VOL. 46 ISSUE 9

Oregon Treasure Trail Society Newsletter

September 2026



President's Message

As we settle into fall, the days grow shorter, the leaves begin to change, and our time outdoors takes on a different feel. For many of us, it's a chance to reflect on another season of detecting, remember the finds we've made, and start looking forward to what next year might bring.

One of the things that makes the Oregon Treasure Trail Society special is the community behind it. Our shared interest in history, the thrill of an unexpected signal, and the stories behind the things we find are what bring us together. But a club like ours is about more than the time we spend in the field. It also depends on the members who volunteer their time, share their ideas, and help keep things moving forward.

With that in mind, we have several important club positions that will need new volunteers, most notably President, Vice President, and Find of the Month (FOTM) Coordinator. These are great opportunities for members to take a more active role in shaping the club's future and helping ensure that OTTS continues to thrive for years to come.

You don't have to have years of leadership experience to contribute. Sometimes, all it takes is a willingness to get involved, bring a fresh perspective, and lend a hand. If you've ever thought about doing a little more for the club, I encourage you to consider one of these roles or talk with us about other ways you might help.

I'm grateful for the time and enthusiasm our members bring to OTTS, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together in the coming year. Enjoy the fall weather, take advantage of those opportunities to get out detecting, and keep an eye out for the next great find!

Always dig responsibly and leave no trace.

Ryan Paradis
President

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SEPTEMBER 22 MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting called to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Board and board members at large introduced
- New members 0 / Guest 0
- Member draw won by Alex S
- Birthdays 1 coin given
- Progressive draw no winner
- Club tokens turned in, 0
- Minutes from last meeting accepted
- Treasurers report accepted
- Club hunt report given
- First finds, Ed V.
- Update on Don S
- Old business, Elections
- New business ; Challenge token, Basket and Bake sale, need of a new hunt master, need of a new bottle/can collector
- Update on The Race for the Realm, nothing new to report.
- Jason going in for surgery
- Break
- Announcements, Next month basket sale/auction
- Raffle drawings
- FOTM announced
- Meeting adjourned

Special thanks to those who have brought snacks who aren't on the list. Snacks are always welcome!

Announcements

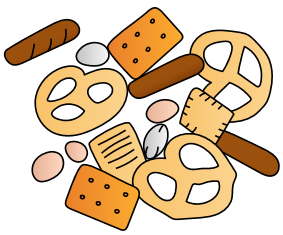
Next Meeting

- Tuesday, October 27th 2026
- Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m.
- Meeting starts at: 7:00 p.m.
- Meeting location: American Legion Post 1 1830 S.E. 122nd Ave. Portland, OR 97233

Next members to bring meeting snacks!

Sherry & Boehm

On deck, Jackee & Larry



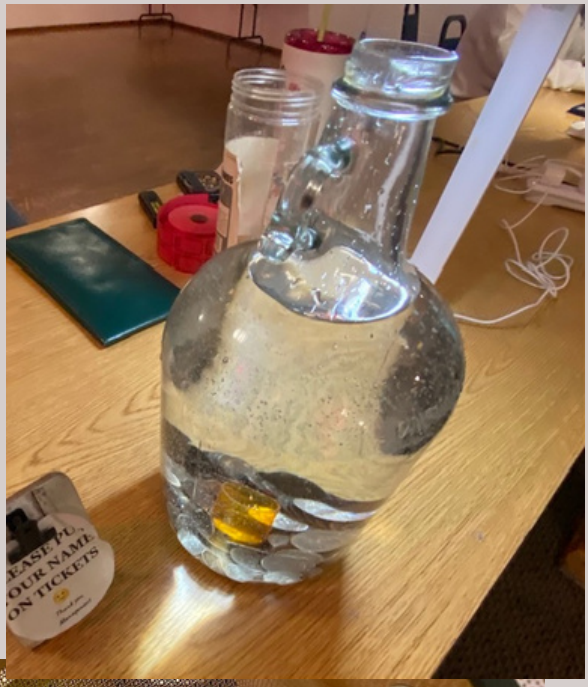
Next Club Hunt

November 1st, Sunday 9:00 AM -1:00 PM (Hours change with DST)

