




The SJCSRA Coin Club Newsletter

Volume 25, issue #4

June 2026

<p>Founded in 2001</p> 	<p>Life Member</p> 	<p>Club Member</p> 
<p><u>Club Officers</u></p> <p>President: Kelly Nordeen VP: Typhany Nordeen Secretary: Jim Mullaney Treasurer: Chuck Goergen Sgt. at Arms: Jim Sproull Show Chairman: Steve Kuhl Website: Susie Nulty Editor: Gene Belair</p>	<p>SJCSRA Coin Club PO Box 5562 Aiken, SC 29804</p> <p>Web site: www.sjcsracc.org</p> <p>Email: sjcsracoinclub@gmail.com</p> <p>ANA Representative: Steve Kuhl SCNA Representative: Steve Kuhl</p>	

**Club meetings are on the 1st Thursday of every month at 6:45pm (doors open at 6:00pm) at the Oh Mie Stelle! Bakery, 969 Pine Log Rd, Aiken, SC
Notice: starting July 2, 2026 the meeting will start at 6:30pm.**

Message from the editor:

Welcome to the latest edition of the SJCSRA Coin Club Newsletter.

Sad news: The SJCSRA Club sends our heartfelt condolences to YN member Lucca Appignani and his family and friends. Lucca lost his mother Julianne due to a long illness on May 21st. Julianne often accompanied Lucca to our meetings. She will be missed.

A call for articles. Most collectors like to share (and brag about) their collection. I encourage all members (veterans, newbies, YNs, young or old) to write an article about your favorite numismatic interest and share it. Contact me or any club officer for assistance.

The club has been actively updating our email contact list. Please notify Jim Mullaney at the club's email of all corrections, updates, missing names, new additions, etc.

A reminder that club dues are \$15 and were due on April 1st. The by-laws require payment within 60 (May 31st) to maintain good standing in the club.

Thank you, Gene Belair

The Evolution of This Collector

Childhood

I suspect my story of becoming a coin collector is similar to most other collectors. When I was a small child of 5 or 6 years old, I “discovered” a shoe box of old coins on the floor of my parents’ closet. They didn’t look like the shiny new pennies and nickels that I was accustomed to seeing when spending my 25c weekly allowance at the corner store. Instead of a man’s face on the coins they had an Indian, a Buffalo, a guy wearing a helmet with wings and a lady carrying a shield and an even bigger ones with the same lady carrying flowers. Mom explained to me that these were coins from when she was growing up and since they were old they couldn’t be spent anymore. Later, I learned that those old coin were Indian cents, Buffalo nickels, Mercury dimes, Standing Liberty quarters, and Walking Liberty half dollars. That was when I started saving pennies that were older than me and thus started my own shoe box collection.

On my 7th birthday, mom and dad gave me my 1st Whitman blue folders to put my pennies in. Dad explained to me that the folder allowed me to put the coins in order by the date and mint marks. That Christmas my grandfather said to me “I hear you like to collect pennies. I bet you don’t have one like this?” He pulled from his sweater pocket a small cloth pouch and carefully removed a big copper coin. Holding it by the edges, he said “this is a penny from the year I was born, and from the country I was born in. It is still new and shiny. When you look at this penny, you must always hold it by the edges like I do. Merry Christmas.” I picked it up as he instructed and saw that one side had a King (Edward VII) wearing a crown with the word CANADA below and the other side read ONE CENT 1903. I was amazed by that coin. It was so much bigger than the pennies in my collection.



(Photos by G. Belair)

A few years later we moved from Rhode Island to Connecticut. One day a big man named Stan came to the house asking if we would subscribe to the local newspaper. He explained to my parents that he also needed a new paperboy to deliver papers in the neighborhood and that I looked old enough to be one. My 1st job! The cost of the paper was 78 cents per week. Customers would pay me with silver Kennedy halves, occasional silver quarters and dimes and wheat back cents. I was able to complete most of the Lincoln cents, Jefferson nickels, Roosevelt dimes, most of the Washington quarters, and Kennedy halves sets from coins received as payment.

Teenager

It turned out that Stan was a coin collector, too. With my parents permission, I started attending some of the nearby coin shows with Stan. And joined the Middlesex County Coin Club. That was when I learned about the different aspects of collecting: US coins, world coins, paper money, tokens, medals, etc. I was hooked and started collecting everything coin related except paper money from all around the world spending hours going thru dealers' foreign coin "junk" boxes buying Canadian large cents, French and British coppers at 10 to 25 cents per.

One of my high school math teachers was a member of the coin club. Mr. Boucher collected Canadian coins and tokens but also comic books, stamps, and sports cards. He became my mentor for collecting Canadian material especially the large cents. After graduation, he encouraged me to assist with the club show. First as show floor setup leader then as the show chairman.

I also learned about grading and the saying "Buy the book before the coin". Starting my coin book library with the Red Book, Krause World Coin Catalogs, and similar Canadian publications. Today that library has over 800 books, catalogs, pamphlets, etc.



(Photo by G. Belair)

Young man (20s and 30s)

My career in Quality Control led me to move to Michigan, South Carolina and back to Connecticut. I became a workaholic, putting my collecting aside for nearly 15 years and lost track of what the hobby was doing and where it was going.

