

Oregon Treasure Trail Society Newsletter



May

2020

<https://ottclub.org/>

Founded in 1982

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O.T.T.S. President's Message

I have decided to cancel the monthly meeting scheduled for May 26th. I feel this necessary because of the Oregon C 19 restrictions to stay home, and the prohibition of non-essential gatherings of any size if a 6 ft. distance can't be obtained until further notice.

It is becoming more and more evident that this problem is not going away anytime soon and we as a society are just going to have to learn how to live with it. For now, the cancellation of club activities is an extension of this. I will schedule a board meeting as soon the state gives some indication of returning to the "New Normal". Until then we are in limbo.

Everyone take care and remember our hobby is easy to do while practicing social distancing.

Everyone take care:

Ron B.



Picture submitted by Matthew N

Announcements

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 **CANCELLED**

Setup starts at 5:30 p.m. Socializing starts at: 6:00 p.m. Meeting starts at: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting location:

Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge, 7611 N. Exeter Avenue, Portland, OR 97203

Guest Speaker:

No Guest Speaker has been scheduled for the upcoming meeting.

Birthdays for the Month:

None have been announced.



Picture submitted by Rick P?

Meeting Minutes

None

Other Information:

None

Meeting Raffle Results

None

Find of the Month Results

I hope everybody is getting through this virus mess we're in. Hopefully the end of it is sooner rather than later. Thanks to those of you who have stayed in touch. I'd especially like to thank Tim Schade, who has reached out to me several times. I haven't detected as much as I usually do. It's been somewhat thin with schools and parks closed. I've only been chewed out once, by somebody who told me I didn't have permission from the Governor to not stay at home.

There have been some questions about how the Find of the Month (FOTM) will work when we get back. The rule is that you can enter your finds since the last meeting. At Christmas time, this means that finds entered the following January are since the November meeting. So, whenever we meet again, the finds entered must be since our last meeting, which was February.

The implication of this is that the next FOTM is going to be extremely competitive. With this span of time, there's bound to be a number of very good finds. What might be considered a great find in one given month might not fare as well compared to 3 or 4 month's worth of finds. So mentally prepare yourself for the frustration if your great find doesn't win or even place. As an example, a year ago January, I found a Franklin half dollar that I thought would win U.S. coin, which in the average month it would. But with the two month Christmas break, there were two Walking Liberty halves found which beat me.

When we do have our next meeting, I expect that with all the entries that Linda, Sherrie and I will be extremely busy getting them all logged in. I know you'll be anxious to talk and visit with us, but try to save it for the break. We have a lot of work to do, so I don't want to appear rude if I'm focused on getting that done. Also, the vote tallying may take longer, so I hope you can keep entertained while we're working on that.

Remember, the Find of the Month is for entertainment purposes only. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Regards,

Bill B

2020 Detectorist of the Year Standings

<u>Detectorist</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 st Bill B	44
2 nd Willy A	40
3 rd Harold V	38
4 th Tim S	26
5 th Colleen V.H	22
6 th Jerry H	20
7 th Don F	16
Tie Linda C	16
9 th Scott J	15
10 th Matt N	11
11 th Rick Page	9
12 th Ashley W	8
Tie Ron B	8
Tie Scott H	8
15 th Laura A	7
Tie Jeff S	7
17 th Lee H	5
18 th Owen F	3
Tie Terry B	3
17 th Tom S	2
Tie Gary B	2
20 th Laura A	1



O.T.T.S. Monthly Club Hunt

Postponed until further notice.

Club Hunt Details

None

Hunt Master Notes:

The hunt hours have switched to the summer hours. This means meet at designated location between 7 & 8 am. Leave for hunt location at 8 am. Count out at 12 noon.

Next Club Hunt Details:

The next club hunt has been **CANCELLED**. It was to be held on May 3rd, a Sunday, but no longer will that be the case.



Picture submitted by Tim S

Club Challenge Token

Challenge Token Rules:

Follow the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics.

Each month, a new clue will be published in the newsletter.

A Bonus clue will be given to those attending the monthly club meeting.

When found, turn in the Challenge Token at the next O.T.T.S. club meeting for a prize.

This is for fun. We want to be able to continue this event in the future, so enjoy it and have fun figuring out the clues.

