

# Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs



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

**President:** John Duffy

[pres\\_svdb@att.net](mailto:pres_svdb@att.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)

## **2009 Volunteer Positions**

**Hospitality:** Al Ezell

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

**Hunt Master:** Paul Giese

[ppgiese4au@comcast.net](mailto:ppgiese4au@comcast.net)

**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

[suezeeeq@gmail.com](mailto:suezeeeq@gmail.com)

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

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**Web-Page Editor:** Gary Zang

[gzang@att.net](mailto:gzang@att.net)

**Web-Site Editor:** Lee Wiese

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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 March, 2009**

## **Minutes from Meeting of February 5, 2009**

### **President: John Duffy**

- John announced his new email address as, [pres\\_svdb@att.net](mailto:pres_svdb@att.net)
- There was a brief discussion about the funeral & life of John Roggero (former president of SVDB).
- John introduced and welcomed John Glover and Woody Bradley as visitors to SVDB.

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

- Peter added some humor? by reading a joke about a boy, a horse and a get rich scheme.
- Peter helped your editor by taking meeting notes
- We had another great crowd of 73 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 156 SVDB members. He reminded everyone to please pay their 2009 dues. You can't participate in any club hunts unless you are a paid up member. **Paul Giese** was tonight's membership drawing winner.

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

- Allan gave this months treasurer's report:

Beginning Balance	\$5,493.33
Expenses	\$1,593.44
Income	\$1,105.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b><u>\$5,004.91</u></b>

### **Hospitality: Al Ezell**

- Al again supplied us with great snacks and drinks for tonight's meeting. There is a voluntary offering can to help pay for these goodies.

### **Hunt Master Report: Paul Giese**

- Paul thanked Rick Costello as the outgoing Hunt Master and said he had some big shoes to fill.
- Paul talked about our 1st hunt of 2009 at Strizek Park. It was scheduled for Feb 14th, but was postponed until Feb 21st because of rain.

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### MDers at Strizek Park on Feb 21st

□ There were 27 people at Strizek Park and it was a great event. **Bob Morris** and **Paul Giese** did an **outstanding job** in organizing and putting on this hunt! There were over 900 coins and several tokens planted. A diamond ring was also found.



### Prizes for Token Winners at Strizek Park

□ **A kids hunt is scheduled for Strizek park on February 28th.** 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 BIG (\$\$\$ of Silver) Annual SVDB hunt and pot luck lunch is now scheduled for April 11th at the Wilton Gun Club.*** The cost will be \$20 and the grand prize will be a brand new **Fisher ID Excel Detector.**

**Fisher ID Excel Detector Obtained by Larry at Big Valley Detectors**

**and donated by Fisher**



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

□ Tom reported that the library was again in great shape this month. He reported that he would be at the March and April meetings, but out to sea on cruises after that for a few months.

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

□ **March 5th** is the date of our 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 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.

### □ **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 a **whopping \$728** from this month's raffle. A really **BIG** Thanks to **Mary Ann Mejia, Don Ivers** with help from **James Neeley** in selling the raffle tickets! We raffled off a 1/10 oz. gold coin and a gold nugget donated by **Paul Giese.**

□ **Ron Bassell** won tonight's 1/10 ounce gold coin.



**Ron Bassell showing off the winning gold coin**

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### 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

### SVDB hunt results and winners:

January 11th at Palisado Park and Golden Valley Charter School, 13 members found 285 coins. Oldest coin was found by **Dave Sturdivant**.

Only one hunt was held in January because of weather.

### 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 January finds were up from last month and included several really nice rings and other interesting things. Winner of this month's FOM show and tell finds was **lucky Betty Yerby**.

### Evidence Search Volunteers

**Lee Wiese** announced that 14 people had signed up to help local law enforcement officials in a search for evidence. These people will be contacted when their services are needed.

