

# The Loop



April 2014

## Antelope Valley Treasure Hunter's Society

Lancaster, California

Volume 34 Issue 04

Meeting held 1st Monday of every month at 7:00 PM (unless otherwise noted in newsletter).

### Mike's Place

The outing for April will be at Littlerock Dam. We checked Willow Springs Raceway after my grandson, who rents out go carts and race cars at the raceway mentioned that money should be found under the bleachers, but it didn't pan out. So at the March Board Meeting we decided to go to Littlerock Dam if an alternative was needed.

I went to the March outing and I can say the food was good, but the weather was cold and windy!

**Toodleloo!**

**Mike**

### From the Editor:

Yes, the March outing was a bit cold and windy (too be expected around here!) but we still had a good time. Marie Kerr is a beautiful park and many of us locals have found some pretty good "treasure" there over the years. I've been away from detecting for a little while—especially parks— but did spend about an hour hunting. It was good to get back to it. I only found a few coins and a couple pieces of junk jewelry, but it was fun, nonetheless. I didn't get a list of finds from the others who hunted, but I'm sure you'll see theirs at the April 7th meeting. The hamburgers were delicious from Rick W.'s gas grill and I thank him for doing the cooking. I'm not sure if Rick and Vickie will be at the April meeting, as they are in WA awaiting the birth of a new grandchild! I just checked Facebook and as of less than an hour ago, the baby hasn't arrived yet! So I guess we can expect that they will be no-shows at the meeting.

Regarding the outing at Littlerock Dam, some of our



members were told that gold has been found in the lakebed, so you might want to bring your gold detectors, as well as your regular ones. You just might get lucky! The entrance fee is \$3/car plus \$2/person over the age of 13, so one person in a car is \$5, two people is \$7, etc. The water level \*Scott & Renee Sandahl\* is up from what I saw in January due to the February storm, but there is still plenty of dry area where the creek feeds in from the stream and who knows, if you bring your gold pans, you might be able to pan a little color, too! For some info on the park, there is a sign saying "OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE MAY BE HAZARDOUS—Your use of protective apparel, skill level, vehicle condition, terrain, weather, common sense and following park rules all affect your safety—RIDE AT YOUR OWN RISK" There is also another sign, for those of you who plan to "off road" that "Green sticker spark arrester legal muffler required." Also, no low clearance vehicles are allowed down into the lakebed area. The admission to the park is now run by an Off Road club, hence the vehicle notifications and some of you may want to partake of that activity. The main part of the lake does have water, but as I mentioned earlier, there is plenty of dry creek area that can be hunted—unless this next storm brings a lot of rain. I won't be attending this event as I'm going to be involved with something else that weekend, but the picnic areas are clearly marked and I'll give more details in the Outing section of the newsletter.

I'm sorry to say, Linda Bravo will not be able to attend the April meeting due to a family emergency. That same emergency has kept her from being able to give me an updated roster showing all the PAID members, so I will mail it out with next months newsletter. Our prayers are with you, Linda!

*Connie Smith, Editor*

## KNOW YOUR MEMBER: CONNIE SMITH

I was born January 26, 1947 in Oshkosh, WI one day shy of nine months of my mom and dad's wedding date. I was definitely a Honeymoon Baby! I loved to tease my mom about that! They met when my dad was in the Navy in Philadelphia waiting for his ship, the USS INDUS, to take him off to WWII. Mom was born and raised in Philly and Dad in Allenville, WI. He used to joke it had a population of 60 counting the dogs, cats and rats! That's not far off! There was one main road with a RR Crossing and a couple of buildings and that was it. It is still very much the way it was back then. They bought a house and diner after the war in Neenah, WI and tried to make a go of it, but had to bail and headed back to Philadelphia where they got work in Atlantic City. My grandparents cared for me and my sister during the week while Mom and Dad stayed in AC. Then Dad got called back into the service during Korea and was stationed in Norfolk, VA and spent much time on ships and out to sea. Eventually, he got stationed in California and after a few west coast duty stations, settled in San Diego. While living there, and after High School and a year of college, I decided to join the Navy, too. My career was less travelled than Dad's and most of it was spent in SD. I eventually got out, took \*Wes & Diane Weathers\* telecommunications classes at Grossmont Jr. College and eventually moved to NYC and worked on several Soaps out there. When I returned to CA in 1986, four years before my dad passed away in 1990, I got work in Burbank at The Walt Disney Company. I retired in 2012 after 23 years. Meanwhile, I had gotten an interest in metal detecting and joined AVTHS in the fall of 2010 after Mom passed. I became president of the club in 2011 and repeated that office in 2012. I stepped down in 2013 and became Editor of The Loop! Being president helped me get to know club members easier than I would have as just a member and it was fun! I also renewed my acquaintance with Steve and Marie Molstad, two lovely people I met while we were members of The Western Riding Club about 10 years or so earlier. Please give serious consideration to being an officer of the club. You will get to know people better and have fun, too. And President is probably one of the easiest posts to take and you get to wield the club gavel to keep order. LOL!



