

## The SJ CSRA CC now meets at the MieStelle Bakery on the first Thursday of the Month

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Sec. Jim Mullaney  
Treas. Chuck Goergen  
Sgt. in Arms: Jim Sproull



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Volume 24, No. 8

the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club, Founded in 2001  
Monthly Newsletter

August, 2025

**Our next meeting will be held on August 7, 2025 at the MieStelle Bakery in Aiken, SC  
Consider bringing in a Numismatic Show & Tell item!**

## Why attending Coin shows are highly advisable #3, More on the FUN SHOW

### 2025 Club Meeting Schedule

Jan. 2	Apr. 3	July 3	Oct. 2
Feb. 6	May 1	<b>Aug. 7</b>	Nov. 6
Mar. 6	June 5	Sept. 4	Dec. 4

### Attending the 2007 FUN Show



**An 1824/2 Coronet large cent, N-1, R2 graded AU-50 by PCGS**  
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% for all three coins.]

My wife, Vilma and I attended the FUN show held in Orlando, Florida in January 2007, a seven hour drive from our home in Evans, GA. It was worth it! There's an old saying, that if one cannot find the coin you're looking for at the FUN show, it probably no longer exists! Of course, that's not really true but the amount of dealers set up behind numerous tables displaying mostly United States coins and paper money in addition to the coins from other nations provides an incredible experience for the serious collector whether you acquire a few coins or none at all. Many of the coins that are on sale have strong eye appeal such as **the lovely 1824/2 Coronet large cent** shown directly above. While the coin is not uncirculated, having been certified AU-50 by PCGS, it still appears highly attractive. Our early U.S. large cents were the workhorse of the economy during the 1820s and circulated heavily.

James Monroe was still serving as our fifth president when the 1824 Coronet Large cent was produced. It's acquisition by the writer was expensive to acquire but worth the price he had paid.

1824 was interesting year, politically, because **John Quincy Adams**--the son of Federalist, John Adams, but now a member of the Democratic-Republican Party was elected as our sixth president in November of that year with the help from Congressman Henry Clay's support vexing Andrew Jackson.



**An 1867 Shield nickel with rays later graded MS-61 by PCGS**  
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% for all three coins.]

Directly above is a coin that I wish our readers could increase in size to at least 150% on their computer because its effect on the eye will be extremely positive. The Shield Nickel was first struck in 1866, the year after the Civil War had ended in order to provide a decent coin for shoppers who needed items to buy goods since most of our silver coins were either hoarded or melted for profit during the war. James Barton Longacre--who was our Chief Mint Engraver at the time--had released a similar obverse design on the copper two-cent piece the in 1864, the first coin to display the motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** on the obverse which appears very tiny above the leaves hanging above the glorious shield in the center with the date displayed below. The reverse shows the legend, **UNITED STATES IN AMERICA** in the upper half of the coin surrounding the thirteen stars with the large 5 in the center and a smaller **CENTS** below the stars at the bottom of the coin. Midway thru 1867, the rays were removed because coin was not striking up very well; a pity, because the coin lost a lot of its eye appeal and was never as popular as a design type from then on. The writer acquired the coin shown above at the 2007 FUN show "raw" and later had it certified by PCGS who graded it MS-61, as a lower graded uncirculated coin but still attractive specimen according to the writer.



**A 1907 \$10 gold Eagle graded MS-62 by NGC**  
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% for all three coins.]

This lovely \$10 gold coin had a mintage of 1,203,899 and while it is quite common as a date, most gold coins that citizens held by 1933 during the Great Depression era were asked to be turned in for paper money so the gold could be used by the nation. Only serious coin collectors were allowed to retain their gold coins.

### The 2008 FUN Show



An 1907 Saint-Gaudens \$20 Double Eagle  
Graded MS-62 by NGC

The author acquired his most favorite coin of his collection up to that time at the 2008 FUN show which was the **Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 gold double eagle** in its first year of circulation. With a mintage of just 361,667 pieces, the coin is still quite common as the final version of the Saint-Gaudens type which most numismatists consider America's most beautiful coin. In 2008, it sold four **\$1,180** which wasn't cheap for the period. Today, PCGS COINFACTS lists an example graded MS-62 at **\$3,750**, so this purchase turned out to be a very good investment due to the tremendous recent rise in gold.



