



Rusk County Treasure Hunters Association

THE LEAVERITE NEWS



May-2016

Rusk County Treasure Hunters Association * Henderson, Texas
Member of Texas Association of Metal Detector Clubs (T.A.M.D.C.)

2016 RCTHA OFFICERS

President - Michael Heim (903) 241-4723	Hunt Master – Wayne Adkison (903) 928-9135
Vice President – Rick Hurlburt (903) 445-9691	Board Member – Keith Wills (903) 734-7773
Treasurer – Mary Hurlburt (903) 445-9591	Board Member – Larry Wilkinson (903) 720-4808
Secretary - JoAnn Dunn (903) 392-3575	

Meeting Place: South Main Church of Christ (back parking lot building) 402 S. Main St. Henderson, TX
Meeting Time: 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Visitors welcome.
Email Contact: michaelheim39@gmail.com

Where Have All the Silver Coins Gone To?

By: Keith Wills



Many detectorists are satisfied with just digging clad/modern coins today, I guess we all start this hobby doing that, since older silver coins are becoming hard and hard to find for most. However, the silver is still out there, it's just not in every yard as it once was. Why, because our communities grow and expand to newer properties that may not have had any old history connected to them. It makes sense to know that older Silver Coins are located where earlier populations gathered or lived. What is obvious to every treasure hunter is what remains of older sites out there and of course that site should be the location to finding those older Silver Coins. Yet many treasure hunters have been there before you because of what little evidence was left of the site. This doesn't mean they didn't miss something maybe, because they didn't have as much experience as you about their equipment, or had a cheap detector that just had no depth, either way some sites are worth checking again and again.

How about "research" to help you get on a good site, not forgetting to ask permission from the landowner, of course. Try spending a few of these hot summer days in the air conditioning of your county seat Library and ask to be taught how to use the microfiche files located there. Try looking over older newspapers from many decades ago kept on those microfiche files, where historical societies would write articles of older historical sites in your community and tell you its history and location. This will be some of the easiest researching you'll ever do.

Maybe your work schedule is too busy and finding time to hunt or do some research is just not or hasn't yet become available. You only have today off and sure would love to find some local site you can metal detect to find some older Silver Coins right now, today. Where can you go, yet not have to search out the landowner for permission? Note: by no means am I telling you not to get permission from a landowner, for it is the correct thing to do and is only good ethics. However, places do remain that are legal to hunt in short notice and I will explain how I have done so for many years now with no problems.

Let me first explain state law on trespass in Texas: anything that constitutes a fence (it can be a yard or property outlined in bricks, or a single string between stakes around the perimeter of the property or even a wire fence now laying on the ground) around the property you want to search. This is all boundaries of the property and it is considered trespass if you cross over it. Also any signs like No Soliciting, Keep Off, No Trespass, Private Property and of course if marked with purple paint along the perimeter on trees and fence post are also considered trespass if you cross over onto the property without permission from the property owner or caretaker. If you cross such without permission, you can be arrested immediately or worse.

Now with that being said and hopefully understood; one of my favorite places to search in short notice for older Silver Coins and personal items lost is *house yards* in the older section of town. I have many times drove up and down older streets in a town, usually only a few blocks from downtown area, and search for older homes where the electric meter has been removed and I know no one is living in the house from its appearances. I'll get out and search for treasures in the front yard and maybe the side yards of the house site, but remembering what I said about trespass, I cannot hunt the backyard because in most cases it is fenced, even if it doesn't have a gate or the fence is in bad repair. If I hunt there, I take the chance of being hauled off to jail without question.

Sometimes I have had a neighbor or relative or the police come up to me in a front yard and ask me what I'm doing there, at which time I explain I'm only looking for lost coins and any small dibbits I may dig in the yard I fill back so it hardly looks as if I have been there. I explain this metal detector is my hobby and keeps me off the streets per say, but I would be more than happy to leave if you feel I'm causing any harm to the property or annoyed the owner. In nearly every case, their response is: "no go ahead—I don't see where you're hurting a thing—hope you finds something good" and they will leave me to my searching. As a rule, most folks are good hearted, but if for some reason you run across one that is not, then just leave, for there is another site down the road somewhere I assure you. Remember, if the front yard is not fenced or signed then all they can do is ask or tell you to leave, they cannot arrest you unless you refuse to leave or you have been destroying property there. Over the years I have found most all the older in-town yards have Silver Coins even today. I especially love "Scraped Lots" in-town, for there they have already moved the old home off the property and have scrapped off the first few inches of dirt so to level the lot which has removed most of the everyday trash we have to dig and has gotten you closer to the older coins you're looking for. If there is no equipment working and nothing that would constitute trespass, then I stop and hunt the site before they cover it up with another structure.