	Meeting Date	Outing Date	Location	Notes
April	4/7/2014	4/12/2014	Littlerock Dam Recreational Area	BYOF
May	5/5/2014	5/10/2014	Map Hunt, Lancaster City Park/ <b>Planted Hunt</b>	Club- Breakfast/Members sides
June	6/2/2014	6/7/2014	Cajon Creek of I-15	BYOF (Bring your own food)
July	7/7/2014	7/12/2014	Castaic Lower Lake/ <b>Planted Hunt</b>	BYOF (Bring your own food)
August	8/4/2014	8/9/2014	Silverwood Lake	BYOF (Bring your own food)
September	9/8/2014	9/13/2014	San Gabriel R. East Fork	BYOF (Bring your own food)
October	10/6/2014	10/10-12/2014	Rocky Road Chili Cook Off/ <b>Planted hunt</b>	Chili + Pot Luck
November	11/3/2014	11/8-9/2014	AVT Claim Sat/Sun	BYOF
December	12/1/2014	12/6/2014	Christmas Party	Medrano's Mexican Restaurant

**URGENT:** We are losing our webpage and Rick needs someone who can set up and build a new one. He's not "technically savvy" and has just managed to handle the current one because it's pretty simple. Please contact Rick W. if you can help!

## Lost Treasure: The Henning Counterfeit Nickel



The “Henning” nickel is probably the most famous example of counterfeit coins in US history. Produced by Francis LeRoy Henning of Erial, NJ in the early 1950s, the 1944 Henning nickel is also one of the easiest to spot.

During the Second World War, nickel was needed to produce armor plate. So from 1942 to 1945, five-cent pieces were made in an alloy of copper, silver and manganese. To distinguish new nickels from old nickels when it came time to melt them, each Mint that produced these wartime nickels placed an identifying mark above the dome of Monticello, a large letter "P" stood for Philadelphia, "D" for Denver, and "S" for San Francisco. The letters are a glaring omission from the counterfeit nickels.

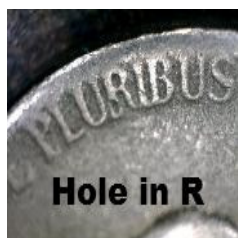


Henning purchased his blanks from the same source as the mint but they were made from copper, nickel and iron, with no trace of silver. Even so, they cost Henning three and half cents apiece to make. Add the cost of the press, the cost of engraving, and labor to produce each coin and you can quickly see why this is such an entertaining story. Henning actually lost money on this counterfeiting venture. Still, nearly 100,000 of the phony nickels made it into circulation before federal agents followed the trail to a clandestine "mint" in New Jersey.

By the time they had caught on, Henning had left town, but not before he dumped 200,000 counterfeit nickels into Cooper Creek, and another 200,000 into the Schuylkill river. Only about 40,000 of the coins were seized and actually melted down and coined into legal nickels. Henning was arrested in Cleveland, Ohio, in October 1955, tried, and convicted. He was sentenced to three years in jail and fined \$5,000 but when the judge learned of Henning's newest project -- a plan to counterfeit \$5 bills, he tacked on another three years.

It was clumsy of Henning to choose to counterfeit a year with such a prominent mint mark and then to omit the mint mark from his counterfeit. Had Henning made an extra half-million 1940-dated nickels, they would probably still be circulating unrecognizable to this day.

In addition to the notorious 1944 no-mintmark nickel, Henning produced five other nickel reverse dies dated 1939, 1946, 1947, and 1953. The sixth date is still a mystery. Some dates suspected for the last die are 1943, 1945 and 1951.



You can spot some of the other dates by a hole in the R of Pluribus though not all of the dies had this hole. Other tells are worn, rough surfaces with an occasional tiny raised dot or pimple. US Mint nickels won't have these. Some don't have full rims and if you're still not sure, weigh your nickel. Nickels weigh about 5 grams with slight variation. Henning nickels are slightly heavier at 5.5 grams. Today Henning nickels are worth \$20 to \$30 a piece if you can find someone willing to sell theirs. If

not, you can always go looking yourself, with so many unrecovered coins you may just find one or two!

