

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

*A Nonprofit Organization
The Public is Invited to Attend
SVDB Newsletter
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Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

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Day-in-the-Park

Volunteer

Secretary's Minutes for Meeting of May 2005.

- The May meeting was called to order at 7:30, President Ron Swenson presiding. Another great turnout by the membership and guests!

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Klein

- New Balance: \$3846.25*

Secretary's Report: Rick Costello

- Membership is now at 121 members

Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

- Please bring in any overdue books and tapes. The library is in great shape. \$1.00 for videos and books for free. Tapes, Just a buck!

AMDA Business

- The Laughlin hunt is in October but it's not too late to start thinking about it. Laughlin is a great place to stay, gamble, eat and win maybe a metal detector. I plan on it. The wife and I will be there. Hope to see lots of fellow club members also. Check out www.amdaonline.net for all the information

New Business:

- Please give me an e-mail address if you have one and are not receiving this newsletter.

SVDB Day-In-The-Park

There are two day-in-the park hunts per month. The hunts are on the first Sunday and the third Sunday of each month. Breakfast at 8:00am with the hunt starting at 9:00 am. See the following for meeting place:

- 1st Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's at Watt and Auburn
- 3rd Sunday Hunts: Meet at Pancake House at 21st and Broadway

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SVDB Finds of the Month:

The Show and Tell format seems to be a hit. Lots of "finds" are shown and there are prizes for those who show and tell.

Congrats to all the hunters for their nice finds!!

SVDB Raffle:

Lots of great coins are now being offered up for the Club Raffle at the meetings. These are very nice coins that would do any collection proud. Of course the amount of coins is in direct relation to the amount spent on the prior month's raffle. BUY THOSE TICKETS AND WIN!!!

Web Sites:

Great Web Site

Looking for a park in Sacramento County?

How about a mine in Amador County?

Check this site out:

<http://gazetteer.hometownlocator.com/SMCounties.cfm?StateCode=CA&State=California>

General MD Sites

National Council for Metal Detecting.

The national body for **metal detecting** within the UK.

www.ncmd.co.uk

Bob Bailey's Metal Detecting Site

Metal Detectors ,**Metal Detecting** Finds, **Metal Detecting** ,**Detecting** Magazines, **Farm Detecting** , County code, NCMD Code, **Detecting** Ploughed, **Detecting** Grass ...

freespace.virgin.net/bob.bailey

Jesse's Metal Detector Page

Welcome to My **Metal Detector** Page. Treasure ... That includes Prospecting for **GOLD** and **Metal Detecting** for just about everything. QuickTime ...

www.gi.alaska.edu

Gary's Metal Detecting Site

Includes a diary, photos of coins and artifacts found in the UK and XLT programs.

www.shenley.u-net.com

Dirty Knees Metal Detecting Home Page

Metal Detecting and Treasure Hunting Finds -

Connecticut: Top: 1694 William

and Mary Half Cent found at a school adjacent to a town green. ...

members.tripod.com

The Weekend Wanderers Metal Detecting Club

The Weekend Wanderers is a unique **metal detecting** club, come to our site and find out about us.

Weekend Wanderers. ...

weekend-wanderers.itgo.com/ - 8k - Cached -

Similar pages

FOLKESTONE METAL DETECTOR CLUB

... THE TEAM. ALAN PETLEY, is co author of the very funny cartoon book "the perils of **metal detecting**". ... UK **METAL DETECTOR NET**. ...

www.masong.freerve.co.uk

Canadian Metal Detecting Forum

Canadian **Metal Detecting** Forum [Post a Message | UK Forum]. Welcome to the Canadian **Metal Detecting** Forum. This forum is an area ...

members3.boardhost.com

Royal City Metal Detecting Club, fun for everyone!

... The majority of club members own a variety of Garrett, Tesoro, Fisher, and Whites **detectors** . Nice to have this variety when we hunt ...

www.uoguelph.ca

www.finishing.com/255/30.html

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Coin Collecting FAQ Part 2

Copper/bronze/brass **coins** that have been **cleaned** have an unnatural color, often looking like a toned **gold coin** . Even after they ...

www.telesphere.com/ts/coins/faq2.html

Where Can I Metal Detect?

