

# Treasured Times

February 2007

## CLUB OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** JACK LOWRY  
PREZ@GOLDENTRIANGLEEXPLORERS.COM

**VICE PRESIDENT:** BILL PHILLIPS  
VP@GOLDENTRIANGLEEXPLORERS.COM

**TREASURER:** MARY PENSON  
TREASURER@GOLDENTRIANGLEEXPLORERS.COM

**SECRETARY:** ALICE BRANGER  
SECRETARY@GOLDENTRIANGLEEXPLORERS.COM

## OTHER CONTACTS

**HUNT MASTER:** JACK ELLETT  
HUNTMASTER@GOLDENTRIANGLEEXPLORERS.COM

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** MIKE SHAW  
NEWSLETTER@GOLDENTRIANGLEEXPLORERS.COM

**WEBMASTER:** SUSAN PHILLIPS

**WEB ADMINISTRATOR:** LARRY COOLEY  
INFO@GOLDENTRIANGLEEXPLORERS.COM

SEE YOUR MEMBER DIRECTORY FOR TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS

## **NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
11001 MIDWAY ROAD, DALLAS, TEXAS  
DECEMBER 8, 2006 TIME 7:00 P.M.

*continued on page 2*

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 1** Jabbering from Jack
- 2** Finds of the Month Contest  
Drawing & Door Prizes
- 3** Minutes of the last Meeting  
Huntmaster's Report
- 4** Legislative Report
- 7** On Maps

## JABBERING FROM JACK

**by Jack Lowry**  
President

Well, I haven't broken all my resolutions for the New Year, but some have taken serious hits. I have however; found one piece of gold and three pre-1900 coins including one of silver. There is still hope for me and for you as well. My trash finds have increased significantly, so there must be some bitter with the sweet.

My plans still call for a trip to the gold fields and the Texas coast. One or both of these may have to be an "outing", but it is much too early to think much about that. Besides, Ronnie knows I have a lot of painting and home remodeling to do. When I offered to let him help, he just laughed and blamed Olga for his projects. We men never are fully understood!!!!!!

Come on warm weather.....

**DUES ARE PAST DUE.** Please get your dues paid at this meeting if you have not done so. The club really needs your support.

Our business meeting will be relatively short and, we will dispense with a program for this meeting.

As we did last meeting, it is imperative that we continue to discuss the Texas Council Convention and Hunt. Who might be going and will be willing to spend some time in the booth and who plans on hunting. We will go over the dates and times as announced in the TCTC Flyer. Room reservations are a subject that needs to be discussed. Killeen is a very busy place in the spring of the year.

The prizes voted on by the club have been ordered or are in hand. All was done well within budget. Even much below budget if one considers that the club already had in inventory a 4 ounce Silver bar in the shape of a \$100.00 bill and in a presentation case. None of this in any way lessens the need and importance of **members selling raffle tickets.** Please, help the club by taking plenty to sell, and plan to buy some yourself.

Mike Shaw had some comments which were unstated due to the bad weather. It may be his choice to bring these before the club this month. It was much preferred that he and Connie remain

*continued on page 3*

**REFRESHMENTS**

The Greers, Sue Wilson, the Lowrys and Jeff Engemann are bringing refreshments for the February meeting.

Larry Cooley and Ron Rutledge will provide refreshments for March.

Susan Phillips, refreshment committee chair, says she'd be delighted to sign you up! Catch her with the refreshment sign up sheet at the next meeting or call/email her to add your name to the list for the month of your choice.

