

May 2016

# "THE DIRTY DIGGER"



## Pilchuck Treasure Hunting Club --- Everett, Washington

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### Upcoming PTHC Events

- ✓ **May 8, 2016** (Mother's Day) ....and don't you forget it!
- ✓ **May 14, 2016** (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday) - 8:00AM: Second Saturday Hunt. Meet at Denny's on 128<sup>th</sup> in South Everett and join the group for this days hunt.
- ✓ **May 18th, 2016** (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) - 7:00PM: Monthly club meeting. Everett Fire Station on Hewitt, doors open at 7PM, meeting starts at 7:30.
- ✓ **May 27-29, 2016** Mayfest - Pilchuck Treasure Hunting Club's annual extravaganza! This year's theme is "Return of the Zombies", **PLUS** remember to bring a display of your finds to enter in the display event! (for more information see below and the attached "Mayfest Flyer".)

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*We're on the Web! Visit us at:*

<http://www.pilchucktreasurehunts.org/home.html>

### Upcoming Events - other organizations and clubs

- ✓ **April 20, 2016:** "Silver Buyback" at our April club meeting was a great success. A great big "Thank you" to all those club members that cashed in on this generous offer from the club to buy their silver coins at "spot" to be used for prizes at the Mayfest Event.
- ✓ **May 27-29, 2016** Mayfest - Pilchuck Treasure Hunting Club's annual extravaganza! This year's theme is "Return of the Zombies" (I guess the Zombies had such a good time last year they are coming back!). ALSO, since it was so popular we are bringing back the "2<sup>nd</sup> Treasure Hunting Display Event". Remember to pick the stuff you found and make a display to enter in the event and share with everyone. The rules are pretty easy: If you found it and you like it, make a display however you want and set it on the tables. This is a lot of fun and a great place to tap your creativity!! MDAW will again be sponsoring one of the hunts on Saturday afternoon where all entrance fees go back into the field. We put out over 8,000 coins again last year. For more information see the attached flyer or go to: <http://www.pilchucktreasurehunts.org/home.html>
- ✓ **June 17, 18 & 19, 2016** NWTHC Annual Treasure Hunt "Back at Farragut Park". Save with early registration Mar.1 and May 15<sup>th</sup> price changes. Hunts for all ages - kids, teens, and seniors. Camping available. Email:[skdjbell1@msb.com](mailto:skdjbell1@msb.com) Call 1-208-660-4852 Or [bottles55@q.com](mailto:bottles55@q.com) 509-995-4268
- ✓ **July 23, 2016** "Fraser Valley Treasure Hunters" 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Treasure Chest Hunt "Silver Shoot". Early Registration still \$75.00. If you'd like more information about this club drop Mark Lewis a line at [FraserValleyTH@gmail.com](mailto:FraserValleyTH@gmail.com)
- ✓ **July 30th, 2016:** Cascade Treasure Hunters are bringing back their Silver Shoot in Renton, WA 15711 - 152nd, Renton, WA. Mark Kulseth [mkulseth@gmail.com](mailto:mkulseth@gmail.com) (206) 730-2694 or Mark Jenkins [markjenkins375@rocketmail.com](mailto:markjenkins375@rocketmail.com) (425) 223-2985
- ✓ **SEP 2-25, 2016** Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association - PNNA-sponsored coin exhibit and info table in Hobby Hall at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup - <http://www.pnna.org>
- ✓ **For Metal Detecting Association of Washington (MDAW) events and information go to their website at:** <https://sites.google.com/site/metaldetectwa/events>
- ✓ **"CALL TO ACTION!":** The MDAW would like your help in protecting our rights to metal detect in Washington State Parks. They are asking you to please send an email to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission liaison, LISA LANTZ and ask to be added to her email list to be notified whenever there is a meeting or discussion regarding policy changes to regulations covering metal detecting in state parks. This will allow you to attend a public meeting on the subject and express your desire to keep our parks open to metal detecting! Please email: [lisalantz@parks.wa.gov](mailto:lisalantz@parks.wa.gov)

Note: There are many "hyper-links" contained in the above event listings.  
For further information try clicking on one.

## “Meet a Member” --- an interesting collection from “Box Car” Rob

In last month's feature article on token collecting (remember “Exonimia”?) I requested that club members bring in a favorite token to feature in this month's article. One of the members that responded and brought in his favorite items was our very own PTHC Secretary, Rob Fish. When I asked him about his favorite token, he said well “my favorite token isn't really a token, per se, but it is pretty cool.” I took a look at what he had and figured, okay, this isn't exactly what I was shooting for with the Exonimia “token finding thing”, but I had to admit that what Rob had was pretty interesting and fun never-the-less.