Location TBA on website calendar. https://ottsclub.org/calendar

Winners

Tuesday, September 22, 2024



Top Prize!
2013 2 OZ Silver Year Of The Snake
- Sherri

1. 1 OZ Silver Bullet - Michelle
2. 1907 Barber ½ Dollar - Jackee
3. 1947 Liberty ½ Dollar - Ron & Kathy
4. 1963 Franklin ½ Dollar - Brian
5. 1946 Kennedy ½ Dollar - Brian
6. ½ oz Paul Revere Round- Jeff
7. Australian Shark ½ Dollar - Bob
8. ¼ Oz Bear & Bull Round- Brian
9. ¼ Oz Bear & Bull Round- Ashley
10. 1900 Barber Quarter- Brian
11. 1912 Barber Dime - Alex
12. 1814 US Large Cent - Trina





Category	Place	Name	Item
Item of the Month			
	1	Gregg R	Bird Band - 1989 Alaska Goose
Tie	2	Jackee	Crystal Creamer
Tie	2	Tony G	Blue Bottle
Tie	3	Nick R	.308 Bullet & Casing
Tie	3	Dan R	Georgia Sword Souvenir
Tie	3	Ed V	Dress Form Pedal
US Coin			
	1	Ed V	1866-1883 Shield Nickel (Wow!!!!!)
	2	Ryan P	1943 S Mercury Dime
	3	Nick R	1938 Buffalo Nickel
Foreign Coin			
	1	Nick R	1980 1 Schilling
	2	Dan R	$1 Mayalasia
	3	Jackee	2005 Canada Penny
Token			
	1	Gregg R	Smoking Room
	2	Nick R	Dayton Ohio Bus Token
	3	Ryan P	OR Coast Pressed Penny
Gold Item			
	1	Ed V	14k ring on an 18k plated chain
Silver Item			
	1	Ed V	Massive 20.5 gram 925 ring
	2	Jackee	Silver Turquoise Ring
	3	Bill B	925 Butterfly Ring
Jewelry/Non-Precious			
	1	Jackee	Gold Plated Ring
	2	Brian E	Skull Ring
Tie	3	Dan R	Mary Pin
Tie	3	Bill B	Small Dog Pendant
Artifact			
	1	Jackee	Put a Tiger in your Tag Happy Motoring Club
Tie	2	Dan R	Bell
Tie	2	Brian E	1950 License Plate
Tie	2	Tony G	Hand Forged Hook
	3	Nick R	Civil War Button (Replica?)
Oldest US Coin			
	1	Nick R	1936 Buffalo Nickel
	2	Jackee	1946 S Wheat Penny
	3	Brian E	1947 Wheat Penny
Display			
	1	Tony G	
	2	Ed V	
Tie	3	Nick R	
Tie	3	Jackee	

Rank	Name	Sept	Total
1	Jackee	22	209
2	Ryan P	9	153
3	Brian E	12	142
4	Kirk E		114
5	Bill B	7	104
6	Ed V	20	53
7	Jeff C		49
7	Sean T		49
7	Tony G	11	49
7	Dan R	13	49
8	Jeff S		46
8	Ted M		46
8	Nick R	20	46
9	Scott H		32
10	Pat D		27
11	Gregg R	9	24
12	Lorilee		22
13	Chuck F		19
14	Lee H		18
15	Richard S		14
16	Don S		7
17	Tim S		6
18	Ron B		4
18	Chris S.		4
18	Chuck P		4
19	Clayton		3
20	Daniel A		1
20	Clark O	1	1

Challenge Token Clue #1



Heading North, the big water flows behind me. I lie here with a few of my friends. Loud and Proud you might think I'm Trash, but I'm just getting ready for Halloween. And that cute little sapling is only 12 feet from me. It is my closest neighbor on top of this hill. Please park nearby. Oh NO; here comes another dog.