By *Dan Breitenstein*

This is one of the most common questions asked by the first-time metal detector buyer and the tire-kicking guy that wants a detector, but has this nagging fear of failure that lurks around every corner. It's an honest question that deserves an answer. Finding a place to detect is no great challenge for anyone if you just look around.

Many of us get our first detector and head straight for the little town park, only to be disappointed. Sure, there are some clad coins there and a few what-nots, but let's face reality. These public lands are just that...open to the public. That means that Uncle Bob was there with his detector 25 years ago and he hit it hard. He probably had the local detecting club there for it's annual meeting. You'll find treasure in the old parks, but the pickings are pretty slim.

The best place I've found to start is an old yard. That's it, plain and simple. The yard of any older home constructed prior to 1950 holds treasure in it for us to find. I started in my father's old yard and I was amazed what the earth had kept hidden for years. His is an excellent example of a midwestern farm home that has been used for over a hundred years.

You're sitting there wrought with doubts again...I can feel it. You probably don't have a father with an old yard. That's OK too, but you undoubtedly know someone who does.

Asking permission to dig holes in someone's yard is a tough task. First you need to learn to dig nice, small, neat holes in your own yard before you ask to dig in someone else's yard.

When asking permission, I strongly suggest you go in person. It's easy for a landowner to say "no" over the phone. Your own appearance and demeanor make a world

of difference when you face someone and ask permission to metal detect. If you go up and knock on the door looking like a slob, they are going to send you packing. You have to put yourself in their shoes for a moment and think about what their impression will be of you and what they think you will do to their yard. I always introduce myself with a handshake and a smile. It makes a world of difference. I try to quell their fears that I'm not going to leave mole holes all over their fine trimmed lawn and explain that I only cut plugs or trapdoors and I replace all my divots. You have to always remember that if you are given permission, you are a guest in their yard and should behave accordingly.

Yards are a good place to start, but they're only the tip of the iceberg. The possibilities are endless. I found four old silver dimes this spring on a boulevard in the street. Just look around.... the possibilities are endless.

Campgrounds in older areas are usually productive places to detect, especially if the ground has been used for recreation for many years. Almost every campground I've visited had a set of rules and if metal detecting is forbidden, it will most likely be clearly stated. State parks are famous for their "no-dig" policies. Federal land is another ticklish place to detect. If it's a military post, the local Provost Marshall is the person to ask. They are very up-front with their policies and sometimes helpful.

Churches, older schoolyards, and ballparks are great places. I've found some of my best coins and nicest relics in them. Getting permission to hunt a churchyard usually just means asking the pastor. He'll either give you an answer or turn you on to someone who will. Schools are another story. I've never had anyone hassle me about hunting on public school grounds. I think they realize that we all pay taxes (huge taxes) to support the public schools. The thing that makes schools such a lucrative hunt is that kids will lose anything.

Getting a place to start detecting is not as hard as you would imagine. Just look around. The possibilities are endless.

Web Author: Dan Breitenstein

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Should I Dig?

By Dan Breitenstein

It's simply amazing what lies buried beneath the ground we walk over every day. The lion's share of us seek the elusive silver and thank our lucky stars when we hit the odd gold object. Many detectorists never have the opportunity to see the golden glitter in our hand and never know the pride of such a find. This is sad in a way, because it's not the machine we're using and it's not necessarily our hunting ground, it's more than likely our own fault.

I have received numerous accounts of amazing finds with the simplest machines that I find totally astounding. But upon closer examination, there is a very simple reason for their success. Most of these finds were made by folks that are totally unimpressed by discrimination and tend to dig more targets than others choose to dig.

Discrimination is probably the greatest metal detecting development that has ever hit the market, but many, many detectorists over use it, myself included. It's a great feature to use if all you want to find are silver and copper coins and for the quick jaunt to the local fairgrounds. But most of us think that if we use it, we should never dig a pull-tab again.

Unfortunately, there isn't a metal detector out on the market today that can conclusively define the difference between a pull-tab and a gold ring with diamonds. This was proven to me recently when one of my customers sent a photo of a 18 carat gold ring with blue topaz stone surrounded by diamonds that his small grandchild found in a park with a simple Tracker ID. The odds are that other detectorists had already been there and had their discrimination turned up high enough that they walked right over that "pull-tab".

