

# 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 November 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

[esteponapj@surewest.net](mailto:esteponapj@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@rcsis.com](mailto:rcostello@rcsis.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

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**Newsletter Mailings:** Rick & Sue Morris

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

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**Web-Site Editor:** Lee Wiese

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**Web-Page Editor:** Gary Zang

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## *Minutes from Meeting of September 4, 2008*

### **President:** John Duffy

- John called the meeting to order and welcomed four new visitors: Welcome to all newcomers!
- **Visitors:**
  - Dan Cherney                      Kim Hofer
  - Mark Kehl                         Carol Otterstrom
- There were 45 members & visitors in attendance tonight.

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

- Peter joined us tonight and discussed the competition that is developing for Gold Prospecting. Peter later assisted in tonight's monthly raffle.

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

- Bob reported that there were no new nominations for the 2009 SVDB Officer positions. The current Officers have volunteered to run again for their 2009 position.

### **Membership Report:** George Magann

- George reported that we now have 146 SVDB members in good standing. Chris Poulsen was the winner of 1921 Peace Dollar in tonight's membership drawing. This has been a great year for new membership, thank you for joining SVDB.

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

- Allan gave this October's treasurer's report:

Beginning Balance	\$4,652.79
Income	\$ 662.00
Expenses	\$1,667.70
Ending Balance	\$ 3,652.09

### **Hospitality:** Al Ezell

- Thanks Al, for the good selection of munchies and drinks!

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

- The SVDB Library is in great condition. The seven or eight tables of material on display is approximately 20% of the total material available. The material is rotated each month.

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### Hunt Master Report: *Rick Costello*

- The next SVDB Club Hunt is schedule for Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am. The Hunt cost to SVDB members is Five Dollars and will be held in Madera Park.
- Rules for the hunt are: headphones required, coil size 12 inches or less, no digging, pin-pointers ok.
- Madera Park is located off Sunrise Blvd just east of the Antelope Rd Intersection. Stanford Ave off Sunrise will take you directly to the Madera Park or take Wonder St off of Antelope Road.

### *Announcement, Announcement, Announcement*

### *2008 SVDB Christmas Raffle and Pot Luck Dinner December 4, 2008*



We anticipate a big crowd at our annual Christmas Raffle and pot luck dinner. It will be held at the North County Corporate Yard (Formerly SMUD Building) 5026 Don Julio Blvd. North Highlands - at the intersection of Elkhorn and Don Julio. Our Christmas 2008 meeting will be held on the December 4, 2008 and starts at 7:30 pm

**We will have several donations and some outstanding detectors worth over \$1,000 from major metal detector companies that will be raffled off. We are currently in communications with Fisher, Garrett, Minelab and White's to determine which detector (s) we will raffle. There will be more on the *Christmas* event in the December newsletter.**

Our Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs president John Duffy said, here are the guidelines of what to bring for the dinner:



If your last name starts with the initial:

**P-Z:** Bring a main dish

**A-H:** Bring a side dish

**I-O:** Bring a desert

John also said that he will raffle 1/10 ounce gold coins like he did in December 2007. If the raffle generates \$475 we will have 2 gold coins and if we hit \$525 we will have 3 gold coins. PLUS no one person can win more than 1 gold coin.

Great Raffle, FREE Prizes, Outstanding Food and Funny Metal Detecting Stories - What more could you ask for? Come early and bring lots of raffle ticket money.

### *SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING!!*

- SVDB Meetings are held at the North County Corporate Yard (Formerly SMUD Building) 5026 Don Julio Blvd. North Highlands - at the intersection of Elkhorn and Don Julio. 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 – one picture is allowed. You can also bring items to our meetings and sell them on the “for sale” table.

### *SVDB Club Patches and Decals*

Lee had our SVDB club logo put on a patch and George is selling these patches at our meetings for \$5 each. **Patches are still available—profits support SVDB**

### *New Business*

**SVDB Board and key leader meeting** - Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. 11 Eastham Court, Sacramento (near 1-5 and Garden Highway) Coffee and snacks on arrival, lunch about 12:30

Agenda:

1. Budget / Finances - (will need report on expenses from previous year)
2. Annual hunt planning - dates, location, prizes, coins etc
3. Monthly meeting format: speakers, refreshment donation jar, mailing of newsletters
4. Other items brought forth by Board members and

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key leaders.

