



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 June 2011

May 5, 2011 SVDB Meeting Minutes

President's Report: John Duffy

- John introduced Board Members and also welcomed 5 new visitors; Wayne Geide, Shirley Geide, Jarid Warren, Rich Stadler and Michael Ghormley. Welcome to SVDB! Don't forget to bring in all your brass keys and pennies to benefit the club. Annual Hunt: George Magann & Al Woltman are working hard at putting together the hunt prizes. Currently there are 57 paid hunters and we need 80 to spend \$4,000 on prizes. Although the hunt starts at 10 am, please plan to arrive early. Don Dunn reminded us that volunteers are still needed to help with the setup and cleanup for the hunt.

2011 Elected Officers

- President: John Duffy pres_svdb@att.net
Vice President: Paul Giese ppgiese4au@comcast.net
Secretary: Barbara Anderton lcrbean@aol.com
Treasurer: Charlotte Key moxieroxie@msn.com

2011 Volunteer Positions

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

Membership News

- Here is George Magann'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. George Magann, 1740 Sessler Dr. Yuba City, CA 95993



Vice President's Report: Paul Giese

- Paul Giese and Bob Harrison talked about the Gold Hounds club in Auburn. The Gold Hounds are involved in the Foresthill Heritage Celebration in September 2011. The article/flyer at the bottom of the page describes this activity.

Secretary's Report: Barbara Anderton

- Barbara continues to help Barry with great notes from the meetings and with articles for the newsletter. Thanks!!

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte Key

- Charlotte reported:
Beginning Balance: \$2,280.86
Expenses: \$2,691.49
Income: \$1,527.44
Ending Balance: \$1,116.81

Membership Report: George Magann

- We currently have 155 members that are paid up with their 2011 dues. You can't hunt in planted hunts if you have not paid your 2011 dues. You can pay yearly dues at the meetings or mail dues to George Magann at the address on the bottom left of this page. We had 74 people at tonight's meeting. Membership Winner: Mary Ann Meja, a 1884 Morgan dollar.

FORESTHILL HERITAGE CELEBRATION:

- Bob Harrison reported that Annie Robinson of the Gold Hounds asked SVDB to staff a metal detecting booth during the 2011 Foresthill Heritage Celebration. If anyone is interested in staffing this booth to earn money for SVDB, please contact Bob Harrison at nubblelight@sbcglobal.net

FORESTHILL HERITAGE CELEBRATION
September 3 & 4, 2011, Labor Day, CALIFORNIA STATE GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS
ALSO CALIFORNIA STATE LUMBERJACK & JILL CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN MEMORIAL PARK IN FORESTHILL
OTHER EVENTS: "GOLD PANNING LESSONS" provided with guarantee of "color," & CRAFTS, GAMES FOR FAMILIES, LOTS OF FOOD, GOLD EQUIP, PANCAKE BREAKFAST, TENT CITY, MUSEUM TOURS, VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT.
Gold panning Sat. 8:00am-Sun 9:00am, breakfast 7:00am, activities 9:00am-5:00pm
For championship info: www.goldhounds.com (530) 367-2891 or goldworld@wildbyte.net
Vendors: Chamber info (530) 367-2474 phone & fax or foresthillchamber@att.net or www.foresthillchamber.org
COME DRESSED FOR THE 4th CONTEST! FREE PARKING & FREE ADMISSION
Sponsors: Foresthill Chamber, Foresthill American Legion, Foresthill Historical Society, Gold Panning Championships sponsored by Mother Lode Goldhounds and will follow World Event Rules.

June 2011							July 2011							August 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													

• **Calendar Legend**

- SVDB Monthly Meetings
- SVDB Sunday Hunts
- SVDB Bi-Monthly Planted Hunts

See You at the June 2nd 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 facing 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 at Lumberjacks – 1030 Howe Ave., Sacramento, 95825

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

- April 10: Palisades Park Folsom. Total members hunting: 8. Total coins found: 103. Most coins found by Jerry Nerbovig - 30. Oldest coin found by Jerry Nerbovig - 1953 Dime.
- April 3: Rush Park. Total members hunting: 11. Total coins found - 206. Most coins found by Bob Woods-36. Oldest coins by **Bob Woods** - 1961 Penny and **Colleen Pedroza** – 1961 Nickel.
- April 17: Green School Park Sacramento. Total members hunting: 9. Total coins found: 154. Most coins found by **Don Thurber**: 32. Oldest coin found by **Don Thurber**: 1957 Wheatie Penny
- May 1: Westwood Park Citrus Heights. Total members hunting: 14. Total coins found: 169. Most coins found by **Colleen Pedrozo** 20. Oldest coin found by **Steve James**: 1966 Nickel.