## Featured Gemstone:

### Alaskan Jade



The term *jade* is applied to two different metamorphic rocks that are made up of different silicate minerals: jadeite and nephrite. Alaskan Jade falls into the nephrite class of jade and is the softer of the two jades which makes it easy to carve.

Original Alaskans found nuggets of jade in the Kobuk River and used the gem to make tools, weapons, and jewelry. Today, Alaskan jade used in jewelry making is usually a rich, dark green.

Alaskan jade can also be found in parts of California and in British Columbia. In fact, although Alaskan jade is Alaska's state gem, British Columbia supplies most of the world's nephrite jade. Since Alaska is home to the majestic Jade Mountain, a mountain in Alaska's Seward Peninsula, made entirely of dark green jade, I'm willing to overlook that Alaska's state gemstone is not entirely unique to Alaska

RICK & VICKIE WYATT (661) 943-1124

## ANTELOPE VALLEY TREASURE HUNTING SUPPLIES

Factory Authorized Dealer  
Metal Detectors and  
Prospecting Equipment



White's Electronics  
"See what's in the ground before you dig!"



## The Outpost

(661) 944-1200

More Than Just a Gift Shop (661) 944-1548

Rugs & Blankets - Amer. Indian Arts & Crafts

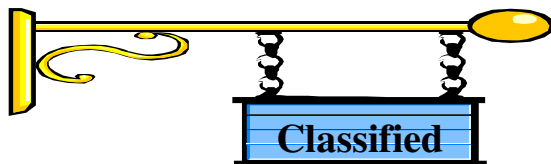
Fine Art Gallery - Coins, Gold & Collectibles

Gold Panning Ins. & Classes - Rocks & Gems

34141 116th St E Pearblossom, CA

SCOTT SANDAHL

Proprietor



**FOR SALE:** Fisher 11" DD F2/F4 push on type coil and cover. \$125. Contact Harry Surtees at **661-285-1298 (H)** or **661-878-1782 (C)**

**Wanted:** Bigfoot Coil for Whites DFX Call Ben Molstad at **562-209-2344**

**Wanted:** 151 Keene dry washer. Ok if it needs engine if the price takes that into account and the unit is in good condition otherwise. Contact Steve & Peggy Howard at 661 951-7375

Any Member who is interested in receiving *The Loop* via E-mail can send their request to me at [avthnews@gmail.com](mailto:avthnews@gmail.com) and I would be happy to send it as a .pdf file. It is generally about 2mb for the issue. If any member has something of interest for the general membership, send it my way and I will include it. The Deadline is the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition.



"Customer satisfaction is our #1 priority!"

661-418-0024

douglas@d2collectibles.com

www.d2collectibles.com

44835 Beech Ave

Lancaster, CA 93534

1/2 Block off Lancaster Blvd

Douglas Dillingham  
Owner/CEO



## Club Apparel is available

Support your Club by purchasing one of our new hats or shirts.



## FREE RAFFLE TICKET

If you find your name in the newsletter and it looks like this: *\*Your Name\** You get a free raffle ticket at the next general meeting. Bring it to the attention of the ticket seller. If two names appear (i.e. husband/wife) ONE ticket is given out.

**WANTED:** White's Surf PI Pro with **yellow label and ridges on coil** Please contact Steve Molstad at **818-891-9778**

## Refreshments volunteers for 2014

**Apr** Peggy & Steve Howard

**May** Mike Snowden

**Jun** Lorelei Palland

**Jul** Anna & Gregg Bergman

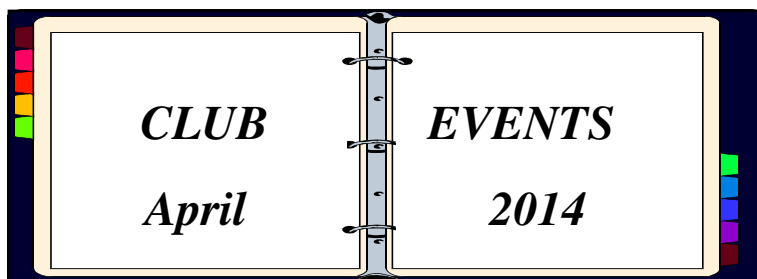
**Aug** Linda Bravo

**Sep** Rick G. & Bonnie

**Oct** Harry Surtees

**Nov** Don Duncan

**Dec** Dan Petrozzi



**Apr. 7, 2014      General Meeting - 7:00 pm**  
**Leisure Lake Mobil Estates**  
**48303 20th St. West**  
**Lancaster, CA 93534**

