



A Nonprofit Organization

The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

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

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs Newsletter

Issue Date April 2011

March 3rd, 2011 SVDB Meeting Minutes

President's Report: John Duffy

- John introduced Board Members and also welcomed 5 new visitors: Tom Ivers, Mark Ivers, Mike Wetal, Robert Harwell and Mike Studer. Welcome to SVDB!
Western State Token Society Convention, March 12-13 at the Red Lion Hotel, Sacramento with free admission.
3rd Sunday hunt breakfast location has changed to Lumberjacks on Howe Ave, Sacramento.
Larry from Big Valley Detectors donated a White's Bullseye II probe for auction and we it sold for \$75. Thanks Larry!

2011 Elected Officers

- President: John Duffy pres\_svdb(at)att.net
Vice President: Paul Giese ppgiese4au(at)comcast.net
Secretary: Barbara Anderton Lcrbean(at)aol.com
Treasurer: Charlotte Key moxieroxie@msn.com

2011 Volunteer Positions

- Hospitality: Al & Linda Woltman looking4au(at)live.com
Hunt Master: Cyndy Johnston & Charles Long cynthia.johnston(at)att.net
Librarian: Tom Schweppe coottom(at)aol.com
Membership: George Magann gcmagann(at)hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Barry Atkinson barryat(at)frontier.com
Newsletter Mailings: Rick & Sue Morris suezeeq(at)gmail.com and eagleric1977(at)gmail.com
Raffle Table: Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley nightdustr(at)aol.com
Web-Site Editor: Vince Migliore tabcity(at)aol.com

Miscellaneous Club News

A request was made to publish GeorgeMagann's address so you can mail him next year's dues if you can't pay at the meetings. Dues are \$30 for 1 person or \$40 per family. BTW, everybody please check & give George your current address, phone # and email address - several member's information is not up to date. Here is George's address: George Magann, 1740 Sessler Dr. Yuba City, CA 95993 Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs



Vice President's Report: Paul Giese

Paul is recovering from an operation and John asked that we include him in our prayers.

Secretary's Report: Barbara Anderton

Because of Barbara's efforts we will receive a refund of \$400+ on our insurance premiums. Big Thanks to Barbara! Don Dunn handles the emails that are sent to our SVDB website & the latest request was from a dentist in the South Sacramento area. He requested help in locating a water main shut off valve. Al Woltman volunteered to help & he will report on his dowsing skills at the April meeting.



Treasurer's Report: Charlotte Key

Charlotte was unable to attend so John Duffy reported:
Beginning Balance: \$3,018.23
Expenses: \$3,395.92
Income: \$1,514.78
Ending Balance: \$1,137.09

Membership Report: George Magann

- We currently have 196 members of which 62 members need to pay their 2011 dues. You can't hunt in planted hunts or the annual May 14th hunt if you have not paid your 2011 dues. You can now mail your dues to George Magann
We had a large crowd of 83 people at tonight's meeting.
Membership Winner: David Riggs, 1884 Morgan Dollar

Other Club Hunts:

NW Treasure Hunters Club host their 39th Annual Hunt on June 17, 18 and 19, 2011 at Farragut State Park, Athol, ID. See info below.

Advertisement for NW Treasure Hunters Club 39th Annual Hunt at Farragut State Park, Athol, ID. Includes details on hunt site, motel availability, and contact information.

West Coast Prospectors & Treasure Hunting Club will be hosting their annual hunt on April 15th - 17th at Rancho Jurupa Park near Riverside. There will be 10 adult & 2 kids' hunts over the 3 days. Eight SVDBers will be there to try out their quick recovery metal detecting skills.

