

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 July 2008



Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

Elected Officers

President: John Duffy

John.m.duffy@comcast.net

Vice President: Peter Johnson

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Secretary: Bob Harrison

nubblelight@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Allan Woltman

looking4au@hotmail.com

Volunteer Positions

Hospitality: Al Ezell

ezell777@comcast.net

Hunt Master: Rick Costello

rcostello@rcsis.com

Librarian: Tom Schweppe

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Membership: George Magann

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dadunn02@yahoo.com

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Web-Site Editor: Lee Wiese

leewiese@excite.com

Message from John Duffy.

So, here we have reflections on detecting while traveling

I just completed a two week trip from Sacramento to the western slope area of Colorado and I did take my detector along for the ride.

First, I almost always spend 15 to 30 minutes detecting at any rest stop area, mostly to break up the fatigue of driving and get some extra stretching in - and of course I always turn up a few coins, including (over 4 years of this practice) one 1958 quarter.

Second, don't be intimidated by lack of local knowledge. Use the same "logic" that you do at home about where people congregate and spend their time. I had good success on soccer fields and volleyball courts during this trip - come to the meeting next week to see the 1896 O Morgan silver dollar.

Lastly, expect the unexpected, especially in Ridgeway, Colorado. Ridgeway is a small town on the way to Telluride and they have a nice looking park right next to the highway. Going to Telluride I had about 15 minutes to use while other members of our group did some last minute necessity shopping, so I just checked out the park and found some fresh lost coins. On the way back from Telluride I made some more time available as the park and area has clearly been around for many years. I again found some recent coins when I got a possible coin target at about 7 inches. I began digging a large diameter circle hole (as I think this gives me good access while keeping a large patch of grass in the center of my hole undisturbed and only the edge circumference of the circle to mark the disturbance) and was suddenly "attacked" by an irate man who said he worked for the City and it was his job to protect the park and what did I think I was doing by digging such a hole in an area where this was not allowed? (There were no signs that prohibited metal detecting.) While he continued his verbal attack on my activity I put back the dirt that I had placed on a small plastic sheet and returned the grass circle and apologized for breaking their rules and disturbing the park. He continued on about relics belonging to the city and that the taking of any such relics would also be another

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"crime" I simply continued to apologize for my digging. As he continued talking he said that several years previously some unknown person (presumably a detectorist) had dug about 75 holes around the park and had not filled in any of them. (I now had a BIG hint about why he was so upset by my one hole - and I think he did notice that I had my dirt on a plastic sheet to return, and that when I replaced my grass plug it was nearly impossible to see exactly where I had dug the hole). The more he spoke and the more I made clear my apology, the calmer he became. In the end he said he understood I had not intended any harm but that I just couldn't do that in their park. I told him I would spread the word about that, so please be sure, that if you ever drive through Ridgeway, Colorado you don't do any detecting or digging in their beautiful little park. I'm convinced that my choice of apologizing, rather than trying to explain or defend my actions, is what led to a calm ending to the story. So, always be prepared for the unexpected. John

Minutes from Meeting of April 30, 2008

❖ **President: John Duffy**

Welcome new members and guests, Dan Gibbs, Beverly Garrison, Frank Wallace, Shirley Reef, Ted Spelis, Todd Francini, 37 members present.

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

❖ **Secretary's Report: Bob Harrison**

Held a brief discussion on the bylaws regarding membership termination due to cause. The committee decided to change from 2/3 thirds vote to 3/4th vote of the membership to have a member removed from the club. While we doubt this will ever happen the old bylaw left the club open to becoming mired in a legal swamp should it ever took place. We're a hobby club not lawyers. The vote to accept the by law(s) change will occur at the July meeting.

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

Beginning Balance:	\$4195.41
Expenses:	\$122.01
Income:	\$503.00
Ending Balance:	\$4576.40

❖ **SVDB Hospitality: Al Ezell**

Al came through with his usual outstanding refreshments for tonight's meeting. Thanks Al!

