



# Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

A Nonprofit Organization  
The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

**SVDB Newsletter**

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



## Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

### 2009 Elected Officers

**President:** John Duffy

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

**Vice President:** Peter Johnson

[esteponapi@surrewest.net](mailto:esteponapi@surrewest.net)

**Secretary:** Cyndy Johnston

[cynthia.johnston@att.net](mailto:cynthia.johnston@att.net)

**Treasurer:** Allan Woltman

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

### 2009 Volunteer Positions

**Hospitality:** Anita Massey

[amassy12346@yahoo.com](mailto:amassy12346@yahoo.com)

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

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

**Librarian:** Tom Schweppe

[coottom@aol.com](mailto:coottom@aol.com)

**Membership:** George Magann

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**Newsletter Editor:** Don Dunn

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**Newsletter Mailings:** Rick & Sue Morris

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**Raffle Table:** Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers &

James Neeley

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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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### Issue Date December 2009

#### November 5, 2009 SVDB Meeting Minutes

**President: John Duffy**

- John introduced and welcomed 6 first time visitors tonight. They were; Ed & Ruth Erickson, Buz Sheldon, Dan Fall, Bill Martin and Steve Metoxen.
- John later called for a vote for SVDB to join PLP as Lee Wiese recommended - it was approved.

**Vice President: Peter Johnson**

- Peter said he had not been hunting recently due to his job and his additional duties at a local winery.

**Secretary: Cynthia Johnston**

- Cyndy is battling the flu and unable to make tonight's meeting. We wish you a speedy recovery.

**Treasurer's Report: Allan Woltman**

- Al gave this month's treasurer's report:
 

Beginning Balance	\$4,178.92
Expenses	2,538.32
Income	1,577.24
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b><u>\$3,217.84</u></b>

**Membership Report: George Magann**

- George reported that we now have 155 members.
- **Ken Marcum** won the membership drawing.

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

- Paul announced the upcoming hunt at Bohemian Park. Pictures of this November 14th hunt are below. The weather was chilly at the start, but it quickly changed to lots of warm sunshine and shirt sleeves.

**Bohemian Park Hunters on November 14th**



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There was good voter turnout and we all expect great things for SVDB! **Please welcome our 2010 officers.**

### *Presidents Corner: John Duffy*

I have stated many times at our meetings that we are able to have the great Club that we do only because of the Volunteers that serve in so many ways. While the ego side of me is pleased to have been re-elected to serve as your President for 2010 I must say that the SVDBer in me is delighted to have had not one, but two outstanding candidates also step up for President.

It will be easy for me to “retire” next year knowing that we have well qualified candidates willing to step up. I am looking forward to a great year. We now have 3 Sundays with Day-in-the-Park hunts. Our new Vice-President, Paul Giese will surely work to see that we continue to have great Club hunts, probably starting in February. All in all I think it has been a great year and I affirm that the Best is Yet to Be in 2010.

### **SEE YOU AT THE DECEMBER 3RD 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 sharp**.

#### *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**. Just send an e-mail to SVDB with your ad – one picture is allowed. This month the web site has Lee's Vibra-Tector 720 pinpointer, Bob Meneely's Tesoro Cutlass II uMAX and Scott Kemper's Bigfoot coil for an XLT.
- You can also **bring items to our meetings & sell** them on the “**For Sale**” table up front on the left. There were a few md items at bargain prices for sale at the November meeting including a Fisher F5. Come on, get that rarely used detecting stuff out of moth balls, clean it up and put it on the table to sell to the many newbie's in our club. We also have a freebees table. Check them out.

- SVDB Club Patch** →



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

**Rill Overton** won a ladies ring, **Jake Workman** won the grand prize of a Garrett Pinpointer and **Ray Carlisle** won a gold nugget at the Bohemian Park hunt.

A great time was had by the 40 people who attended the hunt. Lots of coins (both planted & not) were found by everyone! Also many won of raffle prizes.

