

# *Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs*

A Nonprofit Organization

The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

*SVDB Newsletter*

*Web Site* <http://www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com/>

Issue Date February 2008



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

### Elected Officers

**President:** *John Duffy*

[John.m.duffy@comcast.net](mailto:John.m.duffy@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** *Peter Johnson*

[esteponapi@surewest.net](mailto:esteponapi@surewest.net)

**Secretary:** *Bob Harrison*

[nubblelight@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nubblelight@sbcglobal.net)

**Treasurer:** *Allan Woltman*

[looking4au@hotmail.com](mailto:looking4au@hotmail.com)

### Volunteer Positions

**Hospitality:** *Al Ezell*

[ezell777@comcast.net](mailto:ezell777@comcast.net)

**Hunt Master:** *Rick Costello*

[rcostello@rsis.com](mailto:rcostello@rsis.com)

**Librarian:** *Tom Schweppe*

[coottom@aol.com](mailto:coottom@aol.com)

**Membership:** *George Magann*

[gcmagann@hotmail.com](mailto:gcmagann@hotmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** *Don Dunn*

[dadunn02@yahoo.com](mailto:dadunn02@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter Mailings:** *Rick & Sue Morris*

[suezeeg@comcast.net](mailto:suezeeg@comcast.net)

**Raffle Table:** *James Neeley, Mary Ann Mejia*

[lorogal@aol.com](mailto:lorogal@aol.com)

**Web-Site Editor:** *Lee Wiese*

[leewiese@excite.com](mailto:leewiese@excite.com)

## ***Minutes from Meeting of January 3, 2008***

**President:** *John Duffy*

- John called the meeting to order and introduced Chris, Zack and Vince as 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors. Welcome to our SVDB club meeting!

**Vice President's Report:** *Peter Johnson*

- Peter read a funny joke about a detectorist that had a few physical problems, but that didn't deter him from enjoying the sport.

**Secretary:** *Bob Harrison*

- Bob was unable to attend this meeting

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

- Allan gave the report of: Beginning Balance \$2323.83, Expenses \$146.64, Income \$1488, Ending Balance is \$3665.19. Allan reminded everyone that if they had any expenses from SVDB activities to submit the bills to him for reimbursement.

**Hospitality:** *Al Ezell*

- Al was back on duty tonight serving up a mean set of refreshments and drinks. Thanks Al!

**Hunt Master Report:** *Rick Costello*

- Rick postponed the kids hunt from January 5<sup>th</sup> (weather) to February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rick also asked the membership for assistance in setting up the hunts if he could not make it due to travel. Here is the info on the kids hunt:

**Picture of kids detecting in Quartzite, AZ 1/15/08**



## Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

**Kids Hunt SAT, February 2, 2008 11:00 A.M.**

**Diamond Oaks Park, Roseville**

**(Intersection of Diamond Oaks Rd and Shasta)**

*Open to member's children and grandchildren*  
**Two divisions**

**A - Division** children ages 5-10

**B - Division** children ages 11-16

Free hunt...all clad coins

Age divisions are just guidelines...we can fudge a little on the ages.

### Rules

**A - Division** hunters can get assistance from adults (help swinging detectors, digging within reason),

**B - Division** hunters must wear head phones

**Contact:** Rick Costello @ 916-773-9378 or [rcostello@rcsis.com](mailto:rcostello@rcsis.com)

- Rick is looking at having a club hunt for us real old kids in March, 2008 - more to follow.

### Librarian Report: *Tom Schweppe*

- Tom has returned from his world cruising duties. He reported that 3 club members donated several magazines and a few books tonight to be added to our library. One book was the Jeff Foster book on the MXT (a must have book for MXTers).

### Membership Report: *George Magann*

- George reported we have 125 members and that about 1/2 of the members have renewed their 2008 membership. See George for your 2008 dues.

### **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.

### *Old Business:*

- **Do you have metal detecting related equipment** taking up space and not being used? Why not place it on the SVDB web-site classified section for sale?

