



# Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

A Nonprofit Organization  
The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

*SVDB Newsletter*

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

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## **Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs** **2009 Elected Officers**

**President:** John Duffy

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**Vice President:** Peter Johnson

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**Secretary:** Bob Harrison

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

**Treasurer:** Allan Woltman

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

## **2009 Volunteer Positions**

**Hospitality:** Al Ezell

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

**Hunt Masters:** Paul Giese & Bob Morris

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**Librarian:** Tom Schweppe

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**Web-Site Editor:** Lee Wiese

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## **May 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

**President:** John Duffy

• John introduced and welcomed 10 newcomers: Barbara (mom) & Richard Switzer (son), Dan Salter, Tom & Rill Overton, Tom Krudwig, Charlotte Key, Dan Kirk, and Richard & Renee Molina.

• We had a crowd of 64 for tonight's meeting.

**Vice President:** Peter Johnson

• Peter will chair the June meeting while John is camping and detecting in the western US.

**Membership Report:** George Magann

• George reported that we now have 127 SVDB members. **John Duffy** won tonight's membership drawing.

**Treasurer's Report:** Allan Woltman

• Allan gave this months treasurer's report:	
	Beginning Balance \$2,172.18
	Expenses 245.94
	Income 2,301.62
	<b>Ending Balance \$4,227.86</b>

**Hospitality:** Al Ezell

• Al is to be congratulated again for supplying us with great munchies, snacks and drinks for tonight's meeting.



**Hunt Masters Report:** Paul Giese & Bob Morris

## **2009 SVDB Hunts** **(Remaining)**

Paul Giese and Bob Morris have announced the updated 2009 planted hunt dates for SVDB members:

- **June 27th** - Ace 250 (1st Prize) - **Bob Fite Park**
- **August 8th** Place **TBD**
- **September 19th** Place **TBD**
- **October 24th** Place **TBD**
- **December 12th** Place **TBD**

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- We had 27 participants in the **May 15th hunt**. The ladies drawing (a sterling silver ring) was won by **Ann Costello**. **Tom Overton** won the Gold Nugget. We had 64 token prizes awarded.

- The **June 27th** hunt site will be held at **Bob Fite Park**. The address is 4312 Careyback Avenue (near Laguna Blvd and Franklin Rd.) in Elk Grove. Bob Morris will provide a map to the location at the next meeting. The hunt cost will be \$10.00 per participant. Prizes are: **Garrett Ace 250** metal detector - donated by **Garrett through Larry at Big Valley Metal Detectors**, more coins, more token prizes, more drawing prizes, a nice gold nugget and there will be another Ladies drawing to encourage more women to attend.



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

Tom was gone cruising (ocean) again and James Neeley who was going to sub was busy selling raffle tickets by himself. VP Peter Johnson later helped James. An anonymous person donated several books and magazines related to metal detecting.

### **SEE YOU AT THE June 4th 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 in a large room facing Elkhorn 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** & sell them on the “**For Sale**” table up front on the left. Lee Wiese had an unbeatable price of \$135 for a used Fisher F2 - of which 2 people arm wrestled to buy it.

### **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 SVDB.**

### **SVDB April, 2009 Raffle:**

We received **\$641** from this month's raffle. Thanks to James Neeley in selling the raffle tickets! Tonight we gave a 1/10 oz. gold coin and a gold nugget donated by **Paul Giese**. *Winners are pictured below.*



*Richard Switwer & Gold Coin - John Duffy & Nugget*

### **DB 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

### **SVDB previous hunt results and winner:**

April 5th at Foothill Community Park, 19 members found 246 coins. Oldest coin found by **Roy Evans**.  
April 19th at Tahoe Park, 15 members found 222 coins. Oldest coin found by **David Sturdivant**.

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

- Photos of these finds are on our website under FOM. The photos were of previous month's finds. The "*pre-chosen*" winner of this month's FOM show and tell finds was **Al Woltman**.

### **Let's Go Metal Detecting!**

#### **A Good Hobby for Bad Times by Vince Migliore**

Let's go metal detecting! It's a fun outdoor activity that helps you find all sorts of coins, jewelry, historic relics, and even gold nuggets!



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**The sport of metal detecting** has come a long way in the last few years. Modern detectors now have a feature called discrimination, which tells you if the object is a dime, a quarter, or just a piece of junk. That saves a lot of time digging, and steers you towards the more valuable targets. With this hobby, you can go to just about any park, beach, or ball field and come home with a pocket full of coins and valuable trinkets.

Instant wealth, though, is not the goal of this sport. Some of the real benefits of metal detecting are as follows:

**Science.** You learn a lot about science. You learn about search coils and the practical application of electromagnetism. How does the detector know if you've got a silver dime or a tin bottle cap? How deep can the search coil penetrate the ground? You learn about geology and the kinds of rocks where gold is found. (Clue: quartz.) The mineral makeup of the soil in your area becomes a curiosity for you. In getting out into the field, you are exposed to all kinds of biological systems – small animals, birds, insects, and plants. By estimating the age of a tree you can judge how old a search site is. You become attuned to the weather and the wind.