May 2011						
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				

June 2011						
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		

July 2011						
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						

• **Calendar Legend**

- SVDB Monthly Meetings ■
- SVDB Sunday Hunts ■
- SVDB Bi-Monthly Planted Hunts ■
- SVDB BIG Annual Hunt ■

**See You at the April 7th Meeting**

- SVDB Meetings are held at the old SMUD Building 5026 Don Julio Blvd, North Highlands. It's located at the intersection of Elk Horn Blvd 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:

- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's Watt and Auburn
- ❑ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's at Sunrise and Zinfandel Drive (2474 Sunrise Blvd)
- ❑ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Hunt: Meet at Lumberjacks – 1030 Howe Ave., Sacramento, 95825

**Day-In-The-Park Hunt Results & Oldest Coin Winners:**

- February 6: La Sierra Community Center. Total members hunting: 11. Total coins found: 182. Most coins found by Kris Wilson - 34. Oldest coin by Barry Atkinson - 1944 Wheat Penny.
- February 13: Hagan Park. Total members hunting: 14. Total coins found - 497. Most coins found by Jim Booth-55. Oldest coin by David Sturdivant - 1951 Wheat Penny.
- February 20th: Sierra School Park. Total members hunting: 11. Total coins found - 171. Most coins found by David Sturdivant & John Felt-27. Oldest coin by John Felt - 1927 Wheat Penny.



**Hunt Master Report: Cyndy Johnson & Charles Long**  
*Land Park Planted Hunt on March 12, 2011*

- **Cyndy and Charles** held their 1<sup>st</sup> planted hunt at Land Park and had **44** participants. Lots of prizes were won and a good time was had by all. It was pretty cold when we started the hunt, but it quickly warmed up. There are a couple of things that we all need to watch out for concerning this and future hunts.



- When the Hunt Master says **No Digging** is allowed that's exactly what it means. Several people paid no attention to this rule and dug anyway. Also, a few people were using a scratching tool that tore the grass and roots from the wet ground and left small holes. We need to respect our parks and stop digging & scratching at planted park hunts. It's OK to use scratchers when the ground is dry, but when it's wet these tools can cause damage.
- We were visited by a Lady Park Ranger who asked for our permit to metal detect. The Ranger said we needed a permit when more than 25 people participate in any activity. **This was news to everyone.** She also told us with a group this big we should not be digging—we **mistakenly** (see above) told her that we weren't digging. If we weren't just finishing up she probably would have asked us to leave. Cyndy will report on her findings on the 25 + participants rule at the April meeting. Also, others should not argue with the Ranger because this only **irritated her more.**
- Cyndy Johnston's brother has 20 acres of unimproved & undisturbed land in the Sonora/Stanislaw Forest area. He has given her & her friends permission to detect on his land.
- If you're interested in going when the snow/rain ever stops, see Cyndy at the meetings & give her your name/phone number. We are looking at April date or later.

**Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe**

- Tom reported that the library was in great shape. We are doing very well with new books. However, some people need to return library books and videos on loan.
- We still have only about 25 people who use the library on a regular monthly basis.



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

- Twelve members brought their finds to the March meeting for everyone to see.
- FOM (Show & Tell) winner was *Don Dunn*.

**March 2011 Raffle Results:**

We received \$972.00 from tonight's raffle. Thanks to *Mary Ann Meji and James Neeley* for selling tonight's many raffle tickets!



*Lawry Yerby* on the right, won tonight's raffle of a 1/10 Ounce Gold American Eagle coin.

**Lee Wiese's Corner**

Link to Lee's website <http://www.mdhtalk.org>

- Lee Wiese went over the dredging rules. Check his website out above for all the latest rules on dredging. See the article on repealing dredging by *Senator Tom Gaines* below.
- Lee reported on the class he conducted on beginning metal detecting at Raley's in Granite Bay. If enough interest he will do another class again this fall.
- Check out Lee's website *News* section at the top of his web page. Lee hopes you will take the time to visit the site, give *MDHTALK* some feedback and also update your club or business information.

**REPEAL SUCTION DREDGE MINING**

GAINES GAZETTE, MARCH 2011

**Legislation by Senator Gaines Would Repeal Suction Dredge Mining Ban**

Another measure I have introduced would repeal the statewide ban on suction dredge mining until a full environmental review has been completed.

