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

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 67, Issue 7, Meeting #776. July 8, 2015

Next Meeting: August 12, 2015

## JULY BBQ

First of all, thanks again to Wendy A for taking notes last month— hopefully they were accurately transcribed.

Second, the club was saddened with news of two members who recently passed away. Howard Jacobs was a member from the 1990s and 2000s who attended regularly and enjoyed the camaraderie in the club. Also George Wenzlaff, a fairly recent member who really enjoyed the meetings and had humorous anecdotes about coins. He particularly loved the beautiful faces of Lady Liberty on all our coins. The club offers condolences to both families.

***Mint Vaults In Striking Proof Coins***". After a lunch break, we will hear from **Dr. Robert J. Chandler** on "***Early California Fractionals***". The final topic is a doubleheader, with **Clifford. L. Mishler** and **David C. Harper** (former and current editors of Numismatic News) in a dual dialogue "***A Half Century Of Hobby Insights From The 'Catbird's Seat'***".

These should all be very interesting talks. At the end of the full day event there will be Door Prizes. An on-site BBQ style simple lunch will be offered, and there are several eateries within easy walking distance. AND, if you get bored you can visit the museum while you are there.

### AUGUST THEME

The theme for the August meeting is "**MY MOST UNUSUAL COIN**". Bring it in, talk about it, and get 4 free raffle tickets.

The date of the Santa Clara Coin Show has been changed to August 28-30. The location has also changed, to the Santa Clara Fairgrounds.


We have a date for **our** show. It will be **February 12-13, 2016**. It will be in the Finley Building at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds again, and we will set up for the show Wednesday February 10 prior to our regular meeting— just like we did this year.

### CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC SEMINAR

The second annual California Numismatic Seminar will be presented Saturday September 26 at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 743 Marin at Capital in downtown Vallejo. Admission is free and parking readily available. There will be four very interesting topics.

**Paul R Johnson**, from Ontario Canada, will present "***Memories and Events From Fifty Years In Numismatics: A Canadian Perspective***". This will be followed by **Edgar D. Fulwider**, from Pacifica, CA, talking about "***Tales From The S-***

### FATHERS DAY COIN MEMORIES

 In 1966, at age 8, Gary C was given a Dansco Dime album for silver dimes from 1892 to 1964 (Barber through Roosevelt). He was taken to Sears in Santa Monica where they had a little coin shop. [A number of department stores in the L.A. area used to have coins for sale, like Robinsons and May Company, which are now defunct]. It was at Sears that he fell in love with Barber dimes, particularly an 1892 sample, worn as it was. His father started his collection with the 1918-D though, where he learned to shop for coins by their condition. But he still wanted that 1892 because it was from the prior century, and eventually got it. Ever since that first trip to Sears, he has been a Diehard dime collector. Also, 15 years ago his father was collecting Indian cents, and he was able to help his dad get the 1877 and 1909-S samples. Finally, he remembers a trip to the San Jose Flea Market where he got an 1890 CC dollar.



Phil A talked about a gift his son gave him, the March of Dimes coin set. It contains a dollar coin and two dimes— proof and reverse proof.



Bill G told a story of his father being in the first freighter to be sunk in WW 2. He was a Merchant Marine, went back to sailing, and was sunk again! From there he stayed on solid ground in France, where he traded a case of chocolate for a gold coin. After the war, his dad was a trustee of the Catholic Church in charge of counting weekly bingo earnings. Bill tagged along and looked through the change, finding an 1857 Flying Eagle cent!



Mike C told about how his father took him into Bill's Coins at the age of 9. He went in, looked in a cigar box full of coins, and fell in love with the hobby.