**Physical Fitness.** The doctor tells you to get more exercise, or do 100 deep-knee bends. No way, Jose! With metal detecting, however, you'll be trekking for miles, squatting down, swinging the machine, digging, huffing and puffing, and enjoying every minute of it. You'll get a work-out without even noticing it, because you are having so much fun. This sport is at the opposite end of the spectrum from sitting on the couch watching television.

**Nature.** With metal detecting, you find yourself wandering over hill and dale, enjoying the fresh air and the sights of nature. You go to parks and see all kinds of wildlife. If you get into nugget hunting, you find yourself scrambling over rocks along remote stretches of the American River, or up in Yuba county. Oftentimes, you will stop and just look at the birds, or the wind in the trees. You know, it can be a real pleasure.

**People.** Contrary to the image of a lone ranger on an isolated beach, the typical metal detector hobbyist is quite social.

Metal detecting clubs and hunting partners make this a group sport. You have to ask permission to search on private land, so interaction with land owners and park rangers is a must. Besides, you soon find yourself showing the kids in the park how it works, or giving a demonstration to the grand-kids.

**History.** Back in 1964, the **US Mint** stopped making silver dimes and quarters. The Holy Grail for metal detecting, then, is to find the old silver coins. To accomplish this, you have to know your history.



### Early US Mint in Philadelphia

What schools and parks were around back then? Where are the oldest streets and neighborhoods? Gold was found in our area back in 1849. Where can I get in on some of that action? As you begin finding old toys, antique household items, and historic relics, you develop an even deeper interest in the history of your town. Finding square nails, old metal buttons, and bullet shell casings becomes fascinating for their historic significance.

**Treasure.** Ultimately, the biggest pleasure of metal detecting is finding coins, tokens, toys, jewelry, and valuable minerals. You can throw the coins into a loose-change jar, take up coin collecting, or sell what you find on the Internet. The biggest kick comes from stashing all the jewelry and baubles you find into your personal pirates' treasure chest. Sometimes, you might even have the pleasure of returning a lost wedding ring to a distraught owner.

Metal detecting is fun. It gets you out and moving and engaged in activities. Realistically, you cannot expect to strike it rich with that elusive rare treasure. But, there is something rewarding about finding things for free. It's like pulling the handle of a slot machine. That beep in the headphones means you have found something. **Will it be Junk or Jackpot?**



## Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

*Local hobbyists use metal detectors to dig up the past, reunite items and owners* By [Marc Lutz](#)

News-Sentinel Staff Writer

*Updated: Friday, April 24, 2009 6:46 AM PDT*

On a bright Tuesday morning in Lodi, **John Glover** slowly roams through Legion Park, staring at the ground. A long, strange machine is attached to his right arm and he swings it to the left in a wide arc, and then swings it back to the right, listening intently through chunky red headphones.

**John Glover** holds up a penny that he found while using his metal detector at Legion Park on a recent



morning in Lodi.

Glover is a metal detector hobbyist, a pastime that combines the traits of treasure hunting

and fishing. And in the short few months he's enjoyed searching the ground for hidden artifacts; Glover has found several dollars in coins, three Matchbox cars, lots of soda can tabs and one very special ring.

The first metal detector was built by Alexander Graham Bell in 1881. Bell built the electromagnetic device quickly to find a bullet in the wounded and dying president, James Garfield. Bell failed and Garfield died, but a useful device was born.

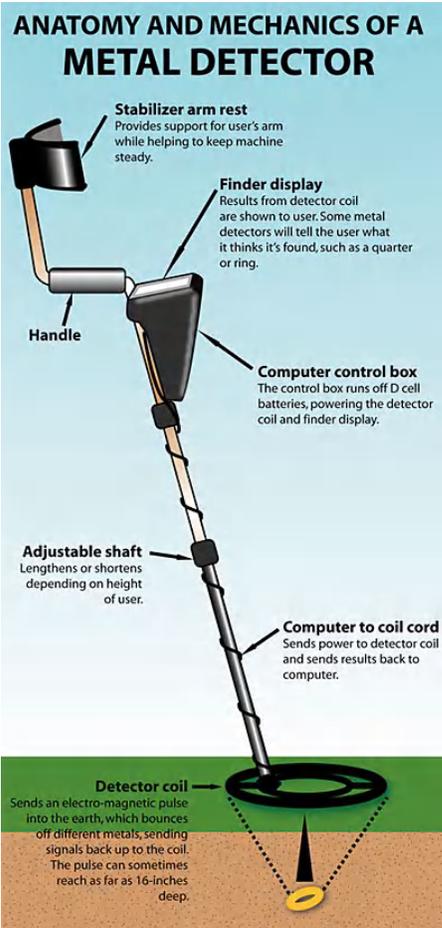
In the 1920s, inventor Gerhard Fischar created the first portable metal detector and began selling the machines commercially in 1931.

Since that time, hordes of people have discovered the hobby — and not just the stereotypical lonely guy on the beach wearing black socks, high-hitched Bermuda shorts and a Gilligan hat.

“It’s a total rush,” Glover said as he explained the feelings he has when his machine makes a bonking or blipping sound, signaling a metal object a few inches beneath the surface. “You don’t know what it is.

