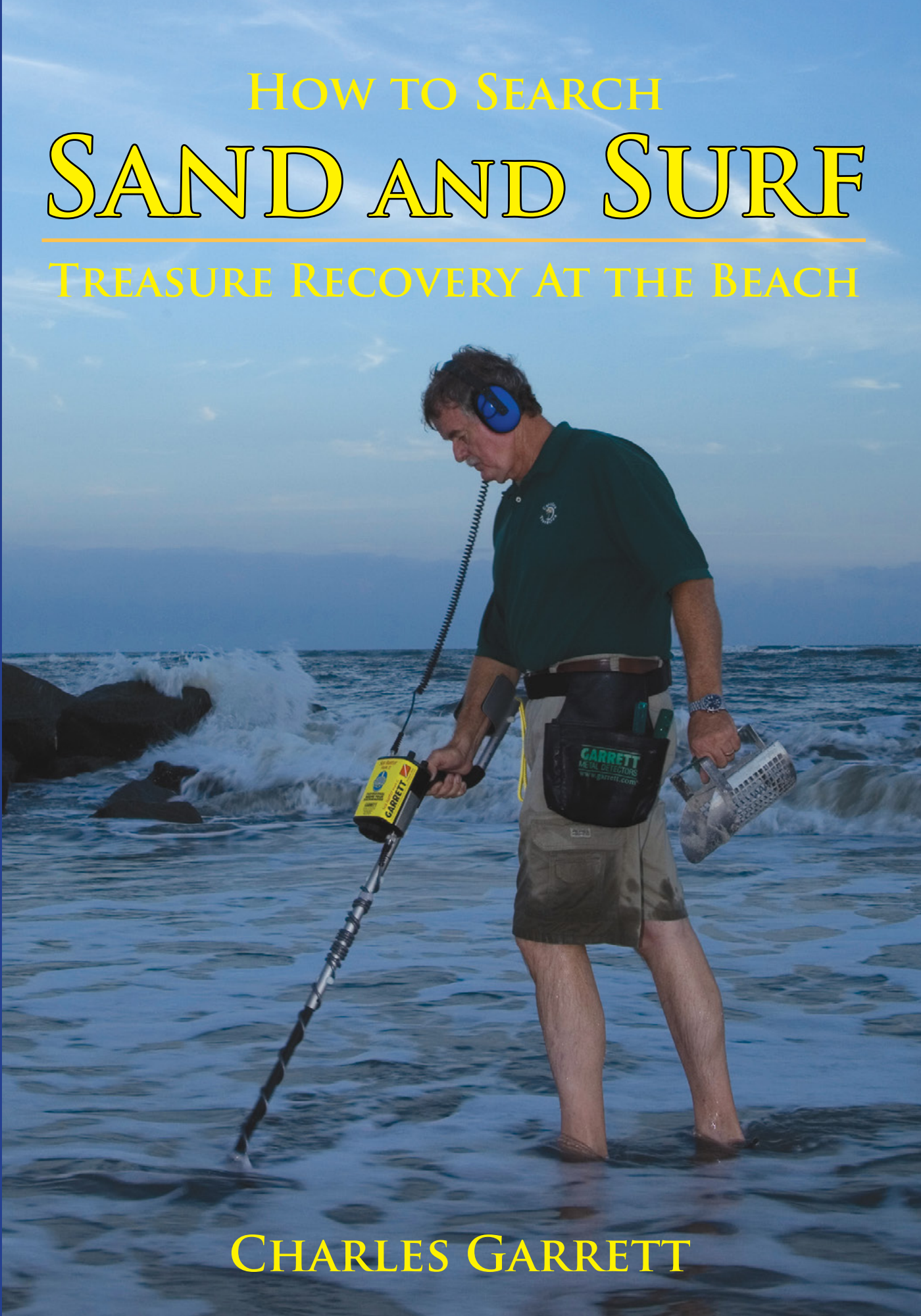
How to Search

# Sand and Surf

## Treasure Recovery At the Beach




Charles Garrett

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Charles Garrett has spent many years both on the beaches and underwater field-testing his metal detectors.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For more than 40 years, Charles Garrett has pioneered the development of the modern metal detector, demonstrated its capabilities in searches throughout the world and devoted himself to teaching others to use detectors. He has discovered treasure with metal detectors of his own design on the beaches and in the surf of every continent except Antarctica, and he has also scanned beneath the surface of lakes, seas and oceans of the world. Many of the treasures and relics he has discovered are displayed in the Garrett Museum at the company's factory in Garland, Texas.

Charles Garrett did not set out to become the world's leading manufacturer of metal detection equipment. His lifetime interest in treasure hunting, however, prepared him to excel in that field. After earning an electrical engineering degree, he became busily engaged at Texas Instruments and Teledyne Geotech in developing systems and equipment required by America's fledgling space effort. While also devoting himself to his hobby, however, he designed and built his own metal detectors. This avocation became a career when he and his wife, Eleanor, founded Garrett Elec-

tronics in 1964 to manufacture and market his inventions.

Garrett quality is known today throughout the world. From the beginning, Garrett vowed "to practice what I preach" by field-testing his equipment— to insure it works for customers regardless of ground conditions and environment. He has become recognized as an unofficial spokesman for the hobby of treasure hunting and the metal detecting industry through a long list of honors, personal appearances and books. Garrett—with many years of searching surf, shipwrecks and sand—is uniquely qualified to present wisdom about treasure hunting in the surf and sand.

# INTRODUCTION

Some treasure hunters may wonder why I say that treasure hunting with a metal detector on the beach or in the surf is *different* than hunting in other areas. Certainly, it is possible to use the same detector that so ably found coins in the park and a cache at that old homestead. It would therefore seem reasonable that similar search and recovery techniques that have been successful in the past should work just as well on the beach. Honestly, it's difficult for me to argue with such reasoning.

If you intend to prosper as a beach hunter, however, you're going to have to learn to use that familiar detector in a different way. You may even find that you want to use a different detector. In order to achieve maximum success on the beach and in the surf, you'll also have to learn how to adapt your hunting style to this radically new environment.

That's the goal of this book: to help you —whether a beginner or an old-timer—learn those new techniques that will make you as successful at the water's edge as you've been in parks, fields and ghost towns.

In carrying out this task, I plan to share my nearly half-century of experience with you by using the old familiar journalistic method of *who*, *why*, *what*, *where*, *when* and *how* to search surf and sand. I will also cover important points related to clothing and safety, because beach and surf hunting *are* different.

Garland, Texas

# WHO AND WHY: THE LURE OF COASTAL TREASURES

This book is for everyone who dreams of discovering lost and buried treasure on the beach or in the surf. No matter where you seek it, you'll need an earnest desire, a lively imagination and a keen interest in finding riches.

Everyone is a prime candidate to respond to the lure of treasure hunting at the water's edge. This attraction beckons people from all walks of life. Some casual vacationing hobbyists only *dream* of finding treasure while other seasoned professional treasure hunters set out with determination and truly believe that the next turn of the shovel or shake of the sand scoop is certain to produce *instant riches*.

For the beginner, this book is the first step toward successful recovery of beach treasure. The "how-to" metal detector knowledge will offer the new hobbyist a chance to sharpen his or her skills. For the seasoned treasure hunter, this book includes current information about beach and surf hunting, along with the latest

data concerning metal detectors and detecting techniques.

The term "beachcomber" probably conjures up some stereotypical mental image of an old-timer pacing the shoreline with his metal detector. In reality, treasure hunting has enjoyed a rapid rise in popularity over the past decade. This is due to a number of factors, including a growing number of cable TV shows and publications which display the latest recoveries of relics and treasures of centuries past. Famed treasure hunter Mel Fisher's team found silver and gold from the 1600s Spanish treasure galleon *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* off the Florida Keys in 1985 using a Garrett *Sea Hunter.*™ In the years that have followed, other extraordinary treasure ships have been discovered in the world's oceans.

The resultant fame and wealth bestowed on some of these underseas explorers have sparked excitement in a new breed of treasure hunters. People of all ages have found that using metal detectors in the surf and sand can result in exciting discoveries. Today's modern metal de-

Treasure recovery at the beach can range from modern coins and jewelry lost by tourists to these more extravagant, centuries-old Spanish coins *(above)*. As of this writing, a successful treasure hunter is busily using metal detectors to recover coins from a shipwreck which is mere yards off the coast of western Florida.

tectors are more affordable and easier to use in many cases than models of decades past. A quality metal detector, such as those that bear my name, is perfectly obedient and will do exactly what it is told to do—either find a ton of trash or locate the treasure you are seeking. Its performance, however, will always depend upon your knowledge and skill as its operator.

Your determination to find treasure on the beach and in the surf will stimulate a desire for more research and literally force you to discover history and to experience its fascination. Whether young or old, male or female, you'll not turn back after you find your first treasure.

