

Oregon Treasure Trail Society Newsletter

October 2025



Photo by Brian E

President's Message

If you've been keeping an eye on the news lately, you've probably noticed that gold and silver prices have been on a wild ride. Every few days, there's another headline about record highs or sudden drops. For those of us who spend our free time digging up bits of history made from these very metals, it's fascinating to see how the world still reacts to them hundreds of years later.

Our club gives away silver coins every meeting, at our monthly club hunts, and of course during the annual picnic. With prices climbing, those prizes might technically be worth a little more these days but the real value has never been measured in dollars. It's in the smiles when someone wins a coin, the stories that follow each hunt, and the friendships that keep bringing us back together month after month.

Every time one of us unearths a silver dime or quarter from the ground, it's a small reminder of why we do this: the thrill of discovery, the connection to the past, and the simple joy of sharing that moment with others who understand it.

So while the markets may rise and fall, the true worth of what we find and what we share as a club remains steady. Here's to more good hunts, great company, and plenty of silver to go around.

Always dig responsibly and leave no trace.

Ryan Paradis
President

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**Bring cash for
baskets! Next
Meeting!!!!
Basketpalooza!**

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 23 MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting called to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Board and board members at large introduced
- New members 1 / Guest 0
- Member draw won by Alex S.
- Birthdays 0 coins given
- Club tokens turned in, Dan R.
- Minutes from last meeting accepted
- Treasurers report accepted
- Progressive draw no winner dollar coin added
- Club hunt report given
- Social club hunt report given
- Next social club hunt Columbus Day
- Christmas party discussed
- New club logo discussed
- Bylaws for free membership for hunt master discussed
- Club hunt sign ups needed
- Upcoming elections discussed
- Ron B. talked about silver dragons on YouTube
- Break
- Bill B. talked about bottle digging
- Ed V. donated a wood watch for auction, Sue M. bought for \$30.00 proceeds went to the club
- Basket/Bake sales coming up October, November
- Club drawings were held Plinko, Quarter drop, Main raffle
- FOTM winners announced
- Meeting adjourned

**Bring cash for
baskets! Next
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Basketpalooza!**

Announcements

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, October 28th 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!

Sherri B & Boehm

(on deck for Nov. Larry & Maggie & Jackie)



Next Club Hunt

November 2nd
9:00 AM -1:00 PM
(winter hours)

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

Winners

July 22nd, 2025 Raffle

Grand Prize

Gold 1 gram Maple Leaf - Ashley W

SILVER

1. 1956 Egyptian Coin - Brian E.
2. N/A.
3. 1952 Mexico Circo Peso - Randy E
4. 1940 Indian Coin - Nick R.
5. 1 ½ Oz Polar Bear Coin - Jackie A.
6. 1 ½ Oz Eagle Coin - Brian E.
7. 1889 Morgan - Ed V.
8. 1921 Morgan - Steve E.
9. 1 Oz Freedom Buffalo - Cathy B.
10. Teresa Thaler - Alex S.
11. 1 Oz Nadir Silver Bar - Alex S.

