



**A Nonprofit Organization**

**The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings**

**SVDB Web Site** <http://www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com/>

**Issue Date August 2013**

**Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs**

**2013 Elected Officers**

**President: Barbara Anderton**  
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**Vice President: Kyle Miles**  
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**Secretary: Steve Timmons**  
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**Treasurer: Charlotte Key**  
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**Membership: George Magann**  
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**2013 Volunteer Positions**

**Hospitality: Al & Linda Woltman**  
[looking4au@live.com](mailto:looking4au@live.com)

**Hunt Master: Dan Cordes**  
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**Raffle Table: Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley**  
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**Web-Site Editors: Bob Meneely**  
[bmeneely@starstream.net](mailto:bmeneely@starstream.net)

**Detecting the old Courthouse**  
*See related story*



**July Meeting Minutes**

- The hot weather and July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday combined for a smaller than usual crowd for the July meeting. That didn't stop Dan Cordes from going over the top with watermelon, cantaloupe, and cupcakes for the meeting snacks.

**Vice President's Report: Kyle Miles**

- Kyle related a fun detecting story about hunting in a park where marker flags had been placed. He began finding quarters under the flags so he kept digging under the flags as if they had been left to mark the quarters' locations. He ended up with a total of 27 quarters.

**Secretary's Report: Steve Timmons**

- Steve reported that there were still coin books available for sale. If you would like to purchase one, ask at the front table next meeting. Also, he will now be the collector of unwanted pennies, so if you have some you would like to get rid of, turn them in to Steve at the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report: Charlotte Key**

- Charlotte reported the financial activity for the month.

**Membership Report: George Magann**

- George reported there are now 170 paid members.

**Web Site Report: Bob Meneely**

- Bob noted the web page now has a link to beach web cams around the country. Also, Don Dunn has added a scrolling banner to the page. Check out the amazing links available on the web page for all treasure hunting interests.

**Hunt Master Report: Dan Cordes**

- Dan has a mini-hunt in planning for the middle of September. He needs a location so give him any suggestions you have.

| July 2013 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|           | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7         | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14        | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21        | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28        | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| August 2013 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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|             |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4           | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11          | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18          | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25          | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| September 2013 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su             | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 8              | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15             | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22             | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29             | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

**Calendar Legend:**    SVDB Monthly Meetings      
                                          Sun Day-in-the-Park Hunts      
                                          Sat Day-in-the-Park Hunts   

**Library Report: *Tom Schweppe***

- Tom is back at the library after a long vacation and has a great assortment of magazines, books, etc. If you have any that you would like to donate to the club, please see Tom.

**Recovery Report: *Tom Boyd***

- Tom reported two requests for our help. The first was a lost pocket knife with great sentimental value. The second was a lost wedding ring downtown found on the first swipe. The husband emptied out his wallet in thanks for a club donation of \$42.

***New Business:***

- Don Dunn is still looking for coins to buy. To sweeten the deal, if you sell 10 silver dollars to the club, Don will give you 10 raffle tickets for the next drawing.
- Barbara talked about the recent Board meeting. Topics included relocating the annual hunt, moving the monthly meeting to a larger venue, adding a silent auction to the monthly meeting for members to sell their finds and increasing the budget for the Christmas party. Details and discussion will be forthcoming as the plans develop. Al Woltman recapped the income and expenses of the annual hunt.

- Paul Giese auctioned off a 3 day/2 night trip to a 60 acre mining claim near Foresthill. The trip will include sluicing/panning for gold but no metal detecting. The top 2 bidders would win the trip. Dan Cordes had the top 2 winning bids (for himself and a friend) at \$150 each. Thanks Paul. Also auctioned, were Don Dunn's Mine Labs hat for \$10 and a prepaid cell phone for \$21.

***SVDB Meeting Time and Location Information:***

- SVDB Meetings are held at **7:30 pm** the **first Thursday of each month** at the Sacramento County Sewer District's Building in North Highlands, located at the intersection of Elkhorn Blvd. and Don Julio Blvd. Our meeting room is held in a large room facing Elkhorn, close to where all the cars are parked in the parking lot near Elkhorn Blvd. (Mapquest address is 5026 Don Julio Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95842).

***Day-In-The-Park Hunts:***

- There are 4 day-in-the park hunts per month. The hunts are on the first, second and third Sundays and the fourth Saturday. Breakfast is at 7:00 am with departure to the hunt site at 8:00 am.

