



# THE LEAVERITE NEWS



## March, 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

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**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](mailto:michaelheim39@gmail.com) or [rcthaclub@aol.com](mailto:rcthaclub@aol.com)

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## TO CLEAN OR NOT TO CLEAN-THAT IS THE QUESTION

First, check the date and mint mark on the coins you want to clean. Be absolutely certain that they are not key date coins but common coins that are worth face value or silver (or gold) value. If you do have a key date coin, take it to an expert and let them decide the best course of action. Remember, cleaning a coin de-values it considerably. I clean my coins to make them more presentable and with the foresight of knowing that I am not going to sell them.

When cleaning coins there are two categories that we need to discuss-copper coins and silver coins.. When you are out metal detecting and find a nice coin like a silver half, quarter, dime, or copper wheat penny NEVER rub the dirt off to check the date or to identify the coin. Doing so can reduce the value. Why? Because dirt is like sandpaper and will put tiny scratches on the coin when rubbed. I can guarantee you that if you try to sell a rubbed coin to a dealer he will tell you about the scratches and its reduced value.

Clad coins are the easiest to clean and if you goof up and they look bad, so what. They are still spendable. I tumble all of my clad coins with pretty good results. It is an effortless job. I fill the tumbler between half and 3/4's full of coins and aquarium gravel, add water and soap and let the tumbler do its job. Always tumble like coins such as quarters, dimes and nickels. If you put copper pennies in with the clads they are going to turn a copper color. Clean your memorial pennies the same way but by themselves. This method

will clean most of the dirt off of them. It will not remove tough stains though. To remove tough stains from coins, soak them in CLR. Let them sit as long as needed, even overnight. Changing the solution in between soaks can help a lot with stubborn stains. After soaking them, put them back in the tumbler and then they should be ready to spend. You can also tumble your coins with CLR and aquarium gravel. Do not tumble your clad coins with those new "gold" dollars. They will turn all of your clad coins a nasty gold color.

I have heard of people putting the clads in a tumbler (after using the methods above) with sawdust or wood shavings. I personally have not tried this but I think it would work great at "polishing" them. This is all I do on clad coins. Anything more in my opinion is too time consuming, especially for clad coins. I have also stopped using the ivory soap because it gets stuck in the tiny crevices of the coins. It is easily removed with a brush, but who wants to do that. Regular dishwashing soap is better.

I tumble wheat pennies. I always check the date and mint mark and if it is a common wheat, it goes in the tumbler. The way I look at it is, out of the ground it is worth a penny, cleaned up it is still worth a penny, only now it looks better. I also clean wheat pennies with a brass brush. The same type of brush used for cleaning suede shoes or your BBQ grill. That's right! Brass is softer than copper. Sure, you can put scratches on a penny if you scrub it too hard. Be gentle, use a circular motion, back and forth and sideways. Whatever it takes to clean it up.

Other methods I have tried on wheat pennies (but no longer recommend) are soaking them in the vinegar solution. Oh yes, it works great. They come out a dull copper color, similar to a new penny only dull looking. Years ago after doing this I rubbed sulfur on the surface of the dull coin and they toned up nice. It actually worked very well. Environmental reasons prevent me from using this method plus health and safety would also be a concern. Try using Dellar's Darkener to tone cleaned copper. It is sold in most coin shops. Also, don't soak them in bleach. It doesn't work at all. Don't use Ajax cleanser (or similar products) on copper coins. I did back in 1975 and almost ruined my most favorite coin...the 1796 Liberty Cap large cent. Twenty five years of natural toning has helped it look pretty good now. When I first cleaned it, shiny copper areas could be seen everywhere. I sent it in to a grading service and it came back as a Good 6 with environmental damage.

Also, if you use electrolysis (but potentially the most disastrous to your coin) to clean copper coins they come out the same way as using the vinegar method. Soaking them in vinegar or using electrolysis lifts dirt out of holes on the coins that you didn't know were there. Don't use it on coins that you want to give eye appeal to. I have tried the "olive oil" method of soaking copper coins. It takes too long and doesn't work very well (my opinion). It will also stain your coin a dark color. An alternative to olive oil is "mineral oil". It will not stain your coins and will actually preserve them. Another method is to use tape, like duct tape to "pull" the dirt off of the coin. It will pull some of the dirt off, but they still look stained. Copper coins found in my area (Pennsylvania) take a beating while in the ground and in other parts of the country they look like they came out of pocket change.

There are several ways to make silver coins look very presentable. Occasionally you can dig a silver coin out of the ground that looks great. Well, more than on occasion because silver actually fares very well in the soil compared to copper. I use a soft toothbrush with warm water and soap. That is usually all they need. Sometimes silver does get stained or so encrusted that you have to use other methods. You can use electrolysis or the vinegar solution. This will turn the coin a dull silver color. Now you have another problem that has to be addressed...the dull color on a nice silver coin. Well, I use a product called Wrights Silver Cream. It will take the dull away, I guarantee it! It can be purchased at your local grocery store or jewelry shop. I have also used it on silver coins without soaking them in vinegar and they still come out very presentable. There is one problem

with using the silver cream. They will be shiny looking when you are finished with them. You have to decide for yourself whether or not to clean an old silver coin.

Silver rings can be cleaned up nice on a buffing wheel with Wrights Silver Cream. I have gotten incredible results using this method on silver rings. One last note on the silver cream. That black stuff you see when cleaning the coin or ring...that is silver being taken off of the surface! You be the judge.

