

# Suncoast Research & Recovery Club

*January 2019 Newsletter*



# 2019 Officers and Board Members

Joe Szemer - President

Howard Metts - Vice President

Tom Killian - Treasurer

Pete Hatzilias - Secretary

Dimitur Alipiev - Board member

Rob Clark - Board member

Tom Jones - Board member

Ed Osmar - Board member

Mike Shuler - Board member

# January Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Our club meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month except December. Location is Bill Jacksons Shop for Adventure at 9501 US 19 N, Pinellas Park Florida. We will have a guest speaker and guests are welcome to attend. Meeting starts promptly at 7 pm!

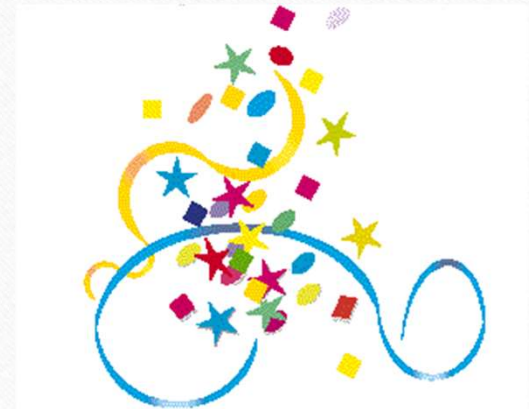
# From the President

Happy New Year!

Hope everyone enjoyed the SRARC Christmas Party. The food was good, the company great, and the raffle exciting; a good time was had by all.

As your new president for the 2019, expect the fun to continue with a few added surprises along the way.

Joe Szemer



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## Notes from your VP

For 2019 we wanted to bring you a fresh newsletter and give our members a chance to contribute a short story and photo of a great hunt they had. A few will be chosen and placed in our newsletter each month. Please email the info to [whmetts@yahoo.com](mailto:whmetts@yahoo.com) and place SRARC news story in the subject line of email.

Congrats to our top hunters for 2018 (Rob Clarke, Jim Thobe, and Tom Killian). In January we start over and points will be given as follows: one point per category entry and two points for each category win. Please look over the competition table regulations on our website and bring in your finds each month. Good luck to all in 2019!

Howard Metts

# Items of Interest



This amazing statue of the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus, weights an incredible 84.7 kgs of solid gold, meaning it's shear metal value is more than US\$1,45 million

(VATICAN ENQUIRER) San José | A group of Costa Rican park rangers patrolling in the Isla del Coco national park after a recent storm, have discovered one of the most amazing treasure hoards in modern history.

The treasure consists of gold and silver coins and ingots, jewellery, candlesticks and religious items, and is estimated to be worth almost US\$200 million dollars. Archaeologists and historians believe that the discovery is actually linked to the best known of the treasure legends tied to the island: that of The Treasure of Lima.

*“We were walking on the beach, and we saw something protruding from the sand” says park ranger Ignacio Ramirez. “We dug it out and found a bunch of old wooden chests. They were all filled with gold and silver! Then we dug out two incredible golden statues of the Virgin Mary, and other religious symbols. We called our bosses and said ‘we just found a treasure!’. They thought we were kidding, but we explained what we had found and they decided a team of experts.”*



A total of 80,000 silver pieces of 2, 4 or 8 reales and 2,800 gold pieces of 2 and 8 escudos were found by the park rangers.

A group of six park rangers who were walking around the island to evaluate the damage done by a storm on the nesting colonies of turtles, when they noticed that the tide had unearthed what looked like an old wooden box or chest. They began unearthing it, only to discover that there were actually five different chests and other items, that they had been buried there for a very long time. All in all, the treasure contains an astronomical 89,000 coins, ingots and artefacts of gold and silver.

Cocos Island is a small island located in the Pacific Ocean, approximately 550 km (342 mi) from the shore of Costa Rica. It was well-known for possibly holding various legendary treasures, but its “protected area” status had forbidden treasure hunting on it since 1978.

Many religious items made of gold or silver and adorned with precious stones were among the findings, including 36 crosses, 3 chalices and two life-size solid gold statues of Mary holding the baby Jesus. Many treasure legends have been associated with Cocos Island for centuries. The first claim is associated with the pirate captain Bennett Graham who allegedly buried 350 tons of gold raided from Spanish galleons on the island in the 18th century. Another pirate captain, the Portugese Benito Bonito, is also supposed to have buried treasure on the island, this time in the 19th century. According to the legend, with the army of José de San Martín approaching Lima in 1820, Viceroy José de la Serna is supposed to have entrusted the treasure of the city to the British trader, Captain William Thompson, for safekeeping until the Spaniards could secure the country. Instead of waiting in the harbor as they were instructed, Thompson and his crew killed the Viceroy's men and sailed to Cocos Island, where they buried the treasure.



Hundreds of attempts to find treasure on the island have failed. Prussian adventurer August Gissler lived on the island for most of the period from 1889 until 1908, hunting the treasures with the small success of finding six gold coins.. Since it was discovered in a national park, the totality of the treasure is now the property of the Costa Rican government, and it should be exposed at the National Museum (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica), in San José.

The rangers who discovered the treasure have been promised a reward for their role in the finding, but the amount of the reward remains undisclosed.



## Ring Finders Update

Ring Finders contributions to the club for 2018 was a total of

**\$4,819**

Great job and thanks Ring Finders for volunteering your time to help both the club and those who lost items.

## SRARC Tee-Shirts

Our January meeting will be your last time to order a shirt which will be delivered at our February meeting. Please bring cash or a check for \$15.



# **Land & Water Hunting Basics Class**

## **Saturday March 2, 8:00am-10:30am by reservation**

Meet under the pavilion at Crisp Park. 37<sup>th</sup> Ave NE & Popular St NE St Pete!  
Please call Tom Killian 727 343-2041 to register for this free event. Learn how to hunt without damaging the property. Bring your own equipment or use ours (diggers, pin pointers, metal detectors). One hundred coins will be hidden, keep what you find! Tom is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to treasure hunting. Don't miss this free event!

# Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics



**I WILL** respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the permission of the property owner.



**I WILL** appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife and private property.



**I WILL** fill all my excavations, remove and properly dispose of all trash that I find.



**I WILL** use thoughtfulness, consideration and courtesy at all times, leaving gates as I found them.



**I WILL** assist law enforcement and other government agencies or private citizens as needed.



**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

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