It is irresponsible to impose a one-size-fits-all ban on suction dredge mining before we even know what the effects are. There is no scientific evidence that points to suction dredge mining as a cause in the collapse of fish populations. An economic impact report has been started, but there seems to be no urgency in its completion. In the meantime, local economies are suffering and those who depend on the mining to make a living are impacted.

Last year, Senate Bill 670 put a statewide ban in place to protect fish populations. This has significantly impacted small-scale miners in rural communities, where mining is still an important part of the local culture, history and economy. Senate Bill 657 will lift the state-wide ban until the Department of Fish and Game has had time to complete its California Environmental Quality Act review and determine if the small-scale mining in fact harms salmon.

When the ban went into effect, all suction dredge mining permits became immediately invalid, but permit holders were not given refunds for their unusable permits. For the state to pocket people's money for a service it is no longer providing is incomprehensible. It's the equivalent of purchasing access to a gym or fitness facility and not being able to use it. It wouldn't fly in the private sector and it shouldn't be permitted in government.

My measure will ensure the viability of this industry until there is concrete proof that it does more harm than good. The disruption of an entire way of life for some of my constituents is not something that should be done on a hunch.....By *Senator Ted Gaines*

**It Was Worth the Wait** 

*James Neeley*, our resident multi-talented and will do anything to help someone, told me a great story about a class ring he found last year. James had found this ring in January 2010 and it took until August, 2010 to return it to its original owner, *Emma Mandapat*.



*Emma Mandapat with her class ring that James found*

The class ring was from Westmoor High School, Daly City CA class of 1967. James posted that he found the ring on the Westmoor Alumni Class website. Classmate Pat McGue-Stark saw the lost ring post and decided to help James find the rightful owner. As Pat put it, "*the Nancy Drew in me kicked in*" and she started to do an internet search beginning with *Facebook*. Pat discovered that Emma was overseas with her husband who was in the US military. Pat contacted Emma and found out Emma would be back to CA in the summer of 2010. Long story short, James Neeley returned the found class ring to a very happy Emma Mandapat last August.

*Nice story James....Don D*  
Page 3 of 6

**New Business**

All SVDB Board members and a few others met on Feb 26<sup>th</sup> and discussed the **2011 annual hunt**. It was decided the hunt will be on **May 14th**. We also decided later to have the hunt at the **Alta Mesa Gun Club in Wilton**. The **entry fee will be \$35 if you pay on or before the May 5<sup>th</sup> SVDB meeting and \$45 after that date**. We will have a value of over **\$4,000\* in prizes!** We also decided to have an area roped off for beginning detectorists and kids 12 and under. This area will be reserved for the first 15 minutes of the hunt before anyone else can hunt in this area. The fee for member's kids 12 and under will be \$15.

**Some of the prizes we will have for the 2011 Annual Hunt**

Item	Description	Item	Description
Clad Coins	6,000 Planted Coins	Silver Dollars	(10) Silver Dollars
Gold Coins	Few 1/10 ounce Gold Coins	Large Cent	(3) Braided Hair Cents
Garrett Pinpointers	(2) Pro-Pointers	Silver Half Dollars	(10) Silver Barber Half Dollars
Headphones	Detector Pro Gold	Silver Rounds	(2) Silver Rounds
Cash Prize	\$100	Silver Quarter	(10) Barber Quarters
Cash Prize	(2) \$50	IH Pennies	100 Indian Head Pennies
Silver Dollars	(2) Carson City	Nickels	Shield Nickel
Gift Certificate	(4) \$50 For Metal Detecting Stuff	Silver Half Dollars	(25) Silver Half Dollars
Lesche Diggers	(2) Knife type	Large Cent	1822 Large Cent
SVDB Membership	(2) 2012 SVDB Free Memberships	Buffalo Nickels	(83) Buffalo Nickels
V Nickels	(100) V Nickels	Tokens	Tokens Used for Prizes
Half Dime	Seated Half Dime	Cost of Facility Plates & Utensils	Rental Fee, Bottled Water, Utensils,
		<b>Total Value</b>	<b>\$4,200</b>

\*Our \$4,000 total is based on if we have 80 hunters. If we have more or less than 80 hunters we will adjust the prizes accordingly.

