

Oregon Treasure Trail Society Newsletter



June

2020

<https://ottclub.org/>

Founded in 1982

Table of Content

O.T.T.S. President’s Message	2
Announcements	3
Next Meeting:	3
Guest Speaker:	3
Birthdays for the Month:	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Other Information:	4
Meeting Raffle Results	4
Find of the Month Results	4
2020 Detectorist of the Year Standings	5
O.T.T.S. Monthly Club Hunt	6
Club Hunt Details	6
Hunt Master Notes:	6
Next Club Hunt Details:	6
Club Challenge Token	7
Club Member’s Experiences	9
Club Member’s Metal Detecting Story Submission	12
Newsletter Editor’s Comments	14
Oregon Treasure Trail Society History	15
O.T.T.S. Club Meeting Location	15
Club Code of Ethics	16
Club Officers and Extracurricular Positions	16
Board Members	16
Other Club Contacts	16
Club e-mail address	16

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

The June 23rd monthly membership meeting has been cancelled.

A board meeting was held on Friday, June 12th. There was a lot of discussion, as this was the first meeting in a long time. Number one on our agenda was the club picnic, which is currently scheduled for July 19th, at Rooster Rock State Park. I say currently, because of the distinct possibility that the corona virus restrictions may not be relaxed enough to accommodate the size of our group. If it becomes necessary to cancel due to the Park's restrictions we may move to another location or re-schedule for a later date. If you plan on attending look for upcoming information. This information is vital to planning the event. As for now, we are moving ahead as if the picnic will take place as scheduled.

It was also agreed that the club will supply items such as potato salad, chips and other items in addition to burgers, hot dogs and such. Some of these items are normally contributed by members but we felt the logistics, of the moment, that it would be best if the club took on the responsibility of supplying these items. That said, if you are attending, feel free to bring items for consumption, if you are inclined to do so.

I know many of you are curious about the FOTM finds, as it has been months since we have had items to display and vote on. The Find of the Month items will be combined, so several months of finds will combined and counted as one month. See Bill's explanation in the FOTM section of the newsletter for more details.

As for birthdays, there will be a separate drawing for each month since our last meeting, once we meet that is. The Progressive Draw will be added to for every month missed. It should be a good one. The drawing for the White's metal detector will be held at the picnic, which may in fact, be the next opportunity to buy raffle tickets. Come prepared in any event.

There is some good news, Terry B is trying to put together a club hunt on either the 27th or 28th of June. Once again, check for information on Facebook, the newsletter or via e-mail.

I would like to welcome back Don C, who renewed his membership in April.

To summarize what is happening, We will have a picnic. We are not sure when or possibly where but we want to make it happen. The FOTM will be several months of entries combined as if it has been one long month. The White's metal detector will be raffled off at the picnic. We will most likely have a club hunt this month (June).

I would encourage everyone to frequently check the newsletter, the club Facebook page and your email for updates of upcoming events.

Happy digging,

Ron B, President

Announcements

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 23, 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 Harold V. (This was Willy's first gold find. A 14k Gold bracelet. Found in a tot lot in the bark dust.)

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

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 will be on June 28th, a Sunday. We will be meeting at Orchards Community Park, in the picnic shelter area. We are meeting outside because of the covid virus. We will meet from 7 & 8 am. We will leave for the hunt at 8 am. Count out will be at 12 noon.



Picture submitted by Scott J

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.

Clue #4

"So no train tracks around your home, but can you tell me what things ARE around your home?" "Yes," said the buffalo, "there are lots of trees around my home. Cedar Oak, Maple, Western Hemlock, Douglas-Fir and Cottonwood trees. So many trees in some places they are called "woods". I like trees."

"Well," I said, "can I ask, how is it possible for a buffalo to talk?" "I learned from my sire," said the buffalo, then he grew silent. "And how did your sire learn?" The buffalo looked away and continued, "he learned from his sire." Again, he fell silent. After a moment I started once more, "I see, so then your grandsire learned from your great grandsire I suppose?" "No, he was born with all white fur and made sacred by the Wallamut people. He was allowed to walk with them and learned Kalapuyan but after they sold their land to a settler, he learned your language." I got the distinct feeling this may be a sore subject with the buffalo and did not inquire more.

