



Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

A Nonprofit Organization

The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

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

Issue Date February 2010

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

2010 Elected Officers

President: John Duffy

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

Vice President: Paul Giese

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

Secretary: Don Dunn

[dadunn02 \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:dadunn02@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Linda Woltman

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

2010 Volunteer Positions

Hospitality: Anita Massey

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

Hunt Master: Paul Giese

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

Librarian: Tom Schweppe

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

Membership: George Magann

[gcmagann \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:gcmagann@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Don Dunn

[dadunn02 \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:dadunn02@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Mailings: Rick & Sue Morris

[suezeeq \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:suezeeq@gmail.com)

[eagleric1977 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:eagleric1977@gmail.com)

Raffle Table: Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley

[nightdustr \(at\) aol.com](mailto:nightdustr@aol.com)

Web-Site Editor: Vince Migliore

[tabcity \(at\) aol.com](mailto:tabcity@aol.com)

2010 Up Front Gang



January 7, 2010 SVDB Meeting Minutes

President: John Duffy

• John welcomed 1st time visitors Colleen & Jeff Pedrosa, Wayne & Tyler, Brent Bumbola and Dan Cox to our SVDB meeting.

• He then told us that Lee Wiese is stepping down from all of his many volunteer duties. John then thanked both Lee and Al for the outstanding contributions they have made in the past.

• Unfortunately, John then told a blond joke.

Vice President: Paul Giese

• Paul told us background information on his partnership in a Foresthill mine that may soon be sold.

• He also wanted to know if there was any interest in a resource list of people with certain skills. See Page 6

Secretary: Don Dunn

• Don thanked Vince Migliore, Lee Wiese and John Duffy for the articles they have submitted for our newsletter. Don encouraged others to submit articles that would also be published in the newsletter.

• He then explained how to enter the White's raffle from the SVDB Specials link on our home page.

• Don also wanted to know if anyone was interested in taking over the management of our web site since Lee is stepping down from these duties. This is a fairly straight forward job, but right now it's a **critical need!**

Treasurer's Report: Linda/Allan Woltman

• Al substituted for his wife Linda (in school) and gave this month's treasurer's report:

Beginning Balance \$4,042.58

Expenses 2,011.73

Income 2,556.00

Ending Balance \$4,596.85

• Al also said he would soon make a \$1,384 payment for the club's 2010 insurance.

Membership Report: George Magann

• Al Woltman also substituted for George and said we now have 165 members. **Bob Woods** won the membership drawing.

• There were 62 people here tonight. Not bad considering our meeting was competing with the BCS championship game between Alabama and Texas.

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Hunt Masters Report: *Paul Giese*

• **Paul Giese** announced the first hunt of 2010. The hunt is planned for **January 16, 2010 at 10 am in Strizek Park**. A rain delay date is January 23rd at the same location and time. There are nearly 50 sign ups. *Pictures of this completed hunt are located on page 4*

• Paul said he saw **Bob Maytum** recently and Bob is recovering from major rotator cuff shoulder surgery. He will not be able to swing a detector nor strum his guitar for several months. However, Bob remains fleet on his feet and still sings like a bird.



Librarian Report: *Tom Schweppe*

• **James Neeley** was sitting in for Tom (cruising) and reported that we had several new magazine donations tonight.

January, 2010 Raffle Results:

• We received \$730 from the January raffle. Thanks to Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley for selling tonight's raffle tickets!

Carol Lauderville

won tonight's 1/10 ounce gold coin.



White's Raffle Winners for February Meeting

• **Jimmy Sierra Jr.** wanted to thank those members who have supported Whites by giving raffle prizes to Whites owners. Winners for the SVDB/Whites Raffle are listed below. Items will be presented by James McClendon from Baysavers (SVDB sponsor) at the February 4th SVDB Meeting. Thanks go to James, Whites and to Jimmy Sierra for these prizes.



Prize - Book Unless Listed	Value	Winner
<i>Urban Treasure Hunter</i>	\$18.95	Jake Workman
<i>Grass Valley Mining Sites</i>	\$7.95	Carol Lauderville
<i>Grass Valley Mining Sites</i>	\$7.95	Jim Milbradt
<i>Treasure Hunting America DVD</i>	\$29.95	David Warner
<i>Where to Find Treasure</i>	\$19.95	Dan Salter
<i>Coolies, Kanakas-Gold Rush Yrs</i>	\$14.95	James Neeley
<i>Finding Gold Nuggets</i>	\$9.95	Steve Metoxen

SEE YOU AT THE FEBRUARY 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** sharp.