Last year we ran out of main dish food items before some people went through the food line. Because of that we have adjusted this year's food. **Bring enough food portions to serve 6 people**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <u>Last Name</u> | <u>Food Item</u>                        |
| A through J      | – Bring a Main Dish                     |
| K through S      | – Bring a Salad, Side Dish or Appetizer |
| T through Z      | – Bring a Dessert                       |

**Please Arrive at Alta Mesa Gun Club in Wilton at 9:00 am**

**Day of the Hunt Plans Saturday May 14, 2011**

Drag Hunt Field Grass & Setup Tables/Chrs	8:00 am to 9:00 am
Sign In, Give Coins & Raffle Tickets	9:00 am to 10:00 am
Group Picture	9: 45 am
Go Over Rules with All	9: 50 am
Hunt Time	10 am to 11:00 am
Distribute Token/Raffle Prizes	11:15 am to Noon
Eat Lunch	Noon to 1:00 pm
Hunt for Leftover Coins	1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Tables/Chairs Take Down & Clean Up	2:30 pm to 3:00 pm

**Rules for the Hunt**

- Coils No Bigger than 12" in Any Direction
- Everyone Must Wear Headphones
- Only VLF Detectors Allowed –NO Pulse Detectors
- Electronic Pin-Pointers and Digging tools Are Allowed

**We Need Help with Table Setups, Clean Up & More**

**President's Corner**

**John Duffy**



**"I heard it through the grapevine,"** goes a once popular song. And with what I heard this time, **"I'm just about to lose my mind..."** So let me get upon



my soap box and let loose. As I have often noted at our meetings, we rely on **VOLUNTEERS** to keep us running at a high level of enjoyment. At a recent club planted hunt our new hunt masters encountered a couple of problems (so I heard) that they didn't necessarily have to face. I want to do my best to keep all of our volunteers happy.

When we are on a sponsored Club hunt, be it planted or "wild" (such as the Sunday day-in-the-park hunts) we can be a pretty imposing congregation to the public, just by our numbers. For this simple reason it is important that we not only be on our "best behavior", but that we make that best behavior our normal standard.

It is vital to maintain our continued access to public parks and schools that we follow the "Code" of good detecting. That means that we always fill our holes, carefully and completely. If we dig it, we keep it – even if only for later proper disposal in the case of bottle caps, pull tabs, nails, screws, nuts, bolts or anything of no value.

In our planted hunts, all coins and tokens are scattered in grassy areas – none are buried such that they would require digging for recovery. **When our hunt masters declare that no digging is to be done during the one hour of the hunt there should be no question as to following that rule.** I have often noted deeper targets during planted hunts and have been able to take bearings (using trees or other nearby objects) that enable me to return when the hunt is over and others have left the area.

I suggest that we have a common responsibility to help each other observe these points of metal detecting etiquette – it's not the sole responsibility of me or the hunt masters to do this – we must all be "volunteers" to keep our sport as free from onerous restriction as possible, and this means we keep our act clean. So, with the best of good intentions I urge you to keep on detecting and do it "right".....**John Duffy**

**TREASURE WITHIN TREASURE: CANNON FOUND OFF SEBASTIAN CONTAINED HIDDEN GOLD, SILVER COINS**  
by Tyler Treadway

A historic bronze cannon found near **Sebastian, FL** in July 2010 contained gold and silver coins concealed inside, treasure on its way back to Spain before the shipwreck.



**SEBASTIAN** — Dozens of gold and silver coins hidden nearly 300 years ago were found Friday when a cannon recovered July 11 from a wrecked Spanish ship was being cleaned for preservation, salvagers reported this week.