Clue #3 Bonus Meeting Hint:

Re-read all the clues and pay close attention to key words, punctuation and spellings. I have placed at least 4 clues, per clue set, including the names (or partial names) of places, people, history as well as shapes and geographic location of the spot. Good luck and remember to wear a mask when out and about. Stay safe.

Club Member's Experiences

Latest questions to the club members:

1. Do you keep track of your detected locations and the finds from each location?

If so, do you use a spreadsheet, database, or other to keep track of your finds?

Do you think there is value in keeping track of your hunt locations and finds?

2. What is the best metal detecting advise or tips you would give someone to help them be a successful detectorist?

3. What is the worst metal detecting advise or tips you would give someone to help them be a successful detectorist?

4. What is the greatest number of coins you have found in one hole??

Below are the responses received:

Jerry H

1. No

2. Three things have to happen:

1. Someone has to lose it before you can find it.
2. You have to be lucky enough to get your coil over it.
3. Finally, you have to notice the signal and dig it

That's why no location is truly hunted out as there is always a spot that has not been searched.

3. Only dig good targets. If you do you will probably miss out on a few really good targets, co-located items give odd or bad signals. For example, a nickel and quarter in the same spot or a nail and quarter. Yes, you will dig trash doing this but you will also get the stuff others have passed on.

4. 127 Indian head pennies. The signal was really odd. Curiosity got me and I had to see what it was, in the end I pulled 127 Indians, V Nickle and seated dime in an area others considered hunted out.

Scott J

1. I don't keep track of what I find and where. That would be too organized for me but I do see the value of mapping out places where the finds were good and which portion of an area I have already hunted.

2. The best advice I have (for what it is worth) is that I have a list on my phone of places around the state where I would like to hunt. My memory is not good enough to keep track of these so I have a list of parks within different cities that I found on old maps or which I came across that seemed it might be worth exploring at a later time. There is an app called "Old Maps" which has maps that can be clicked on for different areas and show older parks, ferries and fairgrounds. I've only recently discovered it, but it seems like it might be helpful.

3. The worst/best advice I have been given is "Dig every signal". If I did, I would move about 5 feet per hour but I often think about how many good targets I pass over because I thought the signal was too low and was probably just a piece of tin can, foil or garbage, but may have been something good. For instance, every piece of gold I have found has rung up about a 23 on my Whites, including a big gold ring and small gold nugget I found, but the gold coin I found in England rang up much higher so have I been missing the good stuff? I usually get a little tired of digging after a couple hours and start being more and more picky about the targets I dig. So, I just resign myself to "you can't win them all."

4. I recently discovered a coin spill in a park in Yakima where I pulled out almost a dozen modern coins and had signals for more but then I had to leave and went back once more but couldn't find the spot again.

Harold V

1. I have a spreadsheet and a database that I use to keep track of a lot of the things that Willy and I find. I find it useful to look back at the success or failure we had at any given location. I only keep track of old coins, clad, rings and jewelry. Keeping track of tokens, toys, etc. is too much for me to bother with. I have also found it useful as Willy and I get more proficient with our detecting skills to revisit some locations and I can use my data to compare our before and after hunts.

2. The best advice I can think of is to be patient (not that I am...). You are going to dig a lot more trash than treasure, so get use to it. It takes time to develop any skill. Metal detecting is no different than any other hobby in that regard. And I would have to say contrary to other people's advice you have to dig most repeatable signals, because some of those weird VDI finds are good finds.

3. The worst advice would be similar to what Jerry H stated; only dig good targets. If you do you are going to miss a lot of stuff.

4. My hole with the most coins had 10 quarters in one hole. Willy found 77 coins in one hole.

Tim S

1. I don't keep track of locations of finds. But if you asked where I've found every gold and maybe silver ring I'm sure I could tell you. However, I do keep a yearly running tally of all clad and silver coins on a white board in my garage. As far as value of keeping track, I don't do it for research or anything, just for my own need.

2. Best advice, would be patient. Tell them 90% of what your going to dig is trash. 3% trinkets and oddities 6% clad and 1% treasure.

3. Buy the most expensive complicated detector to start out with.

4. I've found 52 zins in one hole.

Laura A

1. I don't keep track of where I find things but Jerry has logged every penny, dime and nickel that I have ever found! It is fun to see how our clad compares from year to year.

