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

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 66, Issue 8, Meeting #765. August 13, 2014

Next Meeting: September 10, 2014

## AUGUST NEWS

Reader beware: the entire contents of this newsletter are derived from the translation of notes and recordings from the meeting since I was unable to attend. Thanks for Dave and Wendy A for helping with this. I haven't been too far off the mark in the past, but please correct any errors you see.

August was to be our annual BBQ Steak dinner night. Thanks to the chefs at G&G and to members who brought side dishes/desserts. There was no noted sign up for goodies in September, so feel free to bring something if you can.

### SEPTEMBER TOPIC

In **September**, we will have our 6 month **Gold Membership Drawing**. For every meeting you attend for the last 6 months, a wooden nickel with your member number is entered in the pot. We will be drawing one, two, maybe three of those for gold coins! You **MUST** be present to win. And the topic for the night is: "What I Will Do With The Gold Coin I Win at The Drawing" (Merle must have made this up, and it could be interesting). Of course, you can always talk about a show and tell coin too if you want. Give a talk, get 4 free raffle tickets.

### CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to David and Wendy A for celebrating their 5th wedding anniversary. And congratulations to Curtis and Ramona S on celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary!

### SHOW AND TELL

- ◆ George W talked about blood chits. He learned about them while working at the Petaluma Military Antiques store. They were written notices, in several languages, carried by Marine air crews in WWII. In case they were shot down, the chit notifies that the crew was American and encouraged the local population to assist them in escaping. The concept is over 200 years old, beginning when President George Washington wrote one for a

Frenchman demonstrating a hot air balloon. Not knowing where he would come down and not speaking English, the note requested that citizens befriend the man and help him get back to Philadelphia where the balloon took off. In India during WW I, the British RAF issued 'ransom notes' in 5 languages for pilots, hoping to assist any that were downed to be returned to the nearest British outpost. Pilots referred to them as "Goolie chits", since goolie was a Hindustani word for ball, and hostile tribesmen had been turning captured pilots over to their wives for castration. In WW II, the US gave its airmen blood chits containing over 50 languages and promising a reward for returning the airmen to safety. Blood chits were also carried by airmen in the Korean and Viet Nam war. Also, some pilots carried survival packets, including a report of one WW II airman having five American \$10 coins sewn into his jacket.

- ◆ William C talked about a 5 Franchi coin of Lucca, Italy. It was a small town in Tuscany that maintained its autonomy until it was awarded by Napoleon to his sister Elisa in 1805. The coin has a double portrait, showing Felice Pascuale Baciocchi Levoy and his wife Elisa. She delighted in the grand title of "Anna Maria Elisa Napoleon Baciocchi Levoy, Princesse Française, Princess of Lucca and Piombino, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, and Countess of Compignano".



- ◆ Life member and former club secretary Guy S started collecting Russian 5 Kopek coins decades ago. The first one he purchased was at the first RECC Coin Show he ever went to in 1987. From there he branched into various type sets which he has discussed in the past. He also likes art medals, which is his daughter Christine's favorite. He brought in one, an Abraham Lincoln medal commemorating the 1909 100th anniversary of his birth. It had a similar design to the one Victor D. Brenner used for the cent, but this was by a different artist. These are large medals, usually of small mintage, and also usually affordable.



- ◆ Cal Goddard is still working on collecting the 5 ounce America the Beautiful coins. There are some produced by the mint for dealers, and some available to collectors, for a \$139 subscription. There are five new ones produced per year. Four of them have special finishes: Hot Springs, Grand Canyon, Gettysburg, and Yellowstone.

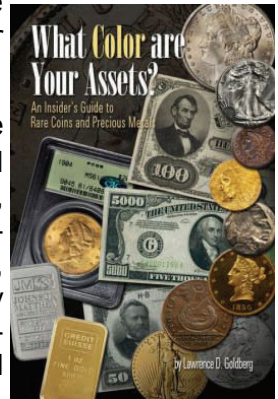


- ◆ Phil A is a military historian and coin collector. He talked about the \$5 gold coin featuring 5 star General Douglas MacArthur. Other generals featured in the series are George Catlett Marshall, Dwight Eisenhower, Henry "Hap" Arnold, and Omar Bradley.



