

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs



*A Nonprofit Organization
The Public is Invited to Attend
SVDB Newsletter
Issue Date: March 2005*

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

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Day-in-the-Park

Volunteer

*Secretary's Minutes for Meeting of
February 2005.*

- The January meeting was called to order at 7:30. Great turnout by the membership and guests!

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Klein

- New Balance: \$3306.79

Secretary's Report: Rick Costello

- Rick wants everyone to know that dues were supposed to have been paid in January. Single - \$20.00. Family - \$30.00. Oh, we now have 126 card-carrying members. He also has dredge for sale. No particulars but see him.

Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

- Thank you to the Pioneer Mining Supply for a great donation. Come to the meeting and see. There are other really great books to check out ? new ones, too!

Send your dues to George:

George Magann

1740 Sessler Dr.

Yuba City, CA 95993

Meetings are now on the **FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH!**

Same place and same time, but **A NEW DAY!**

New Business

- Every member now has a name tag. Come to the meeting to get yours. Now you don't have to play at knowing someone's name ? it will be right there for you to see!
- Silver prices are still going up. Get out and hunt!
- The club Hunt at the Wilton Gun Club is coming up in April. Stay tuned to this newsletter or attend the March meeting!

- Thank you very much, Bob, for the great presentation regarding the carbide lamps. Very interesting and very informative
- For those who want to have some fun and see great gems and minerals ? the Reno Gem and Mineral Society will be having their annual show on May 8th and 9th.
- The AMDA ? American Metal Detecting Association ? web site is: www.amdaonline.net. Go for it!!!!!!
- The Mount Diablo metal detecting club is having a maxi hunt 4/3/2005. Entry fee is \$50.00 (non-members). Based on 45 hunters we plan on having 3-4 gold coins (\$5 and/or \$10 coins) as top prizes and possibly a lower end??? metal detector If anyone is interested they can e-mail me for more info. time and place are still pending.

BOBBYSGOLDPLATING@COMCAST.NET.

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

Web Sites

[World Wide Assoc. of Treasure Seekers](http://www.wwats.org/)

GOOD SITE regarding the Hobby!! :

<http://www.wwats.org/>

[Shooting Stars - Metal Detecting for Meteorites](http://tomashworth.com/cgi-bin/dcforum/dcboard.cgi)

... <http://tomashworth.com/cgi-bin/dcforum/dcboard.cgi>. [http://www. detecting .com/forum/](http://www.detecting.com/forum/) ...

[http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets/ meteorites .html](http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets/meteorites.html). Misc. ...

members.aol.com/whiteriverlabs/meteor.html

[In the field workshops and outings for Gold Basin meteorites ,metal ...](http://www.lifestylestore.com/wkshop_det_gldbasin)

... Get hands-on experience with a variety of **meteorites** from Gold Basin and other areas.

Attend a meteorite hunting seminar conducted by a metal **detecting** expert. ...

www.lifestylestore.com/wkshop_det_gldbasin.

[Searching for Meteorites With A Metal Detector](http://home.cdsnet.net/~roberth/search.htm)

... The reason that it is important to be able to detect small **meteorites** is that there are a lot more small ones lying on the ground than large ones. ...

home.cdsnet.net/~roberth/search.htm

[TreasureNet Metal Detecting Forum - Meteorites and Copper ...](http://www.treasurenet.com/forum/metal_detecting/messages/1043818.shtml)

... **Meteorites** and Copper Artifacts-MTX This forum has been discontinued and the email address removed to prevent spam. Please use our ...

[www.treasurenet.com/forum/ metal detecting /messages/1043818.shtml](http://www.treasurenet.com/forum/metal_detecting/messages/1043818.shtml)

[TreasureNet Prospecting Forum - Re: Meteorites and metal detectors](#)

... the Smithsonian Magazine. He and I plan to get together shortly and see what works the best to detect **meteorites** . hoss and others ...

www.treasurenet.com/forum/prospecting/archives/19990403/messages/19990315001549.shtml

Background: Zare lab method for **detecting** organic materials in ...