- The hunt ends at 11 am. The meeting places for the hunts:
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's Watt and Auburn
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's at Sunrise and Zinfandel Dr. (2474 Sunrise Blvd)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Hunt: Meet at Waffle Square 1825 10<sup>th</sup> St, Sac
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Hunt: Meet at Denny's Watt and Auburn

**Odds 'n Ends:**

**Show & Tell:**

Ray Goyette had a pile of rings to show off, George Magann found an Indian Head Penny, John Hainlen found an interesting snake on a cross piece, Steve Timmons showed off some finds from England, James Neeley had some ammo from a tot lot in Stockton, and the winner for the evening was David Harris who had found a silver necklace.

The raffle brought in \$622. The winner of the gold coin was Jane Norberg, a guest, but soon to be new member. Nice way to start out.



Jane the winner







-----Original Message-----

From: dediger <dediger@fairmontfield.com>

To: Barb & Steve <lcrbean@aol.com>

Sent: Sun, Jul 14, 2013 5:49 am

Subject: Detecting Local Courthouse

Hi, guys. Some interesting detecting tidbits – hope it's not too long and boring.

We got a chance to do some detecting at our county courthouse. The first courthouse was built in 1896, a new one built in 1907 burned in 1931, and the current one was finished in 1936 as a construction project during the "New Deal". The 1907 building was located slightly south of the current one, with the courthouse and lawn taking up 2 square blocks. The current one built in 1934-1936 was moved to the north block of the 2-block square.

Due to a Homeland Security directive, the parking adjacent to the courthouse is being moved and in the process about half of the courthouse lawn & parking area was torn up. As the construction crew removed the concrete, sod & top soil, Ken & I would take our detectors and work the area. They scraped up to 18 inches of soil off and then used some of it to backfill to grade, so any targets were really all over the place and every day the dirt was either dug deeper or moved around. There were at least 4-6 other detectorists also working the site, so hopefully we covered most of the area well. The final dirt work has been completed and they're preparing the site for concrete, so there won't be much more detecting there for a while! Ken knew the construction foreman so we were able to work even during workday hours as long as we stayed clear of the machinery.

In the pictures "Old Courthouse" shows the 2-block area with the 1907 courthouse in the middle. The place where we were detecting is sort of where the two curved sidewalks toward the bottom of the picture meet. In the "enid-downtown-square" picture, the area north of the current building about halfway to the gazebo was torn up all the way between the two streets and that's where we detected. That would be the north end of the old 1907 courthouse lawn where those curved sidewalks meet.

Ken & I found over 100 coins & tokens (pictures attached) in addition to the various surface & detected finds. The area where most of the dirt work was done had LOTS of buried gas lines, phone lines, electric lines, and transformers on the surface – live ones as well as old inactive ones – causing all kinds of interference. One area also had lots of nails – located toward the south end of the block where it might have been remnants of the burned building that was torn down. Ken used his White's and was driven crazy in some areas by the lines, but my Mine Lab seemed to handle that a little better so I used it. I don't think I get quite the depth for little stuff with the Mine Lab, but it handles interference

better.

The oldest coin we found was a shield nickel – date unreadable – and the oldest dated coin was the 1887 nickel. Also an 1892 quarter, 1895 Indian head, and 1898 nickel, in addition to quite a number of early 1900's coins. The 2 Louisiana tax tokens had Ken puzzled until I mentioned that our yearly "Tri-State Musical Festival" includes Louisiana as one of the three states.

One token that I found was "Tom Ball Confectionery" "Good for 5c in Trade". So far we haven't been able to find any actual history of the place of business, but did trace a Thomas Ball to Enid who worked at a store. Ken found his grandson in a town about 35 miles from here and his step-granddaughter (her mom married into the family after she was born) is here in Enid. According to the grandkids, the family history is really sketchy but we're trying to see if we can get some info.

Below is a link to the story talking about the burning of the 1907 courthouse. Kinda interesting if you have time to read it.

<http://www.brownlaw-ok.com/enidhistory/articles/court.pdf>

I sent my 6000 Di Pro Plus SL in for repair and it's now working (some electrical sensor was bad) so I've been using it a little now, too. I'm spoiled by the graduated tone on the Mine Lab, though. I've developed the habit of ignoring the base and high tones because the Mine Lab has a 4-tone setting with low bass being iron & really high tone being reject/junk. Getting back used to the White's tone takes some doing.

