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Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 76, Issue 5, Meeting #870, May 10, 2023

Next Meeting: June 14, 2023

MAY MADNESS!

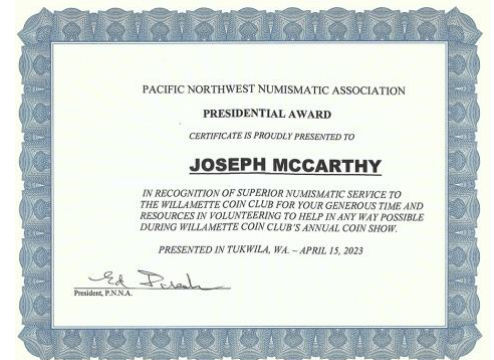
The May meeting took over where the April meeting left off. There was non-stop action until the last of the 63 lots was sold in the auction at 9:30P! That's a good thing- no complaints here.

Thanks to those who brought goodies to share with the club. There were actually a few things leftover, which is rare. Next month **for the June meeting** there should be plenty of food: we will have a **BBQ Dinner!** Jerry St. G has graciously volunteered to grill hamburgers for the club, and several other members have volunteered to help. Thanks to VP Mike M for arranging it all. We will have potato salad, beans, a green salad, and beverages as well. There is no need to bring any food. Mike will have a donation jar (or tip jar, depending on your view) if you care to donate \$1 or \$2 or \$5 toward the meal- not required, just voluntary, thanks.

The **theme for the June meeting: COMMEMORATIVES!** Any numismatic commemorative, new or old, is welcome. Bring it in, talk about it, and get four free raffle tickets. As usual, if you have photos you would like to show, e-mail them ahead of time to newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com and they will be added to the slide show.

We had two new members join: Brandon E #1009J and Steve E #1010 joined- welcome!

Joe McC recently received a package from the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association (PNNA) that included a Presidential award and a 2023 Silver Eagle. This is because he attended and helped at the Willamette Coin Show last November. It shows that it does pay to help other clubs. Here is a certificate he received- congratulations!



There is big news about Jack Beymer's coin shop. According to Eric S, Jack has sold the shop to Witter Coin, which has a store in San Francisco. The shop will keep its name and employees. Joe McC then added that all his inventory is in San Francisco being evaluated. The new owners will only deal in "high end coins". Finally, Mike C chimed in that Jack is 90 years old! Tom will soon be 70, then immediately retire. The other employees will stay.

SHOW & TELL

- Glenn M had an interesting 1797 silver 2/3 thaler from Brunswick-Wolfenbittel, in Germany. He bought it at a yard sale with a group of coins kept in a sock- all for \$25! The obverse notes the 2/3 thaler denomination. The reverse states it is XXIII (24) Marien Groschen, which were valued at 36 to the thaler. That explains the two different denomination names on the coin. NGC Price Guide currently lists it in VF at \$100
- Guy S took home a couple Numismatic Scrapbook Magazines on the give-away table last month: one from his year of birth, one from 1954 when he got his first ancient coin. He found the half-page ad in the 1954 edition from the upstate New York dealer where he bought the coin!



He was about 12, walked ~4 miles to this shop, and looked in a box with ancient coins on the counter. ALL the coins were of Emperor Geta, circa 200 AD (with different reverses), and he chose one to buy for \$3. They run ~ \$150 each now....

- Steve E: in 2011, when his daughter was 11, they cracked open a piggy bank on a rainy day for a father-daughter activity to see what she had. And they found a 1908-S Indian cent!
- Wendell B: as a kid his mom would take him to the bank. He would give the teller a \$1 silver certificate and allow him to go through the silver dollars to take one in exchange. That is how he got started with collecting. This is the obverse of the Morgan dollar he got!



▪ Helm J: driving back from a bottle show/meeting in Auburn and passing from Vallejo to Mare Island he drove along the Mare Island Causeway. It was originally built in 1919 and improved in 1935- here is his token for that dedication. The current version was built in 1980.



- Deanna continues to collect gold. At the same above-mentioned bottle meeting, she bought the \$1 gold piece from a collector who found it with a metal detector in Mobile Alabama! She got the \$5 gold piece at the same meeting. And the \$2-1/2 gold piece she bought at the Petaluma Antique Street Fair, hiding in the back of a display case just waiting for her to find it. And now she is broke for a while.....



- Roman brought in the ancient Roman coin he bought at our last coin show, a silver denarius from Septimius Severus, who ruled from 193-211 AD.

- Mike C bought a gold quarter eagle at our show, AU details (heavily cleaned) that he paid just over the spot gold price. He is now into gold coins. He used to look for foreign "junk" silver coins, and once took all his junk silver and sold it to Jack Beymer- got a good price...and started buying gold. Then he took all his US 90% silver coins to Beymer and sold them for a good price as well. It allowed him to pay off credit cards, buy gold, buy more gold, Selling all that silver opened up a lot of space, and now he has room for the gold coins.

