



Founded March 26, 1949

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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 69, Issue 6, Meeting #800. July 12, 2017

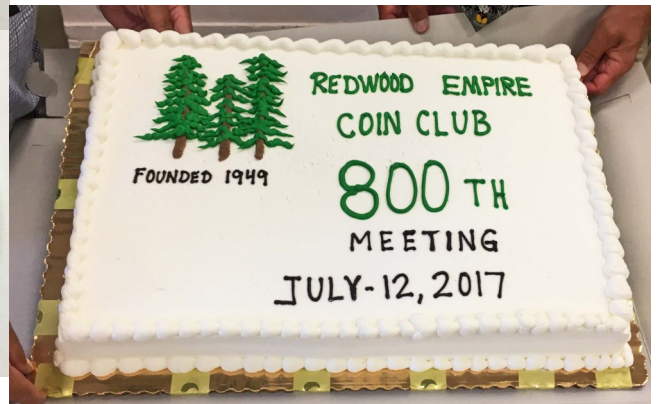
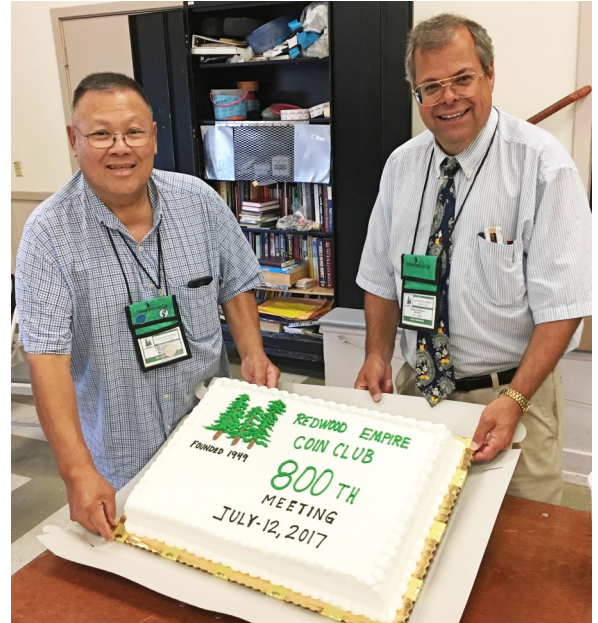
Next Meeting: **August 16**, 2017

800 MEETINGS!

From a small group of coin collectors meeting in a home way back in 1949, the RECC has grown and thrived. We celebrated our 800th meeting in July, with a good turnout of hungry numismatists. The original caterer fell through, so many thanks to Lee G for managing to get all the delicious pork steaks and chicken grilled for the meeting! And many thanks to the generous members who brought goodies to go with the meal, there was plenty to go around.

And as promised, there were special giveaways. Every member received a wooden "good for" token, good for 800 laughs. And every member also received a club mirror, also good for 50 cents in trade (only 100 were made) The strange character pictured in the mirror below is yours truly, your faithful club secretary with his low-tech iPhone camera. Thanks to all of you for singing Happy Birthday (#60-yahoo).

Finally, we had a special cake to celebrate the big event. Nobody went home hungry from this meeting.

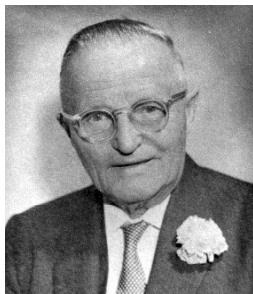


The **AUGUST** meeting will be on the **THIRD Wednesday, August 16** (due to the County Fair the week prior). The theme will be: WHAT CURRENT COLLECTION ARE YOU WORKING ON?

"Dear Mr.....

It occurs to me it is about time that Sonoma County and the Redwood Empire region have its own Numismatic Club, so I am writing you to find out whether you would be interested in joining such a club."

With that simple letter Henry T. Wrede helped found the Redwood Empire Coin Club. The first meeting was on Saturday March 16, 1949, and there were eighteen charter members to begin with. A one paragraph announcement placed in The Numismatic Scrapbook in May 1949 stated that meetings "would be held the last Friday of each month at the shop of Wm. Lambert, Secy., 1435 Town & Country Drive".



Henry T. Wrede

It didn't take long for the club to get busy. Membership in the California State Numismatic Association (itself only three years old at the time) was accepted on March 25, 1950, and membership in the American Numismatic Association was accepted on December 30, 1950. By April 1951 the club was involved locally with National Coin Week, enlisting the aid of two local newspapers for publicity. And on April 4-6, 1952, the club hosted the 10th semi-annual California State Numismatic Convention, with over 2000 attendees! Newspaper and radio spots helped make it one of the most successful events to date— not bad for a three year old club.

Over the years the club seems to have wandered about the Redwood Empire. The first few meetings were actually held on Mondays at the homes of members. By June 1950 the club began using the Tap Room of the Grace Brothers Brewery at Second and Wilson Streets in Santa Rosa. It was a favorite Santa Rosa gathering place for civic meetings and men-only socializing. The club apparently enjoyed it as well, since free beer was served and the Tap Room was used for over three years.

