

• Minelab • Times •

Visit Minelab's new website for fabulous features!

All new - www.Minelab.com



The team at Minelab is excited to announce the launch of our new website. This website has an improved look, but there is a lot more to it than just that. There is a great range of new features to enhance the users experience.

The new features include:

- **Minelab members' only section.** As a logged in member you will have the privilege of accessing the latest exclusive pre-release product information, the latest news and view exclusive members content.
- **Extensive product information.** Browse through Minelab's complete new and past product range by category of interest, compare current models, view close-up images of the detectors and 360° image rotations, learn about related products and see a complete list of compatible accessories.
- **Knowledge Base section for all your technical information needs.** This section of the website contains a wealth of knowledge regarding the technical aspects associated

with metal detecting catering for beginners right through to experts. Learn more about Minelab's technologies, commonly used metal detecting terms and frequently asked questions to name just a few topics.

- **Minelab user success stories** and sharing your own story on our website. Here you can browse through our Success Stories to see what other Minelab users have been finding and the fantastic experiences that await you when you're using a Minelab metal detector.
- **Improved authorised dealer locator** function including multiple search criteria and mapping
- and much more...

Our web address hasn't changed so visit www.minelab.com to view the new website. We have also created an online demonstration showing you how the main features of the website work.

Enjoy!

GPX-4500 is the best of all



This photo was sent in by Kazza from Western Australia. He was detecting with his mate Grumpy, and they weren't having any luck so shifted to another spot. On arrival, there were two guys armed with GP 3000's that

were packing up as they weren't having any luck either – only finding 9 nuggets totalling 4.5 grams in two days.

Armed with GPX-4500's, Kazza and his mate Grumpy were still quite keen to give the area a once over. They literally hit the Jackpot! Within the first hour they had found two ounces worth, and by the end of 3 days the tally was up to 80 ounces of the good stuff! The patch has produced a total of 7.75 kilos of gold, and is still going strong. The photo shows 4.5 kilos.

Kazza in WA

Detecting fun at the beach

As a recent addition to the Minelab team I've only had the opportunity to enjoy a short go at gold prospecting with a GPX-4500. Although I must say it was pretty exciting when I found my very first piece of gold in less than 30 minutes!

More recently I was trying out an X-TERRA 705 with a couple of friends at the beach. Whilst I hadn't had much exposure to this model I was able to quickly work out how to use the detector.

After a while the two boy's eagerness to help dig with their plastic beach shovels became too strong and they joined in the hunt. After that more kids joined in, closely following the two new detectorists and digging the holes. Before long my friends had a band of followers, young and old, and all were having a great time. Every now and then there was a cheer as they uncovered a coin.

After a few hours they were done, and had collected \$9 in coins, a Hong Kong 25 cent



I started by setting the detector to coin & treasure mode and clearing the discrimination scale, so the detector would find all metals. Then went about searching for our first find, which was a discarded bottle top. I used the bottle top to demonstrate how the X-TERRA can discriminate between different target types. Our bottle top was registering on the X-TERRA's display with an ID number of 12 and flashed the corresponding segment on the discrimination scale. By pressing the 'accept/reject' button I rejected all targets with an ID number of 12. Off we went again...

Our next find gave an ID number of 8 and turned out to be a foil wrapper. Another press of the 'Accept/Reject' button would prevent us from finding any more of those.

Sensing the eagerness of my friends to have a go, I handed over the reins, stood back and watched as one of them swept the coil back and forth. Within no time he had the detector beeping to what was clearly a large ferrous target with an ID number of -6. It turned out to be a butter knife, neither a valuable or interesting find, but both were quite excited by it.

I left them to it, found a deck chair and took in some sun.

The beach was pretty busy with plenty of people tanning, swimming and kids playing. My two friends soon attracted the interest of two young boys who were keenly watching.

piece and an assortment of ring pulls, foil and odd cutlery. All of which they displayed proudly. They explained that after a while of practice they were able to determine with surprising accuracy what a target was based on its ID number. And that they soon figured out that a \$2 coin registered with an ID number of 32.

The purpose of this article isn't to highlight how easy the X-TERRA 705 is to use or its ability to discriminate between different targets, but instead to convey how much fun beach detecting can be. My two students and their band of eager followers and helpers had a great time and were rewarded with nine dollars. The kids especially loved the excitement of digging up coins. To them it was like discovering buried treasure!

Brenton O'Brien (Minelab)

A bag full of lost coins



I am an enthusiastic Minelab customer and have great fun flipping lost coins out of the ground all over the country. I started off in 1988 with my first detector a GT 16000, and was prospecting for gold till 1990 with good success. I stopped detecting until my retirement in 2000 - as I am an active person and could not sit at home doing nothing, I had to look for something to do.