Just send an e-mail to SVDB with your ad. You can also include one picture per ad.

- **SVDB Club Patches and Decals**

Lee had our SVDB club logo put on a patch and is selling these patches at our meetings for \$5 each.

Patches are still available – profits support our club.

### *SVDB January, 2008 Raffle & Auction:*

We received \$402 plus \$65 for a White's Bullseye 2

pinpointer for this month's raffle and auction. Thanks to

Mary Ann, Don and James Neeley for working this important fund raiser. The

Gold Coin raffle winner for tonight was **Bob Morris**. →

That is Bob staring intently at the gold coin hoping it will grow bigger or multiply...



### **Big Valley Metal Detectors**

**(Larry)** donated a White's Bullseye 2 probe for this

nights meeting. This is the happy winner: **Vince**

**Migliori**. →

John Duffy told us that tonight's raffle cost for coins was \$511.25 and we took in \$402. Your chances of winning tonight were increased – but, you had to be here to win!



### *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 the 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

## *Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs*

### ❑ **Last months hunt results and winners:**

1st Sunday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at Johnsons Park, 6 members found 104 coins. Oldest coin went to **Anthony** (?)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at Kennedy H.S., 5 members found 162 coins and the oldest coin was found by **John Duffy** with a “44 wheatie penny.

### *SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):*

- Photos of these finds are on our website under FOM on the left side of the web page. Winner of this months show and tell finds was **Candy Workman** – way to go Candy!

### *Special Classroom Session by Lee Wiese:*



Instructor Lee Wiese

### **Metal Detecting Discrimination**

Lee started off his informative classroom session by asking everyone if they set their discrimination setting to a nickel, would that get them gold rings? Most everybody including your editor thought yes. Lee then proceeded to demonstrate with a Shadow X5 that when set to a nickel you definitely would lose the majority of gold rings. Lee stated that with the setting just below the nickel range you would pick up over 90% of the gold rings and jewelry. Of course you would also get your fare share of pull tabs, foil and other choice targets. .

Lee spent the next 45 minutes discussing various detectors and their capability to notch out some of the junk while keeping the majority of gold rings/jewelry

available to see/hear. Lee had several handouts and used his own projector system to enlighten us with his vast detecting knowledge. Those of us that were fortunate enough to be in attendance received a great classroom session on Metal Detecting Discrimination from Lee Wiese. You just had to be there.....

### *Price of Gold:*

**Would you believe that the price of gold is hovering around \$900 for a troy ounce?**



There are several SVDB members who also hunt for the elusive yellter stuff. Many members are looking for ways to “get rich” from the latest gold prices. Here are a few prospecting tips followed by places where gold was found in Placer County:

Tip # 1. Tie a few feet of fishing line to some small lead weights and tie balloons to the line... set it loose down the river and watch where the weights settle - that's a good place to start your hunt for gold.

Tip # 2. All too often people new to prospecting are wasting their efforts by scooping up material from the surface of the river bank. Gold is heavy - it will sink to the lowest possible point over time. Most gold may be found on top of the bedrock of the river.

Concentrate your efforts on working the material just above the hard pack or bedrock. Ignore the loose material on top - this is just "overburden" and likely contains little to no gold. Now, some gold may be found in the loose top material but it is surely far less than what can be found deeper. (Note: the reverse may be true just after flood season when the gold may

## *Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs*

be churned up and moved closer to the surface. Over time this gold will also sink lower.)

Consider the following: any gold found in the top layers of material will likely be fairly new gold - gold that has just been deposited. Now imagine hundreds perhaps thousands of years where Mother Nature has worked its magic through breaking down tons of rocks and minerals and depositing gold throughout the river bed. Over time, gold, being heavy will sink through the lighter top material and concentrate near the bottom of the river bed - just on top of the bedrock. Get down to this bedrock and be rewarded.

