

This month's drawing winners!

The 50/50 winner in November was Mark Davey. Blue ticket winners were Penny Ferguson-gold nugget. Jack Hixon won the gold flakes & Rhonda Ferguson a half dollar.

Every month we have two drawings. A 50/50 drawing for all attendees and a Blue ticket drawing for members only. 50% of the proceeds from the 50/50 goes to the club.

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**AMARILLO PROSPECTORS &
TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION**

President: JOHN LONDON

First VP: DENNIS GEE, in charge of arranging for programs

Second VP: RODNEY LAUBHAN, events coordinator

Sec/Treasurer: Skip Kendrick

Board Members: KEITH FERGUSON, BUD ELLIOTT, Mark Davey & Jim Nichols

Club News

Welcome to the November & December 2009 edition of the Prospectors & Treasure Hunters Newsletter

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At our November meeting the program was presented by Bud Elliott. Bud covered Gold/Silver testing.

We all learned a lot about how precious metals are alloyed, weighed and tested.

Thanks Bud for a very good program.

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Our "Find of the Month" winner for November 2009 was Bill Branson, for Treasure Hunting. There was no prospecting entry.

Bill's find was a meteorite!

Congratulations Bill

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Our club website is on line. The address is:

[www.amarillotreasure.com](http://www.amarillotreasure.com)

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Our program for December will be The APTHA Christmas party and dinner. We will start at 6:00 PM. Dyers Barbeque on Georgia. This one will be a lot of fun— Don't miss it

Board of directors had their meeting at 5:00 P M, Thursday, November 5th @ Gander Mountain.



STOUT GOLD AND SILVER

TOM STOUT
Manager

806/374-8698
2300 West 7th
Amarillo, Texas 79106

This is your club and we want to hear your opinions.

All club members have the right to be heard. If you want to discuss an item during the open meeting, just raise your hand and you will be recognized.

To be added to the meeting agenda, please call or email me and your topic will be put in the news letter.

Your opinions are important to the health of the club.

Use your voice!

Board Meeting notes from 11/5/09

- 1- John & Anita London will print the ballots for AP&THA elections.
- 2- Ballots will be passed out at the sign-up table Tuesday night.
- 3- Christmas party gift and prize details were finalized. The per person/plate cost was revised to include gratuity and will be \$12. Each member wishing to be part of the White elephant gift exchange should bring a gift costing between \$10-\$15 and wrapped.
- 4- Treasure hunter of the year ballots will be passed out at the meeting. We will vote on this Tuesday. The ballots will be counted by a third, non member, party. The winner will be announced at the Christmas party.
- 5- The board approved pre-payment to Jim Nichols for misc gift purchases, club cards and float banners.
- 6- We decided to combine our Chili cook-off with an adopt a park hunt on November 14th.
- 7- Jim Nichols will have more on the "Float" and the December 4th parade at Tuesday's meeting.
- 8- Our club hunt at Nara Visa N M has been postponed until 2010.

A **Treasure Hunter of the Year** award to be presented at our annual Christmas party.

Members will vote by secret ballot at the November meeting, Tuesday, 11/10/09.

The Award will be a jacket, details TBA Tuesday

Criteria: A Person who has exhibited best treasure hunter, done most for club, and

other things during the year.

We will combine prospecting and coin/treasure hunting into one award. Votes will be counted by a non club member. All AP&THA members are eligible. All ballots will be counted by a third party, non member. We will not know the results until the Christmas party on December 8th.

Club officer and board member elections Were held **Tuesday 11/10/0-9.**

All of the nominees won their races----Congratulations

New officers are: President—Mark Davey

1st V P-Toby Shedd, 2nd V P Jim Nichols #1 board slot, 2 yr-Rodney Laubhan, #2 board slot, 2yr-Mike Darnel

Board members with one yr of service remaining are: Keith Ferguson, Bud Elliott and Skip Kendrick

John London will serve one year on the board as immediate past president.

