacts or to help someone find a lost item. It is very satisfying to search for evidence for law enforcement.

A couple of years ago I received mail from the Social Security Administration notifying me that I was old enough to receive a monthly check for a certain amount, and that over my lifetime I had earned income of \$990,000. Almost a MILLION dollars!! That is exciting until you figure that I worked for 50 years. Let's see, that amounts to a little less than \$20,000 a year. My expenses over the same 50 years were about that same amount, so the net income is somewhat less than a million dollars.

Most of us save every coin that we find and put them into bags and boxes and they get tumbled, soaked or sonic cleaned until they become 'spenders', then it's off to the bank. I have a box full of jewelry that I should sell someday, but that someday hasn't come yet. It is a supplement to my SS check, but a small one.

If I were a millionaire, I would wear new Levi jeans all the time. I have several pair that go into the following categories. The new ones are my 'go to a fancy meeting or to church' Levis. After a few washings, they become my 'go to town' nice Levis. Then they become my 'everyday' Levis which soon become my work pants. When they reach a certain point of wear and tear they become shop or yard work pants or maybe painting pants. Finally they become rags! I guess if I were a millionaire, I could hire someone to paint or do my yard work. I would watch them work while wearing my new Levi pants!

Someday I am going to find a real treasure that will make me a millionaire, or at least a step closer to being a millionaire. That is what keeps many of us motivated. I hope you find your Million!!

It's all fun!
John

Westminster requires a permit to metal detect in their city. It will be good for a year.
See Connie at the lower level of City Hall.
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs from 7:00am to 6:00pm.
Please follow the City's guidelines and show that we, as detectorist, are a responsible group.

GOLD CATEGORY

Norm Ruggles 10K Earring
Jeff Lubbert **14K Class Ring**

JEWELRY CATEGORY

Chuck Hedberg Sterling Flyers Medallion Pin
 Roy Neys Bling Ring
 Roy Neys Amethyst Silver Ring
 Norm Ruggles Choir Pin
 Norm Ruggles Utah Academy Decathlon Metal
 Jeff Lubbert Sterling Earring
 John Hinton Men's Gold Colored Steel Wedding Ban
 John Hinton Tigers Eye Sliver Ring
Glen Thompson **.925 Heart Ring with Diamonds**

COIN CATEGORY

Bruce Morton 1999 Mexican \$5
 Chuck Hedberg 1912 D Barber Dime
 John Olson 1900 Barber Dime
 Roy Morris 1969 Swedish 1 Kroner
 Roy Morris British Caribbean Territories 10¢
Ron Erickson **1747-1763 German 1 Groten**

TOKEN CATEGORY

Chuck Hedberg Car Wash
 Alan Bravo 100 in Trade
Alan Bravo **Five Cigars**

ARTIFACT CATEGORY

Alan Bravo Miniature Horse Shoe
 Roy Neys James Madison Medallion
 Kenneth Martin Bridle Rosette
Linda Erickson **Carved Bullet**

FIND-OF-THE-MONTH CATEGORIES

Gold: natural gold (flakes, nuggets, wire) stamped karat alloy content or obvious custom alloy item, except gold coins which are entered in the Coin Category.

Jewelry: objects of metal often set with gems and worn for personal adornment, except jewelry qualifying for the Gold Category.

Coin: a piece of metal issued by governmental authority as money.

Token: a piece resembling a coin issued by some person or entity, not of a governmental authority (with the exception of tax tokens), that could be redeemed for services or specified items. Advertisement tokens with no redeemable value are entered in the Artifact Category.

Artifact: simple object showing human workmanship or modification, and all other items that do not meet the criteria for other categories.

Find of the Month Winners - December

ARTIFACT - Linda Erickson

Carved Bullet

Linda found her first carved bullet out on the



eastern plains of Colorado only 5 inches down. She searched with her Teknetics T2 SE to find this interesting artifact.

COIN - Ron Erickson

1747-1763 One Groten



This tiny German coin was found on the eastern plains of Colorado at 8 inches deep. Ron was using his Shadow X2. It would be interesting to know how this old coin ended up in Colorado.