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

We received \$540 from this month's raffle. Thanks to **James Neeley, Mary Ann Mejia and Don Ivers** for selling tickets for tonight's raffle.

#### **Raffled Coins:**

Morgan Silver Dollars	15
Peace Silver Dollars	10
Liberty Silver Half's	1
Kennedy Silver Half's	1
Franklin Silver Half's	1
Washington Quarters	3
Mercury & Roosevelt Dimes	4
Gold Coin	1
Gold Nugget	1

There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> drawing for a gold nugget donated by **Paul Giese** and won by **Roy Evans**. Thanks again Paul for your generous donation!



**Roy Evans**

**Paul Giese**

**Paul Giese** won the Gold Coin raffle.

### **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

### **September's SVDB hunt results and winners:**

- Sept. 7, 2008 C-Bar-C Park. 195 Coins, oldest 1958D Wheat Penny by James Neeley
- Sept. 21, 2008 Chavez Park. 517 Coins  
Ralph Meyers 1946, 48, 51 Wheat Pennies  
James Felt Silver Ring  
Dan Compton 1900 Barber Dime  
Rick Morris Silver Ring, 1911 Wheat Penny

### **Special Day-in-the-Park Oct 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Hunt** by Vince Migliore

As discussed in the last meeting, a small group has agreed to meet the second Sunday of the October, for a park hunt on the East side of Sacramento. We met at Denny's restaurant, 2474 Sunrise Blvd, Gold River (Rancho Cordova), CA, at 8:00 AM, Sunday, Oct. 12 for breakfast, then left for the field at 9:00 AM.

#### **Hunt Results:**

It was a great success - - 13 people showed up and we found (I think) 493 coins. The oldest was a 1937 silver liberty dime.

Some of the members wanted to try hunting in cities east of Sacramento, to open up new areas that have not been hit so hard by detectorists. We are thinking of having another one on the second Sunday in November. I will bring it up at the next meeting.

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

Photos of these finds are on our website under FOM Tab on the left side of the Home page. The winner of this month's FOM show and tell finds was **Lee Wiese**, prize was a Washington Quarter.

### **SVDB Classified**

**For sale Garrett ACE 250**, new in the box never been assembled. Price: \$200

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

### **Saying of the Month**

**"That's the negative side of a two faced coin"**

### **2008 SVDB Income and Expense as of 10-25-08**

Below you will find a table breaking out the YTD income and expenses supplied by Allan Woltman for the SVDB Board Meeting. You may find it interesting.

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	Income		Expenses
<b>Raffle Coins</b>	\$5,318	<b>Coins</b>	-\$7,072
<b>Raffle Detector</b>	\$166	<b>Detector</b>	-\$108
<b>Member Dues</b>	\$1,524	<b>FMDAC Dues</b>	-\$75
<b>Hunt Fees</b>	\$1,313	<b>Hunts</b>	-\$179
<b>Auctions</b>	\$355	<b>CFMS Insurance</b>	-\$930
<b>Ads</b>	\$25	<b>CFMS Newsletter</b>	-\$6
<b>Donations</b>	\$50	<b>Library</b>	-\$119
<b>Patch Sales</b>	\$10	<b>Gun Club Rent</b>	-\$50
<b>Refreshments</b>	\$2	<b>Refreshments</b>	} - \$802
<b>FMDAC</b>	\$25	<b>Newsletter</b>	
		<b>Raffle Tickets</b>	
		<b>Office Supplies</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	<b>\$8,788</b>		<b>-\$9,340</b>
<b>Balance Jan. 2008</b>			<b>\$3,665</b>
<b>Income</b>			<b>\$8,788</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			<b>-\$9,340</b>
<b>Balance End Oct. 2008</b>			<b>\$3,113</b>

### *Comments on the SVDB Board Meeting*

by John Duffy

On another note I recently hosted a meeting of the Board and key leaders to talk about what we are up to over the next year. Al Woltman provided an overview of our finances and we are considering a slight (\$5.00) increase in the family membership dues for 2009 to offset an increase in our club insurance rates which is based on the total number of members.

