



Founded March 26, 1949

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

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 62, Issue 10, Meeting #720

November 10, 2010

## GIVING THANKS

RECC– The Club of Dreams: If you cook it and bring it, they will come. And y'all sure did. It was our annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner. The food was delicious and plentiful. Thanks as always to the gang at G&G Market for the delicious turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and gravy. Thanks to all those who brought side dishes and desserts. Once Merle gave the word, it was amazing how fast the tables emptied for people to get in line. Although lots of the desserts were snacked on ahead of time, everybody was still hungry for the main event.

Thanks to all of you who make this such a great club to belong to.



Anticipation.....



.....Satisfaction

Besides being Thanksgiving, the meeting was a day before Veterans Day. When asked who was a Veteran, there must have been a couple dozen hands at least going up. We all appreciate the efforts those members past and present made for our country.

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Thanks again to all who donated to the Helen and Roy Roberts Benefit Auction in October. To date it has brought in \$5532 over 11 years for the club, allowing us to stay so active and thrive.

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#### DECEMBER MEETING

December will be our annual **Holiday Meeting**, held (probably) in the main auditorium again. This gives us plenty of room to also have a **FLEA MARKET** from **6-7PM**. Tables will be set up around the room, anyone can bring numismatic items and set up a table for selling/trading/buying. There will be a **special Junior Member Event**, so make sure to come. Lee said it would be a surprise!

It will also be **Desert Night!** Everyone can *bring a dessert (please)* to share with the club. This is the one night of the year that everybody gets a major sugar high. Which is even better, because **Santa will be here!** Yes, Santa Merle will be here to give every member a wrapped present. He has his personal elf at the office individually wrap every single one. It just doesn't get any better than this.



#### COINS I WOULD LOVE TO OWN (BUT CAN NOT AFFORD)

#9

Catcher in the rai? I don't think so. Rai is the term for money on the island of Yap, in Micronesia. This ain't no pocket change, though. Yap money is made of limestone— big circular chunks of limestone with a hole in the center for carrying on a pole.

It originated several hundred years ago when Yapese fishermen were blown of course in a storm and landed in Palau— 250 miles away. They broke off a piece of limestone and did a bit of carving on it with shell tools. They brought home a stone that was shaped like a whale, which is called "rai" in Yapese and that is where the word comes from.

Being isolated on one island, people on Yap found value in something being brought from far away that could be used as a form of monetary exchange. So they started making trips to Palau, bringing back sometimes huge stones which were now moon shaped with the hole for transportation.

The value was determined by how many people were lost in the journey to bring a stone home; the craftsmanship ( earlier pieces shaped by shell tools are more valuable than more modern one formed with modern tools); if it was dedicated to the chief who sponsored the trip to Palau; and somewhat by size, though in some cases a small stone can be more valuable than a large one.

The stones did not do a lot of traveling. They tended to stay at the village of the owners, or in the public dancing or ritual ground of a tribe. And if there is an 'exchange', the stone usually stayed in place, even if the new owner tribe lived far away.

Some people have sold stones to the outside world, usually done by younger tribe members. But there is such pride in the stones and cultural importance, that they mostly remain where they have been for hundreds of years.

On second thought, I really don't care to have one. Besides what it may cost to purchase, imagine the shipping cost! I'll stick to coins.



This is just a *small* bit of Yap money!

## 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

**BUYING COIN COLLECTIONS** large or small. Will travel. Frank Villalon 707-467-0250

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## RECC SHOW

The February 18-19 Coin Show is coming along well. 32 of 66 tables are already sold, and Merle will likely sell most the others when going to Santa Clara this month.

Bob C is taking down names of people to help set-up and clean up after the show. Last year there were only a few of us stalwarts left at the end of the show, and poor Lee almost couldn't finish. We appreciate volunteers ahead of time. Please think about when you will be able to volunteer during the show as well. It generally takes 5 people up front to handle admission and gold/silver drawing ticket sales. With all of you here shopping/trading/selling, hopefully there will be enough people to cover up front so everybody can also enjoy the show.

Please remember to keep selling the Gold Coin Drawing tickets as well. With the cost of gold going up, it is even more important that we do well to help cover the cost of purchasing those gorgeous coins we will be giving away— a St Gaudens \$20, Liberty \$10 and \$5, and 9 Mexican gold pesos (hopefully). And *you* have a chance to win gold just for selling tickets!

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## ELECTIONS

We had nominations for our board of officers, who need to be elected every year in December. The current board was nominated for re-election. Nominations are open again next month, after which we will hold the election.

## DRAWING WINNERS:

**Membership:** Richard F, Jonathan S, Phillip R, Carol E, Edwin H, and Irene C

**50:50** pot of \$

**Raffle:** Lucky Larry M, Jan H (three times!), Gary C, Martha V (twice), Bob B, Richard E, Phil A, Guest, and Irene C

**November Members:** 65+

**New Members:** none

**New LIFE Members:** Darren C ( LM # 60), and Paul R (LM # 61). Congratulations!

**Guests:** Yes, several

**Auction:** 35 exciting items

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

There *will* be a **Junior Member** program in December— it is a surprise!

Volunteers for **refreshments** for December are all of y'all— it is DESSERT NIGHT!

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

**January 28-30, 2011. San Jose Coin Club  
42nd Annual Coin, Stamp, and Col  
lectibles Expo.** Pavilion Hall, Santa  
Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully  
Road, San Jose.

**February 18-19, 2011. Redwood  
Empire Coin Club's 43rd  
Annual Coin Show.** Sonoma  
County Fairgrounds' Finley Hall,  
1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa  
Rosa

**Check out the newsletter at:  
[Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](http://Redwoodempirecoinclub.com)**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions?  
Let me know—573-1252.

See you December 8— Charlie