... salisbury@forsythe.stanford.edu. Background Zare lab method for **detecting** organic materials in **meteorites** . STANFORD -- Chemists have a ...

www.stanford.edu/dept/news/pr/96/960807marsprobe.html

Stan Grist Adventures into the Unknown"

... <http://www.gometaldetecting.com>. Metal **Detecting** for Placer Gold & **Meteorites** in the Western Cordilleran <http://www.nuggethunting.com/>. ...

www.stangrist.com/links.htm - 25k - Feb 17,

Meteorites

Well, for me, it is fun. I simply enjoy metal **detecting** , so why not **meteorites** ? Besides, as I found out, they are valuable, some far more valuable than gold. ...

www.nuggethunter.com/Meteorites.htm - 16k

Meteorite! - August 2001

... Brown. The "Normal Gibeon Octahedrite" - By No Means Normal by Roland Dietrich & Stefan Konig. **Detecting Meteorites** by Tom Morris. The ...

www.meteor.co.nz/aug01.html

Meteorite Hunting

... I use a metal detector that I got from Radio Shack. Metal detectors will detect most **meteorites** because of their high iron content. ...

www.geocities.com/aerolitehunter/methunt.html

Meteorites

... Some folks spend their entire metal **detecting** time searching just for **meteorites** . They may be collectors or they may sell their ...

www.phantomranch.net/prospect/meteor.htm

Shooting Stars Shootout - Air and ground tests on **Meteorites**

... depending on whether you are searching for ferrous or non-ferrous targets and has a center-reading meter which is good to detect nulls from stony **meteorites**

members.aol.com/whiteriverlabs/shootout.html -

SUNDAY, 6 JULY 1997, THE ATACAMA DESERT (Llano de la Paciencia)

... Mellon University. Liam had been on hand for two weeks to test various sensors for **detecting meteorites** with Nomad. Armed with magnetometers ...

www-2.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/project/lri-13/www/atacama-trek/daily_updates/Jul

In the field workshops and outings for metal **detecting** , gold ...

PROSPECTING / METAL **DETECTING** OUTINGS & WORKSHOPS. GOLD PROSPECTING METAL DETECTOR WORKSHOPS March 13th, 2004. GOLD PROSPECTING METAL ...

www.lifestylestore.com/wkshop_index.html

CMU's Nomad robot finds a 2-inch meteorite on its own in ...

... It has much to learn about **detecting meteorites** on the Antarctic ice, he said, where temperatures Friday hovered around zero and where stray light gets ...

www.post-gazette.com/healthscience/20000125nomad1.asp - 24k

Here is an outstanding and inexpensive recipe for cleaning clad and copper coins.

Items needed:

1. Rock Tumbler
2. Vegetable colander or strainer
3. River rock, 1/4 inch size (White Aquarium rock is also OK) 3; I bought my river rock in a packaged paper sack for \$3.95 at the pet store next to Nathan's pool supply near Greenback & Fair Oaks
4. Salt
5. White Vinegar (I buy it by the gallon)
6. Sudsing ammonia

Keep the clad coins (nickels, dimes, quarters, halves & SBA dollars) separate from the copper coins.

Step 1

1. Fill the tumbler about 3/4 full with rocks and mix your coins in the rocks.
2. Pour white vinegar into the tumbler until it just covers the rocks and coins and add a teaspoon of table salt. Put the lid on the tumbler very tightly and hand shake it a couple of times to mix everything up.
3. Let the mixture tumble for about 45 minutes. Caution, the mixture produces a little gas and expands slightly and may cause the liquid to leak out. You may have to take the lid off to let the gas escape.
4. Put the vegetable colander into a sink and pour the contents of the tumbler into it. Run tap water over the contents in the colander to remove the vinegar mixture. Rinse out the tumbler and put the coins & rocks back into it. Then rinse the colander to remove all of the vinegar and salt.

At this point your clad coins have gone from brown/black to a dull slightly spotted silver color.

