

# Hobby Projects Are Awesome!

Joel Byler - @joelbyler

# covermymeds®



# Why hobbies are important

- Relieves stress
- Make new friends
- Helps to avoid boredom
- Improves confidence and self-esteem
- Can be challenging and help to build new skills
- Make you MOAR interesting?



# My Hobby

# Metal Detecting

- A chance to get outside
- *Some exercise*
- Actually can earn some \$\$\$
- Learn about history
- remove trash from the earth



**Hobby Project:**  
A [tech] project that  
you work on in your spare time  
which was inspired by  
a hobby that you participate in.

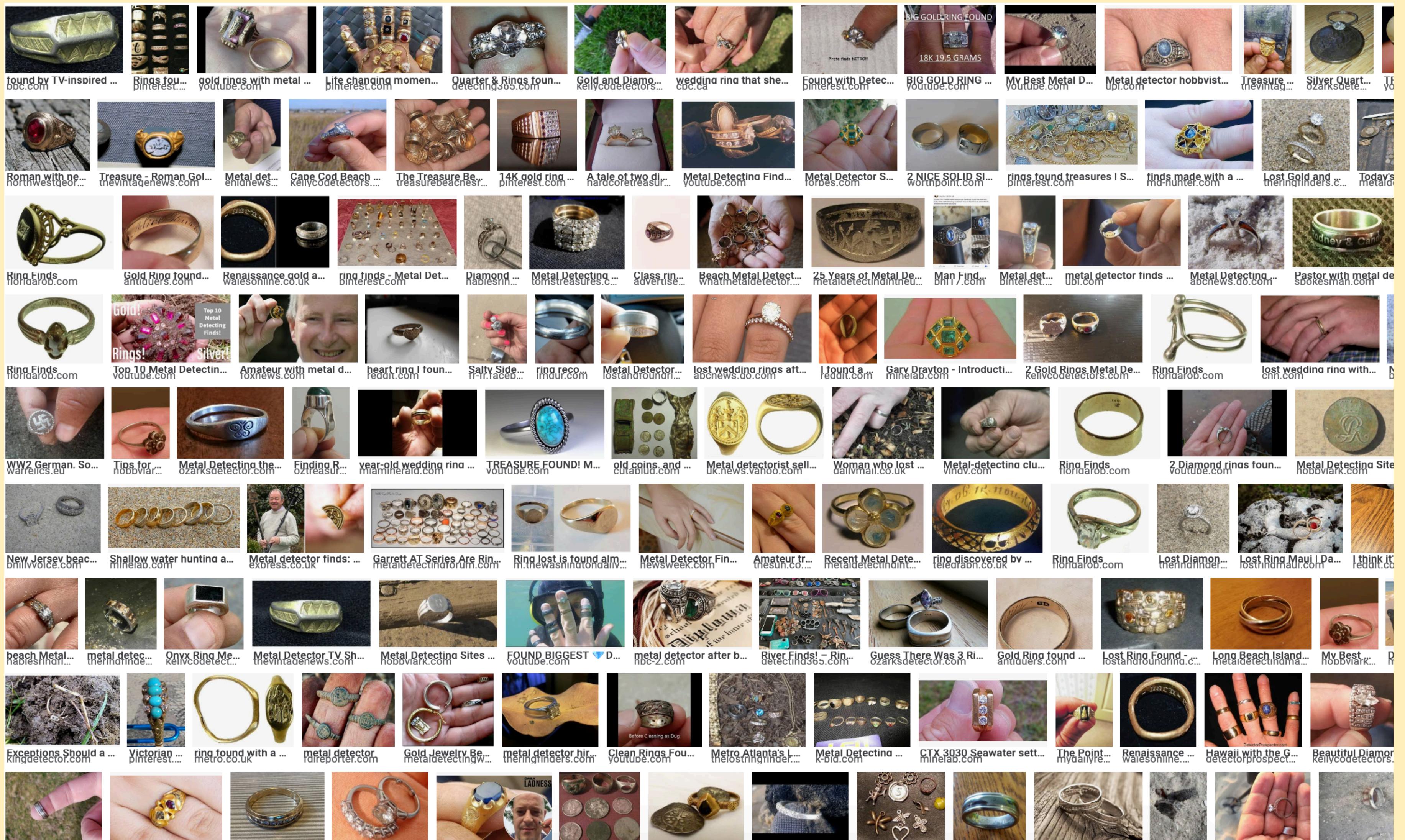
# Why hobby projects are important

- Give an opportunity to learn new skills
- Are a creative outlet
- Can be fun!
- Chance to share tech skills with hobby friends
- Can help to advance your career

# My Hobby Project



I found some cool stuff!



