



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
pres_svdb@att.net

Vice President: Peter Johnson
esteponapj@surewest.net

Secretary: Cyndy Johnston
cynthia.johnston@att.net

Treasurer: Allan Woltman
looking4au@hotmail.com

2009 Volunteer Positions

Hospitality: Anita Massey
amassy12346@yahoo.com

Hunt Masters: Paul Giese & Bob Morris
ppgiese4au@comcast.net

Librarian: Tom Schweppe
coottom@aol.com

Membership: George Magann
gcmagann@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Don Dunn
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Newsletter Mailings: Rick & Sue Morris
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James Neeley
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Web-Page Editor: Gary Zang
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Web-Site Editor: Lee Wiese
leewiese@excite.com

October 1, 2009 SVDB Meeting Minutes

President: John Duffy

- John introduced and welcomed first time visitor Mike Cruikshank (uses a DFX). Mike also joined SVDB tonight - Welcome Mike!

Vice President: Peter Johnson

- Peter was again busy at his favorite winery picking grapes and couldn't make tonight's meeting.

Secretary: Cynthia Johnston

- John Duffy introduced Cyndy as our new Secretary until the end of 2009. She helped me with the meeting minutes tonight. Thanks for volunteering Cyndy!

Treasurer's Report: Allan Woltman

- Al made a recommendation that the dues for 2010 be raised to \$30 for single membership and \$40 for a family. This will help pay for the rising cost of silver and gold coins and for the great prizes that we will be giving away at the planted hunts next year. Our club's insurance is also due this December for next year. The increase in dues was voted on and approved by those in attendance.

• Al gave this month's treasurer's report:	
	Beginning Balance \$3,241.31
	Expenses 526.94
	Income 1,464.55
	Ending Balance <u>\$4,178.92</u>

Membership Report: George Magann

- George reported that we now have 153+ members.
- **Al Woltman** won the membership drawing.
- We had another good crowd of **65** tonight.

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:

1. **November 14th Bohemian Park 1st Prize Garrett P/P**
2. **December 12th TBD**

- Paul and Bob said there were 39 people who signed up for the October 10th hunt at Johnston Park.



John Duffy President Cyndy Johnston Secretary Al Woltman Treasurer George Magann Membership

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October 10th Johnston Park SVDBers

- We had a great time at Johnston Park for the planted hunt on October 10th! **Betty Yerby** won the **Ace 250** metal detector; **Bob Maytum** won the **Collector Coin Set** and **David Sturdivant** won the **gold nugget** donated by **Paul Giese**. Lots of other nice token prizes were given away along with 1100+ coins that were found by everybody. Paul and Bob outdid themselves in planning and putting on this superb hunt!



Betty Yerby Won the Ace 250 David Sturdivant Won the Nugget

- Paul sent me an email saying the **November 14th** hunt (\$10) is set for **Bohemian Park at 9 am**. The address is 3099 Yellowstone Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821. Take Bus 80 to Fulton Ave. south. Turn right on Michelle Dr. and then left on Wright Street to Yellowstone. Bob will have maps available at the November 6th meeting. We have a rain delay date of Nov. 21st for the same time and location. The Top Prize is an outstanding **Garrett Pro Pointer** (\$150 list) plus there will be lots of planted coins and tokens for Silver and Collector coins along with a Gold **Nugget** donated by **Paul Giese**. We are also holding a ladies raffle to win a nice Sterling Silver **Ring** donated by **Bob Morris**. [Yahoo Map Link to Bohemian Park](#)

Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

Tom reported that he had several returns to the library tonight and thanked those who brought them back. He said the library is in terrific shape, but we would always accept new books, magazines and DVD additions.

SEE YOU AT THE NOVEMBER 5th 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. Not much on the web site **this month**. Lee's Vibra-Tector 720 pinpointer is the only item up for sale.
- 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 October meeting including a good pinpointer that Rick gave away for only \$20. 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.**

SVDB October, 2009 Raffle Results:

- We received **\$766** from the October 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 **Mark Hill**.

*Mark Hill & Gold Coin Plus
5 Silver Coins He Won!
It's Noose Time*



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Cecelia Vela won the raffle prize of a gold nugget donated by **Paul Giese**.

Cecelia Vela and Gold Nugget



Day-In-The-Park Hunts:

• There are two day-in-the-park hunts per month. The hunts are on the first Sunday and the third Sunday 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:

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

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

Sep 6th at Community Park Rancho Cord., 3 members found 66 coins. Oldest coin found by **James Neely**.

Sep 20th at Chavez Park, 9 members found 307 coins. Oldest coin found by **John Duffy**.