### **20.1 Ounces**

"The NAC Nugget"  
Found by Dave Rankin at Gains Creek near McGrath, Alaska in 2004 with a White's MXT metal detector.



If digging a hole down to bedrock is impractical due to depth or is just not your style, you can still be very productive. Try crevicing or sniping for gold. Look for cracks in the bedrock where gold may have become lodged. Use small hand tools such as garden trowels, flat head screw drivers, dental picks, and scrapers to remove material from these areas and pan this material out. Most metal detectors have settings for finding gold jewelry – use that setting for finding nuggets/pickers on bedrock near streams and rivers.

Tip # 3. The best places to find gold exist where turbulence changes to slower-moving water flow. Check out slower water below rapids and waterfalls, deep pools, and the downstream side of boulders. Inside bends of meanders, upstream ends of sand or 'point' bars are good places to pan fine gold, which is renewed yearly during runoff. Bedrock crevices or pockets acting as natural riffles can collect gold.

Scoop out and pan material from these spots. Good luck in finding your golden treasure.

### **Gold found in Placer County, CA**

Although best known for its great placer mines, Placer County also produced substantial amounts of lode gold (gold still trapped in solid rock – i. e. mines), with a total of production of over 2 million ounces from 1880-1959. The gold produced from 1849-1880 was not recorded, but probably was very considerable.

One and half mile west of Colfax you will find the Rising Sun Mine. It was a leading gold mine in the county and had a total production of 200,000 ounces between 1866 and 1932. Rich pockets in quartz stringers produced lode gold. Five miles east of Colfax you will find the Iowa Hill district. It consisted of thick Tertiary gravel deposits worked hydraulically and by drifting. The many area placer operations produced 800,000 ounces of placer gold.

The Morning Star Mine produced about 150,000 ounces of lode gold as well. The Dutch Flat - Gold Run district, along the north boundary of Placer county produced about 492,000 ounces.. At the Forest Hill district, in the south central part of county, extensive operations produced a total of 344,000 gold ounces. Five miles south of Forest Hill you will find the Michigan Bluff district which had a total production of 300,000 ounces of gold.

The Big Gun Mine was the largest hydraulic operation in the Forest Hill area and produce rich placer gold. The Hidden Treasure Mine, richest drift mine in California was also a rich placer gold producer. There are several area lode gold mines, the Pioneer, Rawhide, etc. that were also rich. At Loomis the area gravel deposits along the American River were dredged during the 1930s for placer gold.

One mile east of Penryn was the Alabama Mine. It was a rich lode gold mine, which also produced lead and silver.

## Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

### American River

Near the town of Auburn along the American *River*, many rich placers existed. The Ophir district was the most productive, with 1,500,000 ounces of lode gold produced. The Green Emigrant Mine, the Crater, Bellevue, Oro Fino, and Three Stars Mines were all very rich producers of lode gold.

One of the favorite places to go prospecting today is in the **Auburn State Recreation Area** near the American River. It is located about 30 minutes east of Sacramento in the Mother Lode. It is a public land and therefore, claims cannot be filed so it is open for prospecting. The primary gold is placer and I suppose if you get real lucky you may find a vein, however, this area has been well prospected for 150 years. There is a lot of black sand in this system and it has plenty of fine gold as well. Up to one pennyweight nuggets are not uncommon to be found occasionally but, the norm is fine gold, flakes of all sizes and small nuggets called pickers. There are many areas where a person can get one pennyweight in one day with nothing more than a gold pan! A friend recently found more than 7 pennyweights in nuggets in one afternoon!

Just remember that before you set up your equipment, do some sample testing as there are also many areas that contain little or no gold.

*If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about this newsletter contact the editor, Don Dunn at [dadunn02@yahoo.com](mailto:dadunn02@yahoo.com)*

### Riddle

*I can run, but I never walk  
Often a murmur, but I never talk  
I have a bed, but I never sleep  
I have a mouth, but I never eat...*

*What am I?*

Clue: The answer is in the above gold article.

(Answer will be published in next month's newsletter).

