

September 2025

Oregon Treasure Trail Society Newsletter



Photo by Brian E

President's Message

Every detectorist has that one coin that never fails to put a smile on their face, and for me it's the Mercury (merc) dime. Officially called the "Winged Liberty Head" dime, it was designed by sculptor Adolph Weinman and struck from 1916 to 1945. The design is Lady Liberty wearing a winged cap to symbolize freedom of thought. The public confused her with the Roman god Mercury and the name stuck. If you look closely you will find the designer's initials "AW" on the right side of the obverse.

Most merc issues are common, but enter the famous 1916-D. With only 264,000 minted, it's one of the rarest dimes of the 20th century and a true bucketlister coin for any detectorist. One time I found a 1916 and the thrill of seeing a mint mark on the back made me jump, but it was the more common San Francisco variety. I've had the privilege to see one in person, a few years back our own member Lee dug a 1916-D at a Portland school which used to be a tree orchard at one time. (Photos are of Lee's find).

The beautiful design makes these coins a joy to find, but what also draws me to them is how well they capture an era. In 1916, the year the dime debuted, Portland was still a modest river city of about 250,000. Streetcars crisscrossed neighborhoods, the Broadway Bridge had just opened, and timber was king. By the time the last merc rolled off the mint in 1945, Portland had become a wartime powerhouse. The Kaiser shipyards brought tens of thousands of workers to Vanport which was built almost overnight, and the city's population had doubled. The mintage run also marks a violent and uncertain period in world history, spanning WW1 through the end of WW2. I often think of my grandfather fighting in the Pacific during 1943 and 1944 when I find a merc with that date.

I like to imagine mercs slipping from pocket to pocket during those years, paying for a trolley ride on Hawthorne, buying a movie ticket downtown, or jingling in the pocket of a shipyard worker on the waterfront. When we uncover one today, it's not just silver; it's a fragment of everyday life from Portland that was changing as fast as the nation around it.

Thoughts like these are what keep me fascinated about detecting. Each coin is a little time capsule, carrying us back through history one signal at a time. As the fall weather softens the ground, keep your ears sharp for those high tones! You never know when a silver disc with a winged cap might be waiting for you. Always dig responsibly and leave no trace.

Ryan Paradis
President

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MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 26 MEETING MINUTES

- ☐ Meeting called to order
- ☐ Pledge of Allegiance
- ☐ Board and board members at large introduced
- ☐ New members 0 / Guest 1
- ☐ Member draw won by Ashley W.
- ☐ Progressive draw no winner dollar coin added
- ☐ Birthdays 4 coins given
- ☐ No club tokens turned in
- ☐ Minutes from last meeting accepted
- ☐ Treasurers report accepted
- ☐ Club hunt report given
- ☐ Picnic committee discussed
- ☐ New business club hunts sign ups discussed
- ☐ Possible new meeting locations discussed
- ☐ Elected Executive board no yearly dues discussed
- ☐ Social club hunt discussed
- ☐ Break
- ☐ Metal detecting events, Silver shoot
- ☐ Basket/Bake sales coming up October, November
- ☐ Educational time during meetings discussed
- ☐ Bill B. will talk next meeting , topic Bottle Digging
- ☐ Club drawings were held Plinko, Quarter drop, Main raffle
- ☐ FOTM winners announced
- ☐ Meeting adjourned

Announcements

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, September 23rd 2025
- 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!

Pat & Kirk

(on deck for Oct. Sherrie & Ron)



Next Club Hunt

September 27th
8:00 AM -12:00 PM

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

September Raffle Results

Winners

August 26th, 2025 Raffle

Grand Prize

2oz Egyptian Coin - Mike J.

2oz Werewolf Coin - Ashley W.