By the time I returned to Connecticut in 1996, mom and dad had retired and all of my siblings had moved away. They decided to sell the house to down size. They held a tag / garage sale to get rid of some stuff for the move. I was helping them when one of the buyers tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I still collect coins. It was Mr. Boucher. We spent the next hour

or so catching up. We reconnected and started trading and attending coin shows together again.

In early 1998, he offered me his entire Canadian coin collection. I bought it on a payment plan. This was my 1st purchase of an intact collection. It contained nearly 5,000 coins, mostly large cents and Victorian silver. It became the foundation of the collection that I have today. The duplicates later formed the vast majority of my coin show inventory.

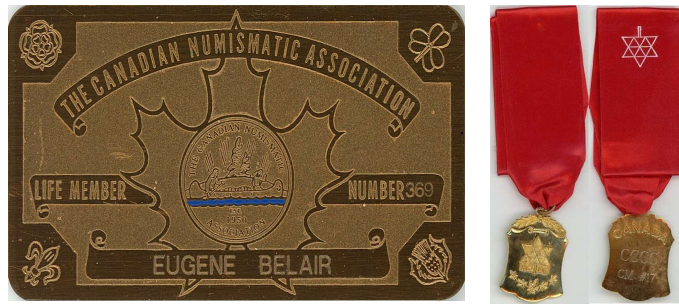
Later that year I reconnected with a dealer friend, Mr. Hobbs. After explaining my purchase and asking if he was interested in the duplicates he said "I tell you what. I am setting up at the Hartford show next month. I have 3 tables. Help me at the show and you can use part of a table to sell your dupes." My 1st time as a dealer. What an experience and learning event that was for me. The next show, I was able to get a table just for me. I've been setting up at local shows ever since.

I learned of the grading services ANACS, PCGS and NGC (and a few less reputable outfits). I was intrigued by their Registry Set programs. I thought it would be interesting to see how my collection would compare to others. Since 2008 I have submitted over 1000 coins to PCGS. Many of Mr. Boucher's coins and that 1903 Canada large cent from my grandfather are now in PCGS holders and form a part of my #2 ranked Canada: Complete Basic Set, Circulation Strikes, 1858-1952.

Middle age man (40s and 50s)

As the 2000's rolled along, I became disenchanted with US coins and sold all of my US collection. Also traded my World coin collection to a dealer friend for his Canadian inventory. Now completely focused on Canadian coins, I began to buy key dates and upgrades. I started participating in auctions held by Heritage, Stacks Bowers, Teletrade (now Great Collections), icollector, and several Canadian firms.

In 2006 I attended the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) national show in Niagara Falls. It was my 1st experience at a national show that featured mostly Canadian coins, tokens, medals, paper money, etc. There I joined the association and later became Life Member #369. I've attended 15 of the 20 conventions since. Like the ANA these shows are held in different cities around the country. Many clubs hold their annual member meetings at these shows. I joined the Canadian Association of Token Collectors (CATC), the Newfoundland Numismatic Enthusiasts (NNE), and the Canada Centennial Collectors Club (CCCC).



(Photos by G. Belair)

Since 2020 (60s and beyond)

As my working career began to wind down, I decided to refocus my collecting to classic Canadian coins (1858 to 1967) and Colonial tokens (1871 to 1857). I sold my proof / specimen / proof-like / post 1968 collections. Most of my medals and modern tokens, too. Using the funds to purchase the very scarce pieces and varieties needed to complete my sets and to upgrade others.

I retired and moved to Aiken, SC in 2024. Joined the Aiken and Augusta Coin Clubs and setup at about 16 SC coin shows each year. Earning the reputation as the “Canadian Guy”, buying and selling just Canadian coins. I’ve met many nice people and am enjoying the peace and quiet and much slower pace of life in general. Sharing my coin experiences with others, enjoying the camaraderie, and still learning about the hobby. I also attend shows that I do not setup at such as FUN, ANA (southeast), RCNA, and others.

Next year marks my 60th year as a collector. Looking forward to enjoying this hobby for the next few decades.

What’s your story?

Gene Belair

SJCSRA Club Meeting Notes from May 7, 2026

Vice President Typhany Nordeen 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 23 members attending. Tim Stirrup won the door prize, a 2024 ¼ ounce silver Britannia.

Jim Sproull announced upcoming coin shows in the region, in particular the Augusta Club’s coin show that will be May 22-23 at the same location as recent years.

JJ Engel made a motion which Sharon Smoot seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the April Meeting

Minutes will be on file with the other club records and the Minutes are also reported in the Club newsletter.

Chuck Goergen presented the summary of the club's financial reports. Our current balance is \$5208.85. The club had a net gain of \$370 for the 2024/2025 year, and a net gain of \$3357 for the 2025/2026 year. Besides coin show expenses, the major cost for last year was \$260 for the holiday dinner.

Old Business:

Typhany thanked Gene Belair for taking over the Newsletter following Arno's departure and getting the first edition out earlier in the week. Gene requested that you contact him if you have ideas for an article you could develop. Cutoff dates for articles will be the 20th of each month.

