

# The Soundoff

**EUREKA! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc.**  
Denver, Colorado

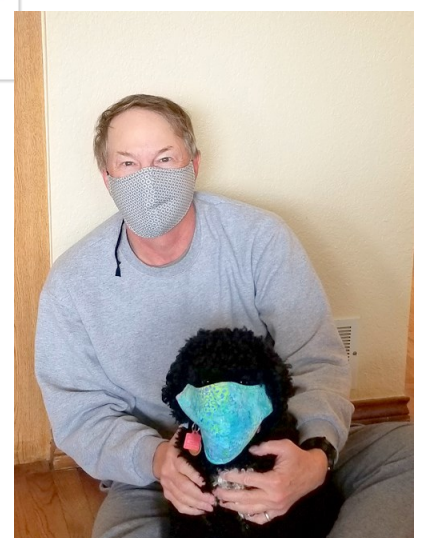
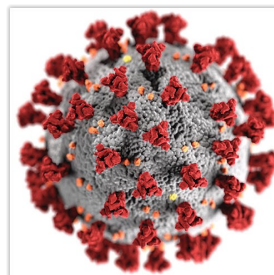


Vol. 48 Issue V

May 2020

Search With Care!

Visit our Club on the Internet at <http://www.eurekathc.org>



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## Joining Eureka!

### Membership Dues

Yearly dues are \$33 per individual or \$42 for a family membership.

Please go to:

**Eurekathc.org**

Download and complete the application form under the *About* tab. Membership dues can be paid to the Treasurer at the regular monthly



## UPDATE

The **May club meeting**, scheduled for May 8, 2020, has been **cancelled**.

Monthly club hunts, and the Breakfast Club are, temporarily, suspended.

Your Board of Directors meets at least monthly via remote digital connection (and more frequently via email and telephone discussions) to review the current status of State and local regulations, the availability of a meeting place, and the impact such club functions pose to the health of our membership.

As the status of the Covid-19 situation is in constant flux, stay alert to your emails and this publication for up to date information.

Contact Chris Davis or Nancy Faires if you are not on the Club email list or need to be informed in a different manner.

## TREASURE HUNTER'S CODE OF ETHICS

- I WILL respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the owner's permission.
- I WILL fill all excavations.
- I WILL appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
- I WILL use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I WILL build fires in designated or safe places only.
- I WILL leave gates as found.
- I WILL remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- I WILL NOT litter.
- I WILL NOT destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I WILL NOT tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.



# THE PREZ SEZ

by  
Chris Davis



May, 2020

I hope everyone is healthy and doing well during these trying times. If you do have to go out, please use every precaution.

Well, with limited getting out, this may be a great opportunity to clean up some of those dirty coins you have been collecting. One of the nice things about belonging to a metal detecting club is I get to associate with a large number of people with a wide range of related knowledge. I have been metal detecting for over 40 years, and I am still picking up new ideas and tips. For instance, like many other folks, I collect a large number of coins each year. What do other folks do with all those dirty coins they dug up over the past year? I started asking questions and came up with some very informative ideas. Of course, this discussion deals only with the cleaning of clad coinage for the purpose of putting them back into circulation. One should never tumble or otherwise clean coins with any numismatic value. Some folks use the automatic change sorting machines available in some banks. I am told Walmart also has such machines, but they charge you a percentage to use them. I bank with Chase, and they do not have change sorting machines. Chase requires you to roll coins for turn in (but they do give me the coin wrappers for free.) I have been rolling the dirty coins with the clean, and, so far anyway, they have been taking them. However, one of our members recently tried turning in dirty coins, and the bank would not take them.

I turn in some \$500 worth of coins each year. So, wishing to avoid future problems, I broke down and purchased a Lortone Model 3A rock tumbler. I did not have a clue how to run one, so I carefully researched YouTube videos on the internet. There are YouTube videos for everything on the internet. I also talked to 8 or 10 of our members who use coin tumblers. Of course, you get what you pay for.



