

# Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

A Nonprofit Organization  
The Public is Invited to Attend  
SVDB Newsletter  
Issue Date August 2006



## Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

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**Day-in-the-Park Volunteer**

### Secretary's Minutes for Meeting of July 2006

- Peter Johnson, your Secretary, opened the meeting and introduced the Board. The Secretary read a very lame joke.

We had several visitors and a summertime of returning members.

### Treasurer's Report: Allan Woltman

- New Balance: \$2,940.09. This approximant as I was conducting the meeting and didn't take notes

### Secretary's Report: Peter Johnson

- Everything is great!

### Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

- Everything is looking good. Tom will be absent for the next meeting.

### Hunt Master report

- See last months newsletter or see next months. I didn't take notes.
- Anyone want to do the newsletter? A fun and exciting job. I hate to give it up but my cats demand that I spend more time with them. It's fun and you never get flack. Come on and step up.

Contact your secretary. You might even sit up at the head table.....

### New Business:

- **Day in the Park:** It has been decided by the Hunt Committee that in the future, Day in the Park hunts will be fun for all. The prizes that will be awarded will be for the **oldest coin and the oldest silver coin**. \$20.00 per month will be spent on the prizes and if no-one wins in a category, then that prize will be carried over to the next month. Everyone agreed with the new format.

- **On Saturday, July 15, three SVDB members drove to El Dorado Hills in search of a diamondearring stud. Previously, the owner of the lost stud had contacted the club and hadasked for assistance. Thus, that morning Gary Zang, Jim Milbradt, and Rick Costello arrived at the home of Gerald Kobalter, the owner. Mr. Kobalter allowed us to tune to the remaining stud and then took us to the**

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scene of the lost stud. Jim marked off the search area with pegs that he had brought. Within a minute and a half, Jim Milbradt pulled a target out of the grass. Sure enough, it was the missing stud! Although Gary had stated that we would accept no reward for ourselves, he had told Mr. Kobalter that we would accept a donation to the club. As we were leaving, Mr. Kobalter handed us a donation of \$200 for the club.

### SVDB-Santa Cruz Beach Hunt

**Date:** Saturday August 12th & Sunday 13th

Saturday Morning there maybe a 15 minute warm up hunt with planted coins.

**Entry Fee for Prizes:** \$12 per hunter

**Hunt Time:** 6:30 am to 11:00 am each day

**When:** August 12th at the Santa Cruz Main Beach  
August 13th at Seacliff State Beach

**After 11:00 am each person** is free to go and do what ever

**Dinner:** Saturday Evening: Meet some where for Dinner-place TBD

**Host & Contact:** Host Lee Wiese, [lee-wiese@excite.com](mailto:lee-wiese@excite.com)  
or 916-780-7365

Contact at SVDB Meetrings: DeAnn Simonich or Rick Costello, Lee can not make the July or August SVDB meeting so see DeAnn and Rick for details.

Also go to the web-site look under club nes for more detail.

**Eight People has signed up todate.**

- **Meetings are held at the New/Old place. The SMUD Building at the intersection of Elkhorn and Don Julio in North Highlands.**

**SEE YOU A THE NEXT MEETING!!**

### SVDB Day-In-The-Park

Contact: Gene Furstenberg, 916.972.9177

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:

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

### 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 mount spent on the prior month's raffle. BUY THOSE TICKES AND WIN!!!

**Permits—we don't need no stinkin' permits!**

### A reminder

If you plan on hunting in RENO, make sure you get a permit.

Roseville requires a permit to hunt. Get it at the Park and Recreation Office

San Jose Parks also require permits.

And beaches in Oregon? Does anyone know for a fact?

### Web Sites:

**FYI-- in case you want to add to newsletter**

Greetings from ClassRingFinder.com!

ClassRingFinder.com is a brand new lost and found directory for class rings!

If you've found a class ring and want to return it to it's owner then this will be a great place to start. You can easily add multiple choice ring details and a photo to provide the best results possible. And if you've ever lost a class ring you know you need as much exposure as possible internet and otherwise if you ever hope to get it back so please take a moment today to register your lost ring information.

Are you a Treasure Hunter? Then here's your chance to

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become one of our "Ring Detectives". After registering we'll notify you whenever a ring is reported lost in your area.

Advertise on the web? We have free banner advertising space available for certain types of websites! Please click on the "Advertising" link on the main page for more details.

