

# ***Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs***

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



## ***Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs***

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

## ***Secretary's Minutes for Meeting of May4, 2006***

- The Honorable John Duffy opened the May meeting of the Sacramento Valley Detector Buffs on time – well almost. Ron, our President, was off traveling the business world.

We had several visitors and a lot of returning members.

### ***Treasurer's Report: Allan Woltman***

- New Balance: \$3888.86

### ***Secretary's Report: Peter Johnson***

- Everything is great!

### ***Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe***

. Tom was/is on vacation and will be for the June meeting. Everything is looking good though and we had a limited amount of reading material at the meeting

### ***Hunt Master report***

- We are researching a beach hunt – details to follow at the meeting.

### ***New Business:***

- \*\*\*\*\*AGAIN\*\*\*\*\*This hasn't been brought up as of yet – think about who you want to be our President. For those who don't know, Ron is leaving to the wilds of Kentucky and the May meeting will be his last with us. We will need a new leader.
- **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***

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

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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:

A nice selection of coins was raffled off in April.. Congrats to all the winners!!

Remember – the price of silver is going up, up, and up. So is the price of gold. The more tickets we buy at the monthly raffles, the more coins we will have for the next month’s raffle.

## Club Evidence Search In Woodland

Just want to let everyone know how proud I am of this club. When I joined the club in the beginning of the year I was just looking for some people who shared the same interest as I, and that was going out and doing a little metal detecting. What I got was much more than what I had expected. When I read that the club had helped others find their lost rings and other momentum, and was able to recover it as well I was amazed. Well, the very next month I thought what the heck, so I addressed the club at our meeting and asked if anyone would be interested in helping me search. This search was very personal to me and I was very pleased to see just how many people showed interest. Due to poor weather condition, and other things it took us three months before we were able to go out to the site. We finally got some nice weather and was able to go out for a little hunt, and I think we all had a great time. At this time I would like to give a Special Thank You for all fifteen who gave up part of their weekend and took the time to come out in the heat. So a Big Thanks to John D, Lee W, Pete P, Don C, Ivan M, Don D, Bob M, Earl F, Ray G, John H, Bob V, Rudy R, Jim H, and Kyle M. Also, I want to say THANKS to All who volunteered including those that were not able to make it as you are the ones who makes a difference. Without your support and involvement this club would not be the club it is today, and I’m proud to say that I am a member of the Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs!!

*Sincerely, Don J*



Here are websites that might be of interest. We’ve had lots of rain and “thars gold in them that hills!”

## Gold Prospecting, Gold Panning , Mining, Treasure Hunting,

Maps for **gold** prospecting, **gold panning** ,**gold** mining, treasure hunting, rockhounding, metal detecting, RVing, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, canoeing and ...

Description: Maps for **gold** prospecting, **panning** , mining, treasure hunting, rockhounding, metal detecting, RVing,... [www.goldmaps.com](http://www.goldmaps.com)

## Gold Panning, California Gold Country and Yosemite

California **Gold** Country, **Gold panning** information, **Gold** Country accommodations, and **gold** rush history. ... **Gold Panning** and California **Gold** Rush Country. ...

Description: California **gold** country travel information, **gold** rush history, **gold** country, free classified ads [www.2getgold.com/](http://www.2getgold.com/)

## Pan For Gold In The Klondike With Eureka Gold Panning Adventures ...

Alaska, sixty miles from here is Dawson City, Yukon, Klondike for **gold panning**, hiking, mountain biking, birding, wildlife viewing and camping in kitchette wall ...

Description: **Gold panning** in a Yukon creek, camping in well-equipped wall tents, hiking, biking or driving historic... [www.eurekagoldpanning.com/](http://www.eurekagoldpanning.com/)

## Montana Gold Panning Trips

An authentic Montana **Gold Panning** Trip, Other **Gold** Tours, ... Features, What can you expect from the GMRV **Gold Panning** Campout? 1. **Gold** ,**Gold** , and more **Gold** !...

Description: Dreaming of **gold** ? We have a **gold** claim west of Helena, Mt. where you can pan for **gold** , dredge, hike,... [www.geocities.com/gmrv/gold](http://www.geocities.com/gmrv/gold)

## The Gold Rush

The Gold Rush expended 125 million troy ounces of gold, worth more than \$50 billion by today’s standards. More than 80% of the gold in the Mother Lode is still in the ground.

In 1854 the largest gold nugget ever found was in California at Carson Hill above the Stanislaus River. It weighed 195 pounds and was valued at \$43,534 in the currency of the day.

In the flood of 1862 all traces of Sutter’s Mill were obliterated.

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Not until another flood in 1924 exposed its undeveloped foundations was it "discovered." The mill was re-created using old photographs and Marshall's own drawings.

In 1869 the name "Mother Lode" was coined and referred to only five counties: Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador and El Dorado. Actually more gold was later found in Placer, Nevada, Sierra and Plumas counties.

Between 1848 and 1852, four short years, California's population grew from 14,000 to 223,000.