There are a dozen different rock/gravel/sand abrasives to choose from, and virtually every video/person I checked with used different gravel/additive recipes of chemicals. I was thoroughly confused.

So, I embarked on a trial and error approach. I purchased some plain brown aquarium gravel (at Walmart), and some stainless-steel pellets (from BC Precision).

The total weight limit (coins/abrasives/chemicals/water) for a Lortone Model 3A Tumbler drum is 3 pounds. If you exceed the weight, eventually you will burn the motor up. I weighed each of my full drums

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

to make sure I did not exceed weight limits. If I had it to do again, as I have a large number of coins needing tumbling, I would have purchased the Lortone 33B, which has two 3 pound drums. I solved this problem by purchasing a second-hand tumbler from Jay R. at the January Club outing at Clements. Most (many anyway) of the videos recommended adding an equal volume of coins and abrasives, then adding just enough water to cover them. For the stainless steel pellets, I just used a pound. I purchased them from BC Precision (\$18).

There is a wide variety of chemicals various individuals add to the gravel. One individual doesn't add any chemicals at all. He just uses coins/gravel/water. Another adds just a dash of Dawn detergent. Quite a few purchase commercial additives such as CLR (Calcium, Lime, Rust) or Finch Products cleaning powder. Bill, at Golden Detectors, sells some similar cleaning powder. Personally, I do not really care if the coins are blindingly shiny. I just want them clean enough to pass muster at the bank. So, I opted for cheapskate methods.

My first try was to mix gravel/water/coins, then add a dash of Dawn detergent/vinegar/LimeAway/pinch of salt. Then I ran the drum for an hour. I then went out to the flower bed and dumped the coins/gravel in a colander and thoroughly rinsed with the hose. One does not want to dump these chemicals down the drain, as they will eat up the pipes. It seems like 50 or 60% of the coins were clean enough, so I took the clean coins out and added additional dirty coins and ran it for another hour. The problem with this chemical mixture, it left a film of chemical on the coins.

My next try was just to add a dash of Dawn detergent to the gravel/water/coins. It seemed this worked just as well as the mixture above, but without the chemical film.

I then tried it using the stainless steel pellets instead of gravel. It worked at least as well. The only problem, the stainless steel pellets required a much finer mesh colander. After rinsing my first batch, I noticed stainless steel pellets all over the ground. It took a magnet to gather them all up again, which was a pain, as some idiot had dumped a batch of black sand from a prospecting trip in the flower bed and the magnet picked it all up also. Oh well.

It seemed I always had a few heavily stained coins which refused to clean up. Another video recommended using pure vinegar instead of water over the coins/gravel, so I tried that; it was almost a disaster. Yes, the pure vinegar cleaned the coins, but it also created pressure within the drum, causing it to expand and freeze up to the extent the drum would not turn. If I had not caught it quickly, it probably would have burned up the tumbler motor.

So, for my purposes, the brown gravel or stainless steel and a dash of Dawn detergent seemed to work fine.

Everyone agreed you should always use a different set of abrasives to tumble pennies, and nickels/dimes/quarters/halves. If you tumble pennies, then tumble nickels/dimes/quarters/halves in the same gravel, everything will turn out a brown color.

There is not much you can do with corroded zinc pennies, other than save them to be planted at Coinhuna.

What do I do with all that loot received from turned in coins? Well, I could pay back some the equipment expenditures I have made over the years, but that would make sense. So, I usually use the monies to invest in more metal detecting equipment which I just cannot live without.





## RUSH TO THE ROCKIES

"The Motherlode"

June 26 – 28, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic, Rush to the Rockies 2020 is **CANCELED**.

Please watch the website, [eurekathc.org](http://eurekathc.org), for **2021** information.





## 2020 Rush to the Rockies Early Bird Winners

In March, the 2020 Rush to the Rockies was canceled due to COVID-19.

