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# **EAST TEXAS TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION**

## **GUEST INFORMATION SHEET**

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### **OUR PURPOSE:**

To promote friendship, fun, greater knowledge and expertise through organized metal detecting activities and shared treasure hunting experience.

### **Activities:**

- ❖ Monthly meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month)
- ❖ Organized Club Hunts and Outings
- ❖ ETTHA , Annual Open Competitive Hunt
- ❖ Annual Christmas Party and Awards Banquet
- ❖ Participation in the Annual Texas State Association Expo

### **Member Benefits:**

- ❖ Meet and make new friends who share your interests
- ❖ Monthly door prizes and raffled prizes provided at meetings
- ❖ Learn new metal detecting skills and how to conduct historical research
- ❖ Get the inside information on equipment and where to get the best deals
- ❖ Use of the club library of books, videos, and treasure hunting magazines
- ❖ Participate in the Find-of-the-Month contests
- ❖ Receive our monthly newsletter "The Pull Tab" (on website)
- ❖ Become a member of the National Association of Treasure Hunters Association

**Start sharing in the Fun, Friendship, and Receptions**

**Join our family of Friends today**

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MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE  
AMERICAN LEGION HALL, LONGVIEW TX.

American Legion Hall  
407 American Legion Blvd.  
Longview, Texas 75701

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
BILLY SHIVERS (903-759-0546) or TERRY SMITH (903-238-3020)**

## Metal Detector's Code of Ethics

1. Respect the rights and property of others.
2. Do not hunt without the land owners permission.
3. Observe all laws, whether national, state or local.
4. Aid law enforcement officials whenever possible.
5. Never destroy priceless historical or archeological treasures.
6. Do not destroy, damage, or deface public or private property, or what is left of ghost towns or deserted structures.
7. Leave the land and vegetation as it was.
8. Remove and properly dispose all trash and litter when you leave.
9. If you open a gate, close it back.
10. Do not tamper with land owner signs, structural facilities or equipment.
11. **DO NOT** hunt in areas where electric lines, gas/water pipelines, bombs or other explosives may be buried.
12. Take precautions when digging towards a target where the underground conditions are unknown.
13. All metal detectorist may be judged by the example you set. Be extremely careful with your probing, picking up and discarding trash and **ALWAYS COVER YOUR HOLES!**
14. Always conduct yourself in a manner that is courteous and polite with consideration for others.

# ATTENTION METAL DETECTOR USERS

## WHERE CAN YOU USE YOUR DETECTOR?

by Keith Wills, East Texas Metal Detectors

**NATIONAL FOREST AND FEDERAL LANDS**—Metal detecting is not allowed!! Only by special permit acquired from the federal government. Each area has a district office.

**CORP OF ENGINEER LAKES, SHORELINE, AND LANDS**—Permission has been granted only on pre-disturbed sites, such as beaches and attached swimming areas. New Corp lakes and lands must be OK'd by main office of the Army Corp of Engineers. Each area has a district office.

**STATE PARKS AND LANDS**—Some State Parks are open to metal detecting, yet some are not! We suggest that you check with the park ranger before attempting to use your detector.

**BLM-BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS**—Some areas of their lands are open for use of metal detecting, and some are not. We suggest that you contact their district office to check.

**CITY OR COUNTY PARK LAND**—Most all are open to metal detecting unless notice is given by a sign or city ordinance. This can be checked by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department in the city you wish to use your detector.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL GROUNDS**—Most all are open to metal detecting unless notice is given by a sign, city ordinance, law enforcement, or school employee. You can check with the school office first.

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES**—Must acquire permission!! You can check with their office first. Should be viewed the same as private property.

**PRIVATELY OWNED LANDS(Private Property)**—Must acquire permission!! Permission is best gotten from the landowner. Also it is best to have that permission in writing.

**HISTORICALLY MARKED LANDS OR SITES**—Metal detecting is not allowed. This site has already met what is necessary to become historically significant and is marked so to preserve its history. Must acquire permission from owner, in special cases.

Remember, permission is always the best way. Learn proper digging techniques and clean the area of debris, so those that follow may also get permission and won't find the same area closed to metal detecting!! Be a good metal detectorist and help those that need your expertise.

