



A Nonprofit Organization

The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

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

Issue Date March 2011

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

2011 Elected Officers

- President: John Duffy
Vice President: Paul Giese
Secretary: Barbara Anderton
Treasurer: Charlotte Key

2011 Volunteer Positions

- Hospitality: Al & Linda Woltman
Hunt Master: Cyndy Johnson & Charles Long
Librarian: Tom Schweppe
Membership: George Magann
Newsletter Editor: Barry Atkinson
Newsletter Mailings: Rick & Sue Morris
Raffle Table: Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley
Web-Site Editor: Vince Migliore

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



February 3rd, 2011 SVDB Meeting Minutes

President's Report: John Duffy

- John introduced Board Members and also welcomed 10 new visitors: Phillip Prior, Jerry Pritchard, Mike Ferrannini, Steve Desomer, Frank Mirabella, Mark Mirabella, John Pfanner, Jessica Haggard, John Tilford and David Hall. Welcome to SVDB!
John auctioned off 78 military magazines that Al Ezel brought in. George Miskovsky won with a bid of \$25.

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

- Barbara was absent, Don Dunn filled in. I must say everybody looks better facing them up front instead of looking at the backs of their heads in the audience.
Don handles the emails that are sent to our SVDB website. About 95% are get rich schemes. Here are examples of our clubs emails:
- The latest scheme is for buying bogus gold from Africa
- Allowing someone to give us umpteen millions from lotto's that we never entered.
- Someone died leaving millions and a lawyer wants to put that money in our savings account and split it with us. Of course you have to give them your savings account number and deposit & withdrawal authorization to get the money.
- Buying Viagra at discount prices.
- Only 5% deals with getting requests for information about our club and when the weather gets warmer we get requests to find lost jewelry.
- Lately however, we got 3 requests from national and international TV producers for SVDB members to be part of new TV programs designed around metal detecting. I have a few copies of the requests up front in case anyone is interested. Lee Weise responded to 1 of these requests - more about this later.
- Last item is more of a question: When are we going to have the next planted hunt? Cyndy answered later in the Hunt Masters report.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte Key

- Charlotte gave this month's treasurer's report:
Beginning Balance: \$1,488.16
Expenses: \$ 163.06
Income: \$1,693.13
Ending Balance: \$3,018.23

Membership Report: George Magann

- We now have 188 members. Some members still need to pay dues.
We had 83 people at tonight's meeting.
Membership Drawing Winner: Cecelia Vela, 1884 Morgan Silver Dollar.

February 2011							March 2011							April 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	5			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

• **Calendar Legend**

- SVDB Monthly Meetings
- SVDB Sunday Hunts
- SVDB Planted Hunt

See You at the March 3rd 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:

- ❑ 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 & Oldest Coin Winners:

- January 2nd: No hunt.
- January 9th: **Franklin School**. Total members hunting: 15. Total coins found - 311. Most coins found by David Sturdivant -144. Oldest coin by David Sturdivant - 1955 Wheat Penny.
- January 23rd: **James McClatchy Park**. Total members hunting: 14. Total coins found- 232. Most coins found by Bob Woods - 40. Oldest coin by John Duffy - 1945 Wheat Penny.

Hunt Master Report: Cyndy Johnson & Charles Long

- The next planted hunt March 12, 2011 at Land Park.
- Cyndy Johnson's brother has 20 acres of unimproved /undisturbed land in the Sonora/Stanslaw Forest area. He has given her & any of her friend's permission to detect on his land.

- If you're interested in going when the snow/rain stops (4WD would be preferred) See Cyndy at meetings & give name/phone number. Looking at March 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 have only 25 people who use the library on a monthly basis.



Sharon Anderson (seated) won tonight's 1/10 Ounce Gold American Eagle coin (her 4th one)



Joy Duffy checking Sharon's winning ticket

SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):

- Eight members brought their great finds to the January meeting for everyone to see.
- FOM (Show & Tell) winner was Bob Woods.

February 2011 Raffle Results:

We received \$911.00 from the February raffle. Thanks to Mary Ann Meji and James Neeley for selling tonight's raffle tickets! Thanks to Don Dunn for spinning that drum.

Lee Wiese's Corner

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

Here is the latest Legislation Alert on a Washington Archaeology Bill. There is both an Washington's House and Senate bill numbers and contact links:

House Bill 1177 [House Contacts](#)
Senate Bill 5282 [Senate Contacts](#)

This is serious attach on property rights and may in the future go the next step and shut down all recreational metal detecting on private property. Visit Lee's web site to follow up on legislation and laws.

- Lee Wiese spoke on a Wildwood Crest New Jersey hunt April 30th – May 1st. lots of great prizes (several detectors in 4 hunts).