I went out detecting with my daughter last month and she chose to use the simple Tracker IV as her weapon and her find literally knocked my socks off. She found a Chinese coin that was minted sometime during the C'hing dynasty right in her own backyard. I had walked right over that pull-tab signal and on to what I assumed were better targets. She found the coin simply because she chose to dig a questionable signal. We can only assume that a Chinese railroad worker dropped it there in the 1800's when the line was put through her town. Her success was

based on a desire to find anything of value and not by a desire to avoid digging.

I got an email several weeks ago with photo of one of my southern friends holding a beautiful gold ring. He was using a machine that had no target ID what so ever, and following the path of one of his friends that was using his target ID as his guide. His friend had walked right over that pull-tab signal and left the ring to be found by his hunting buddy and his "simple machine".

The problem that we face as detectorists is that we have become spoiled by the features on our machines and complacent enough that we choose not to dig what we believe to be junk. Consequently we are walking right over the treasure that we covet the most. Discrimination is a great tool, but like any wonderful invention, moderation of its use is the key to better targets.

Every machine that Bounty Hunter makes would have found the targets that I've mentioned. Unfortunately, we as detectorists, have to realize that targets require closer examination than the target ID gives us. This is true with any brand or model of machine on the market today. You will see and hear of many amazing finds by detectorists that use machines with no target ID at all. You need to be a good enough detectorist to know that target ID and discrimination are tools that need to be used in moderation for you to be as successful as you can be. So, the next time you come upon a pull-tab signal or a s'cap, think twice before you go on your merry way. I would dig a hundred pull-tabs for one gold ring.

Web Author: Dan Breitenstein

Tips - Relic Hunters Survival Kit

by: Donnie & Julia Vaughn

I was asked recently by a couple of our club members to come up with a "survival kit" for folks that relic hunt. Here's what Julia and I do. I carry a back pack. If I'm not going to far from the car, I'll leave it in the trunk and of course if I'm pretty far back in the woods, I'll wear it. This leaves my hands free to carry my equipment. After I reach a site, I simply hang it in a tree. Don't leave it on the ground. Now, what's in the backpack you ask? The following is a list of items that we feel essential.

food - either some fruit and snacks or your lunch
water - soda, etc.

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extra batteries - a must
roll of electrical tape
extra digging tools - knife - snips (to cut small roots) etc.
small flashlight
roll of toilet paper - just in case
topo maps of the area you intend to hunt
aspirin - chap stick - matches - band aids, etc. (put all of these in a baggie)
small repair kit - screw driver, pliers, etc.
insect repellent - we highly recommend permethrin Tick Repellent
compass
extra headphones
water proof poncho
magnifying glass
extra coil

You can add to this list depending on your needs, but we feel the above items are a must. The idea is to keep it light, but not get caught in the field without the things you need for a successful hunt. Good luck and be prepared.

Metal Detecting Tips

Donnie Vaughn

Most of you me know that I'm a relic hunter and being a relic hunter often requires me to hunt some rural parts of Tennessee and southern Kentucky. Here is a tip that I have picked up along the way that has really helped me and I hope that it will help you too.

After I receive permission to hunt on a property I will always ask the landowner if they know of any old house sites on their land and if there are any springs. If the Civil War soldiers were in the area that you are searching, and there was a Civil War era house or a spring there, then there is a good chance that they either camped near the spring or they camped around the house. Even if they didn't camp there, they probably visited the house or the spring.

A lot of farmers that I talk to know where old house sites are or were that you won't find on any old maps. It's always a good idea to check them. If nothing else, you might dig some old coins and other stuff. The same holds true when searching around springs. Always hunt on the high ground above the spring.

So remember, once you get permission to metal detect ask if any old houses sat on their land at one time and ask

about any springs on their place. It will save you a lot of time if you can go right to these places - and they will pay off. I promise. Good luck and good hunting.

Hardin Lost Silver Story

While stories of lost mines are plentiful, often creating legends that are slow in dying, it is unusual when one tale of elusive ore leads to a full-scale mining rush and the creation of a boomtown. Such was the case with the lost Hardin silver and the short-lived mining camp of Hardin City in the desolate Black Rock Desert of northwestern Nevada.