## MOTHER LODGE MINERAL SOCIETY

Proudly presents the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual

## Gem and Mineral Show

**March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

10 AM – 6 PM Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM Sunday

Admission \$5.00 12 & under Free w/Adult

Dinosaur Exhibits



Kids Booths

**HUGE ROCK SALE \* BEADS \* DEALERS  
\* TOOLS \* EXHIBITS  
SPECIAL FOSSIL EXHIBITS \*  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
FLUORESCENT DISPLAY  
SNACK BAR \* FREE PARKING**



### SPEAKERS ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY: For Kids & Adults

- Bob Jones on What causes color in Gems and Minerals; Russian Gem Treasures
- Dr. David Lynch on The San Andreas Fault
- Walt Wright on Petrified Wood
- Dr. Alan Schaffert on The Great Bone Wars
- Richard Wade on Dinosaurs & Fossils

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N.  
Broadway, Turlock CA  
Chairman: Bud and Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494  
[www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

### Ice Cream Cone Reward



When I was living and working in Avenel N.J. I hunted the beaches south of Sandy Hook every weekend for the entire summer. One day when the wind was really blowing, there were only a couple people on the beach. I was detecting near the dunes. I had a pocket full of clad coins when I noticed a very old woman with 2 little girls about 30 yards or so that seemed like they were having trouble. I worked my way closer and saw that the little girls were crying and the lady was very upset and in tears. I walked over to them and asked what was wrong. The lady acted scared of me.

She thought that I was there to harm them. After I calmed her down she told this story to me.

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The 2 little ones were her great granddaughters, and she was just brought them to the beach for the day. She laid her blanket down and took off her \$1,400 diamond ring and her very expensive 24" gold necklace that her departed husband bought her in 1940. She put them down on the blanket and covered them with a towel. Then she walked into the water with one of the girls, leaving the other little one at the blanket. She was in the water for a few minutes. Upon returning to the blanket the jewelry was gone..

The one girl shook of the sand from the blanket and the articles went flying. They were looking for them when I saw her from the distance. I told her what I was doing and would look for them for her. I was searching about 15 or 20 feet away from them when I turned around and they were packing up to leave. Then BINGO I got a great signal and there they were. The ring was tangled up in the necklace. I grabbed them and walked over to them and said, **ARE THESE THEM?**



She and the little girls screamed with joy and started crying even more. She offered me a nice reward but I turned it down. I told her to buy the little ones a Ice Cream Cone and don't punish the girl. Then the girls quit crying and started laughing. All 3 of them hugged me and then they started for their car and I went on my merry detecting way. That was one of my very best days in this hobby. The Ice Cream Treat for the little girls was the best reward I could have ever hoped for.

By [boobieinPa](#) - a Retired Pipe Fitter in New Brighton, PA



*Two Diamond Jims by Jim Palini*

I had been hunting the wet sand near the Fort Apache Pier on the Grand Strand of Myrtle Beach for about 15 minutes when I noticed a man walking toward me. As he drew nearer, I could see he wasn't the average beach hunter who works the dry sand, looking for freshly dropped clad coins.

He introduced himself as Jim Brouwer, a self-proclaimed "metal detecting junkie." He was carrying a well-worn Minelab Excalibur and a Sunspot scoop, and was dressed for the searing South Carolina sun. Jim lives about two hours west of Myrtle Beach and frequents the beach throughout the year in his quest for gold and rings. His passion is water hunting, and after talking to him for a few minutes I knew he meant business. I was surprised to find out that he knew Phil Alexander, owner of Common Cents Metal Detectors of Shallotte, North Carolina, one of the nicest men I've ever met and an absolutely amazing wealth of metal detecting and beach hunting knowledge. We kibitzed a little longer, and then Jim headed south while I continued hunting the wet shells.



About two hours later, I met up with Jim again and he showed me a man's gold wedding band that he had found. I had found a lady's sterling silver ring and some coins, but no gold. I wasn't complaining, however. After all, it was only my first day of vacation and beach hunting on the Grand Strand, and I had already found a ring and made a new friend!

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Our conversation turned to ring hunting, and I told Jim that I had yet to find a diamond ring. In my six years of land and beach hunting, I have collected around 30 rings, but no diamonds. I have broken the silver barrier with a 1910 Barber quarter, the old coin barrier with a 1803 large cent, and found an 1882 Vigilance badge that was featured in W&ET by Mark Parker as a Best Find for 2004. But no diamond rings.



