

THE SILVER SIGNAL

www.lonestartreasure.com

February 2006

Next meeting is 7:30pm Friday, February 3, 2006

**Mike Koenig will present GeoCaching
so bring your GPS and/or logs!**

President's Corner

by John Finnell

Hello everyone, I write this while watching and listening to a welcome event . . . RAIN! I know that may sound strange since in



means most of us are not out hunting but if the areas you're hunting are like mine, you could lose a digger in the cracks in the ground. So a little rain is a blessing.

From the feedback I received on last month's speaker everyone really enjoyed Secret Service agent, Denise Timmermans', talk. It's always nice to hear your opinions, good or bad, about the presentations we have. One of the suggestions Agent Timmermans mentioned was to routinely review your credit report to look for unauthorized attempts to gain access to your credit. For anyone who would like to do this there is a web site that will allow you to do so no charge. That web site is

www.annualcreditreport.com

This month's presentation is from one of our own,. Mike Koenig will talk to us about a hobby called "GeoCaching". I don't want to steal Mike's thunder but I will say that this can be a very enjoyable way to spend an afternoon and it similar to metal detecting in that it can get a little addictive!

We've added a new page to the Lone Star Treasure Hunters web site. Photos of each month's winners in our "Find of the Month" contest will be on display at www.lonestartreasure.com If you have any other suggestions, please let me or one of the other officers know about it!

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Finds of the Month - January 2006

COIN

Mike Skinner 1919 Walker Half
Andy Mesaros 1895-S Barber Dime
Floyd Caldwell 5 coins in one hole



GOLD JEWELRY

Dave Totzke 14K Horseshoe Ring
Andy Mesaros 14K Gold Bracelet
Jessy Boedeker Gold Pendant w/19
Diamonds



SILVER JEWELRY

Mike Koenig Sterling 1973 Class Ring
Dave Totzke Italian Silver Necklace
Andy Mesaros Mexican Silver Piece



RELIC

Rusty Curry Sterling Silver
Medallion
Jesse Boedeker Blue Bennington
Marble



TOKEN

Rusty Curry Dallas S.W. Motion Picture
Expo 1914 Medal
Roy Harston Neiman-Markus Token
Jesse Boedeker Dallas Times Herald
Goat-Gitters Club Token



WILD CARD

Roy Harston Glass Army Tank
Ronnie Morris Telephone
Mike Koenig Dagger Ring



January Door Prize Winners

Door Prize	Donated by	Winner
Texas Brick	Dave Totzke	Rechey Davidson
1965 Canadian Mint Set	Eric Holm	Velma Slocum
Tape Measure	Dave Bennett	Kelene Totzke
Probe	Dave Bennett	Wayne Suite
Digger	Jim Arrington	Terry Schick
Pocket Knife	Jim Arrington	Bill Abbott
Garrett Package	Garrett	Steve Schultz
Garrett Hat	Garrett	Derek Murray
Garrett Hat	Rusty Curry	Eric Holm

January Raffle Winners

Raffle Prize	Winner
2005 Denver & Philadelphia Mint Set	Chuck Howell
Roman Coin 218-222AD	Terry Schick
1837 Hard Time Token	Dave Jones
1857 Flying Eagle Cent	Earl Hitt
1829 Bust Half Dime	Steve Schultz
1856 Seated Dime	Joe Hennig
10¢ Fractional Paper Money	Lewis Murray
1954 Large Cent	Eric Holm
1891 Rotated Die Quarter	Rick Anderson
1831 Bust Dime	Dave Jones
Dos Peso Gold Coin	Rodney Bates

IF YOU DIG IT, IT IS YOURS

Please take it with you. By Jack Lowry

The Hobby/Sport of Recreational Metal Detecting is under attack again and still we have uncaring and uneducated individuals doing everything possible from the fringes to bring our pastime to its knees. Oh, if we only cared what is being done on our behalf to preserve and protect our right to free and equal access to sites to hunt sanely and with responsibility!

It is so very easy to wring our hands, gripe, and complain about the loss of parks, beaches, and other sites frequented and to complain about the government and environmentalists trying, and often succeeding, in their efforts to block our participation in the hobby of our choice. Those of you who will not join the ones willing to do something constructive about the problem, who will not support them, who cannot assist them to act in your behalf, should then be aware that you are the problem and deserve just what you get. And, though you wish otherwise, you by your actions have ceded your right and privilege to complain and gripe. Come to think of it, complaining has no place in this struggle; there is only room for action by those willing to speak for their rights in a manner that is controlled, well thought out, and fact-filled. One can be decisive without being disagreeable and argumentative. Yelling, crying, and screaming are tools of the opposition to break down our resolve. There are some level heads out there that are carrying the load just now. They need and deserve your complete support and assistance. No one will continue this effort if you cannot do your fair share.