There is no wrong time of year to search surf or sand for lost treasure. You can enjoy the smell of springtime and the warmth of summer at the beach. The more persistent hunter knows that despite the crisp winds of autumn and the chill of winter, discoveries can always be made. My good friend and highly successful detector-user Andy Sabisch calls treasure hunting with a metal detector "a hobby that can pay for itself." I agree most wholeheartedly.

The lure of instant riches is obviously a principal reason behind all forms of treasure hunting. The discovery of a single coin or a gold ring can be the small spark that fans the fever into full flame. There can be no cooling down that fever until some effort is made at searching for more treasure. You will forever know that other good discoveries await you.

Let me emphasize at the outset that treasure hunting on the beach and in the surf is not easy. In fact, hot sun and inclement weather can sometimes make it seem like downright hard work. Success is measured in direct proportion to the time and effort spent…not only in selecting the right equipment and learning how to use it properly, but basing all efforts on methodical research that leads to successful recovery.

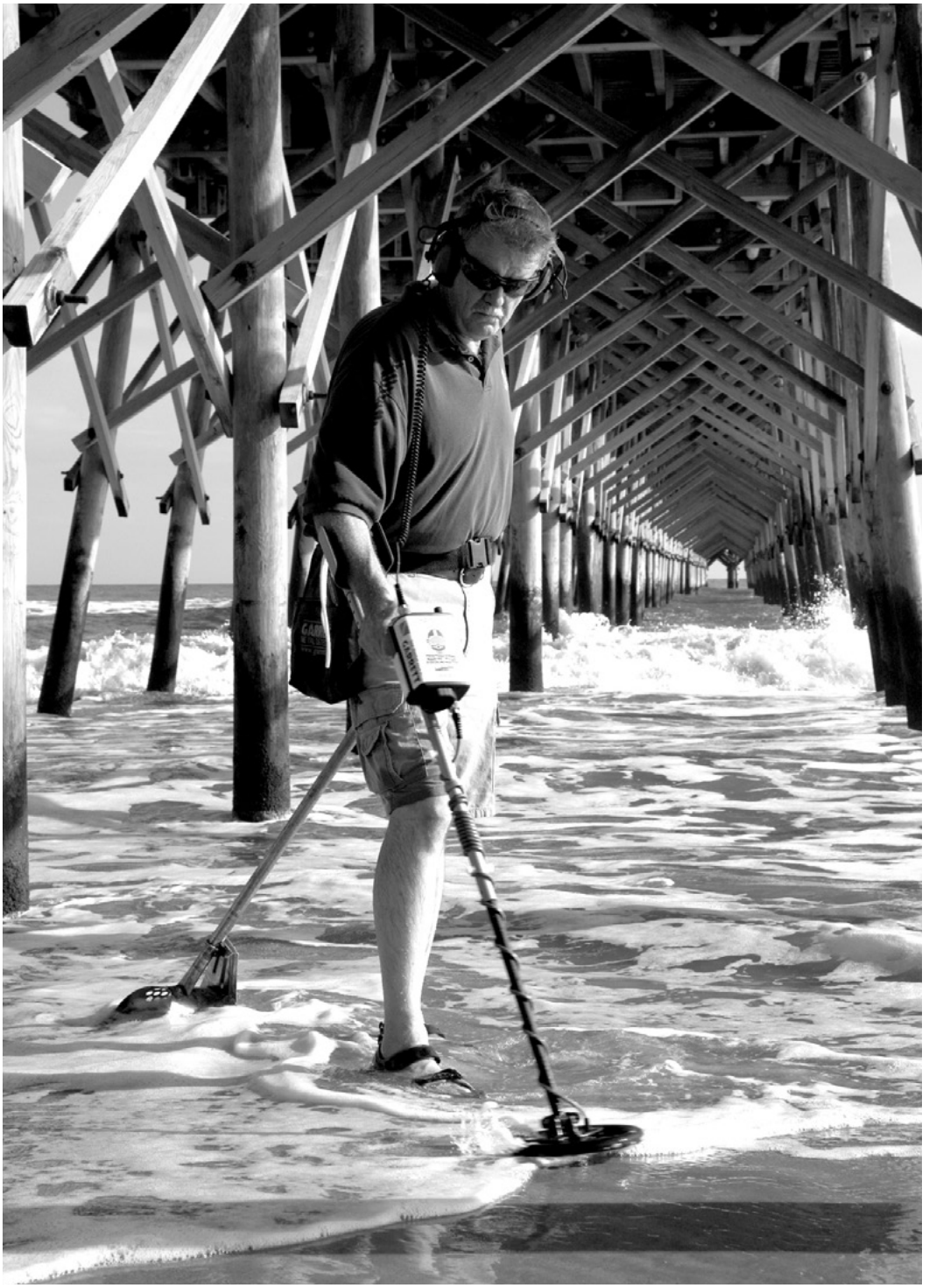
When I was young I repeated the maxim, "Practice makes perfect," but was corrected by my Mother who pointed out that "correct practice makes perfect." How right she was! When you learn the correct way to use your detector…when you learn the right way to research and then locate potentially rich treasure sites… when you properly and persistently apply this acquired knowledge, you will be successful.

One of the truly neat things about the treasures you can find on the beach and in the surf is that the supply of such coins and jewelry is constantly being replenished. If by sundown some summer day, you could somehow complete locating every lost item on any given beach and

in its surf (what a dream!), the treasure vault would immediately begin being "filled" again as waves bring ashore wealth already deposited in Davy Jones' locker. The following morning you could start again on that same beach and find more coins, rings, jewelry and other treasures.

Just wait until the day following a storm and then try your luck. You'll be amazed how much you'll find that nature has just brought up from the depths and deposited in your private treasure vault.

Oftentimes, the greatest joy for the hobbyist comes simply from walking the beach, from experiencing soft winds off the water and feeling the sand under bare feet. The monetary rewards of the hunt are but an added bonus.



The beaches of the earth constitute a tremendous treasure bank that is continually replenished by surf and storms.

## WHAT TO EXPECT TO FIND

Today's detectors can help you find all kinds of treasure at the water's edge. Beach pickings include coins, rings, watches, necklaces, chains, bracelets, anklets, religious medallions, crucifixes, knives, cigarette lighters, sunglasses, keys, relics, bottles, Asian glass fishnet balls, and ships' cargo. The very lucky and persistent hunter might even discover some lost pirate treasures of the famed Captain Kidd, or a cache of 17th-century Spanish pieces of eight hidden ashore by early explorers who never made it back to recover their wealth.

For most of us, though, the "treasures" commonly found are the items people lose while playing at the beach. Swimmers often forget to remove their valuable heirlooms and diamond rings. These rings expand in the heat, fingers wrinkle and shrivel in the water, and suntan oils merely hasten the inevitable loss. Other rings are given an accidental fling and necklace clasps often snap while people are playing ball, throwing frisbees or rough-housing at the beach. Into the sand fall these lost valuables.

Modern detectors such as the Garrett *ACE 250* allow you to see the depth of your target and discriminate out unwanted targets.

Coins, jewelry, keys and other beach "necessities" are placed on blankets. In a hurry to

escape a sudden downpour or just through forgetfulness, the sunbather grabs and shakes the blanket. There go the valuables into the sand. Some items are often immediately recovered, but many are never found…except by a metal detector.

Boys and girls play in the sand. Holes are dug and heaps of sand are piled up or made into sand castles. In this process toys, coins, digging tools, knives and other possessions are lost until the metal detector discovers them.

Modern metal detectors are the ideal tool indeed for discovering this wealth. Designed to overcome both the minerals in beach sands and the effects of salty ocean water, they literally "look" beneath the surface of a beach or seabed. There was no way—even just a few years ago—that the best instruments could have operated under such conditions. Now, new detectors with "imaging" even let you avoid digging cans and similar junk targets. Today's detectors have opened a new frontier. Come and explore it!

## GETTING STARTED

If you are fully prepared, if you understand your equipment and if you know how to use it properly, treasure hunting will be thrilling and profitable. You'll finish with more wealth to show for your efforts than you ever imagined.

Don't race across the sand with your searchcoil waving in front of you. *Slow down!* Work methodically in a preplanned pattern. Unless you are in a hurry and seek only shallow, recently lost treasure, reduce scan speed to about one foot per second. Let the searchcoil just skim the sands and keep it level throughout the length of a sweep. Overlap each sweep by advancing your searchcoil about one-half its diameter. Always scan in a straight line. This improves your ability to maintain correct and uniform searchcoil height, helps eliminate the "upswing" at the end of each sweep and improves your ability to overlap in a uniform manner, thus minimizing skips.

Don't ignore either very loud or very faint detector signals. Always determine their source. If a loud signal seems to come from a can or


Garrett's lightweight plastic sand scoop is ideal for working dry sand areas. Responsible treasure hunters are careful to remove any trash they recover while searching the beach.

other large object, remove it and scan the spot again. When you hear a very faint signal, scoop out some sand to get your searchcoil closer to the target and scan again. If the signal has disappeared, scan the sand you scooped out. You may have detected a very small target. It might be only a BB, but at least you'll know what caused the signal.