**FUTURE MONTHLY MEETINGS**

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>MARCH 9, 2007</b>  | <b>TIME: 7:30 P.M.</b>    |
| <b>APRIL 13, 2007</b> | <b>TIME: 7:30 P.M.</b>    |
| <b>MAY 11, 2007</b>   | <b>TIME: 7:30 P.M.</b>    |
| <b>JUNE 8, 2007</b>   | <b>TIME: 7:30 P.M.</b>    |
| <b>JULY 13, 2007</b>  | <b>TIME: 7:00 P.M. **</b> |

**\*\* NOTE EARLY START TIME**

**FINDS OF THE MONTH CONTEST  
(December 2006)**

**Coin:**

|                 |               |      |                      |
|-----------------|---------------|------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Ron Rutledge  | 1781 | 2 Reale              |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Robert Jordan | 1959 | Franklin Half dollar |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | Jeff Engemann | 1919 | Mercury dime         |

**JEWELRY:**

|                 |              |                |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Joe Wilson   | 14k gold cross |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Wayne Strobo | class ring     |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | No entry     |                |

**RELICS:**

|                 |               |              |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Ron Rutledge  | Elk badge    |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Jeff Engemann | saloon token |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | No entry      |              |

**MOST UNUSUAL:**

No entries

**SECOND CHANCE:**

|                 |              |                       |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Ron Rutledge | 1905-O Barber Quarter |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Wayne Strobo | 1968 Shell Oil token  |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | No entry     |                       |

**(January 2007)**

**COIN:**

|                 |               |       |                        |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|------------------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Jack Lowry    | 1858  | Seated Liberty quarter |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Ron Rutledge  | 1857O | Seated Liberty dime    |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | Robert Jordan | 1930  | Walking Liberty half   |

**JEWELRY:**

|                 |            |     |              |
|-----------------|------------|-----|--------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Jack Lowry | 14k | wedding band |
|-----------------|------------|-----|--------------|

|                 |              |     |          |
|-----------------|--------------|-----|----------|
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Wayne Strobo | 14k | bracelet |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | No entry     |     |          |

**RELICS:**

|                 |               |                                    |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Ron Rutledge  | Merchant Delivery Service<br>Badge |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Bill Phillips | Railroad button                    |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | No entry      |                                    |

**MOST UNUSUAL:**

|                 |               |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Bill Phillips | Hollow quarter                  |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Ron Rutledge  | Las Vegas \$5 slot machine coin |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | Robert Jordan | Heavy (lead) metal airplane     |

**SECOND CHANCE:**

|                 |               |                          |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> | Ron Rutledge  | WWI dog tag              |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> | Robert Jordan | 1971 Kennedy half dollar |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> | No entry      |                          |

**DOOR PRIZE AND MONTHLY PRIZE  
DRAWING WINNERS (January 2007)**

**DOOR PRIZE WINNERS**

Treasure Atlas donated by American Detector

Distributors were won by:

|               |                  |               |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Joe Schick    | Sue Wilson       | Alice Branger |
| Bill Abbott   | Richard Mikesell | Shelby Kinsey |
| Jeff Engemann | Chuck Howell     | Ben Hong      |
|               | Joe Wilson       |               |

**PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS**

| <u>Prize</u>         | <u>Donated By</u>         | <u>Winner</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Buffalo Nickel Set   | Larry & Shirley<br>Voyles | Lee Caldwell  |
| 1980 Proof Set       |                           | Bill Phillips |
| 1944 Walking Liberty |                           | C. J. Kinsey  |
| 1943 Walking Liberty |                           | Greg Williams |
| 1891 Seated Dime     |                           | Jack Lowry    |
| 1921 Morgan Dollar   |                           | John Greer    |
| 1841 Large Cent      |                           | Larry Cooley  |
| One Ounce Silver Bar |                           | Bill Phillips |
| 1 Ounce Silver Round |                           | Dave Jones    |
| 1921 Morgan Dollar   |                           | Sue Wilson    |
| 1824 Bust Half       |                           | Ben Hong      |
| Gold 2-1/2 Peso      |                           | Jeff Engemann |

**Help support your club! Buy a ticket and join in the fun. The GTES operates on funds collected as member dues, monthly and treasure show drawings, and other donations. This money is used to fund treasure hunts and club programs. Not only can you win a nice prize but you gain better prizes in the treasure hunts. Door prize winners are drawn from the attendance lists and require no donation. Donations of prizes for each drawing are greatly appreciated.**

## **Minutes of the 1-12-07 Meeting**

**By Alice Branger, Secretary**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm. Jack Lowry welcomed all visitors. He also presented Nancy Strobo with the Treasure Hunter of the Year award and since she wasn't present her husband, Wayne, accepted it in her absence.