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## TRESPASS IN TEXAS

There are two types of trespass:

### I. Civil Trespass:

- A. "Trespasser on land has been described as one who, not having title thereto, and without consent of true owner, [or the person who is rightfully in the actual and exclusive possession of the land] makes entry thereon. Every unauthorized entry on land of another is trespass, and intent or motive prompting trespass is immaterial."
- B. Who can sue: "The person who is rightfully in the actual and exclusive possession of land is alone authorized to sue for trespass committed on his possession." This includes tenants and even a person who is in actual possession of the land without the consent of the owner.
- C. What can they sue for: "Damages"; in Texas, the mere unauthorized entry on another's land presumes injury to the property, but, unless other actual damage is done, the injury will be nominal. Therefore, the court will grant only nominal damages. This may be an award of \$1.00 or \$10.00 (or whatever the court considers "nominal"). However, if the land is actually damaged (i.e., gate or fences broken, big holes left, etc.), then the landowner can recover for such damages. Also, if entry causes other damages such as gate left open and cow gets out and gets run over, trespasser will be liable for loss of cow, and maybe even for injuries to driver, because trespasser was negligent in allowing the cow to get onto the road.
- D. Who can give you permission:
1. The landowner.
  2. Another person in rightful possession of the property.

Note: that if the land is leased, you really should get permission from both the landowner and the lessee, if possible, to avoid any problems. Under some circumstances, lessees can sue for trespass, even though the landowner gave permission.

## II. Criminal Trespass:

### A. Definition: (see handout)

1. Definition of a class B misdemeanor: one punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or imprisonment of not over 180 days or both.

2. Definition of a class A misdemeanor: one punishable by a fine not more than \$2,000.00, or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.

3. Definition of a deadly weapon: a firearm or other instrument which by its inherent design or its intended use could kill someone (i.e., shovel is not designed to be a deadly weapon, but if you are waving around over your head and chasing someone, it has become a deadly weapon.

4. Note on a fence as notice: I did not find a case where the Tex. Courts have specifically interpreted this section [(b)(2)(B)], but other cases have said that just because there is a hole in the fence or it may be down in some places, the land is still "fenced". For safety's sake if you can see that the place is now or was fenced, don't enter. Also courts have held that if part of the property is bounded by a stream or lake, and the rest of the property is fenced or posted, it is criminal trespass to enter the property from the stream or lake side.

This is NOT a 'legal opinion'! DO NOT go wave this in front of landowner's face. DO NOT say "this lawyer said it was o.k. If you are asked to leave someplace, by ANYBODY, do so. They may be right!

## METAL DETECTORS

You've seen them being used on beaches, at parks, and around old battlefields. They're metal detectors, and they've spawned a legion of fans, clubs and even a lifestyle. Of course, the term "metal detector" can also be used to describe the large machines used in airport security as well as hand-held scanners used at correctional facilities, concerts and other public events.

### **VLF Detectors**

VLF stands for Very Low Frequency. Also known as Induction Balance, this is the most common technology used in metal detectors. The magnetic field generated by the Transmitter Coil pulses into the ground and induces a magnetic field in any metallic object it may encounter. More sophisticated detectors can be set to ignore certain types of junk like pop can tabs or nails, since the signal picked up by the detector can vary in its inductive and resistive properties. Better VLF detectors can also determine the depth of a detected object.

### **PI Detectors**

Pulse Induction technology is less commonly used but is still an effective method of detecting buried metal objects. PI detectors send a short but powerful pulse of electromagnetic energy into the ground and then "listen" for any anomalies in the reflected signal. It's a little like shouting into a room and listening for echoes. PI technology can't discriminate between different types of metal the way VLF detectors can, but they are well suited for environments with highly conductive soil and/or salt water. In addition, PI detectors can find objects at greater depths compared to VLF detectors.

### **BFO Detectors**

These types of metal detectors use Beat Frequency Oscillation. The technology is very basic and it's possible to build your own BFO detector in your home workshop. It also results in a very low priced detector, albeit one with limited accuracy compared to VLF and PI detectors. In a BFO detector, two wire coils (one in the search head, a smaller one in the control box) are connected to an oscillator. The difference in frequency between the two coils is used to create an audible radio signal. When the search head passes over a buried metal object, the induced magnetic field from the object distorts the frequency of the radio waves and the difference can be heard.