Challenge Token Clue #2



STOP by and don't forget to bring some soul with you. Lying here between these two big trees I can hear music. Isn't this a devine spot for a picnic in the summer, but so sad there there's no tables to sit at. I'm thirsty. Where's the water?



Brian shares about shotgun shells!



Dating found shotgun shells while metal detecting provides valuable clues about site history and can guide searches for other relics and treasures in the same area. Spent shotgun shell heads (the brass or steel base with headstamp) are among the most common metallic finds in fields, woods, old farms, and rural properties. While often dismissed as "junk," they serve as chronological markers of human activity—primarily hunting, pest control, or recreational shooting—and help establish when people used a location. This context improves the odds of recovering coins, buttons, tools, tokens, and other artifacts from corresponding periods.

A Brief History of Shotgun Shells

Self-contained shotgun ammunition evolved in the mid-19th century. Early examples were all-brass (metallic) cartridges appearing in the 1860s. Paper-hulled shells followed soon after: a U.S. patent for paper shotshells dates to 1869, and they became widespread in the 1870s. These paper tubes (often waxed for weather resistance) with a brass or steel base dominated for decades.

Plastic hulls began replacing paper in the early 1960s and became standard by the 1970s because they resisted moisture better and supported modern loadings. High-brass bases (taller brass extending farther up the hull) were typically associated with heavier loads and were more common before widespread synthetic changes; low-brass bases usually indicated lighter field or target loads.2

How to Date Shotgun Shells

Dating relies on a combination of physical features rather than any single detail, since manufacturers often reused headstamps for years.

- Hull material: Paper hull remnants (or evidence of paper construction) generally predate the early-to-mid 1960s. Plastic indicates roughly 1960s onward. All-brass examples are typically older (late 19th to early 20th century in many cases).
- Headstamp: The stamped markings on the base usually show the manufacturer (or brand), gauge (e.g., "No 12," "12," or later "12 GA"), and sometimes load or series names. Common makers include UMC (Union Metallic Cartridge Company), Remington (and Remington-UMC after the 1912 merger), Winchester, Peters, Western, Federal (from the 1920s), and various store brands (Sears, Western Auto, etc.). Design changes, fonts, primer styles, and specific product lines (such as "New Club," "Express," or "XPert") help narrow ranges.
- Brass height and construction: Higher brass often correlates with older or heavier loads. Primer type, color, and whether the primer cup is magnetic (steel) versus non-magnetic also provide clues.
- Condition and context: Corrosion patterns, remaining paper fragments, or associated shot/wads can support dating, but soil chemistry varies widely.

Exact dating is often a range rather than a precise year because headstamps could span decades. Specialized online databases are the practical solution for field finds. One widely used free resource is the Shotshell Headstamp Database on Aussie Metal Detecting, which includes photos and approximate production date ranges for many U.S., British, and other makers. Detectorists frequently reference it (along with sites such as cartridge-corner.com) when identifying heads recovered in the ground.

Shotgun shells function as site-dating tools and activity indicators:



- Chronological layering: A cluster of late-19th or early-20th-century paper/brass shells (UMC, early Winchester, Peters, etc.) signals that the area saw regular use during the era of Indian Head cents, Barber coinage, early wheat cents, flat buttons, suspender clips, and farm-related relics. Mid-20th-century shells point toward wheat cents, wartime tokens, or post-war items. Modern plastic shells usually reflect more recent hunting or clay shooting and may coincide with fewer deep, older targets—though sites can have multiple overlapping periods of use.
- Activity hotspots: Dense concentrations often mark preferred hunting spots, game trails, fence lines, old lanes, or areas near barns and houses where shooters paused or discarded empties. People lose coins, knives, watches, tools, and jewelry in the same places they hunt or work. Finding older shells can justify expanding a search grid, slowing down, or returning with different coils or discrimination settings.
- Site characterization: Rural farms, abandoned homesteads, wooded edges of old pastures, and former shooting grounds frequently produce both shells and other artifacts. Shells help confirm the land was actively used rather than purely agricultural or untouched, raising the probability of personal items. In some cases they appear alongside military or training-related debris if the location had dual use.
- Practical detecting strategy: Treat older shell heads as "keep digging" signals rather than trash. Log GPS coordinates, depth, and headstamp details. Patterns of shells from a consistent era strengthen the case for thorough coverage of the surrounding ground. Newer plastic shells may still be worth noting if mixed with mid-century finds, but heavy modern trash can mask better targets.



