



A Nonprofit Organization

The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

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

Issue Date September 2010

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

2010 Elected Officers

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Treasurer: Linda Woltman
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2010 Volunteer Positions

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August 5, 2010 SVDB Meeting Minutes

President: John Duffy

• John welcomed new visitors Miguel Hernandez, Cecil Lane, Joe Nardella, Dave Riggs, Dennis Gramith, Bill Hendricks, Roger McElroy, Bobby Wayne Vaughn and Selena Gold to our SVDB meeting. This was our biggest group of 1st time visitors we have ever had! We all welcome you to SVDB.

• John introduced Chuck Clark who told of his adventure into the Swiftshore mine.

• John later auctioned off Bill Kaufman’s nice wooden metal detector rack after Bill demonstrated how easy it was to make. Bill gave a great demo! Photo on page 3.

Vice President: Paul Giese

• Paul told us that he had to change the September hunt date from the 11th to the 18th because of his upcoming surgery. He will need help with planting coins and marking the field for this hunt.

• Paul wrote up Chuck Clark’s Swiftshore mine adventure on page 3 of this newsletter.

Secretary: Don Dunn

• Don described all the recent lost articles requests (5) that he received on our website in the last two days. It seems that after reading Lee Weise’s great article in the Sac Bee about returning a lost ring (page 3 of this newsletter) several people have requested we also help them find: 2 lost gold rings, a silver necklace with ½ caret diamond, a gold earring and last, but not least a lost septic tank. See Cyndy’s septic tank story on page 2.

• He reminded members that Jim Milbradt is the coordinator of the recovery team for lost articles. However, if you hear of a lost item and you are available, please go for it and help find the lost item.

• Don asked a few members for help in mentoring 3 new people into metal detecting. Vince Migliore and Dale Metoxen volunteered to help. Thanks guys!

Treasurer’s Report: Linda Woltman

• Linda gave this month's treasurer’s report:	
Beginning Balance	\$4,074
Expenses	2,281
Income	1,090
Ending Balance	\$2,883

Membership Report: George Magann

- George was on vacation and no one took his place.
- Lee Wiese won the membership drawing.
- We had 70 people at tonight’s meeting.



Charles Long & George Miskovsky search for lost septic tank with detectors, shovels & knees

September 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

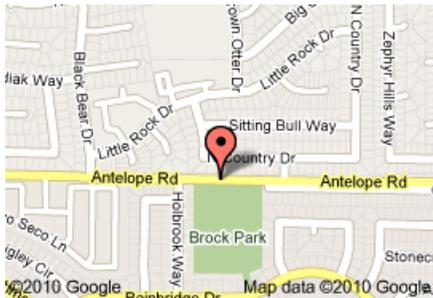
Calendar Legend

SVDB Monthly Meetings ■

SVDB Brock Park Hunt ■

Hunt Masters Report: Paul Giese

• The next planted hunt will be at Brock Park on Antelope Rd. between Watt Ave. and Walerga Rd. The hunt is scheduled for September 18th. Start time is 9:00 am. The usual rules are: a coil not bigger than 12", headphones are required and **NO** digging or probing tools are allowed.



However, electronic probes are allowed. There will be a \$10 hunt fee - pay at the Sept meeting. There will also be a ladies raffle prize of a very nice Sterling Silver necklace. Paul will again donate a gold nugget for this hunt. He will be planting heavily with for both clad and token prizes. Paul visited Brock Park in August and they have kept it watered sufficiently to promote a good field.

Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

• Tom reported that the library was in great shape. Please return library books and videos that are on loan.

July 2010 Raffle Results:

• We received \$782 from the July raffle. Thanks again to **Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley** for selling tonight's raffle tickets!

• **Gay Dearing** won tonight's 1/10 ounce Gold American Eagle coin. Gay's granddaughter, **Makayla Barone** (on the left) also won 2 silver dollars.



See you at the September 2nd Meeting

• SVDB Meetings are held at the old SMUD Building in North Highlands. It's located at the intersection of SMUD Drive and Don Julio Blvd. The meeting is held in a large room facing Elkhorn on the **first Thursday** of each **month** and starts at **7:30 pm**. We meet close to where all the cars are parked in the SMUD parking lot near Elkhorn Blvd.

