

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 68, Issue 8, Meeting #789. August 10, 2016

Next Meeting: September 14, 2016

## AUGUST NEWS

The business portion of the August RECC meeting was short and sweet. Jon Maria M talked about the Fairfield Coin Show. It was a one day show, with over 300 people attending. It turned out to be a good show.

Curtis and Ramona had their 66th wedding anniversary the day of the meeting. Ramona was not feeling up to attending, so the club congratulated Curtis and wished them both happy memories!

There is a tentative date for our **49th Annual Coin Show**. It will be February 24 and 25 (Friday and Saturday), with dealer set-up on the 23rd. This date will be confirmed at a future meeting.

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### GOLD!

The September meeting will feature our six month Membership Gold Drawing! There will be at least 3 gold coins given away. For every meeting you have attended over the last 6 months, your trusty secretary has gathered a club wooden nickel with your number on it. All of these will put together, and a few lucky members will win gold coins. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

Merle asked those of us who did not bring something to the August meeting to bring a goodie to share during the break in September if you can.

And the topic for September is.....**GOLD!** Bring in or just talk about a numismatic gold item and win 4 raffle tickets.

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### FAVORITE 50 CENT PIECE

◇ Philip A started off the topic discussion with his favorite, the 1936 San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge Commemorative, which is about 4 years younger than he is. It was minted 11/12/1936,

and sold for \$1.50 at the toll booth. There were a total of 71,369 sold. Phil talked about the designer, Jacques Schnier, a San Francisco Artist, as well as how the bridge replaced ferry boats carrying passengers across the bay (including him once).



◇ Bill G talked about growing up in New Jersey. His mom passed away in 1960, and a year later in 1961 he went to a motel at the Jersey Shore. The owner of the motel gave him a 1830 Bust Half Dollar as a gift. It graded NCS VF details, but has a lot of sentimental value.

◇ Bill C talked about Russian 50 Kopek coins. Minted in the 19th century, they were not popular because of the large denomination making it hard to get small change. One could get 1.1 *pounds* of copper coins in exchange. Most were minted in Brussels and Paris, mostly for international commerce. And they were not used much in Russia. Mintages were low, around 30,000 in 1 decade. The 20 Kopek coins were much more popular and spendable



◇ Gary C talked about the 'cutest' coin of the day. It is a 1/2 ounce silver coin from Tuvalu Island. The Perth (Australia) mint did a series of Tuvalu coins with kittens of different large cats, and Gary's featured two snow leopard cubs on the reverse, with Queen Elizabeth II on the obverse. Another name for snow leopards are ounces. So his silver coin weighed 1/2 ounce and pictured two ounces on it.



◇ Larry M's favorite 50 cent piece for today (it changes) is the 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar, the last silver half minted. Larry actually saw JFK at his presidential campaign and shook his hand. And He also met RFK once and shook his hand too!

◇ Dan C likes the gold JFK Commemorative coin. It was a very popular coin when it came out, with over 1000 people lined up at the ANA convention to get it first. The initial cost of \$1240 went up in value quickly.



◇ Rich W likes the Walking Liberty Half Dollar. He discussed an article about counterfeit gold coins, which abounds particularly with Krugerands and St. Gaudens coins especially. There is now an app to scan coins by the sound they make to determine fakes!

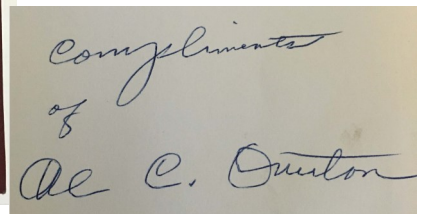
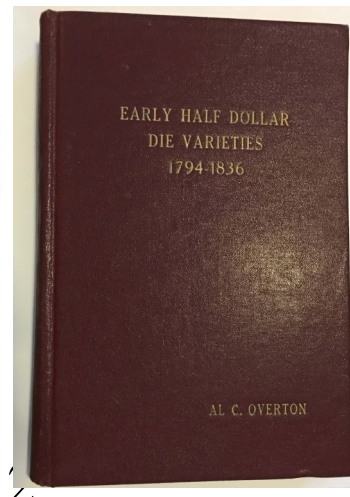
◇ Julia R also likes the Kennedy Half Dollar, featuring our 35th POTUS.

◇ David A loves the Oregon Trail Half Dollar, with fine detail down to the spokes of the covered wagon on wheels.