On my beach walk one day I saw an old friend of mine detecting there with a SD 2100, and he told me that he had been doing it for a few years, very successfully.

He also told me he had great fun, because you always met new people, and that there was plenty of goodies to dig out. After that day, I went home and prepared my GT 16000 to go to the beach the next morning. This is what started it all, and I never looked back, as it gives me great enjoyment and satisfaction.

Later on I purchased a GP extreme, and worked with it in the goldfields for a few

years as well as on the beaches. Then in 2003 I sold both the GP extreme and GT 16000 and upgraded to the GP 3000 and the Explorer II, became a member of the Minelab Adventure Club, and am still finding plenty of gold with the GP 3000.

As the beach became a bit depleted of finds, I thought if people were losing coins on the beach, then they must also lose coins in parks - and how true it was! I tried park detecting and coins were everywhere! It was heaven to detect with the Explorer II, finding lots and lots of coins, jewellery and all sorts of other items. From there on, detecting parks became almost a full time job, I went every day and found more and more coins, and I soon developed a very good skill of flipping them out with a screwdriver, great fun! Detecting as I do is enjoyable and good fun, I love it, and it gives me something to do whilst keeping me young and fit.

Over the years, wherever I go, I have built up a very good relationship with the Park Rangers.

There is no hassle because I do not do any damage to the lawn in the park and close all the little holes. I tell them that I'm only taking my (Dog) detector for a walk and on the way picking up a few coins; we have a good yarn and I'm on my way.

In 2006 I upgraded to the Explorer SE, and then in October 2008 I again upgraded to the all new E-TRAC. I have found both to be good machines, but what a fantastic detector the E-TRAC is - Minelab you did a fantastic job, and I hope you keep going like this. The Factory settings are fantastic; it is a pleasure to detect in the Coins or Hi-Trash mode because it sorts through the trash easily, and you know exactly when a real target is there. The new coil and the pinpoint function both make it so easy and accurate to locate a target, whether it is on the beach or more importantly on the lawn.

I have to tell you this detector was paid for in no time, it was hard work but I had a ball. It was not so much fun for my wife who cleans all the coins, because they had been there for ages and were not so easy to clean as the ones I normally pick up. The funny part of this is that I missed them mostly with the SE, and now picked them up with the E-TRAC - this shows what a difference it makes and that it was worthwhile to upgrade.

The most rewarding and enjoyable part for me is to return an item I have found to the owner and see their smile and happiness when they get it back. This is what makes it worthwhile for me to keep going, to help people and see them smiling and happy to get there precious and sentimentally valuable jewellery back. This practise is valued from the people and most of them reward you for it, and they are all amazed that some one is out there and making the effort to find the lost item for them.

From time to time I get permission to detect from a Club or School, and I will donate 10% of my findings to them, which they are thankful

for. To the title of the story, the picture shows a bag full of coins found with an E-TRAC on a ten-day coin trip.



It includes a large sum of coins and several other items. I still cannot believe how much was and still is out there, it is a lot of work but well worth it and very enjoyable. There is still plenty of stuff to be found for everyone who will take it on.

In the 8 years I've been detecting as a hobbyist, the results are amazing. I have accumulated quite a large number of coins, but when you find them in small amounts, it just motivates you to keep on going. The jewellery, watches, bracelets, necklets, sunglasses, rings, silver and gold and other metals, old pre-decimal coins, and whatever you can dream of, I could go on and on, are a secondary bonus to motivate you even more!

I think it is the greatest hobby of our time, but you need to learn one thing - understand the language of your detector. Once you do, a lot of time is saved digging junk, then you need patience, persistence and determination, and this will guarantee you to be very successful.

Horst Kubsch (Broome WA)

Staffordshire Hoard



The largest ever Anglo-Saxon treasure haul in the UK, dubbed the Staffordshire Hoard, has been found buried near Lichfield. Found on farmland by amateur metal detectorist Terry Herbert, the significant discovery has been described by Leslie Webster, former keeper of the department of prehistory at the British museum, as likely to “alter our perceptions of Anglo-Saxon England...as radically, if not more so, as the Sutton Hoo discoveries”.

Terry, a metal detectorist of 18 years, discovered the Hoard whilst searching land belonging to a farmer friend over five days in July 2009 and has described his finds as “what metal detectorists dream of”. Speaking of the find Terry said “I have this phrase that I say sometimes; ‘spirits of yesteryear take me where the coins appear’, but on that day I changed coins to gold...I don’t know why I said it that day but I think somebody was listening and directed me to it”. After reporting the find to Duncan Slarke of the Portable Antiquities Scheme the site was excavated by archaeologists.

The find was only publicly announced on 24 September 2009 and the exact location of the discovery has not been disclosed. It is believed the site is on cultivated land that had recently been ploughed, with the objects

found in a compact area of about 20 square metres.

