

# Storm Watch

The Official Newsletter for the Nor'easters Metal Detecting Club!

January 2011

Volume 5

[HTTP://WWW.NOREASTERS.NET](http://www.northeasters.net)

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### The Metal Detecting Creed By Jessie Thompson

We are Metal Detectorists. Venturing forth in search of relics lost to time, only to be discovered and secured for future generations.

Diligent in our endeavors to detect, we will not trespass on to posted lands and will always obtain lawful permission in advance.

Detectorists are protective of earth's creatures, nature's landscapes and tributaries. We close all gates and leave no refuse in our wake.

When requested, we will endeavor to assist in the recovery of lost items of sentimental value to the best of our ability.

History being the tie that binds us, any item recovered of a singular significant historical value will be reported to local historians.

Remember Metal Detecting is to be conducted in a respectful and courteous manner; we are the ambassadors of our hobby to all who may survey us.

## President's Message

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and all the other greetings of the season to all!

Well as we come to the end of another year, I look back and see faces with smiles and awesome finds.

When we first started this club, I never dreamed we would be the size we are now. I try not to compare us to other clubs, as my ideas of a club are a lot different than most. This little club ( I like to think of us as little) is for people who are not into the pomp and circumstance, slamming gavel type approach.

I always said that I was not much for club sponsored or seeded hunts. This is a place for those who really like to hunt. A place to make friends to hunt with. A club where we can come together, show our finds and to share knowledge as well as to help others who are new to the hobby. Ya know, I really like it this way.

We saw a few great hunts this year and though I have been a busy guy at work, was able to get out to a few of them.

We added people to the officers list to help out with the work flow this year and that has made a large impact on me to see people stepping up to the plate to assist us with different duties. We had Pat Darinzo take on the VP slot and he is awesome it. We had Pete Bondi become our hunt master and he stepped up with an awesome begging of the year hunt in Norwalk. And Allyson Cohen keeps cranking out the best dang blasted newsletter that a club could ever hope for.

I would like for the new year to get us a couple of really good sites and will work with Peter to get these done as my work load has changed since I started working in New York City.

So here is to the New Year, May you find whatever it is that your hearts are looking for.  
Jessie



## In case you missed the last meeting:

- ◆ There was no December meeting, the next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2011.
- ◆ **A Holiday/End of Year party is being incorporated into the January 10 meeting.** If you would like to bring a dessert or other foods, please do so. There will be no cost for the party.
- ◆ The club is still waiting for an answer on hunting the tree farm.
- ◆ Jessie will find out about hunting Amato farms.
- ◆ If you did not receive a copy of the member list by email, please let Jessie or Kim know.
- ◆ The club needs help finding sites to hunt. There is a lot of time between now and the Spring to line something up. If you know anyone who might give permission, now's the time to ask.



*Best wishes to all of you  
for a very Happy and  
Healthy New Year!*

*~Allyson*

## Club Contacts:



**President:** Jessie Thompson  
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**Vice President:** Pat D'arinzo  
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**Hunt Master:** Peter Bondi  
pbondi@optonline.net

Contact for prospective hunt sites and suggestions

**Newsletter Editor:** Allyson Cohen  
Contact for article submissions and pictures of finds of club members  
allyson.cohen@sbcglobal.net

## Tips & Tricks



Got some metal detecting techniques, product recommendations or coin/relic cleaning tips to share?

C'mon...don't keep 'em all to yourself!

Email them to me at  
Allyson.cohen@sbcglobal.net  
and I'll include them here.

**Detecting Tip:** Always use a coil cover on your search coil. Coil covers are cheap, search coils are not.

**Research Tip:** Keeping a record of what you find and where you find it, can tell you how well, and what type of finds a site produces over a given time.



### Do you know about the Artifact Detecting Team?

Back in July's newsletter, there was a news release about the Southampton New York Historical Museums endeavor to save the 1739 Sayre Barn. The society formed a collaboration with the Artifact Detecting Team as part of a campaign to raise \$326,000 to restore the barn.