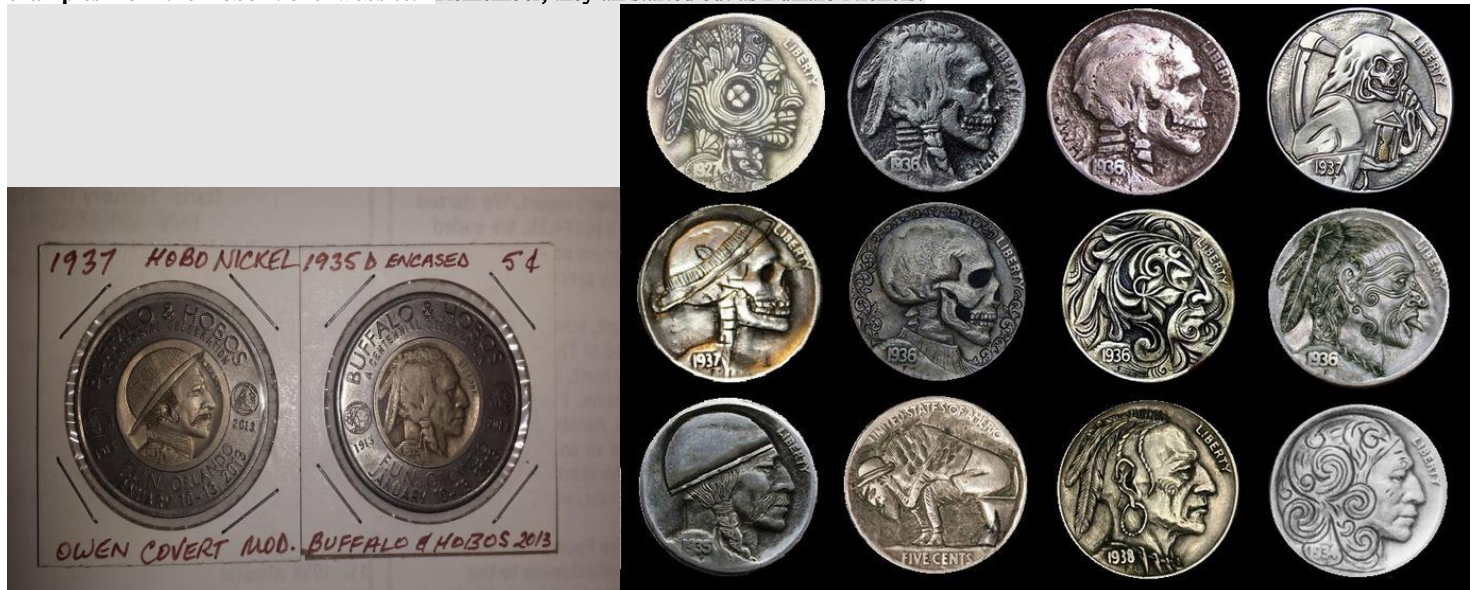
### First, here's a little bit about Rob:

Rob got his start in metal detecting around 1990, when he lived in Northern California. He liked being outdoors, so he picked up a White's Goldmaster 4B and decided to try his luck with hunting for GOLD. And who could blame him, since his favorite hunting grounds were where the great California Gold Rush started, the Coloma area of California, site of the famous “Sutter's Mill”. Rob did okay finding his treasure by detecting, panning, sluicing, bookshelving and all the other types of things that hobby prospectors do. Rob was in prospecting heaven. Good things have their time and eventually a move to the northwest brought a close to Rob's gold prospecting and a shift back to his coin collecting interests and an inquiry with the Everett Coin Club. There he ran into Ron H and Steve S who introduced him to the Pilchuck Treasure Hunting Club. Now Rob swings a Minelab Exterra 705 and hunts the parks and playgrounds with the rest of us. He also enjoys collecting encased coins, dog tags, Bath tags, comic books, hockey cards and “date nails” (nails driven into telephone poles to identify when they were stuck in the ground). In addition Rob lends his own special “humorous” touch to our monthly meeting minutes and we are grateful to him for taking such a dry report and making it so much fun!

Yup, Rob likes to collect things so what is his favorite? Well here it is from Rob Fish: So, if riding the rails, hitching a ride on the Iron Horse or the carefree life of the King of the Road has an allure, then Rob's special interest just might appeal to you. Rob loves collecting and trading “HOBO NICKELS”...yeah, I know, what the heck is that? Well they are pretty fascinating works of art and highly collectible and although they are not typically items that we find while “metal detecting”, they are pretty fascinating. The following is a direct excerpt from an online article, entitled “Origins of Hobo Nickels”. It is from the website dedicated to these interesting items. Please follow this link for the original article and more information <http://www.hobonickels.org/>.