- ◆ Rich W finished his Walking Liberty Half Dollar collection, so he turned his attention to Mercury Dimes, finding a very nice black Capitol Plastics holder for them.

- ◆ Bill G talked about a book he ordered and finally got titled "What Color Are Your Assets", by Lawrence Goldberg. It discusses collecting, grading, pricing, and investing— all very clearly described and worthwhile for all of us.



- ◆ Lucky Larry M told a story about appraising a collection for a friend. She had a box of 1964 Kennedy halves (~\$200 worth), and 4 GSA CC Morgan boxes. One was an 1885 coin he liked, but he referred his friend to Don Rinkor, who bought the entire collection. Larry stopped by Don's shop to see how things went. One of the GSA dollars was already sent in for grading, but the 1885 was still there for Larry to buy. His friend was happy with the sale and even gave Larry an appraisal fee, so it was a win-win for both of them.

- ◆ Tom S told about seven steel stamps he has, all from India. They were used to stamp gold bars for the Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss Bank Corp, Johnson Mathey, Englehard, the Rand Bank of South Africa, and the Perth Mint!

- ◆ David A seems to like heavy metal, in the form of copper rounds, bars, and bullets. He described that metals like copper and silver are being formed in the shape of bullets, anywhere from 1 ounce, to 50 caliber (25 ounce) and cannon rounds (100 ounce). A dealer at a show had a cannon round standing tall at a recent show, and it was sold literally within minutes.

- ◆ Merle talked about the unique token from Temescal, a town on the northern edge of Oakland in the 1880s and 1890, until it was absorbed into Oakland. It is still a neighborhood area there. See page 3 for more.....

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This token was produced in 1893, it is the only variety produced in that town, and it is the only known specimen! The town was named after Temescal Creek, and Lake Temescal still exists.



The obverse reads "Cosmopolitan/T.D. Sullivan Good For 5c Drink/Temescal, CAL". The reverse reads Aug. Jungblut & CO, Manufacturers of [billiard tables, pictured] San Francisco, Cal.

While looking for this on the internet, I came across the 1880 tin token below from the Temescal Mine near Riverside, "the greatest orange growing district in the world". It was compliments of the Hotel Glenwood, which became the historic Mission Inn which opened in 1903. It is in the Temescal Valley of Riverside County. A temescal (or temezcal) is a sweathouse of Mexican or central American Indians.



### KIDS KORNER

At the August meeting, we discussed the three countries of North America. Juniors received coins from Canada that Bob and I got from Vancouver BC. They also received coins from Mexico thanks to Joe Mc C.

The Canadians have stopped minting one cent pieces and they are no longer used. Merchants round up or down to nearest 5 or 10 cents.

At the September meeting, we will look at some coins from the third country in North America. See you at 6:15 sharp. Rich

## DRAWING WINNERS:

**Membership:** Jack H, Carson K, Jon Maria M, Glenn M, Bill R, Randon S, and Guy S

**50:50** pot of \$ 132 was split with Jon Maria M

**Raffle:** Mike B, Jeremiah R, Jon Maria M, Gary C, Edwin H (twice), Joel M, Andy O, Irene C, Glenn M (twice), and Bill R.

**HAT TRICK!** Jon Maria was picked for the membership drawing, the 50:50, and the raffle– the first time known that someone has won all three

**August Members Present:** 63

**New Members:** none

**Guests:** Michael, Lilly, possibly others

**Auction:** 58 exciting lots

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

### NEW LECTURE SERIES

Lee Gong will be giving an **ADVANCED COLLECTING** talk at the beginning of each meeting. He will begin at 6PM. This will be very interesting and informative, geared to all adult and advanced Junior members.

Volunteers for **refreshments** for September are for anyone who can bring something, since we did not get volunteer names at the August meeting. 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.

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## UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

**August 10, 2014. Fairfield Coin Club 25th Annual Coin Show.** Willow Room, Fairfield Community Center, 1000 East Kentucky (off Pennsylvania), Fairfield

**September 26-27. North Bay / Santa Rosa Coin Show.** Flamingo Resort Hotel, 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa.

**October 10-11, 2014. Contra Costa Coins and Collectibles Show.** New location: Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek

**October 18-19, 2014. Delta Coin Club's 50th Annual Coin Show.** Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

**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.

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

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:  
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Or call me— 707-573-1252  
See you September 10— Charlie