**Paul** announced the last hunt of 2009. **The hunt is planned for December 12th at William T. Mason Park. On Dec 1st Paul changed the last hunt to Strizek Park** because of the poor ground conditions at W.T. Mason Park. Strizek Park is in **North Highlands** just off the corner of Don Julio Blvd. and Bolivar Ave. The address is **3829 Stephen Drive**. The hunt time is **10:00 am**. Entry fee is **\$10.00** with the main prize of a nice Gold Nugget and many US and Foreign Silver coins and collectible coins including a US Proof Set. Expect a high clad coin plant and a ladies raffle. There will not be a rain delay date because it's to close to Christmas.

#### *SVDB Election 2010:*

We held our SVDB election for the 2010 Officer positions and the following people were elected:

<b>President:</b>	<b><u>John Duffy</u></b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b><u>Paul Giese</u></b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b><u>Don Dunn</u></b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b><u>Linda Woltman</u></b>

There were 8 people running for the 4 positions and it was a close race for most of the positions.

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### SVDB November, 2009 Raffle Results:

- We received \$722 from the November raffle. Thanks again to Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley for selling tonight's raffle tickets! John again added a few more silver dollars because of the large \$ amount we received. We also gave away a US 1/10 oz. gold coin raffle prize to **Micah Burress**.



- **Paul Giese** donated 5 containers of small gold nuggets that made 5 members pretty happy since the price of gold has now topped \$1,140 per troy ounce!

### Day-In-The-Park Hunts:

- There are now 3 day-in-the-park hunts per month. The hunts are on the first, second and third Sundays of each month. More hunts may be organized. Breakfast is at 8:00 am with the hunt starting at 9:00 am. The following locations are the meeting places:

- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's at Watt and Auburn
- ❑ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Hunt: Contact Vince Migliore for more information
- ❑ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Hunt: Meet at Pancake House at 21<sup>st</sup> and Broadway

### SVDB Day-In-The-Park Hunt Results and Winners:

**Oct 16th** at Land Park, 12 members found 262 coins. Oldest coin found by **Lawry Yerby** -1939 Wheat cent.

### Christmas Raffle & Pot Luck on December 3rd

We anticipate another big crowd at our annual Christmas raffle and pot luck dinner. Our Christmas meeting will be held on Thursday December 3, 2009 and starts at 7:30 pm. We will have some members raffle donations and we'll raffle off an outstanding White's MXT 300 detector with an extra coil worth over \$1,000. Thanks to **Larry at**



**Big Valley Detectors** we will also have many give away prizes from **Fisher, Garrett, and Whites**.

In addition **White's** will have a separate free raffle for members who have entered their names on the **White's discount link on the SVDB web page - Closes 11/29**.

The prizes that Whites will give away in their December Raffle are:

1. *Bullseye 2 Pinpointer* \$119.95
2. *Treasure Hunting America DVD* \$29.95
3. *Where to Find Treasure* \$19.95 (Book)
4. *Finding Gold Nuggets II* \$9.95 (Book)
5. *Whites Padded Detector Bag* \$49.95

Here are the guidelines of **what to bring** for the pot luck dinner:

**If your last name starts with the initial:**

- **A-H: Bring a main dish**
- **I-O: Bring a side dish**
- **P-Z: Bring a desert**



**SVDB** will supply drinks, plates and eating utensils. **You** supply a good appetite.

John Duffy also said that he may raffle more than one 1/10 ounce gold coin depending on the dollar amount we receive from the raffle.

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

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

- Photos of these finds are on our website under FOM. The photos are of the previous month's finds. There were 11 people that displayed their finds for last month. This month's pre-chosen show and tell FOM winner was **Linda Woltman**.

### Judge rules in Langbord's favor

by [CoinLink](#) August 2, 2009

In a stunning rebuke to the US Mint and the Treasury Department, U.S. District Judge Legrome Davis ruled that the government improperly seized 10 1933 Saint Gaudens Double Eagles (Possibly worth millions of dollars each), and denied the Langbord family due process when Mint officials decided to keep them after they were authenticated without a hearing.



**“The government’s ‘good-faith’ belief that the coins were once stolen is not sufficient,**

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**under the circumstances, to justify its decision to conduct a warrant less seizure,” Davis wrote.**

The case which has been in litigation since then revolves around one of the most fabled coins in all of US Numismatics.