MYSTERY ENVELOPES

N/A



Find of the month June

Category	Place	Name	Item
Item of the Month			
	1	Jackee	Pacific Telegraph & Telephone Antique Tag
	2	Ryan	Old Padlock
	3	Kirk	Virgin Mary Starfish
US Coin			
	1	Brian	1939 S Walking Liberty Half Dollar
	2	Jason	1952 Roosevelt Dime
	3	Jackee	Tiny Burnt Barber Half Dollar Fragment
Foreign Coin			
	1	Jackee	1913 Canadian 10 Cents
	2	Tony G	1917 French 10 Cents
Token			
	1	Kirk	Spill Beaver Bar Good for 25c in Trade, Telephone & Rifle Token, Klamath Co 50c
	2	Dan	Seven Seals of Solomon Token
	3	Nick	Token Spill - 11 Washington Tax Tokens & 1 Colorado Tax Token
	3	Bill	Franklin D. Roosevelt Token
Gold Jewelry			
	1	Bill	14K Gold Ring
	2	Ed	18K Diamond Gold Ring
	3	Kirk	14K Gold Band
Silver Item			
	1	Ed	925 Ring with Blue Stone
	2	Jackee	Silver Amber Ring
	2	Brian	Silver Opal Ring
	3	Ryan	925 Snake Necklace
Jewelry			
	1	Tony G	Locket
	2	Kirk	Ring with Blue Stones
	3	Ryan	Junk Ring
Artifact			
	1	Ryan	Old Revolver
	2	Jackee	1910s Cast Iron Elephant Piggy Bank
	3	Bill	2023 Zinc "Protest Penny"
	3	Dan	Cap Gun
Oldest US Coin			
	1	Jackee	1899 V Nickel
	2	Ryan	1908 V Nickel
	3	Jason	1929 Unspecified
Most Valuable US Coin			
	1	Jackee	1917 S Buffalo Nickel
	2	Brian	\$16 Clad Spill
	3	Ryan	1917 S Wheat Penny
Display			
	1	Jackee	
	2	Brian	
	3	Ryan	
Best of the Best			
	1	Bill	14K Gold Ring

Rank	Name	September	Total
1	Jackee	26	235
2	Ryan	18	161
3	Brian	18	160
4	Kirk	15	141
5	Bill	11	105
6	Ed	9	48
7	Sean		44
8	Jeff S.		43
9	Jeffery C.		39
10	Scott		35
11	Lorilee		35
12	Jason		32
13	Pat	7	11
14	Tony		11
15	Gregg	10	7
16	Nick		5
17	Dan	3	5
18	Laura	5	3
19	Richard		2
20	Danielle		1



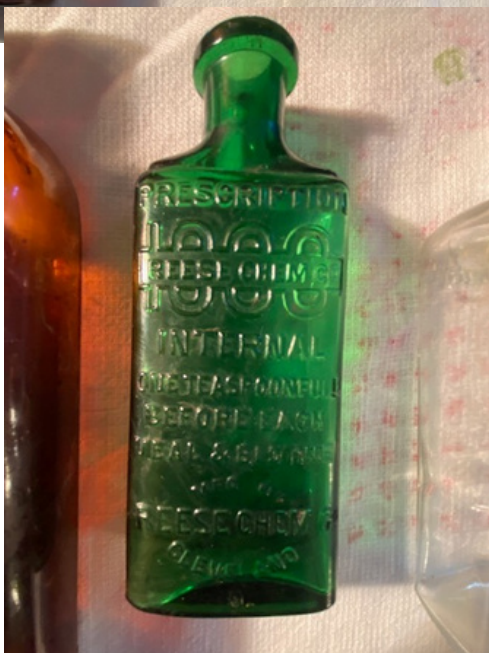
Found by Ryan P.

**Best of the
best
found by
Bill**



Club Member's Experiences

A few pics of Bill B's very thorough and fantastic glass bottle presentation at the last club meeting.



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

Club Member's Experiences

Jackee's fun finds! for the month!



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Brian E. had a big first find!



How it came out of the ground.

