

This month's drawing winners!

Jim Nichols won the 50/50 drawing

Bud Elliott & Jim Nichols won the Blue ticket drawing.

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 & Skip Kendrick

Club News

Welcome to the April 2009 edition of the Prospectors & Treasure Hunters Newsletter



At our April meeting, The program was presented by Rodney Laubhan & Jim Nichols. Their presentation covered "Treasure Hunting" in wrecking yards and screening what they found in old cars. What a unique and interesting way to find and recover treasure.

Thank you Rodney & Jim

Our "Find of the Month" Winner is John London.

There was no Prospecting find of the month for April.

Congratulations!



Pictured below are the winners of our club drawings: Jim Nichols, Skip Kendrick, Bud Elliott, George Baca, Harold Taylor, Linda Shedd and Kathy Bragg--- Congratulations!



Club members, Jack Hixon will give a presentation on Indian artifacts and how to hunt them
Don't miss this one!

The May 2009 meeting will be held at 2200 W. 7th @7:PM.

Board of directors had their meeting at 5:00 PM, Monday May 4th @ Gander Mountain.
Please see the text below.

See You at 7:00PM on May 12th



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!

The executive board held their regular board meeting Monday night April 6.

Skip Kendrick assumed the Treasurers position. He will be in charge of balancing(accounting) and reporting on all club financial matters. Our thanks to Kathy Bragg and Rodney Laubhan for the fine job they have done with the club books.

Mark Davey and Jim Nichols have volunteered to fill two (2) board slots until elections in October. The board recommends that we accept them as of the May meeting.

We also discussed various types of prospecting equipment and have a list to be voted on at the May meeting.

The list includes: 1 highbanker combo by Jobe, 2 A-52 sluice boxes, 4 Garrett bucket classifiers, Various sizes of gold pans, Long handled spades and square point "D" handle shovels, 1 pick(ugh) :o) Prices on these items will be discussed at the meeting. We would like to vote on the equipment purchases at the meeting and a ballot will be provided.

Club member E B Shedd has donated a gold nugget to the club to help make money for equipment. The board has decided to sell raffle tickets for \$1 each, beginning at the May meeting. Ticket sales will run through the June meeting when the drawing will be held. Please see the picture below. Please be sure to thank E B for his support!

After the May meeting, If you want a club coin, whether charter member or not, low numbers will be assigned to those who first pay for coins. The club has 300 coins in inventory.

This is a repeat from last month's news letter, as a reminder.

The board also has revised our meeting structure.

Beginning immediately, All members are requested to come early if possible. The **only entry will be at the North rear door of the club room.** There will be a registration table set up. Please be in your seats and ready as the meeting will come to order promptly at 7:00PM! **We will not sell any raffle tickets until intermission!** The first ten (10) minutes will be for club announcements. The program will have thirty minutes (30) max and if it runs a bit short then we will use the time for more announcements. Our break will be for thirty (30) minutes and members may buy raffle tickets, pick up find of the month ballots, visit and enjoy refreshments. Find of the month and Show N Tell items may also be put on the table(s) during the break. After the break we will have "Show N Tell". Each entrant should give a short description of his/her finds or treasures. Next will be Find of the month for treasure hunting and prospecting. All entrys must be prospected or found in some manner, **Not Purchased!** The board has added a **FREE** raffle ticket (Green). This ticket will be for a \$1 presidential coin X 5 per meeting. Green tickets will be given to each registering member either before 7:00 or at intermission. Please Remember to be in your seat by 7:00PM! The Meeting will come to order at that time!

Our club hunt in Nara Visa N.M. will be on Saturday, 5/16/09. Sign up for the hunt at the meeting and remember to bring your release form. Lunch will be provided @ \$7 per person. The menu will be Green Chili stew, mashed potatoes, pot roast, gravy, vegetables, desert and a drink. That will be a real treat! Jim Nichols will be the Hunt master.

