

The Leaverite News



September, 2008

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Title

There were 33 members and guest present for the August club meeting. Jess Allen informed members that the TCTC Treasure Show will be held in Longview next year on March 21 and 22. The Gregg County club is planning a beach hunt for September 13-14

so if you are interested in attending that be sure and mark it on your calendar.

Nominations for club officers will be coming up so if you are interested in serving as a club officer, let someone know so you can be nominated for the office.

Also club dues will be due again starting in November and should be paid by the end of December.



Tom Moss spent some time describing how to use electrolysis to clean coins and artifacts to club members at the August meeting.

Suzanne Reed found this ad in an old National Enquirer. The paper cost 20 cents at the time it was published. Do we have any members who can guess what year this ad came out in the National Enquirer? Shoot me back an e-mail with your guess and we will see who has bragging rights for guessing the correct year.

keith@keithballow.com

One hint; I was still in high school when this ad was published.

Class Ring Returned by Club Member

Jimmy Clark has recovered a number of rings over the years and returned a number of them to their owners when he could contact them. Recently Jimmy received a nice note from the thankful owner of one returned ring. Here's the note and a picture sent by Seth Swaim to Jimmy.

Dear Jimmy,
Thank you so much for returning my class ring to me. It's the only thing that I have to remember my high school by. I spent three hours in the water looking for it. I tried to get it replaced, but couldn't find my paperwork so Balfour couldn't replace it for free, and I couldn't afford a new one. I had saved up since my freshman year for that ring. So really the only thing I can say is thank you. Thank you so much for being a good person and I appreciate all the trouble you went through to find our new number. It couldn't have been easy.

God Bless.

Sincerely
Seth Swaim



Returning lost articles to their rightful owners is a great way to let the public know about our metal detecting hobby and that the majority of metal detectorists are honest, upstanding members of the community.

Great job Jimmy!

You are an ambassador for the hobby and we appreciate you and are proud to have you as a member of the Rusk County Treasure Hunters Association.

Rusk County Treasure Hunters Association Club Officers

President	Michael Culotta	lynx@suddenlink.net
VP/Treasurer	Jess Allen	jessallen743@hotmail.com
Vice President	Sam Harris	samkharris@aol.com
Secretary	Suzanne Reed	bullterrier3@juno.com
Newsletter Editor	Keith Ballow	keith@keithballow.com

Ticket Drawing Winners

Bob Bradberry, Jess Allen, A.D. Clark
Sam Harris and Margaret Logston

Sign-in Sheet Winners

Darrell Crosby, Junior St. Clair
Dorris St. Clair, Margaret Logston
John Wisdom, Nora Backus, Jimmy Clark

Name Tag Drawing Winner

Bob Haney

Marble Drawing

No Winner

Dates to Remember

Longview Club Meeting
Second Monday of Month
Rusk County Club Meeting
Second Tuesday of Month
Smith County Club Meeting
Third Saturday of Month

We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

September meeting refreshment volunteers:

Debbie Crosby, Tom Moss
Penny & Kelsie Utzman

Monthly Finds Contest Winners

		Winner	Description
Coins	1st	Bob Bradberry	1853 Half Dime
	2nd	Tom Moss	1867 Rayed Nickel
	3rd	Richard Greene	1 Peso Coin
Jewelry	1st	Keith Ballow	'73 School Class Ring
	2nd	Dorris St. Clair	Silver Ring
	3rd	Bob Anderson	10K Gold Wedding Band
Artifacts	1st	Dana Logston	1920-30 Metal Toy Car
	2nd	Tom Moss	Caddo Indian Arrowhead
	3rd	Alden Utzman	Old Bottle
Tokens	1st	Tom Moss	Uno Lingold Token
	2nd	Junior St. Clair	Namco Token
	3rd	Jess Allen	Mardi Gras Token
Judges	1st	Tom Moss	1930-40 Lead Toy Soldier
Choice	2nd	Jimmy Clark	10K Gold & Ruby Ring
	3rd	Sue Anderson	Old Metal Monopoly Game Car

Gregg County Club October Meeting

The Gregg County Club, in Longview, Texas will hold their October 13th meeting at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the American Legion building with Mr. W.C. Jameson speaking.