Step 2

5. Pour the contents of the colander back into the tumbler and pour enough sudsing ammonia to just cover the rocks and coins.
6. Let the mixture tumble for about an hour. This mixture does not produce any gases and won't expand.
7. Pour the contents back into the colander and rinse with warm water.

At this point the clad coins are as clean as the ones in your pockets, however if you want them to look mint clean...try this.

Optional Step 3

8. Rinse the tumbler out and pour the colander contents back into the tumbler.
9. Cover the rocks and coin mixture with very hot water. Add a little lemon dish soap. Let tumble for about 30 minutes.
10. Pour the contents back into the colander and rinse with very hot water.
11. Pick out the clad coins from the rocks and dry them with an old clean towel.

Your coins after this last step will look almost brand new. Do not use this method for cleaning valuable silver coins. Use the same method for cleaning copper pennies, but just remember keep them separate from the clad coins.

Treasure from Space Finding Meteorites

Anyone can find meteorites, if you look for them, and know what to look for. Some people have a "nose" for them, and it just might be you. However, there are some tools and hints to help those who are just ordinary people with a hunger for meteorites. Since meteorites are scarce, you will find a ready market for them if you find one. If you do, you'll be hooked.

The first thing to look for is a "fusion crust". This is a dark surface sometimes with flow lines. It is caused by the heat of the friction when the meteorite enters Earth's atmosphere. ALL meteorites contain metal. The nickel-iron ones are mostly metal, and the stony ones have a high metal content, although it may be ground up too fine and mixed in the silicate material to be seen. As such, Magnets will be attracted to meteorites. The stronger the magnet, the more it will attract even a stony meteorite. The "magnet on a string" is a simple tool to test for meteorites. Since meteorites contain metal, look for smooth, rusty rocks. Meteorites are a little (and sometimes a lot) heavier than a typical Earth rock. Tools to assist you A metal detector is invaluable for the serious meteorite hunter. Magnet-on-a-string. Use it as a pendulum and hold it next to a specimen to detect deflection, which may be a clue. Variations on this include a magnet on the end of a walking stick or cane. The stronger the magnet the better. This will save your back from bending over each suspected meteorite to test it. The great H.H. Nininger, the father of meteorite hunters, fashioned a magnetic rake which he would tow behind his vehicle. Rocks from Space, by O. Richard Norton. Dick Norton has written the "bible" for meteorite hunters. A must-read. It has maps, diagrams, stories, and everything a meteorite hunter must know to intelligently hunt for treasure from space. Where to go "Strewn Fields" This is the footprint of an impact. Several worldwide strewn fields are shown in the Norton book, some in the U.S. These have been searched by others, but there is undoubtedly material that has not yet been found. Deserts --The desert is devoid of ground-covering plant life, and infrequent rain. It is a good region for hunters, as meteorites will not weather and erode as fast, and are right on the surface. Sand dunes are especially good. Craters Again, known craters are shown in Norton's book. Be careful here-Meteor Crater in Arizona, once the source of thousands of specimens, is now closed to meteorite hunters. You can be arrested and fined. You should always check if the area is on private property, and get permission before entering. This is especially true overseas.

Science news >General Science News

Meteorite Hunters Scour Southwest

Oct 29 2001 @ 09:11

The hunt for rocks from the sky has become a passion and a way of life for some people.

PHOENIX (AP) - The sunshine sparkling on his meteorite-encrusted wedding ring and Van Halen blaring from his car stereo, [Bob Haag](#) rolled into Portales, N.M., looking for space rocks. He had heard the news less than 24 hours earlier: Rare iron-rich stone meteorites had landed near the eastern New Mexico town. Armed with a pocket full of \$100 bills and banking on another big score, the self-styled "long-haired hippy kid from Tucson" hit the road. He was in town before the stones had time to cool. This is the world of the meteorite hunter, where a handful of pros like Haag and legions of metal detector-toting amateurs comb the Southwest in search of celestial tidbits more valuable than gold.