Day-In-The-Park Hunts:

• There are 3 day-in-the park hunts per month. The hunts are on the first, second and third Sundays of each month. Sunday breakfast is at 8:00 am with the hunt starting at 9:00 am. More hunts are organized using "**Meetup**". The meeting places for the Sunday hunts are:

- 1st Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's Watt and Auburn
- 2nd Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's at Sunrise and Zinfandel Drive (2474 Sunrise Blvd)
- 3rd Sunday Hunt: Meet Pancake House at 21st & Broadway

Day-In-The-Park Hunt Results and Oldest Coin Winners:

July 4th at CSUS. 12 members found 313 coins. Oldest coin - 1954 nickel by **Kris Wilson**.

July 11th at J. Springview Park. 11 members found 157 coins. Oldest coin - 1952 penny by **R.L. Byers**

July 18th at Paradise Beach. 6 members found 132 coins. Oldest coins - 1959 pennies by **Chuck Clark** and **Kris Wilson**.

SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):

• Eleven members brought their great finds to the July 2010 meeting. James Neeley found a nice class ring and has located the owner who just moved back to the East Coast. James will give it to her when she returns to Sacramento in the fall. **FOM** winner was **Bob Woods**.

Anybody Find a Lost Septic Tank? By Cyndy Johnson

They dug and dug and dug, and probed and probed and probed, and still the septic tank eluded them. Charley and George put in over 5 hours at Gayle's home. Gayle had a map of sorts, showing where the septic tank was supposed to be but, unfortunately they were unable to find it. They did a yeoman's job, digging several holes. One hole was the exact depth of Charley's inseam (fortunately not a millimeter deeper!). They reluctantly gave up at the end of the day; unhappy at not being able to help Gayle locate her tank, but they definitely showed the grit and determination that our club is known for.



Charley, George & Gayle



Chuck's Swiftshore Mine Adventure

By Paul Giese



At the August SVDB meeting, *Chuck Clark* shared the true story of an adventure he enjoyed at the Swiftshore Mine in Placer County. The Swiftshore Mine was first worked in the 1860's and for 140 years had been family owned. Chuck was one of the crew of

volunteers helping a mining engineer map the main tunnels and assisted in the taking of bedrock elevations to determine any unworked main channel deposits still available to mine which would be accessible using the existing haulage. This was not an easy or quick effort. The tunnels were measured for footage and with each slight direction change the compass coordinates would be plotted on a graph. The bedrock levels were measured on each side of the drifting every 5 feet to determine where the main gut could be located. Much of the day was dedicated to this laborious work and when the main tunnel end was reached about 1300 feet into the mountain Chuck decided to rest. He looked very closely at the gravel at the ending stope which revealed a very nice nugget wedged under some gravel just above the bedrock contact. He had to chip away gravel to free the nugget and the more cemented gravel he removed the larger the gold nugget. What he had found was a nugget weighing 4.9 dwt or almost 1/4 ounce. Needless to say this made his trip. Thanks Chuck for sharing the tale and bringing the nugget to the meeting so we could see it for ourselves.



Building a Wooden Metal Detector Wall Rack



John Duffy is holding the wooden metal detector rack that *Bill Kaufman* built. Bill is explaining how to build this rack at the August meeting.

There are instructions on how to build this rack on page 4 of the July, 2010 SVDB newsletter.

Bill gave the completed rack and an uncompleted board with rack markings to SVDB and we auctioned them off – Thanks Bill!

Spencer Quan Getting Back Lost Ring from Lee Wiese



Spencer is holding his found ring & a picture of his ring and his wife's ring lying on a bed of roses taken at their wedding

Jim Hallett sent Lee a Craigslist ad about a lost Tungsten wedding ring in Santa Cruz on the Saturday before the SVDB Beach outing. Lee found the ring near the surf when our club was in Santa Cruz on July 19th. Lee contacted Spencer by using Craigslist and found out that he lived in South Sacramento and had been to Santa Cruz for the weekend. He lost the ring in the surf while playing with one of his children. Spencer was extremely happy that Lee not only found the ring, but also returned it to him within a few days after he lost it. *Nice Job Lee!*

Map Site Metal Detecting

By Vince Migliore



The Internet is changing the way hobbyists experience metal detecting. One of the biggest changes is in the way we select places to hunt.

In the old method we'd drag out a battered street map and look for a school or park that we haven't worked lately. The new method involves sitting at the computer and viewing aerial photos, then zooming in to get a close-up look at the potential site. Many of these on line mapping sites allow you to see street level pictures that people have uploaded, so you can view the terrain and the landscape even before you go there. That way you can tell if the layout is rocky, grassy, hilly, or wooded, and you can assess how good it may be for metal detecting. This aerial view technique is handy for detectorists, as it allows you to spot vacant lots, hiking trails, access points, and property lines. In Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com/>), all the parks show up in bright green.