The Hoard is comprised of more than 1,500 individual items including up to 5 kg of gold and 1.3 kg of silver. Many of these items are decorated with precious stones and the quality of the craftsmanship has been described by Kevin Leahy, National finds Adviser of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, as “the very best that the Anglo-Saxon metalworkers could do, and they were very good”. The quality of the finds has led to suggestions that the items originate from the highest possible levels of the Saxon elite and the possibility of royal ownership.

The haul has officially been declared treasure and as such belongs to the Crown. The Hoard is to be valued by the British Museum in a process that could take more than a year. The money will then be passed on to Terry and the landowner, with estimates the figure will be in excess of £1 million (AUD\$1,791,683).

It remains a mystery who the owners of these objects were or why they were buried, but not doubt it is a subject that will be debated for decades.

Nicole Harris

PMAV Expo & AGM 2009



October saw the Prospectors & Miners Association of Victoria, Gold Expo and AGM. This year the event was held at Heathcote, Vic. and attracted huge crowds over the two day weekend. All the latest gear was on show, interesting guest speakers and the weekend was capped off with a fabulous auction of a variety of items like the GPX-4500 donated by Minelab.

New FBS coil

This fantastic new FBS series coil started it’s life as an idea: to make a coil that is deeper, more sensitive, better balanced, is fully waterproof, robust, and lighter than any previous the 10” Explorer coil. This was no easy task, but after 2 years of designing and prototyping with the aid of the latest computer modeling software, the Minelab Mechanical Engineering team delivered a product that ticked all the boxes!

The coil was designed with one purpose – performance! The supporting ribs give the coil great stability, and it is not as prone to falsing from slight knocks and bumps as some other open web coils. Due to it’s unique internal construction, less epoxy is required, which keeps the weight to a minimum, but still provides a strong waterproof seal. In addition, the thin side profile of the coil allows it to glide through water, so it is ideal for shallow wading.

The performance of the coil is great. It offers enhanced sensitivity, and improved depth, and it’s unique alignment of the two “D” shaped winding has lead to an improvement in target separation, and pinpoint ability. Here is what one field tester had to say:

“...the superb stability continued at a few salt water beaches – again it was an off-season time of year but the multitude of older coins, a few rings and dozens of other miscellaneous targets that surfaced during the beach tests was astounding.

Sensitivity to tiny things was fantastic and not witnessed repeatedly on beaches before, and it took me quite a while to recover two memorable targets, crude triangular shaped “bits” smaller than half the size my little finger nail on two separate days taking around 15 minutes each to locate! They had been I’m estimating at about the five inch level in wet sand but the audio signal returns were loud and fluty sounding and went unmissed. Speaking of unmissed, I had a few targets that were so deep I couldn’t recover them.”

The new 11” FBS coil, which has been dubbed the “Pro” coil, is standard issue on the E-TRAC and Safari, and the good news is that it is back-compatible with all models of Explorer as well as the Quattro.

The RRP is \$265.

My dream coin



We’ve all heard it before in this hobby, “no site is ever hunted out” I used to think well eventually if you hunt the same spot enough you’ll clean up, boy was I wrong! It was a beautiful Sunday morning, 20 and sunny with a nice breeze. I hadn’t planned doing any detecting but the weather was too good to ignore, so I headed to a local spot that has had generations living there since the mid 1600’s. I’d found many relics, coins and buttons there and always seem to come home with something every time.

I just recently purchased my X-TERRA 505 and was getting quite used to it. It is so easy to learn and understand and its I.D. accuracy is right on! I decided to walk down to an area near the waters edge that I had searched minimally since it tends to be overgrown, this year for some reason it was easy to access. Honestly, not even 10 minutes into my search I got a signal that bounced between 27-36, a good signal as far as I’m concerned, I dig everything above 6. I dug down about 3 inches and rechecked my hole, still in there, but this time it read a solid 36 a good chance it’s a dime. I dug another inch or so and rechecked the hole, it was out I checked my pile and there was the signal. At first I saw nothing until I checked with my pin pointer, I picked up the clump and brushed around to find the target. At first it looked like a flattened piece of old foil, but then I took a second look and my heart dropped! It was a New England Oak Tree Sixpence! My dream coin, my motto is the older the better! Tell you what, I ended my day quick!

Tammie G.

Gold buzz



You could say that I have been detecting seriously for 5 years. Each trip I head for the goldfields of Western Australia for approximately 4-5 months. Last year was a successful trip to Hall's Creek. This year June & I headed up through the Alice to Arnhem Land and across the top to Queensland, detecting when we could. Our last place for detecting before heading for the sapphire fields of Rubyvale etc., was the Clermont Caravan Park.