"Without a doubt, I have the best job in the galaxy," Haag said. "But you don't have to be a rocket scientist. You do a little research, find where meteorites have fallen, and just go there and look. That's it. There's no magic."

In 25 years of hunting meteorites, Haag has followed "million-dollar falls," multiple meteorite drops that happen about every 1,000 days, to Egypt, Russia, Japan and more than 50 other countries. He has built an extensive collection, which he said has been appraised at \$25 million. "These are pieces of stars that have never been seen on Earth before," Haag said. "It's so 2001 Space Odyssey, so Buck Rogers spaceman, so Marvin the Martian. These are today's new treasures, and we don't even have to leave the planet to get them." During his search in Portales in 1998, Haag started working the residents immediately, handing out pictures of the meteorite and posting "Wanted!" posters at the town's barber shop and Wal-Mart promising a reward. Soon, a crew of housewives, teen-agers and retired men

were scouring the desert scrub behind their homes. Haag shelled out about \$15,000 for three of the 60 meteorites that were eventually recovered - including \$5,000 to a child on a bike. He guesses that the three rocks are worth at least twice what he paid, though he hasn't sold them. Most hunters agree there's more to the quest than money. "The excitement with meteorites is that these samples are parts of planets that once existed somewhere in outer space," said David Kring, professor of planetary studies at the University of Arizona in Tucson. "Meteorites are a piece of a very old puzzle - 4 1/2 billion years of the solar system's history that can be partially unraveled by studying the meteorite you hold in your hand." The dry, wide-open spaces of the Sonora, Chihuahua and Mohave deserts of the southwestern United States make for ideal meteorite hunting terrain. Would-be collectors just have to be able to recognize them. About 800 baseball-sized or larger meteorites have fallen in Arizona alone in the past 300 years, but only about 40 have been recovered, Kring said.

He said he finds about one or two meteorites among the 600 rock samples brought to his office by amateur rock hunters each year. Jim Kriegh, a retired [University of Arizona civil engineering](#) professor, wasn't even looking for meteorites when he made his big find. While hunting for gold in remote northwestern Arizona in 1995, Kriegh stumbled across a strewn field, the scattered fragments of a huge rock that dropped out of its orbit between Jupiter and Mars about 15,000 years ago and exploded over the desert. Over two years Kriegh and his partners pulled more than 2,400 meteorite pieces from what would become the Gold Basin Strewn Field. One of only two strewn fields in Arizona, it is believed to be the oldest in the world outside of Antarctica, Kring said. To date, more than 5,000 meteorite pieces have been recovered in the area. "It evokes all sorts of mysterious thoughts," said Kriegh's hunting partner, Twink Monrad. "There were woolly mammoths and prehistoric lions and tigers and small horses in the area, and it just makes you wonder what they saw when this space rock exploded. It's amazing." Monrad was a homemaker before Kriegh invited her to explore the strewn field. Now, she makes the seven-hour trip from her home near Tucson to Gold Basin a couple of times a month.

In 1999, she discovered a separate meteorite lying in the strewn field, called the Golden Rule Meteorite after a nearby mountain peak. She attributes her success to persistence.

I firmly believe that if a person were to go over any square mile, time after time, anywhere in the world, they'd also eventually find meteorites," she said. This strategy, employed by Monrad, Kriegh and others who trek to Gold Basin, is the same method favored by professionals like Haag. Haag said he makes his money by simply being able to recognize the rocks better than his competitors. He plucked his most valuable find, a rare moon rock, from a pile of low-priced meteorites a collector was displaying at a gem show. But while he often sells the gemlike meteorites he finds for hundreds of dollars per gram, some are off-limits. A few years ago, Haag spent two months in a desert on the Libyan-Egyptian border hunting for a rare Howardite stone meteorite. One night, he said, he dreamed he saw the meteorite streaking through the sky and then bursting into five fiery pieces. Two days later he found five Howardite pieces lying neatly in the sand. "This wasn't something to be bought or sold," he said. "This was something sent from heaven just for me."

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Ron Swenson 916-415-1558

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