

WHAT DETECTOR SHOULD I PURCHASE?

By Ken Dewerson, Kelowna Metal Detectors.

A common question asked by guests at our Club meetings is:

As a newcomer to the hobby, what Metal Detector should I purchase?

The inexpensive models available at major retail stores are often just toys. A professional quality metal detector for beginners at a hobbyist budget can be purchased from most reputable manufacturers that have been supplying the hobby for many years, Tesoro, Garrett, Whites etc.

Don't purchase a detector solely on the suggestion of a friend; detector users are often loyal to a specific brand. An entry level turn on and go detector will offer the same features as the more expensive models but are not as advanced.

What are the issues that you should consider as you decide?

Where do you intend to use the detector, and **how often** do you think you will use it? Unless you want a special purpose detector, such as a prospecting detector which can also be used for different types of detecting, it is usually best to look at a general purpose detector. Most detectors will perform as promised by the manufacturers; however different detector brands will have different characteristics and features such as digital display meters, audio tone identification mode, or multi frequency detectors. **Weight** and configuration of the detector could also be an issue, most are pole mounted, but some are hip mounted. As we get older the micro electronic machines are easier to swing for any length of time, another worthwhile feature would be a built in pin point control, with it you can pinpoint the target under your search coil so you know where to dig. Nowadays most general purpose detectors have Discrimination and Sensitivity controls, all have waterproof search coils up to the control box. The stock coil that comes with the machine is the best general purpose coil determined by the manufacturer. **Cost** may be an issue, an entry level detector should cost between \$200-\$500 US funds, it's always nice to purchase the second model up in the brand, that way you get extra bells and whistles, and still have money left for some accessories. **Accessories** such as headphones, trowels, scoops, pin pointer, and coil covers. You may get a good deal on a used detector, but you will be surprised at the features on the entry level detectors for a reasonable price, and you don't finish up with someone else's cast off.

At our **club outings** ask our members for a demonstration of the machines that they use, we are here to help you.