Typhany stated that the board will be pursuing items that recognize the club's 25th anniversary. These might include Fantasy Bank Notes and other simple items.

New Business:

There was a brief discussion on changing the start time for monthly club meetings. A motion was made by Steve Kuhl and seconded by Gene Belair to start meetings at 6:30, instead of the current 6:45 start. The motion passed unanimously. The new start time will be effective for the July meeting.

JJ Engel stated that he had reserved the Columbus Club for our holiday dinner on Dec 3rd. The club officers indicated that they would decide soon what the plans are for this year's holiday dinner.

Steve Kuhl stated that as the club's SCNA representative, he is informing us of upcoming SCNA annual elections for several offices including President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, and three governors. Steve is looking for candidates willing to serve in the state-wide organization. There is a formal nomination process. Contact Steve Kuhl if you are interested.

Steve shared with us information on the SCNAs recent formation College of Integrated Numismatics. This organization will provide numismatic seminars at the annual SCNA convention (Oct 29-31 in Greenville) at a cost significantly less than similar ANA seminars. This year there will be two one-day seminars: Introduction to Coin Grading and Introduction to Currency Grading. There will also be a two-day seminar on Intermediate Coin Grading. See the SCNA website for details on these seminars.

Show & Tells:

- Gene Belair – a 1948 Canadian silver dollar graded MS-62 by NGC. This is among the most rare of the Canadian coins, with a mintage of only 19,800.
- Lucca Appignani – a bag of several dozen foreign coins – including coins from Cuba and Saudi Arabia
- Jimmy Widener – a 1940 coin that was first counterfeited using a mold, then the 4 was re-tooled into a 1 to create a 1910 date.
- Garry Naples – An 1891-CC silver dollar, a spitting eagle VAM-3 & a second 1891-CC silver dollar VAM-7, which had actually been graded as a VAM-3 but was actually the rarer VAM-7 that had only been recently recognized as distinct

Program:

May's program was presented by Steve Kuhl. The program was on "The 2026 SemiQ Coins! – America 250". Steve introduced us to the coins that the mint will be issuing this year to recognize the milestone birthday of our country. He shared several brief videos produced by the mint for these coins. Steve's obvious favorite among the new coin designs was the dime, that reflected several design elements of some of our country's earliest coins. The circulating coin changes will be minimal for the nickel (double dating only) but dimes and quarters will have a completely new design for 2026, with quarters having 5 sets of unique obverse and reverse designs. In addition to the special circulating coins, a special collectible penny will be issued with double dating and a half dollar with a unique obverse and reverse will be minted. Steve also noted which of the mints continuing series of collectible coins will have double dating (1776 – 2026) and/or the special "250" privy mark. Steve noted that we are well into 2026 and few of these coins have been issued to date. It will be interesting to see how many of them are seen prior to our July 4th celebration.

Jim Sproull, assisted by Jim Mullaney, conducted the monthly club auction.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jim Mullaney,
Secretary**

Calendar of Events

MONTH	DATES	SHOW	LOCATION
July	07/31 to 08/02	Low Country Coin Show (SCNA LIFE MEMBER CLUB)	Exchange Park Fairgrounds 9860 Hwy 78, Ladson, SC Contact: Randy Clark (843) 367-0141 TwoBuckRandy@yahoo.com www.lowcountrycoinclub.com
Aug	28 & 29	Sumter Coin Club (SCNA MEMBER CLUB)	Saint Mark Banquet and Conference Center 2320 Four Bridges Road, Sumter, SC Contact: sumtercoinclub@gmail.com
Sep	18 & 19	Camden Coin Club, Camden SC (SCNA MEMBER CLUB)	Camden City Arena 420 Broad Street Camden, SC Contact: (803) 713-5311 camdencoinclub.com ; camdencoinclub@gmail.com
Oct	2 to 4	68th Annual NCNA Convention & Coin Show	Cabarrus Arena & Events Center 4751 Highway 49 North, Concord, NC 28025 Contact: Perry Siegel (704) 488-4787; herakles@herakles-inc.com
Oct	10	PEE DEE Area Coin Club Show (SCNA MEMBER CLUB)	SiMT Building Florence-Darlington Technical College 1951 Pisgah Road, Florence, SC 29501 Contact: Pat Patton (803) 403-5607 or (843) 413-9373 http://peedeereacoinsclub.com/
Oct	29 to 31	SC Numismatic Association's 54th Annual Convention & Coin Show and AUCTION!	TD Convention Center 1 Exposition Drive, Greenville, SC 29607 Contact: Marc Kosanovich (864) 275-3204 mkosan5173@aol.com

SJCSRA Members Only BUY-SELL-TRADE

This will be a new feature for members of the club. It is currently pending approval by the executive committee.

The Stephen James CSRA Coin Club

**Aiken's
Coin Club
since 2001**



Meets Monthly on 1st Thursday at 630 PM
at Oh Mie Stelle! Bakery, 969 Pine Log Rd.,
Aiken SC (Staples Shopping Center)
www.aikencoinclub.com /  Aiken Coin Club



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