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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 78, Issue 6, Meeting #895, June 11, 2025

Next Meeting July 9, 2025

GOING FOR GOLD!

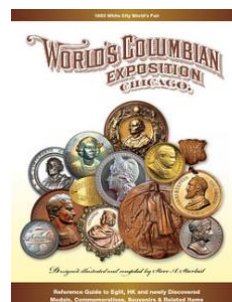
The June RECC meeting was special for a couple reasons. First of all, it was DESSERT NIGHT! Thanks to everybody who brought in desserts to share- they were delicious. And with 58+ members there, someone was surely going to have a birthday soon. VP Mike M, not being able to attend the next meeting in July, decided to bring a cake and celebrate one month early. There was a slight miscalculation on the cake decoration, as Merle has a birthday in October. But he still got a picture with a cake that had his name. Scrape away the name, and it became a cake for Charlie C (that's me!), with a birthday coming up in July. The entire club sang a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday to You, and we enjoyed that cake along with the other goodies. Gosh, thanks!

Mike M talked about a delay in getting the large print Red Books (backorder coming from China). He thinks he will be putting in another order in August (he will be gone July), both for more small print editions and more large print editions if you want them. We will get his phone # to you if anyone wants to order a copy.



The topic for **JULY: MY FAVORITE PATRIOTIC NUMISMATIC ITEM**. You have lots of options to talk about for this topic, so we expect to see a nice variety of examples to show the club. Bring in your favorite, give a talk, and get four free raffle tickets. As always, if you can- please send in photos of your item(s) ahead of time to newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com so they can be shown at the July meeting.

Merle talked about a new book available about the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. It has full color illustrations about all the medals, souvenirs, and various ephemera- including new finds which have not been published previously.



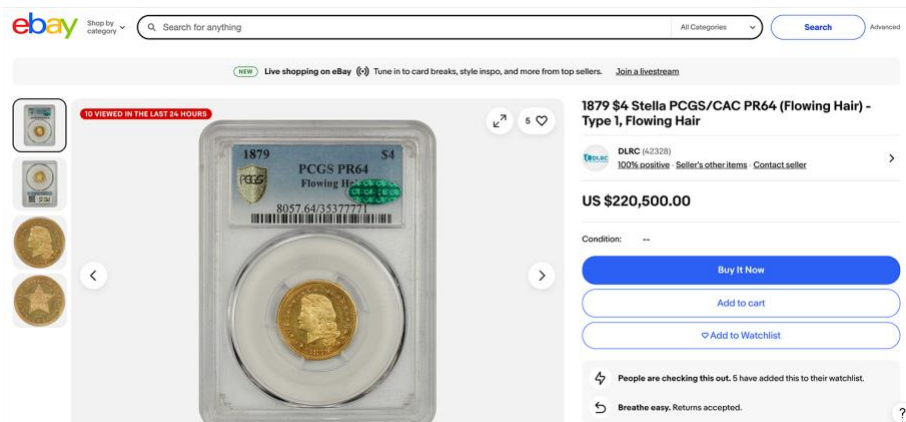
FAVORITE GOLD COIN(S)

- Riley R started off with a story from many years ago. He was living in Copenhagen at the time, where people would often sell coins in the markets. At the time, \$1 face value U.S. gold coins were sold there for \$8. He ended up buying ~ \$100 face value in U.S. gold coins. Much later he learned that about 60% of the coins were fake. Good fakes, but still fake. The lesson: Be careful, know what you are buying, and who you are buying from.

- Alan S: he *does* own this 1776-S (for Seville) Spanish gold ½ escudo. He especially likes the 1776 date. And there is a local tie-in to the date and “S” mint mark. San Francisco was founded on June 29, 1776! Alan’s coin is the second finest graded at PCGS. He showed images of the three top graded examples, and his has the best eye appeal.



- Keanu S talked about his father being a coin collector. He remembers his father going into a safe and bringing out a PCGS 1907 \$20 St. Gaudens with *high relief*! He has always wanted one since and really appreciates the details on the high relief coin.
- Bill W talked about the one that got away. First he showed a gold 40 lira dated 1815 from Parma, right after the Napoleonic wars. It is a recent acquisition. What he really likes are Roman legionary coins (he is an expert on them). He especially likes the legionary denarius (dime-sized silver) of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra. There is a very valuable gold denomination of that coin- an aureus. And at one time- before he bought his house- he had some extra money. One of the aureus coins came up for auction with an estimate of \$75,000. With his wife’s permission, he did bid on it. But he was outbid at \$220,000! It is still a favorite and one he would like to own.
- Helm J fell in love with the gold Stella, or \$4. He found one on eBay, only \$220,500.00! Only 425 were minted. The name Stella comes from the star on the reverse. There were two obverse designs, a flowing hair design by Charles E. Barber and the coiled hair design by George T. Morgan. I can just imagine hearing Helm: “STELLAAAAA!”



- New member Jeffrey S has been a collector since he was a kid. He bought a double eagle as a teen for ~\$200. He talked about Charlotte and Dahlonega mint coins, always wanting one of the rare gold coins from either mint. While having lunch at work one day, a colleague mentioned his great-grandmother helped found the gold museum in Dahlonega! Jeffrey showed a photo of his friend’s great grandmother and the Dahlonega Museum she founded. He eventually found this 1845-D \$5 gold piece at a Long Beach coin show- nice!

