

# Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

A Nonprofit Organization  
The Public is Invited to Attend  
SVDB Newsletter  
Issue Date February 2065



## Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

### President

Ron Swenson  
916.415.1558

### Vice President

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### Secretary/Newsletter

Peter C. Johnson  
916.685.7012  
[esteponapj@citlink.net](mailto:esteponapj@citlink.net)

### Treasurer

Chuck Klein  
916.482.1212

### Hunt Master

Rick Costello  
91.6773..9378  
DeAnn Simonich

### Membership Chairperson

George Magann  
530.822.9557

### Librarian

Tom Schweppe  
916.988.0993

### Hospitality

Volunteer

### Newsletter

Rick and Sue Morris  
916.965.4237

### Day-in-the-Park

Volunteer

## Minutes for Meeting January 5, 2006

- The meeting started promptly at 7:30 -Ron was back and all was right with the meeting. I believe even a joke was told. We had eight visitors – and a great turnout.

### Treasurer's Report: **Chuck Klein**

- New Balance: \$4059.59

The cost of silver is going up at today's spot price it was over \$9.00 an ounce. The more raffle tickets we sell during the meeting, the more silver coins the club can purchase for the monthly raffle. Let all buy tickets for better prizes!

Ron spent \$1520.00 on prizes. It takes a lot of money to buy silver now.

- Chuck is retiring for this post. We all want to Thank you, Chuck, for the great work, and love of our money over the past years. Thank you!

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

- Nothing new to report hope you like the newsletter

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

- The library is in great shape. Stop by and check out the books and magazines. Great information!

### Member Report: **George Magann**

- This is the new year! Club dues are due. \$20.00 for a single and \$30.00 for a family.

Please bring your money to the February meeting. Or send your dues to: **George Magann, 1740 Sessler Drive, Yuba City, CA 95993**

## New Business:

- **We STILL need a Vice President for our Club!**

All offices are filled except that of the Vice President. Lee has decided to step down and pursue other projects. I have become the Secretary, Rick Costello and Deanne are the new hunt masters with lots of great ideas to pass on to us, the members, of hunts that we can all enjoy. Ron is still our President – but

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we need a Vice President! Please step up!

- A special award was presented to all of the people who make the Club what it is. Ron presented Morgan Silver dollars to all the officers. I also want to thank all of the volunteers who step up for the good of the Club. Without you, there would not be a SVDB Club. Thank you all!

- Mean Gene Fuerstenberger has been given – and by unanimous vote - Honorary Membership in The Club. Congratulations, Gene, for all your contributions and help throughout the years.

- **The New Masters of the Hunt**  
Rick Costello and DeAnn Simonich will have put on their first hunt by the time of the next meeting. Hopefully everyone had a grand time and is looking forward to the next club event. Rick and DeAnn would like ideas from our membership other possible group hunts. Does anyone have a plot of land that would be suitable for club hunts like we had at Joy's? Would the club be up for a beach hunt? A trek to a gold claim? The possibilities are endless. We just need to pull this together as a club.

**SEE YOU A THE NEXT MEETING!!  
No Calendar – We know when the  
meetings are. The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the  
month!**

### *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**
- 

**To often time is wasted trying to figure where to hunt. Don't be bashful – step up and volunteer. In the**

**meantime, for those who show up for the hunts the following web site should prove useful:**

[www.gazetteer.hometownlocator.com](http://www.gazetteer.hometownlocator.com)

### **Meetings**

- 2006 meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month at the same place as in the year 2005.

**Bring your best finds of the month to the Show and Tell. Show your newly found goodies to your friends and win prizes!**

## **Special Coins to Look for When Digging**

These are the coins that will bring extra joy to those who find them. These are the coins we look for in the Safe Deposit vault – these will bring more money at our auctions. Good Luck!

### **Silver Dollars**

Any Carson City or CC  
1893, 1894, 1895, 1921 Peace, 1928 Peace. Of course, any coins in un-circulated condition are worth more, too.

### **Half Dollars**

Commemoratives, early dates – seated Liberty – and in un-circulated condition.

### **Quarters**

1932 D or S and, again, any in un-circulated condition, especially early dates.

### **Dimes**

Early dates, 1916 D 1921 – any.

### **Nickels**

1914, 1937 D, 1926 S and any “3 legged” Buffalo nickels.