It could be a ring or a piece of trash.”

The Fisher F2 detector, which Glover purchased for around \$275 has the ability to send a signal about five inches below the surface, bouncing back signals that let him know if he has found various coins, different metals or just junk. It’s specifically for use in places like parks or riverbeds, but detectors come in many different forms and can cost upwards of \$1,000.



Some detectors are built for beaches, extending past the minerals and surface junk that would easily confuse Glover’s Fisher F2. Others are built for underwater use. If you’ve flown, you’ve walked through another

style of metal detector and probably had security personnel wave yet another type of detector over your body.

One particular Sunday, Glover was maneuvering around Legion Park — detectorists are always aware of areas they’re allowed to search — checking the hot spots: areas near walkways, small hills where people might sit, the sandbox and the high foot-traffic sidewalk along Hutchins Street.

The Fisher let him know something awaited his discovery. The back-and-forth, to-and-fro movements he made helped him to hone in on the exact spot. Getting down on his knees and pulling a gardening spade from his trusty tool belt, Glover set to digging a small circle in the grass.

## *Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs*

Usually, he'll pull out his divot and use a handheld "Pinpointer" detector to find exactly where the item is. But on this find, as he lifted the clump of grass and dirt upward, a heavy item immediately fell free. It was grimy with soil, and as Glover cleaned it off he found what looked like a class ring, made of silver and gold. He returned the divot and set to studying the ring. Symbols on the ring tell the story of someone who made a career out of the Army from 1966 to 1995, serving in Vietnam and at one time receiving the Silver Star.

*John Glover found this Vietnam Era Silver Star ring while using his metal detector at the American Legion Park in Lodi.*



Among the code of ethics metal detector hobbyists cling to is trying to reunite owners with their lost property. Glover used the Internet to track down the manufacturer of the ring, hoping they would have a customer database. He eventually found and contacted Veterans Commemoratives, a company specializing in such jewelry.

"All the customer service representative would tell me is that this ring was bought in Lodi and the number was unlisted," Glover said. He gave the company his contact information and asked if they could send a postcard to the owner, only to be told that went against their policy.

Though such roadblocks can occur, metal detector enthusiasts still strive to return lost belongings.

Glover, who works as a construction insurance broker in Sacramento, belongs to the **Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs**, a non-profit organization with 159 members.

For club president **John Duffy**, getting exercise and trying learn the history of the objects he finds are rewarding — the oldest item he's found was an old coin known as a 1822 large cent — but not as much as finding the owners.

"One of the greatest joys is returning an item that is found to the owner," Duffy said. "I've been able to return four rings, one set of keys and a Swiss Army knife."

Duffy found the hobby as a diver researching underwater metal detectors. He met members of SVDB at a Sacramento park, learned about the club, attended a meeting and joined. That was seven years ago. Duffy, who has three metal detectors, finds about \$200 to \$250 a year in coins. Though one club member, who practices the hobby several hours a day, finds about \$200 in change each month.

Yet members are quick to shake off any notion that a "detectorist" will get rich with the hobby. The amount of money and artifacts one will unearth is quickly offset by the cost of the hobby itself. "As a matter of fact, you're likely to spend more on equipment and maintenance," Glover said.

For Glover, who is confident he'll find the ring's misplaced owner (see below), it's more about finding the lost items, not getting wealthy. He continues to listen to the chirps and clicks, frantically checking his target, finding ... nothing.

"Bust," Glover says. "It's part of the game."

### *Returned Ring*



**Jimmy Schrader** holds up a commemorative ring that he bought to remember his years of service in Vietnam and Desert Storm. Schrader lost the ring in September of 2008 at Legion Park in Lodi. The ring was then found by metal detector hobbyist John Glover and

returned. (*Brian Feulner/News-Sentinel*)

[Click here for link to Ch 13 News interview w/Duffy & Glover](#)

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### Lee Wiese Comments:

• Lee told us that he will conduct the annual Santa Cruz beach hunt on August 23rd and 24th (Sun/Mon) this year. In 2008 there were 18 hunters that found 4 gold items.



### SVDB-Santa Cruz Beach Hunt August 23rd & 24th, 2009

Entry Fee for Prizes: \$20 per hunter

Hunt Time: 6:00 am to 11:00 am each day

August 22nd at the Santa Cruz Main Beach

August 23rd at Seacliff or ?? State Beach

Sunday morning there will be a 20 minute warm up hunt with planted coins.

### Prizes each day for:

- Most coins
- Highest dollar amount
- Oldest coin
- Best item of the day - group vote

After 11:00 am each person is free to do what ever

Lunch Sunday Noon: Lunch after Sunday's Hunt

### Lee Wiese Comments Continued:

• There was a discussion on classes that Lee would develop and teach during future (starting with July) meetings: The classes will be on:

- Coil Types
- Coil Discrimination
- Whites V<sup>3</sup> Spectra (Vision) Detector

### On the Lighter Side

*\* Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.*

*\* Remember, the second mouse gets the cheese.*

*\* When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.*

*\* Birthdays are good for you.  
The more you have, the longer you live.*

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