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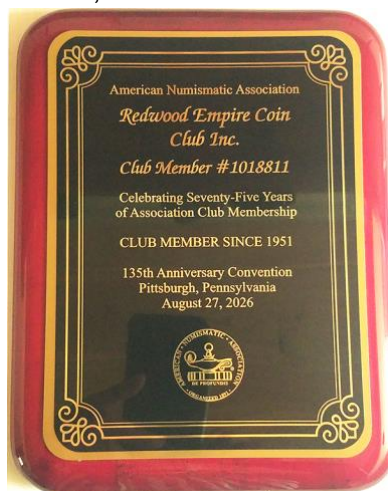
Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 79, Issue 5, Meeting #909, August 5, 2026

Next Meeting September 9, 2026

AUGUST NEWS

The August RECC meeting was a bit quieter than the July 250th U.S. birthday meeting, but we still had over fifty members. Mike M brought a birthday cake for Charlie C (that's me!), because my birthday was after the July meeting. Thanks for everybody singing Happy Birthday to You- in tune, too!



Happy Anniversary to the RECC! We were awarded this plaque, dated to the upcoming ANA convention August 27 in Pittsburgh. We asked for it to be mailed, not knowing any members who would be present at the convention ceremony to receive it. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, there is a lot to benefit from being a member of the ANA, particularly with all the educational programs it offers. Please consider joining if you haven't done so. Their monthly magazine is excellent, with tons of useful information.

Merle and a few other members went to the San Francisco Coin Club's first show on August 1st.

ANA Governor Seth Chandler of Witter Coins and Bob Campbell, former President of the American Numismatic Association were both there, showing off the plaque to the crowd at the show and singing praises of the RECC. Merle also spoke about the educational program run by Witter in learning how to be a coin dealer- included as part of the SF Coin Show set-up.



The theme for the **September** meeting will be **Type Sets**. Any kind of numismatic type sets that you are putting together- like U.S. coin types, commemoratives, wooden nickels, animals on coins, holey coins, you name it- bring it in or talk about it and get four free raffle tickets. And as usual, send in photos of your coins/sets ahead of time to newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com so that they can be shown on the projector screen at the meeting.

Looking further ahead, October will feature our annual Lee Gong Benefit Auction Night, where you donate items to sell in an auction to benefit the club (particularly to cover the \$3000 meeting room rental for a year). In addition, there will be a free membership **GOLD COIN DRAWING**- but you will need to be present to win (including anyone on Zoom).

QUARTERS, FOURTHS, TWO BITS, and more

- If you read the July newsletter, you saw a note about the first quarter dollar produced at the US mint. 6146 were minted, only about 650 currently exist. The newsletter was sent out by email the morning of July 11, and later that afternoon Larry C e-mailed the club (having not seen the newsletter) that he has one of these! He could not make it to the meeting but did send the photo of this special coin in his type set. Fresh to market, it

came out of a longtime raw collection. A wholesaler bought it and sent it to PCGS and then CAC. The wholesaler sold it to a dealer friend of Larry's who posted it on Instagram. Larry happened to be at the World's Fair of Money and couldn't get to that table fast enough to put it on hold before anyone else could!



- Gary C, Zooming from beautiful British Columbia, talked about the coin he just got in the mail. He has talked about farthings ($\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny) before, so he wants to talk about this *quarter farthing* ($\frac{1}{4}$ of a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny). This was minted during the rule of British Queen Victoria and only for Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka). At present the most important export from there is textiles, but in the mid-1800s it was Ceylon tea. It was made of pure copper in 1839, 1851-1853, and proof in 1868. It weighs $\frac{1}{3840}$ of a pound, and in 1839 3,840,000 were minted out of exactly 1000 pounds of copper!



- Rich W talked about the country's financial situation in 1861 at the start of the Civil War. There was virtually no small change in circulation because coins were being hoarded. Treasurer of the United States Francis E. Spinner had an idea, and President Lincoln signed into law the Postage Stamp Act, which resulted in five series of fractional currency notes. We have the reference book on those, signed by the author. Rich showed us three of the 25 ¢ note series. They were backed up by....paper. A Civil War soldier made \$11/month. A boarding house cost \$1.25/week including meals, to give you an idea of what these notes may have paid for. The Postage Stamp act generated \$368,724,079 to help finance the war for the North—just by selling paper. Rich also showed the Wright & Co. Bankers 25¢ note, because it has his name on it. Finally, he talked about means of exchange during our colonial times, when the colonies were often not allowed to mint coins. Foreign coins were often used for money, very commonly the Spanish 8 Reale “piece of 8”, a dollar sized coin. Because of a lack of small change, those were often cut into eight pieces (of 1 Reale each) for change. The pieces became known as ‘bits’, with two ‘bits’ equaling a quarter.



- Bill R showed us his 1901-S Barber quarter, the lowest mintage for Barber quarter circulation strikes. Most surviving examples of that year are in a relatively low grade. There are a few mint states examples (10-20) that command big prices. The finest known is MS-68! It is a commonly counterfeited coin by adding an S or altering the date. Get one that is authenticated! Bill discussed diagnostics for genuine examples.





- Mike M was missing one example from his quarter dollar type coin set, so he finally just got an 1876-S AU-50 Liberty Seated quarter to complete his type set! Yea!