My first port of call was the Clermont Detector shop where I met the very friendly proprietors – Barry and Olga Dunn. My big question was where could I go detecting legally. They were more than obliging and gave me instructions on where to go, plus a

bundle of detecting maps on the Clermont area, which is extremely large. They could not have been more helpful and friendly.

I also ran into old detecting friends, Vic and Sandra Galvin who we had the pleasure of detecting with in WA on previous tours. Vic showed me many fine big nuggets he had recently detected in the Clermont area. The next morning, Vic and I were up early and heading out to the Belyando Crossing Road – 30 kms to McMasters which is a designated fossicking area with written authority. The first day out I detected 5 nuggets from 1-5 grams and by the end of the week I had managed almost 40 grams. I thought this was good going! But, there was more to come!

On the Saturday, I drove through the State Forest and noticed a very nice gentle slope with good gravels. The next day Vic & I parked the ute 40 metres off the track right along side a small gutter which I had noticed the day before. Vic, operating his GPX-4500, headed down the small wash and I with my trusty GPX-4000, headed up a slight slope. I had moved about 80 metres from the ute in a very shallow wash, about 18" wide when I heard a very faint sound from my detector. I stopped and waved my coil across the

suspected target area. The interference to the coil was still there! I knew I was in heavily mineralised ground and having this in mind, maybe this was ground noise?

I ground balanced my detector and kicked a few stones away and waved my coil over the suspected target area again, but I could barely recognize a signal. I repeated the ground balance again and again, testing the ground for a better signal. Should I dig or not was the question??? I had so much faith and trust in my GPX-4000 that I knew if the detector gave any sort of signal, there would definitely be a target below. With this in mind, I decided to take off an inch of gravel. The ground was like iron! I moved the coil over the area again and the noise was the same, so I took off another inch and this time the signal marginally improved.

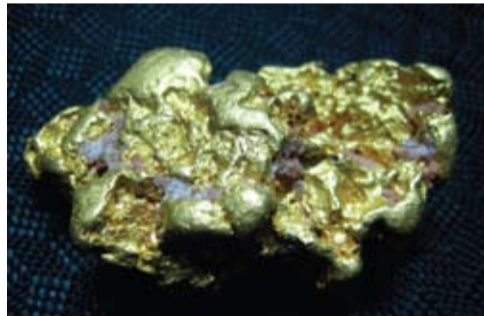
The ground was the hardest I had ever encountered. I dug industriously for an hour and had managed to go down about one foot. I then saw Vic heading my way and between two of us working we managed to dig another foot down, all the time the signal becoming louder and sharper. It was 2 hours after I started digging and Vic was amazed at the shower of sparks as I drove the pick into

the hole. Finally we could use the pick no more, so I headed back to the ute for my long handled shovel and a big crowbar which I had made from a miners drill. Finally I said to Vic, put your detector over the mound of gravel we had dug, and WOW!! What a signal! But I couldn't see any GOLD?

I picked up a handful of gravel and waved it over the coil – it SCREAMED!! I had it in my hand. On closer inspection I saw about 3 smooth noses of gold and said it's a big specimen. Vic had the final inspection and said "No way, it's all solid gold and covered in red-brown iron oxide." IT SURE WAS A BEAUTIFUL FEELING!! I put it on the scales and sure enough 189.9 grams. It was indeed a beautiful 6 Oz'er! I asked Vic "What do we do now?" He said "We're going home." We were totally exhausted and I had worn an inch off the back of my pick. Here I must comment on the GPX-4000 and GPX-4500, Minelab have achieved two remarkable detectors which eliminate mineralised ground (no more hot rocks), provide great target signals, and are just a pleasure to own.

Lyle Jones

Shhh, it's a secret!



Here is a lovely 317 Gram Nugget found at a location that cannot be named for obvious reasons, but was found at over 2ft with a 18" Minelab Mono in red hot ground.

Peter Woodland

Nugget hunting in Southern Africa

This 1,118 gram gold nugget was found 30cms deep in red iron stone rubble. The nugget is impregnated with very small quartz fragments as can be seen in the photo. The edges of the nugget are rounded off and smooth. It was nestling next to a large granite boulder in relatively flat ground with no hills in the close vicinity. The area has produced one other large nugget and many smaller ones ranging from 450g down to 3g.

The area of the find had been extensively searched over by at least 6 other metal detectorists. The nugget was found using a GPX-4500 fitted with a mono Commander 12" x 15" elliptical coil.

Minelab Customer



Do you want to be in our next issue?

Minelab are always interested in customer stories and photos to use in the Minelab Times as well as on our website. If you have anything you'd like to share, or suggestions on what you'd like to see in the future issues, feel free to contact our Marketing Department on 1800 637 786 or Email: ho@minelab.com.au

Minelab reserves the right to respond to ongoing technical progress by introducing changes in design, equipment and technical features at any time. Certain descriptions and illustrations may differ from the exact model purchased.



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