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

Dec 6th at Gibbons Park, 4 members found 63 coins. Oldest coin was a 1964 penny found by **Kyle Miles**.

Dec 18th at Fremont Park, 5 members found 156 coins. Oldest coin was a 1960 Lincoln penny found by **Frank Tester**.

Old Business:

• You can also **bring items to our meetings** & sell them on the **"For Sale"** table up front on the left. So bring your for sale "stuff" to the next meeting and find willing buyers. We also have a freebees table. Check them out.

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 are organized using "Meetup". 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
- 2nd Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's at Sunrise and Zinfandel Drive (2474 Sunrise Blvd)
- 3rd Sunday Hunt: Meet at Pancake House at 21st and Broadway

SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):

• There were 8 people that displayed their finds for last month. Some people also showed all of their important 2009 finds. *John Felt* displayed an impressive amount of silver coins that he found in a Sacramento park last year (used an e-Trac). This month's show & tell FOM winner was **Dale Metoxen**.

New Business:

• **Vince Migliore** talked at the Jan meeting about a web page that club members could communicate to each other concerning Sunday hunts and other future hunts. Thanks to Vince we now have this capability. The program handling this information is called

"Meetup". You can access this new web site for hunts at: <http://www.meetup.com/On-the-Spot-Metal-Detecting/>

There are now over 20 SVDB members that have signed up.

You don't have to join to see it, **just take a look**.

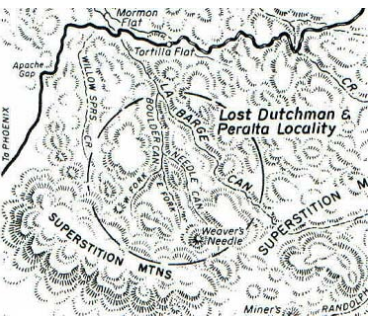


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The Lost Dutchman Mine

The Lost Dutchman Mine has crazed the minds of prospectors and treasure seekers for years. It is called the Lost Dutchman Mine and is said to be located in the **Superstition Mountains of Arizona**.

The Superstition Mountains (their name inspired by Pima Indian legends) have been a source of mystery and legend since early times. The area is dotted with ancient cliff dwellings and caves, many showing signs of former habitation.



It is not certain who these people were; some believe they were Salado or Hohokam Indians who populated this part of

Arizona several centuries ago. Later, Pimas and "Apaches" (some of whom may have been Yavapais) occupied parts of the region. However, the name "Apache" came to be closely associated with the Superstitions, and the mountains became an Apache stronghold in the 1800s.

During the 1840s, the Peralta family of northern Mexico supposedly developed rich gold mine(s) in the Superstition Mountains. In 1848, during a routine expedition to carry gold back to Mexico, the large party was ambushed by Apaches.



All were killed except for a few Peralta family members who escaped. According to the legend, the Apaches buried and hid the gold and covered up the mine. This area is known today as the Massacre Grounds.

A number of other people, in addition to the Peralta family, had knowledge of the mine's location. Numerous maps have surfaced over the years, only to become lost or misplaced when interested parties pressed for facts. Men who claimed to have found the Peralta mine were unable to return to it, or some disaster occurred just before they could file a claim, all adding to the lore of a "lost mine."

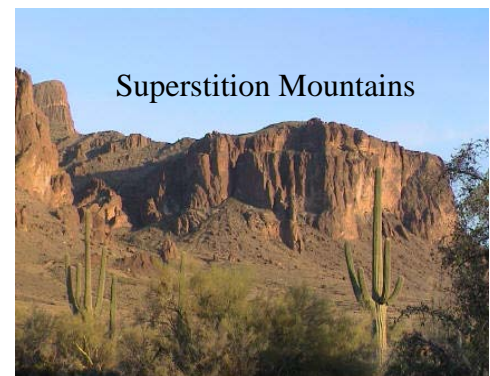


The Lost Dutchman Mine area

In the 1870s, Jacob Waltz, "the Dutchman" (actually a native of Germany), was said to have located the mine through the aid of a Peralta descendant. Waltz and his partner, Jacob Weiser, worked the mine and allegedly hid one or more caches of gold in the Superstitions. Most stories place the gold in the vicinity of Weaver's Needle, a well known landmark. Weiser was killed by Apaches or, according to some, by Waltz himself. There are records of Waltz selling or transporting gold which are estimated to total \$254,000. The records do not account for any gold that was sold locally or given to family or friends.