Detectorists regularly report that old shell heads accompany better relics precisely because both result from the same human presence over decades.

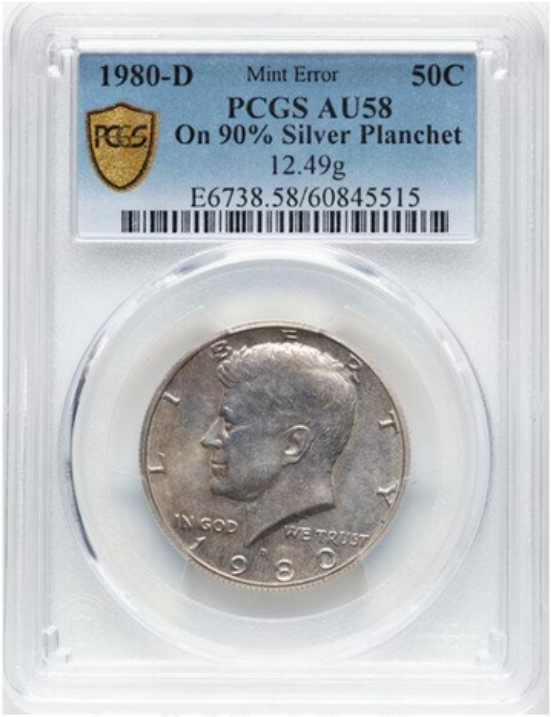
Tips for best recovery:

Clean heads carefully (soft brush, mild methods) to read the stamp without destroying detail. Photograph both sides and record the find with location and depth. Cross-reference databases rather than relying on memory of company histories. Be aware that partial or heavily corroded heads can still yield usable information. Always follow local laws regarding ammunition components and obtain permission for private land.

In short, shotgun shells are more than common trash—they are portable timelines. Learning to date them transforms routine digs into informed site analysis and can meaningfully increase the chance of recovering coins, relics, and other treasures from the same historical layer of activity.



Post 1964 (Modern) Silver Coin Errors



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

In this post I am going to talk about my favorite error coins, post 1964 silver off metal coins. These coins are as a subset off metal or wrong planchet error coins of their intended size planchet. This is the same sub group as the 1943 copper and 1944 steel cents in a silver planchet form. The rarity of this group ranges from Very Rare 10-100 known to exist, to Extremely Rare with 2-10 known, and Unique only 1 known to exist. Less popular but in several cases rarer then the 43 or 44 off metals.

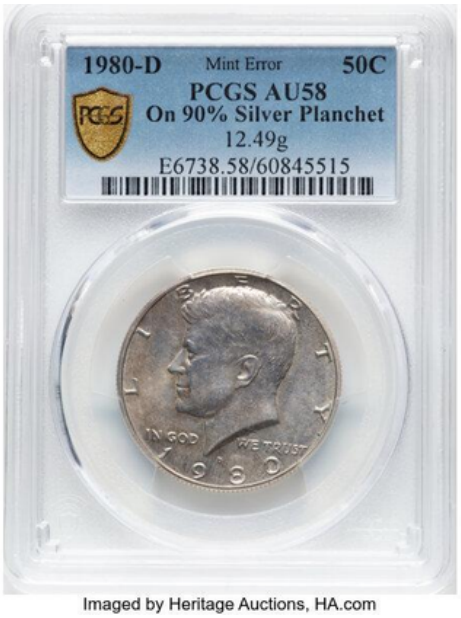
There is another important consideration for the 1965-1967 dimes and quarters; When President Johnson ordered the transition from silver coins to copper clad beginning in 1965, they were not sure how the new coins would be accepted by the general public. There were a number of factors to consider based on 1964 technology; a big one, vending machines would have to be modified for the change. As a solution, all three PDS mints continued to mint 1964 silver dimes and quarters until April of 1967, dropping the mint marks for the copper clad new coins those years to increase production of 1964 silvers. This partially explains my earlier comment "the hopper theory" how the 1965, 66, 67 even the 1968 dime may exist. The same holds true with special minted Bi Centennial silver coins blanks being sent to Denver and showing up on the 76 D and 77 D coins. The 1971 D half dollar is likely a remnant of the 1970 D Half Dollar Silvers.