It's pretty common

(google image search: metal detecting ring)



But let's not be greedy

# How can I help?

- Local lost and found - people don't often think to check here and you might end up just losing track of the item completely
- Social Media / Facebook groups - there are many many groups and hard to connect to the right people
- theringfinders.com - place for a metal detectorist to promote services, requires a fee to register
- lostmystuff.net - place for people to ask for help in finding a lost item, requires a “donation”

# Idea Moment!

Lets build a new web app that makes it easy for **folks who lost something** to connect with **folks who are finding things** (with a metal detector)

... and make it available for free



# Advice

if you're looking to start a hobby project

# Reinventing the Wheel



The Q - Bicycle that Walks (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXXJ1LOqHEk>

# Be Prepared



People will tell you how ugly your baby is

<https://imgflip.com/memegenerator/49134000/Mr-Bean-Baby>

# Reusing Old Projects



Its totally ok to update / reuse an old project!

<https://i.imgur.com/1iv1aw.jpg>

# Getting Started

# Early Feedback

reach your users and listen using prototypes

# Paper Prototype

DRP 101 POS

Ringhound

Need Help?  
Have you lost something and need help finding it? We're here to help!

Here to help?  
Thanks for coming to help out!

Donations are always a great way to say thanks! We really appreciate any donations!

Postal Code  
Search

Bob Ross (8)  
Athens, GA

Bill Ruth (5)  
Dublin, GA

Bessy Roth (4)  
Somewhere, GA

Choose your bounds

\* maybe also an option to leave this open to all bounds

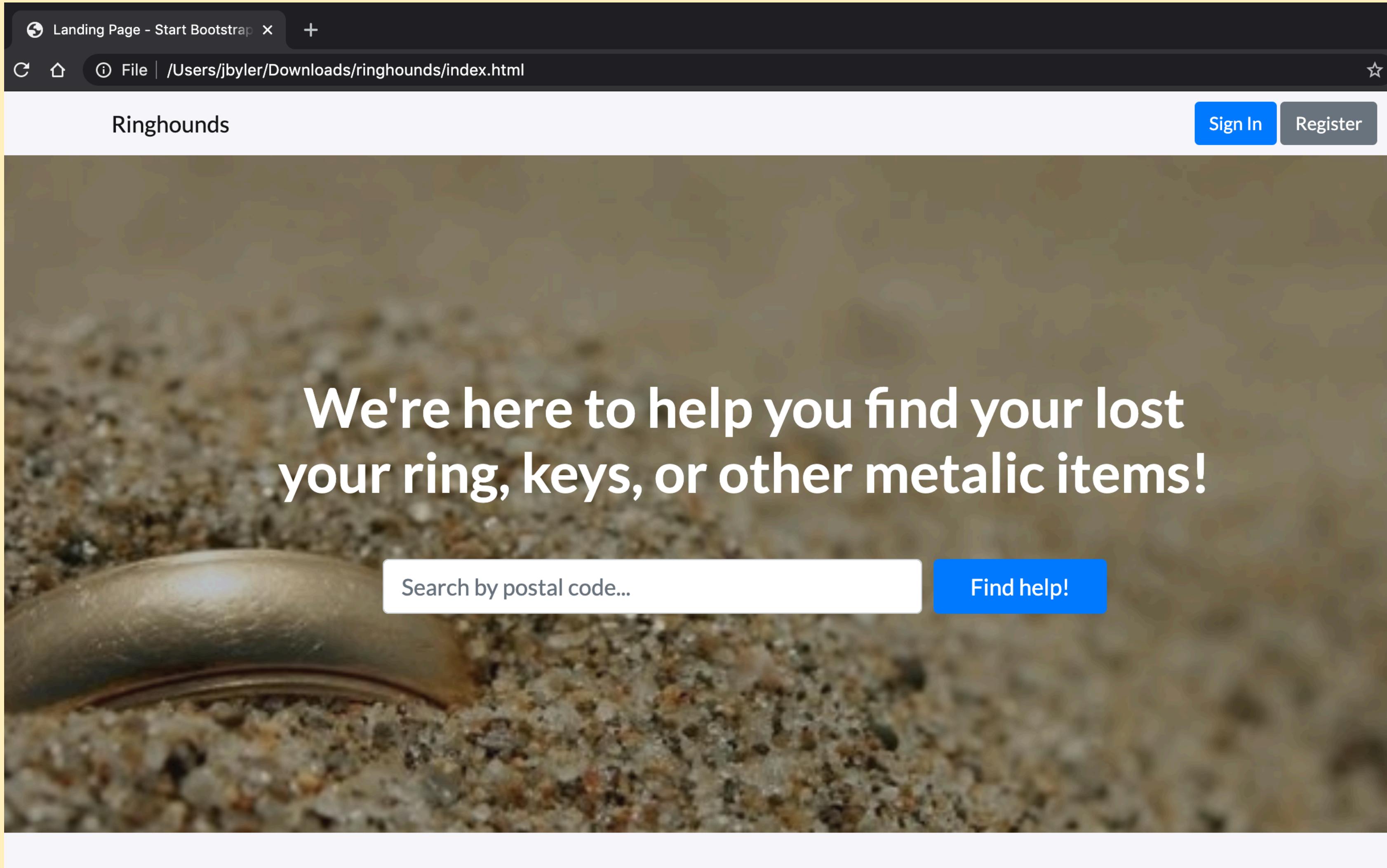
Lost Item Details

Wedding ring

Misc. Place Info

Leave Feedback for Bob Ross  
  
Bob was a gentleman and found my ring right away!