The matter of trash on a beach is one that daily becomes more urgent to all of us beachcombers. I refer especially to plastic trash that is more than just unsightly. Fish and sea birds become entangled in six-pack rings; sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jelly fish and swallow them; birds peck at plastic pellets and try to feed them to their young. Similar harm results from countless other plastic items that are carelessly discarded on our nation's beaches every day. What can a beachcomber do about it?

Most hobbyists carry out the metal trash they dig because we all benefit from its removal. But, what about non-metallic trash? Certainly, none of us carries around a container large enough to hold all the plastic trash and broken glass we find in only a few hours. Let's join together to help, however, and dispose properly of as much trash as we can. We perform a service not only for all beachcombers and sun worshipers but for sea creatures and bird life as well.

Plan your treasure hunting expedition. Make a list of all you will need before you make the trip. Check all gear carefully before you leave,

putting fresh batteries at the head of your list. Always check your batteries first if your detector should stop working. Some hobbyists take these longer-life batteries for granted and expect them to last forever. You'd be amazed at how many broken detectors can be "repaired" with new batteries.

Take along a friend, if possible. If you go alone, leave word where you'll be. Always carry identification that includes one or more telephone numbers or persons to call. Your personal doctor's name should be on this list.

Be wary of driving in loose sand. Carry along a tow rope and a shovel. You may need someone to pull you out of trouble, or you may have to dig ramps for your wheels if a tow vehicle isn't handy.

If there are no regulations to the contrary, you may want to search among crowds. Be conscious to do so without annoying anyone. You certainly wouldn't want to cause a beach to be put off limits for metal detecting.

Whenever possible, return any find to its owner. Try to oblige when someone asks for

your help in recovering a lost article. It might be feasible for you to loan them your detector and teach them how to use it. Who knows? You might add a new member to our brotherhood.

When helping look for a lost article, it's a good idea to keep its owner close by throughout the search so that they will know whether you succeed or not. If you can't find the item, get their contact information; you might find it another day.

Do not enter posted or "No trespassing" beaches without obtaining permission. Even in states where you are certain that all beaches are open to the public, do not search fenced or posted areas without permission.

There's treasure to be found near the water. Vast amounts are there waiting...enough for all. I sincerely hope that you'll join the rest of us beachcombers in searching for this lost and hidden wealth. When you do, perhaps I'll see you on the beach!

## RESEARCH: WHERE TO SEARCH

Over two thirds of the earth's total surface —nearly 200 million square miles—is water. Since the dawn of time man has spent most of his hours and days on or near water. Transportation, commerce, recreation, exploration, warfare and the search for food have compelled men and women to return to water time after time...whenever they have strayed. Whenever man made contact with water, he generally brought along valuable items, some of which were inevitably lost.

The world's oceans, lakes and streams, therefore, offer vast storehouses of lost wealth that await the treasure hunter. Beaches at the entrance to Davy Jones' locker present the most accessible areas for many hobbyists to begin their treasure hunting career.

Treasure on the beach and in the surf is where you find it. You may diligently seek it or you may stumble upon it. The choice is yours. Those of you who have read other books that I have written know of the emphasis I place on research. There can be no doubt that you vastly

increase your chances of finding treasure by applying the basics of research. Without research, treasure discovery comes only by chance and luck...and the booty is often of little value.

Treasure found by accident represents but a small percentage of that found by persons using good, acceptable research practices. Even on a beach, without some sort of research you'll be as lost as a driver without a map in a strange city. You need some sort of waybill—directions to guide you to the best locations.

When you walk out onto the beach, where do you begin? Let experience be your teacher. You can pick up ideas from experienced beachcombers, but the final decisions must be based on your experience and your intuition. Experience will teach you of places that never produce and other places that are often rewarding. A knowledge of storm, wind and wave action will often come to your rescue as you study a new beach.

Your research should include scanning old newspapers and magazines for stories and data about local sites. When you talk with people,

especially old-timers, ask them if they remember whether the present swimming beach is in the same location as it was decades ago. Take note of where the big spring break destinations are each year.

Students from far and wide flock to the beaches where they release pent-up frustrations. They can't keep from losing lots of coins, jewelry and other valuables. Your research advice here is to work those beaches and surf areas immediately after the beach parties have ended, if not during.

As you research various sources, your techniques and abilities will improve. That's one reason why I encourage you to apply yourself aggressively to beach hunting for at least one year before you judge this aspect of treasure hunting. Don't be haphazard and sloppy in your efforts. Be diligent. You'll be amazed at your progress and success.

First, begin your research locally. Use every source of leads and information from chambers of commerce to tourist bureaus as well as historical societies. Leave no source untouched


Keys, coins, jewelry and other valuables are easily discovered in the sand along public beaches wherever people play. Some treasure hunters work the beaches during and after spring break crowds depart.

in your investigation. To speed up your work, always be specific. Ask for information pertaining to both past and present swimming areas and resorts. Swimming was certainly one of the most popular activities of bygone days.

Consider joining a local treasure club. The sharing of locations and success stories broad-

ens everyone's knowledge, sharpens skills and increases success rates of members.

Don't be content to work only local beaches. Broaden your scope; it may pay rewards. For example, if you live in northern California, make a study of the history of the San Francisco Bay area. Many ships have gone down here, losing valuable cargoes of silver and gold, much of which has not been found. Violent storms often churn up ocean bottoms and cast sunken treasure on the beach.

Never overlook the possibility of finding flotsam and jetsam washed ashore, maybe even from ships that wrecked hundreds of years ago. Regardless of a wreck's age, some cargo—especially if it's made of gold, silver, copper or bronze—will probably remain in fair to excellent condition. The principal cargo found in many old West Coast shipwrecks is silver and gold from the mines of Mexico and Peru, or gold from California and other Western states. Recent recoveries from old shipwrecks reveal that the typical cargo consisted of cannon, gold and silver coins and bars, and personal relics.

Often clumps of silver coins and disks are located. Other items such as English pewter and stoneware are often found.

Assateague Island, off the coast of Maryland and Virginia, has proven to be the depository of much cargo from ancient shipwrecks. Treasure hunters, scanning the beaches with their metal detectors, have found valuable coins and relics, some of which have "marked" the location of larger treasures. Although much of the island is controlled by the National Seashore Service, portions are completely open to the public. Permission to search with your metal detector can sometimes be obtained on national seashores. It doesn't hurt to request permission.

This example of a potentially productive area offers ideas that may help you expand your territory. Treasure hunters often travel thousands of miles in their quest for treasure. But, I must stress the presence of considerable local treasure. Find it first; then hit the treasure trail.

As you search records, histories and old maps, be on the alert for clues to landmarks and locations. For instance, the name of a beach led

me to a Spanish icon discovered when I was with a group of treasure hunters on a Caribbean Island. Wouldn't a name like *Massacre Beach* cause your ears to perk up? When I began uncovering what looked like human bones at the beach site, I knew the site was worth thoughtful investigation.

Submerged at the entrance to a cove were numerous old and very large anchors protruding a few feet out of the water. We learned that these anchors had been placed there centuries before to prevent enemy ships from coming into the cove, then serving as harbor for a settlement. This historically active location interested me. One could just imagine enemy ships sailing in with cannons blasting and shore batteries returning the fire. Were ships ever sunk in the harbor?

A short distance away was an area called Massacre Beach. This name stirred my imagination with a scene of brutality so violent that this site should forever be remembered as a place of ruthless killing. What treasure hunter could resist standing on such a beach, visualizing the

Author Charles Garrett found this 17th-century Spanish icon of the Virgin Mary with Christ child. He was using one of his *Master Hunter®* metal detectors on Guadeloupe in the Caribbean.

artifacts that must surely lie beneath its sands? As I studied the beach, I noticed an outcropping of coral protruding a few inches from the water and ending abruptly where beach met the sea. I thought that if there had been a slaughter there, relics might still be trapped by coral that prevented high water from washing it back into the sea.

Also, I thought of sunken ships in the offshore water and of storms that hurled objects from their wrecks onto the beach. I walked over to the edge of the coral and turned on my detec-

tor. After only a few scans, my detector sang out with a loud, unmistakable sound of money! At a depth of about one foot, I dug into a shelf of solid coral that had become smooth from centuries of water and sand abrasion. When I moved my hand around over the coral and failed to locate a target, I reasoned that it must lie underneath the shelf. I scanned again and heard my *Master Hunter* frantically signaling the presence of an object that sounded both large and valuable.

Another search of the hole revealed an object that proved to be a Spanish icon made of pewter. It was the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child in her arms, with halo rays adorning their heads. As companions surrounded me to examine my find, I forgot to recheck the hole. The next day, another of the group was scanning the area and in the same hole he found two Spanish real cobs dated 1692. This date, plus features of the icon, date the religious relic to a few years prior to 1700.

My study of the area obviously worked in my favor. The name Massacre Beach prompted

me to pay particular attention to the site. My knowledge of wind and wave action led me to the imaginary "X."

Learn from my success at finding the icon. "Reading" a site requires recognition of key features and the forces that act upon them.