❖ **SVDB Membership Report: George Magann**

George reported we have delinquent members and reminded everyone of 2008 membership are over due. Notice regarding delinquent dues is being sent out this month.

SVDB Membership Drawing: **Winner** was Alan Woltman, **Received** a 1922 Silver Peace Dollar

❖ **SVDB Hunt Master Report: Rick Costello**

Rick thanked everyone for coming out to Dead Man's Curve hunt. He announced the next hunt to be held on 7/19 at San Juan Park. Start time 11:00AM \$5 fee.

❖ **SVDB Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe**

Tom was back at the helm of the Library. Thanks to Klye for stepping in at last months meeting!

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING!!



Larry, Big Valley Detectors has donated a White's Prizm II to SVDB. The club will raffle this detector off at the next the July Meeting. Make sure you are there for this one. This detector list for \$249.

❖ SVDB Meetings are held at the North County Corporate Yard (Formerly SMUD Building) 5026 Don Julio Blvd. North Highlands, The meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month and starts at 7:30 pm.

❖ 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 – one picture is allowed. You can also bring items to our meetings to sell on the "for sale" table.

SVDB Club Patches and Decals Lee had our SVDB club logo put on a patch and is selling these patches at

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our meetings for \$5 each. Patches are still available—**profits support SVDB**

SVDB April 30, 2008 Raffle & Auction:

John indicated there is a silver coin shortage and he has not been able to make a purchase recently.

- Many thanks to Mary Ann, Don Ivers, James Neeley for handling the raffle.
- We received **\$449** for this month's Raffle.
- Raffle prizes were: 5-\$1/2, 17-\$1, 1-Gold Coin.
- Gold Coin raffle winner was **Shirley Reef**



SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):

- Winner of April's show and tell finds was Sharon Anderson, 1959 Silver Quarter.

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
- Last months Day-in-the-Park results: Results were unavailable at press time.
- **Comment was made that Ivan Miller found 1/4 oz Kruggerand coin mounted in a 14K bezel.**

❖ **Guest Speaker:** Larry Manger from Bay Valley Detectors in Citrus Heights was present and gave us a look at and a update on:

- **Fisher F70:** Fisher has added a slow / fast response software switch. Currently there is a total recall on F70 in progress.

- **Whites TDI** designed for prospecting. Most talked about detector offered for a long time. Larry had one at the meeting for display purposes. The TDI has two coils in one Outer and inter coils are separate coils. Each has its own transmit and receive function if I understood him correctly. Retail for: \$1,599.99.



- **Minelab SE Pro:** Minelab's newest Explorer SE Professional now comes with an all new 11" DD Search coil! Now lighter, deeper, stronger, and better than ever! Larry said: This coil can find coins at 13 inches, he found two in Fair Oaks Park. New Coil upgrade available for \$229.



Take a look at Larry's website:

<http://www.bigvalleymetaldetectors.com/index.htm>

SVDB Hunt Calendar

SVDB Saturday, July 12th Hunt @ 11:00 AM



- **Where:** San Juan Park (Mariposa off Madison Ave.)
 - **Cost:** \$5.00 per member
 - Must be a member of SVDB.
 - Must wear Headphones
 - **Contact:** Rick Costello 916-773-9378
rcostello@rcsis.com
- Photo of Token Prizes

