

# WHAT'S YOUR NET WORTH?



By AGWire™  
August 1, 2020

Could you imagine navigating through life, and particularly through the unpredictable territory of our diverse bullion hobby today, without a strong network of hand selected people to confide with? Folks with whom you can share your trials and tribulations, daily war stories, hobby information and of course conduct essential business. This is likely a group comprised of friends, family, known and respected sellers and buyers, novice to astute collectors, dealers, numismatists, historians, etc. The key to all of our successes in what we do is in associating ourselves with the right people who share the same values, ideals and goals, individuals with solid character, and genuine and honest intentions. These people, and specifically the strength of our relationships with them, becomes our Net, some call it their web, or circle of trust. As a quick analogy, let's use a Fishing net as an example of a personal net. If you have a small or weak fishing net, you will have a difficult time attracting and catching any fish, and the fish you might catch will either be too small to keep or sick, or you'll snag that floating Budweiser can. If your net is tight and strong and large enough to provide for and fulfill your intended needs, then your catch will likely be abundant and will meet or exceed your expectations. If your net is too large, creating an unmanageable situation where you have too much exposure to control, you will likely lose much of your catch to oversight, or even worse, be the victim of others preying on your catch, and you might possibly even *lose* your net in the process.

We look at our hobby "Net" much in the same way as we look at our core people in life net, and there are certainly some of the same folks within both nets. We may have five or six strong and true friends in life, a few from our early school years, and a few from our current lifestyles, friends with whom we mutually garner trust with anything and everything, friends that basically have each other's backs. The team players in our hobby "Net" are no different. These are the folks we have engaged with regularly

over time, often in person, but mostly by phone or direct email or text dialogue and have conducted successful and gratifying business interaction with. In our hobby, these folks are what we regard as our strong Net of friends and confidants. It is in this Net where we look out for each other's wants and needs, buying, selling, trading, sharing experience and advice, insight and guidance in our hobbies, and often discussing life in general. Put this in comparison to Facebook 'friends'. We know folks who have hundreds, even thousands of Facebook friends, most of whom they have never met in person nor spoken with, and likely never will. Talk about an unmanageable net! Some of these so-called 'friends' might in fact be predators or spies on their lives. If you publicly share your life experiences and the prizes of your hobby with your Facebook 'net' friends, your exposure is vast, vulnerable, uncontrollable, and frankly, very dangerous. People learn your lifestyle, your daily patterns, what you like, what you have, generally where you live, when you travel, and when you're not home..... Hmmmm.

We all may sometimes love to brag about what we have, and our recent barn finds. This is all potentially fun and fine and good if you're only talking amongst your most trusted friends and family, but what if **they** accidentally slip in conversation and volunteer any of your private information to whomever? "My Uncle Bob collects rare gold pieces!" or "My brother Dan has a lot of those rare silver bars." Innocent mistakes happen that can divulge unassumingly harming information. If you've ever watched the TV show "Dateline" you'll know what we're talking about. Money and greed are the prime motivators and qualifiers for burglary, and heaven forbid homicides. The intent of this post is not to shock you, but just to wake you up to the reality that people are listening acutely when you think they aren't. Never let your guard down. Think before you talk or type – ask yourself, "Do I really want or need this person or these people to know this information?" We've written before about the importance of keeping your personal bullion investment conversations between only your most trusted friends and family. Please read "BULLION STORAGE -- Your Best Kept Secret" if you haven't already done so.

How strong and safe is your Net? Have you checked lately for any bad fish? Does anything smell not quite right? Are there any holes in your net where fish are slipping away?

Unassumingly,

Allen G. Elhard