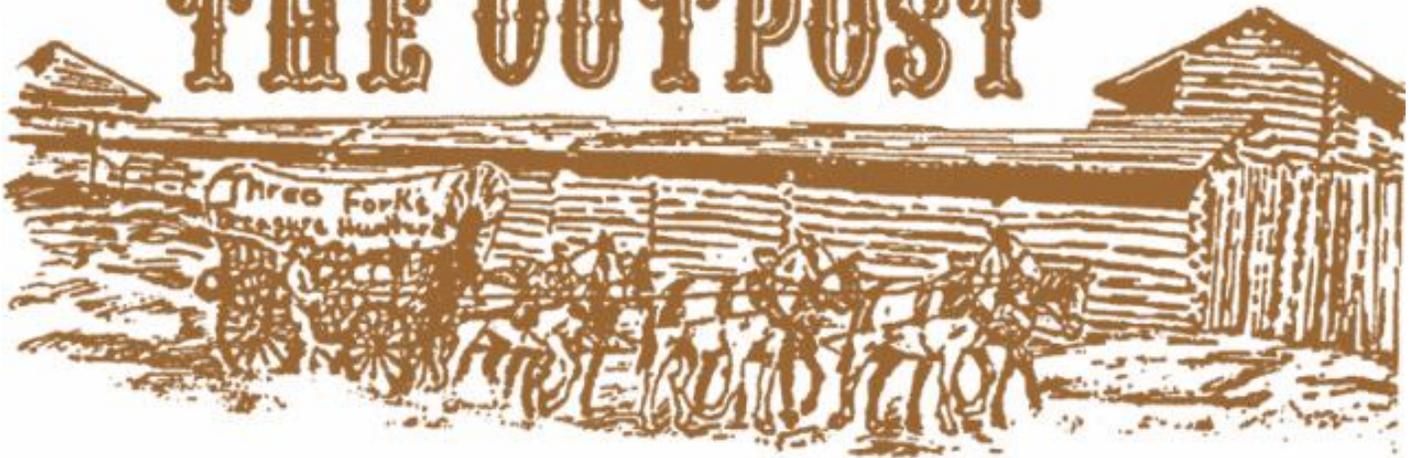


THE OUTPOST



NEWSLETTER OF THE THREE FORKS TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB

VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 10 **December 2010**

EDITOR: Chuck Marcum
PHONE: (918) 906-9912
EMAIL: graytcote@cox.net

The Outpost is published monthly by the Three Forks Treasure Hunters Club. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of metal detecting as a hobby. No brand or model of metal detector is endorsed by the club. Membership is open to the public with the only requirement being that all members follow the Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics. Club dues are \$25.00 per family yearly. Any comments or stories that you would like to contribute to your newsletter are always welcome.

CLUB MEETINGS: First Friday of each month.
TIME : 7:15 P.M
PLACE: Wagoner Community Building at the corner of Jefferson and Cherokee Streets in Wagoner Oklahoma.
NEXT MEETING: **Christmas Party on December 3rd**
BOARD MEETING: After the Club Meeting on January 7
CLUB PO BOX: P.O. Box 753 Wagoner, Ok. 74477-0753
CLUB WEB SITE: www.threeforkstresurehunters.org



2010 CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Larry Koch
VICE PRESIDENT: Gary Young
SECRETARY: Cathy Young
TREASURER: Cathy Young

BOARD MEMBERS:

Nancy Coffey	Gilbert Leake
Gene Coffey	Chuck Marcum
Jerry Callison	Eddie Tamplin
Bruce Stubbs	Mary Tracy
Lorie Stubbs	Francis Tracy
Sandy Leake	





Joyeux Anniversaire

December 9 Jerry & Gladys Callison
 December 19 Charles & Barbara Williams
 December 29 Gerald & Rose Starr

Upcoming Events

December 3	3 Forks Christmas Party
January 7	3 Forks Club Meeting
January 7	3 Forks Board Meeting
April 30 - May 1	3 Forks National Hunt



December 8 Maria Taylor
 December 10 McKenzie Fortney
 December 10 Matthew Fortney
 December 20 Anthony Moreton
 December 20 Bill Watkins
 December 21 Scott Taylor
 December 22 Glenette Briley
 December 22 Codi Poorboy
 December 22 Shane Wade



December Cookies

None are needed because of our Christmas Party.