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SVDB-Santa Cruz Beach Hunt

- **Date:** Saturday & Sunday, August 2nd & 3rd, 2008
Saturday Morning there maybe a 15 minute warm up hunt with planted coins.
- **Entry Fee for Prizes:** \$18 per hunter
- **Hunt Time:** 6:00 am to 11:00 am each day
- **When:** August 2nd at the Santa Cruz Main Beach
August 3rd at Seacliff State Beach
- After 11:00 am each person is free to go and do what ever.
- Drive Down Early Saturday Morning leave Sacramento Area about 3:00 am gets you to Santa Cruz at / about 6:00 am or so. Stay over night for the Sunday morning hunt. Drive back Sunday before the traffic gets heavy. Your Motel / Hotel off Choice.
- **Parking:** Saturday, Meter Parking Available, Meters Start @ 10: 00 AM 10 MINUTES for a Quarter. (Meters Take Quarters / Dollars Coins)
Sunday @ Seacliff state park, Park at Rio Mar just south of Seacliff State Park Beach its FREE Parking & Entrance
- **Prizes each day for:**
 - Most coins
 - Highest Dollar Amount
 - Oldest Coin
 - Best items of the day - group vote
- **SVDB Beach Hunt Rules**
 1. Entrants must provide their own metal detector and beach digging tools (sand scoops, baskets, etc)
 2. All holes made in the sand must be filled to avoid injuries to beach goers.
 3. Keep a distance of 15-20 feet from all beach goers sitting on the beach.
 4. Keep everything you dig. TRASH should be kept and deposited in Trash Containers.
 5. All detectorist are requested to signup in advance, and pose for a group picture the day of the hunt.
 6. Must be a current SVDB Member.
- **Sign up:** July meeting or by mail before July 20th
- **Brochure Here:**
<http://www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com/SVDB-2008-Beach-Hunt-c.pdf>
- **Contacts:**
Lee Wiese (916-780-7365) leewiese@excite.com

Rick Costello (916-773-9378) rcostello@rcsis.com

2008 FMDAC Fall Convention & Treasure Expo. October 10th, 11th and 12th, 2008

The event will be held in Wildwood Crest, NJ accommodations at the Attaché Motel. The rooms will be \$75 per night plus tax. To make reservations you can call 1-609-522-0241. Book early as there are a limited number of rooms. [http://www.attache-](http://www.attache-motel.com/)

[motel.com/](http://www.attache-motel.com/)

There will be hunts all three days. Start planning your trip now and please check out the new **FMDAC Travel Program.**

Convention & Treasure Expo Hunts, Exhibits and Banquet

Friday evening there will be a free beach hunt for all



registered hunters.

Saturday

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Displays by Manufacturers, Dealers and Clubs / Individuals

9:00 am Registration

11:00 am Surprise Hunt

In the P.M. Workshops will be held on the Beach.

6:30 pm FMDAC Banquet at a Local Restaurant with a Guest Speaker

Sunday

8:30 am Registration

10:00 am Main Hunt Number One

11:30 am Free Kids Hunt

1:00 pm Main Hunt Number Two

Contact: Duane Biller 724-439-1380 [Email](mailto:duane@fmdac.org)

Vic Kamer 724-295-3046 [Email](mailto:vic@fmdac.org)

Jill McFeeders 330-364-1608 [Email](mailto:jill@fmdac.org)

Website: <http://www.fmdac.org>

AMDA's Annual Rendezvous & Treasure Hunt
Weekend for Laughlin 2008 is scheduled for October 24, 25, and 26, 2008, in Laughlin, Nevada.

The event will be supported by members of the Colorado River Treasure Seekers Club (CRTS) in

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Bullhead City, Arizona. The hunt site again is located at the corner of Woodbury and Thomas Edison Drives, in Laughlin, approximately 1/2 miles West of Casino Drive. As soon as the hunt flyer is finished, it will be available

Contact for more info:

Bernard 916-635-6854, BGG589@aol.com

Carolyn at 719-749-0134, cgarrettwc@aol.com

Website: <http://www.AMDAONLINE.NET>

Target Masking

By Lee Wiese, leewiese@excite.com

I would like to start off with a couple of common target masking situations.

Ground Target Masking Condition:

When there are numerous iron targets or a high concentration of metal trash targets in the ground, these targets will drive the detector threshold into its null operating zone. When the detector threshold is null-out meaning there is no audible background threshold. The detector does not detect or will suppress weaker non-ferrous signals received from deeper or smaller non-ferrous targets that are located near the iron / trash target.