Clue #1

A couple days ago, I was metal detecting at one of my favorite spots in Oregon when suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a large creature walk out of a grove of Cedar trees and meander toward me. It was a medium height (but very rotund), dark brown buffalo with a progressively light tan to blond coat of fur around its head and neck, looking much like a blanket which has been washed too much and lost its color. I stood silently and still as it sniffed at my detector in a non-threatening manner. "What are you doing?" enquired the beast, in a gruff but surprisingly friendly tone. Well you could have knocked me over with a Robin's feather at hearing a buffalo talk! "I'm...ah...searching for lost things", I replied. Just then, a small tear streamed down the buffalo's face as he spoke again, "I'm a lost thing... I mean... no, wait, that's not right. I have lost a thing. Yes, that's what I mean, I have lost my home. Can you help me find it?"

Clue #1 Bonus Meeting Hint:

The bonus meeting clue (or technical clue) is that on a difficulty scale of 1 to 5 (1 being a walk in a park and 5 being a hike up a mountain) this hunt is a 2 to 3, so don't expect to get out of your vehicle and just walk up to the spot.

Clue #2

The buffalo proceeded to tell me a tale of his desire to explore the area around his home (as his home had recently become much smaller) but had gotten lost and now could not remember the way back. "Unfortunately," I said, "my detector can only find metal in the ground so how can I find your home?" "Oh, I know", said the buffalo, "I hid metal somewhere under my horseshoe, or... hoof print, no... I mean under my home, yes, in the rocks and sand and dirt of my home" (for if ever needing to prove the land was his, I guess) "and I also buried seven little shiny pictures of animals there too. Most of these animals have never visited me, I mean they haven't been, but maybe could, I think? Other animals visit my home all the time. Usually ones that fly and float. Also, there are a few other things buried with pictures of people who used to live on my home. Find these things and you can keep them. I will also give you a large shiny thing with my picture on it, if you can prove you found my home." The buffalo then showed me a big silver round with his picture on one side.

"That was me when I was much younger and my home was much bigger", said the buffalo. I assured him that I would seek the help of my fellow O.T.T.S. members and we would search until we found his home.

Clue #2 Bonus Meeting Hint:

There are multiple ways to get there, at any time, but it is easiest after Tax Day. (Boo, Tax Day, Boo!)

Addendum to Clue #2 Bonus Meeting Hint: There are still many ways to get to the challenge token site BUT the easy way, that is usually accessible after tax day, has not been opened yet due to the Covid. I will update as soon as I know it is open, but in the meantime, this clue should be a help in narrowing down the spot. Good Luck and stay safe”

Clue #3

“Let me ask you a few questions, if I may, so we can start off on the right track.” I said, “OK” said the buffalo, “I like tracks. Animal tracks like birds and dogs and pigs and goats. Hmm... that can't be right. I don't recall seeing any pigs or goats. But there must have been pigs and goats at some point. I think names probably matter? Anyway, not train tracks. Trains are not friendly like animals. I’m glad there are no trains close to my home.”

Clue #3 Bonus Meeting Hint:

7 feet down from the tree stump/6 inches below the surface marks the spot.



Picture of the goodies to be found with the Club Challenge Token

Club Member's Experiences

Latest questions to the club members:

Do you detect in the water? Fresh, Salt or Both? In which environment have you found to be best?

Are you a high tone hunter or more diversified?

Do you consider your self a relic hunter coin shooter or gold digger?

What is your most unusual find?

Below are the responses received:

Lee H

1. The majority of my other hobbies take place around cool, fresh water. So, for me that's the best because sometimes it doesn't matter what I'm finding, it's just about where I want to be.

2. A solid high tone will definitely get me excited, but a good tone in any range is more than welcome.

3. None of the above, it's really just an extreme hatred of litter that keeps me going.

4. Unusual, strange, odd; when I started detecting that was everything that wasn't a coin. Nowadays it's all just oddly normal. I did find a WWI Service Award in my friend's backyard that's pretty unique.

Tim S

1. Yes I have hunted in salt and fresh water. I've found more gold in salt water than fresh water. But I've found more silver in fresh water than salt water.

