

# **Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs**

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



## **Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs**

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

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

- The Honorable John Duffy opened the April meeting of the Sacramento Valley Detector Buffs on time – well almost. He did have a good joke. And a bad one. 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: \$2378.46

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

- Everything is great!

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

- Everything is looking good – however the library will be closed for two months – May and June. Tom will be on vacation.

#### **Hunt Master report**

- We had the Annual Club Hunt at the Wilton Gun Club. A great success – everyone had a grand time. Story to follow.

### **New Business:**

- 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 AT 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
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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.

### *The Club Hunt*

The day dawned cloudy – a chance of rain that never happened. The turnout was very good for our hunt. Planters were at the gun club early to hide the coins – silver dimes and quarters with some nickels and clad coins thrown in for good measure. The starting gun went off at 11:00 and about 30/40 members went looking for treasure. I know of several people who found coins from past hunts – so next year, I'm sure that we'll be able to find coins that were planted on Saturday. Several tokens were planted – a prize being a probe donated by **Pioneer Mining Supply**. The two tokens were for cash prizes. Mr. Ring, himself, found two tokens and a good number of coins. Everyone had a grand time and after the hunt we retreated to the clubhouse for a great potluck lunch. Thank you to everyone who brought food and drink. A great day had by all. And Thank You to our former President, Alan Wagner, for the use of the gun club.

**Here is a website that might be of interest to those of you who are World War II buffs:**

<http://www.theserpentswall.com>

60 years ago a Kiev's area witnessed some of the most severe battles of WW2. Covered with earth from explosions the humans, arms and ammunitions were left on the battlefields.

With entering this site, you will join me and my friends for visiting historic places of battles. We don't take standard trips with their boring guides; we take shovels, detectors and plenty

of water. Water because the only way to find something is to dig and when you dig, you drink. You drink a lot because once you found a relic you can't stop digging, you know, it is real, it was there in time of a great event and you know that next item can be this special one worth all your efforts...

A very interesting site with pictures.

**Now that summer is fast approaching, here are some travel tips for those of you who are rich enough to be able to afford the gas to get there.**

Places to Go.....

### **Bodie**

**A Ghost Town that Lives on**

**W.S. Bodie discovered gold here back in 1859.**

**Unfortunately he died in a snow storm that winter and never saw the town that took on his name.**

**Over the years, Bodie has seen numerous booms...and busts. There were some huge gold strikes here and, at one point, the town had nearly 10,000 residents. By 1882 though, the big strikes were mostly history and the folks began to go elsewhere.**

**Today Bodie is one of the largest and best preserved ghost towns in the West. Over 170 buildings remain and what the California Department of Parks and Recreation calls a state of "arrested decay." It is, without a doubt, a photographer's paradise. History buffs and fans of the old West will find walking through Bodie a remarkable experience.**

**You'll find no tourist traps or fancy recreated saloons here. No food, no drinks except for three water fountains. The only business doing commerce is the Bodie Museum (open from May to October). The museum is free to the public and offers postcards, books, film and a few other items. Bodie is now a California State Park and is open year round weather permitting. In the wintertime though, some connecting roads and most trans-Sierra highway can be closed because of snow accumulations. With an elevation above 9000 feet, the snow gets deep.**

**The park is open from 8am to 7pm during the summer & 8am to 4pm during the winter (sometimes hours change and are strictly enforced).**

**There was relatively recent good news. The California Department of Parks and Recreation announced in October, 1997 that Bodie State Park had literally doubled in size to more than 1,000 acres. That government agency acquired 520 acres that had been considered for open-pit gold mining. ...Amazing that this latest gold claim would come more than 120 years after the original.**

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Preservationists can thank this acquisition to end possibilities of mining and its possible impact so close to this wonderful, old town.

Bodie is 13 miles east of Highway 395 on Highway 270, which is 6 miles south of Bridgeport. FYI: Highway 270 is open only sporadically in the winter time and is not paved on the final 3 miles to Bodie.

For more information on Bodie, contact the Bodie State Historic Park; P.O. Box 515; Bridgeport, California 93517. Their phone number is 760 647-6445. There is a \$2 adult, \$1 children (ages 6 & under) admission charge to get into the park.

Dogs may accompany visitors into the town site but must be on a leash at all times.

### **Lost Diamond Field in California**

When the diamond fields of America are thought of, most people think of the fields in Arkansas and North Carolina. But have you ever heard the story of the 200-pound diamond found in California, as told by Major Horace Bell, in his *Reminiscences of a Ranger*.

Diamonds have been found in California in many different areas. The California State Division of Mines says diamonds were found in that state shortly after the gold strike in 1849.

Geologists believe they were washed down from the volcanic rock in the Sierra, though ordinarily these gems are found in "pipes," that are round, vertical outcroppings.

Not long after this early discovery, diamonds were found in Cherokee, Butte County.

"Placer deposits elsewhere have also yielded them from time to time," says the Division of Mines. "Their occurrence has not been limited to any one field. No record has been kept of the total number found, but it is probably between 400 and 500.

"A few of the stones found," the statement continues, are more than two carats in weight and of good quality, but the majority are small and mostly off color, usually with a pale yellow tone. Most of these diamonds were found during the days when placer and hydraulic mining were at their height, and since that time diamond finds have been less frequent."

In 1942, in the outskirts of San Bernardino, a man picked up a diamond weighing two or three carats, of good quality and color. His interest at the time was gold, so he gave the stone to a friend.

The friend took it to the head of the geology department of the University of Southern California, who tested the gem for weight and hardness, declaring it worth about \$2000 when cut. No one knew where the stone was found, beyond the fact that it was discovered in San Bernardino.

When the story of the diamond was made known, a woman told The University geology department, that, some years earlier, her grandfather had found diamonds near San Bernardino, and that she knew approximately where to look for them. The Diamond field has not been located though it is known to be about one mile out from town.

Locate a spot about one mile from San Bernardino where you would pan for gold. Then forget the gold and look around for diamonds. If you don't find them, remember diamonds have also been found in all the following counties of California: Amador, El Dorado, Fresno, Nevada, Plumas, Siskiyou, and Trinity. Maybe you will be the one to find the lost diamond field.

### **Treasure Hunting Tips**

1. Buy A GPS and learn to use it. I use mine every time I go out. Even if I do not take my detector. I can mark a place I want to return to. It shows exits on the highway. Gas stations, lodging, food and more.
2. Buy the best detector you can afford. Let your budget be your guide. You get what you pay for. If you cannot buy the best, buy what you can afford and use your finds to pay for an upgrade at a later time.
3. Learn to use your detector. Learn what every sound means. Learn everything about it. Plant a coin garden. Bury coins of different types at different depths and learn the sounds.
4. Learn to use your detector. This is very important!!
5. Do your homework! For every hour you spend detecting, spend 2 hours researching places to go. Let the Librarians know you by your first name. They can help. Read books and articles on treasure hunting. Learn to use maps along with the symbols.
6. HAVE FUN and enjoy the outdoors, climbing mountains, the open air. But just have fun. If you do not like being outdoors, buy a 60-inch TV and become a couch potato because you are in the wrong hobby.

The Treasure Hunting E-Newsletter