

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

Establish June 13th, 1940

March 14, 2023

The Manhattan Coin Club met March 14, 2023 at the American Legion, Manhattan, KS. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Randy. Fifteen members were present and there were no visitors.

Old Business:

1. President Randy reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and a review of the past year.
2. Upcoming programs: **April** – Burt on When your coin collection outlives you, and **May** – Phil on Washington quarters, **June** – Coin Club Picnic at Long’s Park.
3. The membership was reminded of the Club’s Coin Show on Sunday, March 9th. Club members were asked to publicize the event on social media.

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Justin H. reported a club balance of \$3,030.58.

Auctions:

Elliot gave a report on up-coming auctions. The auctions he reviewed are all on-line and more information on auctions may be found at: <https://kansasauctions.net>.

Coin Show Update:

Matt O. said he has 19 8-foot tables sold and 1 6-foot table sold. Matthew has also installed 6-yard signs around Manhattan advertising the show. He has secured a \$20 Manhattan Union National Bank bill for the raffle prize. He has also been asking dealers to donate small items for additional prizes. Dealers will begin setting up Sunday at 7 am.

Assistance is needed SATURDAY at 1:00 pm at the Armory to help with setup and SUNDAY to sell raffle tickets at the door. Contact Matthew to schedule a time.



New Business:

1. Last month motion was made and passed to renew the ANA youth memberships for 2-3 members, based on age requirements, at \$26 each. The information for the membership still needs to be collected and sent in.
2. The raffle has been making money and it was voted to continue doing them each month except for June at the club picnic. Matthew will be the next dealer coins are bought from with the \$90 from the raffle at this meeting.
3. Chuck said he would send out a link to ideas for programs coin clubs that are in Powerpoint in the hope that people would volunteer to present. <https://www.money.org/clubs/club-activities/presentations>.



Sorting Nickels

for

Door Prizes:



Raffle winners were Justin x 2, Burt x 2, and Randy. Elliot won the youth prize of a 2001 Uncirculated set. Randy won for the adult door prize

With no further business the meeting concluded following the close of the bid board.

Program:

Matthew presented a program on, Preventing Coin Show Crime”. Excellent program and Matthew notes are enclosed as a part of the minutes.



Matthew J. Olson

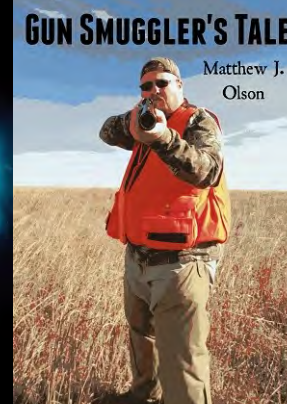
PREVENTING COIN SHOW CRIME

About Me

- Member since 2010
- Collector since 1997, interested even earlier
- Author



DARK MATTER



March 19, 2023

- Coin Show!
- Why this topic?
 - Dealers will be traveling with inventory and cash
 - Attendees may have some pieces, but more cash
 - Coin Show theft is on the rise (declined during early months of COVID pandemic, but back with a vengeance)
 - 2017 article in The Numismatist and continued bulletins from Numismatic Crime Information Center

Where are thefts occurring?

- A. Bourse floor?
- B. Hotel Room?
- C. Parking lot?
- D. Vehicle disabled (side of road)?
- E. Followed to a pitstop?
- F. Followed home?

Examples

- 2018 Vancouver, BC show, dealer was followed for 70 miles before being stopped by burglars (believed to be in a South American gang)
- 2019 Kent, WA show, 2 dealers slept in their room(s) while \$200K in inventory was taken from their vehicle(s)
- 2019 Anaheim, CA show, followed home to Torrance (almost 30 miles) – entire inventory stolen
- 2019 Topeka dealer had a suitcase taken from his vehicle while loading up to attend the Abilene Gun Show.

Examples

- 2021 Walnut Creek, CA show, dealer dropped off coins at hotel, but still had totes in car when going to Denny's for dinner. \$15K-\$20K
- 2022 El Cajon, CA show, dealer stopped at a Starbucks and brought entire inventory in bag into the store, bag stolen by suspects who fled to waiting vehicle – \$100K
- 2022 West Springfield, MA show, dealer was leaving and was the victim of a smash and grab – 2 cases taken
- 2022 Omaha, NE show, dealer went back inside for a few minutes. A foreign object in the door handle or key fob jammer prevented the vehicle from locking. Entire inventory of coins were taken from the trunk.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdP6e2Mdlhw>