APTHA Chili Cook Off and Park hunt



The Pictures above are from our chili cook off & park hunt. Keith Ferguson won again with his buffalo chili. Event cooks were: Rodney Laubhan, Mark Davey John London, Jim Nichols and Keith Ferguson. There was not a bad pot of chili in the contest, In fact most of the product was consumed at the hunt. :0) We all ate so much that we nearly couldn't manage our metal detectors. :0)) Jim and Rodney came up with a super neat way to test our skills and metal detectors at the same time. They used a square tarp, added lines for numbered zones and planted items below each zone. You might think that this little test is a setting duck for all the new, ultra modern, I D detectors on the market. WRONG! We all had a really good time and no one got them all right. These guys have come up with a heck of a tool for all of us. I'm sure that the club will utilize the tarp test a lot in future outings.

The pictures below are from our club meeting in November, prize winners. Ed Spruill, Tom Bragg, Clinton Struceon, Mike Cheatum and Mark Davey. Other winners: Bill Bransom, Penny Ferguson, Jack Hixon, Rhonda Ferguson and Mark Davey.

Our congratulations to you all.



How deep will that metal detector go?

By Dan Breitenstein

One of the most common questions I'm asked is "How deep will that metal detector go?" Sometimes life just isn't fair because it's not only the most common question, but it's the hardest one to answer. There really is no written "set" answer that I can give without explaining what goes on down in the earth around that buried object and what happens when you stumble upon it with your detector.

I'm sure that the most basic answer I can give is that the more expensive, sophisticated models are more powerful and do go deeper. But that answer in itself is not the complete answer.

When a coin or relic is buried in the ground, the condition of the soil around it plays the most important part in whether or not you will pick it up with your metal detector. The object tends to create a halo, or electromagnetic field around it after being buried for some time that increases your detectors' ability to find it. Usually this halo will increase over time to an optimum level and then taper off somewhat.

Additional moisture in the soil increases conductivity and objects are easier to detect. That's why you'll usually find me out there after a good soaking rain, working an area that I "hunted out" when the soil was dry. This is probably the biggest shot in the arm our hobby gets from nature and we should all take advantage of it whenever possible.

The base metal itself that you're detecting is also a major factor. Iron seems to be the metal that detectors are drawn to most. Whether it's the conductivity of the base metal, or some other scientific fact, I really don't know, I'm not a rocket scientist. A good friend of mine found a toy car last year better than a foot deep, and the only metal on it was the rusted iron axels. Some folks had the audacity to doubt his claim because he wasn't using the most sophisticated, powerful model out there. But the proof is in the pudding, he found it.

Running "wide open" in the all metals mode will also give you more depth. The circuitry used to discriminate out iron and aluminum decreases your depth range somewhat. This is something that isn't really in the instruction manuals, but it's a fact. I think the manufactures know, as most of us do, that running in the discrimination mode is what most folks should do in parks and other well-groomed places. This is simply because digging everything in high traffic areas could be a major excavation and leave the land owners and park dwellers with a bad taste in their mouth for metal detecting. But turning the discrimination off does increase depth.

The size of the coil makes a difference. A larger coil diameter will usually get you more depth. Most Bounty Hunter Metal Detectors come with a standard 8" coil that provides the optimum performance for their machines for all around metal detecting. They sell an optional 10" coil that can and will add a couple of extra inches to your depth capability. Conversely, the 4" optional coil decreases your depth somewhat but affords you the opportunity to sort out multiple

targets in trashy areas. All three of these coils have their place and are great options to increase the flexibility of your treasure hunting.

Outside interference can wreak havoc on your depth capability. High voltage electrical lines overhead or nearby will cause false signals and force you to turn your sensitivity down a bit and decreases your depth. Other factors of interference are obstacles like black sand, hot rocks, coal cinders, salt water, and other forces of nature are all factors in depth range simply because you have to turn your sensitivity down to deal with them.

The size of the buried object will affect the range of the detector. The larger the object, the greater depth you can detect it. I find a lot of quarters at 8"- 9" depth, but a dime at that depth is a rare treat and darn near impossible.