W.C. Jameson is the award-winning author of 50 books and over 1,500 published articles and essays.

His latest novel, *Beating the Devil* (University of New Mexico Press) is racking up stunning reviews and impressive sales. It has also generated calls from movie producers. In addition to writing fiction, Jameson is the creator of the series, W.C. Jameson's *Lost Treasures of America*. His success and fame as a professional treasure hunter has led to appearances on *Unsolved Mysteries*, the History Channel, The Discovery Channel, the Travel Channel, *Nightline*, and National Public Radio. Jameson is the best-selling treasure author in the world.

One of his recent books, *Billy the Kid: Beyond the Grave* (Taylor Trade Publishing), was a regional best-seller. This controversial book presents stunning evidence that the outlaw, Billy the Kid, was not killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett but went on to live an amazing life for another seventy years. He has appeared on television and speaks around the country aspects of the life of this famous outlaw.

Jameson has won awards from national and regional associations and he is a three-time winner of the coveted Stirrup Award for Best Magazine Article. A nationally recognized and honored author, Jameson often serves as a literary judge for organizations such as the Western Heritage Association, Ozark Creative Writers, Inc., and Women Writing the West. Contact Margret Logston for details.



Using Electrolysis to Clean Coins & Artifacts

By Keith Ballow

As explained during last month's meeting the use of electrolysis can be an effective method for cleaning coins and artifacts. Here's a short tutorial on setting up your own electrolysis system at home.

The set up consists of a small "wall-wart" transformer. Either a 9 or 12 volt DC transformer will work fine and most people have one or two of these lying around the house somewhere from an old piece of electronic gear that has long since outlived its usefulness, or you can pick one up at WalMart or Radio Shack. Most of them will be rated for 500 mA or less.

While this is a low DC voltage with low amperage, you are still fooling with electricity and should unplug the transformer before handling the wires and alligator clips just to be on the safe side. Also be aware that the bubbles released are hydrogen bubbles and hydrogen is an explosive, flammable gas. You remember the Hindenburg from your high school history class, right? It was filled with hydrogen.

Ok, here is the set up. One small wall-wart transformer with alligator clips installed on the end of each wire. You will need a stainless steel spoon, tubing or something similar for the negative (-) cathode. Your relic or coin will be the positive (+) anode in this circuit.



The Electrolysis Set-up

I like to use a couple of clothes pins and rubber bands to hold the various parts together at the right level but you can use your imagination and come up with something that will work for you.

Stir in a tablespoon of Arm & Hammer laundry detergent, common table salt or baking powder to make the water conductive.

Once you have your laundry detergent or salt mixed well in the water, position the stainless steel spoon or tubing so that it extends to near the bottom of your glass container. Hook your coin or relic to the positive (+) lead from the transformer. Sometimes this wire will have a small white line or dots running down the length of it but if it doesn't, don't worry, because we'll deal with that a bit later.



Close up of the transformer label.

Now suspend your coin or relic down into the solution just deep enough to ensure that it is submerged completely. (Keeping your alligator clip out of the solution will extend its life.)

Now you can plug the wall-wart into an electrical socket. Assuming that you have enough laundry detergent, salt or baking soda in your solution you should see small bubbles start to form on the surface of your coin and bubble to the surface as they expand in size.

If the bubbles are all forming on the stainless steel spoon then unplug the wall-wart and swap the wires going to the spoon and the coin. Plug the wall-wart back in and the bubbles should form on the coin or relic.

Keep an eye on your coin for the first few minutes to make sure the process isn't working too quickly and removing too much metal too fast. Remember, some small amount of metal will always be removed by the

electrolysis so consider the value of the coin or relic you are trying to clean before dropping it off into this electronic bath.



Hydrogen bubbles being released

It is best not to mix copper or copper clad coins with silver coins. Mix up a new solution if you change metal types from one cleaning session to the next or you may end up with a shiny pink silver coin.

Finds of the Month Contest