Examples

- 2022 Atlanta, GA show, dealer saw a suspicious individual in the parking lot, so checked their tires. Found a device to puncture the tire down the road. This was removed, but the person followed the dealer home only to not find the car (was put in the garage). Nothing stolen!
- 2022 Richmond, VA show, dealer stopped several miles from the show. Thief(s) gained entry and grabbed.
- 2022 Jacksonville, NC show, dealer drove home several miles from show and car was burglarized at approximately 1:30am (2 day show and dealer left inventory in car overnight)

Examples

- 2023 Tennessee State Numismatic Society show, dealer was followed to Cherokee, SC (over 4.5 hours away) where they stopped to eat. 2 males broke into the vehicle and stole cash and coins which were recovered after officer spotted vehicle. A female accomplice was seen at the show and has not been apprehended. Suspects are from Colombia.

What can attendees do?

- Carpool
- Drive directly to show and avoid travel problems
- Be aware of anyone following you
- Don't drive directly home (take the long way)
- Get gas before the show so you don't have to stop for it after
- Go to the bathroom before leaving the hotel
- Have personal protection
- Learn about the show and area around it
- Be alert to and from vehicle (no cell phones)
- Don't tell others if you do stop that you were just at the show

What can dealers do?

- Contact bourse chair to answer any questions such as where to load/unload
- No chatting, texting, or calling while loading/unloading – no distractions
- Check security of show – look for suspicious people, vehicles, or activity and identify security personnel
- Full inventory list and leave a copy at home
- Secure inventory behind table first before arranging cases, lamps, etc.
- Identify neighbors (especially if you don't have help for breaks)
- Do not let early browsing until you are ready for them (cases closed and can watch them)
- Once setup, take a picture of your table to document your presence
 - Each individual case should have a picture

What can dealers do?

- Do not keep cash with other valuables and lock large quantities (not displayed in case)
- Note emergency exits and develop a plan – grabbing what before evacuating?
- Emergency kit with flashlight
- Lock cases until someone asks to see something inside
- Do not let people put things on your case
- Show only one coin at a time to a person and limit number being shown
- Pairs will have one person distract you while the other is working on theft
- Do not turn you back on customers

What can dealers do?

- Be wary of people asking about your travel, value of inventory, or who else rides with you
- Cell phones have a camera capable of recording – use it!
- Distractions – fainting, heart attack, dropping child, etc.
- Be on the look out for people selling counterfeits
- Taking check – check ID (2 forms) and photograph, make sure person matches ID/check, address should match, no postdates
- Cover your cases with a drop cloth if it is visible in car
- When loading your vehicle, coins in last, out first

What can you do inside your vehicle?

- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle
- Bags/briefcases/purses need to not be in plain sight (trunk, under seat, take with you, etc.)
- Lock the door (even when you are in it)
- Don't sit in the parking lot looking at phone or at new acquisitions

What can you do outside your vehicle?

- After the show, take a second and look over your windows for any hand smudges or anything off
- Check your tires for any cuts or low tires (someone let air out)
- Check under the front for radiator fluid (cut hose)
- If you can't drive all the way home on a tank of gas, pay at the pump
- If you need to use the restroom, make sure your vehicle is visible by an attendant and ask them to watch your vehicle
- If you are bumped, don't stop
- If you are carjacked, your life is more important than coins/money/vehicle

What can you do if you are being followed?

- Make an unexpected turn to make sure you are being followed
- Make a second turn to double check
- Third turn confirms it
- Don't drive home at this point
- Drive to the nearest police or fire station
- If you are on interstate, move to the left lane, turn your flashers on, and drive 45 mph until you are pulled over (though your follower should leave you in the dust)
- If you are pulled over by an unmarked car, call 911 to confirm they are a law enforcement officer

Home Protection

- Security System
- Fakes
- Park in garage
- Safe(s)
- Safe deposit box(es)
- Social media – brag after trip, not before
- Pick up anything left on door promptly
- Return garbage bins immediately

Personal Protection

- Please, take a conceal carry course if carrying a firearm
 - Constitutional carry allowed in Kansas, but has limitations
- You are responsible for your firearm at all times
- Can you use it in a theft if the robber isn't threatening you (i.e. the briefcase being taken from the Topeka dealer)?
- Research all local and regional laws
 - Kansas is open carry and constitutional carry
 - Sign with firearm and a slash means no open carry
 - Only when there is a metal detector with security working it, there is no conceal carry
- Non-lethals (Taser (or knockoff), pepper spray, wasp spray, etc.)

Summary

- Have a good, safe time!
- It is better to be safe, than sorry.

References: The Numismatist November 2017
Numismatic Crime Information Center (NCIC)
Personal Interaction with Victim (2019 Topeka)
YouTube