◇ Merle could not make up his mind, so he brought in four coins and two tokens: an 1831 Bust Half MS 62; an 1895 Barber Half in P 64 Cameo (hard to find that grade); a 1940 Walking Liberty Half P 66; a 1956 P 67 Cameo Franklin half. And he had a "good for 50 cents" token from the Indian Cigar Store at 314 4th Street in Santa Rosa. He remembers the store and the Indian statue that stood in front of it (was offered it for sale 3 times, declined; there are 2 known tokens). And he also had a "good for 50 cents" from the Post Exchange Alcatraz, before it was a federal prison— when it was a military base.

◇ Charlie C brought in a 50 cent piece— from the first year it was minted, 1794. It was authorized in 1792, but the mint was not able to make deliveries of 1794-dated halves until October 1794 (5300 coins) and February 1795 (18,164 coins). There were six obverse dies, and seven reverse dies. They have all been classified into die varieties by Al Overton, and Charlie had a second edition of that book signed by Overton. Charlie's coin is variety 101a, the more common variety along with 101. Because early die making was not very consistent, many of the dies broke very early, and those varieties are quite rare. And studying coins by die variety can be tedious, but it is even done with numerous ancient coin series. We can tell this from coins worn and buried over 2000 years ago by observing progressive die cracks on one side and comparing it to wear on the other side. As one die wears it gets exchanged, and the progression of die combinations can be determined over time.



### In Memorium

Glenn Coleman, RECC Life Member 41, passed away August 20, 2016. Glenn liked to collect Indian cents, then sell them, then start collecting them again. He also collected coins and stamps from Cyprus, where he grew up. In spite of his irascible countenance, deep down he had a good heart. He will be missed.

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### Show and Tell continued

- ◇ Lee G brought in his complete collection of RECC medals and woods. Included in this set are medals produced in gold, which for 2 of the 3 years were just a single specimen!

Below the two tokens Merle brought in:



Post Exchange, Alcatraz



Indian Cigar Store, Santa Rosa

And below is Merle's latest acquisition, the only known good for 5 cents token from the Indian Cigar Store.



## DRAWING WINNERS:

**Membership:** Darren C, Rose F, Julia R, Carson K, Loyal S

**50:50** pot of \$92 was split with Jon Maria

**Raffle:** Bill R (twice), Andy O (twice), Glen M, Bill S, Edwin H (twice), Mike C, Bob K, and Ken F

**July Members Present:** 60+

**New Members:** no

**Guests:** yes

**Auction:** 35 exciting items

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

### KIDS KORNER

Books, Books, Books

Thanks to Roger at San Rafael Rare Coin for his donation and to Kurt K for his delivery to me, the club was treated to many free numismatic books at the August meeting.

I pulled out books for juniors and the rest went on the table for all members. There were books on many subjects including: ancients, US, world coin, world currency, colonial currency, type coins, France, European, tokens, gold, grading, and red books to name a few. Many of these books replaced older books in our "metal cabinet library". Many thanks to Roger and Kurt for their efforts to make these available to our great club.

I will be in Oregon in Sep so I will be looking for someone to hold the next junior meeting.  
Rich

Volunteers for **refreshments** for September are anyone who did not bring a goodie in August.

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.

Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401



## UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

### **September 17, 2016: 3rd Annual CALIFORNIA**

**NUMISMATIC SEMINAR.** Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin (at Capital in downtown Vallejo)

**September 18, 2016. Livermore Valley Coin Club 5th Annual Fall Coin Show.** Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore

**September 30-Oct 1, 2016. Sacramento Valley Coin Club Annual Fall Coin Show.** Four Points by Sheraton, 4900 Duckhorn Drive, Sacramento

**October 7-9, 2016. Diablo Numismatic Society 20th Annual Contra Costa Coin Show.** Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek

**October 15-16, 2016. Delta Coin Club 52nd Annual Coin Show.** Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

**October 22-23, 2016. Fresno Coin Club annual Coin Show.** Las Palmas Masonic Center, 2992 E. Clinton Avenue, Fresno

**November 6, 2016. Peninsula Coin Club 37th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show.** Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

**FEBRUARY 12-13, 2016. Redwood Coin Club 49th Annual Coin Show.** Sonoma County Fairgrounds' Finley Hall, Santa Rosa

**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)

Or call me— 707-573-1252

See you August 10— Charlie

