

# *Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs*

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



## **Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs**

### **President**

*Ron Swenson  
916.415.1558*

### **Vice President**

*John Duffy  
john.m.duffy@comcast.net*

### **Secretary/Newsletter**

*Peter C. Johnson  
916.685.7012*

[esteponapj@citlink.net](mailto:esteponapj@citlink.net)

### **Treasurer**

*Allan Woltman  
[looking4au@hotmail.com](mailto:looking4au@hotmail.com)*

### **Hunt Master**

*Rick Costello  
916.773.9378  
DeAnn Simonich*

### **Membership Chairperson**

*George Magann  
530.822.9557*

### **Librarian**

*Tom Schweppe  
916.988.0993*

### **Hospitality**

*Al Ezell*

### **Newsletter**

*Rick and Sue Morris  
916.965.4237*

### **Day-in-the-Park**

*Volunteer*

## *Minutes for Meeting February 2, 2006*

- The meeting started roughly at 7:30 – well maybe 7:45. Ron did not tell a joke but did announce that we had a new Vice President. John Duffy has stepped up and assumed the role. Welcome John! And there is more...read on below.

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

- New Balance: \$2705.60

The cost of silver is going up at today's spot price it was over \$9.45 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!

February's Take for the raffle: \$564.00

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

- Nothing new to report. Hope you like the newsletter.
- Letter to the editor are welcome. As are all comments and suggestions.

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

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

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

Hopefully all dues have been paid. If not, we need your money! Please send the following amounts to George or come by at the March meeting. \$20.00 for a single and \$30.00 for a family.

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

## *New Business:*

- **We HAVE a Vice President for our Club!** However, he fills the roll with a heavy heart and a tad bit of trepidation. Our President has made the official announcement that he and his family will be moving to Kentucky in the summer. And Ron will be unloading most of his gold prospecting equipment.

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There must be none of the yellow stuff back there. Why go? For the good of the career and family. Plus a larger home for less money.

Congratulations, Ron. We look forward to having you as our President for the next several months and you will be missed!

- Thank you, Al, for the food – Keep it coming!

- The first Club hunt under the auspices of our new Hunt master and Hunt Mistress was a success. 37 members showed up and found lots of clad and silver. A great time was had by all.

- **The New Masters of the Hunt**

Rick Costello and DeAnn Simonich will have put on their second 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.

- The annual Club Hunt at the Gun Club in Wilton is tentatively scheduled to be held in April. This year we are going to do a Pot Luck for lunch after the hunt. Cost for the hunt will be \$25.00 per person.

### **SEE YOU AT 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)

**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**

I want to run this again for any new members who might not have seen it.

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.

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### 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.

## Metal Detecting Tips&Technics

### From: Treasurefish.com

The following features are *very* easy to learn and get good using after only a few outings. Take it from me - you don't need to be a rocket scientist to operate a metal detector. However, you never stop learning new things about your detector and the more experienced you get, the more you'll find - I'm still learning!

#### 1. Discrimination.

a. Function. Enables a process of elimination to help you recover what you're interested in. In other words, allows your detector to ignore certain types of targets.

b. Example. If you had your setting low, you will pick up all metal (everything from the tiniest staple to a large aluminum can). At medium, you will mask out all the smaller, less active metal (highly corroded copper/brass or rusty iron/steel) and hear everything else (small pieces of copper, gold, brass, silver, lead, and aluminum to large pieces of iron). At high discrimination, you will only pick up only larger pieces of copper, brass, gold, silver, and aluminum.

c. Strategy. Base your discrimination on the site. If I am hunting a park or beach with a lot of trash, I'll set my discrimination between medium to high for coins and jewelry. For relic hunting at an old homestead or battlefield, I'll set it slightly lower than medium since many old buttons and coins can be corroded, and there's also many valuable pieces of

iron to be found (bayonets, horse bits, etc).

#### 2. Sensitivity.

a. Function. Sets the detector to be more or less susceptible to deeper and farther targets

b. Example. Vertical and lateral search coil range are increased as you turn up the sensitivity.

c. Strategy. I normally always keep my detector set at the highest setting. It's nice to be able to adjust it in instances when you are near power lines (electromagnetic field will make your detector go nuts unless you can make it less sensitive).