We will need to make a new list for next year.

From Some Past December Newsletters



In November of 2004 fourteen of us Three Forks Members convoyed to the Shiloh Relics Hunt. Afterwards we hunted the Davis Bridge Battlefield in Tennessee thanks to Les.



In November of 2005 after we cleaned up the Harnage Cemetery we got to hunt the old Harnage Homestead where Tony found this real nice US Belt Plate. Harnage was part of Stand Waite's bunch during the war so the buckle was actually a Confederate Buckle and probably worn upside down.

A Message From Pres Larry

Just a few notes for those that was unable to make our last monthly meeting:

Remember that we elect/re-elect club officer during our Christmas dinner/meeting. If anyone is interested in one of our elected club officer's position, let me know. You can call me on my cell, 918-348-6780, or let me know before the meeting and I will be glad to nominate you.

December is one of our biggest raffles. Make sure you bring a donation for the raffle. In addition to the raffle donations, the club will be putting in twenty silver rounds and then a portion of the raffle proceeds will go back in to the drawing.

Everyone who bring a centerpiece for the table will receive a ticket and then we will do a drawing for all of the center pieces.

Member, Sell your raffle tickets. SELL. SELL, SELL. Someone will win a five hundred dollar pre-paid VISA card. The proceeds from the raffle goes back into the club for trophies and silver coins which is used for our monthly wins and night hunts.

The club will be celebrating its birthday in February. This is also the month we have our big auction.

We will have a guest speaker during our March meeting. Mr. Tom Roberts, a science teacher at Ft Gibson High School will do a presentation on S.W. Woodhouse. S.W. Woodhouse was at Ft Gibson in 1849-1850. He was appointed surgeon-naturalist on two expeditions, one in 1849 and another in 1850, to survey the Creek-Cherokee boundary in Indian Territory. A was a keen observer of frontier life and society, Woodhouse wrote down in three journals detailed entries of his travels as well as his impression of the places he passed and their people, notably early Indian Territory personalities such as the McIntoshes and the Perrymans of the Creek Indians. I think everyone will find this very interesting.

We will have another guest speaker in May and June. We have Omar Reed who work for the Oklahoma Historical Society at Ft Gibson stockade. He do a program on the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry which was stationed at Fort Gibson in 1863 & 1864. He also does a program on Bass Reeves who was an early day Deputy Sheriff in Muskogee in the early 1900's.

We also have Jonita Mullens who writes an article about early days Muskogee in the Sunday edition of the Muskogee Phoenix newspaper. She has written several books including one on the early days history of Haskell, Oklahoma.

We have our National hunt on 30 April – 1 May. Mark your calendar now. We will need volunteers to help set up the hunt fields and to conduct each of the planned hunts. Gary Young has already volunteered to be the Hunt Master.

Remember to keep one of our club business card in your billfold/purse as you never know we you will come across some that is interested in our hobby and might be a potential member.

Larry Koch

NOVEMBER PRIZE DONATIONS

DONATION

SHARED BY

SHARED TO

Civil War Book
Knife
Knife
Address Book
Old 1800s Bottle
Old 1800s Bottle
Old 1800s Bottle
Civil War Ghosts Book
Magazines
Homemade Jelly
Homemade Jelly
Magazines
Magazines
Magazines
Lottery Ticket
Lottery Ticket
Lottery Ticket
Lottery Ticket
Lottery Ticket
\$5.00 Bill
\$5.00 Bill
Knife Sharpener
Magnifier
Treasure Signs Book
Garrett Gold Bag w/Goodies
Highlighters
Highlighters
Ream of Copy Paper
Swan Glass Dish
CD "Coins and Old Finds"
Magazines

Gilbert Leake
Michael Deerman
Michael Deerman
Sandy Leake
Richard Carr
Richard Carr
Richard Carr
Wayne Starr
Wayne Starr
Nancy Coffey
Gene Coffey
Francis Tracy
Francis Tracy
Mary Tracy
Joe Poplin
Joe Poplin
Joe Poplin
Joe Poplin
Joe Poplin
Mike McGrew
Larry Koch
Wanda Carnes
Gary Carnes
Larry Koch
Wanda & Gary Carnes
Gary Young
Cathy Young
Gary Young
Robert Allen
Ken Fanning
Mary Tracy