Please visit us today:

<http://www.ClassRingFinder.com>

### University of Nevada Press - Old Heart of Nevada :Ghost Towns and ...

... Old Heart of Nevada :Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Elko County  
Shawn Hall. Elko County, in the old heart of Nevada , is rich in ...

[www.nvbooks.nevada.edu/o/old.html](http://www.nvbooks.nevada.edu/o/old.html)

### Nevada Ghost Towns - Over 600 Ghost Towns ' Sites in Nevada .

ghosttowns, ghosttowns, ghost towns of Nevada ,Nevada Ghosttowns, Nevada

Ghost Towns photos,. ... Nevada Ghost Towns

Directory & Guide -. ...

Description: Boasts over 600 sites with photos.

Category:

Regional > North America > ... > Society and Culture > History

[www.calneva.com/ghosts/ghosts.htm](http://www.calneva.com/ghosts/ghosts.htm)

### Ghost Towns of Nevada

... Magazine. NEVADA BOOKS. NEVADA LINKS.

NEVADA THINGS TO DO. GHOST TOWNS .

[ List Alphabeticaly | List By County ]. BACK TO GHOSTTOWNS.COM.

[www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/nv.html](http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/nv.html)

### Nevada State Maps

Nevada Ghost Towns Map. Go to: Historic Mining

Towns . [HOME] [PLANNING]

[ACCOMMODATIONS] [ACTIVITIES] [GENERAL]

[STUDENT] [NEWS] [ACCOMMODATIONS ...

[www.travelnevada.com/map\\_ghost\\_town.asp](http://www.travelnevada.com/map_ghost_town.asp)

**FREE DIRT!!!!**

Did Anyone Do This?

For some FREE PAYDIRT, log onto:

[www.felixpaydirt.com](http://www.felixpaydirt.com) or write

Felix Paydirt's Gourmet Gold

1890 Steese Highway

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712.

Enclose 2 37cent stamps. You may also win a one ounce nugget!

### The Legend of the Mojave Desert's Lost Ship

Spanish doubloons, sunken ships, the Lost Dutchman mine. For as long as recorded history Kings and common folk, rich and poor, have been infatuated with the dream of finding lost treasure.

Tales, lore and legends are numerous. Scuba divers the world over flock to the coasts of Mexico to scour the depths for sunken Spanish galleons, and many tales have been told of solitary desert prospectors who made their discoveries, spent lavishly, and died with the secret location of their treasure going with them to the grave.

Seldom, however, are there reports or legends of both desert treasure and sunken ships together. There is one place in the desert southwest where this phenomenon exists because of a combination of naturally occurring geologic features and a series of historical events.

The Sultan Sea lies in a depression in the earth's crust 227 feet below sea level. Marine fossils have been found that indicate the Sea was once a continuation of the Sea of Cortez (Gulf of California) extending through the Imperial Valley as far north as Palm Springs.

As the Colorado River, quite different now than it was hundreds of years ago, carved out the Grand Canyon, tons of silt and sediment were deposited at the mouth forming an enormous delta, which continued to increase in size until it separated the Imperial Valley from the Sea of Cortez. But, prior to closing off this sea route, it was possible for ships to sail north beyond where the Salton Sea is now.

Reports by emigrants, prospectors, and other travelers of an ancient ship lying in the desert sands, subsequently

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buried and uncovered by the blowing, shifting sands have persisted for many years. A story appeared in the *Los Angeles Star* in its November 12, 1870 edition that "Charley Clusker and a party started out again this morning to find the mythical ship upon the desert this side of Dos Palmas. Charley made the trip three or four weeks ago, but made the wrong chute and mired his wagon fifteen miles from Dos Palmas. He is satisfied from information he has received from the Indians that the ship is no myth.... He is prepared with a good wagon, pack saddles, and planks to cross the sandy ground."

The *Star* printed another story on December 1 that "Charley Clusker and party returned from the desert yesterday, just as we were going to press. They had a hard time of it, but they have succeeded in their effort. The ship has been found! Charley returns to the desert today, to reap the fruition of his labors. He was without food or water, under a hot broiling sun for over twenty-four hours, and came near perishing."

Charley set out again for what he claimed was an ornately carved Spanish galleon, complete with crosses and broken masts, mostly buried in the sand several miles from the nearest water. He was never heard from again.