By way of a brief background; The 1933 \$20 Double eagle was the last year of production in the popular Saint Gaudens series. At the same time the coins were being manufactured, President Franklin

Delano Roosevelt made [private gold ownership illegal](#) in the US, All the 1933 Double Eagles were supposed to have been destroyed.

Unknown to Mint officials, a limited number found their way out of the mints possession. Historically this is not an unusual occurrence, and dozens of documented cases exist where non regular issue coins have been removed, sold, or otherwise were created for privileged individuals or enterprising collectors with contacts within the Mint itself.

In the 1940s, when the government got wind that coin dealers were selling 1933 Double Eagles, and the Secret Service launched an investigation and eventually seized all the coins it could find.



One that evaded the government efforts was reported as part of the King Faruk collection (Egypt). The 1940s investigators concluded that all of the Double Eagles that got out of the Mint had passed through the hands of a Philadelphia jeweler,



[King Faruk & President Roosevelt in Suez Canal](#)

Israel Switt.

Though the lead Secret Service investigator pressed for charges to be brought against Switt, the Philadelphia U.S. attorney said the statute of limitations had expired. Switt was never prosecuted for the theft of the coins from the Mint.

Fast forward to 2002 when a London dealer Stephen Fenton was caught in a Secret Service sting operation trying to sell the Faruk 1933 \$20. Litigation ensued and eventually a settlement was reached that ultimately

declared this single 1933 Double Eagle as the ONLY one that could be legally owned. Interesting as part of the settlement Fenton and the US Mint shared equally in the proceeds of the **\$7 million** hammer price at the 2002 auction sale in New York City held by Sotheby's and Stacks in a jointly catalogued event.

**This was and remains the highest price paid for ANY US coin!**

Sometime after 2002, the Langbord's attorney, Barry Berke, who also was involved in the compromised litigation and auction sale of the King Faruk coin, wrote to the Mint offering to allow them to authenticate 10 coins (all 1933 double eagles) that Mrs. Langbord said were found in a sealed safety deposit box while she was looking for some pieces of her late mother's jewelry to sell.



Mint experts determined that the coins were genuine, but declined to return them to the Langbord family on the basis that the Mint claimed that the coins were the property of the US government and could not have been lawfully removed from the Mint. Since then, as expected, the courts have been involved.

An Interesting analysis of the case so far was put forward by by Alison Frankel posted on the American Law Litigation Daily. She stated" Berke's (The Langbord's attorney) canny strategy was to turn the coins over to the government, but only for purposes of authentication. Then when the government refused to give the coins back—as Berke surely knew it would—he sued, claiming the coins had been illegally seized from the Langbords. And though assistant U.S. attorneys in Philadelphia argued that the Langbord family had unclean hands, Judge Davis ruled that the Langbords' constitutional protections had been violated. Now the burden of proof lies on the government."

The judge's order calls for the government to initiate a forfeiture hearing by Sept. 28. The hearing would likely amount to a trial where the Government must establish that the Langbord coins were stolen—even though everyone connected with the coins' disappearance from the Mint and the initial investigation of the alleged theft is long dead.

Obviously this saga will continue into the winter.

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It seems that the government is going to have a difficult time “proving” that the coins were stolen from the mint.

This brings me to a few final thoughts. Not being a lawyer or being trained in the art of obfuscation it seems to me personally that the governments handling of both this and the original Fenton-Faruk settlement/sale has been both inept and tainted.

If when the Fenton-Faruk coin was confiscated the Government stood by its position that the coin was indeed illegal to own, regardless of the outcome of any continuing litigation, I would be more inclined to accept their current position with respect to the Langbord “hoard”. However it seems a bit disingenuous to strike a deal where the Mint gets half the proceeds of the sale of the Fenton-Faruk coin, and that somehow it is suddenly declared to be “Legal to Own”, and then take the exact opposite position when additional coins surface.

I realize that I may be an idiot for expecting the law to be fair and consistent, but in my opinion, the government's hands are a bit soiled and it would appear that the Mint wants to have both its cake, and eat it too.