An 1854 Type 2 Indian Princess \$1.00 gold piece  
graded A U-58 by NGC

At the same 2008 FUN Show, the author acquired five other gold coins; three of them named the **Indian Princess** types created by **James Barton Longacre**. These were slightly enlarged from **13mm** to **15mm** in diameter and slightly thinned accordingly. This would remain the same size of the \$1.00 gold piece to the end of its run although the coin's design would be slightly altered two years later. The new type was released in **1854** after the smaller **Liberty Head** type was struck for the last time and is far more attractive in the writer's opinion.



Two 1856 large head Indian Princess \$1.00 gold pieces  
At right upright 5 and at left, slanted 5

In 1856, Longacre slightly **enlarged the crown** of the Indian Princess type \$1.00 gold coin. That year, **the 5 in the date was struck in a strait 5 or a slanted 5** thereby creating a minor transitional date. As it happened, the writer found both types at the 2008 FUN show which was another reason why it was such a fantastic experience.



A \$5.00 half-eagle graded MS-61 by ICG  
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% for all three coins.]

Even if magnified to 200%, this coin when so enlarged, appears like an **MS-63 graded coin** due to Bela Lyon Pratt's unique design type displaying a magnificent Indian head and eagle figure.

### The 2010 FUN Show



An 1875 Coronet 3 cent piece graded MS-65 by PCGS

What makes a major coin show so exciting are numerous aspects; the first being walking onto the huge floor in the convention center and seeing the crowd of people centered around the numerous tables with the dealers behind them. The second is looking over the numerous **obsolete coins or paper money** with their attractive designs and the third of course, is locating the particular numismatic items that you have put on your want-list. It was just this **1875 three-cent piece** shown above that was one of the three coins the writer needed to fill his 1875 year set which he eventually found at a dealer's table that was the only one on the floor and it appeared irresistible, although quite expensive due to its high grade. **The coin was first produced in 1865** in order to get coins circulating again after the extensive hoarding of our silver coinage during and shortly after the Civil War. The new denomination was highly popular for the first eleven years but after 1876 with the exception of 1881, it was struck in very low numbers and these are all scarce today.

My Grandpa Charlie was born in **1875** when Ulysses Simpson Grant was serving his second term as the 18th president of the United States. Charlie met my Grandma Lena in **1897** when William McKinley was president and they married in **1899**. He lived 82 years, passing away in June of **1958** when Eisenhower was president and since the writer didn't start collecting U.S. coins seriously until **1976**, I never knew whether he ever handled one of these three-cent pieces. He never mentioned the coin to any of his grandchildren. The only coin we knew he had was the Washington quarter which he would give one to each of his grandchildren if--when asked whether they had been behaving themselves and you nodded, "Yes"--he gave you one!

In 1875, a three cent piece had the purchasing power of 88 cents!



An 1875 Liberty Seated quarter graded MS-64 PQ by PCGS

The Liberty Seated type had appeared on all our major silver coinage annually, starting in 1840 when all five denominations were officially established, but by 1875, the smallest and largest denominations had been terminated as a result of **the Coinage Act of 1873**, (sometimes referred to as the **"The Crime of 1873"** with the extinction of the half-dime and the Liberty Seated dollar, although the dollar denomination would be replaced by **the Trade dollar** which was intended to be sent especially to China although it continued to be used in the United States up to \$5.00 by U.S. citizens thru 1878. **As a result, the Liberty Seated design** remained only on the **dime, quarter and half-dollar** by the Philadelphia Mint which struck a whopping **4,292,810 Liberty Seated quarters** that year compared with just **600,000** at the San Francisco facility with just **140,000** at the Carson City Mint; so the 1875-P example shown above was easily the most affordable to acquire by a middle class collector in uncirculated grades.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)





**An 1875 Liberty Seated half-dollar graded AU-58 by PCGS**

On the second day of the 2010 FUN show, the writer came across this stunning 1875 half-dollar. It is was graded AU-58 (almost uncirculated) by PCGS when an AU-58 appeared more like an MS-62 or higher. With a mintage of 6,826,200, the coin is an extremely common date and not costly at all grading AU-58, but it has doubled in value since the writer acquired it. When magnified sufficiently, notice the motto, **IN GOD WE TRUST** on the reverse of coins struck after 1865.



**A 1908 Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 Double Eagle graded MS-64 PQ by PCGS**

[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% for all coins on this page.]

