



Founded March 26, 1949

**Celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary in 2024!**



5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100  
Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 77, Issue 9, Meeting #886, September 11, 2024

Next Meeting October 9, 2024

## GOLD!

The September RECC meeting was golden. First, we had no trouble getting into the room like we did last month. Then we started off with bits of good news:

- Gary C entered his display at the New Mexico State Fair, and he came in third place!
- Tiffany S became a grandma for the first time just before our meeting!
- Bill S Sr. has a very serious medical condition recently requiring hospitalizations, blood transfusions, and doctor visits, so he was not able to make it to the meeting. But Bill Senior, Bill Junior, and Tiffany were all able to join the meeting via Zoom. Bill Sr wanted a bunch of tickets for the gold raffle drawing, (and Bill Jr and Tiffany wanted some too). A few club members pitched in and bought a whole bunch of gold raffle tickets as get well wishes.
- We have three new Life Members. Adriana M is LM-116; Celina M is LM-118; and Guilliano M is LM-117, our youngest LM ever. Of course, he became a club member at about 1 month of age. They all join Joel and Jasmine as a family of Life Members- thanks!

We held our 6-month Membership Gold Coin drawing. After the regular membership drawing, the wooden nickels with member numbers were added to those from the prior five months. The prize up for grabs was a 1912 Indian Head quarter eagle (\$2-1/2) gold coin generously donated by Witter Coin. Just for attending our meetings, no other cost! And the winning number drawn was #1024. Nolan A got up excitedly to claim the prize, until we figured it was not his number. #1024 is Allen B, who was not present- sorry. So, a second wooden nickel was drawn- #1021. And that is Nolen's number- so he did win the gold piece after all!

We also had a special raffle for two gold pieces near the end of the meeting. The first ticket drawn belonged to Mike M, who chose a 2009 British gold 1/4 sovereign worth \$160. The other ticket belonged to Charlie C, who won a 1945 Mexican gold 2-1/2 peso coin, worth \$180.

### OCTOBER TOPIC

The October meeting will feature our **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lee Gong Club Benefit Night and Auction**. It is hard to believe Lee has been gone six years already- we still miss his presence. The club will provide desserts and beverages for all. If you can, ***please bring a numismatic item*** (\$10 value or above) to donate for the auction. All proceeds benefit the club, and especially help pay for the rent of our meeting room for the year. Everybody who brings in a donation item will also get a **free slice of pizza!** Because this is a benefit auction, there will be no regular auction in October.

### FAVORITE GOLD COIN(S)

- Phil A started off with this beauty. When he was five years old, he remembers his grandmother talking about going to the 1915 Pan Pacific Expo. She had come from Lucca, Italy just a year prior, couldn't speak English, yet made it to that expo and told him about it repeatedly as he grew up. She also took him to the Golden Gate Expo at treasure Island in 1939! But it is the 1915 Pan Pac octagonal \$50 coin that he really likes. It commemorates the completion of the Panama Canal and the rebuilding of San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake. The obverse features a profile image of Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, skill, agriculture. The



reverse features the owl sacred to Minerva, also a symbol of wisdom. The owl is on a Western Pine branch, and around the edge on each side are eight dolphins signifying that with the canal opening, the waters of both oceans were opened to the whole world.

- Bill R shared this photo of his 1908 St. Gaudens 'no motto' \$20 gold piece. It is the first gold coin he ever purchased, from Don and Alyce Schuyler who owned the Napa Coin Gallery on Jefferson Street in the 1990s. They have long retired from the business. He described the four types of St Gaudens \$20 coins. In God We Trust was not included on 1907 and 1908 coins, but due to public outcry it was added back.



- Deanna J talked about two coins in her growing gold collection: a 1925 St. Gaudens \$20 piece, and a \$5 American Eagle 1/10 ounce- which she won at a meeting!



- Helm J was at a picnic for his bottle club. A friend there told of metal detecting in Mobile, Alabama, and while metal detecting finding an 1857 \$1 gold coin! It was very well preserved in the soil there, and Helm purchased it for his collection. He also supplies his bottle collecting club with gold pieces for drawings.



They wanted a \$10 gold Indian, but when he saw that he had only three of them for himself, he decided to keep them and sold them a \$10 Liberty gold coin instead. Good decision!



- Ember talked about her 1/10-ounce gold Oregon Trail 150-year Anniversary commemorative. She came from a very small town- Madras, Oregon- where her dad won the coin in a drawing at a store. The value at the time he won it in 1992 was \$85. Her great-great-great-grandmother on her mom's side came out west on the Oregon Trail in 1866, a year after the Civil War, at age 5. Ember's parents gave her the coin since she is the family genealogist.