The out laggers like the 1970 D 90% dime, the 1972 D, 1974 D 40% dollars and the really far off one the 1980 D 90% half dollar don't fit those stories. The 1972 D and 1974 D Dollars are slightly different; they were also from the Denver mint. 1972 proof dollars were 40% it is likely both dollars were stamped from leftover planchets sent to Denver from SF. Technically the 1970 D dime was minted 3 years from the cessation of silver use up until April of 1967; it is still a stretch, but the 1980 D Kennedy was 16 years after they stopped using 90% planchets. In my opinion, these two are by far the rarest of modern coins in this category and possibly of any modern coins with only one know of each. The 1970 D dime has an interesting story it was found in Oregon and has managed to stay in Oregon. I have attached photos of several examples not all of coins in this category.

A update on the 1980 Kennedy half, I have been on the phone and emailing trying to get as much information from experts in the field on this coin as I can. I did find some additional information apparently this coin was deemed not a error, but intentional. One of the mint workers at the Denver mint snuck the 1964 silver blank planchet into the press room intending to profit from it's production. It does diminish the value some since it narrows the collector pool, none the less it is still extreemly rare. For me it also calls into question if others of this type were produced in a similiar way, especially since all 14 of the coins listed are from or likely from the Denver mint.

Here is the list of the known 14 coins with mintage estimates:

- 1965 90% silver dime 13-14 known estimates 24 exist
- 1972 D 40% Eisenhower 3 known
- 1965 90% silver quarter 13-14 known estimates 24 exist
- 1974 D 40% Eisenhower 30 known
- 1966 90% silver quarter 1 known
- 1976 D 40% Eisenhower 2 known
- 1967 90% silver quarter 1 known allegedly a second exists
- 1977 D 40% quarter 3 known
- 1968 D 90% silver dime 1 known
- 1977 D 40% Kennedy 12 known
- 1970 D 90% silver dime 1 known
- 1977 D 40% Eisenhower 45 known
- 1971 D 40% silver Kennedy 2-3 known estimates 20 exist
- 1980 D 90% Kennedy 1 known



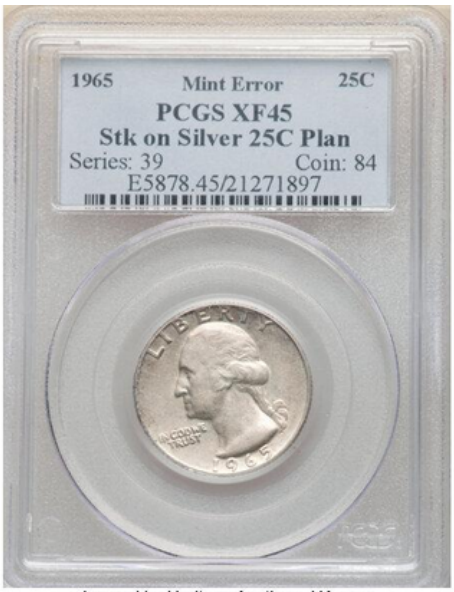
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Submit entries for this section to: rubber2theroad@yahoo.com

Date: September 26, 2026 8am-12pm
Location: Mt. Tabor Park - Portland, OR 97203



General Information: Located in the heart of East Portland.