SILVER

1. 2010 Olympic Coin - Steve E.
2. 2017 Krugerrand Coin - Mike J.
3. 2019 African Leopard - Ashley W.
4. 1972 German Olympic Coin - Allisyn W.
5. Silver Australian Coin - Tim S.
6. 1972 German Olympic Coin - Jeff S.
7. Lady of Liberty Silver Bar - Steve E.
8. 1887 Morgan - Ed V.
9. 1923 Peace Dollar - Tony G.
10. 1926 Peace Dollar - Dan R.

MYSTERY ENVELOPES

M-1 1971 Eisenhower Coin- Steve E.

M-2 1880 Morgan - Mike M.



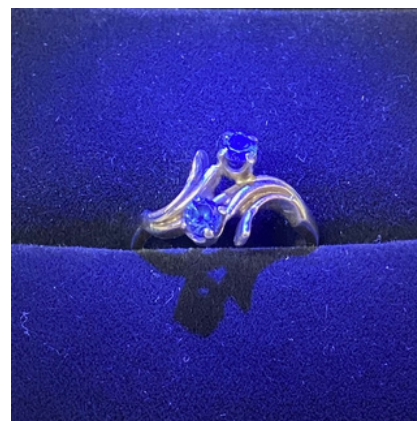
Find of the month June

Category	Place	Name	Item
Item of the Month			
	1	Ryan	Old Automobile Tail Light
	2	Jackee	Vintage Drawer Pull
	3	Brian	Reel
US Coin			
	1	Ryan	1889 & 1902 Indian Head Penny Spill
	2	Jackee	Unknown Date Cut Barber Dime
	3	Brian	1943 War Nickel
Foreign Coin			
	1	Jackee	1989-1993 Belgium 1 Franc
	2	Kirk	Fiji Coin Date Unknown
Token			
	1	Ryan	1969 Apollo 11 oz Copper Round
	2	Kirk	Smokey the Bear Token
	3	Jackee	Federal Tires Token
Gold Jewelry			
	1	Kirk	14K Gold Ring with Sapphires
Silver Item			
	1	Jason C	Silver Heart Ring
	2	Ed V	Silver Ring with Ruby
	3	Kirk	Silver Cross & Necklace
Jewelry			
	1	Jackee	Gold Plated Ring with Green Stone
	2	Jason	Turtle Pendant
	2	Brian	Ornate Usher Pin
	3	Ed V	Skull Pendant
Artifact			
	1	Jackee	1930s Chrysler Plymouth Emblem
	2	Bill B	Large Threaded Connector
	3	Ed V	Mario Go Kart
Oldest US Coin			
	1	Ryan	1906 V Nickel
	2	Jackee	1917 S One Cent
	3	Brian	1947 One Cent
Most Valuable US Coin			
	1	Ryan	1911 S One Cent
	2	Jackee	1911 D One Cent
	3	Brian	1952 Roosevelt Dime
Display			
	1	Kirk	
	2	Brian	
	3	Jackee	
Best of the Best			
	1	Kirk	Gold / 14 Gold Ring with Sapphires

Rank	Name	August	Total
1	Jackee	26	209
2	Ryan	24	143
3	Brian	15	142
4	Kirk	21	126
5	Bill	6	94
6	Sean	3	44
7	Jeff S.	1	43
8	Jeffery C.		39
8	Ed		39
9	Scott	8	35
9	Lorilee		35
10	Jason		25
11	Pat	7	11
12	Gregg		7
13	Laura	1	3
14	Richard		2
15	Nick		2
15	Danielle	2	1
16	Tony		1



Found by Jason C



**Best of the best
found by Kirk**

Bill B. will give us a presentation on another form of treasure hunting, digging old bottles. Bill is the president of the Oregon Bottle Collectors Association.

Their semi-annual bottle show is the Friday and Saturday before our September meeting (see attached flyer). Bring any old (cork top) bottles to the meeting that you'd like to have Bill look at.

BOTTLE, ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLES SHOW & SALE

Bottles, Fruit Jars, Insulators, Crockery, Pottery, Glassware, Antiques,
Advertising, Coins, Tokens, Jewelry, Pre-Pro Liquor & Brewery Items,
Marbles, Paper, Souvenirs, Collectibles, Memorabilia and more!