TOKEN - Alan Bravo

Five Cigars



At the edge of a lot, on almost the last pass, on the way back to the car, Alan dug 4 inches to recover this 5 Cigars token. Alan was using his White's V3i with a 6 inch DD coil at the scrape-off.

GOLD - Jeff Lubbert

14K Class Ring



Using his Minelab CTX 3030 in chest deep water while in Mexico, Jeff recovered this gold class ring from several inches under the sand. The ring is a licensed lawyer's, 1998-2003. Besides the name of the school, it has initials. Jeff is working on finding the owner.

JEWELRY - Glen Thompson

Silver Heart Ring with Diamonds

While hunting an Englewood park with his Ace 250 with a DD coil, Glen found this diamond studded ring in the thatch.



Upcoming Events

NEXT EUREKA! MEETING

Bring:

Nametags ~ thanks for wearing them to all Eureka! functions.

Cash ~ for drawings, hunts, hats...

Finds ~ to show.

Answers ~ to puzzles.

Ideas ~ for speakers, fun outings.

Snacks ~ as always, treats for the snack table are appreciated.

LINKED WEB SITES

www.mdhtalk.org Detecting Hobby Talk

www.fmdac.org Federation of Metal Detector & Archaeological Clubs

<http://www.relicroundup.blogspot.com>

Relic Roundup Radio show (hosted by Jeff Lubbert 7pm Mondays), and blog.

TenaciousTreasureTracker.com

Hunt #8 will start in April 2017.

UPCOMING MEETING SPEAKER

January - Joe Johnston

Basics of Metal Detectors and Coils

UPCOMING EUREKA! EVENTS

Jan 21st, 2017 (Saturday)

Feb 3rd, 2017 (Friday)

Breakfast Club

Contact: Chris Davis 225 235-2642
for place and time to meet or to get added to the email list.

Sun, Jan15th, 2017

Library Research Session

Denver Public Library

14th & Broadway, Denver

Meet on the 5th Floor, Western History

1:00 pm

Contact: Jeff Lubbert 303 618-5179

Sun, Feb 12, 2017

Colorado School of Mines

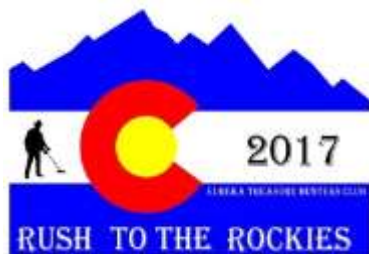
Geology Museum Tour

1301 Maple St

Golden, CO 80401

1:00 pm

Contact: Steve Rex 720 270-2471



Rush to the Rockies July 21-23 2017

The Rush to the Rockies flyer and entry form is available on our Eureka! club's website at www.eurekathc.org.

The event, to be held July 21-23, 2017 at Pickle Gulch Campground, (near Blackhawk, CO), will be limited to 85 participants. You can expect five spectacular hunts

over the course of two days, a free kid's hunt, fireside chats for those staying the night, guest speakers, prizes and a lot of fun and camaraderie. You can join the fun for an entry fee of \$250.

SELL YOUR SILVER

Eureka! is open to purchasing U.S. silver coins or gold from our members.

Secretary's Report

By Nancy Faires

December 9, 2016

President John Olson called the Eureka! THC Club meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The officers and board members were introduced.

There were 60 members present.

There will be a "meet and greet" for new members or anyone with questions at the end of the meeting tonight.

Linda Kibler presented the Treasurer's report.

Eureka! will buy gold and silver coins – minimum \$5 face value. Please set an appointment prior to Club meeting time. Contact any Board member to schedule.

HUNT CANCELCATION POLICY

Notify the Hunt Master by 9 AM the day of the hunt if you can't make the hunt and you have pre-paid.

The speaker tonight is Bob DeWitt speaking about Colorado tokens.