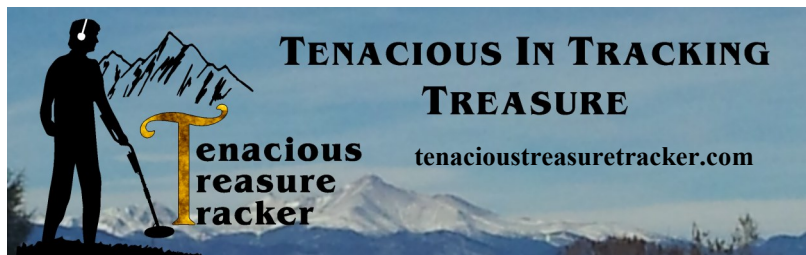
The decision was made to continue with the Colorado gold nugget Early Bird drawing, which was available to those participants who were paid registrants prior to March 15, 2020. A “Bah Humbug” silver round second chance drawing was added also.

**Jennifer Kinsey** (pictured with her nugget), from Texas, won the Colorado gold nugget.

**Marty Stone**, Eureka club member, from Colorado, won the silver round. Marty will receive his silver round at the next Eureka Club meeting.



Congratulations, Jennifer and Marty!



### NOTICE

The Tenacious Treasure Tracker hunt, scheduled to begin May 1, 2020, has been postponed indefinitely due to current circumstances.

Stay alert to the TTT web site for updated information.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Gold Ring VDIs - XP Deus by Chris Davis



If you are like me, when you are out detecting, you find lots and lots of foil, aluminum shards, nickels, pull tabs and zinc pennies. Each of these items has a representative VDI (Visual Display Indicator) number. So, if the VDI number is more or less consistent for each of the above items, why dig them? Well, because all these VDI numbers could also be something nice.

This is the problem many folks have with finding gold rings. They get to thinking all gold rings fall into the nickel VDI range. This is definitely not so. Depending on the size, karat, and shape of the ring, gold will be found anywhere from the foil range up thru that of a zinc penny. If you are only digging nickel VDI targets, you will be missing an awful lot of gold rings.

I went through my gold rings and listed them all out by the XP Deus VDI number as set on 17.2 KHz. Not everyone is fortunate (or cursed) enough to own a Deus, and the VDIs on the various other machines out there are all different. So, I have lumped my ring finds in the very loosely defined "garbage" categories below. While the VDIs of the garbage listed will frequently fall outside the ranges I have given, you can get a general idea.

*(Continued on page 8)*



	<u>Gold Rings</u>		<u>VDI on a XP Deus</u>
Foil, small AL Shards	7	12%	30-40
Between Foil and Nickels	14	24%	40-59
Nickel Zone, Pull Tabs	18	31%	60-69
Pull tabs, larger AL Shards	13	22%	70-80
Penny Zone (zinc and copper)	6	10%	80-92



The photos with this article show various classes of garbage and rings with similar VDIs.



Keep in mind, the VDIs of the rings and garbage listed above were all determined by air testing. That means, I swung the item over the coil in my hand. Items buried in the ground may well give a different VDI number because of ground mineralization, soil moisture, angle at which the item is buried, and other metallic items nearby. For example, on a Deus, a brand-new zinc penny will consistently air test at 86. In the ground, they may read all the way from 76 to 89 or even a wider range depending on corrosion and the other factors listed above. A copper penny will always air test at 92, but may run from 88 to 93 in the ground. I

have dug nickels with VDIs ranging from 58 to 70, but the classic nickel number is "64".

Analysis of the above data show 18 of my rings (31%) came in and around the nickel VDI range. So, if I skip the pennies, pull tabs, aluminum shards and foil, I will be passing up 69% of the gold rings.

Only six of the 58 gold rings I have found had VDIs in the penny range. That is 10%. However, a great many silver rings and other interesting finds will also come up in the penny range. Most 10K class rings will also fall in the penny range.



If you hunt older sites, it might be handy to remember \$2 ½, \$5, \$10 and \$20 gold pieces will also ring up in the penny range.

As the data above indicates, gold rings are found in the foil, pull-tab, aluminum shard, and penny VDI ranges so you are going to have to dig a lot of junk to get at them. After you have dug the first 100 or so pull tab VDI targets, you have to keep reminding yourself, "the next target could be a gold ring".