### **Trash or Treasure?**

Metal detecting has become a popular and sometimes profitable pastime. Some people look for coins in areas such as amusement parks and beaches, others seek out archeological artifacts and relics in places which may have been formerly used as settlements or battlefields. It's not as easy as just sweeping the detector's head over the ground. Experienced operators know how to contend with things like overhead power lines, underground pipes and cables, and soil conductivity which may mask or block completely signals from underground objects of interest.

Some places, such as historic battlefields, are off limits for detecting. Other locations are not obvious... people who have buried hoards of coins did not intend for them to be found by somebody else. Even so, metal detectors have turned up some spectacular finds. In England, the government will pay for found objects that are determined to be "treasure." A recent television documentary told the story of a man who discovered a Bronze Age gold cup on his farm using a metal detector.

You probably won't be that lucky, but then again you never know what could be buried in yonder field, just waiting to be detected and unearthed!

### **Join the Club**

Metal detecting is an international phenomenon and there are clubs and associations for metal detecting fans worldwide. Hobbyists love to show off their finds and trade tips and tales. There's probably a club in your area, check it out and get in on the action!

# HOW TO USING AN ANALOG METER ON YOUR DETECTOR

BY: Keith Wills

After hearing many questions on using your analog ID meters, like on the Scanner models made by Compass, I decided some folks needed a better understanding as to how to get the full benefit of what the meter is trying to tell you.

As far as I'm concern, analog meters are the best, for they will give you more information about your target than any digital meter on the market today. You must start by breaking your meter into three parts: low reading, medium readings and high readings.

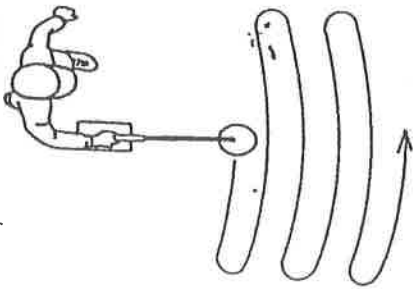
Let's start with low readings: usually small iron tend to lock an ID on you meter to some degree, but large iron such as an old farm plow point where the rust is built up on the target at different amounts of conductivity from one end of the target to the other, then your meter needle will tell you that by jumping up and down the scale but staying more to the low range of ID than the high range. This is normal since the different amounts of rust and moisture will be different from one end of your target to the other, sometimes being conductive enough to give you an occasional false high reading. Such a reading makes it very easy to ID the target as large Iron. However, if you were looking for a metal box with silver dollars hidden in it buried many years ago, you could very easily get nearly the same reading depending on the condition of the steel or iron type box they were buried in. Which brings us to the most valued tip of them all! What if your ID is bouncing from low iron to high coin readings, but seems to be staying more in the high readings than the low. This is an excellent indication that your target could be a good high conductive target but have some iron or foil too close to it to get a lock-on ID. (Such as a cache I dug several years back with my Compass where a house burnt down. The two hunters with me went over the target first, but considered it junk and did not pay close attention to their target ID analog meters. Once I got the same reading, I decided from the reaction of the ID staying mostly in the high range two out of three swings, that it was coins covered by some iron. I was right and the old press-on breakfast type of syrup bucket like my grandfather used was eaten up and the 31 silver dollars were still there in a pile of rusty iron pieces. Well the two hunting buddies of mine that walk over it was truly sick as my shovel had a handful of silver dollars pouring off of it every time I got another scoop of dirt.)

The same can be said about the mid-range area of the target ID for gold, brass and lead targets; watch the ID needle and if it favors the mid-range and occasional drops to the low range of ID, dig it, most likely will be a good target. Especially if your hunting an area that was before the creation of pull-tabs.

Pay more attention to the reaction of the needle on your target ID analog meter will pay off for many more good targets.

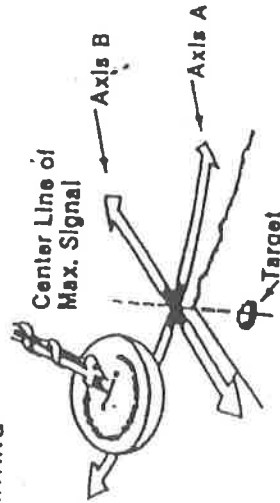
Hope that tip helps someone.