- The very first gold coin Bill R ever owned is this 1908 \$20 St. Gaudens, no motto. Nice first gold! Theodore Roosevelt, a deeply religious man and friend of St. Gaudens, initially asked for the ‘In God We Trust’ motto to be left off. He felt that inscribing ‘God’ on a coin which may be used by some for criminal purposes was blasphemy. Due to much public outcry, congress had the motto added back on. Bill gave more information about the coin. It was a birthday present to him in the 1990s, originally graded AU-50. He sent it in to PCGS for grading, and it came back as MS-63!
- Joe McC bought something recently at auction, with the sale price finally going for \$51. It is an electrotype of a Birch cent. Originals go from \$360,000 to over \$1million. An electrotype is an exact copy made from an original example. It is a Birch Cent from 1792, when engraver Robert Birch had a contract from the U.S. Mint to design various proposed denominations (including the disme and half-disme). Joe discussed a few other details about the coin’s history. He also talked about a microscope attachment for use with a computer.



- Mike M bought a 1/4 ounce gold American Eagle in 2010 when gold was selling for \$1352/ounce. It cost \$420 (\$338 in gold, \$82 premium for the mint). It looks like a great investment considering the rising price of gold.
- Rich H lived in Appleton, WI many years ago. He bought a bunch of uncirculated U.S. \$20 gold coins (that had come from a collection in Switzerland). They cost him \$36 each! Years later he moved to Santa Rosa, and while remodeling his home the safe containing the coins was stolen. It was reported to the police. Now, many years later, Rich moved to a new living facility, and who does he meet also living there? The same police officer who took the robbery report many years ago. Be careful with your collections!
- Merle started collecting \$2-1/2 Indian gold pieces in 1988. A person walked into a coin shop then with about half the dates, un-slabbed, and Merle was able to purchase all of them. He added more later, had everything graded, replaced ungradable examples, and now has a nice full set. He gave an in-depth history of the series. In 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt commissioned Augustus St. Gaudens to redesign all our coins. By 1907, the \$10 and \$20 designs were complete. St. Gaudens did not live long enough to see them minted, dying of cancer. The \$2-1/2 and \$5 designs were not even started yet, so someone suggested producing them in intaglio, or incuse. Bela Lyon Pratt was hired for the design, resulting in this beautiful Indian Head gold. Merle read about the history of the entire series and had his set on display for all to see.



- Charlie C (that's me!) showed two coins. First is an 1817 (first year of issue) British gold sovereign featuring St. George and the Dragon, by Benedetto Pistrucci. Wish I had one of these but only have a common date 1904 sovereign that cost me \$11 in the 1960s- for 1/4 ounce gold. Pistrucci was hired by the Royal British Mint to bring in some fresh new



designs to coinage- and proved to be one of the most difficult engravers in mint history. But he was also very exacting: he did not like the engraving that mint workers did with his design, so he taught himself how to engrave coin dies and did it himself- nice job! The motto HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE (Evil unto him that thinks evil of it; or If you don't have something nice to say, don't say it) is the motto of the Order of the Garter. St. George became England's patron saint when King Edward III (1327-1377) made him patron of the Order of the Garter. Before the St. George coin, there was another design which was similar. Archangel Michael and the Dragon (the Devil) appeared on the gold Angel denomination starting with King Edward IV (1461-1483). Initially Michael had feathers on his legs, but later (as with my example from King Henry VII) he had typical Renaissance chainmail trousers. The reverse features the Ship of State. The value: 6 shillings 8 pence, replacing another gold denomination that had been revalued at a higher value.

Almost forgot the most important part of the night: the Membership GOLD COIN Drawing. For every meeting you attended since the prior drawing, a wooden nickel with your membership number was gathered with those of all other members present. The more meetings you attended, the more chances you had to get the two gold pieces. Merle saved this drawing for last, just to keep the suspense. And the winners were:

For a 1/10-ounce gold coin, Sally P was the first person drawn but was not at the meeting. Roger N was present and got the gold!

For a 2-peso Mexican gold piece, Paul C was also not present when his token was drawn. Rick R was present and got that gold piece. Congratulations! We will try to do this again in six more months.

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Can't make the meeting in July?

Join the Zoom Meeting!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89888153689?pwd=bk6uq4IK3mKbvNpbbTa0UkTWq5ezxz.1>

Meeting ID: 898 8815 3689

Passcode: 072025

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,89888153689#,,, *072025# US

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Dale C, Rick S Jr., Rusty D, Bill P, and Tiffany S

50:50 pot of \$80 was split with Bill S Jr.

Raffle: Chris H (twice), Joyce B, Glenn M (twice), Helm J, Bill S Jr., David Y, Bill S Sr., David B, Bill W

June Attendance: 58+

New Members: Jeffrey S, # 1059, joined us- WELCOME!

Guests: yes

Auction: 40 exciting items.

Adjournment was at 9:12 p.m. sharp!



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

July 18-19, 2025. Reno Coin Show. J Resort, 345 North Arlington Avenue, Reno

July 26-27, 2025. Fremont Coin Club's Annual Coin Show. Elk's Lodge, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

August 1-2, 2025. Central Valley Coin and Collectibles Show. Stanislaus County Veterans Hall, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto

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 at the Vets Building "Dinner Room" **July 9, 2025**— Charlie