



THE LEAVERITE NEWS



July, 2015

Rusk County Treasure Hunters Association * Henderson, Texas

Member of Texas Association of Metal Detector Clubs (TAMDC)

2015 RCTHA OFFICERS

President - Michael Heim (903) 241-4723
Vice President – Rick Hurlburt (903) 445-9691
Treasurer – Mary Hurlburt (903) 445-9591
Secretary - JoAnn Dunn (903) 392-3575

Hunt Master – Wayne Adkison (903) 928-9135
Board Member – Keith Wills (903) 734-7773
Board Member – Larry Wilkinson (903) 720-4808

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 or rcthaclub@aol.com

Fake Silver Coins: Nine Ways to Spot Counterfeits

(Article taken from www.silvercoins.com)

It is unfortunate that articles like this have to be written, Spot Fake Silver but where there is money trading hands, there will always be fakes, frauds, and counterfeits. If you have purchased some silver and can't get rid of that little voice in your head that keeps saying what if they are fake silver coins. Below are 13 ways on how to spot fake silver eagles, bars, and bullion. We've ranked them from the least to the most effective methods in detecting counterfeits. (Most of these tests can also be applied to gold as well).

1. Magnetic Test

While many fakes can easily pass this test, silver as well as gold bullion for that matter are both non-magnetic. If a bullion coin or bar sticks to a magnet you can easily throw this one out. Fakes that are produced with any iron or steel content in them will give off some magnetic attraction and identify itself as a fake. Metals that have a core of zinc, copper, lead or other non-magnetic metal will not be detected by this test. The stronger the magnet the better, a neodymium magnet (grade N52) should be able to detect any iron or steel based metal. You can pick one up on Amazon for about \$15. Be careful these magnets are extremely strong, fun to play with too! If it sticks it tricks.

2. Magnetic Slide Test

Continuing on with magnets, another test you can do to spot counterfeit silver is using a magnetic slide. Simple and easy to build, this is a fun way to instantly spot fakes without any complicated testing. How it works: even though silver is non-magnetic it has a property known as diamagnetism. This causes silver to repel when in contact with a magnetic field so real silver moving down a magnetic slide will move slower than fake silver. A fake will move down the slide with no resistance.

3. The Ice Test

Cheap and easy to do, getting some ice from the freezer is a simple way to test both silver coins and bars for authenticity. All you need to do is place the ice on the silver and watch. The ice should begin to melt immediately, this is because silver is the best conductor of heat for all the metals.

4. Dimensions Test

This type of test only applies to bullion coins from government mints. Since the most popular is the American Silver Eagle, we will take a look at that particular coin. The best way to take advantage of this is by using a good digital electronic scale. You will want to get a scale that measures at least to 2 decimal points in grams. Silver Eagles have a minted weight of 1 Troy oz. or 31.103 grams. Another easy give away is the diameter of the coin, this should be pretty exact at 40.6mm. To check this you will want a good set of calipers. A nice digital entry-level set is this one. When weighing your coins, be sure to account for a certain tolerance or variance in the weight. There is no official guideline given, but anything from 31.1g – 31.8g should be OK. If you are getting readings of 30g or 32g+ that is reason for concern.

5. Visual Test

Silver has a distinctive look and feel to the coin not too shiny and not too cloudy. Grab an old magnifier, the one's that jewelers use, and take a good look at the coin. It's always best to have an authentic coin or bar next to the one you are examining. Mismatched surfaces, text spacing, crevices, or edges will stand out if it is a fake. Your tool of choice for this test is a handy magnifying glass or a jeweler's loupe. These are essential to the world of coin collecting and numismatics, making it easier to grade the quality as well as identify counterfeit coins such as fake silver dollars.

6. Bleach Test

Another cheap and simple way to test for real silver vs. fake is to use some household bleach. Silver will tarnish very fast when exposed to any sort of oxidizing chemical like bleach. All you will need is just 1 drop, place it on the silver and if it begins to turn black then you can check it is silver. If your coin has numismatic value of any sort, this test may reduce its premium and you may want to perform another test.

7. Ping Test

The great thing about silver is that it has a certain high-pitched ring to it when struck with another metal, many people refer to this as the ping test and it works fairly well. To do this, simply place one silver

coin on your fingertip and take another between your thumb and forefinger and gently tap your coin. It should produce a nice high-pitched bell ring.

8. Buy from Reputable Dealers

If you are buying silver coins or bars on ebay or craigslist, there is a higher probability that you will encounter a fake. A little common sense will go a long ways! While there may be deals to snatch up there, it may be best to go with a licensed and reputable dealer even if the premium is slightly higher.

9. The Acid Test

Another test with high accuracy, this test uses acid solution usually of nitric acid and muriatic acid. You will have to purchase this from a dealer or on amazon. Just search for silver acid testing kit. You will also want to get a testing stone to use with the solution. While this test can immediately verify pure silver, it will damage the coin. So it is best to use this is you bought a lot of coins or bars and want to test 1-2 for purity. These are dangerous chemicals and should not be done by children. Always wear goggles and gloves when performing the test. Do not use on numismatics, this will lower the value of the coin.