# High Fidelity Prototype?





# Find a good friend

maybe a **friend / mentor** who you **share the hobby** with

Photo by [Kaleidico](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# Set goals

keep them very small and very attainable

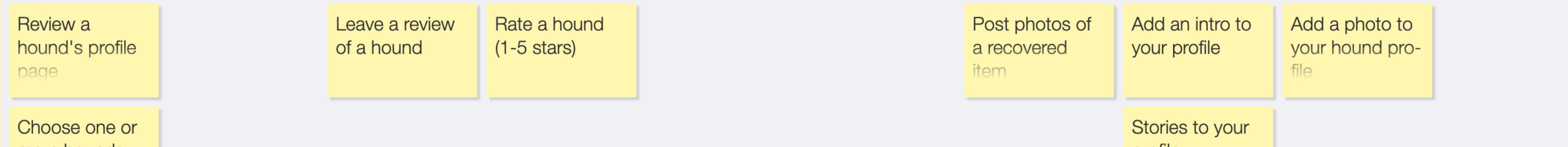
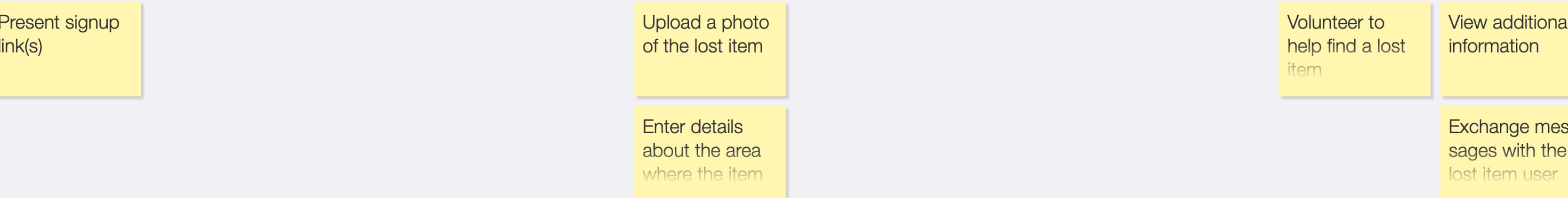
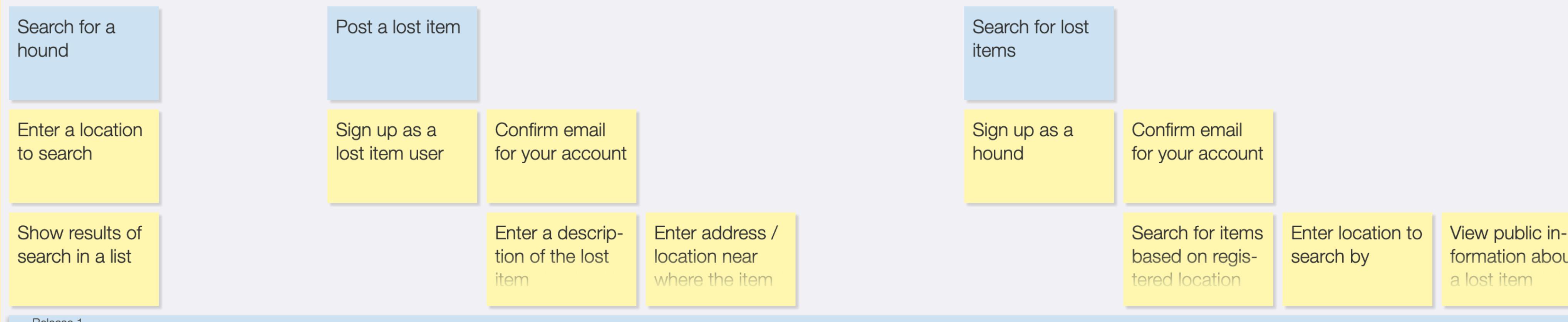
The screenshot shows a GitHub repository named `joelbyler / ringhounds` with a private status. The main navigation bar includes links for Pull requests, Issues, Marketplace, and Explore. Below the repository name, there are tabs for Code, Issues (0), Pull requests (0), Actions, Projects (1), Security, Insights, and Settings. The Projects tab is selected, displaying a board titled "Ringhounds MVP" updated 13 seconds ago.

The board has three columns:

- To do** (9 items):
  - Email reporter and volunteers when someone comments on an item. (Added by joelbyler)
  - Email reporter when hound volunteers to help with an item. (Added by joelbyler)
  - Add thank you section to folks who've donated (Added by joelbyler)
  - Notify users when a lost item has been registered. (Added by joelbyler)
- In progress** (1 item):
  - Add ability to donate to the site (Added by joelbyler)
- Done** (10 items):
  - Add page for Privacy Policy (See the BBB toolkit)  
Added by joelbyler
  - Add comments on a lost item  
Added by joelbyler
  - Add ability to review lost item list / search  
Added by joelbyler
  - Add ability to enter information about a lost item  
Added by joelbyler
  - Create heroku app for initial realease  
Added by joelbyler

A search bar labeled "Filter cards" is located at the top right of the board area.

