

SRARC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



Hello club members. Our first activity for 2026 is the upcoming “seeded silver dime” hunt on February 21st on Redington Shores beach! (same location from previous years)

FEBRUARY MEETING

Meeting is Monday Feb 23rd
@7pm at QUAKER STEAK & LUBE
10400 49TH Street North, Clearwater.
(Pinellas Park)

Please come early and enjoy some great food as Quaker Steak & Lube is providing our meeting room free of charge!



2026 Officers and Board Members

- Rob Velarde – President
- Jerry Miller – Vice President
- Gary LeLand – Treasurer
Karen Payne – Secretary

Rob Clarke – Board Member

Joe Montione – Board Member

Phil Schiro – Board Member

- Rob Payne – Board Member



President's Message:

Presidents message-

There is now one opening on the club's Board of Directors. If anyone wishes to be on the board, contact myself or club VP Jerry Miller to put your name in for consideration. If more than one person qualifies, we will hold a vote to pick our new board member.

Thank you.

Rob Velarde, President

Editor's



worth:

The annual “Silver Hunt” for members that paid their club dues prior to midnight on December 31st is Sat the 21st of February at 10am on Redington Shores beach.

There is an opening for a Board Member, this will be addressed at our February meeting.

Well good people, that horrible cold spell has finally snapped, glorious warm weather is here (FINALLY) AND Spring Break 2026 is almost upon us, so get your beach detecting gear ready, or head out and hit your favorite park or detecting site. Have fun and good luck! See ya on the beach!



UPCOMING SRARC EVENTS

Next meeting is Monday, February 23rd 2026, 7pm @ Quaker Steak & Lube. Get there early to set up your great finds on the display tables and grab some great food for dinner before the meeting starts!

Annual seeded silver hunt is Feb 21st Redington Shores beach. You MUST have paid your club dues for 2026 before midnight of December 31st 2025 to be eligible for this hunt. It is \$10 per person. Hunt starts at 10am.

This month's club speaker is Ms. Mary Reish who is a turtle tracker for FWC-Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission whose job it is to track Florida's turtles and Manatees. Make sure to attend!

We had no "formal" Christmas party this year, but the board has already formed a Christmas party "committee" to find a venue and make sure we have a great Christmas event for 2026. If you would like to be a part of finding us a great venue or have input, contact Rob Clarke (me). We already have one venue guaranteed for next year, but welcome other options. We will keep looking for a great venue! If you want to join Ringfinders, applications will be at the front table at Jan. meeting. Support the club and buy a raffle ticket or five!

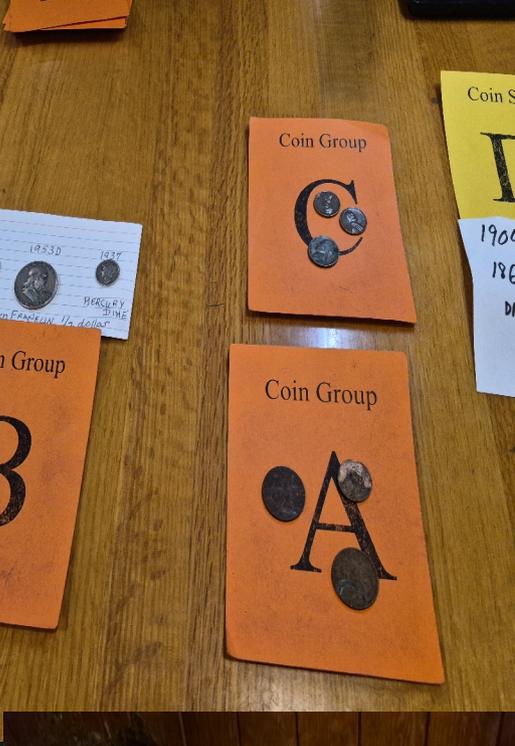
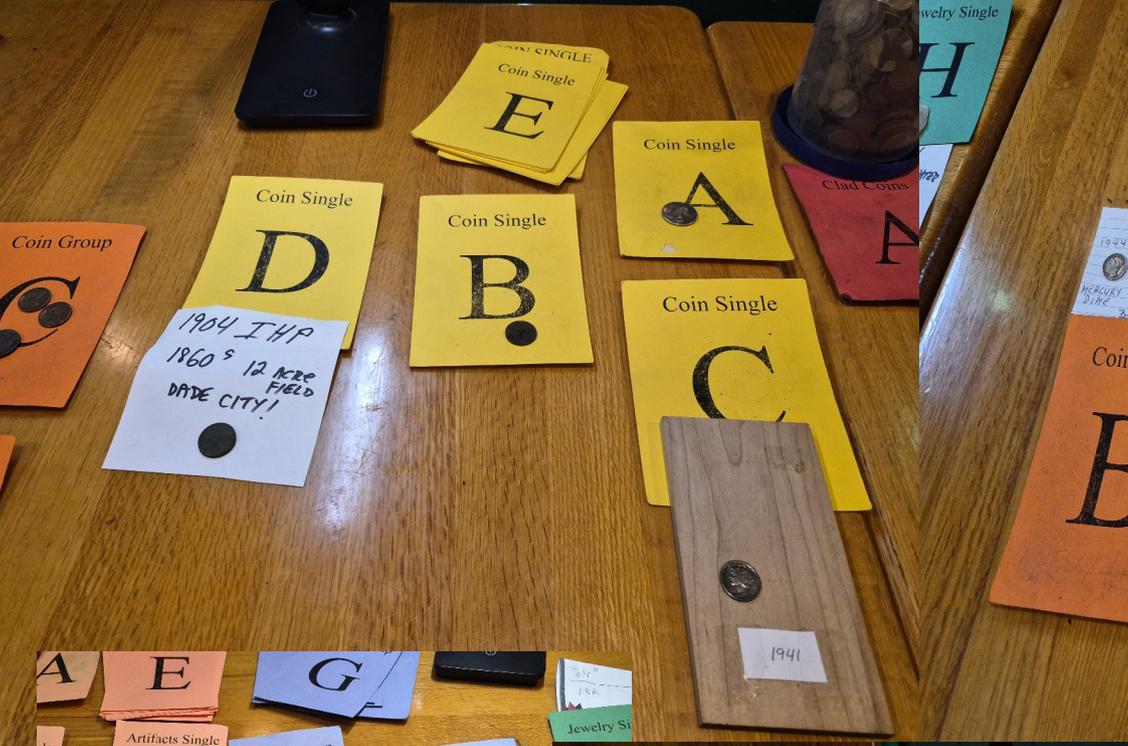
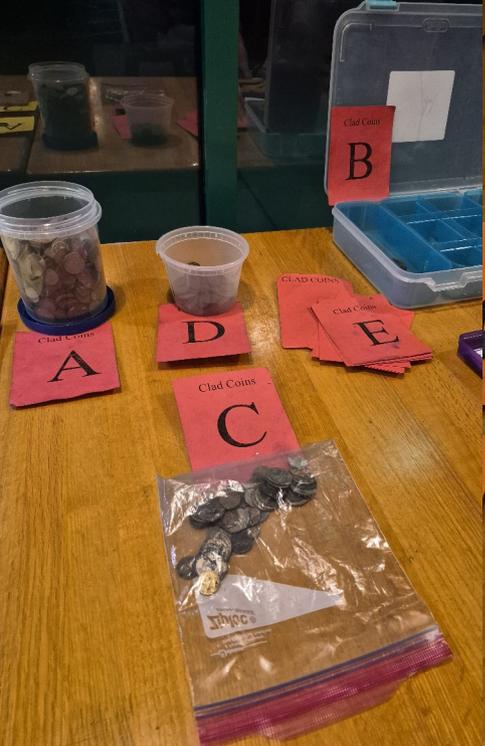
COMPETITION TABLE