Terraserver (<http://www.terraserver.com/>) and National Geographic (<http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/>) are similar to Google Maps, but they also provide an oblique, or "birds-eye," view that gives you more of a sense of dimension than the standard satellite image.



Another excellent resource is Google Earth. It's a free download program (<http://earth.google.com/>), not a web site, so you have to install it on your computer.

Once installed you can fly to anywhere in the world and zoom in on interesting features. This is especially productive in urban areas, since they have added what are called "Street View" images. Google sent vans equipped with 360-degree cameras to major urban areas, taking photos every few yards. You can see these images by selecting the Street View overlay, then clicking on any of the camera icons that appear for available thoroughfares. (See Figure 1)

Google Earth works with another great site called Panoramio (<http://www.panoramio.com>) which allows you to post your photos of the area. Fortunately, millions of Google Earth surfers have already posted their photos to the site, so when you look at an aerial photo, and you select the Panoramio overlay, you will often have access to hundreds of photos for any particular area. This helps you assess whether or not the location is good for metal detecting. (See Figure 2)

The advantage of using mapping sites is that it allows you to seek out public areas and land where you wouldn't think to explore using a paper map. The on line maps show hiking trails, bike lanes, beaches, and those tiny micro-sites that are so important in urban hunting.

Surfing the Internet lets you tap into the power of information. This will greatly expand your horizons for metal detecting. Good Luck!



Figure 1

Google Earth screen shot of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, showing overlay of Street View images (camera icons), and photographs posted by other users from Panoramio.com (blue square icons).



Figure 2

Vince Migliore is a writer, researcher and a member of SVDB. He is also author of "Metal Detecting for the Beginner" 2nd Edition, 2010.

SVDB Election Time for 2011 – Again Already?

John Duffy asked Don Dunn and Paul Giese to stir up interest and get SVDB members to run for the following positions:

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



If **running** for a 2011 SVDB elected officer position interests you please send an email to

Don at dadunn02@yahoo.com,

Paul at ppgiese4au@comcast.net - or tell either of them at the September 2nd meeting.

We again need people who can make a difference! Please support our great club by volunteering to become an elected official or encourage someone else to volunteer who you believe would make a great candidate.

CALIFORNIA LEGENDS - Lost Mines of California
By Legends of America

Once gold was discovered and the [California Gold Rush](#) began, more than 500 camps, villages and towns sprang up almost overnight as some 80,000 prospectors poured into the Mother Lode country in 1849 alone.



For more than a decade, the flood of people continued to come.

They were arriving overland on the [California Trail](#), by ship around Cape Horn, or through the Panama shortcut.

In the beginning, the miners easily gathered the surface gold, scratching more than \$10 million from the land in 1849. By 1853 the yield had peaked at more than \$81 million before dropping in 1855 to \$55 million.

Among these tens of thousands of prospectors and an almost equal amount of claims, tales of "lost mines" began almost immediately as pioneers were killed, sickened, or lost their way back to many of the rich ore finds in the mountains and deserts of the Golden State.

Whether these tales of lost mines are fact or fiction, their legends are still alive for hopeful prospectors of [California](#).

Cement Gold Mine of Mammoth Mountain

In 1857 two German men who had been traveling with a [California](#)-bound wagon train, left the rest of the group and headed out on their own. Winding up in the Mono Lake region of northern [California](#), one of the men would later describe the area as "the burnt country." While crossing the Sierra Nevada near the headwaters of the Owens River, they sat down to rest near a stream. Here, they noticed a curious looking rock ledge of red lava filled with what appeared to be pure lumps of gold "cemented" together, hence, the name.



Cemented Gold

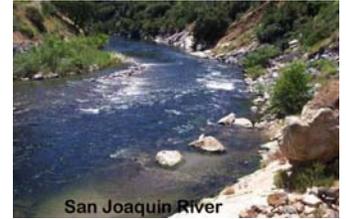
The ledge was so loaded with the ore that one of the men didn't believe it to be real, laughing at the other as he pounded away about ten pounds of the ore to take with him. The believer drew a map to the location and the two continued

their journey. Along the way, the disbeliever died and the gold-laden traveler tossed the majority of the samples.