# Github Projects (or just use issues)



# User Story Mapping

<https://cardboardit.com/>

**Build it!**

# Build it!

You can do this!  
Find inspiration here at CodeMash!



and they will come?

<https://hungrymarketer.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Field-of-Dreams-LB-1.jpg>

# Post-Launch Promotion and Feedback

monitor your website, pages and features



☕ Signed up to be a ring hound! Site looks great to me.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d



**Joel Byler** Awesome! Thanks [REDACTED]! I'm looking forward to having folks from all over on the site so we can help folks find rings! Thanks for joining up and let me know if you see anything that can be improved.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d



[REDACTED] ☕ **Joel Byler** will do! I'd love to be able to recover a ring for someone.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4d



# Facebook Groups

Social Media



reddit



r/metaldetecting



Search r/metaldetecting



2 points · 3 days ago



Just signed up! One comment right off the bat: I'm on mobile and I couldn't find a way to view the details of the posts without clicking "volunteer". Also, now that I've volunteered, it isn't clear to me what to expect as the next step. Both of the posts are too vague for me to go detecting already, so I assume I need to wait for someone to contact me?

[Reply](#) [Give Award](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



[joelbyler](#) 1 point · 3 days ago



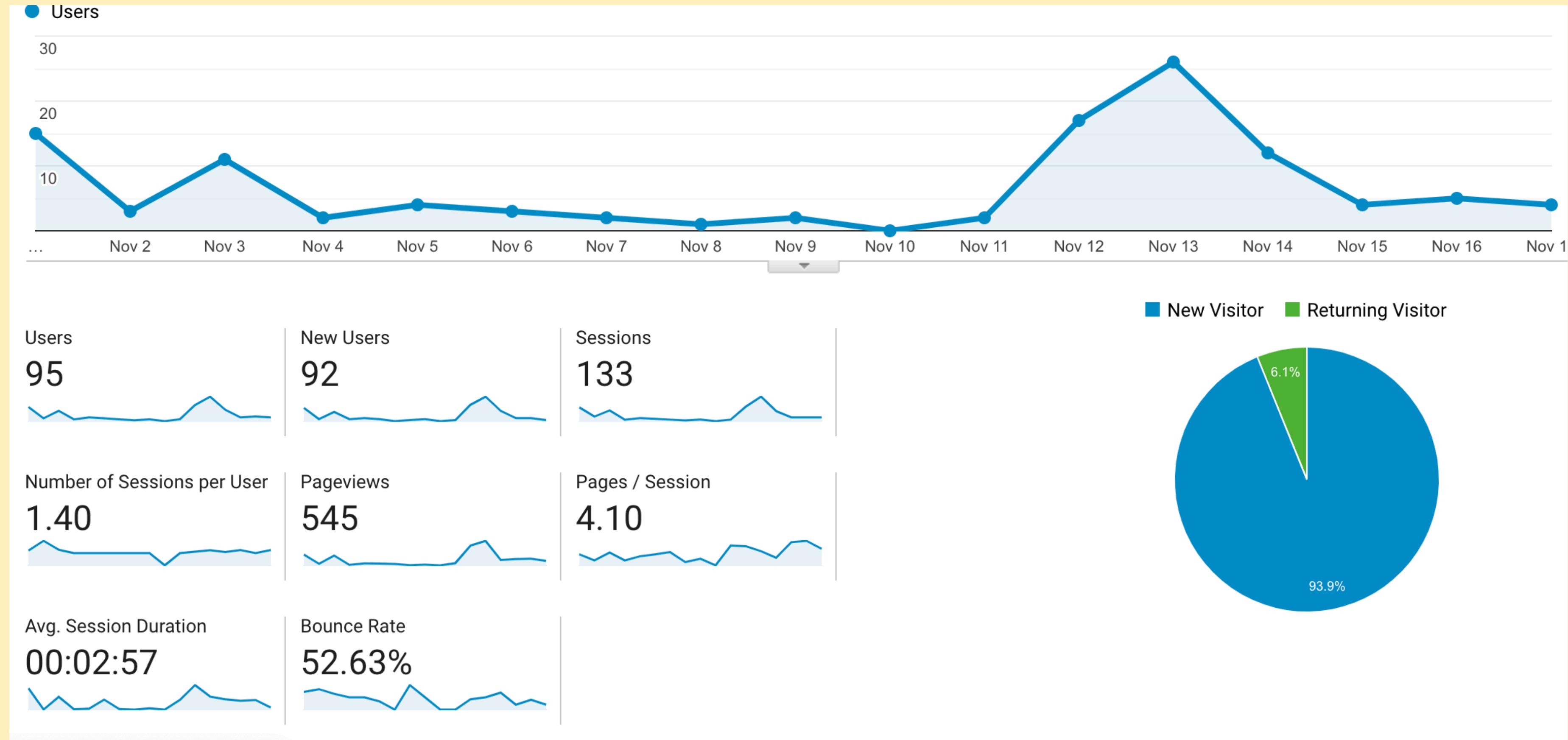
Thanks for signing up and thanks for the feedback. That's actually great feedback. The idea was to leave comments for the person who reported the lost item. And I'm hiding details about where it was reported lost until someone volunteers to try and cut down on "sniping" that might happen where folks could just go and look for the items without any plans to actually return them. Maybe I'm being overly cautious though?