We will also have sign-ups for a Camp Don Harrington hunt on Saturday and Sunday, 5/30 & 31/09. The cost will be \$10 per hunter. Hunt masters are Rodney Laubhan for Saturday and Toby Shedd on Sunday

Show & Tell items are always wanted. Bring your latest finds. Each member will be given time during the show & tell time to show case your latest finds to members.

Sign in your Find Of The Month with Clinton Struchen before the meeting starts or during the break. Remember we vote for the best and winners get a \$10 prize. Finds are any treasure you have found since last meeting. Enter as many items as you want as long as each is a single item. If you have found GOLD nugget(s) or placer since last meeting you may enter in the prospector section. Winners get bragging rights for the month and a chance to enter the find in the Find Of The Year voted on during the Annual Christmas Party Second Tuesday of December. Winners of Year win \$120.00 in prizes. You can win big! Also, If you have used, personal equipment to sell, bring it to the meeting and try auctioning it after the meeting closes.

5 Reasons to Collect Certified and Graded Coins

by Robert L Taylor, JD

Why should a coin collector and investor buy and collect professionally graded and certified coins? Commonly called "slabs", they are housed in a protective plastic holder. There are many companies - over a dozen are less than 2 years old - which will put your coin in a slab after Certifying that it is Authentic, and assigning a Grade to the coin. The first reason for buying and collecting Certified and Graded Coins applies to all of these companies. However, the most important reasons apply only to the Top Four companies: PCGS, NGC, ANACS, and ICG.

Reason No 1. To Protect Your Coin from Damage.

Visible Damage, which includes anything from finger prints/oils to being stepped on. More importantly, Environmental Damage, including such things as exposure to the air, or the wrong kind of air, chemicals in the air, and touching other objects (e.g.: certain plastics, liquids, food) and other coins, which will change the appearance and even structure of the coin. Damage causes loss of Value, which means Your Investment. A slab is an air tight container, and its purpose is Protection.

Reason No 2. To Establish Authenticity.

You want and need to know that your coin is not only the Real thing, but that it has not been altered (changing a mint mark - fraud) or changed, for example by cleaning, polishing, changing the appearance or surface of the coin, in any way that would render your coin unfit to collect. If it is Unfit to Collect, there won't be many Buyers or Sellers. Many coins graded by lesser companies end up getting Rejected by one of the Top Four for these reasons.

Reason No 3. To Establish Identity.

Is that 1909 Lincoln penny a VDB? Did you overlook the "S" mint mark. Is it a Type 1 or Type 2? These little identifying marks can mean the difference between a \$20 coin and one worth \$35,000. We all make mistakes and overlook or miss, mint marks, details, and certain other identifying factors which make up "Varieties" of each coin. It is the professional's duty to look for, and establish these things to determine a coin's true Identity.

Reason No 4. To Establish the Coin's Grade.

A coin's Grade is what determines its Value. You want Good Value when you Buy the coin. You want to get what you pay for (or more) and not get cheated. When you get ready to Sell or Upgrade, you want to

get the most for your coin. You have to Know what your coin is Worth! The Grade is always an Issue when Buying and Selling a Collectible Coin. Having the coin Professionally Certified and Graded virtually eliminates this Issue, and the Arguments. This is Your Neutral Third Party.

Reason No 5. Trust and Credibility.

The Top Four companies are Consistent, Reliable and Trustworthy. They have Established and Respected Reputations. Their Standards are the Highest and the Best. You are taking a Risk when buying a certified and graded coin from any other company. When you Sell a Certified and Graded Coin, it will speak for you. The reputation of the Grading Company will firmly establish the Grade of the Coin. This translates into the Value or Worth of the Coin.

It is possible to buy and sell a coin that is Certified and Graded by one of the Top Four, sight unseen, and know exactly what you are getting. From a description of the coin (e.g.: 1903 O, MS66, NGC, Morgan #034), you know what you are buying, and what to expect. It always helps to have a little description of its appearance, such as "white hot" or "slight reverse toning", since there is one limitation to selling a Certified and Graded coin sight unseen: It is still possible to buy an ugly coin. But that is why we have scanners, fax and email.