The Artifact Detecting Team, sponsored by Minelab, is a team of metal detectorists, who would like to participate in hunts on previously undetected, undeveloped historical and estate sites and plowed farmlands. The goal of the detecting team is to work together with Historical societies and other non profit organizations in the country to raise money for the preservation and/or restoration of historical properties. Especially those which were built in pre-Revolutionary America.

By paying for an annual membership and fees to detect, members have the potential to find pre and post Revolutionary war relics, coins and artifacts, while at the same time contributing to saving sites and homes of historical significance.

Their "kick-off" hunt was the weekend of Nov 6/7, and the fall season was completed in December. The fall season brought in over \$6500.00 for the museum. They have commitments for more properties in the Spring. Check out the web site at [www.artifactdetectingteam.com](http://www.artifactdetectingteam.com) for more information about membership, fees, schedule and more.

## Hobbytown in Brookfield

There is a rumour going around that Hobbytown in Brookfield, CT is closing. I spoke to the owner, Craig Trachten, and this is not true, nor were they ever thinking of closing. They did, however, move their location from New Milford to Brookfield. This could be where the confusion began.

Anyway, they are a White's dealer, and stock the detectors, as well as some detecting equipment, books, etc... You can also order Garret machines through them. They are located in the Candlewood Lake Plaza.



*The Valentines Day issue will be here before you know it. If you want to say something to a special someone, husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, Mom, Dad, dog, or whoever, email your*



*"love lines" and/or photos to me, allyson.cohen@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in the February issue.*



## Sheffield Island Hunt

The boat ride, the views, the weather and the hunt all made for an exceptional day of metal detecting on Sheffield Island, off the Norwalk shore.

Members spread out in every different direction to go find their treasures, but it seems that no matter where they started, they were all eventually drawn back to the lighthouse area.



**Anticipating...treasure?**

We took a break for lunch, and then were called upon to help the island personnel take down a large seasonal tent. Lucky for us, Jessie used to work with a circus (really), and was a great help in that area.

After our tent duties, there was quite a commotion when Jessie hit upon a signal and started to dig what seemed like a large wood & metal box. Discussing the find with those in charge, it was decided to "dig" and see what might be buried there.

The digging commenced, and you can imagine the anticipation of all those involved seeing as there are so many stories of hidden treasure surrounding the island.

A good size hole was dug, and after a bit of prying around, it was decided the buried item was either an old covered up privy, or more likely, a buried boat. Despite the disappointment, it did add excitement to the day.



**Joe Maschak & Kevin Campanaro  
Ready to go**



**The beautiful lighthouse-and that guy  
on the lawn, that's Jessie**

## ...and how cool is this?



**Capt. Robert Sheffield**

While researching Sheffield Island, I came upon a notation that Capt. Robert Sheffield, who purchased the island in 1804 married a Mayflower descendant named Temperance Doty.

Genealogy being my second passion, and my 8<sup>th</sup> great grandfather being Mayflower passenger Edward Doty, I was intrigued, and went to my records.

I'll spare you the genealogical breakdown, and just tell you it was a match. Since Edward Doty was this Temperances father, that made her my 8<sup>th</sup> Great Aunt. They also had a daughter named Temperance, who married Gershom Smith, the first keeper of the lighthouse.



**Gershom Smith &  
Temperance**

As far as found treasure goes, I did find two old buttons on the island, which I would like to think could have belonged to my ancestors. However, the greatest treasures of all were the pictures of my ancestors, Capt. Robert Sheffield and Gershom Smith & Temperance, which Patty Koksmeier of the island produced for me to photograph (*Thank-you Patty*). You never know what treasure's you may find. ~Allyson Cohen

## Old coins unearthed in Westfield Park Square Green



Ralph Melnick, holds a 1839 Large Cent that is part of the display of items and coins found on the Town Green by people with metal detectors during the reconstruction.

[masslive.com/The Republican](http://masslive.com/The_Republican)

WESTFIELD – For the better part of this city's history, the Park Square Green served as Westfield's center of commerce and the main gathering place for its citizens.

As the green is being dug up to make way for a progressive new traffic plan, so too is its history.

Literally.

Witness a 1752 Spanish reale, coined not quite a century after Westfield's 1669 founding. It's among the finds that attorney Robert Walker made during a summertime exploration of the Park Square Green.