FREE APPRAISALS

Friday, September 19, 2025, 12-5 PM Set-up
\$5.00 Early Bird Admission
Dealer drop-off at 11 AM

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 9 AM - 3 PM
Admission by donation

American Legion Hall
21510 Main St. N.E., Aurora, Oregon

For more information &/or table reservations contact:
Wayne Herring - Show Chairman (503) 864-2009 or
Bill Bogynska (503) 657-1726 or email billbogy7@gmail.com

OREGON BOTTLE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Club Hunt Report



Date: August 31st, 8am-12pm

Location: Glenhaven Park, Portland, OR

Hunt Results: 18 members came out to the monthly club hunt held at Glenhaven Park in NE Portland. The weather was perfect, it was sunny but not too hot. Jeff hid a total of 10 regular club tokens and three special tokens good for big prizes, also two grab bag tokens. Only 4 regular tokens were found along with two special tokens and one grab bag token.

For natural finds in the park, Tony found two silver foreign coins and Ashley found a silver Roosevelt dime! Jackee found a Buffalo nickel no date was visible . The club as a whole found a total of 8 wheat pennies as well. Ed found the only silver jewelry , a beautiful ring with a big blue stone, a very nice find. Tony's foreign coin was dated 1917 and won the oldest coin on the day.

At count out Jeff and Jeff won silver half dollars in the member drawing, Randy won a silver quarter.

The top places in the competition hunt were:

- 1) Jackee 108 points Prize: silver quarter
- 2) Ed 88 points Prize: silver quarter
- 3) Ryan 80 points Prize: silver quarter
- 4) Tony 77 points Prize: silver dime
- 5) Jason 51 points Prize: silver dime
- 6) Ashley 31 points Prize: silver dime

Club tokens found: 4 out of 10

Total clad found: \$29.64

Trash collected during the hunt: 8 lbs

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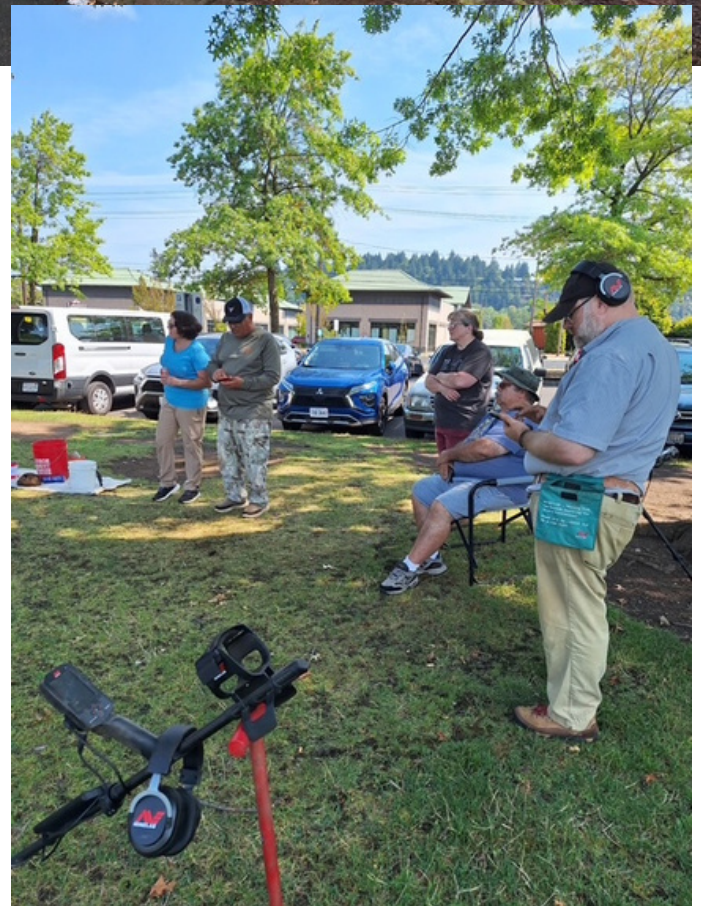
Next Club Hunt: Jason C. will be hosting the next monthly club hunt on Saturday, September 27th. A meeting location will be announced soon, check the club calendar for updates.