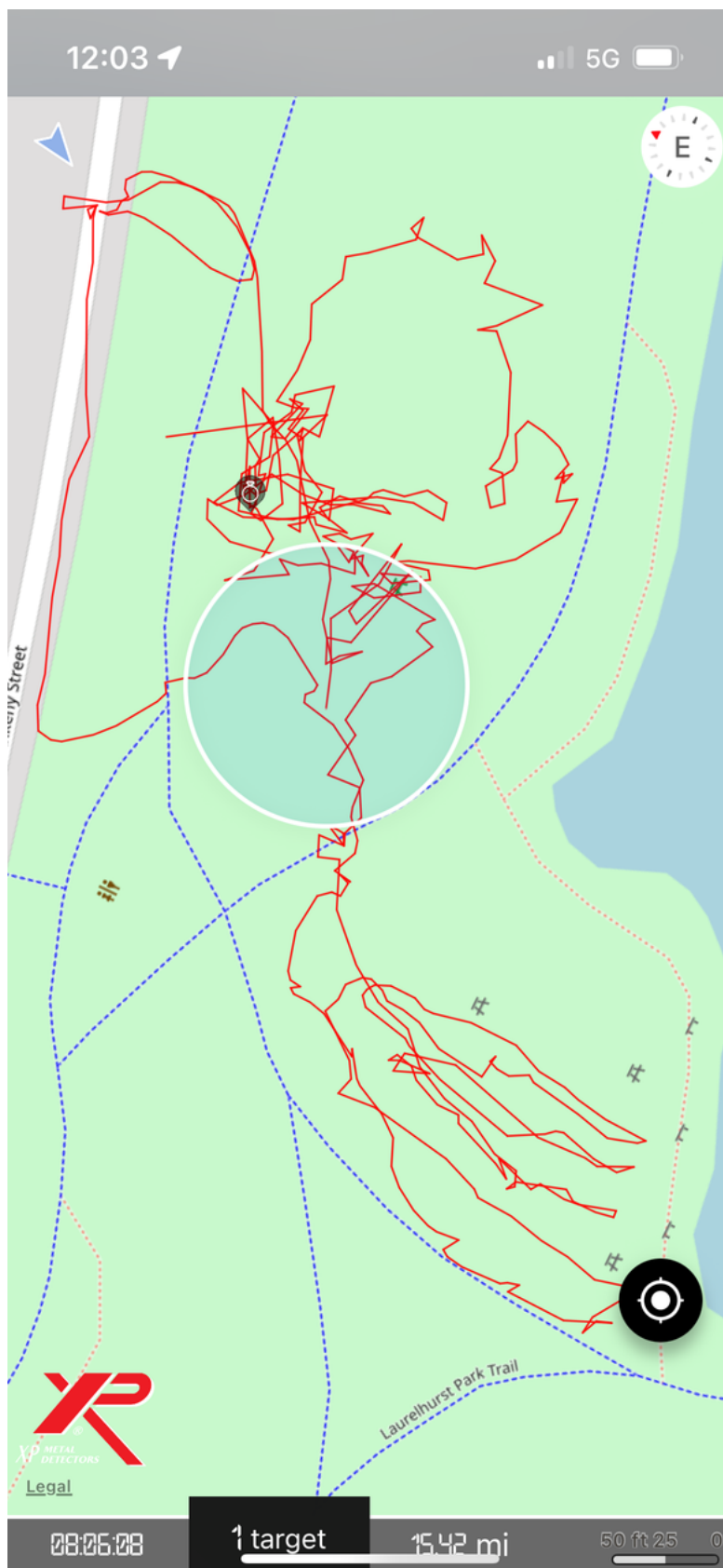
I am still relatively new to the detecting scene. So, when my friend Jason mentioned he had an insider tip about a location, I decided to take him up on it. Jason always does his research and had already discovered on Historical Aerials that an old school used to be at the site. However, the tip he received revealed the location of the school bus stop from decades ago! He confidently predicted we would both find silver, and he was absolutely right! Thanks to him, I unearthed this treasure just three inches down. I was genuinely shocked, and it still feels surreal to have this gem in my collection. The bottom line is, if Jason says he knows a spot and invites you, you should definitely join him!



A splash of water cleaned it up!

Club Member's Experiences

Ed V's Laurelhurst Park club hunt track. It's important to note the icon on the map. It is showing where he found the gold & diamond ring!



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

Club Member's Experiences

Lee H's story on the heroic effort to find lost silver cutlery which was a family heirloom.

Silver Knife Recovery

You may have seen the recent email that came in to OTTS Club requesting help to recover a piece of silver flatware. The requestor suspected it had been lost while cleaning up after a dinner party when someone shook the table cloth off the deck into a clump of bamboo. If you did see the email, and you're like me, you probably thought "well that sounds like a possibly impossible task, let's give it a try".

So, if you want the short story, know that the knife was recovered and skip to the next article. But if you want the long, boring but possibly comical truth about this event (that I'm writing about purposefully for this month's newsletter) keep reading...