**Apr. 7, 2014      Board Meeting following immediately**  
**after the General Meeting**

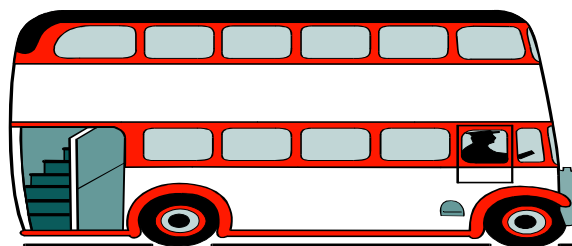
## ***2nd Qtr. 2014 Scavenger Hunt***

**Scavenger Hunt items for**  
**Apr. 7, 2014 to July 7, 2014 \*\*\***

01. 5 Consecutively dated nickels
02. **1985** Quarter
03. One or more jacks (game)
04. Bus token
05. Any pearl (real or fake) jewelry
06. Ear buds
07. Half ounce sinker
08. Any screwdriver
09. Nail file
10. 100 bobby pins
11. Any silver coin
12. Any 1950 coin
13. Ring with a green stone
14. Any natural gold
15. Any *Asian* coin (Check map for countries)

Finds must be brought to the July 7, 2014 General Meeting or earlier if all found. Display owner must be present to win. First member that finds all 15 items will win a Silver Half Dollar\*. If all items are not found, the member finding the most will win a Silver Quarter\*\*. Members finding at least 10 items will get a Silver Dime. \*If there is a tie, the winner will be decided by the cut of a deck of cards and runner-up will receive a Silver Quarter. \*\*\* Only Items found between April 8, 2014 meeting and the July 7, 2014 meeting, qualify to be displayed. All items must be found **in the act of** treasure hunting or while prospecting. Items found with the naked eye qualify. ***No purchased items or planted hunt finds allowed.***

## **CLUB OUTINGS**



**April 12, 2014—Littlerock Dam Recreation Area**  
**Meet at 9:00 AM. (weather permitting)**

This will be a metal detecting/nugget shooting outing. **Members will bring their own food and drinks.**

To get to Littlerock Dam Recreation Area, take whatever route you need to get to Pearblossom Hwy. (138) and follow it to Cheseboro Rd. off Pearblossom Hwy. toward Littlerock. You can only turn one way onto Cheseboro Rd.—south. Follow it to the entrance of the recreation area. Fees are \$3/car plus \$2/person over 13. Once in, follow the road past the lake to **Lot E**, which is a picnic area right next to the dirt ramp leading down to the lake/creek. All other sites have no easy access to that area. There are two picnic tables and a restroom in this lot and plenty of parking. When I checked it out today, the gate attendant told me that this time of year it isn't crowded—and that weather conditions usually determine the crowds.

## ***Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics***

I will always check federal, state, county and local laws before searching; it is my responsibility to know the law.

I will respect private property and will not enter private property without the owner's permission. Where possible, such permission will be in writing.

I will take care to refill any holes and try not to leave any damage.

I will remove and dispose of any and all trash and litter that I find.

I will appreciate and protect our inheritance of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.

I will, as an ambassador for the hobby, use thoughtfulness, consideration and courtesy at all times.

I will work to help bring unity to our hobby by working with any organization of any geographic area that may have problems that will limit their ability to peacefully pursue the hobby.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only.

I will report to the proper authorities any individuals who enter and/or remove artifacts from federal parks or state preserves.

# "THE END OF THE LOOP"

## **March Finds of the Month**

*Member must be present to display finds*

### **Most Unique**

Scott Sandahl—1936 radio Orphan Annie

### **Best Gold Item**

John Chartier—17+ gr. white gold w/29 diamonds

### **Best Natural Gold**

Jim (Ebon) Gilmore

### **Best U.S. Coin**

Scott Sandahl—1940 dime

### **Best Foreign Coin**

Scott Sandahl—1/2 real Guatamala

### **Best Silver Item**

Bonnie Forster—Silver necklace

### **Best Overall**

Scott Sandahl

### **Attendance Drawing**

Charles & Mary Hattendorf

### **50/50 Draw**

Wes Weathers



## **April Birthdays**

William Daniels, Dan Holman, Jimmy Hopewell

**Please note:** If your birthday isn't listed in your birth month, you probably didn't give us your information. This information is gleaned from the active membership roster. Contact Linda Bravo to update.