Anyway, after volunteering you should see some additional specifics about where the item was lost, and you can leave comments so that other volunteers and the original person who posted the lost item will be notified via email about the messages.

I'll work on trying to make this process more clear, or yeah maybe I should just not worry about the volunteering aspect. Thanks again for your feedback!

[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Save](#) [Edit](#) ...

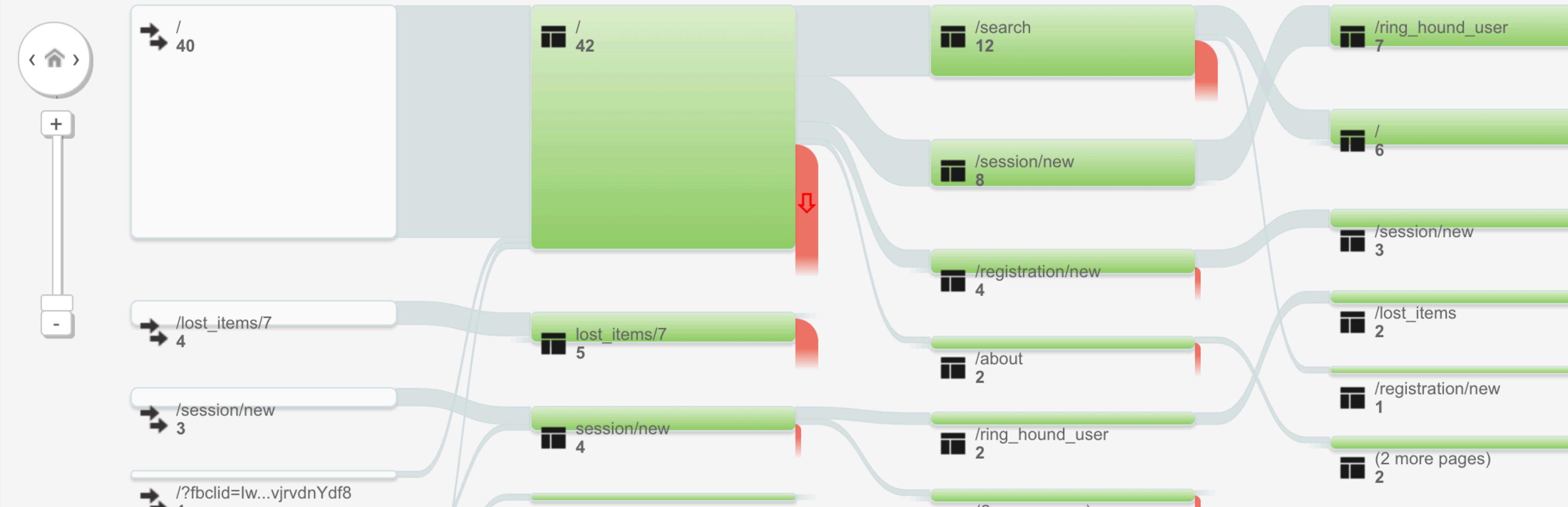
# Reddit Social Media



# Google Analytics

 All Users  
100.00% Sessions + Add Segment

Landing Page ▾

Starting pages  
53 sessions, 23 drop-offs1st Interaction  
30 sessions, 9 drop-offs2nd Interaction  
21 sessions, 5 drop-offs

# Google Analytics

sentry.io/organizations/ringhounds/issues/1393387939/?project=1797406&query=is%3Aunresolved

ringhounds All Environments

**Plug.CSRFProtection.InvalidCSRFTokenError** Plug.CSRFProtect...

invalid CSRF (Cross Site Request Forgery) token, make sure all requests include a vali...

Resolve Ignore Share

ISSUE # RINGHOUNDS-9 EVENTS 2

Details Comments 0 User Feedback 0 Tags Events Merged Similar Issues

Event 75f4290afa8b45df9448d115358cb9c7  
Dec 17, 2019 3:49:27 PM UTC | JSON (7.7 KB)