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

Steve Weir-Longview
Jake –Grapeland (our apologies on the last name)
Judy Barnett-Grapeland

RCTHA CALENDAR EVENTS

(Dates & Times are Subject to Change)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| RCTHA Surf & Turf Hunt | July 25 th @ Lake Gladewater |
| WWATS Rendezvous Hunt | Aug. 20-23, Durango, CO |
| RCTHA Club Auction | Sept. 8 th , to raise money for the Fall Silver Hunt |
| RCTHA Beach Hunt (club outing) | Sept. 19, Lake Hawkins |
| RCTHA Fall Silver Hunt | Oct. 17 th @ Eastside Baptist Church, Henderson |
| RCTHA 21 Hunt (club outing) | Nov. 14 th @ TBA |
| RCTHA Christmas Party/Awards | Dec. 8 th , 6:30 p.m. @ White Oak Baptist Church |

2015 Club Service Projects:

Food Boxes: Bring can foods and non-perishable food items to each club meeting for food boxes to be donated by the club during the 2015 holidays.

Trash Buckets: Don't throw away your metal trash after you're through detecting. Separate your aluminum, brass, copper and lead items and bring them to the club meetings and place in RCTHA Buckets. At the end of the year we will cash all the metals in and give a gift certificate for a kidney dialysis.



3rd Quarter Giveaway

Fisher ID Excel Metal Detector

\$500 Retail Value

Donated by Keith Wills of East Texas Metal Detectors



PARK TOKENS REPORT

NOTE: Tokens are now placed in Longview's, Flewellen Park on Judson Road across from Posados Mexican Restaurant, Kilgore City Park, and Eastside Baptist Church in Henderson. There are 8-9 tokens in each park and are good for either silver dollars, silver halves, silver quarters or silver dimes. 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	2	6	1
EBC, Henderson	9	6	3	1

Leader Board:

Joel Barton (4) A.D. Clark (3) Bob Brown (2) Dorris St. Claire (2)

WINNERS of the FINDS OF THE MONTH – June 2015

Coin-	1st	Tom Moss	25 Spanish Real
	2nd	Michael Heim	1903 Indian Head Penny
	3rd	Bob Brown	1926 Mercury Dime
Jewelry-	1st	Michael Heim	Vintage .925 Ring
	2nd	Michael Moore	Watch
	3rd	Tom Moss	2 Silver Rings
Token-	1st	Tom Moss	1890 Commissary Token



	2nd	Mike Ross	1920 Meal Token
	3rd	Michael Heim	1922 Trading Token
Relic-	1st	Michael Heim	1889 Railroad Tag
	2nd	Tom Moss	Louisiana Medal
	3rd	Todd Andrews	Antique Hoe
Judges- Choice	1st	Tom Moss	1860 Silver Slat Shaker
	2nd	Gene Richardson	Oil Bottle
	3rd	Michael Heim	1903 Scholarship Medal

Consolation Winner- Mike Ross with a Silver Quarter

* **The Consolation Winner** in the *Finds of the Month* is determined by the Hunt Master and 2 Board Members. This is an award given to a person whose object in the *Finds of the Month* did not get voted on, for whatever reason, but was worthy of a win. The Consolation Winner will earn no points for the Digger of the Year competition.

RCTHA Leading Diggers- Thru June

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*.



Tom Moss	50 Points	21 Wins
Michael Heim	49 Points	23 Wins
Mike Ross	23 Points	11 Wins
Joel Barton	14 Points	8 Wins
Dorris St. Claire	12 Points	8 Wins
Terry Lemmon	10 Points	5 Wins

TICKETS, BINGO CARDS & SPLIT THE POT DRAWING

Each month we will have tickets and Bingo Cards (every other month) 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.

Quarterly Giveaway- each quarter we will have a drawing for great prizes such as detectors, silver bars and 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.

Last Month's Ticket Winners:

Ticket Drawings: Rick Hurlburt, Keith Wills, Michael Moore, Bob Brown

Split the Pot Drawing: Michael Moore

Door Prizes Winner: Dorris St. Claire, Michael Heim, Larry Wilkinson, Ed Worley, Vicki Polve

Park Tokens: NA

Quarterly Prize Winner: John Ramsey

Cake Auction: Mary Resler, Keith Wills

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 dug or found while metal detecting 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 metal detecting on the surface of the ground needs to be placed in the JUDGE'S CHOICE category. All other bottles dug while metal detecting 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 = 3 Points, Second Place = 2 Points and Third Place= 1 Point. There will be a monthly score sheet listed in the newsletter who the leading digger is.

COINS: Must be dug while in the process of metal detecting. 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.

JEWELRY: Must be dug while in the process of metal detecting. 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.

TOKENS: Must be dug while in the process of metal detecting. 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 dug while in the process of metal detecting. No items found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category.

JUDGE'S CHOICE: Anything dug while in the process of metal detecting, bottles, relics, additional coins, additional jewelry and additional tokens. No items found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category.

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

August 11th @ 7:00 p.m., 402 South Main, Henderson, TX.

Bingo Night

-RUSK COUNTY TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION-