

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

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



Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

Officers

President: *Open Position*

Vice President: *John Duffy*
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Newsletter Editor: *Don Dunn*
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Day-in-the-Park: *Open Position*

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Secretary's Minutes for Meeting of October 5, 2006

- Secretary Peter Johnson opened the meeting at 7:30 pm and welcomed members, guests and visitors. Peter introduced himself and club volunteers. There were 5 first time visitors tonight.
- **Treasurer's Report: Allan Woltman**
All forwarded the following information: October beginning balance was \$3,588.00, no (0) expenses and \$14 income for a closing October balance of \$3,602.00.

Secretary's Report: Peter Johnson

- Peter introduced his new newsletter editor replacement, Don Dunn. Peter then proceeded to read a very long, funny (?) joke.

Day-In-Park Report:

Hospitality: Al Ezell

- We all thanked Al for the great munchies and drinks he furnishes each month at our meeting!



Hunt Master Report: Rick Costello

- Rick forwarded the following information: There will be a club \$5 sponsored hunt on Saturday November 18th. Bob Maytum and Don Dunn will conduct the hunt and they will donate some extra items to make the hunt more interesting. Bob and Don will not participate in the hunt so they will be available to assist others and answer questions during the hunt. Rick will announce the time and place of this hunt at the November 2nd meeting.

Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

- Tom reported that the library was in great shape. Tom is looking for someone to help him set up the books and magazines before each meeting. He also reported that someone recently donated several magazines to the club.

Membership Report: George Magann

- George reported that we now have 129 members. That includes 2 new members that joined tonight;

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

Anita Herman and Lon Carter – welcome to SVDB!

Web-Site Report: Lee Wiese

New Business:

Lee circulated a volunteer sign up list at the meeting to help local people find lost valuables. This year SVDB has received several requests from people to use our clubs resources to help them find lost items such as rings or other jewelry. So far 12 SVDB members have signed up.

Lee also mentioned he would be out of town attending various metal detecting functions including the FDMAC convention in South Carolina. He will be gone until mid-November, but he said he will be checking his email periodically for any web-site business.

Old Business:

Club Patches and Decals

Lee had our SVDB club logo on a patch and sold several of these patches at the meeting for \$5 each. A few days later I noticed that Bob Maytum had his patch sewed on the front of his detecting hat and it looked pretty cool.

Club Officers

It's time to nominate new officers for your SVDB club. We need nominations at the November meeting. Several names were discussed at the October meeting and will be brought up for official nominations. If you want to serve as an officer please mention that at the November meeting.

From our Vice President: I have received written approval from SMUD for next year's first Thursday of the month use of the meeting room. Here is the language for the meeting room "new" policy: "We are still finding chairs and tables in front of the fire extinguishers. The room is being checked daily and if the extinguishers are blocked, your room use privileges will be revoked **IMMEDIATELY**." [their caps, bold and underline, not mine] We were not aware of this, so please help us and check to see that we are in compliance before you leave the building.

FMDAC Update

The FMDAC Fall Convention will be held November 10th, 11th & 12th at the Bay Watch Resort in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

There will be a "Free" Friday Night Beach Hunt, Saturday Silver Hunt and 2 Main Hunts on Sunday plus a "Free" Kids Hunt on Sunday.

For more information call Duane (724) 439-1380 or Jill (330) 364- 1608 or visit the FMDAC web site at:

www.fmdac.org

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING!!

• **SVDB Meetings are held at the SMUD Building located at the intersection of Elkhorn and Don Julio in North Highlands. The meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month and starts at 7:30 pm.**

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 is at 8:00 am with the hunt starting at 9:00 am. See the following for meeting place:

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

SVDB Finds of the Month:

The Show and Tell for October was an unbelievable event. Several finds were really outstanding and deserved special recognition. Scott Kemper and Earl Frey displayed several old coins that they found at a "secret"



location close to Sacramento. **Scott found not one, but two 5 dollar gold pieces** on 2 separate trips to this location.

Earl found several old silver coins worth "big bucks". Scott and Earl shared hints as to this location of this secret place to all who were in attendance. It really does pay to attend our SVDB meetings.

SVDB Raffle

Because Mary Ann and Don (our Rafflees) were not able to attend this meeting we did not have our monthly raffle. We should consider having a backup team to handle situations like this.

A Reminder

If you plan on hunting in **RENO** and/or **OREGON**, 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.

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

A Good Metal Detecting Story

Have you ever had one of those day's that is just plain strange to the point that it makes you sit and THINK about where or why we choose the spots we do to hunt ? Well yesterday was one of those days I won't forget anytime soon! I've been doing more bass fishing lately than detecting but the wind has been blowing so hard on the lake I decided to go dirt fishing. The main public park area of Lake Gunter'sville is probably 2-3 miles long and averages from anywhere to 200' to 700' deep from the parking lots to the waters edge.

I've been concentrating mainly on the BIG TREE areas where the most shade is and completely ignored one out of the way spot because it's usually to overgrown to detect. It's a small island of sorts with one HUGE Oak and a picnic table separated by 3 natural drainage ditches and I'd bet that it has to cut by weed eaters. Anyway, the park has a long paved walking trail that stretches the entire length (probably 3 miles) and lots of folks walk it on a daily basis from every age group. Well yesterday I found this small area had been cut and cleaned, a new trash can and BBQ grill put up so I decided to give it a go. I hunted in all metal mode and pulled the usual trash for 30 minutes. I found a few keeper coins and thought I'd gotten most of it, put the X-Terra 70 in prospecting mode and I hit a deep IH and merc together.

