



THE DIXIE DIGGERS

WARRIOR BASIN TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION (WBTHA)

Volume 10, Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2007

The first meeting of the WBTHA in August was held on the 7th at Niki's West Restaurant. The meeting was brought to order by President Joe Box with 9 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Bonnie Watson and they were approved as amended.

*David Scales brought up that we have one meeting before Labor Day weekend. He asked if we need to look for sales on drinks at this time.

A short discussion was held about tokens for the "21" Hunt.

Meeting was adjourned by President Box at 8:31 PM.

drinks.

OLD BUSINESS

*Coins!!! Mike Wardlow reported on the coins he had purchased for the Club.

*Joe Box sold the Club 500 silver dimes for \$440.00.

THE GAMES

BINGO COINS: 1956 (for the money), 1938, 1925, 1918, 1946, and 1933. There were no matches this week.

The second meeting of the WBTHA in August was held on the 21st at Niki's West Restaurant. The meeting was brought to order by President Joe Box at 7:32 PM with 10 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Bonnie Watson and approved as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

*A discussion about detectors for the 2007 Deep South Treasure Hunt. At this point we have had Garrett Metal Detector Company donate a GTI 1500 and a GTI 1350. We will buy four Garrett Ace 250's. The members present decided to buy a Garrett GTI 1500.

*As of August 7th we have 53 total entries to this year's Deep South Treasure Hunt.

OLDEST COIN: David Scales won the oldest coin contest with a 1943 penny!

THE RAFFLE:

1st Draw: Joe Box won a one ounce silver round.

2nd Draw: Perry Watson won a silver half dollar.

Door Prize: Joe Box won back his \$3.00 entry fee.

4th Draw: David Scales won a 2006 Red Book and Minelab pin.

5th Draw: Lawrence McKelvey won a 2006 Red Book and Minelab pin.

6th Draw: Joe Clayton won a 2006 Red Book and Minelab pin.

Mike Wardlow showed the members present a 50 States Coin Book and inquired if the Club would be interested in purchasing them as prizes. We will use some of them as prizes.

OLD BUSINESS

*Bill Glass reported he still has not heard anything from Lindsey Dossey of the Cullman County Commission about hotel rates for treasure hunters. He will call again before the next meeting.

*Joe Box reported we have received 7 more entries to this year's hunt, bringing the total entries to 60.

*Mike Wardlow bought \$25.00 (25 books) worth of 2007 Red Books and received between 20 and 40 2006 Red Books free for the Club to use as prizes for meeting raffles and/or the Deep South Treasure Hunt.

*Joe Box purchased 2 more cases of water so we should be good on water. Eric Watson said he will get a couple of cases of 12 ounce bottle Coca Cola's and he has some tubs for icing down the

*Joe Box contacted Ron Duggar of Dixie Metal Detectors asking him to set up a booth since Brian Pennington will not have a booth this year. In the past Ron had indicated he would not have a booth if Brian had one.

THE GAMES

There were no coins for the Bingo Coin game.

UNIQUE FIND: There was only one entry, an angel chime found by Bill Glass. Congrats Bill!

THE RAFFLE:

1st Draw: Bonnie Watson won a one ounce silver round.

2nd Draw: Jim Self won a silver half dollar.

Door Prize: Mike Wardlow won back his \$3.00 cash entry fee.

NEW BUSINESS

4th Draw: Olivia Watson won a 2005 Red Book.

5th Draw: Jim Self won a 2005 Red Book.

6th Draw: Bill Glass won a 2005 Red Book.

7th Draw: Lawrence McKelvey won a 2005 Red Book.

Bill Glass has received internet messages from people who want to know about the Club meetings: dates, times, place, etc. He has been replying with the information and including a map.

Joe Box will talk to Ron Duggar about setting up a booth prior to the next meeting.

Bill Glass will contact the FMDAC webmaster about advertising our Hunt on their website.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

STATE TREASURE TALES

LOUISIANA

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, profiteers plying the Gulf of Mexico found a ready market for captured cargoes in the American port of New Orleans. Rather than sail stolen plunder back to Cartagena, the source of the letters of marque with which the freebooters cloaked themselves with legitimacy, the contraband was taken to the pirate colony on Grand Terre Island. From there it was smuggled into New Orleans with the help of a couple of enterprising brothers name Jean and Pierre Lafitte.

The Lafitte's grew rich in the smuggling business, and when the internecine warfare between the pirates on Grand Terre Island threatened to disrupt this trade, Jean Lafitte simply sailed to the pirate nest and took charge. A year later he had 1,000 men and 50 ships under his command. Lafitte ruled the Baratarians, as they called themselves, for almost ten years and in that time amassed a personal fortune of an estimated \$10,000,000.

If even a small portion of what has been

written about should prove to be true, he also exhibited a positive mania for burying treasure and for secret markers, maps and all the trappings of romantic pirate stories.

One of the most amazing things about Joe Sil Wooton's find of a Jean Lafitte treasure chest on an island off the Texas coast is that the treasure consisted of a mere 1,000 pieces of eight— petty cash to a man of Lafitte's vast holdings. What is not surprising is the multitude of stories of treasures reportedly buried by Jean or Pierre Lafitte in Louisiana. Of course, Grand Terre is the most likely location to expect to find such a cache sine the pirates were hastily driven off by a U.S. Expeditionary Force in 1814.

In fact, there are unconfirmed stories that several \$1,000,000 worth of caches have been recovered on Grand Terre over the last 150 years or so. Whether these treasures, if they were actually found, belonged to Lafitte or any of his many subcommanders like Dominique You, Vincent Gambi, or Rene Belouche, can never be known.

Lafitte, or any of the 1,000 men who sailed under him, are said to have buried at the following locations: in the vicinity of Grand Coteau west of Baton Rouge, on the Mississippi River Bluffs near Baton Rouge, in the are of Starks four miles east of the Sabine River, on Jefferson Island in the area around Galvez Town, on the banks of the Cataouatche Bayou where it joins Lake Cataouatche, on Lake Salvadore Shore of Couba Island, under the floor of Lafitte's blacksmith shop in New Orleans, on the shores of Lake Borgne, and on an unnamed island off Malheureux Point on Caillou Island, on the Isle of Dernieres, near Bayou Catouche, and around Bayou Des Allemands.

Lafitte's own journal mentions a cache of gold and silver coins hidden on a ridge on Pecan Island, and the great treasure vault he built near Whit Lake on the Gulf Coast has been reportedly found and lost again.

In 1908 an alligator hunter is said to have broken through the brick wall and retrieved a large number of gold coins. However, when he returned to the area with some friends he couldn't relocate the site.

Note: Treasure Tale from Lost Treasure

Online.