K Older Newer >

CONFIGURE SUSPECT COMMITS  
To identify which commit caused this issue

Read the docs Snooze Dismiss

This example commit broke something  
codesworth committed 3 days ago

EXAMPLE dec0de

Ownership Rules  
Create Ownership Rule

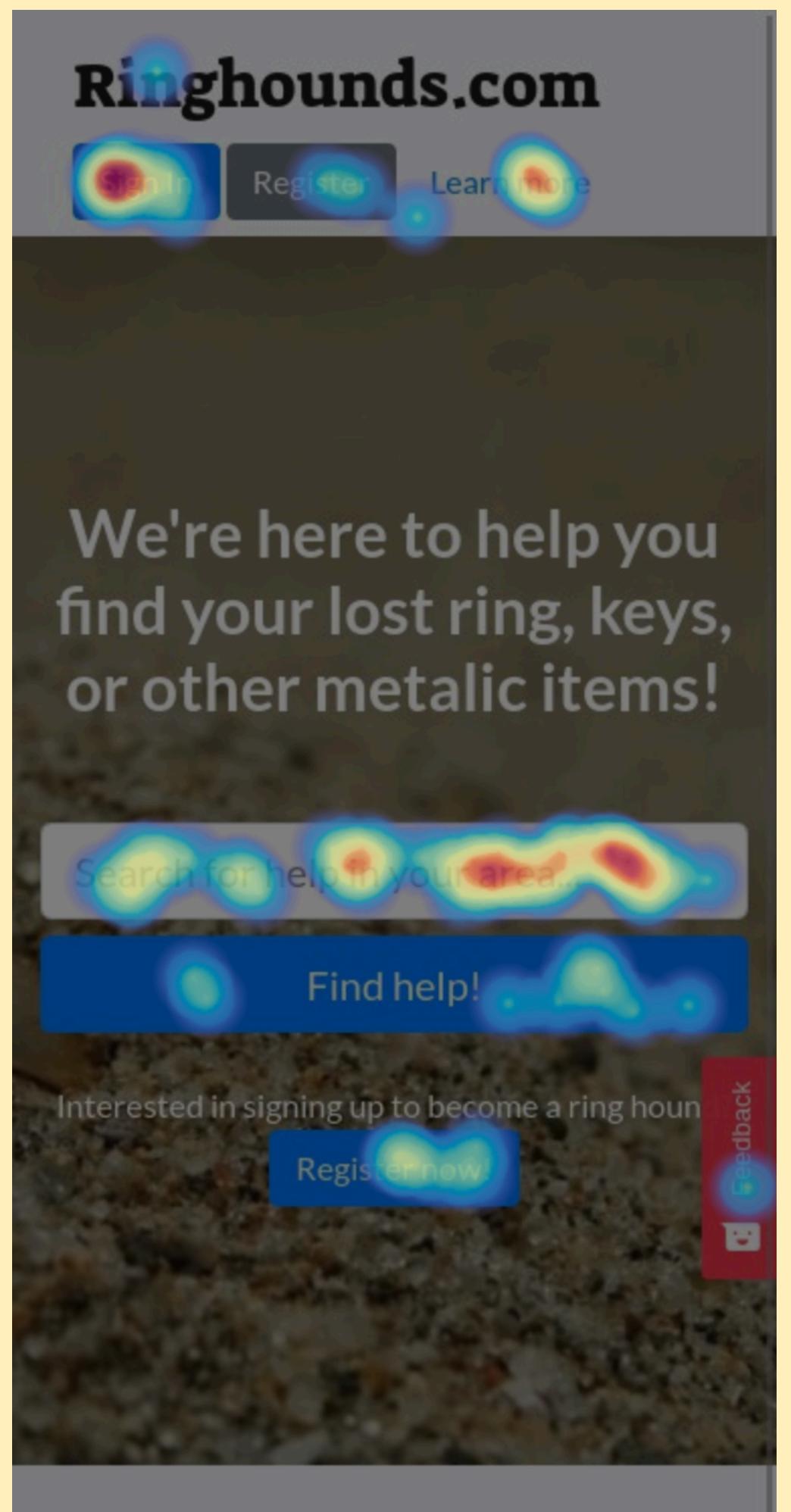
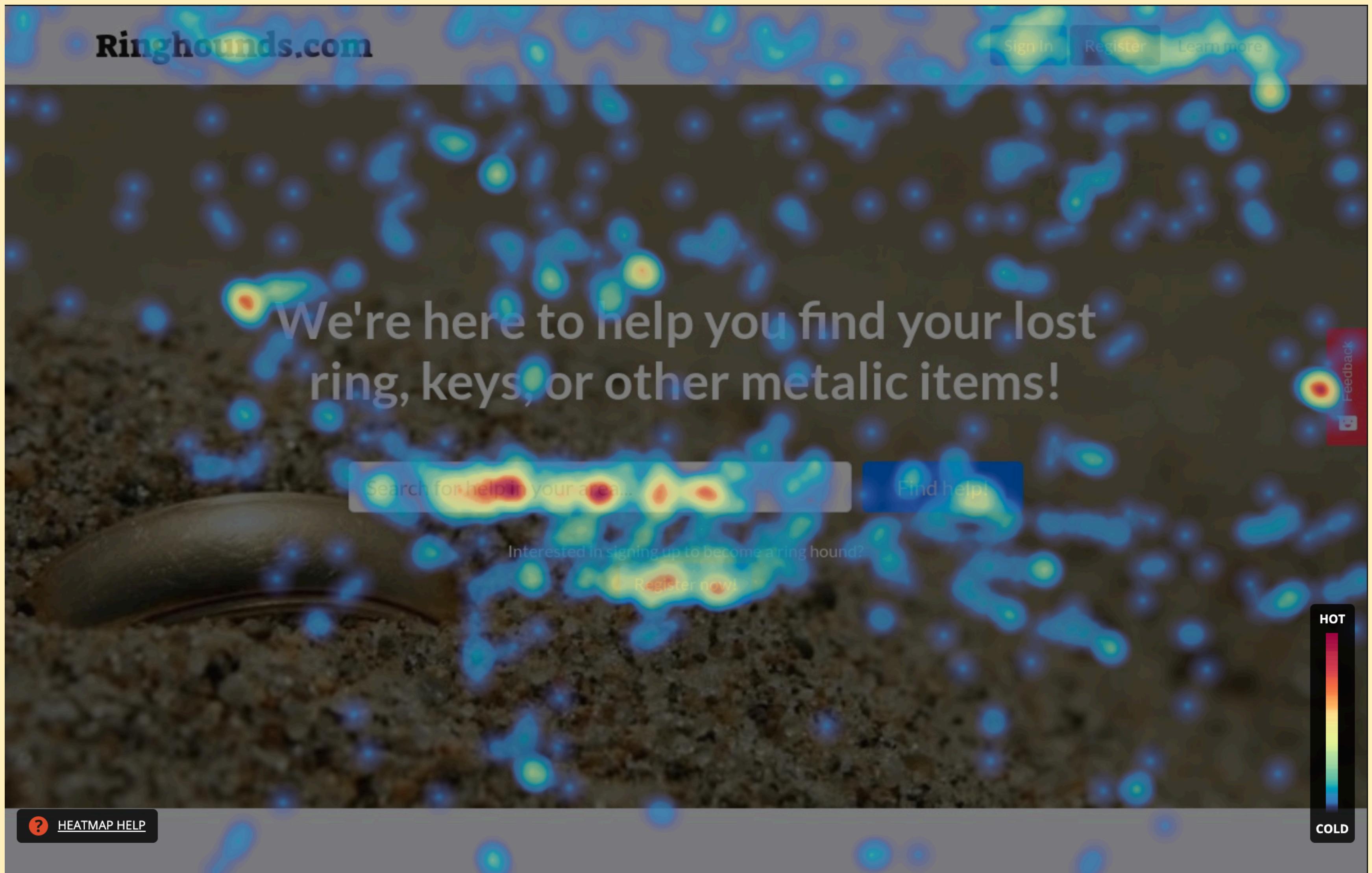
All Environments  
LAST 24 HOURS

