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

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 66, Issue 12, Meeting #769. December 10, 2014

Next Meeting: January 14, 2015

## HO HO HO

Neither rain nor sleet nor change of meeting room will keep our members from a scheduled meeting. On Wednesday December 10, as 'the big storm' was approaching and rains were already starting, around 70 RECC members attended our annual Holiday meeting in the main auditorium of the Veterans Center. We had a Flea Market, with plenty of tables set up for members to sell coins. We had lots of delicious desserts, and based on the giddy behavior of many members, there was plenty to go around for getting a sugar high. Many thanks to all who brought a dessert to share. There was even root beer and ice cream for floats!

Merle updated us on the progress of the show. 62 of the 67 tables have been sold, and all but one of the others are spoken for. We do have a reservation for the Coin Show Dinner at Fou Zhou. And we do have the \$20 St. Gaudens gold piece for the gold coin drawing. Fortunately Merle was able to purchase it when gold was at a low, and it is a very nice coin. Keep selling those gold coin drawing tickets, because somebody is going to win that coin- and there 8 others up for grabs too.

## ELECTIONS

Been there, done that, did it again. Same bunch of guys were re-elected: Merle Avila, President; Lee Gong, Vice President; Mike Coorsen, Treasurer; and Charlie Catlett, Secretary. Now the rest of you will just have to wait another year to jump at a chance for one of these highly coveted spots. Or not.

## JANUARY TOPIC

In January we will have our most popular topic: Show and Tell. Bring in and talk about any numismatic item, and get 4 free raffle tickets!

## Thanks

Rose F wore her Willie Quarante shirt, and recalled how wonderful a person he was. She thanked everyone for bringing in goodies. And she talked about how she started collecting love tokens, and that she even got one from her sweetheart. Awwwww

## The Willies

Speaking of Willie, Charlie C talked about the Willie Quarante Memorial Award, started last year after Willie passed away. It honors the club member with the biggest volunteer effort this year. This year Bob K won the second of the Willies (Rich W won it last year). Bob is instrumental in organizing help for our coin show and so much for the meetings. We greatly appreciate his efforts, as well as that of everyone else in the club.



## DUES

Dude, your dues are due. Really. Just \$7.50 for a year, and you get a ton of stuff. Like Christmas presents. Food. Drink. This goofy newsletter. Kids are even cheaper- just \$3. Better than a burger, and less calories (unless you eat all the goodies, but who's counting). Please remember to mail them in, or save a stamp, a tree, and a letter carrier's tired feet and just bring it in to Mike at the next meeting.



## CAC: Value or Hype?

Rich W talked a bit about CAC. The Certified Acceptance Corporation is a New Jersey-based "numismatic coin authentication service and is not connected or affiliated with any other numismatic coin encapsulating and/or grading service". (the term 'numismatic coin' is their redundancy, not mine). For \$12.50 they will evaluate any certified coin, and if they feel it merits being considered "premium quality", they put a little green CAC sticker, commonly called a bug, on the slab. For coins valued over \$10,000 they charge \$25.

Coin dealers and advanced collectors have used the letters A, B, and C among themselves to further describe coins within a grade. C indicates low-end for the grade, B indicates solid for the grade, and A indicates high-end. CAC will only award stickers to coins in the A or B category. C coins, although accurately graded, will be returned without a CAC sticker. As the motto on the company's web site says, "In every field, there are a select few that represent the best of the best. Coins are no exception. Now there's a way to identify select quality coins within any particular grade." There are 8 coin dealers within 100 miles of Santa Rosa that serve as Submission Centers, with Don Rinkor in Santa Rosa being the closest.

This then generated some discussion with club members as to the merits of this service. Some coin authentication services are already putting a '+' on grades, indicating a coin is on the high end of the number assigned. This would make a CAC sticker seem simply redundant. Some scoff at it as a marketing ploy to jack up the value of coins (use your own eyes to find the quality, and compare coins within the same grade). Yet for many, it assures them that the coin they purchase is among the better samples available within that grade. This may be really helpful when there are not a lot of similar ones to compare with when looking.

The CAC uses an example in its own web site to demonstrate the nuances of the CAC sticker. Since there are a lot of high grade MS 65 1923-D St. Gaudens \$20 gold pieces, there will be a lot with CAC stickers. There are probably fewer high quality 1922 Saints in MS 65 that would qualify for a CAC sticker. So the 1922s would potentially merit a higher premium increase value/cost.