Therefore, as a Coin Collector and Investor, always collect Certified and Graded coins by one of the Top Four. It is the most reasonable way to verify authenticity and identity of every coin in your collection, as well as to establish a reliable Value. Every source of prices for any coin, be it a yearly book, magazine, a weekly or monthly newsprint; all base their prices on the Grading Standards of the Top Four grading companies, which strictly follow the ANA (American Numismatic Association) guidelines. If the Grade of your coin does not measure up to these Standards, then you are only guessing at the Value.

Take advantage of the benefits of buying and collecting certified and graded coins. Guaranteed are the Authenticity, Identity and Grade of your coin by the grading company. You will be able to place a value or worth of your coin and collection with relative certainty, and when it comes time to sell or upgrade your coins, you will find a larger and more willing pool of buyers, who will be looking for the same benefits that you have found.

Happy collecting,

Robert L Taylor, JD

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About the Author

Robert Taylor is a retired Lawyer, from Denver, CO, who has had a passion for collecting US coins, since the age of 6. Wanting to share his Passion, he made available <http://www.ThePerfect-Coin.Com> which features US Rare and Modern Coins



Find more and deeper treasure

This article was helpful to me. I hope it makes your searches more productive. Jim

It never fails. There's always somebody who is able to find more and better things with a metal detector than any other people who are using the same make and model machine. Why does this one person almost always do better than the rest of us? What are we missing? Every metal detector has an absolute maximum depth that is determined by two basic factors: the diameter and physics of the search coil, and the electronic circuitry of the machine itself. In theory, it shouldn't matter who is running the machine. But put any metal detector in the hands of a pro, and it will turn up deeper, older coins than when that same detector is used by a novice. What's the secret? How does the experienced treasure hunter find those deeper coins that you've been missing? There are several simple rules anyone can follow to increase the depth of their metal detecting finds. The following tips will help you get the maximum depth, and therefore the maximum pleasure and value, from your metal detector. Follow these rules carefully, and in no time you'll be finding the deeper, older coins your treasure hunting buddies are passing right over!

1). Always use headphones.

And the best headphones to use are the big headphones with cups that surround your ears. They enable you to hear those weaker (and deeper!) signals that you miss when you use a Walkman-type headphone. A coiled headphone cord is much better than a limp, straight one, because like a telephone cord it doesn't get in your way while you're moving this way and that. Depending on your detector and your own sense of hearing, there are two special features you may want in your headphones: a mono/stereo switch, and individual volume controls for each ear. Some detectors require monaural headphones (Garrett and White's, for example), and some require stereo headphones (Tesoro and Fisher). Headphones with a mono/stereo switch can easily adapt to any brand of detector. If you hear better out of one ear than the other, individual volume controls will let you hear the same relative volume in each ear. Many people use headphones designed for listening to a stereo in an easy chair. These may be too fragile to last long when they face rough treatment in the field. Your metal detector dealer can steer you to a good sturdy pair of headphones especially designed for use by treasure hunters.

2). Slow down.

Most beginners walk much too fast as they detect. It's hard to acquire the patience to slow down, but remember that the coins aren't going anywhere. (Especially not into your pocket if you fly right past them). Slower detecting means you'll pick up deeper signals. But it is important to note that slowing down does not necessarily mean swinging your loop slower. To find the best swing speed for your detector, put a coin the ground. Swing your detector loop over the coin at different speeds, and raise and lower your loop to see what speed gives you the best depth.. Remember, it is possible to swing some detectors TOO slowly, so be sure to experiment with some coins on the ground.

3). Keep your loop low to the ground.

If you swing the loop an inch above the ground, you are costing yourself an inch of depth. And you probably paid quite a bit of money for that bottom inch! Keep your coil against the ground as you swing it. (If you don't have a coil cover to protect your loop, get one). You'll hit rocks and scrape dirt when you keep your loop against the ground, but it is more than worth these minor aggravations to find the deeper, older coins.

