



The

- A Nonprofit Organization

Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

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

Issue Date January 2011

## Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

### 2011 Elected Officers

**President:** John Duffy  
[pres\\_svdb\(at\)att.net](mailto:pres_svdb(at)att.net)

**Vice President:** Paul Giese  
[ppgiese4au\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:ppgiese4au(at)comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Barbara Anderton  
[Lcrbean\(at\)aol.com](mailto:Lcrbean(at)aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Charlotte Key

### 2011 Volunteer Positions

**Hospitality:** Al & Linda Woltman  
[looking4au\(at\)live.com](mailto:looking4au(at)live.com)

**Hunt Master:** Cyndy Johnson & Charles Long  
[cynthia.johnston\(at\)att.net](mailto:cynthia.johnston(at)att.net)

**Librarian:** Tom Schweppe  
[coottom\(at\)aol.com](mailto:coottom(at)aol.com)

**Membership:** George Magann  
[gcmagann\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:gcmagann(at)hotmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Barry Atkinson  
[barryat\(at\)frontier.com](mailto:barryat(at)frontier.com)

**Newsletter Mailings:** Rick & Sue Morris  
[suezeeeq\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:suezeeeq(at)gmail.com)  
[eagleric1977\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:eagleric1977(at)gmail.com)

**Raffle Table:** Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley  
[nightdustr\(at\)aol.com](mailto:nightdustr(at)aol.com)

**Web-Site Editor:** Vince Migliore  
[tabcity\(at\)aol.com](mailto:tabcity(at)aol.com)

### Miscellaneous Club News

- A request was made to publish 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. 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

- Lee Wise also publishes a comprehensive national metal detecting newsletter & here is a link to click on or cut/paste.  
<http://www.mdhtalk.org/>

### December 2, 2010 SVDB Meeting Minutes

#### **President's Report: John Duffy**

- John welcomed new visitors Kim Efishoff, Chris Bowman, Erin Mullin and Loma Sattles to our SVDB meeting. Welcome to SVDB!

#### **Vice President's Report: Paul Giese**

- Paul added 3 gold nuggets to the raffle. - Thanks Paul!

#### **Secretary's Report: Don Dunn**

- Don gave thanks to runners Joy Duffy, Tina Miles and special thanks to Barbara Anderton & Cheri Peters who set up the tables - outstanding job by everyone!

#### **Treasurer's Report: Linda Woltman**

- Linda gave this month's treasurer's report:
 

Beginning Balance	\$3,675.59
Expenses	3,387.17
Income	1,675.51
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1,964.03</b>

#### **Membership Report: George Magann**

- George said we have 172 paid up members
- We had 92 people at tonight's raffle/pot luck meeting.

### See You at the January 6th 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:

- 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 Pancake House at 21<sup>st</sup> & Broadway
  - **Day-In-The-Park Hunt Results & Oldest Coin:**
- **November 13th** at McBean Park. Some members found some coins. Oldest coin – by unknown.

December 2010							January 2011							February 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			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28					
							30	31												

Calendar Legend

SVDB Monthly Meetings

SVDB Hunt

Rain Delay Date for Park Hunt



Hunt Master Report: *Cyndy Johnson & Charles Long*

- The next planted hunt should be in Feb 2011.

Librarian Report: *Tom Schweppe*

- Tom reported that the library was in great shape. However, some people need to return library books and videos on loan.



December 2010 Raffle Results:

- We received a whopping \$1975 from the December raffle. Thanks to the team of *Mary Ann Meji & James Neeley* for selling tonight's raffle tickets!
- **Micah Bures, Jim Hallock, Chet Burress** won tonight's 1/10 ounce Gold American Eagle coin.



*Chet Burress won 2 CC Dollars*



*Clyde Schroeder won 1 CC Dollar*



*Rubianna Jung won a Detector*



*Micah Burress won a Gold Coin*



*Chet Burress 1 Gold Coin - The real Mr. Lucky!*



*Tina Miles in her, "I can see clearly now" glasses*

SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):

- Five members brought their great finds to the December meeting for everyone to see. FOM (Show & Tell) winner was **James Neeley**.



- **James Neeley** won the auction of the MXT PRO with carrying bag and stereo phones bidding the winning amount of \$700.00.



*James Neeley high bid MXT Pro*

- Helping with the raffle – we had two groups selling tickets; Group 1 was *Mary Ann Meja, Don Ivers & James Neeley*. Group 2 was *Al Woltman & Bob Harrison*, thanks for the hard work guys, very good job.

**THE LOST LEDGE**

By Roman Melach

**LUCKY LEGEND**

Highway 199 out of Grants Pass, Oregon, goes through a valley, passing through the communities of Selma, Kerby, Cave Junction, ending in Crescent City. Settlers came to this area in 1852 when they heard about a gold strike. When a group of English sailors jumped their ship in Crescent City and found gold diggings, they named the camp "Sailors Diggings" This name was later changed to "Waldo", which reached a population of 3,000, mostly miners. The mountains on both sides of the valley were teeming with gold seekers and, in time, more than \$10 million in precious metal was taken out of the area. Finally the gold played out and Waldo, like other mining camps in the area disappeared.