What the market eventually settles on for the value of having a CAC sticker is uncertain. They do not grade colonial, modern, or bullion coins. Another

prominent dealer is reportedly working to develop a sticker for the modern coin/commem market. Stay tuned.....



And if that isn't enough, besides the green sticker there are even gold stickers. These are given to the few coins that are felt would receive a green sticker in one grade higher. It makes you wonder how many of the original gold stickers even exist though, because it would make sense to submit the coin to get a higher grade, then get a green sticker, and thus get even more value from the coin. This is assuming the CAC graders really are correct.

I for one would not second guess a PCGS graded coin, for example. And on the other hand, I have seen some MS graded coins that seemed unattractive. There are specific criteria graders use to assign that grade. And I am not an expert, just a collector. I just purchase coins that are pleasing to my eyes. Caveat emptor.

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### Another Award

The Fairfield Coin Club and Vallejo Numismatic Society held their annual joint dinner the weekend after our meeting. At that dinner, our President Merle Avila received the Ron Miller Memorial Award, which is the highest award of the Northern California Numismatic Association. Merle was very honored to win the award, which reflects his tireless dedication to the hobby. Congratulations! The photo below shows him accepting the award from Fred Van Den Haak.



## 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

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Nothing this month.

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### GET WELL

The club was updated on our beloved Harry D. He had a stroke back in ~October, was in a Rehabilitation facility for a month, and is now home. He has weakness in his leg, but his mind is fine and so is his speech— he can ask Irene to go fetch a beer or whatever he needs (just kidding about the beer). Irene is doing well helping him, and said they will try to make it to the February coin show. We will need to sing Happy Birthday to her at the Show Dinner, after all.

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### GET WELL # 2

Get well wishes also go out to Michael W, who had a 7-1/2 hour brain surgery to remove a tumor that fortunately was benign (harmless, but had been causing some pressure). He was sorry to miss the December meeting, but is steadily getting his strength back and plans to return in January. The prognosis is very good.

### KIDS KORNER

It was a dark and stormy night.

The December meeting was lightly attended by juniors due to heavy rain which lasted all meeting. Some juniors collected their holiday gift bags, but most remained safe at home.

In January, I will bring the gift bags again so others can have the opportunity to get their donated items. We will also talk about preparing to go a coin show (ours of course) which will be held in February. Will discuss budget, want lists, and reading the red book first!

See you in Jan at 6:15 — Rich W

## DRAWING WINNERS:

**Membership:** Charlie C, Carmann B, Ken R, Rich W, Wendell B, and Mike M

**50:50** pot of \$ \$134 was split with Mike C

**Raffle:** Curtis S(3 times I think), Connie P (twice), Edwin H, Ruriko P, Andy S (twice), Andy O, Cal G, and Dan C

**May Members Present:** 66+

**New Members:** Ken R ((#908) and grandson Tyler H (#909 J)- WELCOME!

**Guests:** Yes

**Auction: 44 exciting lots**

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

For a preview of the January show and tell, I will bring in a coin with a very similar portrait of this guy from around 1544. Do you recognize him?



Volunteers for **refreshments** for January are Carson K, Cal G, Rodney M Jr., and Connie P—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.

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## UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

**January 9-10, 2015.** East Bay/Concord Coin Show.  
Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Ave., Concord

**FEBRUARY 13-14, 2015. Redwood  
Coin Club 47th Annual Coin  
Show.** Sonoma County Fair-  
grounds Finley Hall, Santa Rosa

**February 15, 2015. Cupertino Coin Club's 43rd  
Annual Coin Show.** Napredak Hall, 770  
Montague Expressway, San Jose

**February 27-28, 2015.** South Bay/Sunnyvale Coin  
Show. The Domaine Hotel, 1085 East El  
Camino Real, Sunnyvale

**May 17, 2015. Vallejo Numismatic Society 43rd  
Annual Show.** Florence Douglas Senior  
Center, 333 Amador (between Georgia and  
Florida), Vallejo

**June 26-27, 2015.** East Bay/Concord Coin Show.  
Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Ave., Concord

**July 25-26, 2015. Fremont Coin Club's 43rd  
Annual Show.** Elk's Lodge, 38991 Farwell  
Drive, Fremont

**November 1, 2015. Peninsula Coin Club's 36th  
Annual Coins and Collectibles Show.**  
Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway,  
San Jose

**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 January 14— Charlie

