

Oregon Treasure Trail Society Newsletter

May 2026



Photo by Brian E

President's Message

One of the things I enjoy most about metal detecting is that a simple find can lead you down a fascinating historical rabbit hole.

Recently, I recovered several military related artifacts, including bullets, a collar disc, garment clip and five eagle buttons dating from the Civil War and Indian Wars era to WW1. It got me thinking about the soldiers who once passed through our area and the important role Fort Vancouver played during that period. While the major battles of the Civil War took place far from the Pacific Northwest, Fort Vancouver served as a key military post and supply center. In the years that followed, it became headquarters for military operations throughout much of the region. The 4th U.S. Infantry Regiment was one of the most important units associated with Fort Vancouver in the 1850s. In fact, when future president Ulysses S. Grant was stationed there, he was a lieutenant and regimental quartermaster in the 4th Infantry.

Some of the notable units and organizations connected to Fort Vancouver during this time include:

- 4th U.S. Infantry Regiment (1850s) one of the primary regular Army regiments stationed throughout the Pacific Northwest. Companies were dispersed among Fort Vancouver, Fort Dalles, Fort Walla Walla, Fort Steilacoom, and other frontier posts.
- 3rd U.S. Artillery Battery C was stationed at Fort Vancouver before the Civil War.
- 1st Oregon Cavalry and other volunteer units which during the Civil War many regular Army troops were sent east, and volunteer regiments assumed frontier duties in the Northwest.
- Department of the Columbia (after 1865) headquartered at Vancouver Barracks and responsible for military operations throughout Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Numerous infantry and cavalry regiments rotated through during the Indian Wars era.

When we recover artifacts like military buttons, bullets, or other relics, we are often holding a direct connection to people who lived and served here more than 150 years ago. It is a reminder that history is not always found in books or museums. Sometimes it is still waiting beneath our feet. Our annual picnic is approaching quickly. If you plan to participate in the seeded hunt, please sign up as soon as possible so we can properly plan for attendance and allocate the silver prize packages. Cash is preferred, although checks are accepted. An early head count helps us tremendously in organizing the seeded prizes. At the time of this writing, we have 16 members and 2 children signed up for the kids hunt. We would love to see even more members join us for one of the club's most enjoyable events of the year.

Always dig responsibly and leave no trace.
Ryan Paradis -President

In this issue:

O.T.T.S. PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE 1

MEETING MINUTES: 2

NEXT MEETING: 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 2

RAFFLE WINNERS: 3

FIND OF THE MONTH: 4

CLUB MEMBER'S
EXPERIENCES: 5-7

CLUB HUNT REPORTS: 8-11

EQUIPMENT,
TIPS & TRICKS: 12

CLUB PICNIC: 13-14

CLUB CODE OF ETHICS: 15

OREGON TREASURE TRAIL
SOCIETY HISTORY: 16

O.T.T.S. CLUB MEETING
LOCATION: 16

CLUB INFORMATION: 16

MAY 26 MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting called to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Board and board members at large introduced
- New members 3 / Guest 1
- Member draw won by Bill B
- Progressive draw Ron S
- Birthdays 5 coins given
- Club tokens turned in, 3 Kirk-2, Scott C 1
- Minutes from last meeting accepted
- Treasurers report accepted
- Club hunt report given
- Social hunt report
- Picnic update, scheduled: Sunday July 12th
- Pot luck assignments ; A-E sidedish, F-P appetizer/chips, R-W dessert
- New business ; Subterrix discussed
- Break
- Update on Don S
- 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, June 23rd 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!**

Kirk E & Scott & Diane H

(on deck for July Dan R)



Next Club Hunt

June 28th, Sunday
8:00 AM -12:00 PM

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

Raffle Results

Winners

Tuesday, May 26 th, 2026

Top Prize!

2026 Standing Liberty Dollar Coin - Scott

1. Silver Kennedy ½ Dollar - Ashley
2. Silver Kennedy ½ Dollar - Ted
3. Silver Kennedy ½ Dollar - Ted
4. Silver Kennedy ½ Dollar - Ashley
5. Silver Kennedy ½ Dollar - Danielle
6. Silver Benjamin ½ Dollar - Sean
7. Silver Benjamin ½ Dollar - Danielle
8. Silver Benjamin ½ Dollar - Randy
9. Silver Benjamin ½ Dollar - Scott
10. Silver Benjamin ½ Dollar - Scott
11. Silver Benjamin ½ Dollar - Jeff
12. Silver Benjamin ½ Dollar - Steve