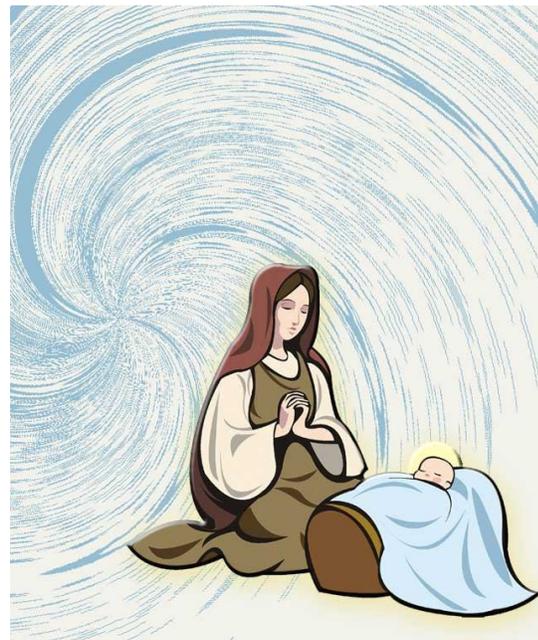
Gary Youngt
Wanda Carnes
Richard Carr
Gene Coffey
Michael Deerman
Wanda Carnes
Mary Tracy
Lorie Stubbs
Ken Dotson
Ken Fanning
Wayne Starr
Richard carr
Charles Williams
Robert Dunn
Michael Deerman
Gene Coffey
Joe Poplin
Gary Carnes
Robert Dunn
Ken fanning
Willy Wetzel
Gary Young
Joe Poplin
Wanda Carnes
Richard Carr
Larry Koch
Wayne Starr
Ken Fanning
Gary Young
Wanda Carnes
Gilbert Leake

The 50/50 Pot of \$42.00 was shared to Willy Wetzel.
The Donation Drawing was shared to Joe Poplin.
The Display Drawing was shared to Joe Poplin.
The Attendance Drawing was shared to Cathy Young.



Be sure to bring lots of Prize Donations and money to the Christmas party for our biggest Prize Sharing of the year.

The club will be putting 20 Silver Rounds into the Raffle!



Three Forks Christmas Dinner

6:30 PM Friday December 3rd at our regular meeting place in Wagoner.

A signup sheet will be passed around at the November Club Meeting so think about what you will bring. If you are not going to be at the meeting you can call or email to let us know what you are bringing.

We will be having the biggest Raffle of the year so bring lots of donations and lots of money to buy tickets. The club has bought TWENTY Silver Rounds for the Raffle.

We will also be drawing for the \$500.00 Visa Gift Card.

Don't forget your Table Centerpieces. Everyone that brings one will be going home with a different one.

Find of the Month Contest Winners will be rewarded.

We will also have the Find of the Year Contest so bring an entry for each category from this year's finds and you may win a trophy!

Merry
Christmas

Win a \$500.00 Visa Gift Card for Christmas!



Our Three Forks Treasure Hunters Club will be having a drawing for a \$500.00 Prepaid Visa Card.

Tickets are one for a dollar or six for five dollars. The Drawing for the \$500.00 Prepaid Visa card will be held at our Christmas Party on December 3rd. You need not be present to win. Photos of the winning ticket will be posted on our website the following day.

You can purchase tickets from any of our club members or you can buy them by mail. Visit our website at www.threeforkstreasurehunters.org for more details. Thank you for supporting our Club.

NOVEMBER FIND OF THE MONTH WINNERS

PROS

Oldest Coin

1 1884 Indian Head Cent	Joe Poplin
2 1922 Wheat Cent	Bob Dunn
2 1936 Wheat Cent	Mike McGrew