Election Time 2010

There will be a vote among SVDB members at the November 5th meeting for the positions listed below. There is still time to submit your name to Don Dunn at dadunn02@yahoo.com if you are interested in any of these positions. We need people who can "make a difference" to help SVDB become an even greater organization. We will also vote on joining PLP2.ORG

1. **President**
2. **Vice President**
3. **Secretary**
4. **Treasurer**



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 **Scott Kemper**.

Huge hoard of Anglo-Saxon treasure found in UK



AP – Terry Herbert at Birmingham Museum, Birmingham, England, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009, with a small portion of the treasure

By RAPHAEL G. SATTER, Associated Press Writer
Associated Press Writer – Thu Sep 24, 2009



LONDON –

It's an unprecedented find that could revolutionize ideas about medieval England's Germanic rulers: **An amateur treasure-hunter searching a farmer's field with a metal detector unearthed a huge collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver artifacts.**

The discovery sent a thrill through Britain's archaeological community, which said Thursday that it offers new insight into the world of the Anglo-Saxons,

who ruled England from the fifth century until the 1066 Norman invasion and whose cultural influence is still felt throughout the English-speaking world.

"This is just a fantastic find completely out of the blue," Roger Bland, who managed the cache's excavation, told The Associated Press. **"It will make us rethink the Dark Ages."**

The treasure trove includes intricately designed helmet crests embossed with a frieze of running animals, enamel-studded sword fittings and a checkerboard piece inlaid with garnets and gold.

One gold band bore a biblical inscription in Latin calling on God to drive away the bearer's enemies.

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The Anglo-Saxons were a group of Germanic tribes who invaded England starting in the wake of the collapse of the Roman Empire. Their artisans made striking objects out of gold and enamel and their language, Old English, is a precursor of modern English.

The cache of gold and silver pieces was discovered in what was once Mercia, one of five main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and is thought to **date to between 675 and 725 AD.**

For Terry Herbert, the unemployed metal-detecting enthusiast who made the discovery on July 5 while scouring a friend's farm in the western region of Staffordshire, it was "more fun than winning the lottery."

The 55-year-old spent five days searching the field alone before he realized he needed help and notified authorities. Professional archaeologists then took over the find.

"I was going to bed and in my sleep I was seeing gold items," Herbert said of the experience.

The gold alone in the collection **weighs 11 pounds** and suggests

that early medieval England was a far wealthier place than previously believed, according to Leslie Webster, the former curator of Anglo-Saxon archaeology at the British Museum. "We also cannot say who the original, or the final, owners were, who took it from them, why they buried it or when? It will be debated for decades."

She said the crosses and other religious artifacts mixed in with the military items might shed new light on the relationship between Christianity and warfare among the Anglo-Saxons — in particular a large cross she said may have been carried into battle.

The hoard was officially declared treasure by a coroner on Thursday, which means it will be valued by experts and offered up for sale to a museum in Britain.

Proceeds will be split 50-50 between Herbert and his farmer friend, who has not been identified. **The find's exact location is being kept secret to deter looters.**

Bland said he could not give a precise figure for the value of the collection, but said the **farmer and Terry Herbert** could each be **in line for a "7-figure sum."**

Kevin Leahy, the archaeologist who catalogued the find, said the stash includes dozens of pommel caps — decorative elements attached to the



knobs of swords — and appeared to be war loot. He noted that "Beowulf," the Anglo-Saxon epic poem, contains a reference to warriors stripping the pommels of their enemies' weapons as mementoes.

"It looks like a collection of trophies, but it is impossible to say if the hoard was the spoils from a single battle or a long and highly successful military career," he said.

Experts said they've so far examined a total of 1,345 items. But they've also recovered 56 pieces of earth that X-ray analysis suggests contain more artifacts — meaning the total could raise to about 1,500.

The craftsmanship was some of the highest-quality ever seen in finds of this kind, Leahy said, and many British archaeologists clearly shared his enthusiasm.

Bland, who has documented discoveries across Britain, called it "completely unique." Martin Welch, a specialist in Anglo-Saxon archaeology at University College London, said **no one had found "anything like this in our country before."**

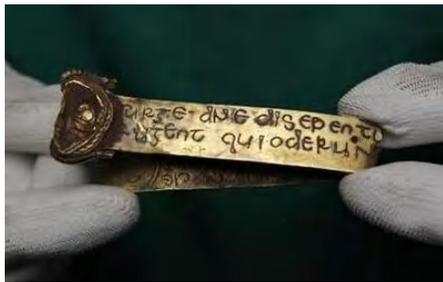
Herbert said one expert likened his discovery to finding Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamen's tomb, adding: "I just flushed all over when he said that. The hairs on the back of my neck stood up."