Gold is most commonly found and or mined in one of two kinds of deposits; Placer and Lode. Placer deposits are areas of free gold that have settled in pockets after being disturbed and moved by many years weather facilitated erosion. Lode is gold found in viens buried deep underground in quartz deposits. Placer gold is mined using panning, sluicing, or dredging. Lode is mined using conventional "deep shaft" hardrock.

### Placer Mining

**Panning:** See Below for detail directions. Using a pan in the stream to separate gold from other minerals and materials.

**Sluicing:** Long wood boxes are built to run water laden with gravel over a series of sieves and riffles to separate the gold from the other minerals and materials. Other variations common in the miners camps were the "Long Tom" and "Rocking the Cradle."

**Dredging:** Placer miners can be seen today on Gold Country rivers using gas-powered dredges to vacuum sand and gravels from pockets on the river bottom. Gold is then separated in a modern verson of the "Sluice Box".

**Hydraulic Mining:** Outlawed since 1884, Hydraulic Mining though extremely productive was very destructive. Entire hillsides were washed away with highly pressurized water sending tons of mud down into the rivers below.

### Lode Mining

**Hardrock Mining:** Nevada County's most profitable and longest lasting method of mining. Gold bearing quartz is mined in vertical or inclined shafts deep beneath the earth's surface.

### Troy Weight

<b>24 Grain =</b>	1 Pennyweight or 1.55 Gram
<b>20 Pennyweight =</b>	1 Ounce or 31.10 Gram
<b>12 Ounce =</b>	1 Pound or 373.24 Gram
<b>Pure Gold (AU) =</b>	24 Karat or 1000 Fine

Recreational gold panning can be exciting as well as laborious. Needing only a gold pan, shovel and a whole lot of patience, it is an activity that can be enjoyed by all ages.

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### Fact

More than 80% of the gold in the Mother Lode is still yet to be found, this makes gold panning even more enticing! Gold is found in areas where lode deposits and erosion have occurred. The best places to look for nuggets are streams, rivers, ravines, lake areas and dry ravines. If you are over- taken with Gold Fever you will be happy to know Gold Country has many waterways with numerous places for recreational gold panning.

### Places to Go

The American River, Bear River, Yuba River, Deer Creek, Wolf Creek, Bridgeport, Colfax, Foresthill, Oxbow Reservoir, Yankee Jim's, on the Foresthill Divide, Washington (20 miles NE of Nevada City), Golden Quartz Picnic Area and Kelecher Picnic Area, just to name quite a few popular sites for prospecting. Some locations are private claims, mines or restricted use areas: please read signs carefully. You will need a gold pan, a 12 or 15 inch steel pan is preferred.

Darken the pan by placing it over a burner or in a campfire. This will make the flakes of gold more noticable.

- Look for gravel bars in the middle of rivers or streams
- Look for gravel bars around heavy water runoff
- On the downstream side of large boulders or tree roots in streams

- In cracks above the water-line, along the edge of the stream
- In streaks of gravel that settle above streambeds and follow the bottom of stream channels

Let the Librarians know you by your first name. They can help. Read book and articles on treasure hunting.

Place your pan under water, keeping the pan under water at all times, filling the pan nearly full. Throw away the large stones and break up lumps of mud and clay.

Hold the pan level with both hands and rotate the pan with swirling motions. As you rotate the pan the heavier gold loosens from the sand, gravel and settles to the bottom. Tilt the pan downward to let the dirty water; sand and gravel wash over the edge of the pan.

Continue to raise and lower the lip of the pan so the water will flow over it and remove more of the lighter material.

Continue this process until nothing but gold and heavier minerals are left in the pan Carefully inspect the black sand for nuggets or tiny specks of gold or other precious minerals.

### Another "How To pan for GOLD"

**You** can pan gold with few tools: a pick or shovel for extracting gravel, and a pan, made of traditional material like steel, or plastic with built-in riffles to catch the gold. Most local hardware stores stock pans. A Veteran miner cautions that the pan must be oil-free, or gold will roll right out of the pan. New metal gold pans are coated with rust-preventing oil. Get rid of it by using an SOS pad or "burning it off," says Ray.

**What** to pan? "First, you have to get down to bedrock," says Ray. Gold, exceeded in density only by platinum, "has had

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millions of years to work its way to the lowest spot it can find," he says. He suggests working smaller streams, since getting underneath the larger deposits of gravel often found along river edges can present logistical difficulties. Work streams in winter or early spring, when run-off is high.

□ "There are as many ways to run a gold pan as there are people," says Ray. First, "The more gravel you can put in, the greater the chances of finding something. It's a matter of volume." With his pan about two-thirds full of gravel, he stoops at the creek's edge, filling the pan with water. Holding the pan at an approximate 30-degree angle, he gently rotates the pan, spilling off lighter gravels, breaking clods of clay, and changing the water frequently. Finally, all the clay is gone and the water is clear. "Remove only small bits of rock at a time," he says. "Don't try to get rid of the overburden [larger rocks on top] too quickly." Heavy black sand remains, made up of particles of iron. The iron, together with the gold, collects at the "tail of a string of black sand." Use tweezers to retrieve the gold. Good Luck