#### 3. Ground Balance

a. Function. Zeros out high mineralization (iron concentration such as black sand and "hot rock") and ionization (salt).

b. Example. This feature is extremely important for nugget shooting since this activity is usually done in mine dumps or riverbeds where there is often a lot of black sand and hot rock. It is also important for beach hunting due to the black sand and high salt content. You would likely chase a lot of ghost signals if you operated in such extreme conditions (for your detector) and didn't have this feature.

c. Strategy. Detectors can have either manual or automatic ground balance. Bottom line up front is that automatic is easier. Manually setting your detector can increase your depth, but if you get it wrong, your results could be much worse than if you had used automatic. With that said, if you are an experienced detectorist and like to have more control, then manual is perfect. Otherwise, it's probably better to trust the design engineers and go with auto.

#### 4. Target ID

a. Function. Distinguishes the target and it's

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depth by tone (audio) or meter (visual).

b. Example. No matter which brand or model you have, this technology isn't perfect yet, but it should get you pretty close 80-90% of the time. My friend once thought he was digging up an aluminum can based on his visual ID, but popped out a nice brass M1861 sword beltplate from the ground.

c. Strategy. This technology ties together all the features described above. Based on the discrimination, sensitivity, and the correct ground balance, you will hear very faint clicks when you pass over "junk" targets; but a crisp, clear tone over a "good" target. For visual, the meter will be weak for "junk" targets and strong for "good" targets. My personal preference is audio only, since I am always looking at the ground and can distinguish the target by it's tone well enough. Both methods work just as good as each other, and they both require practice.

5. Volume control. The only time you'll think about this is if you decide to wear headphones. Using headphones not only extends your battery life (some say as much as 200%), but it also allows you to hear faint signals free from background noise (kids playing, barking dogs, traffic, etc). The added benefit is that you don't draw unwanted attention to yourself (curious kids) or annoy others (causing the dogs to bark).

### Did You Know?

- Metal detectors use radio waves, much like radar  
- Pulse Induction is used exclusively by underwater detectors

- Very Low Frequency (VLF) detectors operate between 3-30 kHz

- Even under ideal conditions, most detectors can only get 6-12" deep.

### Mining Terms

**From: prospectorsparadise.com**

Alluvial Or Bench Deposits - An alluvial deposit is an ancient river-washed rock and gravel bar that may be thousands of feet from the nearest stream, creek, or river. Alluvial (or bench) deposits contain untapped potential for finding gold because such areas have never been worked before.

Bucket Line Dredge - Unlike the modern, small-scale dredges; a bucket line dredge was very large. Instead of sucking up water and gravel through the use of water pressure, the bucket line dredges would scoop it up and run it through a long sluice box. Only 10 cents of gold was needed for each square yard of material to make a profit back when these dredges were common in the 1890s and on into the early 1900s

Coyote - The process of digging in river-borne gravels by tunneling until bedrock is hit. The tunnel is dug in hopes of finding a rich bedrock deposit deep in the gravel bar.

Dredge - A common piece of mining equipment today, the dredge sucks up dirt and gravel from within the streambed by the use of water pressure. The dredge is operated by the use of a water pump and a network of hoses. Dredge hose sizes can be anywhere from one inch in diameter to 20 inches or more.

Drift - In mining, a drift is defined as a horizontal passageway that is excavated along a rich vein of ore. Hard rock mines usually use drifts to obtain the rich ore, though, some hard rock mines are open pit

Dry washer - A common desert mining tool. The dry washer is like a high banker but lacks the need for water. A dry washer operates by the use of wind. The light junk material is blown off the top of the sluice in the dry washer and the gold stays on the bottom. The sluice riffles in a dry washer are backwards for better recovery.