On the second day of the 2010 FUN show, the writer came across a crowded table where a number of people were apparently trying to acquire an example of the beautiful Saint-Gaudens gold \$20.00 with *no motto* shown directly above. This was also a period when gold was rising rapidly, and since the 1908 *no motto* double eagle with a reported mintage of 4,271,551 is one of the larger mintages of the series yet extremely popular to boot, acquiring an example at the price in 2010 for \$1,900 seemed nuts; but was it?

At end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century an ounce of gold was worth \$255. Staring around 2006, gold started to rise and by 2008 it had risen to over \$1,000 an ounce. By 2009 gold was still climbing, and had risen to \$1,300 an ounce, so just acquiring a gorgeous specimen of this well known work of art by Augustus Saint-Gaudens for \$1,800; (That's only \$500 more!) Today, despite the coin's relatively large mintage, with plenty of uncirculated examples still available, it's current retail price listed by PCGS COINFACTS has reached **\$3,775.00**.

This beautiful coin was struck in 90% gold, bonded by 10% copper. One of the problems with our current daily coinage is, it can't buy anything except make change and has lost it's more artistic forms since Miss Liberty was replaced by former presidents or historic idols liked Benjamin Franklin. Despite their greatness, these coins lacks the historic artistic qualities that appeared on our earlier U.S. coinage.



**A 1921 Liberty Standing quarter graded MS-63 by PCGS**

The Liberty Standing quarter was created by Hermon MacNeil and was struck from 1916 thru 1930. The 1921 date is one of the tougher dates in the series, because--despite its mintage of 1,916,000 struck only at the Philadelphia Mint that year due to a post - WWI depression--the quarter was the workhorse of the economy back then and the coin circulated heavily, so acquiring an attractive eye appealing uncirculated example of the 1921 issue is far moiré costly than some of the other dates.. The Liberty Standing quarter was the next to last coin to show Miss Liberty on the obverse of our coinage--and regrettably in the writer's opinion--the last to display an extremely artistic example showing her features. After the Peace dollar was produced from 1921 thru 1935, the allegoric feature of Miss Liberty ended. Benjamin Franklin and previous important presidents replaced her. Enlarging the photo of the example to 200% will bring out Herman MacNeil's artistic talents as an engraver.



**A 1927 Lincoln cent graded MS-64 Red-Brown by PCGS**

[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% for all coins on this page.]

Early common Lincoln cents struck from 1909 thru 1939 are becoming scarcer to acquire in Brilliant Uncirculated grades, so even a common date like the 1927 Philadelphia issue of the Lincoln Cent shown above is worth 50 times its original value. The Philadelphia Mint struck 144,440,000 cents that year yet **it still cost the writer \$50.00 at the 2010 FUN Show** but it is a lovely coin displayed in its Reddish-Brown appearance. The **1927-D** issue had far lower mintages and are in the \$100's in the same grade. The **1927-S** cent had even less mintages and is quite expensive. The writer acquired the coin shown above primarily to add to his 1927 date set.

Lincoln cents were struck at the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco mints from 1909 to the present with those produced before 1940 are now becoming more and more harder to find in the higher grades. Today, obsolete copper coinage are graded not just by their amounts of wear but in three categories, **Brown, Red-Brown and Red** with the latter being the more expensive of the three because an early dated uncirculated Lincoln cent appearing full red is quite scarce today as well.

The writer believes that an uncirculated Lincoln cent graded **Red-Brown is a Best-Buy** among the three because the coin still appears attractive with some looking almost full Red and is priced closer to the Brown than to Red.



**A 1927 Mercury dime graded MS-64, Full Bands by PCGS**

[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 500% for all coins on this page.]

Last but not least, the writer acquired this charming 1927 dated Mercury dime at the 2010 FUN show which was certified with **Full Bands on the reverse** which increased the coin's value over one without fully split bands. It's hard for the reader to visualize this subtle aspect on such a small coin, so one needs to magnify it to 500% and even then it doesn't always show this aspect clearly. The acquisition of both the 1927 dated coin in this column enabled the writer to come close to completing his 1927 year set (excluding gold) with the two U.S. 1927 gold cons acquired much later..

