

This month's drawing winners!

Ron Newberry won the 50/50 drawing

Jim Nichols won the walking Liberty half dollars

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: KATHY BRAGG

Board Members: KEITH FERGUSON, BUD ELLIOTT & Skip Kendrick

Club News

Welcome to the September 2008 edition of the Prospectors & Treasure Hunters Newsletter

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The program for September was presented by Jim Nichols. Jims discussion centered around using the internet to develop leads for treasure & coin hunting. Using a computer and the web, satellite photos, tax records, library & news files may all be accessed from your home.

Great job Jim

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At this month's meeting we will need a commitment from all members who want to hunt Ceta canyon on Nov.1 & 2 and Dec 6 & 7. The cost is \$6.00 per person, per day and meals are \$8.00 if we have 20 hunters. The Canyon should be a prime hunt location and there is a lot of ground to cover, 4 days may not be enough.

Committees for activities & events are:

Dry washer- Ken Goad, chairman, assistants- Keith Ferguson & Carroll Herring

Spring Coin hunt, chairman, Dennis Gee, assistants- Toby Shedd, Clinton Struncheon, Jim Nichols

Summer Gold Outing, co-chairmen, Bud Elliott, Rodney Laubhan, assistants- Mark Davey, Tom Bragg & Keith Ferguson

Cap sales, Co chairs, Dennis Gee, George Baca, assistants, ron Newberry & Jack Hixon

Toby and E B Shedd gave a short talk on their trip to Padre Island. They showed their "almost Gold" Spanish coins. What a heart stopper! Thanks for the excitement guys.

The October meeting will be held @ 7:00 PM on Tuesday Oct. 14th @ 2200 W. 7th Street.

This month JIM Nichols will present "Coin cleaning methods" .

Don't miss it!

Board members meet @6:00. Please be there!



The Pictures above are from my files and are scenes from St. Elmo, Colorado and Hartsel/Fairplay, Colorado. They were inserted in lieu of our(club)

Physical presence. Oh well, we look forward to a spring/summer outing. The pictures in the center are of finds that Rodney Laubhan has worked hard for. They are from an un-disclosed site near Amarillo.

At the meeting Tuesday we will have many topics to cover. Those include:

The October hunt and Ceta canyon in November. We will also discuss our Christmas Dinner, time & place.

We need to finalize plans for the "Cow Punchers" hunt and Chili cook off.

Please bring any "Treasures" that you have found since last meeting and any other items of interest.

Below please see some coin facts, sent in by Jim Nichols and more on minerals, By Skip Kendrick.

I have included a list of materials for the Club Drywasher Project. Please look over the list and see if there are any items that you have and want to contribute. A lot of us probably have excess building materials just waiting to be used :o)

Please keep in mind that the plans cannot be copied, however if you want to hand write a few notes, I see no problem.

See you all at the meeting!

KEY DATE COINS

A key date coin is one of a series which is either scarce, rare, or much less common than most of the other dates in the series. When collectors or dealers pick through a large quantity of coins to form a complete date collection, it is always the "key date" which they find hardest to get. A key date coin is also usually the lowest mintage of the denomination or series.

SEMI KEY DATES

Some dates are not quite as scarce as others, but still not as common as most dates, and these are often referred as semi-key dates.

Below is a list of some of the more popular issue key date coins.

INDIAN HEAD CENTS (1859-1909)

1909-S ONE CENT - INDIAN HEAD The 1909-S Indian Head Cent has THE lowest mintage of the entire series (at 309,000 pieces, the mintage is less than half that of the revered 1877 Indian Head Cent). Collectors love this date not only for its rarity but because it is one of only two dates struck at the San Francisco Mint (the other being the 1908-S). 1909 was the last year of production for the Indian Head Cent and fore-sighted collectors saved many nice examples, thus keeping the price of Uncirculated examples reasonable relative to their rarity. Many counterfeit examples of this date exist, so certification is a must.

LINCOLN WHEAT CENTS (1909-1958)

1909-S V.D.B. LINCOLN CENT The 1909-S V.D.B. Penny has long been considered one of the key dates in the series, filling the dreams of collectors young and old. While the mintage of 484,000 may seem high compared to many other American rarities, one must understand that there are millions of people who collect Lincoln Head Cents. There are simply not enough 1909-S VDB Pennies to satisfy all of the collector demand.

BUFFALO HEAD NICKELS (1913-1938)

1937-D "Three Legged" Buffalo Nickel A rare Three-Legged version was created when Mint personnel over-polished an already worn die.

MERCURY HEAD DIMES (1916-1945)

1916-D Mercury Head Dime This is the key to the series with a mintage of 264,000 and it is eagerly sought after in all grades.

STANDING LIBERTY QUARTERS (1916-1930)

1916-P Standing Liberty Quarter This is the key and is very scarce as a circulation strike with a mintage of 52,000. Proofs are extremely rare and have a satin, slightly matte finish.