Flour Gold/Gold Dust - Gold that is so fine that it

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looks and feels like flour or dust. "The bread and butter of prospecting." Nuggets are just a bonus

**Flumes** - Flumes are like sluice boxes; they do not have riffles though and are used solely to transport water in areas where a ditch would be impossible (cliffsides, rocky hillsides). Two flumes were built in the construction of the China Ditch

**Hard Rock Mine** - A hard rock mine is a tunnel that is dug into solid rock for the sole purpose of finding valuable or precious rocks, minerals, or metals. Gold originates deep within the earth in places called

**Pockets**. The pockets are filled with gold, heavy ore, and quartz

**Highbanker** - A highbanker is a sluice box with mobility. Instead of being put right in the creek like a sluice, the highbanker uses a water pump to transport the water into higher and sometimes richer placer reserves. In addition to the ability to go just about anywhere, the highbanker also is able to run more material in less time than the sluice. These characteristics make the highbanker a common modern day mining tool.

**Hydraulic Mining**- Hydraulic mining used water that was diverted into ditches and wooden flumes at high elevations, and gravity did the rest. Channeled through heavy iron pipes, the water exploded from a nozzle far below with a force of 5000 pounds. When that awesome stream of water was focused and directed, the mountains were literally blasted away.

**Long Tom** - Similar to a sluice box, but longer and skinnier.

**Mother Lode** - Every miner hopes of finding their own "mother lode" or source of the gold that's laden in the rivers. A mother lode is where the gold is trapped inside veins of quartz on mountainsides. The erosion of land causes the gold to break away from this source and eventually wash down into the river. The larger the pieces of gold being found in the river,

the closer one is to the mother lode. Mother lode also refers to the vast area in Central California where gold was found. It was called the mother lode, because the whole area was a source, not just a small target area.

□ **Open Pit Mine** - In search of rich veins of quartz, open pit mines are common today. Because of the danger associated with drifts, open pit mines are dug from the ground down and are never tunneled. They can be best described as, "A big hole."

**Ore** - Any natural combination of minerals. Especially one from which a metal or metals can be profitably extracted. Commonly a mixture of one or more of the following: quartz, gold, copper, silver, sulfur, iron, and nickel. □□ **Pack train** - Pack trains were used to transport the bare necessities to miners and loggers in the 19th century. They usually consisted of 5 or more horses or mules and a few men.

□□

**Placer Mines** - Placer Mining is the most common form of mining, it involves mining gold that has been washed away from its motherlode (or source) and deposited in small cracks, holes, or sand bars in the mainstream of a river.. It almost always involves the use of water in some way or another. Placer mining tools generally include the rocker box, sluice, dredge, highbanker, shaker table, dry washer, and always the pan. Placer Claims are 20 acres, and many modern miners have their own placer claim.

**Pocket** - In mining, a pocket is defined as a cavity filled with ore, or a rich deposit of precious metal

**Prospect** - Can have many different definitions to a miner. A prospect could be a hope for or anticipation of making a profit in mining. It can also mean to search for gold. Another definition can state it as meaning a place where a mineral deposit is sought or found. □□

**Rocker Box or Cradle** - Today, the rocker box is not used as extensively as the sluice, but still is an effective method of recovering gold in dryer than

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usual areas. Like a sluice box the rocker box has riffles and a carpet in it to trap the gold. It was designed to be used in areas with less water than a sluice box. The process involves pouring water out of a small cup and then rocking the small sluice box like a cradle, thus the name rocker box or cradle.

□□

**Shaker Table** - Shaker tables are like giant gold pans. An engine drives a belt that vibrates a huge bucket. Instead of the junk material being separated from the gold, the gold is separated from the junk. The vibration of the bucket causes the gold to settle to the bottom, the junk goes into a small classifier and is dumped out into a tailing pile.

**Sluice Box** - The Sluice Box is the most commonly used tool in mining aside from the shovel and pan. A long, narrow, wood or metal artificial channel that water passes through when put in a creek or stream. Nineteenth century miners used and twentieth century miners still use sluice boxes to separate the dirt and junk material away from the gold. Gold, the most dense metal known to man, stays in the sluice box because of it's heavy weight.

**Sourdough** - A highly experienced miner who has prospected for many years.

**Stope** - A step-like excavation formed by the removal of ore from around a mineshaft.

□□

**Tailing Pile** - Gravel, dirt, and rocks with no gold. Whatever is left behind from mining activity? Occasionally, a gold nugget can slip out of a mining classifier or piece of equipment and end up in the tailing pile, but in modern sluice boxes most of the gold never makes it to the tailing pile.