I couldn't help but notice an elderly lady watching me from a distance. She stayed there the entire time sitting on another park bench just watching. On my last signal I dug one of those Irish heart rings that has 2 hands clasping together, it was 14K with 2 small diamonds, one inside each hand. I cleaned it off and noticed an inscription inside the band that read (To my loving Rosie). As I walked towards the parking lot she spoke to me and said she was glad to see the park service had finally cleaned up that area. We sat and talked for quite awhile, she told me about her husband's affiliation with the park and how this was his & her favorite spot to sit and watch the geese for the last 40 years of his life.

With a mixed southern drawl and a still notable Irish accent in her voice she spoke of a ring he gave her before he passed away. I decided a long time ago that if you LISTEN to old folks, well you just might learn something! She told me all about Ireland and how she met her husband to be as a young girl during the war and all about coming to America. Then she filled me in on

how that old park bench was put there by her husband, it was the first one for the park. After his death she sold her home and moved into an assisted living place where some of her friends live. I guess our conversation went on for well over an hour but she NEVER asked me if I found her ring or even told me her name!

I told her how much of a pleasure it was meeting her and that I needed to be going, she reached out with her nimble hand and grasped the end of my fingers on my left hand as if I was an old friend saying goodbye for the last time. She didn't know it but I had already reached in my pouch and had the ring cupped in my hand. As she held onto my hand I told her again Rosie it was a pleasure, I rolled my right hand around and uncupped the ring. She still hadn't seen the ring and had a blank but smiling look of wonder on her face. She said, "How do you know my name" ... but still smiling. I raised the ring up at eye level and said this has to belong to YOU 😊

I can't express in words the JOY this brought to the conversation. She was overcome with joy and it did my heart good just to watch the look on her face when I placed the ring in her hand. Rosie stared at the ring for what seemed like forever and cried like a baby, she nervously slid it on her finger thanking me over and over again for finding it. I only wish I had my taken camera with me but as always I never seem to have the foresight to keep it handy. But rest assured the image of her kind face will stick with me forever.

As I sat at home last night I couldn't help but wonder the amazing possibilities of how everything unfolded. I came to one conclusion that this hobby never ceases to amaze me. 😊 H.H. Mike Bearden



A Note from your "new" editor

Our December meeting will have a few extra goodies for auction and raffle. I have contacted a few metal detector companies and local businesses to see if they can contribute some items to our club for goodwill and marketing purposes.

So far I have 4 definite contributions.

1. **White's Electronics** has donated a reconditioned Prism IV detector with a 2 year warranty.
2. **Minelab USA** will donate some detecting accessories.

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

3. **First Texas** (now owns **Fisher**) will donate a new Bounty Hunter Tracker IV detector with Pouch and Digger Combo.
4. **Pioneer Mining** in Auburn has donated a new White's Bullseye 140mm pinpoint.

I'm excited about these items and I'll bring them to the November meeting to wet your appetite for the December auction and raffle...Don

How to clean clad and copper coins

This article first appeared a few years ago in our newsletter and there have been several requests to republish it.

Items needed:

1. Rock Tumbler
2. Vegetable colander or strainer
3. River rock, 1/4 inch size (White Aquarium rock is also OK) ... I bought my river rock in a packaged paper sack for \$3.95 at the pet store next to Nathan's pool supply near Greenback & Fair Oaks
4. Salt
5. White Vinegar (I buy it by the gallon)
6. Sudsing ammonia

Keep the clad coins (nickels, dimes, quarters, halves & SBA dollars) separate from the copper coins.

Step 1

1. Fill the tumbler about 3/4 full with rocks and mix your coins in the rocks.
2. Pour white vinegar into the tumbler until it just covers the rocks and coins and add a teaspoon of table salt. Put the lid on the tumbler very tightly and hand shake it a couple of times to mix everything up.
3. Let the mixture tumble for about 45 minutes. Caution, the mixture may produce a little gas and it may expand slightly to cause a little liquid to leak out. You may have to take the lid off to let the gas escape.
4. Put the vegetable colander into a sink and pour the contents of the tumbler into it. Run tap water over the contents in the colander to remove the vinegar mixture. Rinse out the tumbler and put the coins & rocks back into it. Then rinse the colander to remove all of the vinegar and salt.

At this point your clad coins have gone from brown/black

to a dull slightly spotted silver color.

Step 2

5. Pour the contents of the colander back into the tumbler and pour enough sudsing ammonia to just cover the rocks and coins.
6. Let the mixture tumble for about an hour. This mixture does not produce any gases and won't expand.
7. Put the contents in colander and rinse with warm water.

At this point the clad coins are as clean as the ones in your pockets, however if you want them to look mint clean...try this.

Optional Step 3

8. Rinse the tumbler out and pour the colander contents back into the tumbler.
9. Cover the rocks and coin mixture with very hot water. Add a little lemon dish soap. Let tumble for about 30 minutes.
10. Pour the contents back into the colander and rinse with very hot water.
11. Pick out the clad coins from the rocks and dry them with an old clean towel.

Your coins after this last step will look almost brand new. Do not use this method for cleaning valuable silver coins.

Use the same method for cleaning copper pennies, but just remember keep them separate from the clad coins.



As Will Rogers said, "Never slap a man on the back who's chewing tobacco."