Charlie C told a story of an 1899-S half eagle. His father grew up on a ranch in Santa Barbara, where his grandfather was a successful farmer. A neighboring rancher borrowed a special soil-conserving till from his grandfather one time, but never returned it. A while later, when it was needed at the ranch, his grandfather went to the neighbor to ask about the till— which was no longer there. Being a valuable piece of equipment, he wasn't going to let the neighbor off without either returning it or paying for a new one. Angrily, the neighbor went in the house, came out with a \$5 gold piece and gave it to his grandfather and said he would pay the rest later. The next day, June 25, 1925 Santa Barbara had a 6.3 earthquake that damaged 80% of downtown, and the neighbor was never seen again. When his grandfather passed away, Charlie's dad was given a wooden box with various small knick-knacks. His dad was always curious, and noted a false bottom in the box— which contained that gold half eagle. That coin was a present a year ago, one of many coin collecting memories with his dad.



## THE 1794 HALF DIME

Although I mostly collect old English and ancient coins, I couldn't resist the temptation to bid on this early American coin, and actually won the auction. It was not a well liked design, being once described as "an unmeaning fool's head on the one side, and a turkey cock on the other". But the flowing hair design appealed to me; the reverse looks more like a pigeon, but I will take it nonetheless.



U.S. Mint records often spelled the denomination half "disme" (rhymes with steam) until about 1837 when they became known as half dime. And as the larger circulating coins of the time did not list a denomination, this one did not either: they were all being acceptable only by weight.

The coin was designed by Robert Scot. He apparently copied it from the large cent, omitting the cap. And his attempt to make these half disme designs match the larger silver coins reflected a mint policy which persisted over a century: all gold coins should share a common design, all silver another, and all copper a third. This policy originated with British and French coins of the period.

There are four 1794-dated varieties, all minted in 1795. The first delivery of 7756 half dimes was on March 30, 1795, and most were dated 1794. The later 1795 deliveries of 78,660 half dimes were mostly dated 1795, so we can estimate there were 10 times more coins dated 1795 than 1794; the number of surviving coins of both dates support this.

Of course who wouldn't want the original 1792 half disme to go with this. It enjoys the distinction of being the first federal issue struck after the passage of the Mint Act of April 2, 1792. The sample shown here just sold for \$329,000 at a Heritage Auction, though, so I better start saving.....



## 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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**Cash paid** for coin collections. I have purchased coins for over 60 years— I will travel to your location. Call Frank Villalon 707-467-0250



Even for those who do not collect currency, some of the designs- past and present- are wonderful works of art. This is an American oldie but goodie. Try checking out foreign currency, and there are some really nice samples, often very affordable.

## DRAWING WINNERS:

**Membership:** Jonathan S, Jeff B, Lois V, Lily C, Loyal S, and Andy O

**50:50** pot of \$ 129 was split with Steven C

**Raffle:** Dean (twice), Jack H (twice), Dan C, Gary C, Curtis S, Jonathan S, Glenn M (twice), Jeremiah R

**April Members Present:** 66+

**New Members:** none

**Guests:** Dalton, Carleton, Francesco (from Italy!), and Dean (from the Delta Coin Club)

**Auction:** 44 exciting items

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

## KIDS KORNER

Thanks to Joel M for taking over the Junior meeting in July, it sounded like an interesting topic for the kids.

Rich W will be back from camping in the Sierras to present the Junior Meeting at 6. He will have some things to give to the kids (courtesy of Jack Free— thanks!), and will talk about them then.

Volunteers for **refreshments** for August are Cal G, Rodney M, Jerry, and Jeremiah (maybe he will bring his killer chili again!). **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

**August 9, 2015. Fairfield Coin club's 26th Annual Coin Show.** Willow Room, Fairfield Community Center, 1000 East Kentucky off Pennsylvania

**August 28-30, 2015. Santa Clara Coin Show.** Now at the Santa Clara Fairgrounds

**September 13, 2015. Livermore Valley Coin Club's 4th Annual Fall Coin Show.** Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore

**September 26, 2015. 2nd Annual NCNA Seminar.** Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 73 Marin Street at Capital, Vallejo

**October 9-11, 2015. Diablo Numismatic Society 19th Annual Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show.** Elk's Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek

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

**FEBRUARY 12-13, 2016. Redwood Coin Club 48th 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 12— Charlie