Then Jack thanked everyone for their help in December with the food and the donations. We collected over 100 gifts that were donated to Toys for Tots. And we had some really nice items donated to the club for the upcoming raffles.

Jack opened discussion regarding prizes for the raffle to be held at the treasure show in March. He wanted to know what we as a club would like to see as prizes. The suggestions he got were for a GPS, a digital camera, silver rounds or silver bar and cash. Dick Dandalides made a motion to allow the board of directors to make the final decision on the prizes for the raffle. Robert Jordan seconded the motion. Everyone agreed with the motions when voted on.

Mickey Greer made a motion for the club to spend \$500.00 on the prizes and Dick Dandalides seconded the motion. The motion passed the vote by the club.

Susan Phillips asked everybody to sign up for refreshments throughout the year. Jack Ellett announced that there would not be a fun hunt this month. Jack Lowry made the announcement that the club was in the process of changing to a calendar year (January to December) from our previous September to August membership, so anyone who hasn't renewed their membership should pay their dues now. And if you renewed your membership in September then your dues won't need to be paid again until January 2008.

We took our break and after break the door prizes and raffle were held.

home, safe and warm, rather than to slide all over the roads of North Texas.

Our business meetings follow an agenda approved by the Executive Board. For items to be included for the club's consideration, the information and sufficient supporting data must arrive on/or before the Wednesday, 10 days prior to the club meeting date. Items for consideration need to be mailed to: GTES President; PO Box 472531; Garland, TX 75047-2531 or by e-mail (preferred) at: [prez@goldentriangleexplorers.com](mailto:prez@goldentriangleexplorers.com) . Items not meeting these criteria and/or presented at the meeting may not be acted upon until the following meeting.

Dig `em Deep

## **Treasurers Report**

**November 2006**

By Mary Penson, Treasurer

The report was not received in time to publish. It will be read at the meeting for approval by the membership.

## **Huntmasters Report**

**February 2007**

By Jack Ellett

We did not have a January fun hunt due to the weather. We may be crazy but not that crazy. Weather permitting the fun hunt for February will be Kidd Springs Park in Dallas. (Dallas mapsco 54C) Kidd Springs Park is a very old and very large park. It has been hunted many times but the last time I hunted it I found two wheat pennies: one dated in the 20's and one dated in the 30's. As I said it is a large park and there are still some good things left. Gary Whalen and I hunted the volleyball court and each found a 10K ring. See you there.  
Jack

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**By Mike Shaw**

**ED. Note: The Texas Legislature is in session. It meets once every other year for 140 days and we must act while it is in session if we are to open up state park lands to treasure hunting.**

Keith Wills reported that Representative Chuck Hopson from Jacksonville, TX, has agreed to sponsor the bill to open Texas State Parks up to metal detecting. Keith says we all owe Michael Culotta of the Rusk County Club a big "Thank You" for contacting Rep. Hopson.

We should discuss this at our next meeting as Keith will soon be asking each of us to write our individual representative to vote for this bill. It is imperative that we do so as our representatives cannot be expected to be aware of, and familiar with, every proposed bill and need to hear from us as to why they should be voting to change state laws.

If you are not familiar with how the legislature works, please see me so I can explain. Everyone should become familiar with the process because these are the laws that affect us the most. First, this proposed law will be assigned a number (LATE BREAKING NEWS: the number has been assigned and we will be referring to it as HB 1016) and referred to a committee. In this case, it will go before the House Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee. Once they "report it" it will be read in the House of Representatives.

Once the house has passed it, we must go through the same thing in the Texas Senate. However, we have an advantage there as the Senate passed this same bill in a past session. So getting it through the committee should be somewhat easier.

If you know your representative, you may go ahead and write him/her when you are ready. If you don't know who your representative is, please call the courthouse and ask. Or, go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/> where you can enter your address and get the names and addresses of your state representative, state senator, U.S. representative, U.S. senators, and you member of the state board of education.

