

Metal Detectors

by Zack Wilson



Narrator: Metal Detectors. By Zack Wilson



Narrator: In my documentary I wanted to find out why somebody would devote themselves to, what many would consider, a useless hobby. For this I decided to study metal detecting.

what could draw someone to this.

Narrator: I've always been interested in metal detecting, or at least intrigued as to why someone would do it, mostly because I could never really fathom why they would do it. So I started to think about why they would,



Narrator: First I thought about the potential monetary rewards. Going around searching for metals, you'll find money obviously. But realistically this would only be pocket change. And even if you did say find a treasure chest what would you do? Dig up millions of dollars on a public beach?

So I doubted that money could be the only factor



(Need pic) Narrator: You could hardly dig up a treasure chest on a public beach. It would be ridiculous, and furthermore this is all assuming you find one. Which you won't.



Narrator: So then I thought about the location. I would easily start metal detecting if only to walk on the beach. Terry: "Yeah, it's an amazing hobby, I get to walk the beach, and find money! [laughs]"



6. Narrator: First, the gear. This is actually really important.
Ian: "The unit is really the mostly important part."



7. Ian: "Entry level detectors just give one monotonous beep beep sound. But this one here, I can set it to three settings: prospecting, that's for gold, coins and jewelry, pretty self explanatory, and relic. Then as I go over something, it says right here [on the screen] what it is, a penny, a nickel or quarter, or garbage."



8. Terry: "Yeah my detector is the most important part. I'm really a bit of a tech geek. This one here is my beach one; it's waterproof, and has setting for gold, coins, and different metals."



9. Narrator: And the metal detectors work through a coil, that is the circular thing at the bottom of any detector and that senses the metal, and then that triggers the beep in the headphone or sends a message to the display.
Terry: "You have to pass the coil right over the sand, to make sure all the waves hit metal."



10. Narrator: I asked people how they got started with metal detecting and the answer seemed to be they knew someone, and happened to go with them as they went detecting and got to try it out. Then they got hooked, and gradually went more and more often.

Narrator: This led into why they do it. Kind of answered already, it was the addiction.



11. I also asked about location.



12. Narrator: For one man it was just the detecting.
Ian: "No, I don't really notice the beach, you know, I'm here for the sand."



13. Narrator: But for another woman, Terry, she came for the beach almost as much as the hobby.
Terry: "It really is an amazing hobby because I can walk the beach, which gives me exercise, and then I can also find cool stuff. The beach is beautiful and I'm really just an outdoorsy person."



14. Narrator: Then there is the more good citizen approach if you will.
Terry: "And you would be amazed at how much trash there is. I always bring an extra bucket to put all the trash in."

Narrator: But others see the garbage as a waste of time.
Ian: "[My unit is] great because I don't have to dig up trash, I know when it's not treasure."



15. Narrator: And then there's the thrill of the find.
Ian: "My boys think it's useless, and my wife thinks I'm crazy, but I'm out here today playing hooky from work, but when you find something and you dig..."



16. Narrator: So I guess the truth is it's addicting. But it's much more complicated than that. There's the aspect of being alone, in a good way. Then there's the beach. And the thrill of finding something, or even the possibility of finding something.



Narrator: Thanks for watching.