Jacob Waltz moved to Phoenix and died in 1891, at the age of 83. \$15,000 of gold was found under his bed after he died. He supposedly described the mine's location to Julia Thomas, a neighbor who took care of him prior to his death. Neither she nor dozens of other seekers in the years that followed were able to find the "Lost Dutchman's Mine." Subsequent searchers have sometimes met with foul play or even death, contributing to the superstition and legend that surround these mountains.

In 1916, two miners found an old Spanish saddle bag filled with \$16,000 worth of smelted gold near the site of the Peralta Massacre. This evidence, along with the stories and records of gold transport issued by Waltz, confirms the legend of the Lost Dutchman.



Superstition Mountains

Now Do You Believe There's Gold in the Desert?

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Strizek Park (Foggy) Hunt on 1/16/2010



DETECTING THE SWIFTSORE by VP Paul Giese

(Article was originally written for CA Mining Journal)

The six of us met in Foresthill, CA on November 16, 2009. The weather was crisp but not too cold. We had planned this trip on short notice and were all eager for the adventure ahead. Five were going to metal detect one of the high grade stopes discovered during a gravel channel underground sampling program at the Swiftshore Mine. The mine is located near the old Gold Rush town of Michigan Bluff, not too far from Foresthill in Placer County. I am among the owners of the property and have been since 1988. The second period tertiary gravel channel gut averages about 115 feet wide and much of its gold was robbed from the 4 channels it intersected and eroded including the white and blue channels.

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The gravels are very well cemented and it takes work to chip out even small gravel clumps.

Richard, Mike, Jerry, Tom, and Randy were excited to detect this area of the workings as the mine has a history of sizable nuggets being produced and the sampling program results showed this would be a good place to start. The Swiftshore was purchased by Mr. Bickford from the original locators in the 1870's and then worked by him for 42 years. Following him were his sons and other family members who survived the depression partially from mining the property. There are quite a few stopes exposing much virgin gravels in which to hunt but due to time constraints we decided to stay in one area. It is quite time consuming to detect every square foot of gravels on both ribs and backs. My interest was to watch and learn from the "experts". Our hunt time was limited to about 4 hours as I had other commitments.

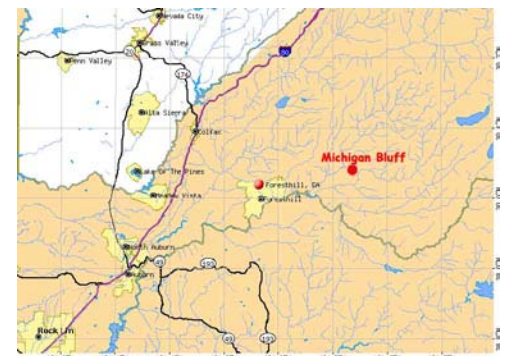
Enough rain had fallen during the previous week to wet down the dirt access road and eliminated any dust and we arrived at the mine with no incidents. It didn't take long for the crew to get prepared. Muck boots, hard hats, lamps, detectors, catch tarps and tools were readied for the work ahead.

The tunnel is in very good condition but in places the muck is a bit above ankle depth. We proceeded in silence the first 440 feet through solid shale bedrock until we arrived at the channel intersect. The five were so impressed with the view of the channel and how the gravel and bedrock looked they couldn't help but get excited.

Proceeding up the tunnel the gravels and bedrock show we were following along the right hand edge of the haulage tunnel

they were mostly in bedrock the channel where the rim rises and the main gut is to our left. When the early miners drove with the gravels exposed at the upper edge. We passed a couple of drifts going into the gut but the entrances are gobbled and had been mapped by a mining engineer but not sampled.

The distance to the end of the workings from the intersect point is about 800 feet.



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From 1975 to 1980 the mine was leased to a small operator who was only producing about 2 yards per day and they had chosen to raise 6 feet and drift to the left across the channel.

A couple of years ago I had placed an aluminum ladder for ease to access the raise and up we all went. The ground is heavily mineralized and Pulse Induction machines seem to be the only platform that can handle this. Unfortunately these sensitive machines also interfere with each other when too close,

sometimes within 30 to 40 feet. One of the hunters was using a VLF detector with no success as hot rocks and iron silicates were giving many false signals.



The channel was fairly wide at this point but there were 2 ballrooms so everyone was able to spread far enough apart without trouble and they went to work. Jerry was the first to find a nugget patch and carefully laying out a tarp he and Mike decided to work together to chip out the nuggets from this hard conglomerate. I don't own a PI machine. I learned PI's don't necessarily need the coil movement like my VLF does and you can get a pretty good pinpoint with the leading edge of the coil. Jerry started to whack at the hard ground with a rock pick making progress but very little with each swing. Mike switched with him and changed to a rock chisel.