When you write a legislator, most know legible people keep it polite and professional. Now is not the time to mention disappointment at past votes or activities. Remember that your letter will probably be read by a staff member who will probably present your representative with only a summary of all letters on a specific bill or issue. Only well-written, succinct letters are likely to be read by the legislator.

If you know your legislator personally, you might want to discuss the bill him/her when you see him. But you should also write to make sure your reasons are clearly stated.

Many people are hesitant to write such letters as they are afraid they might appear uninformed. But your legislator hears from hundreds of people during any session and is highly unlikely to judge you based upon a single letter. In fact, every legislator with whom I have discussed such matters welcome ALL letters from constituents because they like guidance on matters with which they are personally unfamiliar and would otherwise have to depend upon staff, state employee, or lobbyist inputs.

Always remember to include your complete mailing address and telephone number on the letter itself. No legislator has time to read letters from people not living in his/her district; his staff hates to have to look it up. Also, now is not the time to threaten to not vote for him/her if they vote "wrong" or things of that nature. Save that for the next election campaign!

Everyone feels better if they have a guideline from which to work. For that reason, I have included a copy of an actual letter to a legislator. This is what I consider a well-written letter by Michael Culotta of the Rusk County club.

Keith Wills has requested that we provide him copies of the answers we receive from our legislators. This will allow him to target each legislator with specific answers to any reasons they give for voting against the bill, or to thank those who support it.

## SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Representative Hobson:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am contacting you today to request your support in favor of **HB 1016** Bill in the House.

The major facts for voting "YES" on **HB 1016** Bill is that 38 other states in America allow the recreational activity of metal detecting in their State Parks. Detecting is allowed on "pre-disturbed public use areas" of their state parks that have no archeological or historical significance. The 38 states that currently allow this recreational activity had concerns about protecting the many natural and cultural resources of their state. I know that Texans have these same concerns and rightly so, however these states found a way to co-exist with this activity by designating areas that have no archeological or historical significance; public use areas.

Detectorists find lost coins and other metallic items. Many times we find jewelry that we can return to the original owner. This wholesome hobby also creates a means of physical activity to keep us healthy, which is especially beneficial for the many senior citizens here in Texas that enjoy metal detecting as a recreation activity.

The Army Corps of Engineers has allowed metal detecting on their lands in "designated public use areas" since 1989 without incident nationwide. They too, have been successful in the protection of their significant resources on many thousands of acres for all those years. Most detectorists respect these resources and perform a service by hauling out the trash and junk metal they encounter.

Let's not forget that most all Texas county and city parks currently allow responsible metal detecting activities on their properties and are also able to protect their significant resources and at the same time, co-exist with the activity. There just is not any reason why Texas should not also allow its citizens this legal and responsible recreational activity within their state parks.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been against it, yet allow many other recreational activities and sports that are far more destructive to areas in Texas State Parks. Most detector clubs follow a code of ethics. This is nothing more than discrimination against our activity and the many thousands of taxpaying folks here in Texas that enjoy this pastime for recreational and family purposes.

We request that you please vote "Yes" to **HB 1016** and allow the people of Texas the use of their State Parks.

Sincere thanks for taking time to read my request for your consideration on supporting this Bill. I will be more than happy to discuss this Bill anytime with you.

Sincerely,

## ATTACHMENT TO LETTER

---

### **BILL Analysis: DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Current law establishes that no ground-disturbing activities can be conducted on state lands without prior permission from the Texas Historical Commission (THC). This prohibits hobbyists from metal detecting in state parks where visitors are currently allowed to participate in other activities such as picnicking, fishing, camping, and swimming.

As proposed, this Bill amends the Natural Resources Code to permit the use of metal detectors in state parks. The bill also amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to direct the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to allow recreational metal detecting in designated areas of state parks as determined by the Parks and Wildlife Commission. The bill also further protects parks by prohibiting the removal of objects, implements, or artifacts listed in the Antiquities Code of the Natural Resources Code.

### RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 191.0525, Natural Resources Code, by adding Subsection (j) to provide that this section does not apply to recreational metal detecting in designated areas of state parks.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 13B, Parks and Wildlife Code, by adding Section 13.1021, as follows:

Sec. 13.1021. REGULATION OF RECREATIONAL METAL DETECTING IN STATE PARKS.

(a) Requires the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to allow recreational metal detecting in designated areas of state parks subject to rules adopted by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

(b) Provides that this section does not authorize the removal from state park land of any object, implement, or artifact the removal of which is prohibited under Chapter 191 (Antiquities Code), Natural Resources Code.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2007.

# A FEW NOTES ON MAPS

By Mike Shaw

Have you ever looked at a map and noticed a “road to nowhere”? A short stretch of road with no town at the end, perhaps? Or, even a town which you are pretty sure doesn’t exist? Have you, like me, suddenly gotten dreams of having discovered the location of a ghost town which has never been hunted with a metal detector?

Have you actually driven out to see what is at the end of that “road to nowhere” only to discover that the road doesn’t even exist?

What is going on here? Are those mapmakers crazy? Or, just not very good at their craft?

Something else you might notice is the rather wide ranging variety of ways that mapmakers show rivers, streams, tributaries and creeks. Some are rather extensive, but often a rather major stream of water is cut off much shorter than the actual water flow. Maps that show every tributary all the way up to their sources are, well, nearly nonexistent. One could surmise that to do so would create a spider web of blue on a map that would leave almost no room for anything else. But one would surmise wrong. Believe it or not, that is not the reason that such marks are left off.

You can’t judge by the names of the towns. Remember some of the names of such towns as Toad Suck (real towns in both Arkansas and Texas) and Slap-out, a real town in Oklahoma. And Toad Suck and Slap-out are towns you can visit and even have a cup of coffee. But some towns shown on maps just don’t exist and never did.

“It’s a Little Known Fact”, a newspaper column written by Chas Allen, reminded me of something I once knew but had forgotten. As Chas wrote:

You see it's one of the best ways that mapmakers (who have really gone to all the trouble to research and make a very good map for us to use) can protect their copyright - by intentionally putting in a few harmless but intentional errors. That way, when and if the map is ever copied by a competitor or anyone else, they can prove it is their work, and therefore prevail in court and protect their investment. Oh, they always use something that is completely harmless and easily hidden, so the public is in no danger of trying to find something that doesn't really exist. But they do it! Kind of smart really.

And honestly, I don't blame them a bit!

So remember that the next time you try to pull off the road and find it doesn’t exist. And think about it the next time you look for a ghost town on a map – it might be more of a ghost than you expected.

This newsletter is published monthly by the Golden Triangle Explorers Society, the oldest treasure hunters club in Texas. We are proud to be a member club of the Texas Council of Treasure Clubs and to be a part of the annual Texas Treasure Show. We encourage you to join a local treasure club and if you live in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, or nearby, we invite you to join our club.

We are a family oriented group of treasure hunters and others interested in preserving the past by recovering relics, coins, and other treasures and sharing our research and information with other like-minded people. We subscribe to the “*Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics*”.

If you are interested in joining us, please fill out the form below and bring it to our booth at the treasure show, to a meeting, or mail to the address below.

Dues are \$15.00 per individual and \$20.00 per family, including children up to the age of 18 and are pro-rated (Dues are Sept to Aug).

Name:

---

Address:

---

City, State, ZIP:

---

Telephone:

---

E-Mail address:

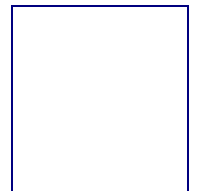
---

Mail to:

**Golden Triangle Explorers Society  
P.O. Box 472531  
Garland, Texas 75047-2531**

**Golden Triangle Explorers Society  
P.O. Box 472531  
Garland, Texas 75047-2531**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



DON'T FORGET:

**NEXT MEETING**

March 9, 2007                      Time: 7:30 p.m.  
MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
1001 Midway Road, Dallas, Texas