Now, I have given you some good inside tips here as to how you may start finding older coins and artifacts, but please remember that each of us are to be good ambassadors to our hobby we love, so please always be courteous with everyone you meet or talk to about our hobby or permission to enjoy it. We are in this hobby to enjoy ourselves, to have some "quite time" to ourselves and let our worries float away. So please Do Not use this article to say that Keith gave you permission to trespass or act disrespectful to anyone, especially a landowner.

Enjoy your hunting.

NOTE: Keith Wills is the owner of East Texas Metal Detectors out of Gilmer. He is the only local dealer in the area that repairs detectors. He sells all major brands. He has all the metal detecting accessories you need for both land and water hunting, gold dredging and panning. Drop by and see his store, meanwhile you can check out his website at www.brokendetector.com. All RCTHA members get 15% off metal detectors and accessories.

All major brands • Land or water • Accessories
Gold dredging & panning • Professional & beginners



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www.brokendetector.com

Keith Wills • kwills@etex.net

Keith is also the Vice President of WWATS (World Wide Association of Treasure Seekers), www.wwats.org. The Focus of WWATS is to be an information center, providing special training as necessary to understand our relationships with, and to openly approach, our government agencies, seeking ways our hobby can co-exist within the rules and regulations used to govern public lands today. Pick up the WWATS Flyer for the Fall Hunt on the Officers Table.



If you would like to submit an article, story, or pictures of your adventures in metal detecting to "The Leaverite News" please submit to michaelheim39@gmail.com by the 1st of each month.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

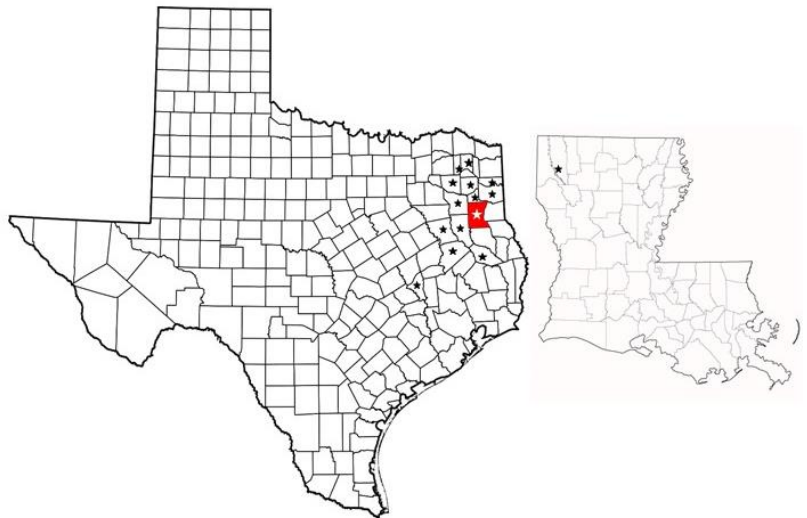


Daniel Sellers-Longview
David Stanley-Tyler
Brandon Ellerbee-Mineola

RCTHA MEMBERSHIP LOCATIONS

TEXAS: 14 Counties

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Angelina County | Anderson County |
| Brazos County | Cherokee County |
| Franklin County | Gregg County |
| Harrison County | Houston County |
| Marion County | Rusk County |
| Smith County | Titus County |
| Upshur County | Wood County |



LOUISIANA: 1 Parish

Bossier Parish



The Latvia Silver Benefit Hunt was a great success. We had 34 in attendance with 29 hunters. Everybody got their fair share of silver and 33 prize tokens were up for grabs. A special thank you to all those who donated prizes: Sue Wilson with Garrett, Keith Wills with East Texas Metal Detectors, Ed Pavlasek with Texas Premium Detectors, Wayne Morin with Metal Detecting Stuff, RCTHA member, Corey Bobbitt, The Coin Investor, Michael Bennett a.k.a. Nugget Noggin, The Diggers, Bob Sullivan with CS Sales and Service, Lindsey Gaithright with J & L Cash Depot, Brookshires, and Sharon Langley. I especially want to say thank you to all those who came out and hunted and purchased raffle tickets. We raised \$3700 toward the Latvia Mission Trip expenses!

Calendar of Events

(Dates and Times are subject to change)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Spring Silver Hunt | May 14, The Historic Cates Home on N. Marshall |
| WWATS Rendezvous Hunt | May 26-29, Mancos, CO |
| Lions Camp Hunt for Children | June 15-16, Kerrville, TX |
| Surf & Turf Hunt | July 16, Lake Gladewater |
| TAMDC Satellite Hunt | July 23, Corpus Christi |
| Beach Flag Hunt | September 17, Lake Hawkins |
| TAMDC Satellite Hunt | October 8, Jefferson |
| WWATS Rendezvous Hunt | October 15-16, Antlers, OK |
| Fall Silver Hunt | October 29, Eastside Baptist Church |
| Syrup Festival | November 12, Henderson Depot Museum |
| Christmas Banquet | December 13, White Oak Baptist Church |
| TAMDC Satellite Hunt | January 21, 2017, Galveston |

Spring Silver Hunt

One-day hunt for club members only

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Pick up flyer for more information and registration





Bi-Monthly Giveaway

5 oz. Silver Bar

Drawing will be June 14, 2016 club meeting.