- Rich H told us how he bought 36 rolls of 1943 steel cents for face value (\$18) 50 years ago. He looked through one of the rolls recently and found this one missing the 4. Was it real? Or not? He has literature about it, which he also brought in. It is real and is felt that grease got into the die where the 4 was, so that the number did not get stamped. It is not particularly rare or valuable. He also mentioned that there are a lot of the 1943 cents which have been "re-chromed" to look shiny and new, appealing to some people (especially non-collectors).



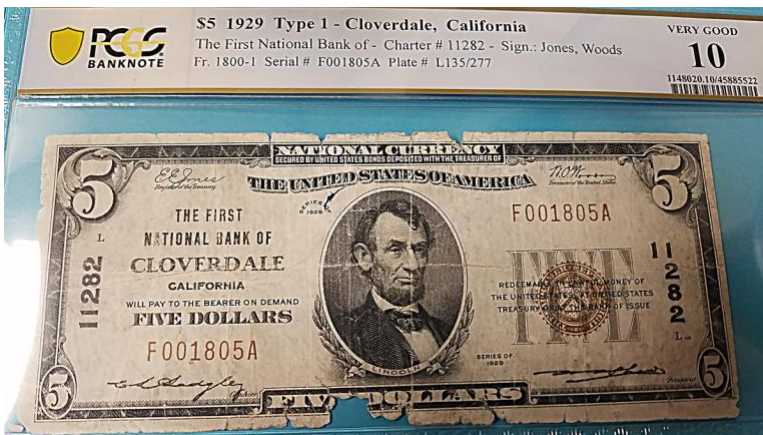
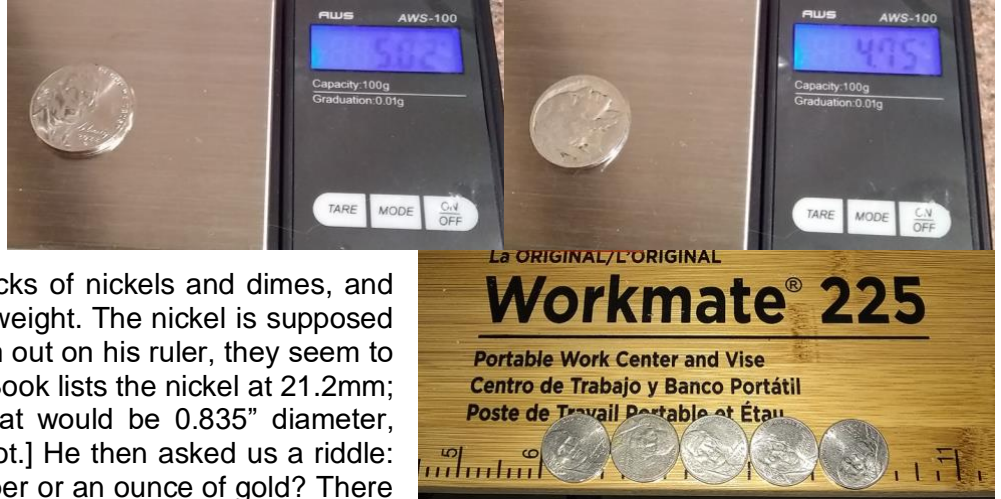
- Steve K brought in a silver eagle. It has value as silver, and he talked about our current monetary system which is not backed up by gold or silver as it once was.
- David S attended his first RECC coin show in 2016 and received a lot of junior coins. The room looks smaller now. Both he and his brother gathered a lot of wooden nickels back then, enough to have a "roll" of wooden nickels! Lee Gong used to love wooden nickels, and would make sure we had some new ones each year for the shows.
- Roger's first intro to coin collecting was as a teen when his father collected US proof and mint sets. It got him interested in those for a while. After his parents died, he came upon a box of coins that included a folder for a 20th century type set. It was a compact set, had all the coins (cent-dollar). It only showed the obverses, but that is mostly what he looks at. He has been upgrading those coins in the set. And Bob K has talked him into collecting other things as well.....

- Speaking of Bob K, he was into gold coins, but Merle talked him into working on a type set. He started one, and it is really fun!
- David G had a friend bring back this shekel of Tyre from Israel in 2013. He paid \$800 for it. He finally got to go to Israel himself and got back 2 weeks ago. While there, he showed a Jerusalem dealer a photo of the coin and was offered \$8000 for it- saying



it was a rare date minted in Jerusalem (not in Tyre, which is farther north in modern-day Lebanon)!