I of course promptly and politely responded to the requestors email to let them know I would be available on the coming weekend, and would be glad to come by and attempt to recover their silver knife. In that response I provided my cell phone and said to get in touch if they were interested. A few moments later I received a text message from the requestor and more details were shared. I requested photos of the bamboo clump where said knife was possibly lost, we confirmed a time for the following weekend and an address was provided. As it turns out, I am quite familiar with the neighborhood as it is near one of my dogs favorite places to roam. And, randomly enough, on a previous occasion I remember exchanging greetings with the requestor as she was out in the yard with her dog as I wandered by with my dog and the dogs exchanged a bark.

The next day photos of the bamboo clump were provided via text. It was an area about 15ft by 15ft and located on the side of a slope right off the back of their deck. As suspected, it was quite dense and leafy. Seeing these images I began to think the chances for a successful recovery were low. That knife could be anywhere within that clump; including wedged up high between the tightly grown stalks, or buried down low under the leaf litter, or possibly just out of reach in the middle of the clump. However, I did not let this deter me. I could see that access would be difficult and limited, and knew getting in there with a swinging coil might be nearly impossible. So I started to strategize on my approach.

My first thought was to outfit my detector with the smallest coil available in my arsenal and put it in pinpoint mode. This would allow me to prod and probe the narrow areas between the bamboo stalks both high and low without needing to swing the coil. Additionally I located a 5ft wooden hiking staff I had in my secret fortress of endless supplies (to others it might appear as just a garage full of junk, but to me its a room full of potential). I grabbed a handful of stout zip-ties and a few of my most trusted pinpointers. By maxing out sensitivity on a pinpointer and zip-tie-ing it to the end of my hiking staff, I would certainly be able to reach tighter areas and farther within the bamboo forest than I could with my detector. I began to test my contraption using a butter knife suspended from the ceiling. Test results seemed satisfactory, so I was certain I had a solid plan. I charged all my devices and patiently waited for Saturday.

As Saturday rolled around, much to my dismay I had not quite recovered from the food poisoning I luckily acquired that previous Thursday. But taking some comfort in knowing the area and nearby public facilities, I loaded up my gear and let the requestor know I was on my way.

Upon arrival I had the pleasure of meeting the requestor, her husband, their dog, and one their sons who had stopped by for a visit. They took a moment to show me the deck overlooking the bamboo garden and explained the scenario in which it was lost. As her son left he reminded his mother that he was quite certain there was no knife in the tablecloth when he shook it out over the edge of the deck. With that my hopes for a successful recovery began to lessen. Was this a wild goose chase? Was the knife mistakenly placed somewhere else or perhaps never there to begin with? I might never know.

We went down to the lower yard and chatted as I began to visually inspect the bamboo garden. I could see how dense it really was and how steep the hill was that it was growing off. I poked my way around to see how easily it could be accessed and began shaking stalks to see if a knife would magically fall from the air, all while only a slight cramping and rumble persisted in my belly.

We had a lovely time chatting about various things including The Detectorists tv series. I went on to explain the challenges we were up against, how metal detectors worked and how I intended to use the gear I brought with me to hopefully recover the missing knife. She went on to explain that the silverware had belonged to her parents and I related how upsetting it could be to lose something so sentimental and irreplaceable.

As I was setting up my gear she asked if I wanted to be left alone while I searched. I declined and said she was welcome to stay and chat while I looked, but if she would not mind retrieving a matching knife from the set, it would be helpful to test the response of my equipment. She gladly agreed and went inside to retrieve a matching knife while I began to prod my coil along the ground closest to me within the bamboo.

A moment later she returned with a silver knife in hand and began to somewhat excitedly explain that she was not sure how she had missed it the many times previous that she went looking. But, she exclaimed that she found the knife and held it out in front of her with a sheepish smile. Apparently it had snuck its way out of the silverware box and wedged itself between the back of the box and the drawer, where it had been hidden away these past few days. Upon going to retrieve a knife for me to test with, she removed the box from the drawer and discovered the missing knife.