We started planning for our annual club hunt (exact date and location not yet determined) and based on input from Lee Wiese we are looking at a greatly enhanced prize package including 1/10 oz gold coins, 1 ounce silver rounds and a metal detector (tokens) plus lots of clad and silver coins.

Lee is also in the preliminary planning for a 3-day Santa Cruz beach hunt, based on low tides in August 2009.

We are looking for a Volunteer to become "Program Director" who would help arrange speakers and themes for our monthly meetings. I'll talk more about this at our November meeting.

Term limits for officers. We discussed the idea of amending our By-laws to provide for term limits to

encourage broad-based participation by the membership in the running of our club. It sometimes seems that we get "elected for life" and we are examining that situation.

Finally, we have noted that the first Thursday of 2009 falls on no other than January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Years Day. We will talk more about this at the November meeting to see if we can (or should) find another day to meet for January.

Keep on hunting – even right here in River City you never know when you might turn up a 186 year old coin! See you at the November meeting!

### *Message from John Duffy, SVDB President*

Hmmm... Sweet Home... Oregon – sounds like a nice place to raise the kids, eh? On a recent trip to Crater Lake and Glacier National Park I was driving home via I-5 and was aware that White's metal detectors are made in Sweet Home. I had my MXT with me – the one that I haven't taken on an airplane for two plus years because the two rods between the search coil and the handle/control and display box have been "stuck" in the together position. Oh, I had heated them, frozen them, pushed, pulled, and even pried on them – all to no avail – they just would not come apart.

So, I checked the map – Sweet Home was about 30 miles from the interstate and as it turned out, an easy drive through rural communities. I had to stop and ask directions in town – it's an easy location to find, just over the river and turn left. They had easy parking for our small trailer. When I entered the office I was greeted with smiles from the reception staff and as they could see the MXT in my hand they asked me what was the problem When I explained that I couldn't get the rods apart they took it away into the repair shop.

I spent about 20 minutes looking through their museum – basically a showcase of White's detectors and display cases of treasures uncovered by Ken White himself. At that time the receptionist came back with my MXT – now restored so I could disassemble it for transport. When I asked how much I owed she told me "No charge – when you bring your White's detector to us there is no - charge to repair it."

Its one thing to read about "customer service" on a web site or in promotional literature (<http://whiteselectronics.com/content/view/15/30/>) and

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it's quite another to actually experience it in action. They also offer tours at the plant site, however we did not have time to take advantage of that opportunity. The next time you are in central Oregon and you have some time to spare I recommend you stop by and say hello to the folks at Whites.

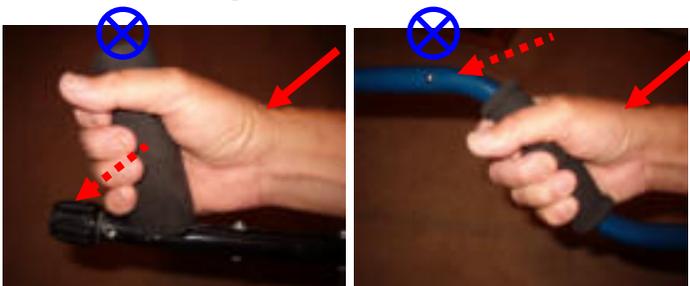
### *An Opinion on Metal Detector Ergonomics*

By Lee Wiese

In the U.S. metal detecting market there are six major manufacturers of detectors and these six manufacturers offer more than 59 different models. These multi-functional detector models start at a price of \$200 or less and go to a high of \$1,500 or more, so choosing the right detector can be a challenging task. The intent of this article is to provide guidance on one very important aspect of metal detectors - ergonomics. Ergonomics should be one of most important elements in any decision to purchase a detector since friendly ergonomics will result in the efficient use of the operator's energy and minimize the possibility of sore muscles or injury to the operator over time.