This problem has been brought to mind by several recent events and conversations. In November we learned that the Texas Historical Commission has begun efforts to close county parks in Harris County (Houston, TX) and other counties, and as well close the coastal beaches to our hobby. They are hoping to convince all the county parks administrators *that it is illegal to allow any excavation of any type in any park and on any private property.* They say also, *that the complete State of Texas is all historical property; thus any and all excavation is against the law.* Mothers, forget about your children growing up to be cowboys or cowgirls; just be sure that they do not dig in the backyard or the sandbox. Also, forget about landscaping your lawn and don't even think of planting flowers. Isn't this ridiculous?

This is the first shot to be fired by the THC. Later they will amend their proposal to eliminate all but metal detecting. Why? Because we will prefer to argue and harangue about how we are wronged, instead of taking them to task and convincing the State Legislature of the value of our hobby and the good we can do for the community. Cities, counties, state, and federal agencies use our metal detecting skills and abilities, but do not see fit to assist us. Why? Because a few people dig and don't fill their holes or pick up their trash. If you dig it, it is yours. If you wish to discard it, do so in a designated container. You could always bring your own private babysitter to dig for you and to pick up the trash. You would also have an available audience to hear you complain about the lack of sites available for our hobby of metal detecting.

Also, this editorial has been predicated because one of our club members witnessed two detectorists digging targets, not filling holes, and dropping trash while he hunted a park near his home. All the time they ignored his requests to fill the holes, dig responsibly, and carry the trash found to a nearby receptacle. However, they had plenty of time to expound at length about the places now closed to detecting. While they claimed to be members of several clubs, I find that almost impossible to believe. Club members are better than that. We care about our hobby, we care about our fellow members, and we care about the future and the rights and privileges we are able to pass to our children and the generations that follow.

These actions, as deplorable as they may be, cannot be kept in our own backyard. Misguided government agencies use our own deeds against us. This threat to our hobby is hopefully the situation that drives us together, not asunder. Let us take to the task at hand. Help those trying to help us. At least, don't hurt their efforts. If you chose not to lead, then follow. If you cannot be counted on to follow and support, get out of the way. It is far past time to act!

We are blessed with two outstanding organizations that are taking the point in this effort. The Texas Council of Treasure Clubs (TCTC) and the World Wide Association of Treasure Seekers (WWATS) need and deserve your membership and support. Learn more about the hurdles we face and how we can overcome the challenges presented to us.

HINT: It is **NOT** sitting on one's hands.

President's Corner *(Continued from Page 1)*

Other topics for this month are: Bucks on the Brazos, the TCTC Expo (its in Fort Worth this year), and we still have some open chairman positions that need to be filled.

The newsletter staff (of one by the way) has reminded us that he is the "Editor", and as such should not be the sole source for materials for the newsletter. So if you have an idea for the newsletter, please email it, mail it or speak to Charles Martin about it. Do not worry if you are not an accomplished writer, he will be happy to help polish it up.

That's about it from me this time. I think I'll go back and watch the rain some more. Good luck and good hunting!

Birthday Drawing: Steve Schultz

Name Tag Drawing: Roy Harston

Marble Raffle: Rick Anderson drew the white marble and got the \$5.00 envelope.

Calendar of Events

February 3, 2006	LSTHC Meeting
February 4, 2006	LSTHC Fun Hunt
March 3, 2006	LSTHC Meeting
March 4, 2006	LSTHC Fun Hunt
April 1-2, 2006	East Texas 11th Annual Happy Trails Hunt at Rockin-L Ranch
April 29-30, 2006	Texas Treasure Show

Huntmaster sez

by Mike Koenig



Welcome to 2006. I thought last year was a very successful year for our club, treasure hunting wise. Bucks on the Brazos was a great hunt and it did not rain, and our Main hunt went off almost with out a hitch. This was mostly due to the efforts and generosity of our club members. Which brings us to this year. We need to start all over. As I write this message, gold and silver are at record highs. In order to ensure our hunts this year are successful, I am going to need some help from not just some of our club members, but from all of you. Look through all of the things you have collected over the years and plan to donate an item (**you would like to receive as a prize**) to the club for each hunt we have this year.

Bucks On The Brazos

I will start collecting donations for our annual Bucks On The Brazos "club member only" hunt at the next club meeting and continue until we have our hunt. Speaking of Bucks on the Brazos, we have set a tentative date of 22 April for the hunt, starting at 10:00am. This hunt is for club members only, so make sure your dues are up to date. This year we are planning to have a night hunt at the campground the night before for anyone who wants to participate. More to come on this later. The entry fee this year will be \$30 if paid by April 15th and the late fee will be \$50. I will have entry applications at the club meeting. The club will donate \$20 for each paid hunter, so there will be a total of \$50 in coins buried for each hunter. We will be burying tokens for the donated prizes and there just might be a detector out there for the lucky seeker. Plan to get your entry fee in early in order for us to buy coins at the best rate.

Photos Needed

We are planning to have a photo show in our booth for the Texas Council Show. If you have a photos of club outings, Club members past and present, or photos of yourself treasure hunting, bring them to the club meeting so that I may scan them for use at the Council show.

. **See you in the field.**

Lone Star Treasure Hunters Club
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