Divers from the salvage boat "Gold Hound" brought up the ship's bronze swivel cannon, a rare find in itself, in less than 20 feet of water between Wabasso and Vero Beach, said Anne Kazel-Wilcox, a spokeswoman for 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, a private salvage company based in Sebastian and Jupiter.

The heavily-encrusted cannon was taken to the Mel Fisher's Treasures facility in Sebastian for preservation, Kazel-Wilcox said, "and as workers were conserving it, the cannon became unplugged and coins were found inside.

In addition to 22 gold coins found near the cannon, 25 gold coins and 63 silver coins were found inside, worth an estimated \$500,000 or more.

"This is an amazing historic find," Greg Bounds of Fellsmere, captain of the Gold Hound, said in a prepared statement. "We found treasure within the treasure.

This is right out of 'Pirates of the Caribbean,' except this is the real thing.

For centuries there has been talk of treasure possibly hidden inside of cannons, but up until today that was only pirate lore. Now it's the real deal."



The wreck was part of a fleet of 11 galleons and war ships laden with gold bars, coins, diamonds, emeralds and pearls bound from Havana for King Philip V of Spain. The cargo included the so-called "Queen's Jewels," a 74-carat emerald, pearls and diamonds meant for Philip's new bride Elisabeth, who reportedly said she wouldn't consummate the marriage until she received them.

The ships sank in a hurricane off the Treasure Coast on July 31, 1715.

Last month, 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, a private salvage company, acquired salvage rights to the fleet from the heirs of treasure hunter Mel Fisher, whose family had retained the fleet's U.S. Admiralty Custodianship of a 300-square-mile stake off Indian River County that extends from the low-tide mark into the ocean. Together with subcontractors such as Bounds, they are searching for a mother lode estimated to be worth \$900 million.

By law, the state gets 20 percent of the haul and gets to pick the pieces it wants first. The rest is split 50-50 between 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels & the contractors who found it.

Bounds, one of about 15 subcontractors who have worked with Mel Fisher Treasure and continue to work with 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, uncovered more than \$12.9 million worth of gold chains, pearls, coins, swords and other artifacts in 2007 from the 400-year-old Santa Margarita site in the Florida Keys.

### ***TEASURES IN THE SANDBOX***

By Joyce Homuth

As a busy mother of four active children, I don't have time for aerobics classes, spas or the tennis court. When my husband comes home from work, however, I can grab up my trusty Tesoro Silver Saber and coin shoots in the field behind our home. Most coins, jewelry, tokens, and keys are found on or near the surface, so I don't have to spend a lot of time digging. The field, which serves as a park, is used by schools and churches for soccer and baseball games. Also, there's a great deal of jogging, kite flying, and dog walking going on.



The Arizona soil in many places would frustrate the most serious of Treasure Hunters (TH'ers) I have used every conscientious retrieval technique known to coax out stubborn coins and relics.

Unless we have a rare day of rain, or the field has been irrigated. I relegate much of my detecting to more sandy areas. That's why my favorite time for detecting is on the weekends. Parks and schoolyards in my neighborhood abound with sand and sandboxes.

Most of the time I set the discrimination mode of my Tesoro to 8, and sensitivity to 8 or maximum. I can fill my pocket apron with treasures in about an hour. On soil that is not quite as sandy, I set discrimination between 4 and 5.

I use Audiphones put out by Detector Electronics Corporation. I didn't like earphones at first, because the constant bleeps were a distraction. But, the more practice I had with my metal detector, the more accustomed I became. At first I used inexpensive in-the-ear phones that my children got me for Christmas as stocking stuffers. They were lightweight and didn't make my head feel as if I was attached to an electroencephalogram. But they're not durable, so it made more sense to buy a good pair of earphones that would last awhile, rather than keep buying something that only gave short term duty. Even then, I always keep a spare pair of earphones in my detector case. (On a cold day they're better than earmuffs!)

Another nice thing about the Audiphones is that the wire is coiled like that of a telephone, not straight or too long. This eliminates your headphones being yanked off if you trip over the wire!