James Allen Hardin came west from somewhere in the eastern states, joining a wagon train headed for Oregon in the spring of 1849. He crossed the plains and Rockies on the Emigrant Trail, and took the Applegate -Lassen Cut-Off from the Humboldt River. The train crossed the Black Rock Desert, rounded Black Rock Point, and finally camped to rest for a while at Double Hot Springs.

As the emigrants were short on almost everything by this time, especially food, Hardin volunteered to go hunting in the Black Rock Range. He took John Lambert with him to scout the foothills for something to fill the larders. When they were about three or four miles north of Double Hot Springs they crossed a dry sandy wash where something bright caught Hardin's eye. He stopped to investigate and found chunks of metal scattered throughout the sand in the wash. Thinking it might be lead, and being short of bullets, Hardin and Lambert took some of the shiny rock with them. Finding no game that day, the two men returned to camp. Hardin borrowed an oven that night to cast most of the metal he had found into bullets. He kept one chunk of the ore for use later and carried it with him when the train moved on to Oregon.

Hardin eventually settled in Petaluma, California, where he worked as a carpenter. He had forgotten all about the lead he had found until a neighbor of his, an assayer, happened to see it in his shop one day. The assayer asked if he could test the rock; the result showed that Hardin had years before cast lead bullets containing quite a high percentage of silver.

Hardin immediately began assembling a small expedition to the Black Rock area to stake a claim on the ravine. The Petaluma Journal of July 9, 1858, chronicled the party's leaving they go in search of what they believe to be an

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immense deposit of silver ore. Try as he might, Hardin could not locate the silver again. His group spent the summer of 1858 hunting for it, finally giving up when cold weather set in. The following spring they were all back and others joined in the search. No one could locate any trace of the silver. The Paiute War, which broke out just south of the Black Rock in 1860, put an end to most of the prospecting in that country. It is not likely that Hardin returned to look for his silver during the next five years.

Then early in 1866 a man from the Honey Lake area of California discovered a ledge that was immediately thought to be the lost silver lode. The word spread like wildfire, and prospectors flocked to the Black Rock Desert to get in on the strike. The camp of Hardin City sprang up near the mines, named in honor of the original discoverer. A small batch of Black Rock ore was worked which yielded significant returns in both gold and silver. When the news was released, the rush intensified. The Humboldt Register, March 24, 1866, reported, "When you see a man sitting in front of a roll of blankets and a frying pan, and behind a Henry rifle, you need not ask him where he is going-he is 'going to Black Rock or burst.' "

Everyone talked about the mines, and during 1866 the Black Rock rush was "all the go," but for some reason only certain shipments of ore gave any returns. Others brought no results at all. Dail's Mill in Washoe Valley was the one that received most of the ore for processing, and it turned out to be the only one, which returns on the ore. Other wagon loads were sent to a mill on the Humboldt River, but word came back that the rock was worthless. In spite of this seeming contradiction, the rush continued and Hardin City expanded. A post office and a few businesses opened while two mills were built to avoid

sending the ore miles away for refining. The year 1866 was a good year for Black Rock. The true test of the Hardin City ores came the following year, when the mills there began operating in earnest. This time every test showed the ore to be barren of both silver and gold and completely valueless. An expert assayer was called in and, after viewing the situation, claimed that a different reduction process was needed. Modifications were made in one mill, but even then it failed to produce anything. By the middle of 1868 everything had been abandoned and Hardin City passed into history.

Eventually the story came out that the only reason values had been found in the ore at Dall's Mill was because of the process used there. The mill pans had not been cleaned thoroughly before the Black Rock ore was run, and the alkali in the rock picked up the gold and silver left in the pans. Any values merely came from the batches of Comstock ore, which had been run previously. Rock foundations, an arrastra, and depressions where buildings once stood are still visible at Hardin City. The only thing that its failure proves is that Hardin's silver had not been relocated. For the past hundred years numerous adventurers have continued to cover the Black Rock area in search of it. True believers insist that the silver is still in an unknown dry wash, but that it has been covered by the sand and dirt of later cloudbursts. Hardin found it once. As the desert terrain changes continuously, someone may find it again.

Reference to Nevada Lost Mines and buried Treasures by Douglas McDonald

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