Find of the month April

Category	Place	Name	Item
Item of the Month			
	1	Ryan P	Decorative Lid
	2	Sean T	1921 Portland Dog License
	3	Richard	World Globe
US Coin			
	1	Nick	1900 Barber Dime
	2	Tony G	1901 Barber Dime
	3	Dan R	1944 Mercury Dime
Foreign Coin			
	1	Bill B	1994 UK Dragon Pound
	2	Kirk E	Singapore One Cent (No Date)
	3	Ryan P	1947 Canada 1c
Token			
	1	Nick	10c PlayMoney
	2	Ryan P	Good for 100 Free Games Token
	3	Bill B	Washington Lottery Token
Gold Item			
	1	Richard	Gold Cocktail Ring
Silver Item			
	1	Jeff S	925 Ring with Stones
	2	Kirk E	925 Silver Bracelet
Tie	3	Sean T	Silver Deer Ring
Tie	3	Jackee A	925 Silver Ring
Jewelry/Non-Precious			
	1	Bill B	Lord of the Rings Ring
	2	Sean T	Gold Plated Ring w/ Green Stone
	3	Ted M	Dragonfly Ring
Artifact			
	1	Ryan P	Indian War Era US Army Gen Service Button
	2	Lorilee	Curtiss P-40 War Hawk Metal Plane
	3	Brian E	India Bell
Oldest US Coin			
	1	Jackee	1858 O Seated Half Dollar
	2	Jeff S	1911 Wheat Penny
	3	Sean T	1916 S Wheat Penny
Display			
	1	Tony G	
	2	Brian E	
	3	Ryan P	

Rank	Name	May	Total
1	Jackee	11	109
2	Ryan P	19	97
3	Brian E	9	79
4	Kirk E	14	70
5	Bill B	14	61
6	Jeff S	13	40
7	Sean T	12	32
8	Scott H		29
9	Jeff C	4	26
9	Nick R	9	26
10	Ted M	6	23
11	Tony G	11	20
12	Chuck F		19
12	Ed V		19
13	Pat D		17
14	Dan R	4	14
14	Richard S	8	14
15	Lorilee	7	12
16	Don S		7
16	Gregg	1	7
17	Tim S		6
18	Ron B		4
18	Chris S.		4
18	Chuck P		4



Club Member's Experiences

Jackee had a first! She says, "My first Seated Half Dollar - 1858 O and what's makes this going even more special is the number 5 counter stamp which is my lucky number!!"



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

Ryan had a good day of relic hunting. Some of his recent finds from Memory Mill park.



Kirk sent in a share about valuable coins you may find in change or detecting that you may not have known about. I have other similar posts for double dies, off metal or others I collect. Many of you are familiar with the buffalo 1937 d three legged. But did you know there are also 3 and ½ legged buffalo. Some of these are rare and quite valuable. Lower quality ones can be in the \$100's in good condition or \$1000's for higher grades.

3 and 3.5 legged Buffalo Nickels
FS-901 (PCGS Population Report)

1913 Type 1 3 ½ legged
1916 D 3 ½ legged
1917 D 3 ½ legged
1926 D 3 ½ legged
1927 D 3 ½ legged
1936 D 3 ½ legged
1937 D 3 legged

17 Known
17 Known (not recognized by Grading comp.)
151 Known
114 Known
109 Known
175 Known
9539 Known



Normal Leg

3-1/2 Legs

OTTS Club Report

Date: May 30th, 2026 8am-12pm

Location: Clinton City Park - 5576 SE Division St,
Portland, OR 97206



General Information: Located in SE Portland, South Tabor neighborhood.

Historical Information: This area first became developed in 1915 with the construction of Franklin High School. While not officially on their campus, the adjacent lot was likely a popular after school hang out, or at least a good short cut over to Clinton St. While the land became a Portland city park by 1948, it remained bare until the early 1950s with the construction of Atkinson Elementary School in 1953. The park layout has remained largely unchanged since and remains a neighborhood staple for summer sports and recreation.

Per OTTS records, Clinton City Park has been hunted twice in recent history - October 2019 and April 2023. Both times to great success, pulling out several silver and gold jewelry items, silver dimes/quarters and wheaties with the oldest coins dating back to the 1920s.

Hunt Results: The OTTS May Club Hunt was held on Saturday May, 30th 2026. We met at Burger King located at 5038 SE Powell Blvd, Portland, OR 97206. 22 members and 1 guest met between 7:15-8:00am and left for the park at 8:00am. It was another beautiful day in Portland - cool, clear, calm and comfortable in the early morning. Traffic picked up quickly in the morning with sporting events being held. Nick hid 10 regular tokens and 2 special tokens for members to search for.

While members and guests alike enjoyed their morning in the park, not many 'old' finds were uncovered this time around. Jeff and Laura seemed to have the luck of the day, both finding silver jewelry. Pat and Brian also managed to find foreign coins! Surprisingly, Nick's 1960-D memorial cent won the oldest coin.