## SEARCH METHODS



1. Always keep the loop flat and parallel to the ground. When raised, the depth penetration is decreased.
2. Swing the loop in front while searching. Each swing may cover an area from 4-6 feet in width.
3. The loop should be passed along the ground in smooth, even swings. It does not have to be swung quickly.
4. When a target is detected, sweep it from several directions. Note the audio response to determine if it is worth recovering.
5. To pinpoint a target for ease of recovery, "X" the target. The object will be at the center of the "X". See illustration below.

## PINPOINTING



## CODE OF ETHICS

Treasure hunting is the kind of new hobby that fires the imagination and generates its own enthusiasm. It's the most mature thing in the world to want to dig as fast as you can the minute you hear that first loud unmistakably "good" signal. It will give you a real thrill to discover there's treasure right beneath your feet. But wait a minute! We strongly urge you to adopt a code of ethics which will preserve the environment and also the right of treasure hunters to operate detectors with as few restrictions as possible.

Before you even begin a search, check the law, ordinances, or regulations about hunting on publicly owned sites. Abide by the rules. If the area is private property, get written permission from the owner to search it. You may find he will be more eager to give permission if you suggest sharing your finds with him, & you offer to search for a specific item he has lost.

**ABOUT DIGGING:** In lawn areas limit the size of the hole to a maximum of two inches in diameter, cutting a plug of sod which can be easily replaced. After you take your finds, be sure to carefully fill the hole. **HOLES ARE BOTH UNSIGHTLY AND DANGEROUS!**

Detectors designed for locating large and deeply buried objects should be used with discretion - never in the lawn area, and with careful judgement in other locations. Consider the scar you will leave, before you start digging. This will vary a lot from one part of the country to another, depending on local soil and climatic conditions. Public officials and private property owners will be much more likely to allow continued treasure hunting if you, as an environmentalist, have a reputation as an ethical hunter by volunteering to carry out the disposal of whatever trash items you find.

Adoption of these attitudes can only enhance the public's opinion of treasure hunters and assure that many areas, both public and private, remain open to you and your new detector.



## RECOMMENDED RECOVERY METHODS

Adapted from "Tools 'N Techniques" By Robert H. Sickler

### METHOD 1 - "PROBE AND DRIVER"

Used in less moist lawns where targets are not so deep (1 to 4 inches) and where "plugging" is objectionable. This method requires more practice but is much less damaging to grass than Method 2 - "Plugging" shown on the next page.

After pinpointing the target, use a nonmetallic probe such as a modified fiberglass fishing rod or a metallic probe such as a blunted ice pick (Figure 1A). Next causes less damage to the target) to locate the target depth (Figure 1A). Next insert an eight-inch screwdriver on center just above target and rotate slightly to open the ground (Figure 1B). Now insert the screwdriver just under the target at an angle and lever the target to the surface (Figure 1C). Brush all loose dirt back into the hole and close the hole by exerting pressure all around the opening (Figure 1D).