We're counting the days till the England trip. On a related note, we had some really interesting experience recently. A story in the local newspaper caught our eye describing a couple of English guys from the Norfolk area who come to Oklahoma to help harvest wheat. I knew the farmer that they help from my days as a parts manager at a John Deere dealership here, so we called to see if we could meet the guys since they are from the Norfolk area. We were really surprised to learn that these two guys are close personal friends with our bus driver over in England! And they knew several of the farmers on whose land we detected, too. We took several of our finds over to show them what we brought back, and we sent Dave & Trish their names. Dave & Trish are going to contact them to check into detecting on their farms. The English guys were supposed to go back to England on July 10 so they could get their harvest done and we've arranged to get in touch while we're over there.

Here's a link to the newspaper article that caught our attention.

<http://enidnews.com/localnews/x484448889/Wheat-vacation-English-farmers-back-to-help-harvest-crop>

Dave & Trish said we'd get a special "Top Banana" award for finding a whole farm to detect if they can work it out! Hopefully there is some history that makes their area worthwhile to detect.

Weather here is finally turning to real summer – 101 today. That sure cuts down on detecting and really bakes the ground hard. July & August are usually out for detecting here unless we get some rain. Looking forward to cooler weather in England!

See ya.



# Hunting the Courthouse in Oklahoma





## **MINING FIRM BETS THERE'S STILL GOLD IN THE HILLS THAT SPARKED 1849 RUSH**

More than 150 years ago, John Sutter touched off the fabled Gold Rush when he found gold near his mill in 1849. But the prospectors who flocked to the Sierra foothills left plenty of gold in the ground.

At least that's what a mining company setting up shop in the same area southeast of Sacramento believes. Geologists for Sutter Gold Mining Co., estimate there are some 650,000 ounces remaining in the area that sparked an epidemic of gold fever. At today's prices, that could amount to just shy of \$1 billion.

"We're building a new mine but we're really building on the history that's been here for 160 years," said Leanne Baker, president and CEO of Sutter Gold Mining.

The company plans to launch a full scale mining operation in the next few months at Lincoln Mine, a 10-mile stretch of California's famous mother lode. The mother lode itself is a 120-mile stretch from El Dorado County south to Mariposa County. Baker said all major permits are in place and the project, which will employ at least 100 workers at the outset, is set for full production later this year.

"This 10-mile segment is extremely important because it produced the bulk of the mother lode production," said David Cochrane, Sutter's vice president

of environmental health and safety. "Mother lode produced 13 billion ounces of gold historically, and 60 percent of the production came out of this segment."

The gold will be a bit harder to get to, but modern technology provides many advantages the old-time prospectors couldn't fathom.

"Those first pieces of gold were discovered, [and they] simply jumped into the creeks with our pans and our buckets and what we had we were cooping it up," said Dennis Price of Sutter Creek Visitors Center.

Deep in the new mine, thousands of feet below the surface, modern day miners will work hard for the precious metal. But Sutter plans to use gravity floatation to recover the gold out and will not use toxic chemicals on site.

"It's basically drilling, blasting, mucking, starting and doing it over," said Baker. For now, geologists are doing "confirmation drilling" to find the richest deposits. That will help the mining engineers develop the mine plan that will produce maximum profits.

Although full-scale mining has not started, when FN visited the mine, drillers were already starting to pull visible gold out of the ground.

"It's very exciting to be doing it in a state that hasn't had a lot of recent gold production certainly in the mother lode," Baker said. "To bring it back to the area where so many people in the country and around the world associate with the exciting part of gold production it definitely makes you feel like you're a part of history."

*From FN, submitted by Marty Maher, Langlois, OR.*

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### U.S. Geological Survey / AP Photo

In this undated photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey is a rock sample being analyzed in a Denver laboratory consisting of quartz, fine grain (microscopic) pyrite, galena and sphalerite. The USGS Mineral Resources program is looking at samples from previously mined ore that may contain critical minerals including rare earth elements. Across the West, early miners digging for gold, silver and copper had no idea that one day something even more valuable would be hidden in the piles of dirt and rocks they tossed aside. Now there's a rush in the U.S. to find key components of cellphones, televisions, weapons systems, wind turbines, MRI machines and the regenerative brakes in hybrid cars, a group of versatile minerals on the periodic table called rare earth elements and old mining tailings piles just might be the answer.

# Gold rush-era discards could fuel cellphones, TVs

ENERGY EFFICIENT!