- Notable finds: April 10: **Chris Poulsen** – Silver ring; April 17: **Chet Burress** – 1982 peso; May 1: **Vince Migliore** – Earring; **Chet Burress** – Ring; **David Sturdivant** – Silver Ring. Good hunting!

Hunt Master Report: Cyndy Johnston & Charles Long

- **Cyndy and Charles** put on a great Annual SVDB Hunt at the Alta Mesa Gun Club on May 14, 2011! We had 57 hunters and the prizes were adjusted accordingly. Cyndy, Charles and Don Dunn would like to thank everyone that helped with the field preparation, tables & chairs setup, food preparation & setup, field layout, prize purchasing & distribution and cleanup! Pictures of the 2011 annual hunt are on page 3 of this newsletter and on the SVDB website.
- Cyndy Johnston visited her brother's land and found the area cluttered with live ammo & other debris. It was not suitable to hunt. Cyndy will update us when it's cleaned up.

Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

- Tom reported that the library was in great shape. We had several library donations tonight.



SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):

- Fifteen members brought their finds to the May meeting for everyone to see.
- FOM (Show & Tell) winner was **Jerry Nerbovig**.

May 2011 Raffle Results:

- We received **\$1042.00** from tonight's raffle. Thanks to **Mary Ann Meji** and **James Neeley** for selling tonight's near record amount of raffle tickets!
- **Brent Bombola** with a big smile on the left, won tonight's raffle of a 1/10 Ounce Gold American Eagle coin.



SVDB Annual Hunt May 14, 2011



Alan Wagner worked tirelessly with the setup of tables & chairs, kitchen setup, food setup and cleanup. Thanks Alan!



Michael Ghormley joined SVDB at the May 2011 meeting. He didn't detect at the hunt, but he helped with setups and cleanup. He also brought the SVDB BIG Hunt Cake.



The Rewards of the Hunt

By Roy Zeper

Submitted by: Barbara Anderton

Since the beginning of recorded history, man has dug deep into the surface of the earth's crust in search of its treasures. The more difficult to obtain, the more he has prized its possession and much of what he has wrested from the earth has been returned, buried under a few feet of soil or reclaimed by angry seas.

Today we safeguard our valuables with various protective devices, such as electronic alarm systems and bank vaults, or bury it deep in Fort Knox. But in the past, these secure resting places did not exist. Intermittent wars, revolutions and the cunning of thieves created instant changes of ownership. The simplest expediency to safeguard one's valuables and monetary accumulation had been to bury it under a few feet of earth and the uncertainties of life, being what they were, have left many a hiding place still undiscovered.

The sea also laid claim to much of this treasure. Spanish galleons, laden with silver and gold ingots from the New World, often floundered in hurricanes or upon hidden rocks. If they weathered the storms, they had to contend with Captain Kidd, Henry Morgan, Sir Francis Drake, John Hawkins, Edward Teach (Bluebeard), Anne Bonny, and a host of others flying the Jolly Roger. These pirates and privateers roamed the seas in search of sailing vessels carrying gold, silver, and jewels. They would often secrete their booty by burying it on some deserted island. The plundering still goes on today but in different guises. Large companies raid other large companies through hostile takeovers, using stocks and junk bonds instead of ball and cannon.



But let us consider the past few centuries in the Central and South American countries. Within each of their histories were periodic revolutions during which the wealthy ruling classes had to contend with losing their valuable possessions. What better place to hide their riches than within a hole dug on the grounds of their haciendas, or perhaps within a cave in the nearby mountains? Of course, they expected to return later and recover it. But the fortunes of battle were unpredictable. Some were killed, and others, over the years, forgot the exact whereabouts of valuables hidden in haste.