LAST 30 DAYS

Check your logs!

# sentry.io

Check your logs!



# Heatmaps

hotjar.com

The screenshot displays a mobile application interface. On the left, there is a product listing for a "Cross Pendant". The title is "Cross Pendant" and the description is "It's a cross pendant with diamond chips.". Below the description is a large image of a cross pendant made of diamonds. At the bottom of the listing, it says "Location Information" and "Reported: /\*/\*". On the right side of the screen, there is a "Session Info" panel and an "Actions & Notes" panel. The "Session Info" panel contains the following information:

- # Session ID: 5
- 👤 Hotjar User ID: 6c482cf4
- 🇺🇸 United States
- 📅 13 hours ago
- 📱 Phone (360 x 653)
- 🌐 Facebook 246.0.0
- \_ANDROID\_ Android
- ↗ http://m.facebook.com/ ↘

Below this, there is a section titled "Tags" with a button "Tag this recording...". At the bottom, there is a section titled "Help with recordings" with links to "How can I tag recordings automatically?", "Why am I seeing asterisk (\*) symbols instead of actual keystroke data in input fields?", and "Troubleshooting".

# Screen Recording

hotjar.com

# Admin Console

- You're [probably] gonna need one
- A place where you can see your users, and provide some assistance if they need it.
- A place where you can view KPIs maybe?
- Be prepared for users to reach out for help so you can provide assistance quickly

**burnout:** exhaustion of physical or emotional strength or motivation usually as a result of prolonged stress or frustration

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/burn%20out>

# Guidelines to avoid Burnout

- Low risk - Don't plan to quit your day job and make sure you can afford to keep it running.
- Low pressure - Don't fret deadlines, feel free to experiment.
- Love it - Do this because you want to, and because its something you enjoy.

If you don't feel this way, then take a break!

# Retrospect

Personal retrospective / reflection

Look for changes or experiments that you can try

# In my case

- Users want a shareable profile page
- Lots of folks find rings - lost AND found
- Its not clear that this is a free service
- I want to learn something [else] new

Don't Forget  
Take a break!

# Don't Forget Take a break!

Take some time to get back out and  
hands on with your REAL hobby!

# Don't Forget Take a break!

Take some time to get back out and  
hands on with your REAL hobby!

...and look for renewed inspiration!