We will start at 8am and count out at 12pm. Be at the meeting spot by 7:30am!

Non-members are always welcome.

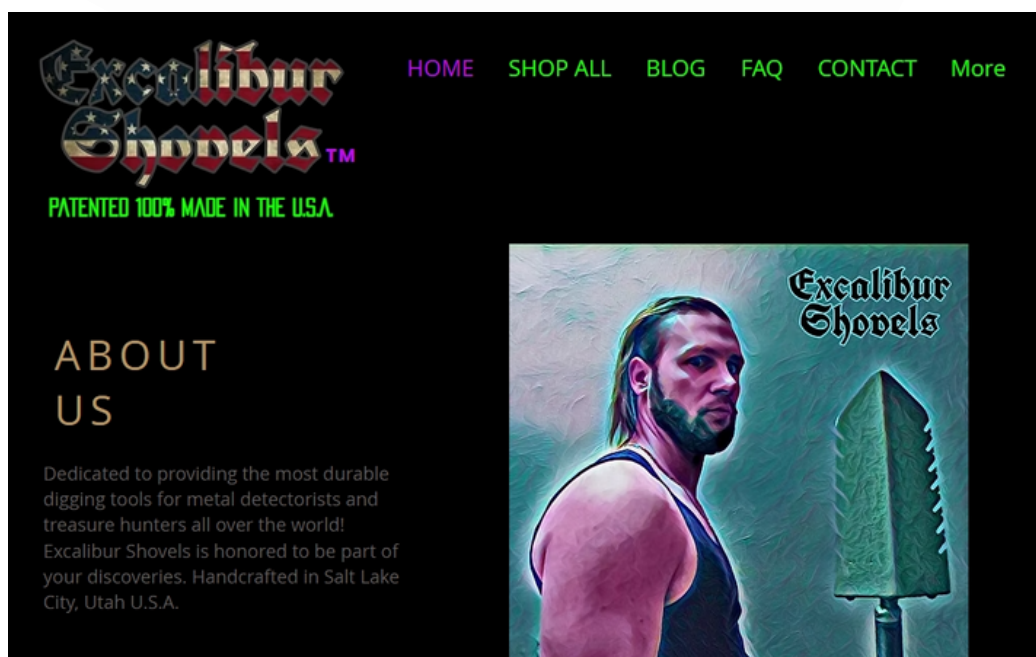
Club Hunt Report (cont.)

Ron sent some great photos from the club hunt!



I questioned spending a few bucks on this but have never regretted buying this shovel. It is a brute! I have the Sir Kay t-handle.

Spendy, sure. However, you get what you pay for. This is definitely one of these instances. I can't help but highly recommend this digger. Excalibur Shovels has their own website to buy direct. This last weekend was one of the toughest digging conditions I've experienced this year. Some of the ground was like concrete. I intend on getting one of the hand diggers once the current one I use expires.



Club Code of Ethics

- 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 DAMAGING TO, OR KILL ANY VEGETATION.
- I WILL REPORT THE DISCOVERY OF ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL VALUE TO A LOCAL HISTORIAN OR MUSEUM IN ACCORDANCE 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: Don Spillman

At Large Board Members: Kirk Ebensteiner, Brian Echerer

Immediate Past President: Scott Hadley

Club e-mail address: oregontreasuretrailsociety@gmail.com

Extracurricular Positions

Website Editors: Jerry H

Newsletter Editor: Brian E

Find of the Month Team: Richard Sather with support from Kirk and Ryan Also David Ortman after March

Club Hunts: Ed V & various members

Raffles: Kathy & Ron B

Challenge Token: Brian E

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