



Founded March 26, 1949

1007W. College Ave. #216
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 69, Issue 1, Meeting #794. January 11, 2017

Next Meeting: February 8, 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The first RECC meeting of 2017 was held in the main auditorium of the Veterans Building, because the 'Dinner Room' was being used as a shelter for those displaced by the rains. We were happy to move and hope everybody made it back home safely as floodwaters receded.

Merle thanked all the members who helped the club in 2016. We really have an amazing club thanks to all the volunteers. And Rose F did get her Willie Quarante Award plaque (with her last name spelled correctly) at the meeting—congratulations!

The February 24-25 Coin Show is progressing steadily. So far we have 36 of 67 tables sold, and Merle plans a major push at upcoming coin shows. PLEASE continue to sell the Gold Drawing tickets, and remember there are prizes for the three top sellers as well as a fourth drawn from the rest of the sellers.

Bob K was taking down names for people to help the show set-up and for clean-up after the show. There is also a list for those who can work at the front table during the show with admission and selling gold and silver dollar tickets. Many thanks for all those who have volunteered (and to those who will add their name to the list).

We will have a show dinner once again at Fou Zhou Chinese Buffet on Mendocino avenue. Please let Merle know if you would like to attend (and give him the ~\$20— he will let us know the cost).

FEBRUARY THEME

The theme for the February meeting is "What Am I looking for at the Coin Show". This is the ideal time to network with fellow club members who may have suggestions, duplicates, or similar interests. Give a three minute talk and get 4 free raffle tickets.

DUES

If you haven't paid your 2017 RECC Membership dues, please do so. You may bring them in to the meeting, or mail them to the club

(note the new address at the top of this page). This helps with mailing costs, room rental, and other expenses running the club. Plus, you usually get a present with the value of the membership dues in December!

MY FAVORITE 2016 PURCHASE

* Gary C started off the talk. He has been collecting coins with lighthouses. Some are easy to obtain, others are very hard to find. His prize is the 1998 Platinum \$100 American Eagle with the Vistas of Liberty reverse featuring an eagle over New England, with a lighthouse in the background. As it is a bullion coin, the cost was the platinum value (1 ounce) plus a premium. Three other coins with lighthouses were mentioned: ancient Roman coins with the fabled Lighthouse of Alexandria; Singapore's 150th Anniversary coin; and various English pennies (with a tiny lighthouse in the background).



◆ Charlie talked on a subject new to the club: ancient scale weights. While the invention of coins dates to around 650 BC, ancient peoples have been using precious metals and other objects for commerce for thousands of years. What developed over time was an attempt at a uniform way to weigh items to keep trade fair to buyer and seller. Various civilizations developed their own weight standards, and we now know of scale weights dating back to the iron age. Many are marked with a specific value. We know of units of measure from the bible called a talent, mina, and shekel. These weights eventually were used to standardize the amount of metal in coins being minted, which is the tie to numismatics. Prior to coins, pieces of silver were cut up into various sizes (called hacksilber) and used as an early form of money— and this standard of weighing them was necessary.

◆ The value system of England (prior to decimal coins) was the pound, shilling, and pence. The fancy L symbol for the pound originated from the Roman libra. Charlie brought a bronze Roman 1/2 libra barrel shaped weight, weighing 6 ounces.



◆ His favorite of 2016 is the mina weight below. It is a 3-1/2" X 4" lead weighing 1/2 kilogram (1.1 pounds). Although faint, you can see a female in the center facing to the right. Across the bottom are the letters MNA (the weight value, 1 mina). The top inscription shows it is from Antioch (a Syrian city during the Seleucid period) and the date of 176 BC. The reverse shows a cross hatch pattern typical for this type of scale weights. Since the lead weight was cast, others of the same weight and design would have been also used by other merchants for maintaining some uniformity.



* Guy S has several collecting interests, and one is Russian coins, particularly the big copper 5 Kopek coins. He was very happy to get three very nice ones in XF-AU condition



* Bill C also collects Russian coins. He networked with Guy to get five dates he needed for his collection, which is usually hard to do.