Granted, living in central New Jersey, I don't get to hunt the beach everyday. So, I figure it's the law of averages. If you hunt a beach diligently with the right equipment day after day, low tide after low tide, sooner or later Lady Luck will reward you with a piece of gold. Little did I know how soon she was going to shine!

I would be staying in Myrtle Beach for ten days, and I had already used up two of them. Jim told me that he was staying a few miles north of me and would be hunting both low tides for the next week. I was vacationing with my wife and family and told him that I would hunt the afternoon low tide for the week. We agreed to meet the next afternoon, an hour before low tide, and hunt until dark.

Jim showed up at the appointed time, grinning from ear to ear. He had hunted the 3:00 a.m. tide and been rewarded with a beautiful lady's engagement ring and a man's platinum band! Wow, what a find! He told me that he hunted in the shallow surf just below the low-tide mark in the dark, and even though the air temperature was cool, it was well worth the effort. We hunted the low tide until dark and managed to pick up pocket change, a few earrings and two small sterling rings. Now, I was

more determined than ever to break that diamond ring barrier!

We hunted the low tides for the next couple of days with marginal luck. Myrtle Beach is a hard beach to hunt on a good day. It gets a lot of detector traffic and has its share of locals who pound it every day. It is also a beach that is fed by a constant westerly breeze that keeps it sanded in for most of the year. The locals I talked to agreed that pickings are scarce most of the year, but when a Nor'easter blows, watch out! I was told countless stories of the ring finds that occur after a big storm. These only whetted my appetite for that elusive diamond ring.

By Tuesday, the winds began to change, and the effects of Hurricane Ivan were starting to show. The winds began to pick up from the northeast, and the surf was getting rougher. There was also beach erosion- not good for the beach, but a blessing for us! By that afternoon, the low tide showed evidence of major sand movement, and black sand was beginning to show along the Strand.

By Wednesday the beach sand had lowered by at least 2', and I picked up my first man's titanium wedding band. Jim was also finding rings and costume jewelry, and we both were loading up on coins. It seemed as if Lady Luck was going our way.

A call to Phil Alexander put us on to Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, about an hour's drive north. Phil said that the beach was quite eroded there, and that he and his hunting partner had picked up some nice rings. So, the next day we made plans to head north.

Jim picked me up at my hotel around lunchtime. This gave us an hour's driving time, a lunch break, and would get us on the beach an hour before low tide. With anticipation running high, we headed north on Highway 17.

As we suited up to hunt, we could see that the beach had been cut 4-5' in some areas. We both headed north from the main pier area and immediately began retrieving coins. Jim hunted the cut sand, and I stayed low at the water's edge, hunting the wet shells. Jim hit a hotspot loaded with coins, and I then moved ahead toward the Wrightsville Holiday Inn.

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The tide was nearing its low mark, and I slowly worked the wet shells near the water's edge. Right in front of the hotel I began hitting pulltabs. The area was loaded with crushed shells, and I was starting to wish that I had put on my diving booties. Suddenly, my Minelab Sovereign sang out with a smooth ring-tone sound. I scooped out a chunk of shells and moved back up onto the beach. I dumped the scoop, and as I began scanning the shell debris I spotted a gold band and a sparkle! I leaned down and picked up a lady's gold & diamond engagement ring! Unbelievable! I had finally broken the diamond barrier!

By this time, Jim was heading toward me and motioning that he had made a find. He showed me a man's gold band and a lady's sterling silver ring. He asked me what I had found, and when I showed him the engagement ring he couldn't believe it. He took the ring and kept saying, "Golly! It's a beauty!" I was grinning from ear to ear. It is truly a magic moment when you pull your first diamond out of the sand. After that, we worked our way back to the car and finally called it a day, and what a day it had been!

The rest of my stay in Myrtle Beach was spent hunting the beach near the hotel. I picked up a man's titanium wedding band, some sterling finger and toe rings, and more clad coins. Jim joined me for the low tide hunts, and we finished out the week without any more diamonds.

All in all, it was a fantastic time! It's not often that you get to meet someone like Jim Brouwer. I had found a new friend, shared a week of great detecting, and at last achieved my goal.



Two diamonds, two Jims... two Diamond Jims!

JIM PALIANI is a retired police officer from Somerset County, New Jersey

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)