November Hunt – Blue Ribbon Turkey Hunt – Cindy Bockenstedt
Majestic View Park, Arvada Saturday November 12th
Laura Lewis found the Spyderco token and was awarded a Spyderco knife from Boots Lewis. Thank you to Spyderco and Boots.

HOLIDAY DINNER – Saturday December 17th - Nancy Faires, Jan Hallez and Diane Dengah
White Fence Farm, 6263 W Jewell Ave, Lakewood, CO 5 – 8 PM

LULUBELLE'S BLING – Louise Smyth and Bill Chapman
Bruce Morton found the bling at Highlands Park and received 5 golden dollars from Louise.
Thank you Louise and Bill Chapman for sponsoring this hunt.

Breakfast Club

Meetings are the 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday each month.

Please come and join us to share stories, finds, have breakfast together and an

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unplanned hunt to follow. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

This is a good opportunity for new members to meet and detect with some of our Club's excellent detectorists.

Tip of the Month – Joe Johnston

Pay close attention to shallow targets.

We continue the nomination and voting for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Board members. Each position entails a 2 year term.

Those nominated and accepted:

President - Chris Davis has been nominated, seconded and nomination accepted

VP – Jeff Lubbert was nominated, seconded and nomination accepted

Secretary – Nancy Faires was nominated, seconded and nomination accepted

Treasurer – Roy Neys has been nominated, accepted and nomination accepted. Linda Kibler was nominated, seconded and nomination accepted.

Board Members nominated, seconded and nominations accepted previously – Norm Ruggles, Vince DiPrimo, Sherry Muehlbauer and John Hinton.

Mary Ann Bower was nominated, seconded and nomination accepted.

Ballots were provided, we proceeded with voting.

General Drawing Winners

1894 Indian cent – Richard Kibler

1840 Half dime – Chuck Hedberg

1955 Franklin half – Bud Van Gundy

Panda gold – Joe Johnston

1863 Civil War Army/Navy token – Ron Roberson

1865 3 cent piece – Jeff Lubbert

1853 Seated dime with arrows – Laura Lewis

1858 Flying eagle cent – Chuck Hedberg

1820 Large cent 21 over 20 – John Hinton

1866 2 cent piece – Ron Graves

1930 Standing liberty quarter – Laura Lewis

1969 US Proof set – David Redmond



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2nd Chance Drawing

Probe – Jeff Lubbert

Gloves – Glen Thompson

Gloves – Laura Lewis

Colorado Tokens – Roy Morris

Membership Drawing Winner – Chris Davis

Holiday Drawing – Chuck Hedberg

1921 Morgan dollar

RTTR 2017 50/50 Cash Drawing – Bernice Ortiz

Finds of the Month Winners

(must be a member to enter and vote)

Gold category – Jeff Lubbert

Coin category – Ron Erickson

Token category – Alan Bravo

Artifact category – Linda Erickson

Jewelry category –Glen Thompson

REMINDERS:

January – Vote for Finds of Year

February – pot luck meeting (**6:30 PM start time**)
new officers, board members and awards

March – begin membership renewal

April – membership renewal

Thanks to everyone who brought food,
who assisted with the meeting tonight and
who donated prizes.



Joe Johnston with Bob and Dorothy DeWitt. Bob gave a presentation on Colorado Merchant Trade Tokens.

Token Terminology

Term	Definition	Term	Definition
Bitfield	Binary on/off values	Leaflet	Only one side visible
Increment	Recessed / outward facing	Recessed	Recessed meaning
Scalable	Two different sizes	Scalable	Unconstrained or flexible
High-mids	Midrange compressed 1:2 ratio	Recessed	Recessed
Low-mids	Midrange compressed 1:4 ratio	Recessed	Recessed
High	High-mids / Recessed	Recessed	Recessed
Low	Low-mids / Recessed	Recessed	Recessed
High	High-mids / Recessed	Recessed	Recessed
Low	Low-mids / Recessed	Recessed	Recessed



Gold Prices



Silver Prices



TTT Token Found



Hunt #7 for the Tenacious Treasure Tracker token, put on by Brian Henry, was won by Cindy Bockenstedt. She received \$100 cash, a trophy, and a T-Shirt of her choosing from Brian's webstore. Cindy found the TTT token at Green Gables Park in Lakewood on her fifth visit. Please see tenacioustreasuretracker.com for information on the next hunt and its clues. Thanks Brian!

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Wheat Ridge requires a permit to metal detect in their city. No detecting is allowed October-March. Permits allow detecting April-September.

Contact List

Officers	Name	Phone	E-Mail
President	John Olson	(719) 588-7021	jncolson1969@gmail.com
Vice President	Jeff Lubbert	(303) 618-5179	coindigr@hotmail.com
Secretary	Nancy Faires	(303) 368-1356	photo518@msn.com
Treasurer	Linda Kibler	(303) 6700899	rlkibler@earthlink.net
Board 2017	Steve Rex	(720) 270-2471	kiowarex@yahoo.com
Board 2017	Boots Lewis	(303) 941-6251	foxfixer5@msn.com
Board 2017	Chris Davis	(225) 235-2642	aggiefan55@gmail.com
Board 2018	Terry Weatherly	(303) 748-7288	terrysboss302@hotmail.com
Board 2018	Brian Henry	(720) 771-1883	Brian@tenacioustreasuretracker.com
Board 2018	Linda Erickson	(720) 231-8080	linda.erickson@comcast.net
Board 2018	Fran Espinosa	(720) 202-5101	maddoxe29@gmail.com
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Web Site			
Webmaster	John Lambe	(303) 840-8094	jlambe@earthlink.com
Volunteers			
PERT	Chris Davis	Nametags	Linda Erickson
HART	Steve Rex	Microphone	John Hinton
Hunt Coordinator	Jeff Lubbert	Greeter	Board Member
Finds Table	Bernice Ortiz	Hotline	Laura Smith
Finds Table	Van Romero	Speakers	Jeff Lubbert
Drawing Table	Fran Espinosa	Orientation	Board Member
Drawing Table	Abel Espinosa	Coin Purchases	Jeff Lubbert
For general information contact the hotline: (303) 595-5448			
Visit our club on the Internet: http://www.eurekathc.org			

Eureka! Club Members Service Directory



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Metal Detecting Self Defense

By James “Chris” Davis

First, let me throw out a disclaimer. The information below is my own, personal view on metal detecting self defense. I do not recommend or encourage anyone to do any of this stuff. In fact, you should not even read the following article. In no way am I encouraging folks to violate the law, or take the law into their own hands. Each of us is totally responsible for our own actions. It is each person's responsibility to understand and obey the law. Keep in mind, all this wonderful information listed below is just my opinion on the matter. And, as my sainted Mother used to say, “Everyone is entitled to their own stupid opinion”.

Now that that is out of the way...

Every day I get up and have my first cup of coffee while watching the morning news. And every morning there are at least a couple reports of shootings and robberies in the Denver area. For those of us what get out there metal detecting, we need to be aware of what dangers are out there and be prepared.

It may surprise you to learn, some of the areas some of us are silly enough to venture into in pursuit of corroded coins are not in the best of neighborhoods. If you see bars on all the house windows in the neighborhood and gangs hanging around on the corners, a warning light might oughta come on. Perhaps it would be best to find another place to hunt. If you hunt some of these areas about dark, especially on weekends, you may be asking for trouble. Sometimes problem areas are not so obvious. But, even in the “nice” neighborhoods, you would be well advised to stay alert and be careful.

A thousand years ago I went through the enforcement academy of a rural, southern state (it was so long ago we were still using flintlock pistols and riding horses). One of the most important things I learned is there are people out there who will do things most people cannot conceive of. And the really scary part is, you probably have several living in your neighborhood. It is important to realize some of these people are wired differently and/or on drugs. Some even smoke the killer weed. Many of these folks just do not think the way normal people do. Your sense of fairness, common sense and morals just do not come into play. Some of

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these people will kill you for a corroded quarter or your tennis shoes. But, “It will never happen to me”. Do not bet your life on it.