### **Cents**

1877 – any, 1909 VDB, 1914 D, 1922, 1931 S  
Large cents, Half cents.

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**Looking** to do something for the weekend? Why not explore local history. Check it out – thanks the the:

**AMADOR COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU**

### **VISITORS GUIDE** *Mines & Caverns*

On Highway 49 between Jackson and Plymouth, one can still view large metal gallus frames, metal buildings, concrete foundation blocks and rusted machinery abandoned after Amador's mines were worked out. The county's mines produced over \$160 million in gold between the early 1850's and 1950.

**Argonaut Mine:** *Location: On Highway 49 at the top of the hill between the city of Jackson and Martell.* Site of the worst gold mining tragedy in California history. In 1922, 47 miners died from deadly gas freed by a mine fire. From a vertical depth of 5,570 feet, the mine produced over \$25 million in gold.

**Black Chasm Cavern:** *National Natural Landmark:* *Location: Volcano.* Designated a National Natural Landmark in 1976 by the National Park Service in recognition of its outstanding natural beauty and geological significance. 50-minute cavern tours are available daily from 9am - 5pm May - October, and from 10am - 4pm November - April. From the Colossal Room, decorated with flowstones, stalactites and stalagmites,

gaze 70 feet below to glimpses of the lake made brilliant blue from naturally occurring calcium bicarbonate. In the Landmark Room view thousands of spectacular, white helictites which twist and turn in defiance of gravity, sparkling, crystal covered fomations and beautiful draperies and flowstones.

Above ground you can try your hand at gemstone mining, in their attractive flume system, where everyone is guaranteed to make a find! Open every day!

**Central Eureka Mine:** *Location: Highway 49 to the traffic light at Ridge Road.* East on Ridge Road one block and you can see the gallus frame of the old Central Eureka Mine. It was one of the few that continued operating after the 1942 Presidential edict to close the mines on behalf of the war effort. It produced \$36 million during its operation.

**Plymouth Consolidated Mine:** *Location: city of Plymouth.* Only the gallus frame ruin remains. The most northern of the major Mother Lode mines in the county; total production was in excess of \$13.5 million.

**Sutter Gold Mine:** *Location: Highway 49 between Sutter Creek and Amador City.*

☐ Don a hard hat and board the Boss Buggy Shuttle for a thrilling 1-hour journey underground into Sutter Gold Mine, a real hard rock gold mine. Learn about the history of gold mining from ancient times to the present day. Walk right into the heart of the Mother Lode (a quartz vein structure that contains gold) made famous during the Gold Rush. Tours are available daily 9am - 5pm May - October, and 10 am - 4pm November -

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April. Note: Everyone who goes underground is required to wear a hardhat for the entire tour making this tour unsuitable for very young children and infants. Above ground learn how to pan for gold, or mine for gemstones. Watch a movie in the Gold Theatre on modern hard rock mining, or the Gold Rush, and browse the Company Store for gold nuggets, jewelry, books, mining equipment and souvenir items.

**Kennedy Gold Mine: Location:** Highway 49, Jackson, across from Argonaut Lane. The Kennedy Gold Mine has gone through a metamorphosis in the last few years changing from what looked like an abandoned property into a thriving historical attraction. In the late 1850s, Andrew Kennedy discovered gold in an outcropping of quartz. The mine produced over \$34.2 million in gold, making it one of the richest gold mines in the world. With a vertical depth of 5,912 feet, it was also the deepest mine in North America when it was closed by the War Production Board in 1942. Visitors to the Kennedy Gold Mine can see the 125-foot high metal head frame, tour several mining buildings, and learn the history of the Kennedy Mine. The Mine tours, which are guided by volunteers, take visitors up and down the hills on the property. Comfortable walking or hiking shoes are advised. the Kennedy Tailing Wheels Park is located nearby, featuring the remaining tailing wheels that were used to carry the processed rock from the Kennedy Mine to an impound dam. Self-guided tours are available. Tour season runs mid-March through October on weekends only. Special tours and bus tours

can be arranged for weekdays and off-season. Call the Kennedy Gold Mine office at 209-223-9542 for more information and directions.