Is it really possible for a Spanish Galleon to be lost in the desert near the Salton Sea? Early history suggests that the formerly nomadic, native American stone-age hunters had probably settled into an agrarian life-style, and inter-tribal trading and commerce had become commonplace. When the Spaniards arrived, well-known trade routes already existed and the natives served as guides for the early explorers.

One of the earliest explorers, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, may have been the first European to see Arizona and New Mexico in his expedition in 1536. Nunez's tales, as well as stories told by the friendly Indians, of far-off peoples living in magnificent cities, the "Seven Cities of Cibola", sparked continued Spanish exploration of the upper Sea of Cortez, or Vermillion Sea, as it was called then.

Another early tale was told by Antonio de Fierro Blanco in his historical book, *The Journey of the Flame*. He relates Juan Colorado's story, told on his 104th birthday, of once being in the camp of Don Firmin Sanhudo where "all of our men had spent their lives as guards or packers

for Spanish explorers". One of the men, Tiburcio Manquerna, took Colorado aside and related the tale of Iturbe, the great coastal pilot, sailing along the California Gulf Coast in 1615 exploring for the king and fishing for pearls on his own account.

After filling his 50-ton ship with a sufficiently large fortune in pearls, Iturbe sailed on past San Felipe in search of the Colorado River mouth. Instead he found a "vast sea extending far inland" (presumably the Imperial Valley). Assuming he had found the long sought Straits of Anian, the fabled passage between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, he sailed on and eventually went aground on a sandbar in a vain attempt to locate a continuation of the Straits. From the highest mountain he saw a vast body of water winding toward the northeast (the Colorado River), but he could not find the entrance.

On his return voyage to the south he could not find the narrow opening to the Vermillion Sea and again went aground. "They left their ship and its vast treasure of pearls upright as though sailing, but with its keel buried in sand", reports Fierro Blanco.

Manquerna then told of working as a mule driver for Juan Baptista de Anza who was searching for a land route from Sonora to Alta California. After much difficulty, Manquerna "was sent to the right of the course, seeking a road to the ocean". He continues, "Traveling by night because of the heat, I stumbled upon an ancient ship, and in its hold so many pearls as is beyond imagination.

Fevered by this wealth, I abandoned my comrades, and, riding toward the ocean as far as my mule could carry me, I climbed the precipitous western mountains on foot. Fed by Indians, I at last reached San Luis Rey Mission. Since then I have spent my life searching for this ship".

As a cryptic conclusion, Fierro Blanco states, "I have known, as a boy, natives from every tribe on the Peninsula, and they taught me much of great value but never did one lie to me. Some of their stories I did not then believe, but each as tested proved to be true in all parts".

Are there lost ships in the desert? The great tidal bore of the upper Sea of Cortez and the Colorado River is a dangerous navigational hazard and an unsuspecting sailing ship, without aid of charts or navigational aids may have been carried through a narrow opening into an inland

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sea and deposited on the shallow bars. Explorers, traders, pirates, and even pearling ships that do not return can tell no tales. The persistence of such legends in both Native American and frontier lore makes it hard to completely discount.

When the right conditions of wind and shifting sands combine, will a mast or ornately carved hull emerge from the grave? And will it just as quickly disappear again?

Only the one who is in the right place at the right time-- and sees it-- will know for sure. And they may not tell.

Would you?!

### **US Mint History Since 1792**

Four US Mint facilities are presently striking coins for circulation in the United States-- The Philadelphia Mint, the Denver Mint, the San Francisco Mint, and the newest US Mint in West Point, New York.

Four other historic US Mint facilities are long-closed and almost forgotten -- except by serious US coin collectors who highly prize these official mints -- located in the Old South before the Civil War.

The first Southern branch mint opened in New Orleans in 1838. Later, as gold was discovered in Georgia, official branches of the US Mint were -- opened in Charlotte, North Carolina and Dahlonega, Georgia.

### **US Mint Marks**

A small letter on the coins called "mint marks" identifies the coins of each branch of the US Mint. These marks date back to ancient Greece and Rome. Through the Act of March 3, 1835, the Director of the Mint set regulations to identify the coins issued from each US Mint branch. This central control made exact standards of production and responsibility for coinage possible.

Most rare coins stayed close to the US Mint where they were minted. San Francisco and Carson City coins circulated on Western Frontiers and seldom appeared back East, while Philadelphia and New Orleans coins stayed to the east. Collectors soon realized that it was a rare occasion when they found coins "out of region."

**Bring any Treasure Hunting related items  
to the  
monthly meeting and sell on the BS Table**

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