The collection is in storage at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, where some of the items are to go on display starting Friday October 2, 2009.

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It's unclear how the treasure ended up in the field, although archaeologists suggested **the gold** may have been **buried to hide it from roving enemies, a common practice at the time.** The site's location is unusual as well — Anglo-Saxon remains have tended to cluster in the country's south and east, while the so-called "Staffordshire hoard" was found in the west.



In the meantime, archaeologists say they're likely to be busy for years puzzling out the meaning of some of the collection's more unusual pieces — like five

enigmatic gold snakes or a strip of gold bearing a crudely written and Biblical inscription in Latin.

"Rise up, O Lord, and may thy enemies be dispersed and those who hate thee be driven from thy face," reads the inscription, believed to be from the Book of Numbers in the Bible.

Also of interest is the largest of the crosses, which experts say may have been an altar or processional piece. It had been folded, possibly to make it fit into a small space prior to burial, and the apparent lack of respect shown to such a Christian symbol may point to the hoard being buried by pagans.

"The things that we can't identify are the ones that are going to teach us something new," Leahy said.

For England, a country at the edge of Europe whose history owes an enormous debt to the Anglo-Saxons, **the find has the potential to become one of its top national treasures, according to Webster.**

Caroline Barton, assistant treasure registrar at the British Museum, said objects over 300 years old and made up of more than 10 percent precious metal are only offered for sale to accredited museums in Britain, so the collection will not be leaving the country.

Rick's SVDB T-Shirts

Rick Costello still has a few T-Shirts printed with the SVDB logo for sale. Rick will take additional orders at the November meeting. The \$18 price tag includes a portion of the money going to SVDB.



Beach Hunting Tips by Lee Wiese

After the October meeting Lee Wiese gave an informative talk on **Metal Detecting Saltwater Beaches.** He used visual aids and had several handouts in his presentation.



Lee said that hunting saltwater beaches can be both rewarding and fun if you take the time to study the **beach profile.** This will help you in determining the most likely places to hunt for those *lost treasures.*

Lee also talked about the various metal detectors to use for the different types of beach hunting.

Lee gave a great presentation (as usual) and those in attendance got many tips for improving their salt water beach hunting skills. Thanks Lee!

Supporters of SVDB

- **Larry Manger at Big Valley Metal Detectors (BVMD)** donated the latest style **Lesche knife** used for digging metal detecting finds to our club. It was auctioned at October meeting & won by George Magann. Thanks Larry!

- We now have four SVDB web sponsors that are listed below and on our web site. Please show your support by giving them your metal detecting business.

SVDB Website Sponsors



2009 Christmas (Dec 3rd) Raffle

- SVDB received the White's MXT 300 from **Larry** at BVMD with the 12" and 10"X6" dd coils for the Christmas raffle. We received it at **1/2 list price** thanks to **Jimmy (Sierra) Normandi and White's.** See the MXT 300 at the Nov 5th meeting when we will start selling tickets for our Christmas raffle.



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The New California Gold Rush

Bernie has been gold prospecting for the past 25 years. He lives in his caravan parked on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.



Bernie says that since the economic crisis more people have come to the river looking for gold.

Within an hour of downtown Los Angeles, people are seeking that one sure commodity.

"I'm here to find gold," said Kevin Brown. "I'm a studio lighting technician in Hollywood, between the writers strike that happened last year, and the Screen Actors Guild, whatever they want to call it.



Lately I've had to turn to having to do it for extra cash."

Geologists estimate that during the gold rush of 1849 **in California, about 80 percent of the gold was never found.** Today with the price of gold soaring and the economy falling, the idea of panning,

digging or diving for precious metal has become serious business.



"There are definitely gold nuggets down in the bottom here," Brown said. "Just a matter of getting 30 feet down lower than any old timer or modern prospector has done before."

Sneak Preview of New Gold Bug Detector- \$549

The Gold Bug is being reintroduced as new and improved for a November 2009 release. The Gold Bug is a 19 kHz detector that is light in weight and offers both all metal and discriminate modes. Unlike the original Gold Bug the new Gold Bug has more versatility due to the adjustable discriminate mode. This will make it useful for jewelry, relic, and even coin detecting.



Finding "Time" To Beach Detect

I was detecting on a beach and an old fellow walked up to me and said **"Hey if you find my watch I'd really appreciate it if you'd give it back to me.....It's easy to identify because my name is on it"**



I said "sure no problem...what's your name"?

And then with a *twinkle* in his eye he said, "Rolex"

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