

# COLD WEATHER or WINTER METAL DETECTING

While the temperatures maybe dropping and soon hit the freezing mark, that doesn't mean the metal detecting season is over.

With a little preparation the season can continue for most, if not all of the winter season.

For water hunters, so long as the lake is not frozen, water hunting can continue but you will need a few different items:

- Polypropylene or silk long johns
- Multiple pairs of socks. Start with a pair of thin polypropylene or nylon socks, followed by heavy wool or insulated socks.
- Insulated (neoprene) waders or a dry suit
- Insulated (neoprene) elbow length gloves
- Reusable heat packs for keep your hands and feet warm
- Ski cap
- Balaclava if needed
- A complete change of clothes just in case you get wet.

Hypothermia is the greatest danger in winter since water transfers heat at 10 times the rate of air and has 10 times the heat capacity.

The waders will make you waddle or cause balancing problems since they do not have the flexibility of your standard summer or lightweight waders. If you have a balance problem DO NOT go water hunting in the winter due to safety concerns.

For ground hunters just because some snow is on the ground does not mean the ground is frozen. If the ground was not frozen before the snow, the ground will actually be insulated by a light dry snowfall and be quite diggable below the snow. Also areas that are covered by dry fallen leaves remain diggable.

Clothing becomes the important issue for metal detecting in the winter.

- Dress in layers
- Have a wind breaker to cut the breeze this could be a leather jacket or some other windproof clothing item.
- Warm socks just like water hunting a thin pair of polypropylene or nylon than a pair of wool over those.
- Waterproof boots.
- Warm or insulated gloves
- Polypropylene or silk long johns
- Ski Cap
- Balaclava if needed
- A pick for breaking through a frozen layer on the beach.
- A change of clothes just in case you do somehow get wet.

One of the members brought up that if you wear waders that you should have a strap around the waders to prevent flooding of the waders should you fall into the water.

The reusable heat packs mentioned at the meeting were from ClickHeat . Their website is [www.clickheat.us](http://www.clickheat.us)

The reusable heat packs are also available from Gander Mountain, Cabela's and other outdoor sporting goods stores. Make sure you are buying the reusable ones.