Jewelry

1 14k Gold Ring	Gilbert Leake
2 Silver Ring	Joe Poplin
3 No Entry	

Val. Coin Silver & Gold

1 1952 Quarter	Bob Dunn
2 No Entry	
2 No Entry	

Valuable Coin - Other

1 1890 V Nickel	Joe Poplin
2 1953 Wheat Cent	Mike McGrew
3 No Entry	

Relic

1 Brass Lock	Gilbert Leake
2 Brass Lock	Joe Poplin
3 Boy Scout Button	Bob Dunn

Military Relic

1 Part of a Spur	Joe Poplin
2 Round Ball	Mike McGrew
3 No Entry	

Non - Metallic

1 Green Trade Bead	Joe Poplin
2 Arrowhead	Mike McGrew
3 Jeep Candy Container	Gilbert Leake

AMATEURS

Oldest Coin

1 1939s Wheat Cent	Robert Allen
2 1957 Wheat Cent	Gary Carnes
3 No Entry	

Jewelry

1 Tiger Eye Ring	Robert Allen
2 Brass Ring	Gary Carnes
3 Ring	Charles Williams

Val. Coin Silver & Gold

1 1954D Quarter	Robert Allen
2 No Entry	
3 No Entry	

Valuable Coin - Other

1 ??? Buffalo Nickel	Robert Allen
2 No Entry	
3 No Entry	

Relic

1 Chouteau Token	Wayne Starr
2 Silver Buckle	Robert Allen
3 Salt Shaker Lid	Shawn Gilbert
3 Knife	Mark Gilbert

Military Relic

1 Pistol Ball	Shawn Gilbert
2 Smashed Musket Ball	Mark Gilbert
3 No Entry	

Non - Metallic

1 Slag Marble	Charles Williams
2 Jar Insert	Mark Gilbert
3 Marble	Wayne Starr

Golden Eagle Award

Chouteau Trade Token Wayne Starr

There will not be a Find Of The Month Contest in December. All of your finds from the day after the November Meeting through the day of our January Meeting may be entered in next year's contest.

Good luck, have fun, and find a lot!



Relic Hunting Farm Fields

by Chuck Marcum

Farm fields are some of my favorite places to hunt because most of them provide lots of space with very old spots in them to find relics. River bottoms have really good soil for crops and the rivers use to be the old highways. People travelled in the rivers, next to them, settled along the banks, and then began to farm the adjacent fields. Even farm fields that are not along rivers may have had old roads running through them where people camped and just about all fields have had different generations of houses. I have heard that at one time or another every forty acres, if it was decent land had a house on it.

Before you metal detect a field be sure to get permission from the land owner and/or lessee. Every piece of property is owned by someone. If public property is being farmed then someone is leasing it. Like any where else always fill in your holes and do not leave iron or trash on the ground next to your holes. All of the farmers I have ever talked to do not want people driving in their fields. They also get pretty irate if you block their drives where they cannot get their equipment by. If they come out to work in their field it is best to get out of their way, leave, hunt a different part of the field if you can keep far enough away, or just go to a different field. Do not hunt a planted field.

One way to start out hunting a strange new field would be locating where the houses were according to the old maps. By detecting the old house sites and by looking at the scattered glass and pottery, if some are visible, you can pretty much get an idea of how old the sites are. I like to hunt the very old spots and I do not waste much time in turn of the century house sites or newer. Some of my hunting buddies have done well in some of the newer spots finding out that they were built on top of older sites. Another way of finding sites in fields is to start walking and swinging your detector. Head for the higher ground such as humps and ridges and check them first. If the field is completely flat it will take a lot of swinging to find the sites in it. A large 10" coil or bigger works best for finding spots because you can cover more ground with it. I also do not use any discrimination because I want to hear the iron and nails. I want to know when I get into a site and when I am out of it. When I reach a good looking ridge or hump I swing from the bottom of the slope all the way over the top listening for iron. I will zigzag up and down the slope along the ridge or hump until I start hearing some iron or find a good target. Then I will work a slower and tighter pattern. I search up the slope, across the top for a ways until the iron sounds stop, and then back down the slope. I listen to all of the iron and pick out the good targets to dig. I do a pattern because I am not very lucky and working a grid I am hearing more of what is there instead of depending on luck to get over something good. I call myself a "Spot Hunter". I do know people that can roam around and find stuff. I call them "Roamers". Some of the Roamers are really good at it too. It is a matter of preference, how you like to hunt. After all we are all out there to have fun. I will get a stray now and then but if I do find something good I work a quick pattern to see if I am in a spot or not. If you walk crooked like I always do there are different ways to mark where you have been while working your grid. If the ground is moist enough you can drag your shovel, if there are clippings on the ground you can see where you have been or just make a kick mark every once in a while, and if you are in a really good spot you can tell by all of the holes you have dug and filled in. Soy bean stubble is hard to hunt in. In some places it is cut close to the ground where it is easier. In other places especially where the ground was wet when they harvested their beans it is cut higher which makes it difficult to swing a coil plus you will lose some depth. Sometimes my coil gets caught on a stalk and sometimes I stumble around almost falling. I just about always set the sensitivity on my detector all the way up and sometimes when the coil hits the stubble it will produce a false signal that I always have to go back and check. If I get an iffy signal I will kick a clearing in the clippings with my foot and recheck the signal. If the stubble is not too green you can stomp straight down on top of a stalk and it will break.