2. I don't care what tone it is, as long as the tone is consistent in pitch and repeatable.

3. I love both, coins and relics. I haven't done any gold prospecting.

4. Most unusual find, a partial dental implant.

Harold V

1. Willy and I have detected a little along the river shore. Not really any salt water hunting, besides at the coast on the beach.

2. I hunt anything that sounds good.

3. Mostly a coin shooter, but I like digging up interesting relics, too.

4. My most unusual ring has got to be the diamond ring I found, because most of the time gold is aluminum or junk.

Scott J

4. Gold teeth grill. Monetary value \$70 street cred value priceless



Picture submitted by Matthew N.



Picture submitted by Matthew N.

Club Member's Metal Detecting Story Submission

Submitted by Colleen V



If only I had the bleach to go along with the vintage Purex cap I found. Crazy times when I'm happy about a bottle cap. I'm hoping everybody is doing well, and getting out.

Submitted by Scott J

Today I had to drive to Bellingham so on the way back I hit a park in Mount Vernon. It is along the Skagit River and is one where I discovered a gold ring in the past. As I was setting up my metal detector, a man pulled up in his car and enquired if I was searching for relics or coins? "Let me tell you a story", he started, then proceeded to tell me about the park.

Back in the late 1800's, early 1900's the park was a dump at one end and used as a fairgrounds at the other. During the rest of the summer, the part near the fairgrounds was used as a makeshift camp ground. In one corner of the park, near the dump site (now overgrown with blackberry bushes) lived a vagrant. During this period of time, the park was prone to flooding from the river and the local police had a tendency to use this as an excuse to come and "rescue" the vagrant. According to the stranger, the vagrant hated this because the police forced the vagrant to take his yearly bath and get a haircut and a shave. When the river retreated, the vagrant was allowed once again to return to his shack made of tin and repurposed rubbish.

Years went by and the fair found a new home. The vagrant passed away and the area where the fairgrounds, campground and dump were located were all turned into the current park. Years later, some workmen were digging up an area near where the vagrant once lived in order to bury power polls and pour a concrete slab. As they were digging, they discovered old jars filled with silver and gold coins. It turned out that the vagrant was actually a rich man who was “eccentric” (as they used to call mentally ill people) and hid his money around his hovel because he didn’t trust banks. The stranger said he has detected the area around 6 times and each time has found silver but no jars or gold yet. He is waiting for the day that the parks department decides to bulldoze the blackberry bushes and expose new ground to hunt.

This is a tricky park to detect. Being a former dump site, the ground is full of signals as well as very difficult because of the nearby power lines. I’ve decided to put this park on my regular rotation when I have to go to Bellingham as I believe there is more to discover. It’s also time for me to get a little more acquainted with my detector to try to compensate for the static from the power lines and sift through the cluttered signals by testing some of my other coils.

I only spent a few minutes detecting there today but found ring #4! Can’t wait to see what else is there.

Submitted by Lee H

In retrospect, my brief history of metal detecting hasn't really led me to a whole lot of items generally considered suitable for decorative home display. At first it seemed like every find was amazing, mysterious or puzzling and I wanted to share it with the world. Nothing got thrown away except for broken glass, and that was recycled when possible. Everything else was hauled home for cleaning and closer inspection.

At home, my detectors dungeon seemed a fitting space. When I moved into this 100 year old rental the basement included a collection of relics from previous tenants. Just a few old school rusty saw blades and old bottles here and there. And while this old house did not have a yard, its walk-out basement did have a dirt floor. Some kinda weird, sandy loamy musty dirt floor. It was kinda gross, really. But affordable. And yes, before you ask, I did detect that basement floor, several times. I did not find one pull-tab, very disappointing.

Well my new collection of old junk, hauled home bag by bag and sorted in to bins and buckets, followed by cleaning stations, and display shelves for all the special items from each lot, seemed right at home here. I had already decorated the rafters with the included bottles and saw blades, so you barely noticed my row of buckets and bins. It was a nice row, too, all labeled. I had half-buckets for Pull Tabs, Bottle Caps, Aluminum, Iron, Other Brass and Copper (How many hose nozzle and spigots do you have?), Lead (going fishing, tire unbalanced?). There were smaller bins for Keys (I <3 Keys!), Clad coins by denomination, and firearm related metal pieces like bullets, brass and headstamps. Finds like Foreign coins, Wheaties and Costume Jewelry, Silver, Gold... all went into display jars on the shelves. Ok, yes, the silver and gold jars were small, but the one for gold was always full... of wishes, at least.