**CALLING ALL METAL DETECTING ENTHUSIASTS!
EVENT IN TEMECULA CA, FREE FOR ALL
PARTICIPANTS**

When: March 5, 2011

Time: 8:30am - 1:00

Where: Vail Ranch History Center

Who: Metal Detecting Enthusiasts - ages 10 and up (due to limited participants, minors attending must be metal detecting)

American Prospector Treasure Seeker has been given the opportunity to team up with the Vail Ranch History Center again to help “dig up” some of Temecula’s fine history. We’d like to invite metal detecting enthusiasts, of all levels, to join in the hunt! We will also have a speaker, Darrell Farnbach, President of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association to discuss the history of the area with us. Please bring your own food and drinks and enjoy lunch with the group.

We are limited to approximately 60 participants, sign ups will be held at:

**American Prospector Treasure Seeker
28900 Old Town Front Street #101
Temecula, CA 92590
951-676-2555
www.aptsgold.com**

All items from coins, nails, buttons or even a Model T radiator, which was found at our last hunt, will be donated to the history center. Participation is FREE, however we will have Public Lands for the People (PLP) raffle tickets available, \$1.00 each, \$5.00 for 6, \$10.00 for 12. The PLP is our “voice”, the ones who “fight” for our right to public lands and to keep public lands open for camping, fishing, metal detecting, prospecting, off-roading etc. The raffle drawing will be held on June 16, 2011. Functions such as this are powerful statements that we can make in a positive reflection for our passion of metal detecting.

Lee had a Responsible Metal Detecting Self-Certification Class, 101,102,103 on Saturday February 12th . There were 22 members signed up and met at Raley’s on Douglas Blvd. We then met-up at Woodside Park in Rocklin to put what we learned into application



Pictures taken of Lee’s classroom session on Metal Detecting

- **Membership Drawing**
Winner- Cecilia Vela won an
1884 Morgan Silver Dollar



Go For the Gold

by Don Dunn

A call for help and an email from Paul Giese got me started on an adventure to find a lost gold ring in Placerville. Paul received a request from Len Winkler on Feb 23rd to help find a lost wedding ring. Paul couldn’t go so he asked me to assist. Len said his son-in-law lost his white gold wedding ring on a hillside while helping clean up Len’s yard last Monday. He “thinks” he lost it in a bunch of pine needles and debris on a hill side next to his driveway. We made arrangements for me to call early the next morning to see if was raining or snowing yet because a *Big Cold Storm* was on its way. I called at 7 am and Len said it was predicted to snow before noon. So, I immediately drove up to Placerville and was detecting by 8:30am – before the wet/snowy weather arrived. It was tough detecting standing on the side of a hill that had lots of metal objects lying all over with a heavy covering of wet pine needles. After slipping and falling down a couple of times and finding the usual pull tabs and tinfoil, I suddenly got a strong steady signal on my e-Trac in the gold range. Wala – out popped a beautiful man’s white gold ring. Len was very appreciative of SVDB’s help.

Here are pictures of a happy Len Winkler with the found ring



IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

By B. A. Sebastiani

Recently, unfavorable weather conditions sadly prevented me from trekking out to do some metal detecting at a new location that I had been scoping out. So I thought, why not check out my backyard for a while until it got too cold for my hands to dig? The house I’ve most recently moved to is approximately 60 to 75 years old, and as you can imagine, the wheels in my treasure hunting head just spin with excitement wondering where the treasures are buried, who lived here before me, what was here before the house and the rest of the neighborhood was originally built.

Common knowledge is that the town was built near a gold mining community that existed about 140 years ago, but maps dating back to that time are currently not easy to find, as I have discovered. It’s a thrill simply to speculate where the camps were, where the general store and saloon were located, etc.

So far, I haven't found anything that dates back to that time, but I did uncover some interesting finds that day in the backyard. Whether a beginner, pro, or anyone in between, it is always good to visualize wherever you go treasure hunting. Look over the whole area you are about to scan. Are you getting any 'gut feelings' about where people may have gathered? Does the hair raise up on the back of your neck as you get closer to that 200 year-old tree stump?

Can you locate any old landmarks? Is there a tree that is noticeably larger or one-of-a-kind in comparison to the rest of the trees around it? Do you see a cluster of rocks or a unique boulder formation that catches your eye? Chances are good that it also caught the eyes of those that buried the cache of gold coins that you are about to find because they never came back for it. In the case of my backyard there is a big, beautiful and ancient tree.

I have learned that a prime area to find goodies near a tree falls in an imaginary circle approximately six feet from the base of the tree trunk.