* Matt A told a story of when his father-in-law died, his passport was found with a Russian 10 Ruble bill in it. Apparently it was wise, when stopped and asked to show your passport in Russia, to open it up and conveniently have the bill inside. It usually smoothed the way to keep moving on (only being 10 Rubles poorer)

* Rich W talked about buying a 14k gold chain at a coin show from a dealer. He took it to 2 other people who determined that it was counterfeit. The original dealer did gladly refund the money. He discussed sales between dealers, and new ways of plating metal to appear as real gold

* Mike C talked about he 1/2 ounce gold Walking Liberty Half Dollar centennial gold coin he ordered from the mint. He really likes the design



* Dan C asked the club what Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer, Juicyfruit gum (and one other item I forgot) all have in common? They were all introduced in 1893, to go along with the 1893-S Morgan Dollar he got in 2016.



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.

One more Show & Tell

* Merle has always wanted a proof 1856 Flying Eagle cent. As large cents were being melted for their metal content, the U.S. Mint decided to change to a small cent. There were many patterns developed, and finally the eagle design (patterned after the Gobrecht dollar) was decided. 647 proof coins were given to members of Congress to examine, and a lot never came back (some went into circulation). About 2000 circulation strikes were also minted. Any one of them is hard to get, and for every single increase in grade there is a huge increase in price. There were two of the 1856 cents in proof 62 at his recent auction, and Merle won the second (which he thought was nicer and was \$3000 less). His was a really beautiful coin and you could see he was proud of it.

KIDS KORNER

AHOY YOUNG COLLECTORS !!!

Get ready for our annual treasure hunt at the Redwood Empire Coin Club Show

Where: Sonoma County fairgrounds

When: Friday February 24 and Saturday February 25

Time: 10:00 until end of show both days

There will be coin/currency treasures at ten different locations in the showroom

At our next meeting on Feb 8th at 6:15, we will continue to card/bag/assemble over 500 items to be given away free to those who find them at the show. All of these treasures are made possible by donations from club members and local dealers.

At the meeting we will also discuss preparing to go to a coin show.

See you at 6:15- Rich W

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Bob A, Lee G, Bill C, Riley R, and Mike M

50:50 pot of \$94 was split with Guy S

Raffle: Andy O (twice), Jon Maria M, Dan C, Mike C, Jack H (twice), Bill R, Gary C, Edwin H, and Joel M

January Attendance: 45+

New Members: Helmut J (#936) was happy to be our newest member

Guests: yes—several

Auction: 17 exciting items

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



Volunteers for **refreshments** for February are Matt A, Glen M, Kathryn E, and Rich— 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.
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401



UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

February 3-4, 2017. San Francisco Area Coin, Stamp, and Collectibles Show. South San Francisco Conference Center, 255 Airport Blvd, South San Francisco

FEBRUARY 24-25, 2017. Redwood Coin Club 49th Annual Coin Show. Sonoma County Fairgrounds' Finley Hall, Santa Rosa

February 26, 2017. Cupertino Coin Club's 45th Annual Coin Show. Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

March 5, 2017. Livermore Valley Coin Club's 55th Annual Coin Show. Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore

April 21-23, 2017. CoinExpo: Santa Clara Coin, Currency, Stamp, and Sports Collectibles Show. Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara

May 21, 2017. Vallejo Numismatic Society 45th Annual Show. Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador (between Georgia and Florida), Vallejo

July 22-23, 2017. Fremont Coin Club's 45th Annual Show. Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

August 20, 2017. Fairfield Coin Club's 28th Annual Coin Show. Willow Room, Fairfield Community Center (downtown), 1000 East Kentucky off Pennsylvania, in Fairfield

October 21-22, 2017. Delta Coin Club's 52nd Annual Show. Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

November 5, 2017. Peninsula Coin Club's 38th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show. Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

**Check out our 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 February 8— Charlie