Target Masking by using Metal Detector Discrimination:

When a detector has a designed in iron discrimination feature it will null over iron and may mask any non-ferrous targets that are near the iron target. Or if the operator is using the detector's discrimination capability to discriminate out iron / trash targets the detector's discrimination may mask a good non-ferrous target.



Basically what this means is that in many cases iron or other trash can be masking a very good non-ferrous target such as a gold ring, old coin, old button or some other valuable target. Ignoring these nulls or setting one's detector discrimination too high could cause many valuable targets from being found and

recovered. In the figure there are three iron nails and one gold coin target under the coil in this situation the gold coin would be masked by the three iron nails. The detectorist

would just continue on and not be aware of the gold coin target because of the three iron nail targets.

Target masking is not a new metal detecting phenomenon. Target masking has been around ever since detectors were designed with discrimination capabilities. Many detectorists only want to see "GOOD TARGETS" and therefore will ignore the detectors "NULLS" or will have their discrimination levels set high to eliminate iron / trash. By ignoring nulls or using the detector discrimination they now will only recover good targets as indicated by the detector's target identification capability. This practice of ignoring nulls or setting discrimination high can leave a high percentage of good non-ferrous targets in the ground.

Coil selection and sweep speed are very critical in iron / trash infested detecting ground. A large coil can not differentiate between targets as well as a small coil and therefore is very susceptible to target masking. When targets are close together the coil may only see the iron / trash target and therefore ignore a potential good non-ferrous target. In this situation because of masking the detector would only provide identification on the iron / trash target and will not be able to pickup the nearby good non-ferrous target.

There are some detectorist in the metal detecting hobby that feel detectors can over come target masking by purchasing certain manufacturer detector models. Some detectors will handle target masking better than others but in most cases the detector will usually overcome only the simplest case of target masking.

Today, there are more people taking up the hobby of metal detecting and the ground that has never been detected is becoming very sparse. In the future this may lead to going back over grounds that have been heavily hunted. Therefore, following the six suggestions below may yield some very surprising results for the detectorist in what was considered to be hunted-out grounds.

So how does one over come target masking?

1st: One easy approach is to stop using discrimination. A positive target located behind, beneath or near junk may result in a mixed signal and these types of signals should always be recovered.

2nd: Slow down your detecting sweep speed so that the coil can differentiate between target types as they pass under the coil. The reduction in sweep speed will allow the detector to provide you with multiple different target IDs.

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3rd: In high iron / trash grounds reduce your coil size to three to eight inches in diameter. The smaller coil will provide much enhanced target separation and overcome target masking. You may lose some depth but more non-ferrous targets can be discovered and recovered.

4th: This one takes work. Use a small coil and recover all iron / trash targets to clear the area and also recover all good non-ferrous targets found during this process. Once the area is clear install a larger coil for greater depth and go over the area again for the deeper targets also recovering all good and iron / trash targets during this process. Now the ground is hunted out.

5th: Some detectors have a recovery speed adjustment. In high iron / trash covered ground the recovery adjustment should always be set for FAST or a very high number if the detector uses a numeric recovery rating. You must also use a smaller size coil and a much slower sweep speed.

6th: Always recover the whisper target signals.

Local Area Event

Location: Foresthill, California

Date: August 30, 2008, Event: (Two Days)

Event: California State Gold Panning and Lumberjack Championships

Sponsor: Foresthill Heritage Celebration and American Legion Post 587

Phone: 530-367-2891

Email: goldworld@hughes.net.

Event Description: Held at Old Foresthill Memorial Park, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Quote

"Because this is an eminently unliterary age, incapable of thought, and therefore seeking to be amused. Whereas the writing of books was once a painful art, it has of late become a trick very easy of accomplishment, requiring no regard for probability, and little thought, so long as it is packed sufficiently full of impossible incidents through which a ridiculous heroine and a more absurd hero duly sigh their appointed way to the last chapter. Whereas books were once a power, they are, of late, degenerated into things of amusement with which to kill an idle hour, and be promptly forgotten the next."

From _The Broad Highway_ by Jeffery Farnol, 1911