As we enter the dry season here in the pacific northwest, our local parks' soils begin to toughen up as they dry out. It was observed during the hunt that some less than ideal plugs were being dug with considerable visible ground disturbance. While we all know we can't be perfect every time - this is a friendly reminder to slow down and take your time while excavating and repairing our plugs. It's also a good time of year to knock the rust off our tools as a sharper edge can assist in a cleaner plug when digging. If you're ever having trouble, feel free to ask a fellow member or hunt master for advice!

At count out Clark O. won the member draw and received a 1964-D Washington quarter. Jeff S, Jerry H, Scott H, Sean T, Gary L, Tim M, and Clark O. found club tokens which were redeemed for a silver Roosevelt dime. Scott H. found the Idaho flattened penny special token which was redeemed for a 19XX-S type 2 Standing Liberty Quarter. Tim S. found the financial planning special token which was redeemed for a 1920 Philippines 20 centavos coin. There was also a "secret prize" which was not disclosed until count out for lowest point value. A 1940 Mercury dime was awarded to new guest Gary L. for his efforts! As always, Richard S. assisted in trash collection and disposal which is always appreciated!

Top places in the competition	
1) Jeff S. 72.4 points Prize: 1953-D Washington Quarter 2) Laura A. 66 points Prize: 1963-D Washington Quarter 3) Tim S. 59 points Prize: 1940-S Mercury Dime 4) Scott H. 56 points Prize: 1945-D Mercury Dime 5) Brian E. 43 points Prize: 1942-S Mercury Dime 6) Ted M. 35 points Prize: OTTS Sticker	Average score: 30.8 points Club tokens found: 8 / 10 Special tokens found: 2 / 2 Total clad found: \$23.73 Trash collected: 10.5 lbs.

Club Hunt Report (cont.)

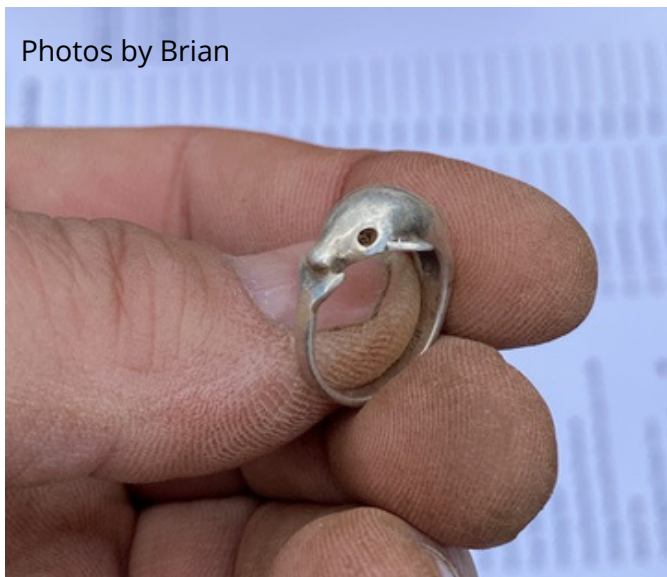
2026 running totals, OTTS club hunt participants have found							
War Nickel	Silver Dimes	Buffalo Nickel	Wheat Cent	Silver Item	Gold Item	Clad Coin	Trash
4	2	1	14	9	9	\$146.23	58.5 lbs

Next Club Hunt: Nick will be hosting the next monthly club hunt on Sunday, June 28th. A meeting location will be announced soon, check the club calendar for updates.

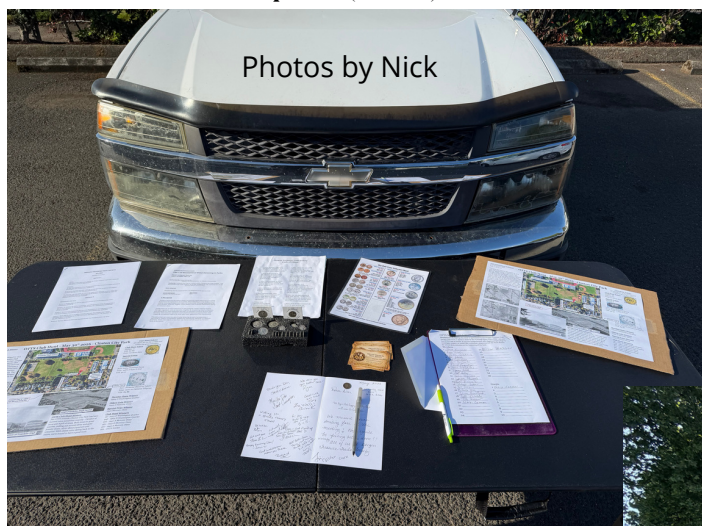
We will start at 8am and count out at 12pm. Be at the meeting spot by 7:30am!

Non-members are always welcome.