Well, eventually I ran out of shelves and things began falling out of the rafters when the neighbors would close their doors. Some of the smaller containers were swapped for more appropriately sized ones and, I may have added another bucket here or there. I definitely added a rock tumbler for cleaning my clad, and rocks, so much fun! So while my hatred for zinc pennies seemed to be growing, my dungeon seemed to be shrinking. Why was I keeping all of this stuff? And why was my gold jar still empty? Perhaps it was time to clean out I thought? Nah, my collection is just getting started.

Well, soon the worst (or best) thing came to happen and it was time to move. In project-management I once heard the saying "The task will expand to the time allotted". Its mostly true, too. So I adapted the saying to "The junk will expand to the space allotted". I did my best to parse what I could to the scrap yard, true pull-tab collectors and recycling bins. Any piece of this or that, that no longer gave me the thrill of the hunt it once did, too went to recycling or the garbage where it should have probably gone to begin with. I did leave a few pieces for the in-home display. After all, every home needs a few rusty horseshoes and Im quite sure the landlord did not even notice them on the final walk-through.

Moving day came and went without issue. My new space does not have the luxury of a dirt floor so I'm forced to be a bit more selective about how and where I now sort my finds. My rock tumbler eventually broke (HF Disposable Tools) but clad still gets cashed in yearly, and things that are trash go in the trash or recycle, not a pull-tab. We are after all working for the greater good. We are really helping to clean up the earth. At least the parts they'll let us detect. Right? (Ever feel that, after cleaning, you only succeed in reorganized the piles?) Its hard sometimes.

When the time came to unpack that box of metal detecting remnants it was not a big box, no... because I put all the keys in a different container, yes. But this small wooden box, packed inside another box of knick-knacks (as collecting odd and random things has been a lifelong problem for me) held the special items found in my first few years of detecting that I thought earned a spot on display. And really, its not often I find something I feel is interesting or unique enough to earn a prominent spot among the rest of the junk adorning the shelves and odd flat spots around my home. Which really tells me Im not detecting enough!

With that, and for the sake of sharing during these quiet and rainy times, attached is a pic of one of my supposedly more rare and unique items. While it still bears a fair amount of detail compared to the only other example I could find, it is environmentally damaged and has a gouge on the front (not my doing)... But, I did find it buried just a couple inches under some dead tomato plants in a friend's backyard. I passed it up my first go around the yard, too. I thought surely a signal that large, right there below the obviously dead and neglected tomato bush, would be trash... but hey, sometimes its good to be wrong.

Unfortunately, I've been unable to associate it to an original owner and I don't know much more about it. But what I did find online said it is an extremely rare World War 1 service medal. Given by the El Riad Masonic Temple located in Sioux Falls South Dakota, and is one of only two known medals from the state of South

Dakota for WW1 service. (I don't know if that means I found a third, or if there are only two known types) This bronze table medal shows a soldier and sailor flanking the temple surmounted by an Eagle and 13 stars, measures 3"x2" and weighs 4.5 oz. The reverse has a complete list of temple officials in 1920.



Submitted by Mary & Jim C

In the early 1980's Mary and I somehow became attracted to the metal detecting hobby. I had just retired from the Navy and thus we had a lot of time on our hands. Our first detector was a Whites 6000 Di Series 2 - No meter, just audio. We lived in the SF Bay Area and one of our favorite hunting spots was Golden Gate park. There we found our first silver, a Merc dime. Shortly thereafter came a Barber dime, a silver 1/2 dime and we were off and running. After a year we joined a Club, moved up to a Whites, that had a meter, and we started widening our detecting area. Since then our stateside endeavors included all the western states - Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Florida. Throw in two weeks of hunting gold at Ganes Creek Alaska and a short trip to Hawaii.

Then the lure of overseas detecting grabbed us and off we go to England. This became an annual trip for the next eighteen years. Our loops swept Dover, Cromer, Norwich, Nottingham, Deal, Sandwich, St. Margarets and a few others. Our finds included many Roman coins and artifacts (silver, bronze & copper), English Hammered Silver, Viking, Saxon, Celtic plus a few old European items.