*“We're not really sure how the name “hobonickel” came into common use to describe such altered coins. Among the possible explanations is one from World War I. More than three million American soldiers passed through Hoboken, New Jersey, the prime port of embarkation for the American Expeditionary Forces. Oftentimes, to pass the down time in military camps, some soldiers had picked up the popular hobby of carving designs into the new Indian head nickels. Although much appreciated today, the nickels at the time were considered debased and worthless as money. Many of these “hobo nickels” ultimately showed up in jars in the many bars around Hoboken after the soldiers had pulled them out for a few laughs from the bartender. Many of these nickels featured a rendition of the Kaiser. There is another source which may have added the name “hobo nickel” to our vocabulary. During the Great Depression homeless and out of work men traveled the countryside, often hiding in train cars, as they attempted to find seasonal work. Some of these itinerate workers, dubbed hobos, would carve designs on an Indian Head nickel and then trade them for a meal or place to spend the night or just something to do to while away the hours in a hobo jungle. These hobos used a simple pocket knife or nails, perhaps a few punches fashioned out of old files or other tools, and a hammer to create a design. The standard hobo nickel has the Indian's head altered into a man wearing a rounded derby style hat, with a beard, ear, and collar(s). Nicer specimens may have the profile changed, and possibly a cigar, cigarette, or wording added. Although usually referred to as “hobo nickels,” they are also sometimes referred to as “reworked,” “transformed,” “bum nickels,” “trench art,” or “prisoner nickels.” Nearly all the “old” or classic hobo nickels (before 1980) were made in obscurity by many hundreds of different people, not all of whom were hobos. No records were kept, and nothing contemporary appears to have been chronicled or published by the early hobo nickel makers, or reporters, or authors, on this little-known folk art practice of carving coins. “*

**Here are a couple of photos of these works of art. The first photos on the left is one of Rob's special treasures, the second is of some stunning examples from the Hobo Nickel website. Remember, they all started out as Buffalo Nickels!**





**COINS TO BE FOUND** (as of 4/25/2016)

**Quarters:** American Samoa P / Northern Mariana Islands P / Virgin Island P / Glacier P / Mount Hood P / Grand Canyon P / Yellowstone D / El Yunque P / Chaco Culture P / Acadia P / Hawaii Volcanoes P / Great Basin P / International Peace Memorial P / White Mountain P / Great Sand Dunes Nat. Park P / Great Smokey Mountains Nat. Park P Nebraska: Homestead National Monument P / Louisiana: Kisatchie National Forest Park P & D / North Carolina: Blue Ridge Parkway P & D / Delaware: Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge P & D / New York Saratoga National Historical Park P & D (Stan reported 3/19)

**New 2016 Quarters:**

Shawnee National Forest Site P & D (Stan reported finding 4/25/16) / Cumberland Gap National Historical Park P & D / Harpers Ferry National Historical Park P & D / Theodore Roosevelt National Park P & D / Fort Sumter National Monument Site P & D

**Sacagawea Dollars:**

2011 P / 2012 P / 2013 P & D / 2014 P & D / 2015 P & D / 2016 P & D

**Presidential Dollars:**

Monroe P / Grant P / Hayes P / Garfield P / Lincoln P / Buchanan P / Pierce P / Fillmore P / Arthur P & D / G. Cleveland (1885-1889) P & D / B. Harrison P & D / Grover Cleveland (1893 – 1897) P & D / Woodrow Wilson P & D / William H Taft P & D / Theodore Roosevelt P & D / Wm McKinley P & D / Warren Harding P & D / Calvin Coolidge P & D / Herbert Hoover P & D / Franklin D. Roosevelt P & D Harry S. Truman P & D / Dwight D Eisenhower P & D / John F Kennedy P & D / Lyndon B. Johnson P & D

**New 2016 Dollar coins:**

Richard M Nixon P & D, Gerald Ford P & D, Jimmy Carter P & D and Ronald Reagan P & D

**\*\*As soon as you find one of the please **Contact Ron** at 425-338-3682 or [ronhetzel@yahoo.com](mailto:ronhetzel@yahoo.com)\*\***

So far, as of April 25, 2016: Stan S. has found the following: **North Caroline: Blue Ridge Parkway D / Delaware: Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge D / New York Saratoga National Historical Park D / Shawnee National Forest Site D**  
**HURRY UP YOU GUYS AND CHECK THE COINS IN YOUR POUCH THAT YOU HAVE FOUND!!**

**Pilchuck Treasure Hunting Club Newsletter**

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