Please don't waste good money on so-called "treasure maps," but do give a certain amount of attention to tales of missing treasures...of great losses and "almost" or partial recoveries. Not only will this add excitement to your hobby, but the stories sometimes prove to be true!

Before you spend much time seeking the mythical "pot o' gold," however, attempt to verify the sea story you are following. First, make certain the treasure ever actually existed and to what extent it was recovered. Then, locate the spot where it is rumored to have been lost or where it was only partially recovered. Remember that beaches run for miles, that names of various areas can change regularly, and that the appearance of beaches change. Erosion may take years to alter a beach radically, but storms can transform its appearance in just hours.

# WHEN TO HUNT

Once you've completed your research on *where* you want to hunt for treasure at the beach, it's time to decide *when* to hunt. If you ask me, that answer is quite simple—any time, any season!

Beach pickings are good almost any time, but you'll learn that certain times are better than others. At first, you may be disappointed. Your finds may seem to provide small return for your efforts. But, remember, most new ventures begin awkwardly and without reward. Persist you must! Give yourself just a year; you'll be forever "hooked" and richer for your efforts.

Wouldn't it be great if the ocean suddenly receded several feet leaving your favorite hunting beach high and dry? You could walk right out and recover lost treasure so much more easily! Well, the ocean does recede slightly every day during low tide. Nearly twice a day a full tide cycle occurs—two high and two low tides. Low tides are of greatest interest to you because the water level has dropped, leaving more beach

area exposed. A one-half foot drop in tide level can expose an extra ten or more feet of ground distance to the water's edge, allowing you to work not only more dry land but also a greater distance into the surf.

Low tides occur approximately every twelve and one-half hours. You should plan your work period to begin at least two or three hours before low tide and continue long after designated low tide times. That's four to six hours of improved hunting.

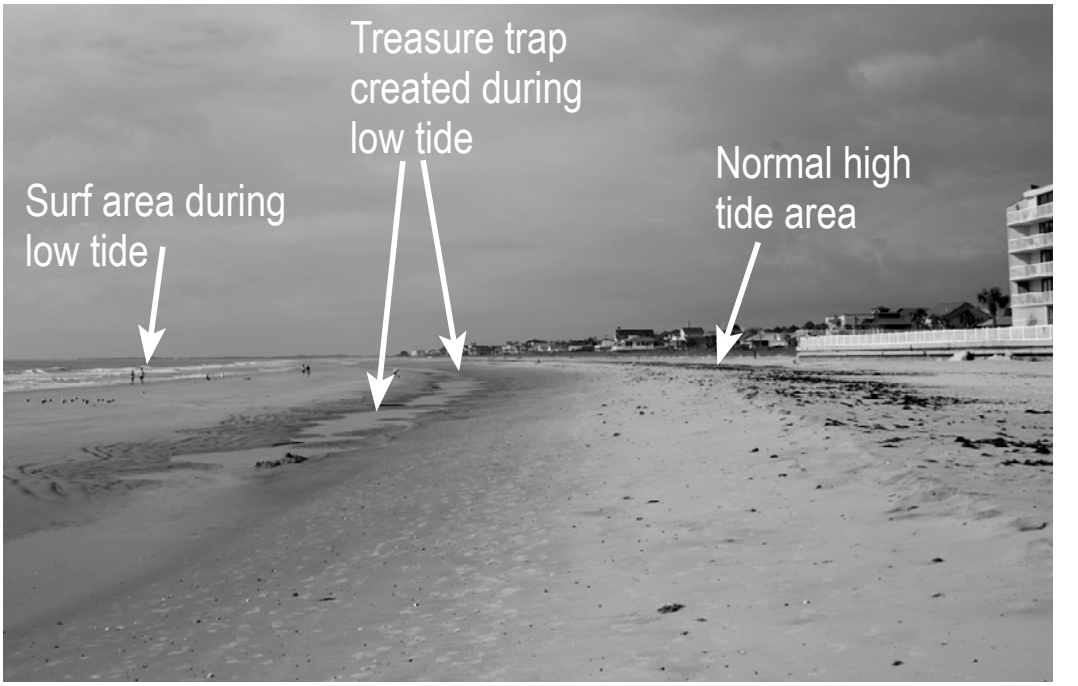
You can buy tide tables or get the information from scuba shops, fishing tackle stores, or the newspapers. If you plan to work inlet, cove and river areas, water current data may also be of interest. On some days, especially after a new or full moon, there will be lower-than-usual tides. Take advantage of these times. Also, listen to weather forecasts to learn of prevailing wind data. Strong offshore (outgoing) winds will aid in lowering the water level and tend to reduce breaker size and force. Offshore winds also seem to spread out (thin) sand at the water's edge. This effect could result in decreasing

the amount of sand that has built up over lost treasure.

On the other hand, incoming waves and resulting larger breakers tend to pile sand up, causing it to thicken and increase in depth. Be alert to the lowest or ebb tides when you can work beach areas not normally exposed. You must get your timing right. Of course, you can work dry beaches during high tides and then be prepared to follow the tide out. That procedure offers maximum work time.

As you follow the tide out, work in a parallel path hugging the water's edge. If your path length is not too long, each return path will be nearly parallel to the preceding one. If your path length is long, each succeeding path will veer outward. Wide searchcoil sweeps can offset these veering paths, however. Be alert to the relationships between locations of your finds. You may discover a trough, or other treasure deposit that needs additional scanning or work with a larger, deeper-seeking searchcoil.

Look for tidal pools and long, water-filled depressions. Any beach areas that hold water




Low tide at this beach shows a natural treasure trap. The beach slopes down to this recessed area before climbing up to a sand bar. Work such treasure traps while they are available during low tide and you can clean up on lost treasures.

should be investigated since these low spots put you closer to treasure. As the tide recedes, watch for streams draining back into the ocean. These "mark" the location of low areas. If you will constantly keep in your mind the vision that only a few feet beneath the sand's surface a blanket of treasure awaits, your powers of observation will keep you alert to specific areas to search. Continually watch for those low areas that put your searchcoil closer to treasure.

Another treasure trap on the beach is any man-made structure, such as this fencing, where objects moved by wind or water are naturally trapped. Rocks, piers and old posts are other objects which can “trap” treasures that are moved along by tides.

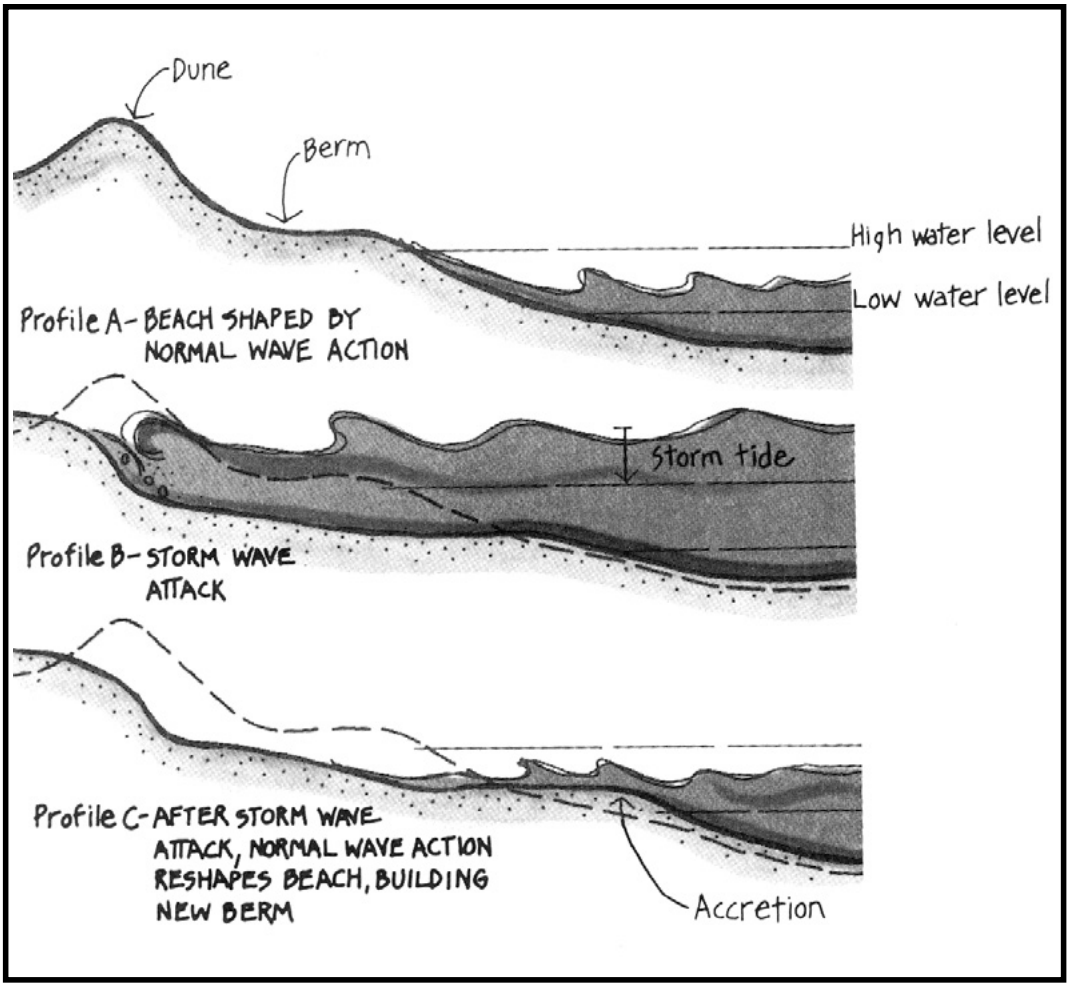
Weather is a major contributing factor to tide levels, and strong storms and winds can change tides drastically. A storm at sea moving in your direction may raise normal tide levels several feet. When this occurs, wave action becomes so violent it is sometimes impossible (and dangerous) to hunt, even upon the beach.