Do not use muratic acid to clean your coins. It is a mild solution of hydrochloric acid (HCL). Yes, I have used it on coins and ruined a good Flying Eagle cent and two shield nickels. It only takes seconds to reduce the coin to nothing more than a slug. I also tried it on a aluminum token. It dissolved it completely. The same goes for sulfuric and nitric acid. Unless you are trying to make slugs, avoid using them. Acid is very dangerous and should be used outdoors with plenty of ventilation. Don't use gasoline, bleach, Clorox, ammonia or any combination of common household cleaners. They won't clean coins as good as what I have described above. Learn from my mistakes. I worked in a laboratory back in the 70's and tried the various acid's using a hood to vent the vapors. The results were awful to put it mildly. DON'T USE ACID TO CLEAN YOUR COINS!!! It is not worth it.

Do not use stainless steel as an anode during electrolysis. Why? Because it will produce chromates in your electrolyte solution. If your solution turns yellow, that is a sign of chromates. Stainless steel contains chromium and the solution can cause burns and even cancer. It is illegal to dispose of this solution onto the ground or down the drain. It needs to be dried and the residue place in sealed containers and disposed at a hazardous collection site. If you are using salt and vinegar in a bowl, use it in a well ventilated area. The salt will break down into sodium (harmless) and chloride gas which is very harmful.

[Article taken from Metal Detecting In The USA.com]

Happy hunting and keep your coil to the soil because you never know what you might find next.

Michael L. Heim, President RCTHA

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](mailto:michaelheim39@gmail.com) by the 1st of each month.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



No new members in February

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## RCTHA CALENDAR EVENTS

*(Dates are subject to change)*

RCTHA Officers Meeting	April 9 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. El Sombrero's in Kilgore
TAMDC Convention	April 10-12, Longview, TX, Maude Cobb Center
RCTHA Club Auction	April 14 <sup>th</sup> , to raise money for Spring Silver Hunt
RCTHA Flag Hunt (club outing)	April 18 <sup>th</sup> @ Montgomery Park in Henderson
RCTHA Spring Silver Hunt	May 9 <sup>th</sup> @ the Dunn's Place
WWATS Rendezvous Hunt	May 22-24, Antlers, OK
RCTHA Wounded Warrior Service Project	June
RCTHA Land & Water Hunt	July 25 <sup>th</sup> @ Lake Gladewater
WWATS Rendezvous Hunt	Aug. 20-23, Durango, CO
RCTHA Club Auction	Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> , to raise money for the Fall Silver Hunt
RCTHA Fall Silver Hunt	Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup> @ Eastside Baptist Church, Henderson
RCTHA 21 Hunt (club outing)	Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> @ TBA

### 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.

**Wounded Warrior:** More information will be given later

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## PARK TOKENS REPORT

**NOTE:** Tokens are now placed in Longview's, Fluellen 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.

<b>Park</b>	<b>Tokens</b>	<b>Found</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Special Tokens</b>
Fluellen Park, Longview	8	0	0	1
City Park, Kilgore	8	1	7	1
Eastside BC, Henderson	9	3	6	1

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### WINNERS of the FINDS OF THE MONTH – February 2015

Coin-	1st	Joel Barton	1912 Coin
	2nd	Mike Ross	1905 Indian Head Penny



	3rd	Dorris St. Claire	1962 Quarter
Jewelry-	1st	Terry Lemon	Religious Medals
	2nd	Michael Moore	Silver Ring
	3rd	Dorris St. Claire	Silver Cross
Token-	1st	Dorris St. Claire	Harrah's Gaming Token
	2nd	Larry Wilkinson	Naked Lady Token
	3rd	Tom Moss	Lumber Token
Relic-	1st	A.D. Clark	Oklahoma Military Buckle
	2nd	Terry Lemmon	Flask
	3rd	Michael Heim	Brass Pocket Watch
Judges Choice-	1st	Bob Brown	Gold Belt Buckle
	2nd	Joel Barton	Queen Victoria Penny
	3rd	Terry Lemmon	Gold Pocket Watch
* Consolation Winner-		Michael Heim	Early 1900's Barber Shop Token

\* 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 Top Leading Diggers:** 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*.

<b>Tom Moss</b>	<b>22 Points</b>	<b>9 wins</b>
Michael Heim	15 Points	7 Wins
Joel Barton	9 Points	5 Wins
Terry Lemmon	6 Points	3 Wins

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## 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 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-** every other month we will have 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:** Larry Wilkinson, A.D. Clark, Skipper Dunn, Ada Worley, Randy Andrews

**Split the Pot Drawing:** A.D. Clark

**BINGO Winners:** Sue Anderson, Rick Hurlburt

**Door Prizes Winner:** Earl Norrod, Dana Logston, Dorris St. Claire, Sam Harris, Richard Greene, Dave Crocker, Bob Brown

**Park Tokens:** None Found

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**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.

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## 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

April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m., 402 South Main, Henderson, TX.

## Club Auction-Bring your items

***-RUSK COUNTY TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION-***



K.G. and Ringy will be the guest speakers at the T.A.M.D.C Show April 10-12, 2015 @ the Maude Cobb Center in Longview.

Watch the brand new season of *Diggers* on the National Geographic Channel coming this Spring. Follow the "Ringmaster" Tim and "King George" on another exciting season of *Diggers*!