Another thing I learned at the academy was what they referred to as “situational awareness”. Being aware of what is going on around you. For example, walking out to your car in a dark parking lot with total concentration on your cell phone may be a good way to get in serious trouble in a hurry. As you walk toward your car, you need to be looking all around.

Some of you may recognize the second episode of the British TV show, the *Detectrists*. Our hero, Andy, is metal detecting in a field when a flight of six jets rocket over at treetop level. Sophie runs up to him and exclaims, “Wow! That was fantastic!”, to which Andy replies, “What?” He did not have a clue. We all do it, but some more than others. We tend to focus on the ground and targets, and may not be keeping an eye on what is going on around us as much as we should.

Hunting in groups is a very good idea. There is safety in numbers. More eyes to watch each other’s backs. Some of us hunt some pretty seedy parks, but even in “nice” parks, you can run into trouble. Do not get isolated from your group. Keep a constant eye on your people, and anyone else who may be around, and other members of your group keep an eye on you.

The Boy Scout motto is “Be Prepared”. Just like you should carry spare batteries, you should consider carrying self-defense supplies. A whistle is an invaluable item that should be in everyone’s metal detecting kit, and readily accessible. Bad guys do not like noise that might attract other people. Another key self-defense weapon is as simple as your cell phone. Hold it up to your ear and yell, “911? I am being threatened by a number of individuals at so and so Park!”

I am a big believer in pepper spray. I, personally, do not carry it, but I believe in it. I carry a firearm, but everyone is not psychologically prepared or properly trained to use one. Unless you are, having a firearm can cause a lot more problems than it solves. An article I read suggested, “There are few situations which cannot be made worse by the introduction of a firearm”, has some merit. For those folks not comfortable carrying a firearm, or are not sure they can shoot someone when it comes down to it, pepper spray may be an option. If you make a mistake, it will not be a mortal one.

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The first thing to keep in mind is, pepper spray will not incapacitate everyone. When I was down south, one of our game wardens got into an altercation and sprayed a fellow. All it did was make him mad. The guy chased the game warden around his truck and it was necessary to jump inside and lock the door to keep the guy from beating him up. Still, it is better than trying to hit someone over the head with your metal detector.

If you do not feel right, or see someone of suspect, go ahead and get the pepper spray can in your hand, safety off and ready to go. If the situation deteriorates, do not hold the pepper spray can up and say, "You come any closer I will spray you!" If it is that serious, just hose the sucker down. You want it to be a surprise. And move while you are doing it. Do not just stand in one place where he can put his head down and charge you.



A can of pepper spray has got to be small enough to carry, but all pepper spray is not created equal. There are about 3 different kinds (steam, mist, foam/gel). I went down to the gun shop and purchased 3 different kinds.

I tried one of the smaller, stream models and discovered I can wee-wee further and harder, and I am an old man. With a range of only 5 feet, that is letting the bad guy get too close.

My next try was a Saber Red Foam model. It was like spraying shaving cream and still only had a 5 foot range.

For **outdoors** use, the model I liked best was a Fox Five Point Three. This was a mist/stream spray, and you have to be careful with mist sprays as the wind can blow it back in your face, but it really wraps up the subject at a range of 10 feet. The stuff comes in both 2 oz. and 4 oz. sizes. The problem with this model is, indoors you are going to get everyone in the room, and probably including yourself.

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The Arapahoe County Sheriff's officers carry Sabre Red Crossfire Gel. It shoots a thin stream of gel which turns to liquid. It has a range of better than 10 feet, but the thin stream makes it harder to hit the target.

I know some of you carry wasp spray. I watched a video comparing both. Can't believe some yo-yo let them spray him in the eyes for the test, but he did. The wasp spray had good coverage and range, but did not incapacitate the suspect nearly as well. He could still pursue you.

Whatever model you choose, take it out and test it. Get a feel for moving the safety on and off, and know exactly what it will do when you push the trigger. How far does it go? What kind of coverage do you get? Carefully clean the nozzle off when you are finished testing it. And wash your hands.