We went on to laugh about the situation and shared a few more stories. She politely offered some compensation for my time, I of course declined. She offered that I could detect their yard but, largely due to the increasing cramps in my belly, that I also declined. I may another day go back and see if the offer to detect the yard is still open. But for now I'm glad to have had the opportunity to meet some great people, share a few stories, and help recover a cherished item. Plus I'm sure her son is thrilled to know he is not responsible for losing the knife.

And that, my friends, is how I recovered the missing silver knife.

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

Club Hunt Report

Date: September 27, 2025, 8am-12pm

Location: Laurelhurst Park, Portland



We had our September club hunt at Laurelhurst Park in Portland. Nineteen members showed up to enjoy a crisp and sunny early fall day of detecting in one of Portland's oldest parks. Sean and Jason hid ten regular club tokens and three special tokens.

Natural finds included a beautiful 14k gold ring found by Ed and three pieces of stamped silver jewelry was found by Ed, Jeff and Lee.

We got a glimpse into the Victorian Era with the oldest coin being an 18X4 Indian Head cent found by Fabian. It has a very nice green patina and we counted its date as 1894. Tim found a 1937 Buffalo Nickel and ten wheat cents were retrieved including five by Lee, two each by Jason and Brian, and one by Scott C. Clark found five keys. Despite all the great finds, no silver coins were found during this hunt.

At count out Sean and Lee won the member half dollars and Jason won the silver quarter.

Top places in the competition were:

1. Lee 106 points Prize: silver quarter
2. Ed 89 points Prize: silver quarter
3. Tim 72 points Prize: silver quarter
4. Jeff 64 points Prize: silver dime
5. Scott 51 points Prize: silver dime
6. Fabian 43 points Prize: silver dime

Total clad found: \$29.64
Trash collected during the hunt: 8 lbs

Club tokens found: 4 out of 10. One found may have been from an older hunt. None of the three special tokens were found.

Total clad found: \$19.75

Trash collected during the hunt: 7 lbs.

Next Club Hunt: The next monthly club hunt on Sunday, November 2nd. A meeting location will be announced soon, check the club calendar for updates.

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

WINTER HUNT HOURS START WITH THIS HUNT!!!

Non-members are always welcome.



14K gold ring
with diamonds
found by Ed

Club members add up
their points at count out.

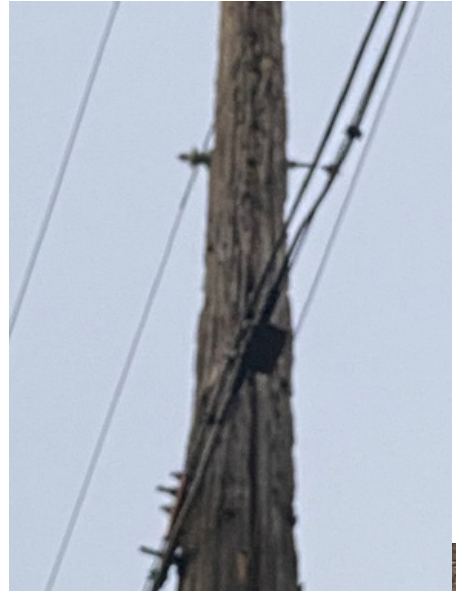


Observing Your Surroundings for Clues in Treasure Hunting

It may not be widely recognized or just common sense, but your surroundings can reveal valuable hints about potential treasure hunting spots. For instance, I once found a 1909 wheat cent, and just across the street from the park was a building with a plaque indicating it was constructed in 1910. It's logical, right? Noticing small details can lead to remarkable discoveries.

In Portland, you'll find "horse rings" embedded in curbs throughout the city. While many of these are quite old, some are replicas, so it's crucial to inspect the sidewalk concrete. Is it worn down? Even better, is there a date stamped on it? Also, take a moment to examine the telephone poles; the weathered and aged ones are easy to spot.

Another noteworthy detail is old chain link fencing. Observe the ground supports: are they round or I-beam shaped? Do the supports have decorative tops? These aged fences tell a story of their own. I always check spots where kids have jumped over the fences! All these subtle details can lead you to extraordinary finds!



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