## Final Comments

Before each major coin show, one has to prepare oneself in a number of ways. First, one must consider how much can he or she can afford to spend. Second, one must save up at least three months before attending a major show. Third,; one should create a list of the coins you hope to acquire that you think you can afford. Fourth; try to obtain a coin that displays **Eye Appeal** regardless of the grade. The writer has seen Liberty Seated quarters on line **certified** XF-45 with unsightly spots priced by the grade; not by its appearance! Fifth, If you are a collector of U.S. coinage, take the latest *Red Book* with you which lists the retail prices in the grades of the coins you wish to acquire although it doesn't display the grades between VF-20 and XF-40 nor MS-64 graded coins.

## STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, July 3, 2025

Vice President Garry Naples, called the regular meeting of the coin club to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Oh Mie Stelle Bakery on Pine Log Road. There were 17 members in attendance and no visitors.

Mark Heaton won the door prize – a 2024 quarter-ounce silver Britannia.

Steve Kuhl informed members of upcoming coin shows in the region.

A motion was made by Steve Kuhl and seconded by Sharon Smoot to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the June meeting. A copy of the June Meeting Minutes will be on file with the other club records and the Minutes are also reported in the Club newsletter.

### Old Business:

Garry thanked David Anderson for providing snacks and drinks for July's meeting.

### New Business :

Jim Mullaney mentioned that Tim Stirrup's son, Darby, had passed away several weeks ago. Please keep Tim's family in your prayers.

### Show & Tells:

**Arno Safran** shared a pair of U.S. gold coins from 1928 graded by PCGS. One was a St Gaudens double eagle graded MS64.



The other was a 1928 \$2.50 gold Indian Head quarter eagle graded MS-62. It had a incuse design type created by Bela Lyon Pratt. He had acquired it at our club's Coin show held on March 15, 2025.



**Chuck Goergen** displayed an ancient coin minted in 39 BC in Asia Minor featuring Mark Anthony and Octavia on the obverse.

**Jim Sproull** shared a match of interesting items with numismatic ties. These were a pair of championship belt buckles from the **Dogwood Gun Club** which each had a contemporaneous fractional U.S. gold bullion coin mounted into the overall design of the belt buckle. While it is tempting to break those coins out to redeem at melt prices because of the high current spot price, most members recommended that the buckles be kept whole because the complete belt buckle itself had a collectible's market as well.

### The Program:

**Jim Mullaney** presented a program titled "**Saddle Ridge Hoard: America's Greatest Gold Hoard?**"

He started with the basics of the find, where in 2013 a couple walking on their own property in northern California dug up a rusted can they noticed sticking up out of the ground, and found that it was full of gold coins. Returning to the spot several times with better equipment, they eventually located a total of eight cans containing 1427 gold coins with a face value of \$27,980. Many coins were found to be in astonishingly good shape after being conserved and the projected market value of the find was \$10 million. The coins were dated from 1847 – 1894, with 2/3 of the coins coming from 12 specific years.

Coins from all U.S. Mints of the period were included – although San Francisco was by far the most common.

Jim's presentation provided some background on the California gold rush, including the interesting fact that gold was actually discovered at Sutter's Mill in January 1848, less than two weeks before the U.S. and Mexico signed **the Treaty of Guadalupe** where the U.S. purchased a huge tract of land from Texas

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## STEPHEN JAMES CSRA COIN CLUB Regular Meeting Thursday, July 3, 2025

(Continued from the previous page)

to the Pacific Ocean for \$12 million. \$400,000,000 of gold was mined from California from 1849 to 1855. Despite being buried in the ground for over a hundred years, many coins were in truly remarkable shape.

After conservation and grading, at least 13 specimens from the hoard are now listed as the finest known for that date/mint combination.

The gold coins discovered were truly an amazing find!

The members enthusiastically appreciated Jim's presentation.

Steve Kuhl, assisted by Jim Mullaney, conducted the monthly club auction.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Mullaney, Secretary*

## Taking Pictures of your Coins before a Show & Tell

The members who are reading this may mistake the reasons for my showing the photos of the two coins I displayed at the June, 2025 club meeting in this edition of the club newsletter. As a rule, I try to take a photo of a coin shortly after I have acquired them so they are available when I intend to use them in an article that I am writing.

I am also aware that there are some members like Steve Kuhl who also take photos of coins on some occasions at some of our meetings that are magnificent. I think this is a good idea, so if you plan to present a Show & Tell of one of your coins or paper money acquisitions, try photographing them or let Steve do it if he has his special camera with him and I will try go put them in the newsletter as well. We have done this before in some of the earlier newsletter issues.

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