4). Keep your swinging distance short.

The longer the length of your swing, the less control you have over your detector and the more you tend to lift the loop from the ground at the ends of the swing. Not only that, but on those longer loop swings your loop makes more of an angle with the ground. And that robs you of depth. You should keep the loop absolutely parallel to the ground for the entire length of your swing, and move your whole arm without bending your wrist. (If your detector has an armrest, you won't be able to bend your wrist as you swing your machine).

5). Use minimum discrimination.

When you increase discrimination on most metal detectors, you lose depth and a lot of gold rings. I recommend that you discriminate out iron, but nothing else except when junk conditions are so bad you can't live with low discrimination. If you must use higher discrimination, here are instructions on how to set your discriminator to eliminate pull-tabs (this will cost you many gold rings): Put a

pull-tab on the ground and swing your coil back and forth over it, slowly increasing the discrimination until the sound of the pull-tab breaks up or becomes erratic (or it may just go silent). Stop! You are now at a setting that will eliminate most junk, including pull-tabs, but you will still find all coins except nickels. There are some high-end detectors that have notch filters or target ID systems that allow you to skip pull-tabs and still find nickels and some gold rings. Note I said SOME gold rings!

My first detector (in the early 1970's) was primitive, with no discrimination. I had no choice but to dig every bottle cap and pull-tab in creation, hating every bit of it. BUT, I found more gold rings with that detector in the three years I used it than I have found in the last 20-odd years with a multitude of deeper, more modern detectors that have discrimination circuitry.

If you want to find gold rings, please go back and read that last paragraph again!

No, I'm not telling you to hit the flea markets in search of a primitive detector. I'm telling you to turn off the discrimination as often as you can stand it. Play this game: tell yourself that you are going to hunt with no discrimination until you have collected 25 pull-tabs, or 50 pull-tabs. By then you will probably be batty enough that you just have to turn the discrimination back on. At least this method gives you a fighting chance for some gold rings. Remember, the other treasure hunters who use discrimination are skipping right over those gold rings. Those rings will not be found until some brave soul turns off that discrimination. Shouldn't that brave soul be you?

6). Overlap your swings more.

The deeper a coin is buried, the smaller the area of your detector's signal that reaches that coin. So in addition to the fact that your detector power is less on deeper coins, you also have a much greater chance of missing a deeper coin because your signal area shrinks as the signal goes deeper. Think of the detecting pattern beneath your coil as a pointed-tip ice cream cone. Though your loop has a diameter of 8 inches, its detecting field narrows as the signal goes deeper, until at maximum depth your signal area is just a single point. Don't move that point too far with each sweep. The more you overlap your swings, the more likely you'll find those deep coins that you would otherwise miss.

7). Hunt when the ground is wet.

The wetter the ground, the more depth you're going to get from your detector. We all know we're more likely to get an electrical shock when we're standing in water. This is because water is a much better conductor of electricity than is air.

Similarly, your metal detector's signal can penetrate deeper into the ground when the soil is moist, and on a wet day you can find coins that are too deep to detect when the ground is dry. (Note: the ground can on rare occasions be too wet, causing false signals. If this happens, turn your sensitivity control down). Besides better depth, there are two added bonuses of metal detecting after a good rain. The ground is much easier to dig when it is wet, and the root system of the grass is less likely to be damaged by your digging.

8). Practice as often as you can. As in virtually every sport or skill, the more you practice the better you get. At first, it requires quite an effort to put all these suggestions into action. You must concentrate on each point, and constantly remind yourself to stay on track with each of the above tips. But after several sessions, these difficult-to-remember procedures begin to become second nature to you, and you'll do them all automatically. And that is when you'll find that you are the one who is leaving the others behind. When that happens, be a good sport and share these hints with them, too.

By Dan Hughes, Associate Editor, Treasure Quest Magazine

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We will also discuss possible membership(s) in WWATS, FMDAC and Texas council of treasure clubs.

See you all Tuesday

John London