Of course, I am like everyone else. I understand, after you have dug a couple hundred garbage targets, you start

skipping them, especially the deep ones. The trick is, consistently dig as many as you can. Eventually, one of those trash targets will turn to gold.

My last gold ring was 22K. It came up in the pull tab VDI range. Three of the last 5 gold rings I dug up

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(Continued from page 8)

were in the penny VDI range.

Just in case any of you have a Deus and are interested in the VDI numbers for gold coins:

#### United States

\$20 Double Eagle	92
\$10 Eagle	87
\$10 Eagle	86
\$5 Half Eagle	81
\$3	73
\$2 ½ Quarter Eagle	85
\$1 (1853)	60
\$1 (1873)	56

#### Foreign Countries

Mexican Dos Pesos	60
Krugerand 1/10	71
Am. Gold Eagle 1/10	73
Canadian Maple Leaf 1/10	90
Maple Leaf 1/20	85
Prussia 20M	80
Russia 5K	72
British Sovereign Full	81
Sovereign Half	71

I cannot wait to see all the gold rings you find. Good Hunting!



# EUREKA! HUNT FOR \$1.94



From where I am, I'm hidden from view. Finding me is what you must do.

From our Parrott an azimuth you shoot, Then you'll be closer to finding the loot.

Get out and search, be an explorer. If you use a White's, I will yell 84!

Hundreds of papers you use, do it twice. What's left in your hands, you use as your sights.

Using your sights, along 963.  
My hiding place, now you can see.

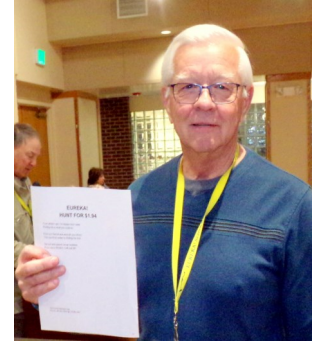
A silversmith with a more valued metal. And nearby waters is where I settle.

23 1/2 is where you must seek.  
I hide in the ground, just 2 inches deep.

Stand on your head, check the clues throughout.  
Dig easy to find me and Eureka you'll shout!

John just checked and yes, I'm still here.  
If you hear running water, you know you are near.  
>I 0 0 ) U0510

**Open to Paid Eureka members only**



**by John Olson**



**When you find it,: Call John  
719-588-7021**





## Eureka! 2020 Calendar

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### May 2020

1st - Newsletter Published  
29th - *Soundoff* Deadline

Watch the *Soundoff* and your email for updates of scheduled events in **JUNE** and beyond.

**The May general meeting is cancelled**  
**Breakfast Club and club hunts are suspended until further notice.**

**GOLD-N-DETECTORS**  
Is closed by order of the State.  
The status may change in early  
May, so contact Bill for current  
updates.

### GOLD-N-DETECTORS

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## Upcoming Events

### NEXT EUREKA! MEETING

Bring:

Nametags ~ thanks for wearing them to all Eureka! functions

Cash ~ for drawings, hunts, and Eureka! merchandise

Finds ~ to share

Ideas ~ for speakers and outings

### Meetings are temporarily suspended

Stay updated by providing your email address to Chris Davis and watching this publication

### UPCOMING EUREKA! EVENTS

#### **Breakfast Club**

*Temporarily suspended*

Contact: **Chris Davis 225.235.2642** to get added to the email list.

### LINKED WEB SITES

[www.mdhtalk.org](http://www.mdhtalk.org) Detecting Hobby Talk

[www.fmdac.org](http://www.fmdac.org) Federation of Metal Detector & Archaeological Clubs

[www.spreaker.com/admrr](http://www.spreaker.com/admrr)

**Relic Roundup Radio Show** (hosted by Jeff Lubbert, 7pm Mondays)

[TenaciousTreasureTracker.com](http://TenaciousTreasureTracker.com)

See Brian Henry's website for the TTT Hunt clues, and new merchandise available.