Tickets can be purchased at any regular club meeting or club hunt. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

PARK TOKENS REPORT

NOTE: Remaining Club Tokens are still good for silver and are placed in Longview's, Flewellen Park on Judson Road across from Posado's Mexican Restaurant, Kilgore City Park, and Eastside Baptist Church in Henderson. There will be a time at each monthly club meeting in exchange for silver coins. **If you find one of our old non-marked tokens you can turn them in for a silver dime.**

Park	Tokens	Found	Remaining	Special Tokens
Flewellen Park, Longview	8	4	4	0
City Park, Kilgore	8	5	3	0
EBC, Henderson	9	8	1	0

WINNERS of the FINDS OF THE MONTH – April 2016

PRE 1900 Coins	1 st	James Kilgore	1897 Indian Head Penny
POST 1900 Coins	1 st	Michael Heim	1904 Indian Head Penny
	2 nd	Tom Moss	1960 Franklin Half
	3 rd	Ed Worley	1956 Rosie Dime
	4 th	Jake Barnett	1948 Wheat Penny
Gold/Platinum Jewelry-	1 st	Sue Anderson	14k Gold Wedding Ring
Silver/Other Jewelry-	1 st	Thomas Davis	Heart Ring
	2 nd	Mike Ross	Silver Chain
	3 rd	Tom Moss	1890 Watch Fob
	4 th	Dorris St. Claire	Education Medallion



Token-	1 st	Michael Heim	Eisenhower Bicentennial Novelty
	2 nd	Tom Moss	50 th Anniversary State Token
	3 rd	Jake Barnett	Game Token
	4 th	Dorris St. Claire	Chuck E. Cheese Token
Relic-	1 st	James Kilgore	Adolphus Hotel Badge
	2 nd	Jake Barnett	Iron
	3 rd	Michael Heim	Early 1900's Broach
	4 th	Rick Hurlburt	Medical Tin
Judges- Choice	1 st	Tom Moss	WW1 Dog Tag
	2 nd	Michael Heim	Texas Ranger Badge
	3 rd	James Kilgore	WW2 Dog Tag
	4 th	Jake Barnett	1960's Gas Sign
Toy-	1 st	Thomas Davis	1911 Renault Care (1963)
	2 nd	Ed Worley	Derringer Toy Gun
	3 rd	Michael Heim	1950 Thunderbird Tootsie Toy
	4 th	Jake Barnett	Toy Car

RCTHA Leading Diggers- Thru April

Leading diggers will change from month to month based on the points given with each win from the *Finds of the Month* competition. These points will determine in December who will be the *Digger of the Year*. In case of a tie the winner will be determined by the total number of wins. In case points and wins are a tie, winner will be determined who had the most first place wins.



Mike Ross	37 Points	14 Wins
Jake Barnett	25 Points	15 Wins
Dorris St. Claire	25 Points	11 Wins
James Kilgore	24 Points	7 Wins
Thomas Davis	21 Points	8 Wins
Michael Moore	14 Points	4 Wins

TICKETS, BINGO CARDS & SPLIT THE POT DRAWING

Each month we will have tickets and Bingo Cards (various months) sales to raise funds for the club. Tickets and BINGO cards are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You can buy tickets for the following:

Coins- there will be 3-4 drawings each club meeting for quality coins and sometimes even a gold coin.

Bi-Monthly Giveaways- every other month we will have a drawing for great prizes such as detectors, silver bars, coins and other items.

Bingo Cards- Occasionally we will have a Bingo Night during the time allotted for a speaker. The cards are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. There will be nice quality prizes to be won.

Split the Pot- Write your name or initials on a \$1 bill, or as many as you like, and place in the 50/50 Bucket and at the close of the meeting we will draw for a winner. If we draw your name, you win and split the pot with the club.

Hidden Prize Winner- Each month there will be a hidden silver coin and one lucky winner.