Today, we occasionally see a television show of an outstanding find at sea, such as the recovery of immense treasure from the "Conception", or Mel Fisher and the "Atocha"; also the "Maravilla". But countless small discoveries on land are occurring all the time receiving little publicity.

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

I am a documentary cinematographer by profession and an amateur treasure hunter by hobby. My filming assignments have taken me too many remote areas in foreign countries, and I have turned topsoil in a number of these countries hunting for treasure.

Many of my searches are based on local legends passed down by word of mouth. Some of these have documented foundations and occasionally one of these reputed treasures pans out for me. I own a Fisher Gemini TR (transmitter-receiver). This two-box detector will not respond to individual coins, unlike the detectors so popular on public beaches. But my detector is unsurpassed in locating larger metal bodies buried considerably deeper. I have no interest in looking for single coins.

I was on a filming assignment to Campeche, a city bordering the coastline in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. When my filming work was completed, my wife and I stayed on for several days. Campeche had been a port-of-call for Spanish sailing vessels laden with silver and gold on the way to Spain. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the city was repeatedly attacked by pirates who burned, killed, and looted – a condition ripe for the burial of treasure caches.

My wife and I toured the city the first day, the following day we rented a car, packed lunch and drove to one of the deserted beaches north of the city. I had assembled my Gemini and was about 200 feet from where I had been sitting when the detector's speaker and meter needle both said metal. I walked back and forth, locking in the exact spot to dig. Slightly more than a foot down my hand-shovel bit into wood. I called out to my wife who, sensing I had a find, grabbed her camera and came running. Widening the hole enabled me to bring up a square box; I pried off the cover and revealed many coins! We stared in disbelief as I counted 84 coins. They were brass, silver pieces of eight, three half-joes, six escudos and two doubloons...our first success as treasure hunters!



A few years later my wife and I were driving through southern Mexico on vacation we stopped overnight in a remote village and hired a guide to show us some of the interesting spots. As we passed through the adjacent mountains, the guide pointed out the entrance of a gold mine, which had been abandoned when the owner died. Could there still be gold? The guide answered, "Definitamente si (definitely yes)." But the inherent dangers within an old mining tunnel would be too much for me alone.

On the outskirts of this village was a magnificent, very dilapidated, large church. The guide proceeded to tell us an interesting story.

The Rewards of the Hunt (continued)

During the Ten Year War (from 1910 to 1920), Federal troops in the town were about to be attacked by the armies of Emiliano Zapata and Francisco (Pancho) Villa. This church had many wealthy patrons and it was adorned with numerous gold figures, some with jewels. As the invading armies approached, several young men were directed to take down the golden figures and place them in the rear of the church alongside the rectory. The men were dismissed, but before leaving they saw the two priests with shovels, and surmised they would bury the sacred figures. Apparently the priests were killed in the ensuing violence and the church was sacked, but the hiding place of its treasure was never found. For several months many men of the village dug, but found nothing. They gave up and returned to their farming. Now no one even tries and, of course, metal detectors are unknown.

This sounded so promising that we decided to stay for another day. My wife and I returned to the old church where the rectory had been (all that remains are walls of stone). It was a large area to cover and after two hours, I had almost given up when suddenly my detector emphatically informed me I was over a large metal body. Walking back and forth, I determined the exact spot and pulled out a small shovel. It was then I noticed several young children watching me from a distance. I knew if I should begin digging, there would be a crowd around me. So, reluctantly, I compelled myself to continue walking, acting as if nothing had happened. The children kept their distance until I began disassembling my detector. Curiosity won out and they came over, questioning if I had found anything. Playing out the part, I told them, “Nada aqui (nothing here).” It was a Catch 22 situation; to have done anything else could have brought the villagers and started a digging frenzy. If by chance, I had hit upon the treasure, I would have had innumerable problems – I am sure the villagers consider they have some rights to the treasure, and the state and government would certainly stepped in when they learned of the find, should I resisted, Mexican jails are not the greatest.