After crossing the mountains, he followed the San Joaquin River to the mining camp of Millerton, [California](#). During his journey, the German had become ill and soon went to San Francisco for treatment. He was diagnosed and cared for by a Dr. Randall who told the man he was terminally ill with consumption (tuberculosis). With no money to pay the doctor and too ill to return to the treasure, he paid his caretaker with the ore, the map he had drawn, and provided him with a detailed description.

Dr. Randall shared this knowledge with a few of his friends and together they arrived at old Monoville in the spring of 1861. Engaging additional men to help, Randall's group began to prospect on a quarter-section of land called Pumice Flat.

Thought to have been some eight miles north of Mammoth Canyon, the 120 acres were near what became known as Whiteman's Camp. Word spread quickly and



San Joaquin River

before long miners flooded the area hunting for the gold laden red "cement." One story tells that two of Dr. Randall's party had in fact found the "Cement Mine," taking several thousand dollars from the ledge. Unfortunately, for those two men, the area was rife with the Owens Valley [Indian War](#) which began in 1861.

The Paiute [Indians](#), who had heretofore been generally peaceful, balked at the large numbers of prospectors who had invaded their lands. The two miners who had allegedly found the lost ledge were killed by the [Indians](#) before they were able to tell of its location.

Though the "cement" outcropping was never found, the many prospectors who flooded the eastern Sierra region did find gold, resulting in the mining camps of Dogtown, Mammoth City, Lundy Canyon, [Bodie](#), and many others.

The lost lode is said to lie somewhere in the dense woods near the Sierra Mountain headwaters of the San Joaquin River's middle fork.



Mammoth Mountain

President's Corner



Today (8/23/10) I received the annual meeting room renewal paper work from the County for 2011. For the first time they will begin charging us a monthly meeting room fee of \$50 / hour, 2 hour minimum. We meet for approximately 3 hours so we are looking at \$150.00 per month to continue using the Community Room at Don Julio. There are also new requirements for a cleaning deposit (\$200.00) and liability insurance. Your SVDB Board of Directors will have an opportunity to review and discuss the County's requirements before the September meeting and we will report to you what our options are at that time.....John Duffy

Should I Dig Those Metal Detector Finds?

By Dan Breitenstein

It's simply amazing what lies buried beneath the ground we walk over every day. The lion's share of us seeks the elusive silver and thanks our lucky stars when we hit the odd gold object.



Many detectorists never have the opportunity to see the golden glitter in our hand and never know the pride of such a find. This is sad in a way, because it's not the machine we're using and it's not necessarily our hunting ground, it's more than likely our *own fault*.

I have received numerous accounts of amazing finds with the simplest machines that I find totally astounding. Upon closer examination, there is a very simple reason for their success. Most of these finds were made by folks that are totally unimpressed by discrimination and tend to dig more targets than others choose to dig while metal detecting.

Discrimination is probably the greatest metal detecting development that has ever hit the market, but many detectorists over use it, myself included. It's a great feature to use if all you want to find are silver and copper coins and for the quick jaunt to the local fairgrounds. But most of us think that if we use it, we should never dig a pull-tab again.

Unfortunately, there isn't a metal detector out on the market today that can conclusively define the difference between a pull-tab and a gold ring with diamonds. This was proven to me recently when one of my customers sent a photo of an 18 carat gold ring with blue topaz stone surrounded by diamonds that his small grandchild found in a park with a simple Tracker ID. The odds are that other detectorists had already been there and had their discrimination turned up high enough that they walked right over that "pull-tab".



I got an email several weeks ago with a photo of one of my southern friends holding a beautiful gold ring. He was using a machine that had no target ID what so ever, and following the path of one of his friends that was using his target ID as his guide.

His friend had walked right over that *pull-tab* signal and left the ring to be found by his treasure hunting buddy and his "simple machine".

The problem that we face as detectorists is that we have become spoiled by the features on our machines and complacent enough that we choose not to dig what we believe to be junk. Consequently we are walking right over the treasure that we covet the most. Discrimination is a great tool, but like any wonderful invention, moderation of its use is the key to better targets. So, the next time you come upon a pull-tab signal or a b'cap, think twice before you go on your merry way. I would dig a hundred pull-tabs for one gold ring.

"I have met a lot of hardboiled eggs in my time, but you're twenty minutes." Oscar Wilde

If you have any newsletter corrections, questions, comments, suggestions, articles or even if would like to help with the newsletter contact your editor, Don Dunn