

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs



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

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Treasurer: Allan Woltman

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Hunt Master: Paul Giese

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Librarian: Tom Schweppe

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A Nonprofit Organization

The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

SVDB Newsletter

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

Issue Date February, 2009

Minutes from Meeting of January 7, 2009

President: John Duffy

□ John and Joy Duffy were on an Australian and New Zealand cruise during this month's meeting and VP Peter Johnson substituted for John.

Vice President's Report: Peter Johnson

□ Peter did an outstanding job subbing for John and he introduced 4 newcomers to tonight's meeting.



Karl, Bob, Charles

Axtell and his wife were the first time visitors.

Charles joined SVDB tonight - welcome to all newcomers!

□ We had a great crowd of 72 people at tonight's meeting!

Secretary's Report: Bob Harrison

□ Bob was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Membership Report: George Magann

□ George reported that we now have 149 SVDB members in good standing. He also indicated he has received 50% of the 2009 dues. **Christina Miles won** tonight's membership drawing.

Treasurer's Report: Allan Woltman

□ Allan gave this month's treasurer's report:

Beginning Balance \$3,960.13

Expenses \$677.82

Income \$2,211.00

Ending Balance \$5,493.31

□ Allan also compiled a comprehensive income and expense report for 2008. It was interesting to note that we spent \$7,072.21 for coins and received \$7,323.00 in raffle money income.

□ Allan also mentioned we still have to pay for our 2009 insurance which amounts to about \$1,300.

Hospitality: Al Ezell

□ Thanks to Al for starting off 2009 with a great supply of great food and drinks.

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Hunt Master Report: *Paul Giese*

□ Paul was introduced as our new 2009 Hunt Master. Paul submitted the following article for publication in this newsletter:



Paul Giese winning a gold coin in November, 2008

We will be having a hunt on **February 14th** at **Strizek Park in North Highlands**. If there is rain it will be postponed until February 21. Strizek Park is just off the corner of Don Julio blvd. and Bolívar avenue - not far from Watt avenue. The park is next to Pacific High School at 3800 Bolívar avenue.

□ **Hunt starts at 11:00 and ends at 12:00.**

All coin denominations will be planted with tokens for silver halves, quarters and a gold nugget.

Pinpointers are allowed and use standard sized coils only. Headphones are required. Prior sign up required and the hunt is open to paid up members only. There is a \$5.00 fee for this hunt.

□ **A kids hunt is scheduled for Strizek park on February 28.** This club sponsored hunt will be at no cost. The hunt starts at 11:00 and ends at 12:00. The alternate rain day is March 7th. There will be two divisions. Division A is children to 10 years old and they can be assisted by adults. Division B is for children 11 to 16 and for this age group headphones are required. Pinpointers are allowed and all detectors must use a standard sized coil.

□ The **annual hunt** is tentatively scheduled for late **March to early April**. We still don't have a reservation for a definite date from the gun club.

The club now has 2 Hunt Masters, myself and Bob Moore. We will be working together to organize some different and interesting hunts. This summer we will have a river beach hunt and some park hunts as well as instructional hunts if there is interest. Getting more of the group active is our goal and helping the newer hunters will make us all better at detecting.

I am not going to develop a yearly hunt schedule until I can get a commitment for the hunt budget. I spoke with John Duffy earlier and he was not really

forthcoming on the amounts that were approved. He said \$50.00 is normally spent but that seems paltry when you have 15 to 20 hunters out there. Are the hunts supposed to generate income or are they held for the members to enjoy and we lose a little in each hunt? I would like to know.

If the budget will permit I am willing to plan a hunt for about every 6 weeks or so.

We need to support Paul and Bob in their efforts to have great hunts for 2009!.....Don

Librarian Report: *Tom Schweppe*

□ Tom was back after taking cruise number 10 for 2008. He reported that the library was in great shape this month. He convinced several of us to check out books and magazines tonight.

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING!!

□ Our February (5th) meeting is back on our regularly scheduled date.

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

SVDB January, 2009 Raffle:

We received **\$655** from this month's raffle. Thanks to **James Neeley, Mary Ann Mejia** and **Don Ivers** for selling the raffle tickets! We raffled off 1 gold coin and a gold nugget donated by **Paul Giese**. **Jake Workman** won tonight's 1/10 ounce gold coin.

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Jake Workman showing off his new gold coin

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

Last 3 SVDB hunt results and winners:

November 2nd at Bannister Park, 6 members found 73 coins. Oldest coin was found by **Don Compton**.
November 21st at Bryte Park, 8 members found 379 coins. Oldest coin was found by **John Felt**.
December 7th at Del Campo Park and HS, 8 members found 250 coins. Oldest coin was found by **John Duffy**.

SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):

- Photos of these finds are on our website under FOM on the left side of the web page. The December finds were down from last month, but there were some nice diamond and gold rings found. Winner of this month's FOM show and tell finds was **Sharon Anderson**.



Traveling by Air with Your Metal Detector (s) by Lee Wiese

The question that frequently comes up is: can I take a metal detector on an airplane? Yes you can but you should follow some basic steps and guidelines.

One thing to keep in mind is that the electronics on any device whether it is a metal detector or some other electronic device is very delicate and must be treated with great care. I usually travel with three detectors and all the related detecting gear. We do both competition and beach detecting with different detectors and equipment required for each detecting situations.

The following guidelines have been very successful for me so they should work for anyone.

The first thing I do is breakdown all the detectors into the greatest number of components as possible – this means if possible all electronics are removed from the handle assemblies. All the handles are broken down into three sections with the coils removed. I also gather up all the associated tools that will be needed such as headphones (always carry a spare), target recovery tools (scoops, probes, a knife), recovery pouch, gloves, knee pads, search coils (2 different size coils for one of the detectors) and batteries.

(NOTE: If batteries are removed from equipment, black electric tape the ends over per TAS requirements).

Next select the carry on luggage that you will use to house the detector electronics, the most expensive and delicate part of the metal detector. My primary piece of luggage for this purpose is a 20"x13"x8" soft expandable carry on with rollers (see *airline guidelines* at the end of the article). You can usually get up to five sets of electronics in this luggage size plus a couple of coils and a headset or two. Wrap the electronics in light towel-like material and pack with care so as not to cause damage to any detector display during transportation. If by chance you should be required to check the luggage it should be packed to handle the beating it will get by the airlines.

(NOTE: No tools, metal probes or other sharp objects in the carry on, I suggest leaving out the handle assembly.)

The next step is to select a piece of luggage for all the related metal detecting gear. This gear will consist of coils, headphones, handle assemblies,

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recovery tools, batteries, etc. You must keep in mind the weight factor (50lbs per check in piece of luggage) and the cost of checking luggage these days. Here, I use 28"x18"x10" expandable piece of soft luggage. This should easily handle all the associated detecting gear and provide room for personal items.

My recommendation is to also provide a sheet of paper or two in each piece of luggage explaining to the TSA agent who may check the luggage what this strange looking gear (pictures on the paper explain a lot) is all about. However, the TSA agents are becoming accustomed to seeing such gear pass through their X-ray equipment so this may not be necessary. Recently, I started to carry the detectors owner's manual in the carry on luggage just in case I need to explain what the gear is to the TSA agent.

By following these steps and guidelines you should get your metal detectors safely to your destination without any problems.



Airline guidelines: Carry on luggage guidelines for flights on most US Domestic Flights, Transatlantic Flights, Flights within Europe, Asia & South

Pacific, And International South American Flights. The guidelines for one carry-on bag is (L"+W"+H") which must equal 45 inches total, and the luggage measurements are 22"+14"+9"=45" and the bag must weigh less than 40 lbs. Some US Discount Airlines require carry on luggage under 41" (20"+13"+8") and weigh less than 40 lbs.



TSA Battery Suggestion: Keep batteries and equipment with you or in carry-on baggage - not in your checked baggage! In the cabin, flight crew can better monitor conditions, and have access to the batteries or device if a fire does occur.

Am I still a Newbie? by Vince Migliore

One of our members just had an article published in *Eastern & Western Treasures* magazine that mentions SVDB. "Am I still a Newbie?" by Vince Migliore, describes learning about the hobby, and

the help he received from club members. It appears on page 16 of the February issue. Vince signed a contract that says the article is now the property of E&WT, so we are not allowed to re-print the entire article in the newsletter.

According to Vince, we can print an excerpt, and here is the last paragraph:



"Well, it's been nine months now that I've been a member of the club (SVDB). My value-to-junk ratio sure has improved, and I have learned how to protect the environment and use the detector to full advantage. Am I still a newbie? When do I graduate?"

Everyone probably has their own criteria for when you graduate, but here's something I noticed that told me I still have a long ways to go. I was on a hunt with the club. A husband-wife couple were new to the group. Some of the old pros noticed that the couple were having difficulties with digging and using their detector. The old pros stopped what they were doing, gave them hands-on instructions, and monitored their progress for the rest of the morning. All during the hunt, the newbie couple kept asking question. "Hey, Joe, how do you do this?" "How do you do that?" "No, I'm still a newbie. For me, graduation will come when I can look back and count the times when I responded to the call for help - - "Hey mister, can you show me how to work this thing?"