Last Month's Winners:

Ticket Drawings: James Kilgore (2x), Keith Wills, Daniel Sellers, Thomas Davis

Split the Pot Drawing: Michael Moore

Door Prize Winners: Judy Barnett, Thomas Davis, Mike Ross, Jr. St. Claire, Rick Hurlburt, Ada Worley

Park Tokens: NA

Bi-Monthly Prize Winner: Wayne Adkison

Hidden Special Prize Winner: NA

BINGO Winners: NA

RCTHA Rules for "Finds of the Month"

- 1) To enter any item(s) in the **Finds of the Month** you must be a member of RCTHA and club dues must be current for the year.
- 2) Finds of the month consist of what you have found while in the spirit of treasure hunting (no purchases from stores, garage sales, etc) from the club meeting of the previous month to the current club meeting. For example, you cannot use an item that you found in June 2013 to be placed in January 2014. Finds of January 2014 must be found between club meeting in December 2013 and club meeting in January 2014. Only finds found from the monthly meeting until the next monthly meeting will qualify for the Finds of the Month. **Finds of the Months can only be used once.**
- 3) Any item in any category may be removed by the Hunt Master and one other Board Member or Officer at their discretion if the item does not comply with the Finds of the Month rules. Only one item per member for each of the categories will qualify.
- 4) Any bottle found while in the process of treasure hunting on the surface of the ground needs to be placed in the JUDGE'S CHOICE category. All other bottles found is to be placed in the RELICS or JUDGE'S CHOICE categories. If placed in RELICS, it must be 75 years old or older.
- 5) If you find multiple items of the same category, the first one must go in the applicable category. The additional item(s) can be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE or RELICS. If placed in RELICS it must be 75 years old or older.
- 6) Pictures and descriptive materials may be substituted for an item if the item is unavailable for display.
- 7) Any current member can vote on Finds of the Month. You are allowed **ONLY** one vote per category.
- 8) **You must be present at the club meetings** to submit your finds for The Finds of the Month.

FIND OF THE YEAR: Only items entered in the "Finds of the Month" and winning **first place** during the year may be entered in the Find of the Year competition. This runs December through November each year and the Board members will elect and announce the winner during the December club meeting.

DIGGER OF THE YEAR: The Digger of the Year Award will be determined by total amount of points won from the years Finds of the Month competition. First Place = 4 Points, Second Place = 3 Points and Third Place = 2 Points, Fourth Place = 1 Point. There will be a monthly score sheet listed in the newsletter who the leading digger(s) are.

COINS: Must be found while treasure hunting (ie. metal detecting, dredging, prospecting, mining, magnet fishing, bottle hunting, etc.) No coins found in planted competition hunts or won by previous wins in the Finds of the Month can be used in this category. If more than one coin is found, one coin must be placed in the COINS category. Additional coins may be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE of any date or in the RELICS category if it is 75 years old or older. All coins predating 1900 must be placed in the PRE-1900 Category and all coins postdating 1900 must be placed in the POST-1900 Category.

JEWELRY: Must be found while treasure hunting (ie. metal detecting, dredging, prospecting, mining, magnet fishing, bottle hunting, etc.) No jewelry found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category. If more than one piece of jewelry is found, one piece of jewelry must be placed in the JEWELRY category. Additional pieces of jewelry may be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE or RELICS if it is 75 years old or older. All gold, white gold, platinum and palladium must be placed in the GOLD/PLATINUM JEWELRY category and all silver and other jewelry types must be placed in the SILVER/OTHER JEWELRY category.

TOKENS: Must be found while treasure hunting (ie. metal detecting, dredging, prospecting, mining, magnet fishing, bottle hunting, etc.) No tokens found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category. If more than one token is found, one token must be placed in the TOKENS category. Additional tokens may be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE or RELICS if it is 75 years old or older.

RELICS: Anything 75 years old or older and must be found while treasure hunting (ie. metal detecting, dredging, prospecting, mining, magnet fishing, bottle hunting, etc.) No items found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category.

JUDGE'S CHOICE: Anything found while treasure hunting (ie. metal detecting, dredging, prospecting, mining, magnet fishing, bottle hunting, etc.) Bottles, relics, additional coins, additional jewelry and additional tokens. No items found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category.

TOY: Any toy found while treasure hunting (ie. metal detecting, dredging, prospecting, mining, magnet fishing, bottle hunting, etc.) No items found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category. If more than one toy is found, additional toys may be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE or in the RELICS category if it is 75 years old or older.

METAL DETECTOR'S CODE OF ETHICS

1. Respect the rights and property of others
2. Do not detect without the land owner's permission
3. Observe all laws, whether National, State, or Local
4. Aid Law Enforcement Officials whenever possible
5. Never destroy historical or archeological structures
6. Never destroy, damage or deface public or private property, or what is left of ghost towns or deserted structures



7. Leave land and vegetation as it was
 8. Remove and properly dispose of all trash and litter when you leave
 9. Leave gates and enclosures as found
 10. Do not tamper with land owner signs, structural facilities, or equipment
 11. Take precautions when digging towards a target where underground conditions are unknown.
 12. You may be judged by the example you set so always be courteous with consideration for others.
 13. ALWAYS COVER YOUR HOLES!
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NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

June 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

South Main Church of Christ (back parking lot building)

402 S. Main St. Henderson, TX

Guest Speaker: TBA