2. If someone wants to be a successful detectorist, I wouldn't have them get advice from me! For me detecting is more about getting out and getting some fresh air.
- 3.
4. The only large coin spills I have ever found have been pennies (and not the good kind) Probably around 30 or so.



Picture submitted by Harold V (Beauty of a Hot Wheel)

Club Member's Metal Detecting Story Submission

Submitted by Colleen V

It was the summer of 1969 when my Uncle Walt came for a visit. In addition to my Aunt Dee and my brother's same age cousins, he brought a metal detector. I tagged along as he and my dad (newly retired after 22 years in the Army) went over to the elementary school and started searching in the bark dust under the monkey bars. There was no such thing as a wireless headset back then. He walked along swinging this noise making contraption. He stopped and swung it back and forth as it squealed out that a target had been found! My dad and I looked on as he bent, and then arose with a tiny gold ring. Oh my goodness, I was beside myself with excitement. He found a treasure! From that point on I knew I wanted to be a metal detectorist when I grew up! My dad went on to his next career, and promised that when he retired for good, he too would be a metal detectorist. In the mean time, he was a coin collector, and I took joy in heading to Columbia Coin every holiday season, to purchase a commemorative coin of some kind to put under the tree for him. His favorite was the shiny silver Marilyn Monroe coin depicting her most famous pose. Imagine that. I lost my beloved dad in 1997, three months after his final retirement. He never had the chance to follow through on that planned retirement hobby. As another Memorial Day comes without you I say out loud, thank you and I love you for being the wonderful dad that you were.

Fast forward to the summer of 2018. My dreams of becoming a detectorist came true, with the gift of a Deus for my retirement. Don Fantz was my neighbor, and he told me about the club he was a part of. Thanks to him, I found a wonderful group of like-minded friends. Thank you to Don, John and Rick for taking me along, and teaching me to forever be hooked on that search for treasure!

Early this year I headed over for a visit with my mom. Behind the fence, in her back yard was a secret portal I had spotted, calling me to the high school grounds that were there. I hunted for an hour or so, when to my frustration, the plastic nut and bolt that holds the coil to the wand snapped. I trudged back to mom's place, and found the electricians tape my dad kept in the garage. I wrapped it around and around hoping to get back to the hunt. I set it down in her back yard, next to the cement patio slab to test my attempt at a repair. To my surprise it gave me a clear signal that something was there. I looked at my mom, and explained to her that I was the best flap maker ever and I promised she would not even know that a hole had been dug in her beautiful green grass. I knelt down and carefully dug. Out popped a coin of some kind. It was pretty beat up, but I could just make out the image of President Calvin Coolidge. My mom and I stood there awe struck. This could only be one of my dad's treasures, who else would have dropped it there? I carefully replaced the flap, and as Don had taught me, swung the dangling coil back over the same area. Another hit! I carefully dug a flap right next to the one I had just made. To our surprise out came another coin. President John Adams looked back at me. Mom and I looked at each other in wonderment. I did some research and found that back in 1992, the Shell Oil Company had enticed people to buy their gas by giving out coins depicting the Presidents. There was a slotted holder that you could put the coins in, with the goal of collecting them all. Of course, this is something my dad would have enthusiastically participated in! We both shed a tear, and looked up to the heavens and told dad about what had just happened. My detector was done for the day. I put it away and promptly ordered the pieces I would need to repair it.

As we always do, I took a picture and sent it to my hunting buddies to share with them what I had found. "Ring Man" said that I should go back and continue to hunt in my mom's yard, there may be more treasure to find! When I got the parts and fixed my detector, I took him up on his advice. Low and behold, under the white dogwood tree we had planted in my dad's memory out popped President Lyndon B. Johnson! We call this type of experience a "Godwink" in my household, and as my friend "Ring Man" said, when I told him about my finds, I now also think of it as "pennies from heaven".



Newsletter Editor's Comments

I would like to thank those individuals who, over the last few months submitted stories, pictures and responses to the poll questions. I know I enjoyed the all of them. It was nice to get member input. If we ever have another meeting, I will ask informally about the poll questions and see if people want to continue them or not. Please, feel free to submit stories, random detecting pictures, feedback, or thoughts. I will include them in the Newsletter.

Harold V



Picture submitted by Harold V (Check out this load of junk. This is a pic from 2017 when Willy and I first started detecting. We had gone to a local park which was near the water. After looking at this I am surprised we kept detecting.)

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 #: (360)-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