To answer the basic question of depth, I'm trying to impart that it's a relative thing. Yes, the more expensive models do go deeper. I use a Bounty Hunter Time Ranger and a Bounty Hunter Landstar. It amazes me how deep they will go. But, on the far other side of the spectrum The Tracker ID has proven itself to be a reliable machine that will go deeper than you would ever imagine if you know how to apply the principles of getting the most depth out of any metal detector.

Don't Forget, we will have a work party Tuesday 5th, to build our float entry for the parade of lights.

See you there

John

Code OF Ethics of Treasure Hunters

- **I WILL** respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the owner's permission.
- **I WILL** fill all excavations.
- **I WILL** appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
- **I WILL** use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- **I WILL** build fires in designated or safe places only.
- **I WILL** leave gates as found.
- **I WILL** remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- **I WILL NOT** litter.
- **I WILL NOT** destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- **I WILL NOT** tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.



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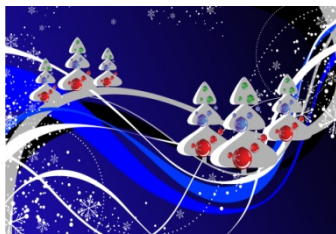
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December got off to a great start with cold weather and a Parade of Lights scheduled for the 4th. Our group of treasure hunters & prospectors decided to enter a float in the parade. On Dec. 1st a group of eleven members met at James Bros. Equipment to assemble the parts & pieces, lights and garland. With the help of Mark Davey's Dutch oven cobbler, by the end of the evening, we had our first float ready to go.



The parade was scheduled for Friday the 4th and we had to be in position by 5:30 and it was cold! About five really Dedicated (crazy) treasure hunters and three tough children waited for an hour on the float. Our feet got a head start on freezing. At about 6 PM the parade started down Polk street to the cheers and good wishes of a very large crowd. The parade ran for about an hour, eventually finishing at 4th and Fillmore. We were all half frozen, but still cheering and having a great time. For those who were not there, you missed a great time. Perhaps next year we will build a more elaborate float and have more members aboard, but one thing is certain, we won't have any more fun than was had this first year.



Christmas Party 2009



Amarillo Prospectors & Treasure hunters

had their regular monthly meeting at Dyers Barbeque. This meeting was also our annual Christmas party and dinner. The evening started at 5:30 with guests signing up, getting tickets for drawings and visiting. Orders were taken and dinner was served around 6 PM. Barbequed beef, sausage and ribs served with beans, cole slaw and Texas toast.

I don't think anyone went home hungry!



Prize drawings and gifting started after the fine meal. There were 40 people Present and at least 80 prizes. I think everyone had a gift or won a drawing. I won't attempt to list all the winners, but perhaps we will recognise them in January.

Some of the high points were the "Treasure Find" and "Prospecting Find" for 2009. All entrants for this award must have Won a monthly for their respective category and were required to bring their find Tuesday night.

The winners in those two events were Rodney Laubhan for his "Colorado Gold" and John London for a Mans "Gold Ring"



With 5 diamonds.

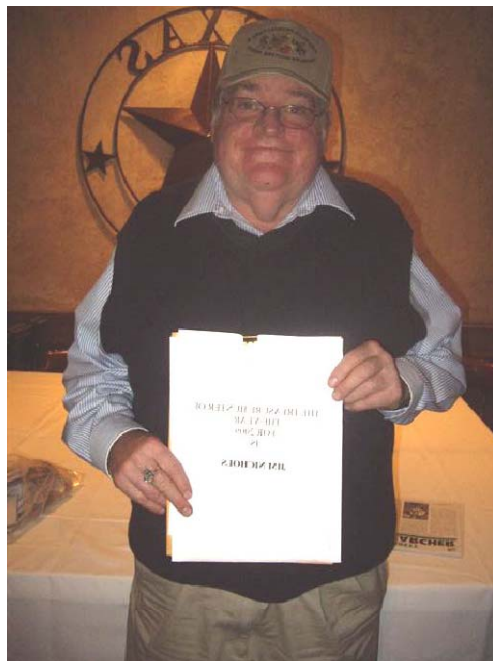
After seeing those finds and cash awards, I'm sure that the Competition will be stiff next year. Nice job men!

