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1211W. College Ave.
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401

Redwood Empire Coin Club

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Next Meeting: November 12, 2014

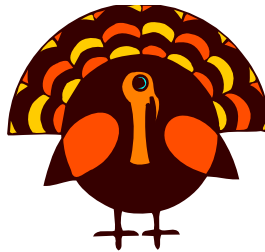
WEINERS EVERYWHERE....AND COINS TOO!

The Oktoberfest meeting of the RECC featured some fabulous wieners courtesy of Lee G and G&G market. He outdid himself— they were really delicious, along with the potato and macaroni salads. There were also lots of desserts, thanks to the members who brought them.

We also had our annual Helen and Roy Roberts Club Benefit Auction. Members brought in 60 items for the auction, which netted the club \$480! Thanks to the generous members who donated items as well to all of you who purchased them.

THANKSGIVING!

November will feature our annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** meeting. For **only \$5** you get freshly roasted turkey, gravy, potatoes and stuffing prepared by the chefs at G&G market. Please bring a side dish or dessert to go with the turkey. And since we sometimes have much more of one than the other, can everyone whose **last name starts with A-M** bring a **hot or cold side dish**, and everyone whose **last name begins with N-Z** bring a **dessert**? I bet this is going to be the best turkey dinner ever.



Also, the **theme** for the meeting is "**OTHER COIN-RELATED HOBBIES**". Bring in or talk about your coin related hobby, get 4 free raffle tickets.

Gold Drawing tickets for our upcoming February 13-14, 2015 Coin Show were handed out by Merle. This is our main source of income from the show, and helps pay the cost of it all. You are all encouraged to sell as many as you can to help the club. And Curtis S challenged us all to do even better than last year.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

◇ Joe M offered to pay admission to anyone

planning on going to the upcoming coin show inOregon.

◇ Bill G thanked all the club members who attended his recent Santa Rosa Coin Show. He felt it was successful, and included local dealers as well as some from southern California and Nevada. And the club member who won the 1/10 ounce gold Eagle was..... Mike B!

◇ Edwin H announced the **First Annual California Numismatic Seminar** presented by the Northern California Numismatic Association. It will be Saturday November 29, 2014 at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin (at Capital), Vallejo. The theme is "Great Collectors and Grand Collections". Four presentations will be on: 1: Krause Publications 'Numismatic Ambassadors'; 2: the Bass Collection; 3: Scandinavian Coinage; and 4: Error Coins. This should be a very good educational symposium. Admission is free, and there will be door prizes.

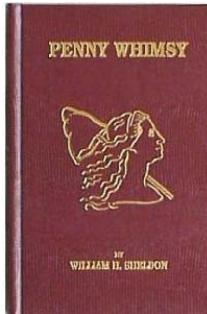
Tom W had an interesting talk about a few things. In the early 1950s he was a cashier at a hotel in Buffalo. Drinks at the bar were 50 cents. A customer would come in weekly, plunk down a 50 cent piece, and get a drink. The only problem was that this customer had been making the Walking Liberty halves out of solder! And more interesting, they each had different dates. All the counterfeit pieces were given to the secret service except one, which Tom brought in (dated 1941) to the meeting. On first glance it was a pretty good replica, too. Continued on page 2.



BEFORE YOU BUY THE COIN.....

Most of us have heard Lee G talk at a meeting about the importance of buying the book before buying the coin. How many of you actually have done that? This is about a time I didn't, and recently about a time I did.

About 20 years ago at a RECC Coin Show held at the Flamingo Hotel, dealer John MacIntosh had a 1794 Large Cent for sale. Many of you know what happened next: I looked at it and just had to have that coin. Not knowing much about it and not having the book, I did the next best thing—asked Merle. Right as the show was closing, I struck a deal and bought the coin, a VF example variety S-63. THEN I bought the book.



In 1958, William H. Sheldon published the book "Penny Whimsy". In it, he catalogued every single die combination of large cents from 1793 to 1814 in explicit detail. My S-63 was variety 63, the "fallen 4", where the 4 in the date was lower than the other numbers. His book is a classic of American Numismatics and a great resource for the series. Sheldon is also the person to develop the current number grading system (1-70) used today. I have since sold the coin, but still refer to the book when perusing early Large Cents. I was not sorry at all for buying the coin before the book, but having expert advice from another collector helped with a good purchase.



My collecting interests in the last 10 years have been mostly old English and ancient Biblical / Judean coins. I also collect some antique coin books on the same subject, as well as modern reference books too. A recent printed/internet auction offered a particularly rare coin from a somewhat obscure era that I collect. It would fill a large hole in my type set, though I expected it to go for WAY more than I could afford. In fact, several items prior to it went for more than I was willing to pay, and I almost gave up on this one. With literally 30 seconds left on the clock, I thought I would see how high the bidding was, and checked it out on-line, saw that the bid had *not* gone up, and put in the next highest bid.... And got the coin.