Gold is still found in that area and is of course, the subject of many interesting tales – some fiction, others true.



**THE LOST LEDGE** (Continued)

After the last war, logging replaced mining in the valley. Logging, too, came to an end in the late 1950's, and many abandoned lumber mills, some in remote locations, joined the forgotten mining camps. A few lumber mills still operate, so mining continues here and there in the surrounding area. The valley is now visited mostly by vacationers and tourists.

Wilmer Wheeler lives in Selma, Oregon, and each day he drives fifty miles to a logging site where he cuts timber. The logging season is short in the high mountain area, as deep snow covers the ground for months. In fact, Wilmer mentioned six feet of snow in his logging area in June. Wilmer has several avocations such as raising bees and writing stories for the local paper at Cave Junction, but most of all he is deeply involved in prospecting. Wilmer first came to our attention when we read one of his stories published in the Valley News at Cave Junction, a few miles from Selma. We made a special trip to Selma to talk with Wilmer, and we discovered he knew a number of interesting stories – based on facts. He told us a story which he called “Lucky Legend.” It is not, however, a legend but a life story of his father, his father's brother and currently of his own life.

Wilmer's father had a brother, named Bill, who lived six miles west of Selma, Oregon. Upon Bill's suggestion, Wilmer's father decided to move from Hood River, Oregon to Selma, near his brother's place. Early in April he loaded the family and their possessions into three wagons and headed for the new location. They arrived in May of 1920. Following is a story which Bill related to them:

Early in 1919 Bill grubstaked a partner and twice delivered groceries and supplies to him at the prospecting site. Then for quite some time Bill had no contact with his prospector-partner. Once, while visiting in Kerby, Bill learned that his partner had been in town with his burro, traded in gold for more grub, and headed back to his prospecting site. November came and Bill moved from his job location to his place west of Selma.

Indications of the approach of a violent autumn storm caused Bill some concern about his partner. Shortly thereafter there was a knock at the door, and there stood his partner, wet clothes, tired out, but smiling happily. “I made a rich strike!” he exclaimed excitedly, and as proof of his discovery he brought along some ore samples. Details of his lucky prospect followed in quick succession. Bill's partner explained that he worked his way up Rough and Ready Creek in the area nearby. Dad after day he was getting “color” out of the creek, but not enough to start placer work. He got as far as four and a half miles up the creek and when he could no longer push farther with his burro he decided to make camp there and explore the rest of the creek on foot.

At the campsite he built a small rock cabin, using cedar shakes for roofing. From his camp, each day he worked farther and farther up the creek, noticing more and more color in the gravel bed. One and a half miles from his cabin, he found a rich gold ledge in the bottom of the creek.

As the winter season was fast approaching he realized he could no longer safely stay in that area, so he covered his high diggings with rocks, gathered wood, placed it on top of the rocks and set it afire. The wind whipped the fire over the immediate area and about five acres were burned before rain started and extinguished the fire. He then headed for Bill's place.

Now he suggested that both he and Bill go to work to make the money needed for development work at the gold ledge site. So they went on a job clearing land at Fruitdale. Later in the 1920s both Bill and his partner dropped a box of dynamite and the explosion blew him to bits. After that tragic accident the gold in the ledge lost its glitter as far as Bill was concerned.

A few months later Wilmer's father, without thinking, said to his brother: “Bill, let's go and get the gold.” “No,” said Bill emphatically, and he told his brother that he had never returned to the gold ledge after his partner's death. He felt the gold in this ledge wasn't meant to be for him, so he refused to go near it. Wilmer told us that he never could figure why his father didn't go to look for his gold ledge. His father knew the exact location of it, and had a good description of its features.

On July 4, 1968, Wilmer and his wife made their first trip to Rough and Ready Creek. After driving as far as the vehicle could go they made their camp. Then Wilmer started his search for Bill's lost ledge. He found the old cabin, or what was left of it, including remnants of the roof flattened by 49 years of winter snows. He also found an old sluice box and dip bucket among other tools. Even a coffee pot was still on the bush-covered fire place. There was no sign that anyone had visited the place since Bill had left it.

On successive trips, Wilmer reached the mile and a half spot from the cabin site, where the gold ledge was located. Here he found traces of the burnt area and also there were remnants of a “lean-to,” a temporary shelter which Bill's partner had used. A mass of overburden and rocks, the result of slides, covered the actual location of the gold ledge. Wilmer staked his claim on the spot, which is duly recorded and, as time permits, he makes trips to his mining claim, stays and works there as long as possible, hoping to see the ledge of gold some day soon. He works there alone in not very pleasant surroundings. This particular spot is part of a steep canyon wash, covered with boulders and rocks, and there is always danger of a slide. After several of these trips he had finally cleared quite a sizeable area, but on his next trip to the claim he discovered it was covered with new debris.

In addition Wilmer said, “Rattlesnakes are numerous and rather ‘bothersome.’ Also sleeping on the ground is far from advisable and I have no shelter to keep rattlesnakes out. I tried to sleep in a hammock, but falling out of it and hitting rocks on the ground is very painful.”

The “Lucky Legend” has no lucky ending as yet, but aside from that fact, it proves quite a few points. Wilmer Wheeler followed the fifty-year-old true tale of his Uncle Bill's lost ledge of gold and found its location. He found the evidence of Bill's partner's life work there and has no doubt about the location of the gold ledge. Yet, time and the elements of nature keep changing the

**THE LOST LEDGE** (Continued)

face of the ledge, covering it again and again with the debris of boulders and rocks. These elements work continuously making it a seemingly impossible task for one man to uncover the gold deposit in his spare time.

Many unexpected things could happen to Wilmer as he stays and works alone in this remote and isolated area. In fact, he related one incident to us. As he tried to dislodge a large boulder, he almost crushed his leg in the process. Prospectors expect such incidents and as long as they are not disabling, accept them as a matter of course.

A tale of any lost mine may have its truthful facts, yet time and nature often prevent prospectors from recognizing the exact location they are looking for. In some cases it is discovered purely by accident.

Wilmer was lucky to know the name of the creek, and such details as the cabin site, temporary camp and the burnt area which identified the location of the gold ledge. Yet, Wilmer fully realizes that he has far to go to reach the gold ledge deposit which was found fifty years ago.

Bill, his partner, and Wilmer's father are gone, but Wilmer is determined, regardless of accidents, rattlesnakes, and the ire of mother nature, to uncover this deposit of gold. It is all part of the game!



*The Decker General Store, Waldo, about 1902.*

**WHAT'S IT WORTH? AND WHERE CAN YOU SELL IT?**  
BY JERRY MACK

- One of the common questions asked by treasure hunters and relic collectors is, "Where can I sell the items I've found?" To be sure, there are buyers interested in acquiring just about every type of specialized relic there is, but they're spread out all over the country. Just how do you track down a potential buyer?

Fear not, relic fans, because there is now a book that can solve many of your problems. It's entitled, "**WHAT'S IT WORTH? AND WHERE CAN YOU SELL IT!**" It is, perhaps, the first serious effort to list all the buyers across the country, along with information as to how to get in touch with them. Whether you have bottles for sale, furniture, police badges, guns, etc., this book can tell you the names of parties that are ready to PAY!

One of the excellent features of this book is the straight-forward, factual information it presents on the subject of fixing a value on your find as well as the final step, the actual contacting of a prospective buyer.

There are specific methods of pricing and soliciting your items, and the book fully explains the most common procedures. As an aid in pricing some of the more unusual items you may have, there is an extensive list of publications that deal in specialty fields.

All in all, the book lists 78 different categories of relics, arranged in alphabetical order. Your chances of finding a buyer for your collectibles, however unusual they are, are very good. There are over 500 interested parties listed! Aside from the more common items buyers are interested in, you'll find markets for treasures such as old phonographs, clocks, paperweights, lamps, autographs, and dozens of other potential valuables.

Stop throwing away those old "junk" items – instead, consult "What's it Worth? And Where You Can Sell It!" You may be able to turn that piece of junk into a solid gold nugget!

**RIGHT-OF-WAY**  
BY WALDO NIELSEN

**Published by Old Bottle Magazine, P. O. Box 243, Bend, Or 97701. Softbound, 124 pages, well illustrated with maps and photos. Check with local bookstores to order.**

What is it about the sight of a stately steam locomotive that brings out the little boy in an otherwise mature man? What is the romance in the song of a train whistle, as it screams by in the distance? The answers to these and other questions may never be obtained, but one thing is known – "railroadania," as some physicians might describe it, is a disease – a disease that afflicts a few hundred thousand persons in the United States alone.

Whatever your interest in railroads – be it building a scale model "pike" of your own, going over an abandoned train station for relics, or perhaps photographing the remains of an old box car – **RIGHT-OF-WAY** is one book you won't want to be without!

The primary purpose of **RIGHT-OF-WAY** is to list and describe the many abandoned railroad lines in the United States. There are thousands of old rights of way, in almost every state, and they are prime hunting grounds for collectors of just about anything imaginable. Insulator collectors will find this book very useful, because telegraph lines usually followed the railroad tracks. When the right of way was abandoned, the telegraph lines were stripped and the insulators simply thrown away. Abandoned stations are also waiting to be found along the old tracks, and some of them have never heard the buzzing of a metal detector. Think of all the coins, bottles, and other valuables of an earlier day that are going begging!

The book presents the old rights of way in a series of maps of each state that has abandoned lines. The number of old lines in the different states is given, with the total mileage of rights of way no longer being used. There are many interesting photos of various types of buildings, old rolling stock, etc., that can be seen when exploring the different rail lines. If you're looking for a different way to spend your next weekend, try your nearest abandoned railroad line. With **RIGHT-OF-WAY** as your guide, you just might discover something of a real value!



*THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR AN OUTSTANDING TURNOUT*



*A SEA OF TREASURES*



*NO ONE LEFT HUNGRY!!*



*THANKS DON FOR THE OUTSTANDING WORK ON THE NEWSLETTER*



*UNTIL NEXT YEAR, MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!*