- David A asked who remembers our prior club meeting place at Coddington? Several of you do- thanks for sticking around with the club. He started collecting Lincoln cents then under the guidance of Lee Gong. When David was old enough (and strong enough) he started working at our coin shows, helping dealers unload and load carts for the show. He would trade his work for a coin, and has ended up with a complete type set- minus the gold coins. He is slowly working on that, but the dealers won't pay enough to help him fill in *that* page...
- Rich W brought in a new World Coin catalogue (1900-2000 dates) for the club, donated by Roger Tobin of San Rafael Rare Coins. It is the last edition being printed and will be kept as a reference in our library. To continue the talk from last month- he likes Buffalo nickels and showed a nice Capital Plastics holder showing his set. Finally, he mentioned an article in the Numismatist in the last year or two about "20-coin collections"- those comprising of just 20 coins total. There are any number of ways to make a complete set of just 20 or so coins. A Barber quarter date set is only 24 coins, for instance. It can make it easier than trying to get one of everything, particularly when there are certain rarities we know we just never will be able to afford or even find.
- Gary C: last month's topic about nickels and dimes made him "testy": he wanted to test some things about their dimensions. The nickel is reportedly 5 g (grams) in weight, and his modern nickel confirmed that. The Buffalo nickel was worn, so it is not surprising to be a bit underweight. He tried weighing stacks of nickels and dimes, and also was very close to the reported weight. The nickel is supposed to be ~4/5" in diameter. Laying them out on his ruler, they seem to be a bit bigger than that. [The Red Book lists the nickel at 21.2mm; an inch is 25.4mm. Technically that would be 0.835" diameter, explaining the measurement Gary got.] He then asked us a riddle: what weighs more, an ounce of copper or an ounce of gold? There are 16 avoirdupois ounces to a pound of copper, and only 12 troy ounces to a pound of gold- so a gold troy ounce is heavier than an ounce of copper!



- Merle likes to collect Sonoma County currency. From ~ 1880-1932, when you started a bank, you would give \$50,000 to the US Treasury, and get \$50,000 in printed currency notes with your bank name on it. The first time this happened in Sonoma County was 1902, with banks in Sonoma, Cloverdale, Geyserville, Healdsburg, Sebastopol, Santa Rosa, and Petaluma doing this. Several towns had multiple banks, each different and with its own unique currency. When the stock market crashed in 1932, ads appeared in newspapers offering to redeem the notes in silver- for one or two days only, then they would be worthless. Almost all the notes were redeemed, the serial numbers recorded, then they were destroyed. Few notes survived- and are now highly treasured. Merle has spent the last 25 years tracking down those remaining notes, and now owns most of them. Recently he saw this \$5 Cloverdale note at auction (1 of 6 known), and he was able to get it for only \$200! Normally they cost *far* more than that, but this one is a bit worn and chewed up- it has a lot of character!
- Charlie C (that's me): I have wanted this coin for years and finally found one in nice enough condition to buy. It is a 46 BC silver denarius from the Roman Republic that shows tools for making coins! The obverse features

a bust of Moneta. There were two Roman goddesses named Moneta. One was the goddess of memory. The other one, on this coin, is Juno Moneta, the goddess of money and protectress of finances. The term money is derived from her name. The reverse shows a rectangular bottom die in the center, a cap-shaped upper die above it, tongs for holding planchets, and a hammer. Now that I have this coin, here is a type set of other coins/tokens with designs about making coins. The two Conder tokens here from the 1790s in England are from coin dealers who made advertising tokens. Both feature a screw press for manufacturing coins. Below that are two modern die trials from the British Royal Mint in 1957, trying some new metals, edges, etc. They show Britannia holding an upper die on a lower one embedded in an anvil, ready to strike it with a hammer. The six points on the star represent the six colonies that made up British West Africa in the 1900s: Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, British Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and British Togoland. An example of a regular issue from British West Africa is shown. Finally, an engraving from a 1781 numismatic book showing cherubs minting coins. Or maybe they are angels, making pennies from heaven....



Rich H also brought in a mortar and pestle he bought in Majorca, made in the middle 1500s. He bought it while traveling there. And inside it were six very worn ancient Roman coins! If only they could talk- who knows how many people in ancient times may have handled them. He shared an article from a year ago entitled "How Low Can You Go" about collecting the lowest-graded coins (in Poor-01 condition), and how those could also tell stories of who has handled them.



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JUNIOR MEETING

In May, we had a very good meeting with Brandon, David, & Roman. They left with many new items for their collections.

Rich W will be out of town in June and Ember B will hold the meeting. She will have new items from Beymer via Joe Mc C. Meeting time starts at 6:15!

JUNE ZOOM INFO:

Time: Jun 14, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89526543194?pwd=YkpNZDAzaXAweXhORkVLTEJKVUtSdz09>

Meeting ID: 895 2654 3194

Passcode: 062023

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Dial by your location

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DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Roman S, Paul C, Bill S, Joe M, and Ember S

50:50 pot of \$86 was split with George C

Raffle: Andy O, George C (twice), David A, Bill s Jr., Steve E (twice), John B, Tiffany, and a couple more I didn't catch the names of

May Attendance: 51! Not bad considering the Warriors were playing the same time as our meeting.

New Members: Brandon E (#1009J) and Steve E (#1010)- **WELCOME!**


Guests: yes!

Auction: 63 exciting items.

Adjournment was at 9:30 p.m. sharp!



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

June 9-10, 2023. NorCal-East Bay/Concord Coin Show. Concord Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Dr., Concord.

July 29-30, 2023. Fremont Coin Club's Annual Coin Show. Elk's Lodge, 38991 Farwell Dr., Fremont

March 3, 2024. Livermore Valley Coin Club Show. Livermore Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive, Larkspur

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.

Check out our newsletter at: **Redwoodempirecoinclub.com**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:

newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you **in person at the Vets Building main auditorium**

June 14, 2023— Charlie