Walker spent many hot summer days amid the ruins of the green in search of Westfield history and succeeded in unearthing a treasure trove of coins – some of them rare pieces – that were used in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries in what was once the city's marketplace.

With his metal detector in hand, Walker scoured the green on weekdays and weekends after work crews left; he immersed himself in the white noise of the tool while hoping to discover something of significance.

He was pleasantly surprised, and his findings are now on display in the Westfield Athenaeum which sits across from the green where he completed his search.

"Finding something like this is very rare," Walker said. "You just never know what will pop out of the ground. It's that little boy in us that wants to go out and find 'treasure.' But, overall, it's the thrill of the hunt – not knowing what you will find."

Walker wasn't the only treasure seeker among the work crews, he says, but his finds may have been the most significant. Others with metal detectors also joined the hunt.

"I came out here on a consistent basis, sometimes spending 12-hour days in the heat," he said. "I was the most diligent."

The first item of value he found was an Indian Head penny dated 1865. It came when construction crews removed the trees that had towered over the green and excavated two to three feet of soil from the site.

Then came two Spanish reales – or silver coins, one dated 1752, the other dated 1819. They were followed by many 19th century American coins, including several large cents dated 1820, 1822 and 1839, several Indian Head one-cent pieces, dated 1863, 1864, as well as a rare and valuable 1872 piece, 1881, 1883 and 1897, a Civil War token and half dimes dated 1831, 1836 and 1841. Several pennies from the early 20th century were also among his finds.

"You don't expect to find something when you do this," Walker said. "You only hope."

The coins are on display in the main lobby of the Athenaeum, where Christopher J. Lindquist praises Walker for making them available to the public.

"Mr. Walker has been kind enough to share a part of Westfield history with the community," Lindquist said.

In addition to the coins, the exhibit also features one of the metal detectors Walker used.

For Walker, the art of metal detecting is a hobby he has been enjoying for 23 years. A native of Tennessee, Walker said he spent many years hunting for Civil War relics, some of which are included in the display at the Athenaeum.

The Spanish reales are his most significant discoveries to date, Walker said. He is quick to note that while the coins may not have much monetary value or importance on a national scale, they have great historical significance to the city of Westfield.

"The green was the center of commerce at that time, so I did come out here with the hope of finding lost coins," Walker said.



## Overlaying Maps on Google Earth (So you can find those old Cellar Holes)

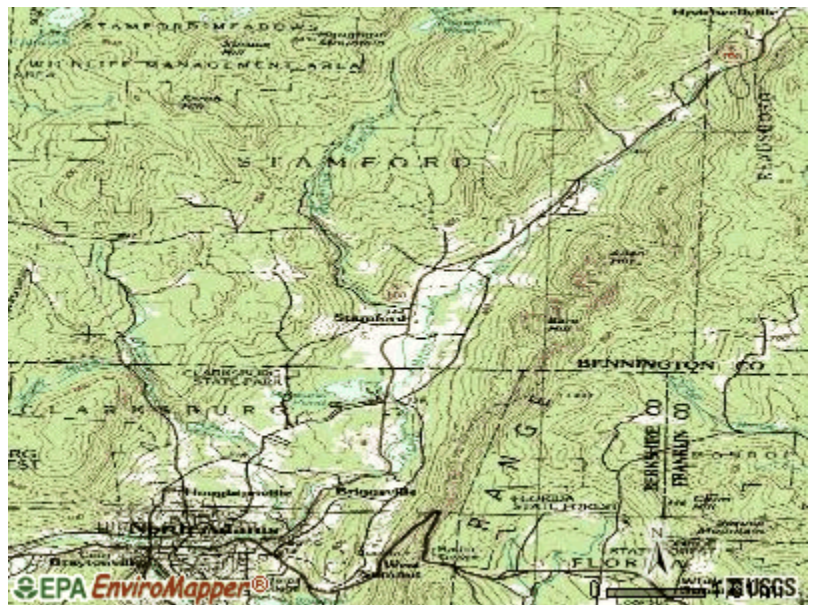
Basic steps for overlaying old maps on Google earth.

