

Being Safe While Assisting People To Find Lost Items

By Thom Metz

On Thursday, 5 Jan 2012, Mr. William Purkey, President of the ONSD, hosted a meeting for those members nominated to serve as Old North State Detectorists club officers for the upcoming year. This group is referred to internally as the Executive Committee or “ExCom” for short.



Several topics were discussed during that meeting, many of which will be relayed to members at future club meetings. One subject, which was discussed at length, is the safety of those members that volunteer to assist the public in recovering lost items.

Most detectorists know they should maintain an awareness of their surroundings while out detecting. We are often alone when hunting in parks, school grounds, or at the beach. Most all of us have either read about or heard “war stories” concerning detectorists that were accosted while pursuing their hobby.

When we volunteer to assist a person in locating an item which **they say**, has been lost, we “jump to some conclusions!”. Some of those conclusions may be reasonable, some **may be**, flat out, wrong! Now, understand, I don’t want to be an alarmist. I just want to say that we need to be “aware and vigilant” as we move forward. In a lost item search, the detectorist will usually be in an area not typically frequented, **and** in the company of one or more persons they do not know. I have carried out such searches on several occasions and not had any problems. One only needs to watch the evening news or scan the internet to know that there is a potential for these situations to turn into a catastrophe.

The Old North State Detectorists metal detecting club encourages its members to assist the public at-large to locate their lost items, and will recognize successful efforts with the Golden Detector Award pin and certificate. To do so helps the image of the metal detecting community in general, and specifically the ONSD organization in the Piedmont area. Based on the discussion at the Ex-Com meeting, the Executive Committee strongly recommends to all members that when you volunteer to locate a lost item for a person or persons, please seek another member to accompany you on the hunt.

The routine way the club learns about the need for a lost item search is via a group email from a club officer. A quick “**reply to all**” of the email will start the process in motion. The email should include that you are willing to search for the lost item and would like to team up with another ONSD member to accompany you.



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Once the original email is sent, a flurry of responses which follow, put the actual hunt into place. A request for a team mate should be a relatively easy process.

If you learn of a search request from another source such as craigslist or a friend of a friend for example, please seek out another detectorist to accompany you on the search. Either call a friend, or group email the club mailing list requesting help to assist you.

To hunt for, and particularly, to find a lost item for a person, is something a detectorist will remember for a long time. It's one of those stories you tell your grandkids, or other detectorists while "around the campfire". If we approach these hunts with **safety in mind**, that story is far less likely to be a "scary story"!

I wish you . . . Successful and Safe Hunting.

T. E. (Thom) Metz
Old North State Detectorists – Sgt at Arms, nominee