Attendance at early meetings averaged ten to twenty members. By the late 1950s and 1960s attendance was up to sixty or seventy members at a meeting, with a club total of about 150 members. Full-time coin dealers like Earl Parker would often come to meetings, and gold coins were often purchased by the roll. The only shop in Santa Rosa to purchase coins at the time was on 4th Street below the Occidental Hotel. It was actually a Religious Store, but it also had some stamps and coins for sale. (Reverend John S. Bain of the Book & Bible Store was RECC Member #42).

Over the years the club has had a variety of interesting and exciting events. Although there are gaps in our records, some of these are highlighted here.

April 20-26, 1951: The American Numismatic Association and the R.E.C.C. had a National Coin Week display at the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce. Four tables were set up with displays of U.S. coins (complete sets of Indian cents through Standing Liberty Quarters), silver/gold certificates, foreign coins, Pioneer gold, pieces of eight, etc. Nine club members contributed, and there were also displays at American Trust Bank, Exchange Bank, and Gensler & Lee Jewelers. Club Member Bill Lambert gave a 15 minute talk on radio station KSRO.

February 1952: Earl Parker displayed a complete set of proof Liberty (Barber) halves, which he offered for sale to the club for a 'mere' \$345 (\$18,000 in 1999 value)

May 1952: First attempt by the club to organize a Junior Club

August 1953: Club raises \$75 over several months of benefit auctions, proceeds going to the Crippled Children's Fund to send a crippled child to summer camp.

June 1965: Club President Ben Hall resigns due to business conflicts; Bill Feist is elected President. September 1965: Bill Feist is drafted into the Army; Marjorie Rogers is elected president!

October 1966: "For the first time in its 17 years of membership in the ANA, we took advantage of their Audio-Visual Education Program". Slide set #8 on Ancient Greek Coin Type Sets was presented. Several others were presented over the ensuing year.

January 1990: First coin photo to appear in RECC Newsletter: ancient Athens Owl

June 1990: A vault in Des Moines, Iowa was opened to inspect a hoard of 1000 Iowa Commemorative Half Dollars. RECC members Mike Turrini and Jan Henke were on a panel inspecting the coins! An article was in Numismatic News.

May 1992: RECC 500th Meeting. A special auction was held to benefit the club. There was a big birthday cake, and eight special displays of coins, medals, and wooden nickels.

June 1992: First reported Youth Meeting

July 1997: Secretary Charlie Catlett ushers in the computer age. The newsletter is produced using computer-generated images, and photo scanning soon follows.

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.

Save postage! Save a letter carrier's feet! Let us know if you would like to receive this by e-mail rather than by snail mail. See Charlie C or Lee G at the meeting. Thanks!

March 1999: The Santa Rosa City Council unanimously votes to issue a proclamation in recognition of the Redwood Empire Coin Club's 50th Anniversary. At the March 16 City Council Meeting, Club President Merle Avila proudly accepted the Proclamation on the Club's behalf.

July 12, 2017: our 800th meeting

March 2019: OUR 70th YEAR as a club!

Where We've Been:
Meeting Places of the
Redwood Empire Coin Club

Club Member's Homes
Grace Brothers Brewery Tap Room
Occidental Hotel
Bank of America, Healdsburg
Odd Fellows Temple
El Rancho Tropicana Hotel
Benton Street Firehouse
Sirloin and Saddle Restaurant (Holiday Dinner Meeting)
Great Western Bank
Los Robles Lodge (Dinner Meeting)
The Old Yellow House (Dinner Meeting)
National Bank of the Redwoods
Orchard Park Community Center Club House
Coddington Center
Veteran's Memorial Building

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Dimitry L, Phil A, Edwin H, Rick S, Deanna J, Joe McC, Steve C, Rose F, Frank B, Cal G, and Curtis S

50:50 pot of \$132 was split with Jack H

Raffle: Ron S, Loyal S, Charlie C (twice!), Angelo C, Glen M, Andy S, Jon Maria M (twice), Helmut J, Tiffany S (twice), Harold R, Lucky Larry M, and Bill R

GOLD Raffle:



Gold 2 Peso coin: Bill S

Gold 1/10 ounce American Eagle: Rick S

July Attendance: 75+

New Members: Erika G- (#945)- WELCOME!

Guests: yes

Auction: 33 exciting items

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

Volunteers for **refreshments** for August are Harold, Glen, Charlie, and Georgia—thanks!

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month (**but will meet the third Wednesday in August**). 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.

1007 W. College Ave. #216

Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401



UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

August 13, 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

February 16-17, 2018. Redwood Coin Club's 50th Annual Coin Show.

Sonoma County Fairgrounds' Finley Hall, Santa Rosa

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 **AUGUST 16**— Charlie

