



January 2012

Vol. 32 No. 1

President's Message
Matthew Fritsch

Greetings, friends,

With the new year comes renewed excitement for happy hunting ahead. My year is off to a better start than expected as I collected a nice silver Rosie from a yard in Camas, along with some unique artifacts. Mother Nature has been a fickle one thus far, with warm rainy days and cold sunny days. If only she would relent long enough to allow me some warm sunny time, I could get out there and find more bling.

I am excited to work with the Executive Board this year, helping to guide our club in new directions, while honoring the traditions of the past.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,
Matthew

January Birthdays

3rd Jerry Bogstad
4th Debbie Trickel
17th Larry Humphrey
18th Laura Liddell
21st Paul Luis
30th Krystal French

REFRESHMENTS

January refreshments will be provided by the Executive Board. Thanks.

The Big Raffle
Clarence Sparks

Did you hear that sound??? Opportunity is knocking. This will be your chance to win one of several outstanding coins for your personal collection. Just in case Santa didn't bring you any gold or silver, this is your opportunity. All you will need is a raffle ticket for this month's Big Raffle and a little good luck. Only \$1 each or six tickets for \$5 so don't forget to buy your tickets before the meeting or at the break.

This month there will be a nice selection including six silver dollars along with silver halves and quarters plus a few more choice coins. Did I mention GOLD? Would anyone like to win a beautiful 1907 Liberty Head Two and a Half Dollar Gold Coin? Bring your Christmas money and buy your raffle tickets. It could prove to be a sound investment.



January Club Outing

Bill and Dick have not finalized their plans for the outing at the time of printing. The outing will be announced at the January meeting. It will also be on the OTTS website soon. (Someone you know can access the website...)

December Minutes Krystal French

Matthew opened the meeting at 5:05 pm. He introduced all the board members and informed us that our Secretary Jenifer had her baby boy, Aiden. I filled in as secretary during her absence. Brian Dunn won the membership draw, and Russell announced all the December birthdays. Happy Birthday to all of you!

Matthew read a Christmas card aloud that was sent from our past President Steve Tucker; inside was a message to give away some coinage to a member via a draw. George Parker was the winner! Thank you, Steve, for all your thoughts; we all miss you.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the last meeting, which was seconded and passed. Russell read and reviewed the Treasurer's report. Arnie reviewed all the findings from the last hunt and explained that if it's below 32 degrees, or there is snow or freezing rain, we will not have a hunt on the 31st.

Matthew opened the floor for the nominations; since there was only one nominee for each position, it was finalized. Matthew will be continuing as our President, Justin Lee will take over as Vice President, Jenifer will continue as Secretary, and Russell will continue as Treasurer. Thanks to all of you: our wonderful club would not be without you. So THANK YOU!!!

We took a break to eat dinner!

After dinner Matthew passed out half dollars to all those special people that do all the extra work and really help the club out. And for the two who worked the hardest, they deserved whole silver dollars: Arnie Mauroni and Mike Maxon. Russell called members by name to come up and get their silver for their appreciation. Bill Bogynska came up and handed out special OTTS certificates; the top five detectors of the year also received silver coins. Dick Gaboury was number one again. Congratulations, Dick!

We all enjoyed doing our gift exchange; I think it was a lot better this year without all the steal-backs. It ran much smoother and enjoyable to sit on the hot seat. I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas party, and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

An acquaintance of mine who is a physician told this story about her then four-year-old daughter. On the way to preschool, the doctor had left her stethoscope on the car seat, and her little girl picked it up and began playing with it. 'Be still, my heart,' thought my friend, 'my daughter wants to follow in my footsteps!' Then the child spoke into the instrument: "Welcome to McDonald's. May I take your order?"

A little girl asked her mother, "Can I go outside and play with the boys?" Her mother replied, "No, you can't play with the boys; they're too rough." The little girl thought about it for a few moments and asked, "If I can find a smooth one, can I play with him?"

December Club Hunt Arnie Mauroni

We went to Co. Summers City Park on December 31st, a Saturday. It was a nice, frosty winter morning with clear skies and then clouds came in later. It was a little muddy, but easy digging. There were 15 members who counted out and two guests. OH, this is the fourth hunt in a row that we didn't find any gold (that's hard to believe). The good news is that Dan Killian, Laura Smith, and Don Lieurance each found a silver ring. Brian Stafford found the oldest coin, which was a 1924 Merc dime. Mike Maxon and Byron Dunn each found one wheatie. Charles Davis was the attendance drawing winner, receiving a nice Franklin half dollar. On this hunt Mike picked a small area of the park and he just threw out 11 club tokens. Mike showed all of us where to look and we all ran over to the area like sharks after blood. Bruce Drugg and Brian Stafford each found two tokens; Byron Dunn, Clarence Sparks, Mary Sparks, Laura Smith, and Linda Carlson each found one token. That's a total of nine tokens and that means there are two tokens still out there. If you find them, just bring them to the next club meeting and you will get a silver dime for each token. We found a total of \$45.53 in cash and 7 pounds of trash.

I want to say the Mike and I had fun running the club hunts and we are looking forward to Dick and Bill finding some good spots for us to have for our monthly hunt outings.