OUR BEST English finds:

Mary - 14th century SOLID GOLD RING 24 kt

Jim - 211-207 B.C. Silver "Aes Grave" Roman Republic period, 1/2 DollarUS size -Plus a Gold Celtic Stater, and a Norwich Wolf, circa 65-45 B.C

Both Mary and I have coins or artifacts in the Norwich Castle Museum and have received their recognition as donors of such

Submitted by Harold V

This is more a tale of caution than anything else. This was one of those mornings when I just needed to get out of the house, so I went to a local school, which I have been to several times. I was swinging along finding a few things, here and there but not a lot. When I noticed that the ground seemed really clean. I didn't think much of it and in fact was patting myself on the back that I had cleaned the school up so well. I made a few passes on my grid and got close to the metal bleachers and still no sounds from the machine. Wait. What? No sounds? That is odd. I swung closer to the bleachers and nothing. I looked at the screen on my metal detector and nothing but a lot of lines running up and down it. I realized then that I had been wandering back and forth with a locked up detector. Cleaned up the school, right...I pulled out the battery and rebooted the machine and lo and behold it was working again. It just goes to show you that you have to be paying attention to what is happening. If you aren't hearing anything at all it is worth having a look at your machine. In the end, I had this happen four times over a month, so I contacted the manufacturer and sent the machine in for a checkup. Luckily, I have a backup machine, so I can still go out. Willy has been needling me about being in second place (still) on the FOTM list and so far she has found better stuff than me, so I need my machine back so I can try and beat her. Anyway, if

you are down at the moment is probably a good idea to check your equipment out and make sure it is all in working order. A few pictures of recent finds:



Typical Finds from my yard.



This was a good day. Found 3 silver rings.



Typical day of hunting. Lot's of garbage



Found a delicate silver chain and pendant.

Submitted by Lee H

Well I'm quarantining, yes. Granted most of my hobbies like metal detecting and fly fishing are socially distant anyway. But it makes it hard to get out and do those things when the world is closed. Plus, my wife is stuck home and I want to be able to commiserate with her. Anyway, during the day I picked up another hobby that allows me to still day dream about metal detecting, and come up with ways to improve the detecting experience. I'm making finds bags for metal detecting. Some pics below. I may have a few extra sitting around. They're not perfect, but so far they're getting a good response and every one I make gets better. If you're interested in one or have an idea for a custom project let me know, I have the time.





Newsletter Editor's Comments

I would like to thank those individuals who submitted stories, pictures and responses to the poll questions. I hope you enjoy some of the stories people have shared this time around. I had more pictures submitted than I could figure out how to squeeze in. Also, if I mislabeled a picture let me know. Somehow, I got my email all twisted up and I couldn't find some information which told me who submitted what. Please, feel free to submit stories, random detecting pictures, feedback, or thoughts. I will include them in the Newsletter.

Harold V



Pictures submitted by Matthew N



Pictures submitted by Tim S

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.

O.T.T.S. Club Meeting Location

Come and see us in person by attending one of our meetings. Club meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., and the official meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Meetings are held at the Eagles Lodge located at:

7611 N. Exeter Avenue, Portland, OR 97203

Web Link to O.T.T.S. Location:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Fraternal+Order+of+Eagles/@45.5839492,-122.7260428,17.16z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x5495a7eefbf6831:0x80dc15723d738faa!8m2!3d45.5835352!4d-122.7249067?hl=en>



Club Code of Ethics

- I will respect Private property and will not trespass without the land owner’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 be an ambassador of my pastime.
- I will not misrepresent as to how and when an article was acquired.

Club Officers and Extracurricular Positions

Board Members

President: Ron B

e-mail: anotheroftheherd@yahoo.com

tel #: (306)-624-6949

Vice President: Ashley W

Secretary: Laura A

Treasurer (temporary): Mike M

At large: Rick P

At large: Byron D

Other Club Contacts

Club Hunts: Terry B

Forms Support: Sue F

Raffles: Jeff S

Challenge Token:

Newsletter/Website Editors

Website: Randy W

Website: Jerry H

Newsletter: Harold V

Find of the Month Team

Bill B

Sherrie B

Linda C

Club e-mail address

oregontreasuretrailsociety@gmail.com