[www.Youtube.com/AdventuresInDirt](http://www.Youtube.com/AdventuresInDirt)

Compilation of the best weekly metal detecting channels and finds, by Ken King (Eureka! member). See his **Weekly Dirt** show at 3:00 PM on Sundays (and available thereafter)

[www.Youtube.com/5280Adventures](http://www.Youtube.com/5280Adventures)


A variety channel of metal detecting, coin hunting, and other outdoor activities by Tony Frangella (Eureka! member) with his son, Caden.



Denver traffic, brought to you by Covid-19




# Eureka! Club Member Services Directory

 **Spyderco**  
www.spyderco.com

**GSA**

820 Spyderco Way • Golden, CO 80403

 **byrd knife**  
www.byrdknife.com

## Construction Services & Supply

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**Terry Weatherly 303 748 7288**

12010 W 76th Dr, Arvada, CO 80005

Constructionservicesandsupply@gmail.com

Fax 303 420 8548

 **Ken King**  
Detecting Hobbyist  
970-420-8278  
ken@adventuresindirt.com

[www.youtube.com/adventuresindirt](http://www.youtube.com/adventuresindirt)



## American Digger Magazine - Relic Roundup

Co-host - Jeff Lubbert

[www.relicroundup.blogspot.com](http://www.relicroundup.blogspot.com)

Phone: 678-439-1863

Skype: AmericanDigger

Monday nights 9:00 pm EST  
(7:00 pm Mountain Time Zone)


Personal contact:

coindigr@hotmail.com

Phone: 303-487-0438

Cell: 303-618-5179

Skype: jeff.lubbert

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**Brian Henry 303-451-6870**

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<b>HART</b>	Norm Ruggles	<b>Nametags</b>	Linda Erickson
<b>Hunt Coordinator</b>	Boots Lewis	<b>Welcome Table</b>	
<b>Finds Table</b>	Brian Henry		
<b>Finds Table</b>		<b>Drawing Table</b>	
<b>Finds Table</b>		<b>Orientation</b>	
<b>Speakers</b>	Boots Lewis	<b>Coin Purchases</b>	
To be notified of updates/changes in schedule, contact Chris Davis to join the email notification list			
Visit our club on the Internet: <a href="http://www.eurekathc.org">http://www.eurekathc.org</a> or on Facebook			



# About Soundoff

**Soundoff** is the official newsletter of the Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc. (Eureka!). Mailing Address: PO Box 101385, Denver, CO 80250-1385.

Opinions expressed in **Soundoff** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club or its members. Publication of information in **Soundoff** constitutes no guarantee of accuracy. Use of any information found in this publication is at the sole risk of the user. Neither Eureka!, nor its officers, nor **Soundoff**, nor its editors or contributors assume any liability for damages resulting from use of information in this publication. **Soundoff** is typically placed on the club's website the evening of the first Friday of the month.

## Submissions

Articles, letters and short items of interest on prospecting, detecting and treasure hunting topics are welcomed and encouraged. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. Submittals for publication or correction of errors may be made by e-mail in ASCII text format or MS Word. All article submissions must be received by the editor no later than the deadline of the month (see calendar) for inclusion in the next month's issue. Include publication information on articles clipped from other publications. **Let's hear your story, ideas or tips - contact your **Soundoff** editor.**

## Copyright

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## Advertising

Classified business-card-sized text advertising is free to members for non-business ads. Commercial display ads are available to anyone at the following charges: business card size, \$6.00 per month; 1/4 page, \$12.00 per month; 1/2 page, \$24.00 per month; full page, \$48.00 per month. Advertisers are encouraged to take out ads for 12 months and receive a 3-month discount. No other discounts apply. The treasurer must receive any required payments for commercial ads prior to their inclusion.

## About Eureka!

Eureka! is a Denver-based, Colorado nonprofit organization established in 1973 for the enjoyment of metal detecting, electronic prospecting and treasure hunting. Its purpose is to provide an educational and social forum of mutual benefit for members. Eureka! holds a monthly meeting and conducts various special presentations, hunts and seminars. Members have voting privileges. Membership includes access to all general meetings, selected seminars and outings. Annual dues run April to March and are \$33 for single adult membership, \$42 for a family membership and \$15 for Junior membership. Pro-rating of dues are done for new members joining the club after the April 1 dues date. Club meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado. Come early to socialize.