But, the stage is set, however, and you should hit the beach when calm returns.

Conversely, a winter storm reaching the coast with any strength at all can cause lower tides than those listed in the table and an accompanying compression of wave heights is noticeable. The water is often calm. These conditions and the changes they cause represent a continuing process that controls sand deposits on the beach and in the shallow water. Storms often transfer treasure from deep water vaults to more shallow locations. For a change in your searching habits, plan a beach search immediately following a storm.

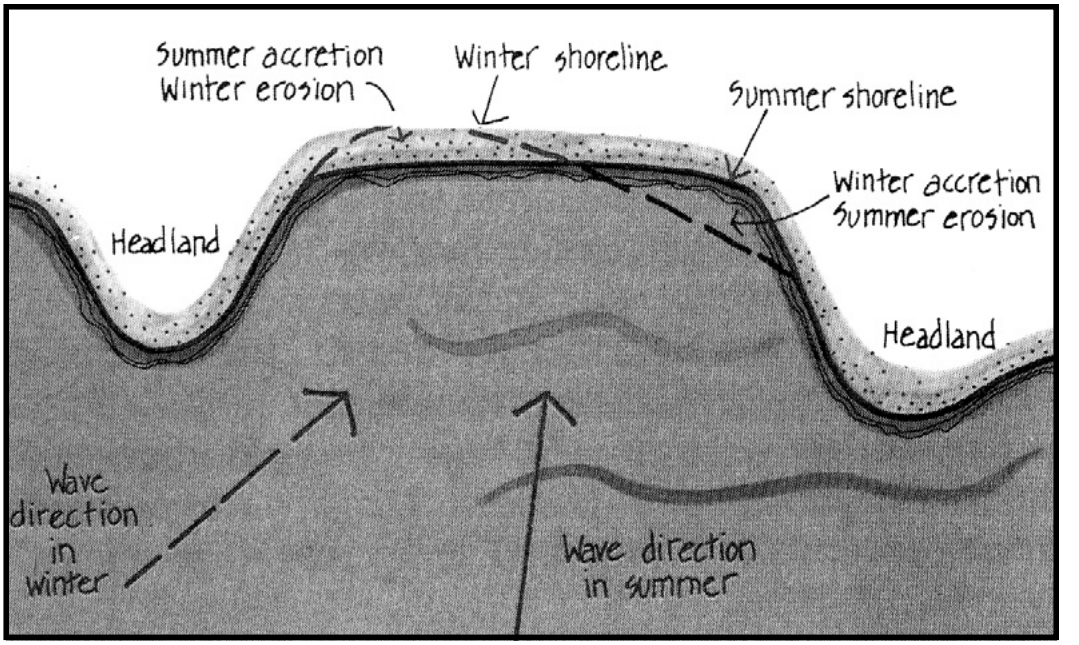
Keep in mind that extremes in weather and surf conditions can make unproductive beaches suddenly become productive. Storms often play havoc with beach sands. Fast-running beach drainage currents can wash deep treasure gullies in the sand. So, keep your eyes on water movement during such violent weather.

Both wind and water move beach sand around in a continual process. This process creates *nature's traps* that will hold treasure




Storm tides can completely reshape sand dunes on beaches, as shown in this illustration from a booklet produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

for you. Another reason for working beaches immediately after a storm is that the beach continually reshapes and protects itself. Sands shift normally to straighten the beachfront and present the least possible shoreline to the sea's continuous onslaught. During storms, beach




Because beaches continually reshape and protect themselves by sands shifting to expose the least possible shoreline to the sea's onslaught, their contours will change with the winds and waves.

levels decrease as sand washes out to form underwater bars which blunt the destructive force of oncoming waves. Following the storm, the smaller waves return the sand to the beach.

To understand how sand, coins and jewelry continually move around, consider the relentless action of waves upon sand. At the water's edge, particles of sand form the sand bank. When a wave comes in, the sudden immersion in water causes the grains of sand to "lighten" and become more or less suspended in the

water. The constant churning keeps particles afloat until the next wave comes in and carries them some distance by its force.

In the same manner, coins, jewelry, sea shells and debris are continually relocated, generally in the direction of prevailing wind and waves. As they move, waves and wind shift materials about until a spot is reached where the action of the water is lessened. Heavy objects fall out and become concentrated in "nature's traps." So, whenever you find areas with a concentration of sea shells, gravel, flotsam, driftwood and other debris, work them with your metal detector.

As your experience accumulates, you will realize that treasure can be found outside the normal limits of the swimming area. How did this treasure get there? Possibly, at an earlier stage in time, the outlying stretches of beach were actually the swimming beach itself. For various reasons (property disputes, beach erosion, etc.) the "old" beach was abandoned along with its buried treasure.

Another reason for this *dislocated* treasure is natural erosion that moved it. How does this

occur? These redeposits do not "just happen" nor are they permanent. It may pay you to consider and attempt to understand these forces that create treasure vaults for you to find.

On your next visit to a beach where surf is especially violent, pay attention. When a wave breaks near the beach, notice that water has a brown appearance caused by suspended sand. When this wave crashes and water rushes up on the beach, it transports sand and mixes it with other loosened beach sand. If the waves break parallel to the beach front, most deposited sand is then washed back into the ocean by the receding water. It remains in suspension in the surf or is deposited near where it came from.

Close observation of the surf will reveal that most waves do not come directly in, but rather at an angle that sets up a current. The sand carried by the wave comes in at the same angle of transport, causing the sand to move farther to the left or right of its origination point. Some of the displaced sand remains on the beach and some is washed back into the water at its new location.

Many surf hunters rely on a long-handle galvanized metal recovery scoop. In this photo series, the searcher pinpoints his target and then places the scoop just behind the pin-pointed spot.

Bearing down with his foot, he scoops under the target and up through it.

He then sifts through the sand and repeats the process if the target is not found. Mastering this technique can result in terrific recoveries, such as this gold necklace.

The result of this action is that sand is moved in the general direction the waves are moving. Understanding this is important because this same transport system (via storms and high wind) causes a redistribution of treasure from the point where it was originally lost.

The ability of water to move heavier-than-sand material depends upon its speed. Large waves and fast-moving currents can carry sand, coins, and rings along a continuous path. When wave action slows down, movement slows down or stops. When wave action picks up, movement resumes. Growing shores (perhaps those severely eroded by prior storm action) are "nourished" by material that has been washed away from a nearby stretch of beach. Heavy treasure takes the path of least resistance, being pushed up along the lowest points of cuts and other eroded areas.

As coins, rings and other jewelry are brought into these new beach areas, they become fill along with new sand. Being heavier, they gradually sink to lower levels and become covered. When that eroded beach has become

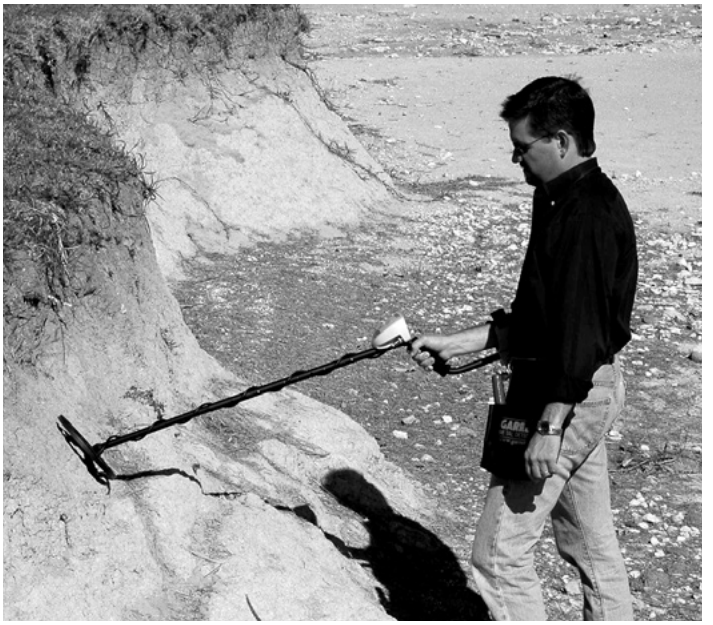
fully "nourished," this buildup essentially stops, leaving your treasure buried and waiting for you. It is usually during fall, winter and spring that weather patterns produce major face-lifting on beaches. Strong winds and high tides do most of the redistributing.