The drawings for prizes and white elephant gift exchange was fun and a lot of laughs for everyone. Walking sticks, coin Probes, cash, gold nuggets and silver coins were among the prizes that members hoped to win.

Our clubs highest award is "Treasure Hunter of the Year" and all members are eligible. Ballots were passed out at the November meeting, the votes were put in a sealed envelope and delivered to a **non** member for counting.

It is my honor to announce the "Treasure Hunter of the year" for 2009. This award is to recognize not only treasure hunting/prospecting performance, but also for service to the community and to APTHA. Our winner this year has excelled in these areas.

Treasure Hunter of the Year for 2009 is Mr. Jim Nichols



Congratulations Jim

The final item on our meeting agenda was recognition of newly elected officers and board members.

New officers for 2010 are :

Mark Davey—President

Tobey Shedd-1st VP

Jim Nichols—2nd VP

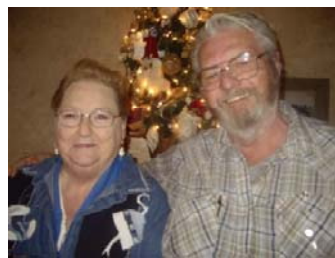
Rodney Laubhan #1 Board member

Mike Darnel #2 Board member

The evening ended with the “Passing of the Gavel” From John London to Mark Davey.



This meeting was a success in every way. My thanks to all who helped organize this wonderful event.



What a year 2009 was!

2009 was a very successful year on many fronts for Amarillo Prospectors & Treasure Hunters Association. APTHA continues to grow both in numbers and activities. A big step was the writing and acceptance of our club By-Laws this year. The by-laws are a solid foundation for the club leadership and members to follow and understand how our club is supposed to operate. APTHA had several outings that were fun and produced silver for lots of us. Prospectors shared memories of gold and some real gold in Colorado as well as lots of new stories to tell. APTHA was the first organization in Amarillo to adopt a park. APTHA added many activities to our meetings, such as Show & Tell, Finds of the Month for prospecting and treasure, yellow ticket chances, and the blue and red ticket are still a mainstay of our meetings. We also added Finds of the Year for Prospector and Treasure, and Treasure Hunter of the Year which were decided and revealed at our Christmas Party. For those that missed the party you missed a good time and lots of fellowship.

Our meetings gave use some very informative programs from our members and a few that non-members were brought in for special presentations. APTHA learned to clean coins and jewelry; how to identify gold and diamonds; camp cooking and the tools needed was discussed; instructions on how to locate a target and dig it properly with a cookout; a tutorial on how detectors and coils work; a discourse on old bottles and how to date them; APTHA had great demonstrations of other member's collections from metal detecting and Indian artifact collection and the creative ways to display them. More good advice on how to use the Internet in your treasure and prospecting adventures, whether it's local or clear across the country the Internet is a very useful tool. Your GPS in your coin shooting or prospecting can be very useful. It has been a good year for learning from our programs and APTHA should be able to build on all these programs and add even more value to our club meetings in 2010.

Members saw lots of action both in prospecting and treasure hunting with many wonderful finds and many more great memories. From metal detecting lawns, parks, the AFB and other places; lots of nice coins were found and some really unique relics and memorabilia were recovered from the ground to see the light of day again and give us some great thoughts on whom may have dropped them and what were the people were like back then. Many of us were able to dig at

an old dump site where coins, bottles and other artifacts were uncovered with many hours of digging and sifting. Some of the outings that were the most fun have been the impromptu hunting places or partners from our forum. There members would let people know where they would be and other members would join in.