**Next Club Meeting**  
**Meetings are temporarily**  
**suspended**  
**Watch your email and this**  
**publication for updates!**  
**Clement Community Center**  
**1580 Yarrow Street**  
**(NW of Wadsworth and Colfax)**  
**Lakewood, Colorado 80214**  
**[www.eurekathc.org](http://www.eurekathc.org)**



Thursday, April 23, 2020

Dear Coin Enthusiasts all over the World,

nobody who's currently sitting at home has any idea about the manifold ways COVID-19 will affect our economy. I realized this when Daniel Sheffer called me suggesting to publish a special issue of our Mint News Quarterly in order to address problems that might arise for world-wide coin producing industry from the current situation.

I had imagined that, due to the closure of borders, it would be difficult to carry out maintenance work and that spare parts would soon be in short supply. However, I only learned while working on this special issue that many important iron foundries are located in Italy and France. They aren't working at the moment, which means that iron coils – the base material for blank production – will soon run short. In the euro area, the blanks of our 1, 2 and 5 cent are made from iron as are the small denominations of many other countries. Mints that don't ensure their supplies in good time are likely to find themselves at some point confronted with an empty storehouse, and it will be quite difficult to fill it again. In turn, this might cause a shortage of small denominations for the end consumer which – depending on how well daily life works out without the coins in question – will make governments consider whether it might be advantageous to benefit from the fact that citizens became accustomed to not using the cost-intensive 1, 2 and 5 cent coins. For mints, the abolition of small denominations would be a great problem as minting these coins accounts for a large proportion of orders.

This is just one example of the impact that the current situation might have on the future. Unfortunately, making predictions isn't as easy for us as it is for virologists. Epidemiological consequences of the lockdown can be seen in ten days' time. The economic consequences will affect our lives for years to come.

Yours  
Ursula Kampmann



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[The following is in response to the article **To Dig or Not To Dig (A Penny)** authored by Norm Ruggles and published in the April issue of The Soundoff ~ Editor]

**Contributor: Jim Merritt**

I found this information online about 8 months ago from a guy that buys large cases of rolled pennies from banks only to find a few pennies worth more than a cent with which, in turn, he buys more pennies.

So, I generated the chart below and carry a copy in my wallet just in case I dig one of these pennies up on my social distancing trips.

I guess under today's "Stay home Stay Safe" mandate it could be a good time filler?

25 VALUABLE PENNIES				
Ranking	Year	Ave Value	near mint value	Notes
24	1869	\$75.00	\$750	Indian Head
18	1870	\$40	\$1,000	5.275m
21	1871	\$50-60	\$1,000	4m
13	1872	\$70-80	\$1300-1400	Indian Head
3	1873	\$20-21	\$10,000	closed/faint 3
6	1877	\$500	\$3,500	856k
8	1909S	\$2,500		300k indian h
9	1909SVDB	\$1000-2000		484k
4	1914D	\$250.00	\$5,500	1.1m
11	1914S	\$28	\$1,550	
14	1915S	\$20-30	\$1,200	4.8m
23	1916S	\$8.00	\$800	22.5m
25	1917S	\$1.00	\$700	
19	1918D	\$1.00	\$900	47m
20	1920S	\$0.75	\$700-1000	50m
22	1921S	\$2.00	\$850	15m
5	1922D	\$20-21	\$5,000	
16	1923	\$0.75	\$1000-1100	7.4m
15	1924D	\$35	\$1,200	2.5m
12	1924S	\$2	\$1,500	11.6m
10	1925S		\$1400-2000	26m
7	1926	\$0.35-0.50	\$2500-3,000	157m
17	1927	\$0.35	\$1,100	144m
2	1943		\$100,000	copper wheat
1	1944D		\$75,000-250,000	steel wheat