Of course, there are also happy exceptions to this rule, but that is where I began that morning. Sure enough, my trusty Garrett GTA 350 immediately let me know that this is where the action was.

The first signal I got was Nickel accompanied with a very strong, loud beep. I dug less than two inches down and discovered a red, metal toy car with no wheels. I scanned the hole again just to make sure that I hadn't left any other treasure behind and got another long, loud beep that registered as both Nickel and Trash. I honestly dug a solid 4 plus inches more, and there it was –a gleaming soda can filled with dirt. I know that some of you may have moved –on to other targets as soon as the Trash indicator appeared, but I just had to find out what was going on down there. Why someone buried it there, I may never know.

I also got some short, faint blips that registered as Silver and Half Dollar, but hesitated to dig for it because these targets appear to be in and amongst a major root system of the tree. As a beginner, I don't as yet have a point of reference of how to proceed without damaging the root system, so I decided to do a little research regarding any methods to apply to this temporary quandary and come back to it another day. I thrill myself in just thinking about the possibilities of what I may uncover there.

I then went over to an old stone walkway that is also inside the yard and begin to scan the dirt that borders it with my detector. After a few minutes I got a reading of Silver with a medium-length beep. There, about an inch down, located right next to a corner of the house was a St. Christopher medal. Excited beyond words, as this was the first 'genuine article' that I found. I quickly dusted it off and stuck it in my pocket to examine later. About a foot over from where the medal was found, there was literally a four foot radius laden with countless numbers of nails, lugnuts, screws, washers, sinkers, you name it, less than an inch down. After a while of scanning and digging, scanning and digging, I realized that I didn't even need my detector to tell me where to dig because they were everywhere in that little area! It was as if somebody's toolbox had dumped over and its' contents never picked up.

Overtime, the wind and dirt must have covered it all up, in combination with the area being continually walked on by whoever lived here before.

Amazingly enough, I later found out from a neighbor who has lived next door for years, that a car and motorcycle mechanic used to live here and could usually be seen tinkering in the backyard on one vehicle or another. That area by the corner of the house is still producing screws, lugnuts and assorted metal 'things' for the more mechanically inclined to identify. I have found enough of these to open up my own general store!

At that point it was just a little to frigid to continue to maneuver my shovel, but I plan to get back out there when the weather is fairer.

GOOGLE EARTH LEADS MAN TO 'BURIED TREASURE'

From FOX News

Is there golden treasure buried in South Texas creek?

Using Google Earth, a Los Angeles-based musician named Nathan Smith thinks he's found a lost treasure ship that sank somewhere north of Corpus Christi during a hurricane in 1822.

But the owners of the land won't let him dig unless a court rules that the muddy creek is indeed "navigable waters," in which case the federal government decides.

A recent book called "Lost Treasures of American History" got Smith to noodling around on his computer and an intriguing pattern near the small town of Refugio spurred him to drive nonstop to the Gulf Coast, metal detector in hand.

"Where we walked, your honor, there was gold, there was silver," Smith told a federal judge in Houston in December about his initial visit to the site, according to the Houston Chronicle. "When you step off that area, you got nothing."

Adding to Smith's convictions is the fact the creek is named Burgentine or Barkentine Creek. The lost Spanish (or maybe Mexican) ship was said to have been a barquentine, a type of three-masted sailing vessel.

Ron Walker, the attorney representing the family that owns the land, is having none of it.

"It was offensive that somebody could go on Google Earth, look down and see what they think, I guess see, under the ground and see a ship and come in and say, "I want to dig up your property," he told ABCNews.com "They have no proof anything is there and no experience."

The judge plans to rule next month on whether Smith can ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permission to dig. But even if he does find something, he might be in for more legal fights.

The state of Texas is already preparing to file a claim, and the Spanish government recently sued professional treasure-hunters over another long-lost military shipwreck.

Steve Brooker, Mudlark

September 28, 2010

by the gentle author



In London, the Thames has always been the natural receptacle for concealing and disposing things, creating a miry hoard of secrets, all just waiting for [Steve Brooker](#), the mudlark, to come along and snaffle

them up. Over the last seventeen years while he has been searching, the mud has been eroded by wash from the Thames Clippers, exposing an unprecedented level of finds that compel Steve to come mudlarking several times each week at low tide and be the first to see what has been newly revealed. Steve is widely known as the Mud God – which seemed a little farfetched to me – until I saw him striding towards me eagerly in his chest-high bespattered waders, clutching his yellow plastic bucket and trowel. Over six feet tall with a grizzled beard and intense, glittering eyes, he was as excited to get down onto the beach as a child on the first day of the Summer holiday. Only someone with Steve’s natural authority can carry off such unmediated enthusiasm naturally. He is a man who is confident of his place in the world, and that place is the foreshore of the Thames. We came down the slipway as the tide fell towards its lowest ebb. The day was mild yet occluded, and my heart lifted as I was released from city streets into a vast open space, the domain of water and sky. The territory of the Mud God. He understands the idiosyncrasies of the tide, and the nuances of the mud banks and the river bed. As well as coins and buttons, he finds Roman shoes, Medieval pins, eighteenth century witches’ bottles, nineteenth century lovers’ tokens, twentieth century voodoo dolls, live bombs and new guns – and sometimes he find human bodies too. He knows where to look and he does not need a metal detector because he has sharp eyes.