**Ergonomics** is defined as the science related to man and his work, embodying the anatomic, **physiologic, and mechanical principles affecting the efficient use of human energy.**

Detector ergonomics comes down to THREE major issues; the gripping of the detector with your hand, weight / balance of the detector and adjustability of the detector's handle length. Excellent ergonomic design will result in less strain put on the wrist, arm, shoulder, and/or back during the use of the detector.



“L” Shape Handle

“S” Shape Handle

First there are two types of handle designs used by detector manufactures: the “L” shaped handle and “S” shaped handle. In the two photos you can see an example of each of the designs and how they are gripped.

Take a look at the “L” shaped handle in the photo (at the **DOTTED RED ARROW**) and note that the remaining portion of the handle for coil attachment is designed to extend outward below the hand and wrist. This design feature helps to reduce the load on the wrist during the swing of the search coil. An additional feature of this handle's design is that the electronics is usually mounted on top of the “L” portion of the handle placing the electronics above the hand (see the **BLUE X**). Now take another look at the hand gripping the “L” shaped handle in the photo (at the **SOLID RED ARROW**) and you will see the angle on the hand and wrist is in a more natural position with little or no strain on the wrist. Take your own hand and hold it in that position, you will feel no strain.

Now take a look at the “S” shaped handle in the photo (at the **DOTTED RED ARROW**) note that the remaining portion of the handle extends forward and outward above the hand and wrist where the coil and electronics (see the **BLUE X**) are attached. Now look at the gripping of the “S” shaped handle in the photo (see the **SOLID RED ARROW**) and you will note that the hand is tipped slightly downward. This slight downward tilt of the hand puts an unnatural strain on the wrist and forearm and will over time extend to the shoulder. Note: some “S” handles may have a greater vertical angle design that will bring the grip closer to the “L” design grip. The mounting of the electronics after the grip will add weight to the swing of the search coil and increase the strain on the wrist. Take your own hand and hold it in that position, you will feel a slight strain in the wrist area.

The second ergonomic issue is the weight of the detector and how the weight is distributed on the detector's handle. One of the specifications of a detector is weight with and without the batteries installed but there is usually no discussion or specification on detector balance. A well balanced detector should have a fulcrum or balance point where the hand grips the handle. This is the point where there is equal weight before and after the grip, the best possible situation for swinging the search coil for a long period of time.

For the “L” shaped handle the electronics are ideally placed directly above the hand grip and usually the batteries are placed under the forearm for added balance to the overall assembly. This brings the

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balance point very close to the hand grip but still slightly forward of the grip point. This design is approaching the ideal situation.

The “S” shaped handle usually has the electronics placed on the handle after the hand grip position which puts more weight past the gripping position. The placement of the electronics after grip position toward the search coil end will result in a very un-balanced handle. This situation puts a greater load on the wrist and forearm because the balance point is much further forward of the grip position.

The third ergonomic issue of importance is the ability to extend the lower handle to the correct length for good upright posture while swinging the search coil. This adjustment will reduce the strain on the operators shoulder and back. Improper adjustment can cause the operator to bend over while swinging the coil and may result in a lower back stress during the hunt period.

There are a few more ergonomic issues one must be aware of with detectors. First the detector must have an audio volume control & a headphone jack. The audio

output should be stereo and the volume control should cover a wide range for good operator comfort and target identification. Also if the detector has an LCD display, the display information should be very readable (Large Characters) in bright sun light and have an excellent back lighted display for night use.

The recommendation is that for new detector purchases there should be a review of the detector’s ergonomics before hitting the BUY button. Make sure the detector is light, well balanced, and has a good grip design that will put less strain on the wrist, the arm, shoulder and back while swinging that search coil for the treasure find of a life time. A side note: some manufactures offer ultra light detector to enhance the ergonomics of their models and this certainly makes a huge difference during their usage. Also there are a number of after market manufactures that offer “L” shaped handles for many of the major manufacturers’ detector models. Their products can be found on the web.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or articles for this newsletter contact your editor, Lee Wiese [leewiese@excite.com](mailto:leewiese@excite.com) for the couple of months.