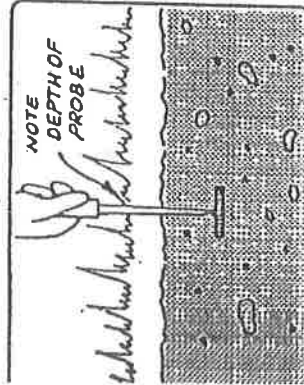


Figure 1A

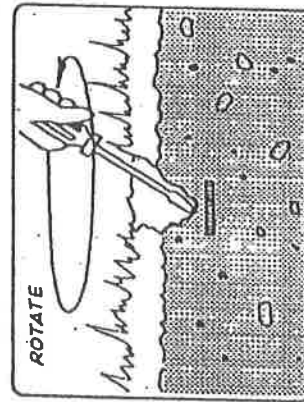


Figure 1B

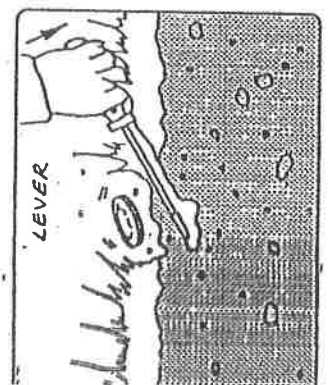


Figure 1C

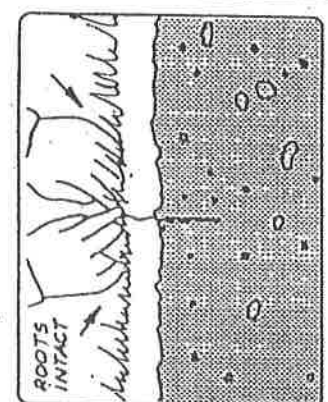


Figure 1D

### METHOD 2 - "PLUGGING"

Used only where allowed in natural wooded areas and very moist lawn areas. Plugging in hard dry ground can damage grass roots leaving yellow "dead spots" in time.

After pinpointing the target, use a six-inch sturdy hunting knife to cut three sides of a four-inch cube around the target center (Figure 2A). Cutting a "hinged" cube shaped plug rather than a complete cone shaped plug will properly orient its return, prevent its removal by a lawnmower, and lessen the chance of scratching the target. With the knife blade, carefully pry against the cube side opposite the "hinge" and fold back (Figure 2B). Sweep the search-coil over the plug and hole to isolate the target location. If the target is in the plug, carefully probe until located. If the target is in the hole and is not visible, probe the bottom and sides until located, then remove it (Figure 2C). Repeat sweep for additional targets. Replace all loose dirt with the plug. Seat the plug firmly with your foot (Figure 2D).

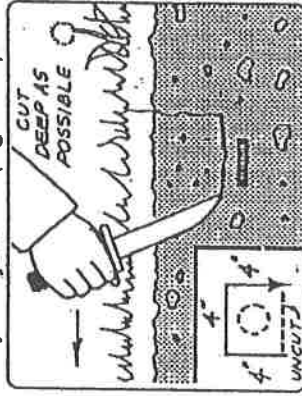


Figure 2A

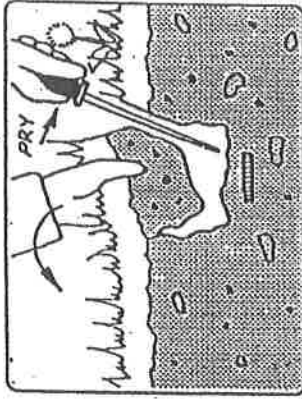


Figure 2B

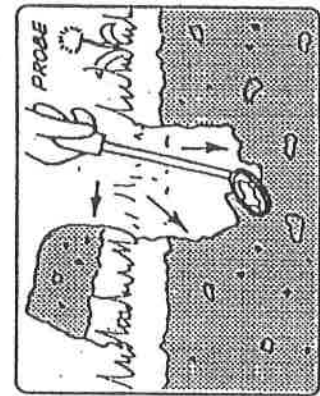


Figure 2C

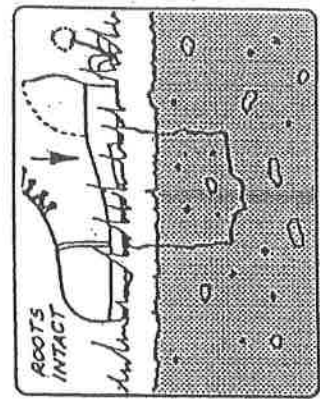


Figure 2D

# METAL DETECTOR TIPS

## Dating Found Objects and Work Sites

If you are into metal detecting for relics and other antiquities, here is a handy list to help you date your finds and the site you are working.

- 1775 Square nails invented
- 1800 Free blown bottles ended about this time
- 1880 Wire (round) nails invented
- 1880 Flat seafood cans were constructed of three pieces of metal before this date
- 1884 Ventless depressed top seafood cans invented
- 1892 Crown top bottles invented
- 1895 Tin can "key" invented
- 1900 End of square nails
- 1900 Crown top bottles become common
- 1900 Paper labels overtook embossing
- 1903 Bottle seams now run to the top of the bottle
- 1917 Glass made after this date no longer turns purple in sunlight
- 1935 Cone top beer can invented
- 1954 Aluminum top beer can invented (Church key required)
- 1955 Cone tops obsolete
- 1962 Pull tabs invented