And, just like a firearm, it doesn't do you any good if it is in the closet at the house when you need it. You got to carry it.

Pepper spray also works great on aggressive dogs.

While not a mortal weapon, pepper spray can still cause a great deal of pain and discomfort. It is not a toy to be played with, and it should be kept out of reach of children.

About a hundred years ago we had a serial rapist murdering women in the Baton Rouge area. So, I went out and bought my wife and daughter each a can of pepper

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spray. Sometime thereafter, the wife flew down to Florida to visit a friend. The day she flew back I was wandering around the airport waiting for her flight to come in. Being bored, I read several signs listing all the stuff you cannot carry on an airplane. Stuff like hand grenades, flame throwers, bombs, cans of gasoline, etc., which I had no idea it was illegal to carry on airplanes. Another sign said it was a \$2,500 fine to carry a handgun on an airplane. Okay. But the next sign said there was a \$5,000 fine for carrying a can of pepper spray on an airplane. This seemed a little odd, so I felt obligated to go up to a security guard and inquire as to why the fine for carrying pepper spray was twice that for carrying a gun. The guard said this was because a can of pepper spray could incapacitate the whole plane. Okay. The wife came in without problem, we loaded her suitcase in the truck and headed home. I mentioned the pepper spray conversation I had with the guard, and she turned white. Apparently, she had forgotten she had the can of pepper spray in her purse, and had carried it on the flight down, and again on the flight home. And did not get caught. Told her I was going to get her a gun, cause that would be a lot cheaper fine.

It is the individual's responsibility to determine where it is legal to carry pepper spray. While it is legal to carry pepper spray in the State of Colorado, there are always exceptions. For example, you may not carry pepper spray on commercial airlines or in Colorado state and local governmental buildings or in Federal governmental buildings. It is not permitted anywhere that has security checkpoints.

If you do not happen to have a can of pepper spray, and things get serious, your screwdriver can make a very good weapon.

As a closing note I will relate my own personal philosophy on concealed carry of a firearm: If I can give the robber my money and can walk/run away, that is what I am going to do. To me, taking a human life is not worth a \$100 (which I never carry anyway). They can have my money and go with my blessing. In addition, assuming you can beat the criminal charges involved with shooting someone, you can, and probably will, be sued civilly, regardless of circumstances. On the other hand, if I truly feel it is going to come down to someone getting hurt, I just assume it be the bad guy. Another one of those catchy academy maxim's, "It is better to be tried by 12 than carried by 6".

As a closing note, even after all this wonderful advice, I will relate a recent situa-

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tion I got myself into. I should have paid more attention to my own self defense advice. I was out on one of the uptown play areas recently, happily digging up corroded pennies, when I looked up and found myself surrounded by 8 individuals. You cannot carry a gun on school ground, so there I was. That is what happens when you pay too much attention to digging, and not enough to what is going on around you. Fortunately, they were all girls and ranged in age from 4 to 7. Before long we had organized into an efficient team. I would find the item, they would help dig it, and drop it into my pouch including coins, and all the garbage on the playground. Well, it should come as no surprise, Mom soon came over for a closer visit. Probably half to make sure I was not a pervert, and half to rescue me from the horde. But, I had trained my group well. Upon que, when asked how much it costs the United States government to manufacture a penny, they all promptly responded, "1.7 cents!" Mom left me to the tender mercies of the horde.

This article is not meant to scare anyone, but a little common sense and preparation goes a long way.

Safe hunting.

Eureka! Breakfast Club: The Eureka! Breakfast Club will meet the First Friday and the Third Saturday every month. Everyone is invited!

Contact Chris Davis 225 235-2642 if you are interested in meeting for breakfast and then going out metal detecting with other club members.

If you want to learn more about your detector or how to detect, or cement friendships, this is a great opportunity to tap into other member's experience or to get together for a fun outing.



The Breakfast Club has been cancelled due to weather the last two meeting dates. During winter in Colorado, detect when you can.

That's all this month - find something good!