Our members took advantage of several club sponsored hunts and prospecting trips. Finding silver was the goals of course but what lots of us found were friends and new hunting partners. The goal of our club is to share both knowledge and preservation of our shared diversions. We participated in our first parade; boy was it cold but still was a blast. We had a great turn-out for the Float Build which went great and we did a simple but nice looking float being our first and were treated with a Dutch oven cobbler by Mark Davey. Another club "build" was the fabrication of some dry washers from plans APTHA purchased. I feel APTHA did a pretty good job this year and will improve on our outreach and training in 2010 with your support and help. A new outing where targets are hidden under a tarp and then ask members to identify them was a good training exercise and an eye opener and worked well with our 2nd annual Chili Cook Off and Chili Man Ferguson won again! I think tarp hunt is an activity APTHA can do several times a year as it is a great training exercise and a fun activity to boot. Of course the main thing is APTHA wants you input from all our members so we can add activities that are fun and also provide some sort of training or skill sharpening. So put your thinking caps on and come up with some ideas on what APTHA can do as a club. It was obvious that our events people worked hard on our behalf. Thanks to all that made those hunts possible. Speaking of hunts, if you have ideas on where we should hunt please share it with us! The more inputs the better.

Thanks to all our members for you efforts and support. With your continued support and participation I see nothing but continued improvement and growth for our club.

Jim Nichols

To the Amarillo Prospectors & Treasure Hunters association Members;

I want to first thank all of you for being in our Family of Prospectors and Treasure Hunters. I greatly enjoy our fellowship and times together. I also need to respectfully thank all those that voted for me as this year's Treasure Hunter of the Year. I was very surprised and humbled by this honor. There are so many deserving members in our great club. I just wanted to acknowledge some our also deserving club members and remind us all of what were just a few of their contributions. Remember most of the services these club members offered were before any award like the Treasure Hunter of the Year was even a thought. I'll not list them in any specific order just as my feeble mind remembers just a few some of their efforts on behalf of our club.

John London, our past President for the last 2+ years has been a leader and teacher to all of us. John has seen the club grow and mature under his leadership. He has lead by doing! Thanks John! Now on more personal note; John has been my tutor and coach since I first joined the club. Mr. London has instructed, showed by example and deed just what a true treasure hunter is and what is expected of all of us. When I needed a correction on my "skills" John was there with a gently but deserving chiding, but also there with praise when I did things correctly. So, I want to personally thank John for his

tutelage, his support and especially his patience with my insistent questions and observations. You will always be a Treasure Hunter Extraordinaire and special friend to me.

“The Coordinator” Rodney Laubhan, what an asset for our club he has been. Rodney is there every month with ideas, service and selfless commitment to a well run and organized club. He almost single handedly planned and ran the “Lincoln Penny Birthday” raffle. It was a huge success and helped the Club make substantial funds for acquiring tools and equipment for prospecting for the club. Members can utilize the tools needed to prospect for gold thanks to Rodney. Rodney has spent many hours getting us places to go as a group to metal detect or prospect. I have enjoyed many of these outings thanks to his planning and organizing of the hunts. Rodney your service and contributions are not acknowledged as you deserve but your service isn’t overlooked. Thanks for being a good leader and comrade.

Mark Davey, what a selfless good hearted man! He has served the club in so many ways. Always there to help, to get behind our activities and never takes a back seat when there is work to be done. He has hauled that wonderful BBQ trailer that has been the catalyst to some really great meals. When we need materials for a club project Davey was on the spot. When we needed a place to work he offered his place of business for our efforts. Mark is quick with a complement, slow to judge and always a gentleman. Mark’s sacrifices for our club are so appreciated by me and everyone else. Thanks Mark, your guidance by example and your comradeship is a treasure in itself.

There are so many more that contribute and support our wonderful club that space or time doesn’t make it possible to list all of you. I also have to recognize my wife Terri. She has let me spend hours enjoying this great pastime. She deserves a big part of this recognition. Those that have contributed and supported our activities for all this time, I thank you. I am happy to say I count many in the club as true friends. The three individuals I mentioned above have been personal examples and instrumental in why I joined this club to learn more and also to find like minded individuals. It has been more than I ever hoped for and will try to live up to your expectations as this year’s Treasure Hunter of the Year.

Very humbly yours,

Jim Nichols

I want to personally wish you all the very best Christmas and New Year.

I’ll be looking for you in January!

John London