On a very busy day, or when I don't want to be away from my children very long, I flip the switch on the detector's control box to all-metal when searching in the sandboxes. This surprised me, as I thought I would only gather junk. Instead, I've found Matchbox cars, Tootsie toys, Corgi toys, gold anklets, bracelets, silver and gold rings, earrings, metal buttons, many coins, and even can openers and flatware, and keys! (Mothers, don't let your babies grow up and leave the house without key rings or key chains!)

Metal detecting is good therapy. It is much easier on the nerves and pocketbook than an analyst's couch, and aids the body as well as the mind. I didn't always think so. When I first tried metal detecting, my right arm and shoulder would ache from the weight of the detector I was using at the time, and the figure-eight sweep I read about in my instruction manual. My lower back felt as though someone had used it for football practice. After switching from this heavy detector with a metered dial I was always watching, to a 2 1/2 lb. energy saver with uncomplicated controls, I have a hobby which has been very satisfying.

Our family belongs to a local metal detecting group. We pack up our RV's and travel once a month to various places in Arizona, New Mexico, and California. Some in our group have even gone to Mexico and Hawaii. My husband enjoys relics and artifacts from Pershing's and Patton's camps, while I prefer coin shooting and finding jewelry and toys. The art of metal detecting is that there is something in it for everyone. Even busy mothers find treasures in the sandbox.

### ***Mayan treasure found?***

*This story on the next page was submitted by our secretary, Barbara Anderton. Thanks Barbara.*

The good news with this article is that someone may have cracked a code leading to **EIGHT TONS of gold!** The bad news is that if they are right, it's at the bottom of a lake!

**Cracked Mayan Code May Pave Way to Lost Gold**

Led by Joachim Rittsteig, an expert in Mayan writing, a group of scientists and journalists left Germany Tuesday, on a mission to Guatemala in search of a lost Maya treasure allegedly submerged under Lake Izabal.



According to the German newspaper Bild, which sponsored the expedition, the expedition includes two reporters from the publication, a photographer, a television camera, and a professional diver who will submerge into Lake Izabal in an attempt to find eight tons of gold said to have been lost there.

The expedition is led by Joachim Rittsteig, an expert in Mayan writing, who claims to have cracked the famous Dresden Codex and discovered specific information in one of its chapters that leads to a treasure in Lake Izabal.

"The Dresden Codex leads to a giant treasure of eight tons of pure gold," said Rittsteig, who has spent more than 40 years studying the document, to Bild.

A professor emeritus at Dresden University and author of various publications about the Maya culture, Rittsteig stressed that "page 52 talks about the Maya capital of Atlan, which was ruined by an earthquake on October 30th in the year 666 BC. In this city, they kept 2,156 gold tablets on which the Maya recorded their laws." The treasure sank, along with the city, into the waters of Lake Izabal, located in eastern Guatemala. But the German claims to have found the remains thanks to radar images taken in the area.

Rittsteig calculates that "just the gold in the tablets is estimated to be currently worth up to 211 million dollars.

The Dresden Codex, drafted in the year 1250 AD by Mayan priests, is one of the four major documents that remain from that culture. It has been housed by the Saxon State Library in East Germany for the last 272 years.

*A page from the ancient Mayan text known as the Dresden Code*



The code was discovered in 1739 in the possession of a wealthy man in Vienna, though no one knows how he got a hold of it. He then donated it to the Dresden Library, where it is kept under bullet-proof glass in a room with other treasured documents.



Joachim Rittsteig has dedicated most of his entire life to decoding the codex, which is composed of 74 pages, 3.56 meters long with 74 distinct hieroglyphics.

The Dresden Codex contains much of what is known of Mayan Culture, including their understanding of astrology, medicine and even the end of the world. In the last chapter,

the codex describes the coming apocalypse, which it says will take place on December 12th, 2012. *Yikes!!*

***Remember, people will judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold - but so does a hardboiled egg. .... Author Unknown***