- 1) Find an old map from historic map works or Sanborn. [[historical.mytopo.com](http://historical.mytopo.com)]
- 2) Copy and Convert to a jpg or format acceptable with Google.
- 3) If you use an old topo map locate the coordinates in the bottom corner. 42deg 30 min N / 72deg 45 min W
- 4) At the top of Google earth is a toolbar click on the yellow pin and enter these coordinates, this is the corner of the map you will stretch to fit.
- 5) On the top toolbar of Google earth 5th icon from the left is the image overlay tab click on this.
- 6) New image overlay box pops up, browse for the location you filed your map image.

You will see a green box on Google earth this is where your image will appear. You also have a transparency slide bar set this so you can see Google earth and the image.

7) The image will be stored as a place on the left side under places. If you lose the green grid, right click on your image and go to properties this will bring back the green grid for stretching.

8) The center cross hair moves the image around, the left diamond spins the image and the outer edges stretch the image. Old topos may not line up exact so work on the area you are interested in.



9) You can now look at those old houses and compare it to Google earth to determine if specific locations are there or not. You can also see old roads on old topos that are long gone and are only seen as an old logging road. You can also look for the old clear spaces on old topo maps that now may be grown in and had an old farm on it that did not make it to later 1800's topo maps.

With Sanborn maps you need to adjust to streets and houses generally it will line up real close.



**Where to get your yearly Metal Detecting Permits**  
**Call first for any updates to fees, locations or instructions**

Palisades Interstate Park Commission  
Permit Section

Bear Mountain, NY 10911-0427

Contact: 845-786-2701

**Fee: \$20.00**

Area: Harriman State Park-Lakes: Sebago, Welch & Tiorati

Urban Park Services

Arsenal North

1234 Fifth Ave. Room 213

New York, NY 10029

Attn: Metal Detecting Permits

\*include a copy of your drivers license\*

And write a note requesting a permit

**Fee: Free**

Area: Prospect Park & Others

New York State Offices of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation

Central Region

6105 East Seneca Turnpike

Jamesville, NY 13078-9516

Contact: 315-492-9516

**Fee: \$10.00**

Long Island State Park Region Beaches

Permit Office

P.O. Box 247

Babylon, NY 11702

Contact: 631-669-1000 ext. 223

**Fee: \$40.00**

The Offices of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

Taconic Region

Staatsburg, NY 12580

Contact: 845-889-4100

**Fee: \$10.00**

Area: Lake Taghkanic, Rudd Pond & Canopus Beach





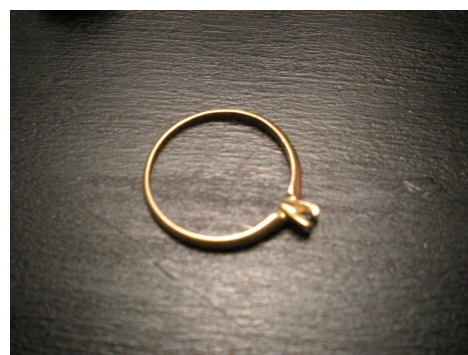
Bill Dale found this Diamond & Emerald ring and wedding band, while trying to locate another lost engagement ring. Her ring could not be located, but I think this set will pay for that new detector. Well worth the effort!



## Hey Mister, Whatcha Find?

Recent Club Finds!

<http://www.noreasters.net>



Ring found at the beach  
by  
Pat D'arinzo



Ring found  
By  
Carter Pennington  
In Greenwich, CT



Miscellaneous items found by Pat D'arinzo at the  
Artifact Detecting Team hunt in New York





1900 Coin  
from  
Hong Kong  
found by  
Pat  
D'arinzo



## Hey Mister, Whatcha Find?

Recent Club Finds!

<http://www.noreasters.net>



Ring found by  
Pat Russo

Don't be shy people  
We want to know  
what your finding out there  
Send in a picture  
~It's free!~



Watch found  
by  
Pat Russo  
at the picnic  
at Weed  
Beach



Bell, coins and small lead? cat found  
by  
Pat Russo



<http://www.nationalmetaldetectingleague.com>



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We are on the web at <http://www.noreasters.net>

Please deliver to: