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1007 W. College Ave., #216  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95401

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 70, Issue 9, Meeting #814. September 12, 2018

Next Meeting: October 10, 2018

## GOLD!

The September RECC meeting was a busy one. Merle started by reminding us of our upcoming coin show on **February 15-16, 2019** in Finley hall of the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. More info will be coming about Gold Coin Drawing tickets and other preparations.

Something new coming to Santa Rosa on **March 22-24, 2019** is the Western States Token Society's ("WESTS") annual Token Jamboree. It had been in Jackson, California in prior years, but Merle persuaded them to come here when a new location was needed. There are plans for twenty four dealers from around the country, including the top two dealer/collectors. It promises to have some amazing tokens and very knowledgeable dealers to meet all your token collecting needs.

The **October** meeting should be really fun. We will have our annual **OKOBERFEST DINNER** meeting, with wieners and some side dishes (sauerkraut, potato salad) arranged by Mike M and Deanna & Helmut J. If you can, **please bring a salad/side dish or a dessert to share** as well, so that there will be plenty of food. In addition, we will have our **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Helen and Roy Roberts Benefit Auction!** Bring in and **donate a numismatic item to the auction, and the dinner will be free!** Otherwise, dinner is \$5. Proceeds from the auction help support the club. With rising rent and mailing costs, it really does make a difference. Last year's auction was cancelled along with the October meeting due to the Santa Rosa fires, so it will be nice to resume this tradition. There will not be a regular auction at the end of the meeting.

We had a couple special guests at the September meeting. Lloyd Chan, the President of the Northern California Numismatic Association, was present and introduced Scott and Debby Douglas from Ontario Canada. Scott is the president of the Ontario (Canada) Numismatic Society, and he will be one of the presenters of the upcoming California Numismatic Seminar in Vallejo on September 15. His topic will be 'Hudson Bay Tokens and Numismatics'. Interestingly, when growing up in Canada, the history he mostly learned was about George Washington, Abe Lincoln, etc.—and not about important Canadian events. The Hudson's Bay Company was one of the earliest companies in Canada's history and was very important economically. His talk should be excellent, as will be the others that are scheduled.

At the December 2017 meeting we 'presented' David Avila with the Willie Quarante Memorial Award for outstanding service. One exceptional club member is chosen to be honored yearly for all he or she does for the club. The plaques for the award had been completed well in advance: one for the club has each yearly winner listed; the other was for David. Unfortunately, they burned up in the October Santa Rosa fire. But fortunately, D&S Awards replaced the club plaque free of charge (they were very generous to the community after the fire). They made up a new plaque for David, which was awarded at the meeting—finally! Congratulations David, we appreciate all your work.



## FAVORITE GOLD COIN

- Bill G brought in his second favorite gold coin. His favorite is an 1853 gold \$1 that he got from his father. He brought in an 1853 California fractional gold 50 cent piece, PCGS MS-61. Because of a scarcity of small coins during the California gold rush, quarter, half, and dollar coins were privately minted from native gold starting 1852. They were not too well accepted due to their small size and became more popular as souvenirs. Early coins contained up to 85% face value in gold, but that soon decreased. The Coinage Act of 1864 made private coinage illegal, but the law was not fully enforced until 1883. From 1872 to 1883 there were coins with dates and undated tokens produced. And to circumvent the law, some pieces made after 1881 were even backdated to the 1850s and 1860s. Early issues had Liberty heads, and later issues had Indian heads- with over 570 know varieties!



- Stephen K brought in a belt buckle given to him by his father, which had a 1906 Liberty \$10 gold piece in it.
- Guy S has a few gold coins in his collection from various places. He brought in a gold solidus of Valens. He was the Eastern Roman Emperor from 364-378. His Brother Valentinian gave him the eastern half of the empire after accession to the Roman Empire throne. Valens died in battle, which marked the beginning of the collapse of the Western Roman Empire as well.



- Phil A brought in a beautiful Mexican 1918 20-peso gold piece. The obverse featured the classical eagle with a snake in its mouth, and the reverse showed the Aztec calendar.
- Larry C, King of the Diablo Numismatic Society (shown here on his throne), brought in a graded gold nugget. Nuggets are not usually encapsulated, but this one was - to confirm where it came from.
- Andy talked about his recent purchase, an 1895 Liberty Head \$5 coin. He was recently in the Lake Tahoe area, and went to Carson City where a visit to the mint inspired him with the fabulous collection of CC Mint coins.