Rob Clarke - 9 points
Steve Feld - 9 points
Jerry Miller - 7 points
Will McQuillen - 7 points
Rick Avriett - 6 points
Denise Kidder - 5 points
Rod Hughson - 3 points
Rob Payne - 2 points
Phil Schiro - 2 points
Mike Schuler - 1 point

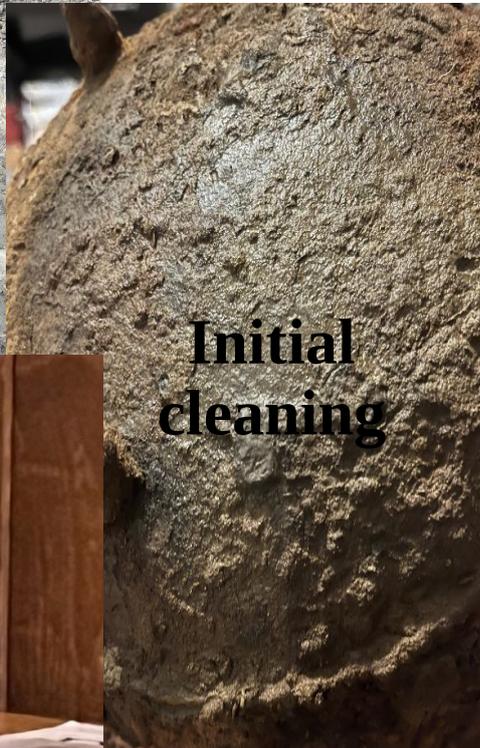


METAL DETECTOR DETECTOR

Keep those great finds coming folks, looks like it's going to be a very competitive year!



I would like to offer **CONGRATS** to Club VP Jerry Miller on this Incredible find while 4 of us were hunting the “**FIELD of DREAMS**” 12 acre permission near Dade City 3 weeks ago. This 12 acre hay field, which dates back to having several homes from the 1860’s on it, along with possible meat smoke houses and or a trading post there, has given up **OVER 60 Indian Head pennies**, over half a dozen **V-Nickels** and numerous silver coins including 4 **SEATED dimes**, with one carved as a love token, not to mention mid 1800’s relics galore! After 3 years of this 12 acre site being hunted, Jerry pulled this nearly intact **CAST IRON** cooking kettle from well over a foot deep. Jerry has spent many hours cleaning his great relic find and it is looking **GREAT!**
CONGRATS JERRY!



CLUB RAFFLE to WIN either Beautiful EISENHOWER SILVER DOLLAR or 1988 US Mint PRESTIGE SET!

With a LOT more competition on Clearwater Beach and other local beaches with area metal detectorists offering their services for finding rings and lost jewelry, the club has seen a significant drop in donation revenue from our Ringfinders group over the last few years.

At our most recent board meeting we kicked around fundraising ideas and came up with this for our February meeting: The club purchased this gorgeous EISENHOWER CENTENNIAL SILVER DOLLAR AND a 1998 US Mint PRESTIGE SET from the Olympics and we will be having a 2nd raffle Monday night for these sets. WINNER gets to chose which one they want!!!! We are asking for a \$5.00 donation per ticket for a chance to win this coin. With Silver now over \$80.00 an ounce, these are SWEET!





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