The classic northeasters that sweep up the East Coast not only churn up beaches, but often cause millions of dollars of damage to property. Violent storms cause people to move inland as heavy snow, high wind and beach-grinding tides do their damage. High tides often flood beachfront communities with 10, 15 and sometimes 20 feet of water. Since normal high tides are only three to four feet, you can imagine the erosion forces that are set in motion. As much as 90 percent of the sand on a beach can be washed away during a violent storm. During this erosion process, considerable redistribution of treasure takes place. Unfortunately, some treasure is washed out into the surf areas, but it still may be found by surf hunters.

Since shorelines and beaches are continually being reshaped, you must be observant.

Regular beach hunters returning to their favorite areas in the early spring will find that the fall and winter weather patterns have caused significant redistribution of lost treasure.

One key to success is establishing permanent tide and sand markers. Your marker can be a piling or any structure you can readily observe at any time. Ideally, your water marker will be somewhat submerged during both high and low tides. By keeping an eye on this water marker,



Eroding cliffs and accumulations of shells, gravel and other debris are prime areas to scan for treasures deposited by the tides. Take advantage of fall months to search normally-crowded areas of the coast.

you can determine water height at all times and know if the water is rising or falling.

Your sand marker is important because it is a gauge of sand height. The more of your sand marker that is exposed, the greater your chances are of detecting treasure that lies out of reach during those times where sand is being piled up by the winds and waves.

There are high and low sand formations. High formations do you no good except to serve as height gauges when storm and wind activity erode cliffs. Clever beachcombers keep their eyes peeled for cliffs that begin to erode. You are interested in their lowest levels where you

can find coins and rings as they become uncovered by the action of winds and waves. Eroding cliffs may reveal decades-old settlements and accumulations of treasure and debris. In your research, be alert for references to old settlements or ghost towns. What has been covered for many generations may be uncovered before your eyes today.

Schedule beachcombing expeditions according to current (hourly) weather reports. Stay alert to weather forecasts (especially for wind chill) and go prepared to withstand the worst.


Successful beach hunters know that searching at low tide and after a storm can prove to be very productive for finding newly-exposed treasures.

# HOW TO CHOOSE AND USE YOUR TREASURE TOOLS

The following section is designed to enable you to begin hunting on a sandy beach right now. Each topic is concisely covered to help readers quickly get to finding treasure on the beach and in the surf with a metal detector. If you want to get "the big picture," please read other RAM publications for more detailed studies on coastal treasure hunting.

- **Use a detector geared toward *where* you will search.** Any Garrett metal detector can be used successfully to hunt for treasures on **dry, sandy beach areas**. This is the best place to gain experience with your detector. Just about anywhere on a beach that is popular with people today is a great place to get started.

Even better, select a beach that was once popular and is no long used. Essentially, you will be looking where you believe coins and other metallic items of value might have been lost. Such research can often turn up valuable and historic items that were lost years ago. Of


An area on the beach where people have gathered to play games, such as this volleyball court, are prime hunting grounds.

course, to find modern valuables such as coins and jewelry, you need look no further than the more popular public beaches in your area.

Garrett's popular *One-Touch*™ metal detectors have all been preset at the factory for ease of use. Simply turn them on and began scanning the dry sand. With any detector, however, **it is strongly advised** that you carefully read its instruction manual and watch any DVD that comes with it before you assemble your detector and travel to the beach.

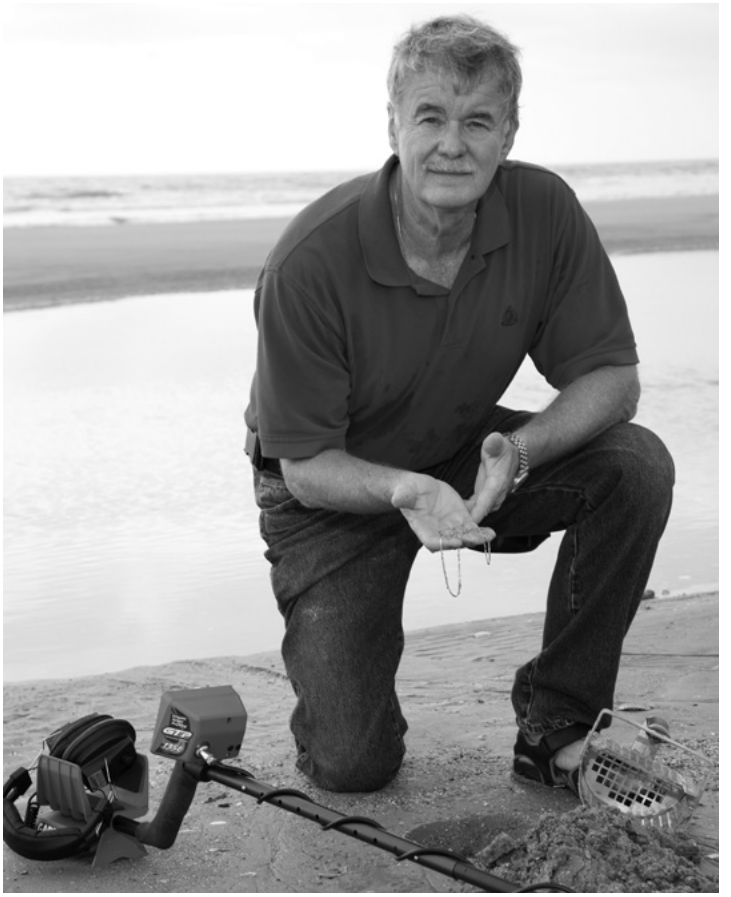
Once you decide to move from dry, sandy areas of the beach to **wet sand or into shallow surf**, there are several points you must take into account. You must always keep the detector's control housing dry and out of the water—unless, of course, you are using a Garrett *Sea Hunter Mark II*™ or *Infinium LS*™ model.

Be advised that you will experience some interference on detectors which do not contain a Salt Elimination mode. **VLF (Very Low Frequency) detectors** generally operate on frequencies which range from 3 kHz to 30kHz. The circuitry of modern detectors enables you

to choose which targets you want to find. Factory settings of most detectors will include some discrimination when you turn them on, but you can regulate this to find all metal targets or to eliminate any that you choose.

With a VLF detector, study the instruction manual or DVD that accompanied your unit to learn the pros and cons of different discrimination modes. The Salt Elimination mode is one example of a discrimination mode that can remove the interference caused by salt water.

**Deep surf hunters and wreck divers** are best served by a Garrett *Sea Hunter Mark II*™ or *Infinium LS*™ metal detector—both being fully submersible to 200-foot depths. The threat of having your land detector damaged by a splashing wave or an accidental fall is eliminated with a completely waterproofed detector. Both of these models have PI (Pulse Induction) technology, which uses a pulsing signal that is impervious to the effects of mineralization. PI detectors are thus ideal for use in the ocean for diving deep shipwrecks or for use in the tricky wet salt sand on the beach.



For VLF detectors in beach and surf settings, it is best to choose a metal detector that has a discrimination setting for salt elimination.

Pulse induction metal detectors, such as Garrett's *Sea Hunter* and *Infinium LS* models, are ideal for use in the surf and on wet salt sand—areas which can challenge some VLF detectors.

• **Using headphones while hunting at the beach has advantages.** I recommend headphones for all treasure hunting but consider it an essential tool at the beach. Crowd noises, and

even the ocean's roar itself, can make hearing very difficult. With headphones you will hear signals better and can often hear more of them. Plus, you really don't want those bystanders on the beach to listen to all the sounds that your detector is making.

• **The proper recovery tools** will make your treasure hunting time more efficient. I do not recommend digging in the sand with your bare hands. Protect your fingers with a commercial sand scoop or ordinary digging tools.

Always try to locate your target precisely by pinpointing. Do this by scanning back and forth over the spot where you received a signal. Advanced metal detectors offer an automatic pinpointing mode that aids in this effort by enabling the instrument to hover directly over a target and get a signal with no motion necessary. You can use **rugged plastic scoops** or regular digging tools in dry beach sand.

Treasure probes and steel trowels work well in standard soil. Plastic sand scoops help you sift through large volumes of dry sand to get to lost treasure. Recovering targets in the wet sand

or in the surf, however, is an entirely different ball game.

You will not want to kneel down or bend over in the surf to try and dig a hole. The flow of water to and from the shoreline will fill in your hole faster than you can dig it. Wave action can also make keeping your footing quite challenging while retrieving a treasure target.

For treasure recovery in wet sand and in the surf, you will find a **metal sand scoop** to be a wise investment. Wet sand is very compact and heavy, requiring a sturdy digging utensil. In the surf, you will have to learn how to retrieve your finds by using a long-handled metal scoop. At first, you'll feel foolish, especially when you'll make, perhaps, ten tries before you finally pull your first treasure up out of the water.