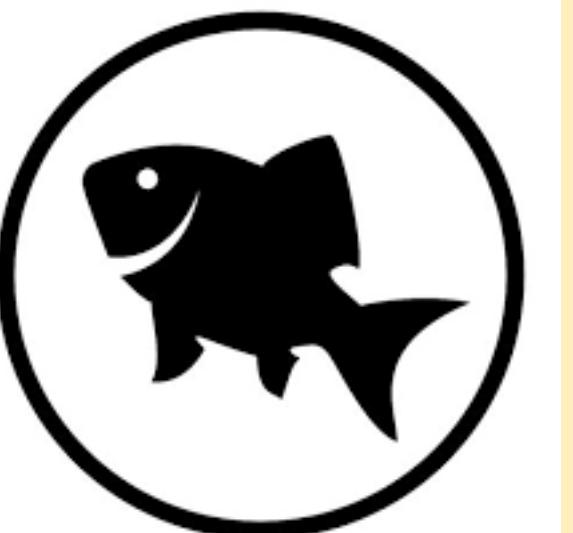
# Special Thanks



**Scott Mascio**

@\_S\_MAS Follows you

[Spot2Fish.com](#)



[NemeStats.com](#)



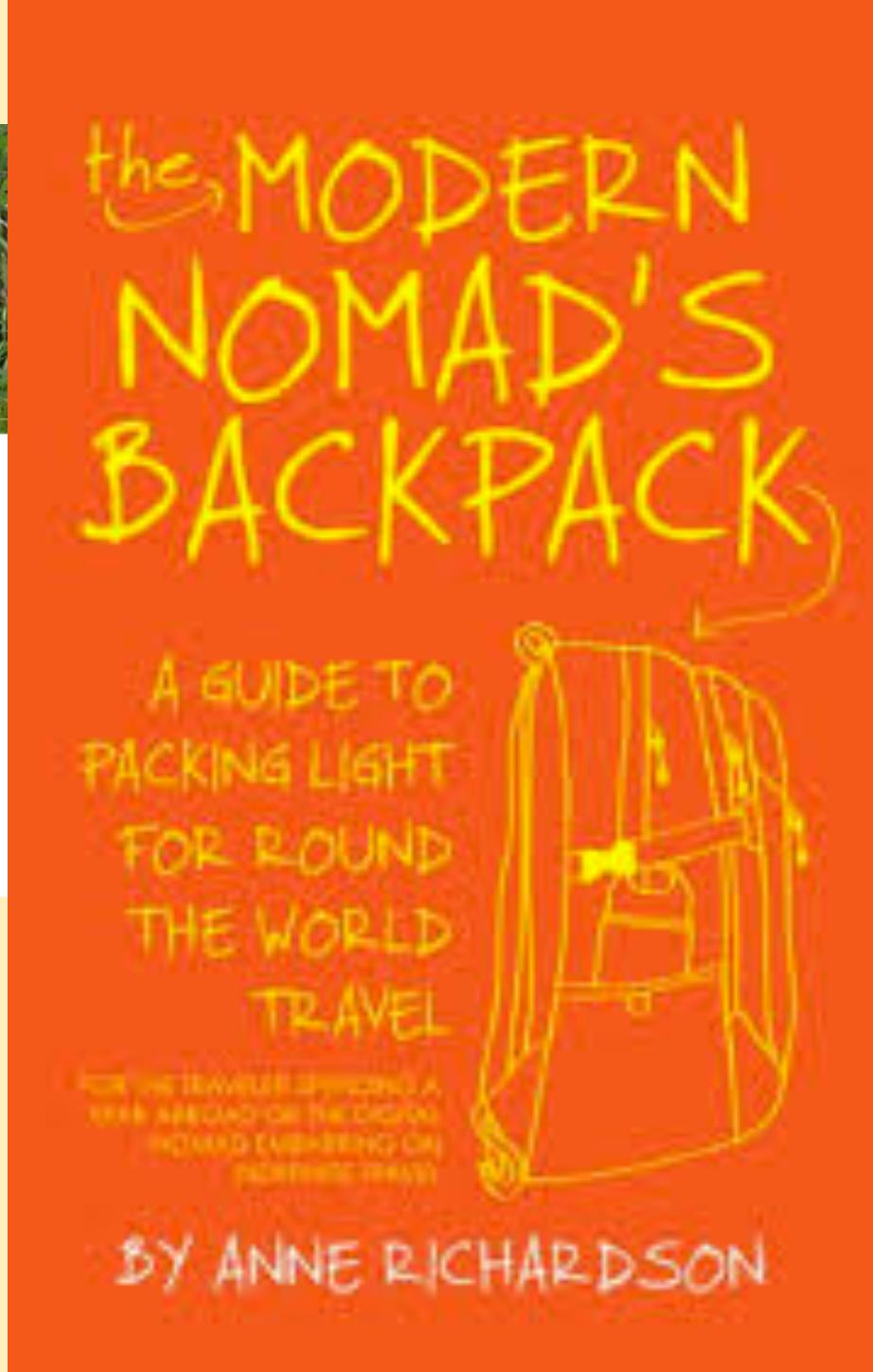
**Jake Gordon**

@jakejgordon Follows you



**Anne Richardson**

@lortz Follows you



**Dave Shah**

@DaveShah Follows you



# #myhobbyproject

# Resources

- Github - private project (free tier)
- Heroku - project hosting (\$7 /mo)
- [sentry.io](#) - exception logging and reporting (free tier)
- Google Domains - domain registration (\$10 /yr)
- Circle-ci - Continuous integration (free tier)
- Mailgun - emails (free tier)
- Google Analytics - for general site analytics (free tier)
- Hotjar - heatmaps+feedback polls+screen recordings (free tier)
- Unsplash.com - stock photos, free to use
- [inivsionapp.com](#) - one project for free

# THANK YOU!