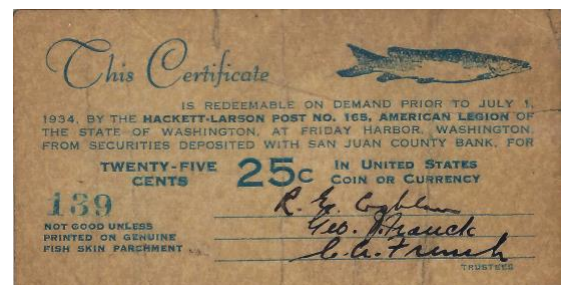
- David G works for a non-profit organization. During the Covid pandemic, he received a call from someone wanting to make an anonymous donation. Dave had to travel to the person's house and dig a can out of the garage- full of gold coins. The man ended up giving a lot of gold coins to Mt. Gilead, which Dave works for. This is one of them, which David bought from Mt. Gilead so that they could get the donation value. Don Rinkor paid a fair price for the others, so the non-profit was able to benefit greatly from the donation. The importance with this particular favorite of Dave is that 1900 is when his grandmother was born. She immigrated from Hamburg, Germany in 1914.



- Mike M would love to have this gold bar. It would weigh the same as those in Fort Knox: 400 ounces, 27-1/2 pounds, 7" X 3-5/8" X 1-3/4". In August, when gold hit \$2500/ounce, the value of one gold bar would be \$1million. So maybe he won't get one.... Today Fort Knox reportedly holds 4600 metric tons of gold worth close to \$200 billion. This represents 2.5% of all gold ever refined in the course of human history. During World War II it held four times that amount.



- Joe McC did not bring gold to show. Instead, he showed us a fascinating note. He has a wide interest in paper money, including European Notgeld and US/Canada depression notes and scrip. This





particular 25¢ note from Friday Harbor, Washington, was made of fish skin parchment!

- David A likes his 1904-S \$20 Liberty gold coin. He has admired the coin for years (it was his father's), and it was recently given to him as a birthday present! Nice gift, Merle.
- Erik showed us this coin, which he will likely never own. It is an 1849 Charlotte \$1 gold piece, and one of only five known examples of the open wreath variety.



- Merle put together a set of \$2-1/2 Indian Head gold in 1960. At the time they were reasonably priced at ~\$75-80 each. A couple months ago PCGS had a special on grading gold pieces, so he sent his entire set in for grading. A couple coins came back as being cleaned, including his key date 1911-D (strong D variety). He wanted one that

was not cleaned, so he sold his example and started looking. He found one on eBay but had too many hassles with it, and kept looking until he found this beauty, PCGS AU58. It is exactly what he has been looking for and fits nicely in his set.

- Charlie C (that's me!) showed two coins- would love to own them! Merle could afford them, as together they cost around \$200,000. These are from *the* first series of ancient coins that had an inscription. The large denomination stater inscription states "I am the badge of Phanes". The smaller 1/3 stater just says "Phanes". We do not know who



Phanes was, whether a wealthy merchant, a city administrator, or possibly a king. The inscription is meant to confirm the authority issuing the coins. We do know Phanes issued an entire series of denominations, all featuring a stag (deer). They originated around the ancient Greek city of Ephesus, where there was a famous temple to the goddess Artemis- the huntress- who traveled the ancient countryside hunting (deer in particular) with her hounds. And while these two largest denominations are too pricy, I do have almost all the rest of the deer family with 1/6th, 1/12th, 1/24th, and 1/48th stater examples, pictured here (9mm, 8mm, 6mm, and 6mm diameters). There is even a 1/96th stater variety, but with only seven known it will be near impossible to obtain. Interestingly, all the Phanes electrum coins have only ~45% gold and ~55% silver, which likely explains some toning on the 1/6 stater.

Join the October RECC Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88453842722?pwd=0oURqiPHGrMaBRdbOdgxuyPCJni2LI.1>

Meeting ID: 884 5384 2722

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## DRAWING WINNERS

**Membership:** Wendell B, Phil A, Barbara D, Andy O, and Cayson K. Plus, the gold- mentioned earlier.

**50:50** pot of \$74 was split with Adriana M

**Raffle:** Paul C (three times), Kim S, Otto O (three times), Guilliano M (three times), Glenn M (twice), and Sean H.

**September Attendance:** 56+

**Guests:** Yes!

**Auction:** 38 exciting items.

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



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#### UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**October 11-13, 2024. Diablo Numismatic Society's Contra Costa Coin & Collectibles Show.** Walnut Creek Elk's Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek

**November 8-9, 2024. South Bay/Sunnyvale Coin Show.** Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

**February 14-15, 2025. Redwood Empire Coin Club's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Show.** E.L. Finley Building, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350. Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa

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](http://Redwoodempirecoinclub.com)**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at: [newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com).  
See you at the Vets Building "Dinner Room" October 9, 2024— Charlie