## **OFFICERS**

President..... **Mike Temple**  
H 818-341-8261 C 818 557-6467

Vice-Pres..... **Lovetta Burns**  
E-mail - lburns57@att.net  
H 661 256-1654 C 661 428-0797

Treasurer..... **Linda Bravo**  
E-mail - lsb7203@yahoo.com

Secretary..... **Linda Reitz**  
E-mail - llreitz@aol.com

## **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Robert Weaver..... 661-948-8350  
Connie Smith .....661-526-7494  
Mike Snowden.....661-269-2937  
Rick Wyatt.....661-943-1124  
James Gilmore.....661-492-8707  
Vicky Wyatt.....661-943-1124

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

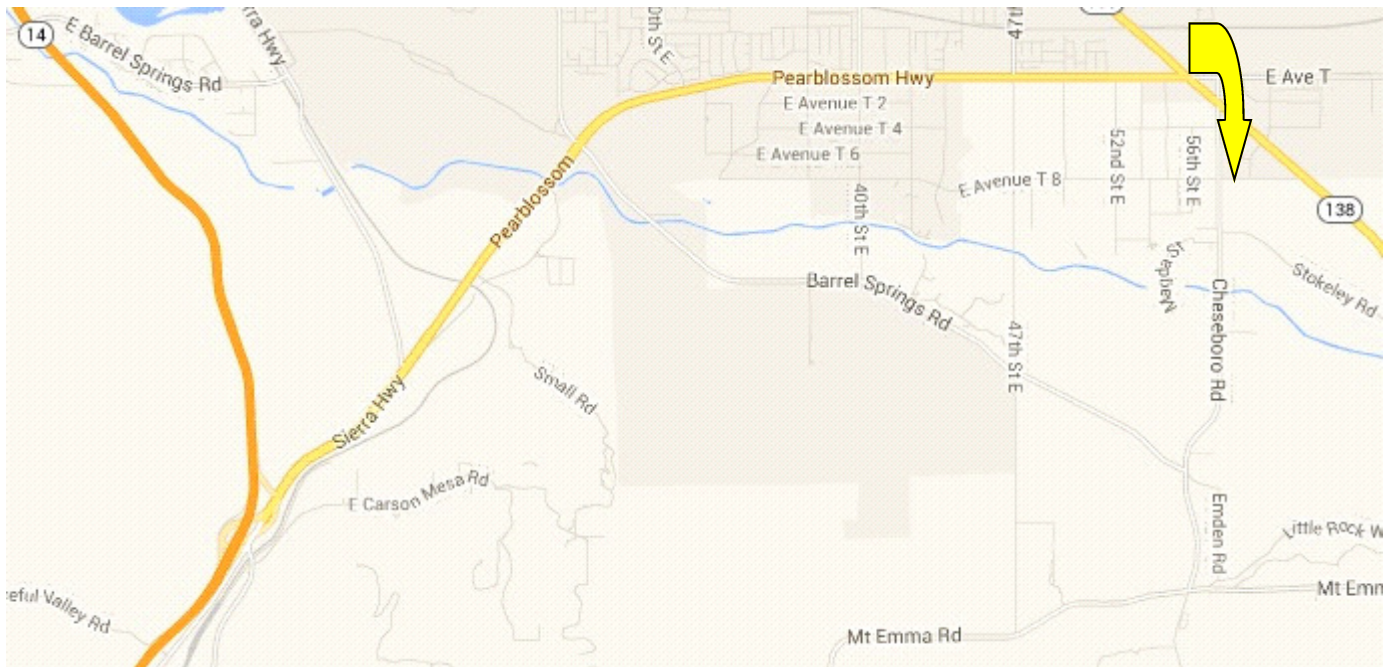
Welcome.....Vivian Sexton  
Raffles.....Ted Bell & Ed Barr  
Club Photographer.....Anyone With Camera  
Find of the Month.....Scott Sandahl  
Claims.....Linda Bravo  
Metal Detecting.....Scott Sandahl  
Refreshments.....Volunteer for each meeting  
**Club Apparel..... Vacant**  
Club Public Web Page.....Rick Wyatt  
Newsletter..... Connie Smith  
661 526-7494

Membership..... Vivian Sexton / Jim Willson  
Recycling..... Jay Zeigler

Remember, as with the recycling collection, the proceeds from the sale of apparel are put back in the club to fund prizes and food at the outing.



# Outing Map—Littlerock Recreation Area



***Antelope Valley Treasure Hunter's Society***  
***P. O. Box 4718***  
***Lancaster, California 93539***



**This Month's Club Outing**  
**Littlerock Recreation Area**