Be sure your boots or shoes have good soles before doing that. Corn fields could be even harder to hunt than soy bean fields. I have been in them where the corn stalks have been cut almost flush with the ground and in some where the stalks were cut four feet tall. You also have the furrows to contend with. The furrows could be pretty deep. It takes little strokes to swing in between the corn stalks and in the furrows which can really wear your swinging arm out. When my arm gets tired I will swing at 45 degrees across the furrow to cover more ground and get longer swings in. You can be more accurate by walking and swinging across the furrows instead along them. Walking across the furrows is more difficult and will wear you out quicker. A lot of times they will cut the corn before they harvest the soy beans. I have hunted lots of corn fields early in the season and have burned up because it gets real hot in the fields during the Summer and early Fall. They do still disk corn fields unlike most soy bean fields where they have gone to the no till farming. I have so much fun in plowed fields where the dirt shows the scattered glass and pottery. I can date lots of the sites by the type of glass and busted plate pieces laying around. I really get excited when I see the thick pieces of busted black glass or pieces of busted blue and white plates because I know I am in a very old spot and that I am getting ready to dig something really good up! When I am hunting in spots like that it makes me feel that I am in an old site more than just hearing the stuff. I keep my eyes to the ground and sometimes find trade beads, stone arrowheads, buttons, and other things that the rain has washed up.

Old, big bullets from the Civil War Era and before are always lots of fun to dig. I found lots of them in low spots, swags, and on slopes. When the fields are little wet is a very good time to find bullets. I have learned that some of the very deep ones will sound like iron with a little hint of a good signal, your numbers on the detector may or may not be good, and if you dig the very deep signals you will be surprised. Sometimes you may dig a square nail but it could also be a deep 69 caliber Musket Ball or a Minnie Ball. After a while you will recognize those deep bullet signals. I know some people that dig up all of the iron they hear and some that just dig some of the iron. They learn which iron signals are the good iron relics to dig. They find the musket barrels, cannon balls, meteorites, and other nice iron artifacts.

Back to the pattern I was working earlier on the slope and on top of the ridge. Which are some of my favorite spots to search. I work the grid back and forth until the iron signals stop. Sometimes it takes all day, more than one day, and other times a matter of hours or minutes depending on the size of the spot. If you do not hear any good signals after a long while working your pattern it could mean that it was hunted by someone else recently or hunted to death for a long time. Usually every season a field changes even if it was not plowed or disked. When the soil is real moist the deep targets will come in and if it is too dry you may not hear them at all. Rain can erode the dirt making slopes steeper, wipe them out completely, or even cut new drainage ditches. The ground needs to be at the right level to hear the targets and sometimes the sites will be buried deep with dirt when you try and go back to them even after finding all kinds of good stuff there the season before. Sometimes something gets in the air that makes the signals come in. We hunted a field once and got into a spot where all we could dig was little musket balls and scrap brass. When the sun started going down buttons started popping up everywhere and we got about six buttons a piece. Another time I was in a hay field that was freshly cut. I got a quarter signal, looked down, and there was an 1802 Two Reale Coin on top of the grass. I hunted for two hours around it and didn't dig anything else. I went back there every season when they turned it back into a plowed field and all I could hear was square nails. Then one year I dug eleven big bullets in the same field. Some fields are hot some seasons and other seasons they are not. A lot of times it depends on which field I choose to hunt whether I find something or not. Farm fields are lots of fun to hunt and are a great change of pace from pastures and woods.



Chuck Marcum
PO Box 2738
Broken Arrow, OK 74013