WASHINGTON QUARTERS (1932-1998)

1932-D Washington Quarter This is the key to this series with a mintage of 436,800, although all of the 1932 quarters are semi keys.

WALKING LIBERTY HALF DOLLARS (1916-1947)

1916-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar This is the key to the series with a mintage of 508,000, although all of the 1916 Walking Liberty Half Dollars are semi keys.

MORGAN SILVER DOLLARS (1878-1921)

1893-S Morgan Silver Dollar This scarce 1893-S Morgan Silver Dollar is the key to the series with a mintage of 100,000 and is rare in all grades.

AMERICAN SILVER EAGLES (1986-PRESENT)

1995-W Proof Silver Eagle - This 1995-W Proof Silver Eagle is the key to the series with a mintage of 30,125

Folding Drywasher Parts List

1x2 wood 18 L.F.
1x3 wood 14 L.F.
1x4 wood 4 L.F.
3/4 x 3/4 wood 14 L.F.
1/2 x 1/2 quarter round moulding for riffles 6 ft.
1/2 in plywood 2 x 2 Ft.
3/4 x 1/4 in. screen moulding wood 25 L.F.
Bellows Door 3/8 in plywood 1 x 2 Ft.
Nylon window screen 1 x 2 Ft.
Muslin cloth 1 x 2 Ft.
Flex plate (thin plastic) 3 1/2 x 10 in.
Rubber flapper material 6x6x 1/16 in.
Expanded metal 1x2 foot you pick mesh size
Piano hinge 2 ft.
Latches 2 ea or use 2 ea 16 penny duplex nails
1/2 in round bar steel 9 in. long (crankshaft)
1 x 1/8 x 4 flat bar steel (crankshaft)
Motor 12 VDC Fan type 1500 to 2000 rpm
Zip cord for motor 16 ga 6 ft.
Alligator clips for cord 2 ea.
V-Belt 3L-460 or similar not 4L (to large and tight).
Pulley for motor 1 in or 1 1/2 in.
Pillow blocks 1/2 in. bore 2 ea.
Shaft collars for setting position of crankshaft 2 ea. (may come on bearings)
Bolts for bearings 5/16 x 1 1/4 in long with washers, lock washers, and nuts
Die cast alum pulley 14 in. with 1/2 in. bore Or 12 in. with 1/2 in bore..
(could use a 3/4 in bore with bronze insert reducer, but would have to drill and tap for the set screw)
1/2 x 1/2 in 8 1/2 in square steel tube for connecting rod Or 1 x 1/8 x 8 1/2 in flat steel
Connecting Rod bolts 1/4 x 1 1/4 in with Locknuts and washers 2 ea. of all
1 x 1/8 flat bar 1 ft. for bellows mount
Galvanized steel for hopper bottom 24 x 16 in.
Weather striping 84 in x 3/16 in thick
Wing-Nuts for leg assembly 1/4 in 4ea for top
Bolts for leg assembly 1/4 x 2 in. 4ea for top with flat washers
Bolts for leg assembly 1/4 x 3 in. 4 ea for bottom bellows with lock nuts and flat washers
Phillips head bolts for bellows mount 10-24 x 1 in. with lock nuts and large flat washers 2 ea of all
Flat washers for leg assembly 10-24 12 ea.
Phillips head wood screws 50 ea #6 1 3/4 in long
Phillips head wood screws 10 ea #6 1/2 in. long
Flat washers 50 ea # 6
Duck Cloth (canvas) 1 x 5 ft.
Small pack of nails for riffle and frame construction
Weather proof Glue

What is a Mineral (continued)

Now that we have an idea of what a mineral is. We need to look at some different ways to identify, or to tell the minerals apart. The first way we will look at is how does a mineral break? Believe it or not some minerals can be identified by the way they break, or tell you which way to go for other tests for a sure identification. The first of these will be Cleavage. Cleavage occurs when a proper amount of force is applied, hitting with a hammer. When this happens a definite plan surface is yielded. The best example of this is the mineral mica and the flat surface that is shown when it is broken. I will say this, the way a mineral breaks is tied to the type of crystal and the amount of bond between the crystals. I will say no more on this as it has little to do with us and it gets very deep and over most heads very fast. Some other minerals that show cleavage are galena (lead), fluorite (which breaks on 3 plans), and calcite. Not all minerals show cleavage. The second breaking of a mineral is called Parting. Parting usually happens when along a structural weakness where they may be broken. The best example of this type of breaking would usually occur where you have a twined crystal. The next breaking we will look at is called a Fracture. This is the third way of breaking a mineral. It is call fracturing because it is not cleavage nor is it parting. There are 4 different types of fracture.

- 1- Conchoidal – this is a smooth, curving surface like the interior on the inside of an egg. Glass and quartz show a conchoidal fracture.
- 2- Fibrous or Splintery – with a break like this, the mineral will show something like splinters or fibers on the broken end.
- 3- Hackly – this is a break where the broken end shows a jagged, irregular surface with sharp edges. The last break is uneven or irregular. This is a break that has a rough and irregular surface.