My most successful treasure hunt yielded a fantastic cache on an island just 12 miles north of Venezuela. Lalslade Margarita contained numerous pearl beds, which were valued highly by the Spanish, adding to their cargo for Spain. Pirates continually raided the port, compelling the Spanish to build the fort of San Carlos de Borromeo in 1664



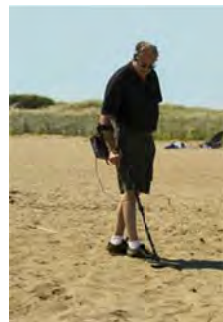
to protect the settlement. In the early 19th century, piracy was on the way out and one such pirate decided to give up the Jolly Roger. He settled in the mountains about 20 miles above Porlamar, which at that time was a small village. El Pirata (The Pirate), as he was known, kept to himself and had no friends.

This former buccaneer had a home built and rumor had it he buried several caches on the grounds from which he drew when he required money. When El Pirata died, the location of these buried caches died with him. This was an invitation I couldn't resist. I had to see for myself.

When the blacktop road ended, my wife and I followed the overgrown dirt path, which led up to the remains of El Pirata's domain. I could now understand why no one wanted to accompany us. The entire area was engulfed with heavy foliage, home to hordes of flying and crawling insects, making it impossible to walk through. A stone archway, still standing, had strange carvings. The rays of the sun were represented under which was a drawing of the archway itself with the shape of a tree on either side. Carved into this stone were the Spanish words, D La Triguena. Literally translated this reads – The Entrance of the Swarthy Dark, (I have not been able to learn the significance of this expression). Looking about I could see two very old large trees, one on either side as in the sculptured arch. After considerable effort I was able to clear most of the brush from around one of the trees, which allowed me to use my detector. Meanwhile, my wife kept urging, “Let's go back to town, there's nothing here.” But I persevered as would any devout treasure hunter.

I began by encircling the tree trunk, widening each pass. Unexpectedly, the tone of my Gemini rose sharply. Could I be lucky this soon? Probably a discarded cooking pot or some rusty cans. It has happened many, many times before. I dug down a foot, nothing. It was hot, tiring work with my little shovel. Another foot and the detector said deeper. Suddenly there it was – a corner of a dirt-encrusted box. My excitement mounted as I freed the box and lifted it into the sunlight. I will never forget the exuberant feelings as I pried up the lid and saw the contents! There were magnificent coins, several rings, gold chains and a gold cross, a large gold nugget, a pearl, and many precious stones – a truly great find! This was pay dirt, the reward for those countless hours of searching and digging.

I look forward to my next treasure-hunting jaunt to some caves near a village in southern Mexico. I made a friend there, Antonio, whose grandfather had told him of several chests of gold bullion, coins, and considerable jewelry which were buried in one of the caves during the big Revolution from 1910 to 1920. I will be armed with my Fisher 1265X and its 11-inch search coil, an ideal combination for difficult in-cave and beach exploration, and who knows? It is this unpredictable nature of treasure hunting that makes it such an exciting, adventurous hobby...and the rewards, definitely the rewards!



Lee's Corner

- The ***Metal Detecting Beaches*** class was conducted by ***Lee Wiese*** at Raley's in Roseville on May 7th. The event was enjoyed by all and everyone came away with a better understanding on how to hunt beaches. Lee went into great detail explaining the best probable beach detecting locations and seasonal conditions. He also presented several Power Point slides showing beach profiles and tide conditions. In addition, he gave his opinion on the pros & cons of several metal detectors for use on the beach. Lee's email address is: lee-wiese@surewest.net



- If anyone in the club would like to receive the news brief from Lee's mdhtalk.org website each month you can request it by sending an email to; mdhtalk@mdhtalk.org along with your name, email address and club name (SVDB).

Miscellaneous News

- Here is the first summary of donated pennies and brass keys to SVDB.

Totals for May:

***Pennies* 1200**

***Brass Keys* 75**

- The members who donated pennies are: Barry Atkinson – 67; Lawry & Betty Yerby – 150; Don Ivers – 79; Mary Ann Mejia – 165; Charlotte Key – 100; Jerry Nerbovig – 559; & Mike Studer – 80. ***Many Thanks!***

Donated auction items and cash donated to SVDB

- Auction items (gold pans & beach sifter) yielded \$25.00
- Bounty Hunter donated by David Riggs sold for \$40.00
- Bob Harrison made a \$5 donation to club. He left his backup detector by a tree after the Land Park hunt. It was picked up by Cyndy Johnston after the hunt and she stored it for 2 months before Bob reclaimed it.