Historical Information: Mt. Tabor Park sits atop an extinct volcanic cinder cone, one of several volcanic features that make up the landscape of East Portland. The hill rises roughly 300 feet above the surrounding area and provides some of the best views of Portland and Mt. Hood. Although the volcanic origins of Mt. Tabor were known eventually, they were not fully revealed until 1912, when excavation work for the park's reservoirs uncovered volcanic cinders and stone. Much of the volcanic material was later incorporated into walls and other features throughout the park.
The history of Mt. Tabor as a public space is closely tied to Portland's rapidly growing population and its need for both recreation and drinking water. In 1894, the city constructed two open-air reservoirs on Mt. Tabor, followed by two additional reservoirs in 1911 as Portland's east side continued to expand. The reservoirs became an important part of Portland's water system, storing much of the city's drinking water for more than a century.
As Portland grew, city planners recognized Mt. Tabor's potential as a major public park. In 1903, landscape architect John C. Olmsted recommended that Portland acquire additional land on Mt. Tabor. In 1909, the Board of Park Commissioners used voter-approved bonds to purchase approximately forty lots for $366,000. Portland Parks Superintendent Emanuel Tillman Mische subsequently developed a naturalistic design featuring winding roads, walking paths, long stairways, native vegetation, and scenic overlooks.

Mt. Tabor Park and its historic reservoirs continued to evolve throughout the twentieth century, eventually becoming one of Portland's most recognizable public spaces. The park and reservoirs were both placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. The original uncovered reservoirs were disconnected from Portland's drinking water system in 2015 to comply with modern federal drinking water regulations, but the city continues to maintain them because of their historic and architectural significance.

Hunt Results: The OTTS September Club Hunt was held on Saturday, September, 26th 2026. We met at the McDonalds located at 8149 SE Stark St, Portland, OR 97215. 18 members and 3 guests met between 7:00-8:00am and started their hunt promptly at 8am. It was a fantastic fall morning, the mountain was engulfed in fog which eventually yielded to some sun by count out. Ryan hid tokens in proximity to the count out location and on the summit.

Dan provided a PTT stamped token good for a $20 gift card at his shop, Prospector's Treasure Trove, in Tigard! Ryan hid 5 (old) regular tokens, 5 (new) regular tokens, 2 special tokens, and 1 PTT token for members to search for.



New OTTS "Good For" Token

As expected, finds were few and far between, but the good ones shined! Overall the group put in some great work to clean up a park removing trash and dangerous objects totaling 13lbs! For valuable finds, Jackee, Tim, and Ken found silver rings. Jeff S found two transit tokens and Brian found an older looking nickel that was so toasted we couldn't ID which type. Ryan was the only one to find a silver coin, a 1909 Canadian Quarter, which happened to be the oldest coin of the day and was awarded a Roosevelt Dime for his efforts. Tim argued that his 1918 Wheat Cent should be the oldest coin since Ryan's is foreign, and his argument was accepted and he was awarded a Roosevelt dime. An honorable mention to our guest Ken who found a really nice silver ring! Ken had a great time and plans to come to our next meeting to join the club.

At count out Eduardo G. won a member draw and received a 1964-D Washington Quarter. 6 club tokens were found which were redeemed for a silver dime, Ted M. found four, and kept one of the new OTTS tokens instead of redeeming it. Michelle found the PTT token and was awarded a $20 gift card! Zero special tokens were found. Ryan also awarded a "special prize" which was not disclosed until after count out. It was then revealed that this prize was for Chuck who finished count out with just 2 points, the lowest total of the day! For his remarkable ability to keep the competition humble, Chuck was awarded a Roosevelt Dime. The young daughter of our two guests was also awarded a Mercury Dime and Buffalo Nickel. An additional member draw was done at the end thanks to Ryan's natural silver find resulting in Sean T taking home another silver dime.