Why the government and the US Mint have decided that this issue is of such great importance that they would spend millions trying to hold onto the Langbord's 10 1933 Double Eagles, and yet for almost 100 years they have turned a blind eye to the 1913 Nickels that have traded in the marketplace is beyond me. The presence of these coins is a Plus for the hobby and, if the mint were to strike a similar 50/50 deal with the Langbord's, what would be the downside?

### *The United States Mint at San Francisco*



The US Mint spends million of dollars each year trying to promote the sale of its products, encouraging coin collecting, attending

major shows and trying to come up with new and exciting collector programs. Wouldn't it seem to be a smart idea if the mint struck a deal to auction off one of the 1933 Saints every year for the next ten years? That might create a bit of a buzz in the numismatic community and provide a few lucky, albeit wealthy

collectors, the opportunity to own on of the most historic and fabled coins in US numismatics.

### *White's New Coinmaster Detector - \$179*

Dealers wanted White's to come out with an intermediate detector for under \$200. White's answer was the new Coinmaster - and just in time for Christmas 2009.



- Depth Reading
- Target I.D.
- 5-Range Discrimination
- Adjustable Sensitivity
- PinPoint/All-Metal Mode
- 9 inch Spider Coil
- Water resistant control box
- Low Battery Alert
- Weight 2.5 pounds



About the only thing missing is Tone ID. I believe White's is targeting the Garrett ACE 250 as the main competition. Altogether it looks like a very nice package for a very low price of \$179. It is similar to the Prizm line with the heritage of the original White's Coinmaster series.....DD

### *Butler's Forgotten Claim*

From CALIFORNIA LEGENDS

In the heart of Mother Lode country, Amador County, [California](#) was once crawling with prospectors. Near the very place where [James Marshall](#) first discovered gold at Sutter Creek, another profitable claim was being worked that may continue hold large amounts of gold buried close by.

At the foot of a deep gorge coming out of the mountains was a claim that was first owned by a group of African-American miners. The river was soon dammed so that the miners could work the smooth channel. However, there was no holding-place for the gold, so the entire party soon left – except for a man named Butler.

[California](#) Gold Mining, published by Currier & Ives,



Seeing potential in the claim, Butler soon borrowed \$600 from a man known as Uncle Pompey and opened another claim a little lower down in the bend.

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Butler's instincts were right, as after a day's work, his gold pan would be filled with gold nuggets. Some said that a day's work with a rocker would produce as much as \$50,000 in gold. As word of the rich find got out, a number of men, anxious to have a share, hunted down Butler's former partners, inducing them to sell their interests in the claim. This soon resulted in lawyers and lawsuits, all wanting a piece of the action.



Butler, a simple prospector, was overwhelmed by all the controversy and soon took sick with a fever and died. Afterwards, it was found that Butler had about \$80,000 on deposit at Mokelumne Hill and a similar amount at [Sacramento](#). However, his friends said that he was often known to bury his profits close to the site of the claim. Today, those buried caches are thought to still be hidden in Amador County.

### *Gold Coins at Bloody Springs*

As in many places of the American West, the friction between the scores of men entering [California](#) during its [Gold Rush](#) days and the [Indians](#) was often bitter. Weary of the white men continuing to encroach upon their lands, the danger to travelers was very high when entering the [California](#) from the northeast.

As the [California Trail](#) proceeded south into the [Sacramento](#) Valley on the Pit River route, wagon trains and travelers were often ambushed by the natives.

Bloody Springs, at the lower end of Spring Gulch, was the scene of numerous attacks, hence its name. Smaller groups were often wiped out.



*Engraving of California gold miners, John Andrew, mid 1800's.*

On one such occasion an entire emigrant train was massacred by the [Indians](#). Only one man survived to tell the story. Finally, he made his way to Fort Crook, telling of how the train was carrying approximately \$60,000 in \$20 gold coins. Before he made his getaway, the man witnessed the [Indians](#) competing to see who could throw the shiny disks across the Pit River Gorge. The "contest" continued until each and every one of the gold coins was either in the river or lodged into the rock walls of the gorge.

Today, an occasional gold piece is still found at Bloody Springs in Lassen County. Bloody Springs is located a few miles southeast of Pittsville above the banks of the Pit River.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or articles for this newsletter contact your editor,

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