Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist (AMDA) will present its eleventh class offering, at Bennington, on 25-27 August 2017. The Bennington Battlefield State Park will be our local partner for this class. AMDA is certified under the Register of Professional Archaeologists’ continuing professional education program. The goal of the class is to provide professional archaeologists with an understanding of current best practices in metal detecting, and to provide the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with a variety of devices from a variety of manufacturers.

The course is offered as a 24-credit opportunity. The field portion is 16 hours and the classroom is 8 hours. Tuition will be $350. The location for the classroom session is Brown’s Brewing in Hoosick Falls. Class size is limited to 25 attendees, and you must pre-register by 25 July 2017.

For more information please contact Chris Espenshade at cespenshade@skellyloy.com.

As details are finalized, information and application forms will be accessible at http://amda.modernheritage.net/.
BENNINGTON AREA HOTELS

There is no official class hotel. The instructors will likely be staying at the Knotty Pine Motel, but there are others to consider. These are all 20-30 minutes from the classroom and field locations. All are close to many dinner options. Please see the attached GoogleEarth maps with key locations and travel routes shown.

**Hampton Inn Bennington.** Advertised at $149 on web. Actually may be closer to $200. New, nice hotel. Some of my project team stayed there in the past, with no complaints. (802) 440-9862.

**Best Western.** Advertised at $84 on web. Renovated older chain motel. I have no experience with this one. (802) 442-6311.

**Knotty Pine Motel.** Advertised at $79 on web. 1940s-1950s tourist motel. Clean, but a bit worn. Safe and quiet. I have stayed here with crew on several occasions with no problems. (802) 442-5487.

**Harwood Hill Motel.** Advertised at $95. Renovated 1937 tourist motel. I have no experience with this place. (802) 442-6278.

**NEW YORK OPTION**

If you are a NY state employee and need to stay within the state, you probably have to go back near Troy to find a place. This will probably be a 30-35 minute drive.

**Hilton Garden Inn, Troy.** Advertised at $109. Modern chain hotel. Good ratings. I have not stayed there. (518) 272-1700.
Logistics, Friday

We will be starting promptly at 8:00 AM at Brown’s Brewing Company in Hoosick Falls. There will be some opportunities to car-pool with instructors from Bennington. Please call Chris at 412-477-6602 to arrange a ride or if you want to follow Chris to the classroom area. We will be in the classroom 8-3, with an hour break for lunch. Lunch will be paid for by AMDA, but students will be on their own for alcohol.

At 3:00, we will begin an optional driving/walking tour of the Bennington Battlefield, with 3-4 stops and maybe 1.0 mile of walking. This will provide an orientation on key locations and actions of the battle. While at the German breastwork, we will raffle off items donated by the manufacturers’ reps. You must be present to win. We should be finished by 5:00, with folks free to drive back to their hotels. Attendees are on their own for dinner.

Logistics, Saturday

We will be starting promptly at 7:00 AM on Saturday. We will park in the barnyard near the caretaker’s house. Please contact Chris if you need a ride or want to follow him to the location. Please let us know if you have a medical condition such as bee allegies. If you injure yourself or feel ill, please let an instructor know immediately. We will have a location where folks can get out of the sun for a break if need be. Please bring bug spray and sun screen. Please bring a hat. We will provide water throughout the day, and a box lunch at 11:00. Boots are strongly recommended. You may want to bring both shorts and long pants, depending on bugs and weather. We will work in the rain, unless there is lightning. Please bring a rain jacket. Please assist in any and all tasks to help keep the class running smoothly. Please remember that all the detectors belong either to the instructors, our employers, or manufacturers’ representatives; please treat the devices with respect. A rest room will be available in the caretaker’s house. We should be finished by 3:00 PM. Attendees are on their own for dinner.

Logistics, Sunday

Again, we will start at 7:00 AM. As we will be heading different directions after the class, please make sure that your ride is going back to Bennington, or you will have to drive yourself. At lunch, we will ask you to complete the course questionnaires, we will hand out course certificates, and we will get a class photo. We hope to be in our cars by 3:00 PM. If you need to leave a little early, we can accommodate that schedule. Please help assure that all points have been GPSed, all flags and strings collected, and all detectors and pin pointers returned to their owners. Please double-check your pockets and packs to make sure all metal detector finds have been placed in the artifact bucket.
From Troy, NY hotel