Experience and practice will quickly show you how to pinpoint your target with your coil. Once you have it precisely located, mark the spot with your coil hovering above the target. Push down your metal scoop just behind the coil with your foot and then bring the metal scoop up for sifting. If you did not successfully

Use a long-handled metal scoop in the surf to retrieve the treasure target you are pinpointing with your detector.

retrieve the treasure target in your first scoop, pinpoint it again with your detector and repeat the process.

Remember to make as small a hole as possible no matter where you are and to fill in your

hole after you dig a target. Of course, this is relatively easy in beach sand. Holes can be dangerous to joggers. Before filling a hole, however, be sure to check it again with your detector to make certain you have recovered everything in and around it. It's embarrassing to have someone recover a target in the loose sand of a hole you originally dug and filled. I know; it's happened to me!

In short, you should use the right recovery tools and right metal detector based on your preferred style. For those who are primarily searching near the water's edge, there are a number of methods to use to cover an area. Grid methods help to insure that you thoroughly cover an area you believe to be a treasure hot spot. Perhaps the simplest method is to guide yourself back and forth by your own tracks left in the sand.

Other treasure hunters use permanent objects such as piers, jetties, or rocks to mark their progress in searching. Others simply draw squares in the sand with a stick and search this box thoroughly before moving to a new one.

There are a number of ways to grid a search area on the beach. One of the simplest, however, is to follow a straight course and then turn back, altering your return course by about two feet.

Some hunters prefer to walk a path parallel to the water. They then turn around, move about two feet away from the water and then walk a

return path. Others prefer to start at the high tide mark and scan down to the water. Then then turn and walk a return path about two feet to the side of the first path. This second method has more merit because you can more quickly spot a treasure belt (trough) if one exists.

Troughs sometimes form parallel to the waterline and can be as long as a hundred yards. These troughs are “cut” areas that bring you closer to clay, gravel or bedrock where coins and jewelry accumulate.

Regardless of which search pattern you choose, remember to walk slowly and methodically in a straight line. Sweep your searchcoil back and forth in front of you, skimming it along at a height of about one inch above the sand.

## BEACH HUNTING ATTIRE

It's interesting to me that I'm often asked what I wear when hunting on the beach. By that, I mean people inquire not only about what type of clothing, shoes and hat I wear, but what brand. As if any of this could make a difference! It's the detector itself and—more importantly—your ability to use it that will determine how much treasure you find on the beach and in the surf.

Comfort is essential to the enjoyment of treasure hunting anywhere, especially on an open beach or in the surf. In warm weather perhaps the only clothes needed are shorts, a tee shirt and sneakers. It is important that you protect yourself from the sun. Skin specialists recommend the use of a high-numbered (at least 15 SPF) sun screen. It's also wise to remember that most clothing offers only limited protection from the sun. Special sun-resistant shirts are available but they often prove to be too heavy for wearing on sunny beaches. In both

Author Charles Garrett recommends protecting your skin while you are searching in the sun. He is wearing a lightweight, long-sleeve shirt, waterproof boots, cap and a cloth neck shield.

hot and cold weather, clothing must offer protection from both wind and water while permitting considerable freedom of movement.

During warm weather on the beach, you can wear just about what pleases you. Certainly, foot, head and skin protection are the key considerations. I wear a scarf and sometimes a neck shield that attaches to my hat. Often, I wear soft, cotton gloves. My coin and treasure pouches are water resistant and very sturdy. Sometimes I take a poncho or water-repellent beach suit along in case of rain. But, more often than not, I enjoy the rain, whether I'm treasure hunting or jogging. During my four years in the Navy aboard a ship that continually traveled from one climate to another, I learned that weather is a friend, not an enemy. You should, however, keep track of local forecasts as storms can develop quickly.

Dress for comfort in hot weather. Personal articles should include a canteen (I use the military type on a web belt), snacks, digging tools, sunscreen, knee pads and toilet paper. During cold weather, out come long pants and shirts—even thermals, if necessary. Insulated boots are good, especially if you have cold feet. A seaman's wool cap and gloves can be life-savers.

During wet seasons, a poncho is good, except it often gets in the way, especially when you stoop to dig. The two-piece lightweight rain suits are better, but hotter. A wet suit should also be considered for hunting in cold surf.

Thermals, jogging suits and multi-layered clothing are all good on a cold beach. Your primary considerations are warmth, mobility and dryness. Non-porous clothing can make you perspire, and if it does not provide vents for evaporation of this moisture, you'll soon be uncomfortable. You may have to do some experimenting, but give cold weather hunting a try.

I never work barefooted, especially in sand dunes. I wear boots and I watch out for snakes. Rarely do I dig with my hands, but use a scoop or some sort of digger. I use knee pads, at least on one knee. Thick, tough rubber pads prevent skin abrasion and sore knees. Knee pads can be purchased, or you might make your own by cutting two lengths of rubber from an automobile inner tube. The sections, each a foot or more in length, are worn over the pants' legs at the knees and held in place by rope or strapping

that comes up and attaches to the belt or clothing. Large safety pins can also be used to attach the protectors.

Out in the surf just about anything goes during warm seasons. I rarely wear anything more than shorts, a T-shirt (or, a long-sleeved shirt when protection from wind or sun is required), protective footwear, a wide-brimmed hat, neck protection and soft cotton gloves. I use lots of sunscreen, (SPF factor 25 or higher). Sometimes I wear polarized glasses that reduce surface reflection of the sun.

One trick that works for me is wearing a soft, water-absorbent hat. Occasionally, I dip it in the water, then pull it back down over my head. The slowly evaporating water keeps my head cool and comfortable. The water slowly evaporates to remove heat and results in cooling of the skin. Often, I wear different styles of military headgear.

Whatever type pouch (or pouches) you use in the surf must close and fasten tightly. Always keep a close eye on the condition of your equipment. Don't lose valuables through holes!

Hunting in cold weather presents clothing options. You can stay dry in the surf by wearing hip- or chest-high rubber boots. Thermal underclothing and heavy socks will keep you warm. Arms-length neoprene gloves—with a cotton pair inside—keep your arms and hands dry and warm. Jogging suits and insulated underwear such as that worn by cross-country skiers should be considered. Select insulated articles only after some experimenting. If your inner clothing soon becomes saturated with perspiration, you've dressed too warmly. Several thin layers that let moisture escape while trapping air are the best combination. When clothing becomes wet, it loses most of its insulating properties. As noted earlier, water-protective gear must be ventilated to avoid accumulation of moisture.

Should you fall in the surf or be struck by a sudden ocean wave, your boots could fill with water. You'll quickly become cold and uncomfortable. You may even find it difficult to reach shore. For such occurrences keep one or more extra sets of clothing along with you. If you have a long drive home, a pair of warm, dry

socks and shoes will feel mighty good. Carry along a covering to protect your auto seats and floorboards because surfing gear will become wet and sandy—if not downright muddy.

I suggest goggles in high winds. If you wear glasses, wear goggles over your glasses, a type which is available from bicycle, motorcycle or skiing shops. Use goggles that are vented since the vents prevent moisture from forming.

While working on blustery days, I usually wear rubber boots. Sometimes I'll wear hip waders. Beautifully styled "water footwear" is now available from various shoe manufacturers. Constructed of nylon or Spandex uppers with rubber soles, they provide traction and let water drain easily.

Whatever you wear, I urge you to protect yourself adequately and to be comfortable. Treasure hunting with a metal detector is an exhilarating experience. Don't allow clothing issues to lessen your hunting ability.

# BEACH HUNTING SAFETY

This section is not meant to frighten. Rather, it seeks to alert you to possible dangers. Surf hunting (known to many as surfing) and beachcombing can be enjoyable and rewarding. Yet it pays to learn and be prepared before plunging into a situation that might potentially become dangerous.

Accurate knowledge will not only help you dispel many unreasonable fears, but acting upon such knowledge will materially reduce the chances of encountering problems. The best way to avoid trouble is to always be ready for it. Remember the Boy Scout motto: Be Prepared.

Probably the worst things that will befall the beachcomber are burns from sun and wind... even they can be easily avoided by wearing proper protective clothing and using the correct sunscreen. Hypothermia can be a killer. Be sure to read my comments on it in the section on surfing safety. **Among other beach hazards you should watch out for are the following:**

**Cutting your hands, knees and feet on broken glass.** Watch where you're walking or kneeling and always use gloves when digging in the sand.

**Suffering cuts** caused by fish hooks, electrical cables and other sharp wires or objects.

**Getting caught in a sudden storm.** Never remain on the beach during a thunderstorm. Even though your chances of being struck by lightning are remote, always get out of the water and take cover during storms! You can alert yourself to threatening weather by listening to the NOAA or other weather radio stations.

**Being physically attacked by hoodlums or drunks.** If you lack confidence in the security of an area, work in pairs—out of the water, as well as in. Some beachcombers carry a can of "mace" or similar deterrent—keeping where it is readily accessible to them.