When Helen Mirren lost her ring throwing her grass clippings over the river wall from her Wapping garden, it was Steve who found it for her in the river. When

villains throw handguns and sawn-off shot guns into the river at Woolwich to lose them forever, it is Steve who collects them and hands them to the police – he found fifteen recently.

Mudlarks tend to work in pairs for safety’s sake on this hazardous river and I had the privilege to be Steve’s partner in slime for a day. And I was happy to be in his company because Steve is a member of the Society of Thames Mudlarks, has a license from the Port of London Authority and has the necessary experience to judge the treacherous movement of the tide against the access points to the shore.

On the beach, Steve used his trowel to indicate where the mud had been washed away revealing a fresh bed of stones beneath, suggesting the type of location worthy of searching. Scraping away the top layer, he scanned for objects and passed me a Medieval pin – a sign that other personal or domestic artifacts might be present. Thus the pattern was established of walking, scanning and pausing to scrape at promising sites. We continued until Silvertown where thousands of bullets mysteriously litter the foreshore, an unexplained military dump from World War II. All around the Isle of Dogs, we walked upon a shore littered with the metalwork of the ship building industry that was once here. Lying redundant, we saw eighteenth century iron splitters used for breaking up tree trunks into planks, to build ships sunk long ago.

At low tide, we reached Mast Point where Steve finds whole clay pipes. Pipes that once fell from a stevedore’s hand and sunk into the mud without breaking. Here I saw impacted layers of eighteenth and nineteenth century river bed, now exposed by erosion, with tantalizing fragments of white pipe protruding. We squatted down to peer at the tiny bowl of a pipe, washed from the mud by the waves that very day and exposed from the mud for the first time. In the shape of a lady with a wide skirt that formed the bowl of the pipe, it was a tiny sculpture with a presence all its own, and we were the first to touch it since whoever dropped it two hundred years ago. Steve’s eyes popped because he never saw one like it before. Moments like this are what keep bringing Steve back, because he knows will always find something, yet he never knows what it will be.

We walked miles along the water’s edge in the centre of London and the only others we met were two friends of Steve’s, also searching the shore. I forgot

entirely about the city on the river bank above us, because I was down in the river bed in the land of the mudlarks. All of the history of London was present with us, you just had to look, and it was a magical place to be.

Take a look at www.thamesandfield.com where you can see more than thirteen thousand pictures of Steve Brooker's incredible finds that have earned him his reputation as the Mud God.



Bellemeine jug, a broken seventeenth century buckle and a horse's tooth.



Steve Brooker, the Mud God



Mother Lode Mineral Society's
ROCK & GEM SHOW
MARCH 12 & 13TH
Saturday 10 am-6 pm & Sunday 10 am-5 pm
Admission \$5.00 - 12 & under free

- 40+ Dealers, 100 Exhibits
- 35 Demonstrators!
- Large Children's Area
- Free Parking
- Fluorescent Tent
- Great Food

Speakers: (Check website for dates, times and additional info)
Bob Jones will talk about California Minerals.
Mike Kokinos will be talking about the benefits of 501(c)(3) non-profit status.
Larry Martz will be discussing Mammoth and other fossils found in the Madras Land Fill.
Gregg Wilkerson from BLM will speak on Land Claims.
Richard Wade will present fossils and dinosaurs for children of all ages.

Turlock Fairgrounds 900 North Broadway Turlock CA
www.turlockgemshow.com
Chairman: Bud & Terry McMillin 209-524-3494



The detritus of the former shipyards lines the shore mud.



The lady as we found her face down in the Thames

Mudlarking on the Thames, with remnant of a mesolithic forest in the foreground.

Inspector Clouseau: "I thought you said your dog doesn't bite"? Man with Dog: "That's correct sir, but this is not my dog!"



Thousands of bullets lie in the mud at Silvertown



Our haul, a tudor brick, decimal coins, bullets, marbles, a spur, an eighteenth century fork, a cabinet handle, clay pipes, a shell dated 1942, a fragment of a