### **Roaring Camp Mining Company:**

*Located at Clinton Bar in Mokelumne River Canyon.* Forty-niner gold camp with prospectors cabins, saloon, snack bar. Daily guided tours on Mokelumne River. Tour will take you into beautiful, remote Mokelumne Canyon, once mined by the 49ers and still being mined today. There you will see a placer gold mine operation, Wildlife and Mining Artifacts Museum, the ruins of the past, pan for gold, collect rocks, and enjoy river swimming. Lunch, snacks, cold drinks, gold jewelry, and prospecting supplies are available at the trading post. 13010 Tabeau Road, Pine Grove. Mailing address: P.O. Box 278, Pine Grove, CA 95665. Open May-September. (209) 296-4100, or [roaringcamp@volcano.net](mailto:roaringcamp@volcano.net).

[Amador Chamber Home](#)   [Visitors Guide](#)  
[Directory](#)

### **Kennedy Mine From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.**

The **Kennedy Gold Mine** is a [gold mine](#) in [Jackson, California](#), one of the deepest mines in the world. It closed in [1942](#) and together with nearby [Argonaut Mine](#), is registered as [California Historical Landmark #786](#). It has since been re-opened as a tourist attraction. The mine is named for Andrew Kennedy, an



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[Irish immigrant](#), who reportedly discovered a [quartz](#) outcropping in the late 1850s near what is now [California State Highway 49](#). The Kennedy Mining Company was formed in 1860 when he and three partners began digging shafts near today's mine property entrance. The mine operated sporadically until it closed in 1878. In 1886 fifteen people invested \$97,600 to reopen the mine under the corporate entity of the Kennedy Mining and Milling Company.

In 1898 the company began sinking a new shaft 1,950 feet (591 m) east of the original shafts. This East Shaft would eventually reach a vertical depth of 5,912 feet (1,792 m), the deepest vertical depth gold mine in [North America](#) at the time. In 1928 a surface fire burned all the structures except two. All other buildings and foundations were built after 1928. The company operated the mine until 1942 when the U.S. Government closed gold mines because of the war effort.

At the time of its closing, the mine had produced some \$34.3 million (according to the California Department of Conservation) when gold was valued at \$20.67 and \$35.00 per ounce. The company paid its stockholders \$5.8 million between 1886 and 1937. Over 95% of these dividends were paid at \$20.67 per ounce.

### Argonaut Mine

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

The **Argonaut Mine** is a [gold mine](#) in [Jackson, California](#). It was discovered in [1850](#) and was the site of the worst gold-mining disaster in the state's history. The mine closed in [1942](#) and along with the

nearby [Kennedy Mine](#), is registered as [California Historical Landmark #786](#).

It was discovered by two black miners, James Hager and William Tudor. The mine's serious development began in [1893](#) when it was purchased by the Argonaut Mining Company. The mine operated until 1942, reaching a vertical depth of 5,570 feet (1,688 m) via a sixty-three degree shaft and produced a total of \$25,179,160.43 in gold.

### The Disaster

On [August 27, 1922](#), forty-seven miners, mostly immigrants from [Italy](#), [Spain](#), and [Serbia](#), were trapped in a fire 4,650 feet (1,409 m) below ground. Other miners who had been near the surface poured water down the shaft in an attempt to put out the flames. By dawn, townspeople and other miners arrived to help, but it took two-and-a-half days for the fire to extinguish.

Rescuers began re-opening tunnels from the Kennedy Mine, which had been closed since an earlier fire in 1919. It was slow going, but hopes remained high until September 18, when a [canary](#) inserted beyond a [bulkhead](#) by oxygen-tank-equipped workers died. Still, it took them three weeks to finally get to where the miners were trapped by the fire. None survived, and evidence indicated that they had all died within hours of the fire's breaking out. One of the bodies was not recovered until a year later. Most likely, water flushed down the shaft carried his body further into the mine, but in the intervening time, newspapers speculated he had fled the mine to start a new life.

It was determined that the mine had violated safety regulations, but the owners escaped

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punishment, as the [United States Bureau of Mines](#) had little enforcement power. The cause of the fire was never determined and put down to "incendiarism," a broad term meaning [arson](#) or defective wiring.

The mine disaster is detailed in the book *47 Down: The 1922 Argonaut Gold Mine Disaster* by O. Henry Mace ([John Wiley & Sons](#), 2004,