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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 79, Issue 5, Meeting #906, May 13, 2026

Next Meeting June 10, 2026

MAY NEWS

President Merle opened the May meeting with a discussion on more plans for our July meeting, celebrating our nation's 250th birthday. We want to have barbecued hamburgers but needed to find someone to grill them- and we did. There will be several giveaways at that meeting, including a new club wooden nickel, a new club medal, 1976 proof set(s), and hopefully a **very** nice and special membership drawing. There will be a grading contest using CC Morgan Dollars. And there may be more....

Mike M had a birthday two days before our meeting. Once we verified that indeed we had the correct date, the entire club sang Happy Birthday. We appreciate all Mike does for us as Vice President!



Merle discussed upcoming coin shows, with Bill Green having an East Bay Concord Show June 5-6 and a Reno Show July 17-18. There are also some Santa Clara Shows coming up.

The topic for the **June** meeting will be **dimes**, and anything else with a **denomination of ten**. Bring in an item or talk about one and get four free raffle tickets. And as usual, if you have photos of your item(s) please e-mail them to the club at newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com so we can show it on the projector screen while you talk about it. There will be Zoom availability for those unable to attend in person.

FIVES

- Bill W started off the talks with two shiny silver coins he recently bought for \$5 each. The problem was that they were counterfeit, though he knew that at the time he bought them. He likes to have examples of modern counterfeits. These are magnetic, and Bill stressed the importance of having a strong magnet with you (like one of neodymium) when looking at 'silver' coins- especially if the price seems too good to be true. Test *everything!*



- Rich W bought a token at the coin show- a school lunch token good for a **5¢ lunch**. Yes, that is 5¢ for an *entire* lunch, at the Likeli School in the Territory of Hawaii (prior to statehood). It was a random find at our show. He showed it to his daughter, a nutritionist with the Chico school system, just to compare prices of school lunches.

- Alan S showed us his Papua New Guinea **5 Kina** coin. It celebrated the United Nations International Year of the Child. It is 50% silver, with 0.44 troy ounces of silver in the coin. He talked a bit about the culture of Papua New Guinea.





- Rick C admits to collecting weird things (but they are also really fun things!). These are two **5-ounce copper** pieces. One is rectangular, celebrating Memorial Day. It is important to him, being a veteran. The “Greed” round is quite detailed, with thirteen skulls surrounding the central face, with the hand on the reverse “squeezing all the juice out of every penny he could get”.
- Jeffrey S worked hard to save up for his **\$5 Silver Certificate**. In the early 1990s he was in Las Vegas, won some money at a slot machine, then went to a local coin store and bought one of these in 25 condition. A while later he traded up for one in 40. Thirty years later he saved enough to get this beautiful example. The Native American featured on the obverse was modeled after Chief Running Antelope of the Hunkpapa Sioux. He appreciates the fine artwork on the note.



- Rich H talked about his 1928 **\$5 National Bank** note from Wausau, Wisconsin. He was born in Michigan a while back, and in 1941 moved to Wausau. He was very happy to find his low number note in such nice condition.



- Joe Mc C showed two recent purchases of ‘fives’, with a twist. They are actually both 20 pfennig Notgeld notes from 1921. One had obverse and reverse images of four **5 pfennig** notes, and they would be cut apart to make change. The other 20 pfennig note had images of two 10 pfennig notes, which could also be cut in half to make change! Photos are on the next page.



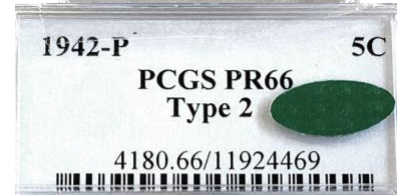
• Mike M showed us his beautiful proof **Liberty V Nickel**. Years ago, he was in the Petaluma shop of Sisson & Son and asked if they had any certified coins. Being mostly a bullion dealer, they had only one, a certified V nickel. Mike figured out that it is a nice set of coins to own, with only thirty-three in the set. [Does that include the 1913?]. It was the first date set he ever put together.