**Being attacked by animals.** Often when I jog or work in unfamiliar areas, I wear a four-foot length of chain around my waist. A quick-release clip attached to one end makes a neat fastener. Only a mighty strong-willed animal

would stay around after one blow from this weapon. I'm glad that I've never had to use it!

**Being robbed or harassed.** While people are naturally curious, it is not a good idea to show off your discoveries at the beach to strangers, even children. The quickest way to discourage people is to show them pull tabs and bottle caps. They'll suddenly lose interest; even the children won't be so anxious to help you dig. Never tell inquisitive people how much your detector is worth. Just say, "Oh, they don't cost very much; besides, this detector was a gift."

**Digging up explosives.** If you ever dig up a strange-looking device that you suspect might be a bomb or weapon projectile of some sort, notify the authorities immediately. Let them take care of it. Then exercise caution when digging in that area, or just stay away entirely.

**Stepping in holes.** Watch where you're walking as you search. If you dig holes in the sand, cover them up so joggers and others will not be injured by stepping in them.

**Burns from live coals.** When campfires are covered and not doused with enough water,

coals remain hot even till the next day and can burn you. Watch out for coals, even when they appear cold.

**Toxic waste.** This presents an increasingly serious problem. Be alert to any area (or any piece of flotsam or jetsam) that looks or smells strange. Keep away from anything that you suspect of being contaminated.

**Polluted water.** The best solution is to know about and stay out of unsafe water areas. If you smell or spot polluted water at the beach, or see an apparent spill washing up on the beach, keep away from it. Even if you don't wade through polluted water, the fumes from just being near it might be damaging to your health. Always be alert to the possibility of hazardous areas. Whenever in doubt, contact local public health officials or authorities. Never rely on gossip.

## SURF HUNTING SAFETY

Surf hunting is just as safe as beachcombing when a few key guidelines are followed. First of all, pay attention to the environment where you're working. If you insist on treasure hunting in heavy breakers, you'd better plan on being knocked flat a time or two. And, you'd better be using a *Sea Hunter* or some other detector designed for use underwater. In the deep surf, my advice is to wear a life vest or a diver's buoyancy control device at all times.

When hunting in the surf, develop an easy, relaxed method of scanning; practice digging and retrieving targets in very shallow water. Use common sense, remain alert and stay aware of potentially dangerous situations.

**Surf hunting hazards you should be aware of include:**

**Sun and wind exposure.** Proper attire and sunscreen are a must. I recommend that sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 25 or above should be applied to all exposed areas

45 minutes or so before exposure. Remember that most clothing offers only scant protection against sunburn. As noted below, the wind can be dangerous, especially when you're searching in the water.

**Hypothermia risks.** Subnormal body temperatures can occur following exposure in water for only a short time—in summer as well as winter. The human body is a marvelous machine and has an excellent heat regulation system designed for its normal environment of air. When the body is submerged in water, the situation changes dramatically. You can remain perfectly comfortable in air at 70 degrees. In water at this same temperature you can become chilled and dangerously uncomfortable in a surprisingly short time. While most cases of hypothermia occur in air temperatures of 30 to 50 degrees, individuals can succumb to overexposure even at 60 or 70 degrees.

This is especially true when winds are high, because wind can carry away more heat than the body can generate. A surf hunter should always remember that cold water accelerates

heat loss 25-fold. Any time you become drowsy, feel overly fatigued, start shivering, become dizzy or otherwise disoriented and/or nauseous, get out of the water and into warm clothing. Drink hot liquids. You might even need medical aid. Never underestimate the problems associated with hypothermia and exposure in water.

**Fatigue.** Be constantly aware of how you feel. Water is not your normal environment. Don't wait until you get in trouble. When you grow even slightly tired or weary, leave the water before you become exhausted.

**Dangerous sea creatures.** Contact with sea urchins, jellyfish (especially that pretty purple Portuguese Man-of-War), horseshoe crabs and seals or sea lions can cause misery. Avoid them! You can prevent stings from accidental encounters by wearing gloves and using large rubber bands or velcro to secure your trousers securely to your ankles.

**Other dangerous creatures.** Even though snake bites and attacks by sharks, alligators or crocodiles are rare occurrences, use the utmost caution when searching in or near waters where

these denizens are known to live—particularly around coastal marsh areas where rivers feed into the ocean.

**Water currents, Undertows and Rip Tides.** Familiarize yourself with local tide charts and pay close attention to warning signs about dangerous tides where you are hunting.

**Floating dangers.** Watch out for boaters and surfers. Be alert for motorboats, sail boats and floating logs. During times of rough surf and high winds, large logs can be propelled rapidly on or just under the surface.

**Getting seasick.** Don't laugh, especially if you are prone to seasickness when you ride in a boat or on a ship. If you are unaccustomed to the rocking motion caused by breakers, you could get seasick. If that happens, just get out of the water.

**Hazardous bottom areas.** Holes, steep slopes, vegetation, drop offs, rocks and coral can cause problems for the water hunter. Generally, when walking forward and scanning the searchcoil in a normal manner, you will be aware of most, if not all, of the above hazards.

**Dangerous "dry" areas.** During low tide in certain areas—including coastal marsh lands—be on the alert for muddy sink holes. The surface may appear dry, but the soil underneath can be very wet and soft.

**Hip boot dangers.** Struggling to reach shore while wearing a set of waders filled with water can be a very difficult and dangerous task. While wearing waders, be careful when bending over and always watch for waves. You might want to tie a belt or rope around the upper section of chest-high boots

**Physical problems.** Long exposure to water can cause leg cramps. If cramps occur, move toward shore immediately while massaging the cramping muscles. Cold water has also been known to cause stomach cramps, especially just after eating.

**Panic.** Probably the greatest danger facing those who enter the water is panic. Sudden overwhelming fear—accompanied by a loss of reasoning—contributes to many water accidents. Condition yourself to resist panic. Try to think calmly about each problem you face. Act-

ing quickly and without thinking carefully can gain you nothing. Fear can be overcome. Try to think your way out of difficult situations and let your reasoning take control.

Hypothermia is more likely to be a greater problem in the deep surf than in the shallow water. Try to remain alert to your physical condition and that of your companions at all times. Watch out for simple exhaustion and "umbling"—that's stumbling, fumbling, mumbling or grumbling—by any of you. Never take chances...especially when you're working in deeper water. Never "lose your cool" during the excitement of recovering treasure.

Finally, it'll pay you to stay in reasonably good physical condition, keep track of weather conditions and forecasts and always have a first-aid kit handy.

# A FINAL WORD

In closing, I certainly hope that I haven't "scared you off" with this recitation of possible dangers. Most of them you'll never encounter; the remainder are easily handled if you are prepared. A famous writer once urged that we never avoid the beauty of a rose because of its thorns. In the same light I stress that you should enjoy the pleasures and rewards of beach and surf hunting, while constantly being on guard against possible dangers.

And, last but certainly not least, always observe "no trespassing" signs wherever you hunt...even when you know you are right. Don't risk arguing with a loaded gun!

Many natural sites represent a fragile environment that can be easily damaged or destroyed. At the close of your day's hunting please leave behind only footprints—not pull tabs, wrappers, cans or other souvenirs of our "disposable" civilization. The advice I have always given is to try to leave an area in better

condition than you found it. Remember, a fellow treasure hunter may want to work the area someday. You may even want to come back yourself.

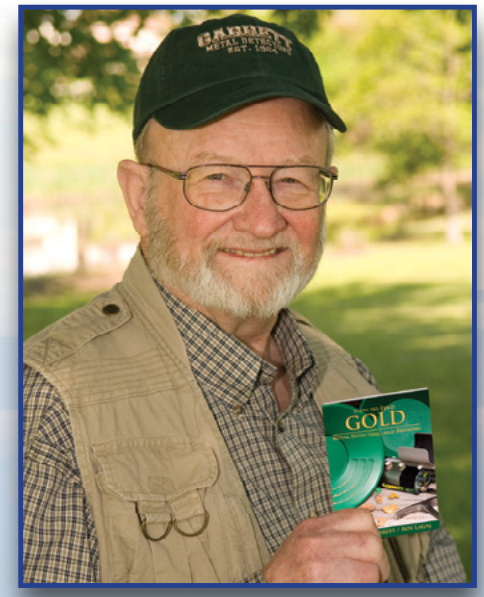
Don't expect to find tons of treasure every time you go out on the beach. In fact, there may be times when you don't find anything. There certainly are times when I don't. But the hobby is real joy and the reward of detecting is never knowing what you'll dig up next!

New success stories are being written every day. A lot of treasure is being found and a lot more treasure is waiting to be found on your favorite beaches. Use a Garrett or other high quality instrument and keep your faith in it. Have patience and continue hunting with your detector until you have mastered it, and success will surely be yours. What a wonderful hobby this is!

Good hunting and God bless!

I'll see you on the beach!


Many couples have found that treasure hunting is an outdoor hobby for weekends and vacations that they can both enjoy.

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*Master treasure hunter and author*

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