Nice going Vince, it looks like I have found a future newsletter editor replacement.....Don



Florida's Shoreline Treasures By Doug Kelly

In the 1700s, 11 Spanish ships wrecked off the Atlantic Coast of Florida, scattering their

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treasures along the ocean floor.

Nowadays, amazing discoveries take place nearly every day along many of the Sunshine State's east coast beaches.

The whir in my headphones rises in volume, signaling something metallic lies beneath the search coil of the metal detector. I quickly stoop, raise the detector slightly so it's away from the surface of the ground and employ a scoop that gobbles up a big bite of beach sand. A sweep of the hole reveals no whir, so I know whatever set off the detector lies snuggled in the scoop.



As I dump the sand next to the hole, my fingers sift through it until I grasp a hard flat object about the size of a quarter. Cleaning off more sand, its irregular shape and black tone sets my heart aflutter.

It's a Spanish *reale*, an undated silver treasure coin lost nearly 300 years ago.

A Treasure Shower

In 1715, 11 Spanish galleons left Havana Harbor. Their sails picked up the trade winds as they followed the Gulf Stream along the Florida Straits and close the shorelines off Florida's central east coast. They hoped to remain on a northerly course until ultimately branching off and crossing the Atlantic Ocean to Spain.

None of the ships made it, wrecking and scattering their cargo close to the shorelines from [Stuart](#) to [Cape Canaveral](#). **Millions of dollars worth of gold and silver coins, jewelry, ship artifacts and other relics were strewn along the east-central coast of Florida.** While much has been salvaged from the wrecks, plenty remains – which means there's plenty for you to find.

Not only do finds large and small continue on a daily basis, **you get to keep what you find on the beaches** (note that this is on the beaches only; not in the dunes, the water or any state parks) for a few miles north and south of Sebastian Inlet – the

epicenter of what's become known as the Treasure Coast.

I found my first *reale* about two miles south of the inlet just above the beach's high-tide line, where my metal detector also sniffed out a musketball only a few feet farther away.

While a metal detector can help unearth what's unseen beneath the surface, simply eyeballing the areas as you walk along the surf can be productive. Look for a metallic gleam, of course – gold “escudo” coins, priceless necklaces and other jewelry have been found by beachcombers – but also note anything dark and misshapen such as oxidized silver or other unusual debris.

Where to Look

Treasure salvors still have leases to search the waters, so stay on the beaches beyond the surf line. You also must respect private property whenever encountered between where the beach sand ends (known as the escarpment) to U.S. Highway A1A that parallels the coast.

Look for the high-tide line where the sand is softest and walk along it, as that's frequently proven to be productive. Sort through the debris and inspect anything unusual. A screened device at the end of a handle can reduce a lot of stooping, but simple garden tools, such as a hand scoop or pail, will suffice.

Another good zone involves the “wet sand” that's exposed as the surf recedes after each wave.

If you notice something worth checking out, keep your eyes fastened on that spot so you don't lose it and move quickly before the next wave washes in.



When it's safe to do so, **hit the beach soon after storms come through off the ocean.** The heavy wave action stirs up the sediment and at times picks up objects, like coins, and tumbles them right onto the beaches.

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Look for areas with more shell deposits than others, as this might indicate where strong currents are sweeping across the bottom and depositing loose objects onto the beach sand.



One of my favorite locations involves [Vero Beach](#). I stay at the Vero Beach Holiday Inn due to its proximity to other productive beaches. I also work the beaches just north and south of the hotel, where I found four silver coins on only two visits.

.... **Doug Kelly**

Hmmm-- metal detecting on Florida beaches for Pirate treasures sounds pretty interesting.....Don

Sayings of the month

These are the top 9 signs that you are a detecting nut.

#9. All of your pants have grass stains on the knees.

#8. Your trash cans are full of pulltabs and bottle caps, and you don't even drink.

#7. The toes are the first place that wear out on your shoes.

#6. You take a GPS with you to carnivals and fairs to get the coordinates for the wild rides and ticket booths.

#5. You have buckets of clad coins for door stops. (Is that true George M.?)

#4. Anytime you are walking you look at the ground.

#3. When you are in church and the minister says "Please be Seated" you respond with "Amen brother, or at least a Barber!"

#2. You think discrimination is a bad thing, only because it makes you miss small gold.

#1. When you are not out hunting, you are sitting in front of your computer reading and talking about it. (Like right now)

Submitted by David Colburn, (Idaho)

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