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By TRACIE CONE

Associated Press

Published: Sunday, Jul. 21, 2013 - 6:44 am

Last Modified: Sunday, Jul. 21, 2013 - 10:25 am

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- Across the West, early miners digging for gold, silver and copper had no idea that one day something else very valuable would be buried in the piles of dirt and rocks they tossed aside.

There's a rush in the U.S. to find key components of cellphones, televisions, weapons systems, wind turbines, MRI machines and the regenerative brakes in hybrid cars, and old mine tailings piles just might be the answer. They may contain a group of versatile minerals the periodic table called rare earth elements.

"Uncle Sam could be sitting on a gold mine," said Larry Meinert, director of the mineral resource program for the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Va.

The USGS and Department of Energy are on a nationwide scramble for deposits of the elements that make magnets lighter, bring balanced hues to fluorescent lighting and color to the touch screens of smartphones in order to break the Chinese stranglehold on those supplies.

They were surprised to find that the critical elements could be in plain sight in piles of rubble otherwise considered eyesores and toxic waste. One era's junk could turn out to be this era's treasure.

"Those were almost never analyzed for anything other than what they were mining for," Meinert said. "If they turn out to be valuable that is a win-win on several fronts — getting us off our dependence on China and having a resource we didn't know about."

The 15 rare earth elements were discovered long after the gold rush began to wane, but demand for them only took off over the past 10 years as electronics became smaller and more sophisticated. They begin with number 57 Lanthanum and end with 71 Lutetium, a group of metallic chemical elements that are not rare as much as they are just difficult to mine because they occur in tiny amounts and are often stuck to each other.

Unlike metals higher up on the table such as silver and gold, there's no good agent for dissolving elements so closely linked in atomic structure without destroying the target. It makes mining for them tedious and expensive.

"The reason they haven't been explored for in the U.S. was because as long as China was prepared to export enough rare earths to fill the demand, everything was fine — like with the oil cartels. When China began to use them as a political tool, people began to see the vulnerability to the U.S. economy to having one source of rare earth elements," said Ian Ridley, director of the USGS Central Mineral and Environmental Resources Science Center in Colorado.

Two years ago, China raised prices — in the case of Neodymium, used to make Prius electric motors stronger and lighter, from \$15 a kilogram in 2009 to \$500 in 2011, while Dysprosium oxide used in lasers and halide lamps went from \$114 a kilogram in 2010 to \$2,830 in 2011. It's also about the time China cut off supplies to Japan, maker of the Prius, in a dispute over international fishing territory.

That's when the U.S. government went into emergency mode and sent geologists to hunt for new domestic sources.

"What we have is a clash of supply and demand. It's a global problem. A growing middle class around the world means more and more people want things like cellphones," said Alex King, director of the Critical Materials Institute of the Department of Energy's Ames Research Lab in Iowa. "Our job is to solve the problem any way we can."

At the University of Nevada-Reno and University of Colorado school of mines, USGS scientists used lasers to examine extensive samples of rocks and ore collected across the West during the gold rush days by geologists from Stanford University and Cal Tech.

"If we could recycle some of this waste and get something out of it that was waste years ago that isn't waste today, that certainly is a goal," said Alan Koenig, the USGS scientist in charge of the tailings project.

One sample collected in 1870 from an area near Sparks, Nev., where miners had searched for a viable copper vein, has shown promise and has given researchers clues in the search for more. They have found that some rare earths exist with minerals they had not previously known occur together.

"The copper mine never went into production, but now after all of this time we've analyzed it and it came back high with Indium, which is used in photovoltaic panels. It never economically produced copper, but it gives us insight into some associations we didn't previously recognize," Koenig said.

Indium also has been found in the defunct copper mine that dominates the artsy southern Arizona town of Bisbee.

Koenig and his colleagues are working to understand the composition of all of the nation's major deposits sampled over the past 150 years. In some cases, the mines were depleted of gold or copper, but the rocks left piled alongside mines and pits could hold a modern mother lode.

"We're revisiting history," he said.

They are compiling data from 2,500 samples to better understand whether it's possible to predict where rare earths might be hiding based on the presence of other elements there, too.

"If I had to venture a number, I'd say we have found several dozen new locations that are elevated in one or more critical metals," Koenig said. "With this project the goal would be to have this large data base available that would allow us to predict and to form new associations."

Currently there is only one U.S. mine producing rare earths— at Mountain Pass in the Southern California desert. Molycorp Inc.'s goal in reopening the defunct mine is 20,000 metric tons of rare earth elements by this summer, including cerium oxide used to polish telescope lenses and other glass.