Every time some small amount of gravel would drop onto the tarp he would recheck the target. At one of those times the mellow sound was silent so he knew it was now on the tarp. The floor is a poor place to detect here as the mine rail and other tramp iron masks all targets. We lifted the tarp to get it away from this interference and re-detected the gravel lumps. After the process of breaking the target lump into smaller pieces it turned out to be a ½ DWT nugget which had been about 4 inches in. Grins were now in order and a shout went out to the others who quickly came over to view the treasure. Jerry and Mike proceeded to work this area and got a very nice hit about 6 inches to the left of the first find. Jerry said it was either 2 nuggets close together or a large one so they started to chop out the target.

Both of them needed a break so I volunteered to work at it. After 3 inches of hard won depth I got lucky and was able to pop out a fist sized chunk. I picked up the chunk, waved it over the coil and the detector sounded the sweet tone. I looked over the piece carefully, not wanting to break up such a nice specimen. Lo and behold, on the surface were 3 nice small nuggies sticking out (the largest perhaps ½ DWT) and after showing the find to the others they graciously gave it to me as a gift. Over the course of the next 2 hours Mike and Jerry found 6 more very nice Gold nuggets, from about 4 grain to 1.1 gram.. Even though there were still small nugget targets in the wall they decided to hunt for the elephants. Jerry moved about 30 feet to his right on the same side of the drift and got a very strong signal. I was down the drift and when he took off his headphones to let us hear his signal it was way off the charts. He had found a small crevice in the bedrock which was signaling like crazy. Jerry said it was a good hit and not far in. I've never seen anyone whip out digging tools that fast and he was chiseling his best. The target had fallen out and was somewhere on the ledge just below. It didn't take long to re-find the nugget. It turned out to be a 3 ½ DWT piece worn very smooth but nice and thick.

Not to be outdone, Richard and Tom were hard at it. Richard had started detecting at the end of the drift near where the rim starts to rise. He found a very nice large flake with character that later weighed 29 grains in the overhead almost 3 feet above bedrock. He was very excited finding this 1.21 DWT piece which was his first nugget find using his new machine. Richard was puzzled by larger "hot" rocks until he realized his mistake. He must have spent a half hour trying to chisel out a large cobble rock before Mike clued him in it was not a good target. He had convinced himself there was a huge nugget behind this rock. Tom was skunked until he detected on top of bedrock at the edge of a large boulder. He found 2 small pickers maybe about 4 grain each but was delighted with them. Randy was the one trying to use his VLF in these tough conditions and was not successful, but he was appreciative of the opportunity and the experience detecting this type of ground.

We had been detecting for a little over 3 hours and we were all getting tired. We decided to work our way back to the portal. We made it back to daylight and began sharing trip results.

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Nugget cleaning session

Paul Giese will be hosting a *Nugget* cleaning session for club and non-club members prior to the February 4th monthly meeting. Interested participants need to be at the **meeting hall at 6:30 pm**. The nuggets (or fines) must be in a sealable plastic container such as a screw on lid medicine or prescription bottle. Paul will supply his magic formula, give out secret tricks of Gold Nugget cleaning and answer questions about how to get that professional look to your gold. Amalgamated gold which has been acid or heat treated can also be brought back to bright color using this method. There is a limit of 1 ounce AU per person as the supplies are limited. Paul can be reached at *nine one six 334-6014*.



Paul will also be bringing a work up sheet to gather a **club resource reference listing** for anyone interested in having a club talent & interest pool. We have a great group of talented & interesting people in our club so perhaps we can help each other and share our talents.

Late Breaking SVDB News

- **Reminder from George** - We still have 76 members who have **not** paid their 2010 dues. You need to pay your SVDB dues to participate in 2010 hunts.
- **Paul** is again having problems with people who pay, but don't show up or cancel prior to the hunt.



Late Breaking SVDB News (continued)

- **Vince Migliore** has stepped up to volunteer & take over **all** the web site duties. **Be sure to thank Vince!**
- **John Duffy** had knee replacement surgery on Jan 21st and his recovery is going great.
- **Paul** is pursuing other places for the annual hunt besides the Wilton Gun Club. Paul is looking into Gibson Ranch as an alternative. Any Suggestions? A May/June date is also a possibility-less chance of rain
- **We will also have a discussion** at our Feb meeting concerning prizes for our annual hunt. Last year we had a detector and 3 gold coins as major prizes. What prizes do you want for the annual/other planted hunts?



I found the best way to save money is,

Don't Spend It!

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or articles to submit contact your editor, *Don Dunn*.