25
CENTS
CANADA
1909









Top places in the competition	
1) Jeff S. 85.6 points Prize: 1964 Washington Quarter 2) Tim S. 74 points Prize: Mercury Dime 3) Jackee A. 62.5 points Prize: Mercury Dime 4) Brian E. 48 points Prize: Roosevelt Dime 5) Ryan P. 44 points Prize: Roosevelt Dime 6) Sean T. 34.5 points Prize: Roosevelt Dime	Average score: points Club tokens found: 6 / 10 Special tokens found: 0 / 2 PTT tokens found: 1 out of 1 Total clad found: $17.72 Trash collected: 13 lbs.

2026 running totals, OTTS club hunt participants have found

Wheat Cent	Buffalo Nickel	War Nickel	Silver Quarter	Silver Dimes	Silver Jewelry	Gold Jewelry	Clad Coin	Trash
21	2	4	1	3	22	11	$235.25	115.5 lbs

Next Club Hunt: Nick will be hosting the next monthly club hunt on Sunday, November 1st. A meeting location will be announced soon, check the club calendar for updates.

We will start at 9am and count out at 1pm. Be at the meeting spot by 8:30am!

Non-members are always welcome.

- I WILL RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WILL NOT TRESPASS WITHOUT THE LANDOWNER'S PERMISSION.
- I WILL NOT DESTROY PROPERTY, BUILDINGS OR WHAT IS LEFT OF GHOST TOWNS AND DESERTED STRUCTURES.
- I WILL NOT LITTER, ALWAYS PACK OUT WHAT I TAKE IN AND REMOVE ALL TRASH DUG IN MY SEARCH.
- I WILL LEAVE ALL GATES AND OTHER ACCESSES TO LAND AS FOUND.
- I WILL APPRECIATE AND PROTECT OUR HERITAGE OF NATIONAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE, AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.
- I WILL USE THOUGHTFULNESS, CONSIDERATION AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES.
- I WILL ABIDE BY ALL LAWS ORDINANCES OR REGULATIONS THAT MAY GOVERN MY SEARCH, OR THE AREA I WILL BE IN.
- I WILL FILL ALL HOLES, REGARDLESS HOW REMOTE THE LOCATION, AND NEVER DIG IN A WAY THAT WILL DAMAGE, BE DAMAG ING TO, OR KILL ANY VEGETATION.
- I WILL REPORT THE DISCOVERY OF ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL VALUE TO A LOCAL HISTORIAN OR MUSEUM IN ACCORD ANCE WITH THE LATEST LEGISLATION.
- I WILL BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE METAL DETECTING HOBBY. I WILL BE POLITE AND INFORMATIVE TO THOSE WHO INQUIRE ABOUT MY HOBBY.
- I WILL NOT MISREPRESENT AS TO HOW AND WHEN AN ARTICLE WAS ACQUIRED.

Oregon Treasure Trail Society History

The Oregon Treasure Trail Society (O.T.T.S.) was formed in 1982. It was started by five avid hobbyists who each put $5 into the kitty and declared themselves an official club. They set out to provide an organization that would unite people together with the same interest in metal detecting, whether it be coin and token hunting, relics hunting, or simply a passion for finding interesting treasures of the past.

Club Officers

President: Ryan Paradis
Vice President: Ashley W
Secretary: Jeff Sikorski
Treasurer: Jaqueline Atelevich “Jackee”
At Large Board Members: Kirk Ebensteiner, Brian Echerer
Immediate Past President: Scott Hadley
Club e-mail address: oregontreasuretrailsociety@gmail.com

Extracurricular Positions

Website Editors: Ryan P, Brian E
Newsletter Editor: Brian E
Find of the Month Team: Clark & David O & Jackee A.
Club Hunts: Nick R
OTTS Club Picnic: Ryan P
Raffles: Kathy & Ron B
Challenge Token: Jackee A

OREGON TREASURE TRAIL SOCIETY	NEWSLETTER RUBBER2THEROAD@YAHOO.COM
www.OTTSCLUB.org oregontreasuretrailsociety@gmail.com	Meetings 4th Tuesday of the month. 6:00 PM American Legion Post 1: 1830 se 122nd Ave. Portland OR 97233