• Gary C chimed in from beautiful British Columbia via Zoom. For about twenty-five years he and his wife have been accumulating world coins with lighthouses on them. Here is his **5 Lirat** non-circulating silver commemorative marking the 19th anniversary of the establishment of Isreal as an independent nation and the 10th anniversary of the opening of the port of Eilat on the southern tip of Israel, at the top of the Gulf of Aqaba. Historically it is where King Solomon's ships would have sailed from. Gary recalls in around 1969-1970 going to a coin dealer on Venice Blvd in west Los Angeles, where big silver coins like this were often on the 'bid board' - the local dealer's auctions.



- Merle decided to put together a set of **half dimes** in ~2000. It took two years to get 98 of the 99 varieties of the set. He is only missing the 1802, which starts at ~\$100,000 in just Good condition. Most of his set was in a Dansco album which he brought, but a few are in slabs like his 1867 Proof example. The proof Shield Nickel was purchased at Witter Coins in Santa Rosa on what turned out to be the last day the shop was open there. Merle wishes he had bought more that day, had he known. He showed a nice 1913 Type 1 Buffalo Nickel in MS65. He really would like to have a Buffalo Nickel in MS68 someday. In 1942 the 5¢ coin was initially made of nickel (Type 1) and switched to 35% silver (Type 2). He has a beautiful matching set in Proof 66. Wow. Just wow.
- And if you thought those were great, Merle also brought ten Santa Rosa tokens, all **Good For 5¢**. Six are pictured here. There were various sizes and shapes. Some were saloon pieces- it needed to state "Saloon" on them. Saloons closed during Prohibition, starting ~1910. For a long time after Prohibition merchants were not allowed to use the term 'saloon' for business- they had to use the term 'Bar' until about the 1970s. Merle told a fun story about Gametti's (one of their tokens is pictured). It used to be open 24 hours a day, and you could go in and see police officers all the time. Everything was legal on one the upper floor, but all sorts of stuff happened on the lower floor. Merle says there are pictures.....



- Finally, Charlie C (that's me!) showed two coins. I don't own either, but they are a follow-up to Merle's talk last month. He talked about a set of six British gold sovereigns that he had purchased long ago and acknowledged that there were other varieties. A bit of research confirmed that there is indeed a 2026 gold sovereign minted with the image of King Charles III, as well as a 1/4 sovereign with the same design. They are 22mm and 13 mm in diameter. What was interesting were anticounterfeit measures incorporated in the two coins. There was a stippled grid underneath the motto on the obverse, as well as a circular fine-lined design below the bust- both hard to fake and maintain good detail. On the reverse, there is micro-lettering circling just inside the edge. The inscription reads HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE repeatedly. That translates to SHAMED BE (THE PERSON) WHO THINKS EVIL OF IT in British-speak, or IF YOU DON'T HAVE SOMETHING NICE TO SAY, DON'T SAY IT in plain English. That is the motto of The Order of the Garter. It took a bit of technical wizardry to clearly print that motto repeatedly and it too will be difficult to counterfeit. So how does this fit into the theme of the night? Before England changed to their decimal coinage system in 1971, a shilling used to be worth twelve pennies. A Crown was worth sixty pennies, and a sovereign and a pound sterling were each worth 240 pennies. Britain does not make a Crown coin anymore. But it does still mint the 1/4 sovereign (as a bullion coin), which would have been worth sixty pennies or **5 shillings**. It doesn't matter because everything is decimal in Britain now. If only the U.S. would go metric with measurements.....



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87070759259?pwd=g9CVAk8SrXNvNuAOaxRu2uc50BvkK6.1>

Meeting ID: 870 7075 9259 Passcode: 062026

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DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Faith L, Rick R, Mike C, Catherine S, and Rick S

50:50 pot of \$94 was split with Dave B!

Raffle: David Y (twice), Bill S Jr. (twice), Bill W (thrice), Chris H, guest, Bill R, Otto O

Gold Raffle of 2 Peso Gold: Chris H!

May Attendance: 63+

New Members: none this month

Guests: yes, we had guests!

Auction: 42 exciting items.

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



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

June 5-6, 2026. East Bay Concord Show. Concord Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord.

July 17-18, 2026. Reno Coin Show. J Resort, 345 North Arlington Avenue, Reno

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 **June 10, 2026**— Charlie