- Jeffrey S showed us his beautiful 1917-D Type 1 Standing Liberty quarter in AU-58. The design was first minted in 1916 with 52,000 struck. 1.5 million were struck in 1917 before it was decided to hide the exposed right breast on Liberty and cover her in chain mail. Jeffrey brought more information on the series for anyone who was interested to read more.

- Gordon C talked about how he collected weird coins as a kid and brought in one from his collection- a counterfeit 1796 quarter. Too bad it was not a real one!

- Rich H brought in the two error quarters shown here. The first one has the date blocked out, which was 1965- the year he got it. He was told it displayed a die break. This is known as a *cud*. It occurs when a piece of the die breaks off- in this case where the date was on the obverse die. When a planchet is struck, metal is pushed from the intact reverse die to fill the gap where the part of the obverse die broke off. The other quarter looks like a lamination defect, where the laminated clad layer partly peeled off of both sides.



- Helm J showed a bag that used to contain quarters. They were usually sealed with thread, but his had staples!



- Merle had a lot of coins to show off. He collects coins that are 100 years older than him, minted in 1856. So this is his Seated Liberty quarter. He has a lot of MS62 coins, often likes them better than MS63. Next is one of his PR64CAM Barber quarters. He is trying to

collect the entire proof Barber quarter series. All of the Proof Barber dimes, quarters, and halves had a mintage under 1000 (except for one year). After Jeffrey showed us a beautiful example of a 1917 Type 1 quarter, Merle showed us this 1916 Type 1 quarter. It was found with a metal detector and given to him as a birthday present. He had it slabbed to confirm that it is genuine.



It would be highly unusual for Merle to not show any tokens- and he did bring in six examples of 25¢ 'good for' tokens of varying rarity. There are only two known of the Fettes Springs 25¢ tokens, he owns both. The Duncan Mills token is from the El Bonito Hotel. That hotel fell down in the 1906 earthquake and blocked the railroad tracks, so trains couldn't get through until the building was cleared. Finally Merle talked about a special wood produced by the RECC. For the club's 25th Anniversary, a 25¢ rectangular wood was made. The prior year it was a 24¢ wood, and the following years a 26¢ and then a 27¢ wood. They are very rare.



- Finally, Charlie C (that's me) tried for a daily double. The theme for the night was fourths, as well as Augustus (as in St. Gaudens or the Emperor). Nobody brought in or talked about a St. Gaudens coin! But here is one close to Augustus. It is a quadrans -1/4 of the large copper denomination of Ancient Rome, the **As**. There are four quadrans to one As. One **Denarius**, the dime sized silver coin of ancient Rome, was equal to 10 Asses. And one Aureus, the dime-sized gold coin of ancient Rome, was equal to 25 Denarii. This coin was minted around 41AD for Emperor Claudius. Claudius was the *grandson* of Emperor Augustus's sister Octavia and Marc Anthony (who later dumped Octavia for Cleopatra- but that is another story). Tiberius was his uncle. Interestingly, Claudius was sickly as a child and had a limp, a stammer, and a tremor- though he eventually outgrew those. He was mostly shunned and abused by his family and not felt to be a political threat, but he was still well educated. When the nasty Emperor Caligula was assassinated, Claudius was allegedly found hiding behind curtains in the palace and then proclaimed emperor. Nobody thought he would last long, but he indeed had a long and prominent reign. The balance scale on this quadrans is felt to signify an updating of the weights and balance system used during Claudius' reign.



The club was recently notified of the passing of Claude Fisher, Life Member #77 on June 12, 2026. Claude regularly attended the club meetings until about ten years ago, when he moved away.

Can't make the next meeting? Join us on Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85874145891?pwd=YKa4ebD7OEizBcoDrjOSmlt2tJvrN8.1>

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DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Gil M, Gary C, Merle A, Dave G, Bill S Sr.

50:50 pot of \$102 was split with Joel M- WHOO HOOOOOO!

Raffle: Otto O, Glenn M (twice), a guest (twice), Martin F, Bill S Sr., Bill R, Rick S Jr., Charlie C

August Attendance: 50+

New Members: Odie B (#1087) and son Ollie B (#1088J) joined after having attended a few meetings- WELCOME!

Guests: yes we had guests.

Auction: 22 exciting items.

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



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

Saturday September 12, 2026: Victoria Numismatic Society's VICTORIA COIN SHOW. St. Matthias Hall, 600 Richmond Ave, Victoria, B.C. Canada. This is Gary C's new *local* club. Admission is \$2 Canadian/\$1.34 US dollar

Saturday November 14, 2026. Northern California Numismatic Association's (NCNA) NUMISMATIC EDUCATIONAL FORUM. Opens at 9:00 AM, free admission. Featuring six speakers in two sessions (morning and afternoon): **Charlie Catlett**: "From Stones to Shekels"; Charmy Harker: "Something Cents"; Jennifer A. Ingram: "Where Culture and Currency Collide"; Herbert Miles: "Susan B. Anthony: Revolutionary"; Bill Hyder and Jeff Shevlin "Exonumia of San Francisco"; and Cassidy Stroud: "Diversity on Canadian Banknotes".

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 **September 9, 2026**— Charlie