- Bill C brought in a 1912 Canadian \$5 gold piece his grandmother won at age 17 for "elocution" prior to graduation from high school. She was born in 1904. He talked about the Ottawa mint and brought a Canadian coin catalog. 1912 was the first year the Canadian mint produced gold coins, and they were completely Canadian- starting with gold mined in the Klondike. It featured King George V on the obverse, and the Canadian coat of arms used since 1868 (until the current official coat of arms adopted in 1921).

- Amber talked about her only gold coin: a 1/10 ounce gold Oregon Trail commemorative, which her mom won. Her great grandmother came across on the Oregon Trail.
- Rick S talked about his favorite gold coins, a set of fractional gold Buffalo nickel coins he bought from the mint for \$2200, and then turned around and sold it for \$6200!



- Charlie C brought in two favorite gold coins, an 1873 California gold quarter dollar, and an 1868 California gold dollar. As described earlier, these are really tiny coins- so their unpopularity is understandable. These didn't cost anything—they belonged to his grandfather, received in change.



- Finally, Merle brought in a type set of Love Tokens. Most of them were made of dimes: in the late 1800s, for the cost of a dime, a second dime would be smoothed on one side and initials or a design engraved on it. But smaller and occasionally larger denominations would also be used. Gold coins were very valuable, and gold love tokens are rarely seen. Merle's pride is a \$20 gold piece which has been inscribed with a monogram on one side. This was practically a fortune for most people at the time it was produced, so the original owner was most likely a very wealthy person.



#### GOLD MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Speaking of gold, we did give away *FOUR* gold pieces to members who attended meetings in the last 6 months. The winners were:

- #1- Harold R, who took the ¼ ounce Mexican gold
- #2- first draw was Bob A, who was not present ☹
- #2- went to John B, who took the 1/20<sup>th</sup> ounce Chinese Panda
- #3- David A took a 2-1/2 Peso Mexican gold piece
- #4- Wendell B won a 2 Peso Mexican gold piece

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Club's meeting location is the **Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa** (opposite the County Fairgrounds across from Highway 12), in the **"Dinner Room"** on the east side of the building, at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

#### DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: David A, Larry C, Jerry St. G, Stephan K, Bill C

50:50 pot of \$74 was split with Mike C

Raffle: Jack H (twice), Matt A (twice), Jerry St. G, Andy O, Glenn M (thrice), Roger N, Art M

Gold Coin raffle: 1995 1/10 ounce *Proof* gold won by Joe D!

August Attendance: 50+

New Members: Mateo P (#962J), Dagan P(#963J), and David Y (#964)- WELCOME!!!

Guests: yes, there were several.

Auction: 12 exciting items

Adjournment was at 9:00 p.m. sharp!

#### KIDS CORNER

We thank Ember for holding the meeting in September and for passing out recent donations.

She will again hold the meeting in October as I will be in Seattle. Ember will bring more items to be handed out and will also discuss coin grading as the topic. Again, thanks to Ember for helping me when I am unable to attend.

Rich

Volunteers for **refreshments** for September are all of you who can bring a salad/side dish or dessert to go with the grilled wieners for Oktoberfest—THANKS!!!!

#### WESTS TOKEN SHOW

For the first time, the Western States Token Society ("WESTS") will have its annual Token Jamboree here in Santa Rosa! Save the dates: March 22-24, 2019. If you have any interest in tokens, or if you want to find out about tokens—you will want to attend this show. It is the biggest tokens show this side of the Mississippi. Some of the biggest collectors/dealers are already lined up, in what should be a really great show.

R.E.C.C.  
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### **UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS**

**September 28-29, 2018. Sacramento Valley Coin Club's 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Fall Show.** The Four Points by Sheraton, 4900 Duckhorn Drive, Sacramento

**October 12-14, 2018. Diablo Numismatic Society's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show.** Elk's Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek

**October 20, 2018. Delta Coin Club's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Coin Show.** Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

**November 9-10, 2018. NorCal South Bay Sunnyvale Coin Show.** Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

**November 30-December 1, 2018. San Francisco International Coin Show.** Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, 1500 Van Ness, San Francisco

**February 15-16, 2019. Redwood Empire Coin Club's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Coin Show.**  
E. L. Finley Hall, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa

**February 17, 2019. Cupertino Coin Club's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Show.** St. Joseph's Church Hall, 10110 N. De Anza Blvd, Cupertino

**March 22-24, 2019. WESTS (Western States Token Society) Annual Token Jamboree.** "Lodge Room", Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

**April 28, 2019. Vallejo Numismatic Society 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Show.** Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador, Vallejo

**July 27-28, 2019. Fremont Coin Club 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Show.** Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

Check out our newsletter at: **[Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](http://Redwoodempirecoinclub.com)**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:  
[newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com). See you September 12— Charlie