Photos by Brian



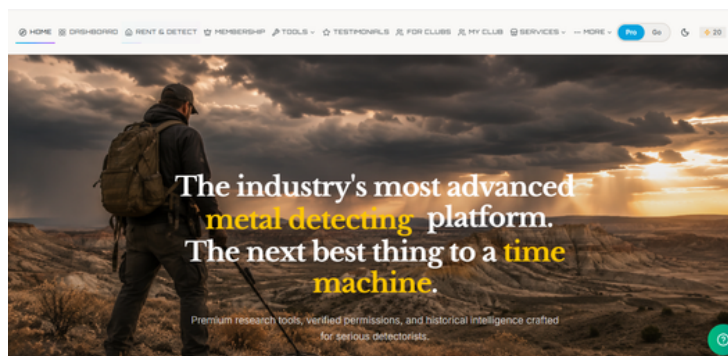
Club Hunt Report (cont.)



Recently, there have been some exciting developments in technology. During our last meeting, Ryan introduced us to [www.subterrix.com]

(<http://www.subterrix.com>). This online platform aims to serve as a comprehensive resource for detectorists looking for

information on potential detecting sites. Its ambitions are quite high; this isn't just another Historical Aerials. It's like HA on steroids! It merges multiple capabilities, including OnX and LIDAR mapping for any specific location. Giving the best information for locations to maximize your detecting efforts. They also have put together a podcast called Beneath The Surface. I've given it a listen and thought it was pretty good. OTTS has a club connection with the platform so go check it out today!



The Realm by Minelab: A Community for Metal Detectorists

The Realm is a mobile application tailored for metal detecting enthusiasts. It acts as a social media

platform where you can display your finds and discover what others have unearthed. Participate in discussions, especially regarding Minelab detectors, and enhance your knowledge of metal detecting as a hobby. Currently, a few OTTS members are utilizing the app, so give it a try! While it may have some glitches, it shows great potential as those issues are being addressed and resolved.

This is just the start when AI taking center stage there is certainly more to come!

Oregon Treasure Trail Society 2026 Picnic and Memorial Hunt



Sunday, July 12th • 9am - 5pm at Rooster Rock State Park

Come enjoy our picnic and go crazy in the 60 minute seeded hunt for your chance at a gold prize, silver coins, great prizes, old coins, treasure boxes, jewelry and other fun stuff! Lots of items get added at the last minute!

Seeded Hunt: Members \$50, Non-Members \$90 [includes OTTS Membership]

Schedule of Events

- 7:00-9:00 • Setup and coffee provided
- 9:00 • Registration opens
- 9:00-10:00 • Raffle sales
- 10:30-11:30 • Seeded hunt
- 11:30 • Games open
- 12:00 • BBQ and potluck
- 1:00 • Free kids hunt [12 and under]
- 3:00 • Game prize drawings and main raffle
- 5:00 • Field reopens to all detectorists

Seeded items will not be buried, they will be on surface or lightly covered in sand. No pinpointers or digging tools.

Try your luck at the Dart Board, Wheel of Fortune, Plinko, Quarter Drop, Raffles and 50/50 Drawing! Great prizes for each game!

If you don't play, you can't win, so bring some extra cash!

OTTS will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, soda, water, plates, cups, and utensils. Member potluck: last names A-H bring a dessert, last names I-N bring side dishes, last names O-Z bring appetizers or chips. **PARKING FEE \$10 PER VEHICLE • Dogs must be leashed • No alcohol or smoking**



2026 OTTS Memorial Hunt Registration

Rooster Rock State Park, Sunday July 12, 2026 - Corbett, OR
Seeded hunt takes place from 10:30 to 11:30 pm

The 2026 OTTS Memorial Hunt will be seeded with silver coins; clad coins, prize tokens, silver jewelry, old coins, treasure chests and who knows what else. **Items will be on the surface or lightly covered insand.**

Hunt Rules: No digging tools, only standard coils or smaller only, headphones must be worn (exception: those with hearing issues or non-compatible hearing aids). No one allowed on the hunt field before the hunt. No one is allowed on hunt field during the hunt unless you are a registered and paid hunter. Gloves are highly recommended as coins get hot sitting in the sun and you may want to brush sand away to find targets.

Hunt registration is as follows:

Cost: Current OTTS member **\$50** • Non-member **\$90***

**Non-member registrations include 2026 OTTS membership*



Name _____ Fee Paid _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Yes, I will be entering a child in the kids hunt. Name _____

I agree to the rules set forth above and will respect the rules and integrity of the park at all times.

Signature _____ Print name _____ Date: _____

Please submit form with payment to the Treasurer or mail to:

Oregon TreasureTrailSociety

PO Box 16203

Portland OR 97292

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 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: oregontreasuretrailssociety@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 oregontreasuretrailssociety@gmail.com	Meetings 4th Tuesday of the month. 6:00 PM American Legion Post 1: 1830 se 122nd Ave. Portland OR 97233