For this auction (and for most of my collecting since that large cent purchase), I did buy the book. In this case, my type set is coinage of the Bar Kochba War. Most of you may not remember this one. The Romans conquered Jerusalem and all of Judea in 66 AD after a very tough 5 year long war. It took 3 Roman Legions to do it. 70 years later, a revolt led by Simon Bar Kochba fought the Romans again, trying to

recapture the region. The revolt lasted 3 years, and Jerusalem was never taken back from the Romans. But Bar Kochba did have coins minted to cover up old Roman silver and bronze coins with new designs often proclaiming freedom (from Rome). And in 1958, Leo Mildenberg did the same as William Sheldon, only he wrote the most authoritative book on the Coinage of the Bar Kochba War. In it he details every silver and bronze issue of the this period, including a complete analysis of all the possible die combinations. Keep in mind that this is from coins that are 1850 years old!

Coins from this era until the 17th/18th century were hammered. Meaning the obverse die was set in a plank or bench, the planchet placed on it, and the reverse die placed on the planchet. This was then struck with a hammer to get the imprint. Because the reverse was the one hit with the hammer, it tended to break down 4 to 6 times faster than the obverse die. From various combinations and noted die wear, the chronology of the minted series could be explicitly determined.

The coin I won at auction is known by its Arab nickname of Abu Jara, literally meaning "father of the jar" for its large size and the amphora on the reverse. Again this may sound obscure, but there is a relevance with what we see in modern minting. In the Mildenberg book, this particular coin was from the *first* obverse and *first* reverse die of the entire series. So this is an 1850 year old First Strike! I couldn't resist.



Charlie C

More from Tom W

Tom had a girlfriend who's father was the President of the Boston Federal Reserve Bank. He used to be able to go through bags of coins.

And his father was a professor of Spanish Literature, and used to show the classes examples of pieces of eight. Tom brought in a Spanish Milled Dollar, an 8 reale coin popular in the American Colonial period before we had our own coinage. They were actually legal tender until the Coinage Act of 1857. This dollar sized coin could be cut in quarters for change, giving us the term '2 bits' for the value of that section. It is also the first coin image in the Red Book. Before the milled coinage started in 1732, Spain produced "cobs" (from 1572-1773). Because these were hand struck often from irregular planchets, and sometimes clipped to be the correct weight, they were often of irregular shape.

PIECES OF EIGHT

These are examples of Spanish Eight Real coins. The first is the Spanish Milled Dollar, and the others are cobs— note the irregular shape.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads may be placed by any club member, up to 2 per month. They run for two months. Buy—Sell—Trade—Want Lists OK. Notify Charlie at each meeting (or mail to club P.O. Box, or even call) to get your ad in

Nothing for this month

GET WELL

The club heard the news that our beloved member Harry D had a stroke, and was not able to attend the meeting. We all wish him well and thank Irene C for taking good care of him. We hope to see you soon at a meeting.

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: There were 6 winners. I did not get the names due to other things going on, but **WHOO HOO** to all 6 winners.

50:50 pot of \$ 144 was split with Jeremiah

Raffle: Bill R (3 in a row, 4 total)), Jon Maria, Jack H (twice), Lucky Larry M, Mike B, Jeremiah, and Joel

October Members Present: 69+

New Members: none

Guests: several

Auction: **60 items** generously donated by club members— thanks!

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

KIDS KORNER

Juniors who attended the October meeting mounted some world coins in 2 x 2 "s. They then inserted the coins into plastic album pages that will become a coin binder that can grow as their collecting progresses.

Joel will hopefully conduct the Junior meeting in November, and I will.....
See you in December. Rich

Volunteers for **refreshments** for November are for everyone to bring a dessert or a side dish to go with the Thanksgiving turkey— thanks!

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of every 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 PM sharp.

R.E.C.C.

1211 W. College Ave.

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UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

November 2, 2014. Peninsula Coin Club's 35th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show.
Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway,
San Jose

November 14-15, 2014. South Bay / Sunnyvale Coin Show. The Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale.

November 29, 2014. 1st Annual NCNA Symposium, Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 73 Marin Street at Capital, Vallejo

FEBRUARY 13-14, 2015. Redwood Coin Club 47th Annual Coin Show. Sonoma County Fairgrounds Finley Hall, Santa Rosa

February 15, 2015. Cupertino Coin Club's 43rd Annual Coin Show. Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

May 17, 2015. Vallejo Numismatic Society 43rd Annual Show. Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador (between Georgia and Florida), Vallejo

July 25-26, 2015. Fremont Coin Club's 43rd Annual Show. Elk's Lodge, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

November 1, 2015. Peninsula Coin Club's 36th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show.
Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway,
San Jose

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

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com

Or call me— 707-573-1252
See you November 12— Charlie