The top six hunters are:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---------|
| 1. | Brian Stafford | 123 pts |
| 2. | Dan Killian | 113 |
| 3. | Byron Dunn | 108 |
| 4. | Don Lieurance | 104 |
| 5. | Arnie Mauroni | 87 |
| 6. | Linda Carlson | 82 |

Fun Facts

I'm doing something that's never been done before as far as the monthly club hunts go. I've saved all the tally sheets from all 12 hunts and I put together some fun facts that I think you will enjoy. I will put them in the February newsletter, and we can talk about them at the February meeting.

Recipe for a Happy New Year (Sent to me by a friend)

Take twelve whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy.

Make them just as fresh and clean as possible. Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare one day at a time out of these ingredients: mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cup of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.

You are bound to have a Happy New Year!

(The following is an excerpt from the November 2011 issue of Western & Eastern Treasures)

"Dog Tax Tags", by Ron Aldridge

There was a time when a detected object, if not an old coin or something of value, would be a big disappointment. However an increasing interest has developed for these other detected items; indeed these relics could be the catalyst for a successful hunt. Relics with actual dates or patent information were an added bonus as their period of manufacture and period of use could be more accurately determined. Among those dated objects found with regularity are dog licenses or dog tax tags. (most of us have found at least one of these tags...)

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(continued from Page Three)

After recently finding one of the earlier known dog tax tags from Washington State, an 1892 Ritzville, I decided to take a more serious look at those licenses previously collected. In studying these tags I realized that at one time they were associated with a living dog and were intimately connected with the life of their owner. The inspiration to write this article occurred as I glanced at my fireplace mantel full of family pictures, and here was an image of a cherished dog as she proudly posed for the camera displaying her license and ID tags.

The early history of metal dog tags in the U.S. begins sometime during the mid 1800s. The earliest metal tags known are dated 1850 from Charleston, SC and another from Massachusetts dated 1861, but only one of each exists. I often wondered about the necessity for local governments to issue dog licenses in the 1800s and early 1900s with so much open land available. Research indicated that increasing human populations meant more roaming dogs, and these dogs would destroy livestock and be a threat to the landowners' food supply and livelihood. The dog tax tag was originally created as a method to reimburse owners for their loss of livestock, and sometimes was a source of revenue to create rudimentary forms of animal control services.

Another reason for a license may be that a good working dog or a good hunting dog was a valuable asset and could play an integral part in the owner's survival. A license might ensure the return of the animal if it became lost. A 1901 Seattle tag features a hound-type dog stamped on the license.

Yet another reason for a license might be to identify the owner and dog in the event that someone was bitten and developed rabies or feared rabies.

The common metals for early licenses and those used until the 1960s seem to be brass and copper alloys. One exception was the

use of a fiber-like material used during WWII, when brass and copper were needed for the war effort. During the 1960s less expensive and less durable aluminum dog license and rabies tags started to make their appearance; these are still in use at the present, although some agencies and veterinarians have switched to stainless steel tags. A few hours of detecting near a dedicated off-leash area can usually net a variety of newer licenses, ID tags, rabies tags, etc.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the early dog tags are their interesting shapes, often called "figurals", which came into use in the 1890s. The 1914 butterfly-shaped tag from Roslyn, WA, the 1906 bell-shaped tag from Ballard, WA, and the 1892 scalloped tags from Spokane, WA are but a few of the interesting designs. Other shapes that encourage collectibility might include crosses, hearts, doghouses, and other whimsical forms. One of the more creative tag shapes is the "numeral" type, such as a cutout "25" designation for the year 1925 for Yakima, WA.

Tags usually have the license number, date, town/city, and the words "dog tax" or "dog license" as essential pieces of information. Some also include the letters *M* or *F* for male or female.

An interesting piece of information displayed on 1919 and 1920 Seattle licenses is the rarely seen "cat" along with "dog".

Other types of tags issued independently of local governments include those offered by organizations such as the A.S.P.C.A., other animal protection societies, and private businesses. For example, the Bartell Drug Co. in Seattle offered numerical tags with a phone number to aid in the speedy return of a lost dog to its owner. One aluminum tag I have has a very minimal telephone number, "EL 1048", indicative of use in the 1950s or 60s.

[This article includes pictures of various dog tags which are interesting to see. I just couldn't get them to appear in this document. Something I have to work out...]



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January Guest Speaker

Dick Pugh, Field Scientist at the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory at Portland State University, will be our guest speaker for January's meeting. He will bring specimens that you can try your detectors out on. Please bring any magnetic or hot rocks that you think may be a meteorite for his tentative identification. Kids and grandkids are also welcome to his presentation, as they have a natural interest in meteorites.

(If someone has a screen for the slide presentation, please contact either Bill Bogynska (billb@easystreet.net) or Matthew Fritsch (matthewfritsch@yahoo.com).)

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The Oregon Treasure Trails Society was formed in 1982 when five avid hobbyists put \$5 each into the kitty and started the club in an effort to provide an organization that would unite people together with the same interests in metal detecting and searching for coins, tokens, and other small interesting treasures of the past. Today, we continue to provide a wonderful environment for those interested in this great hobby. Our club provides an opportunity to join with others and enjoy spending time on outings and sharing experiences. Everyone is welcome to attend one of our meetings. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. at the Waverly Church, located at the corner of SE Woodward and SE 33rd Streets. Come early and socialize with members from 6:30 to 7:00.

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