

Cupertino Coin Press

The publication of the Cupertino Coin Club

October 2025

Volume 19, #10



cupertinocoinclub.org · www.facebook.com/cupertinocoinclub

P.O. Box 448, Cupertino, CA 95015-0448

Editor's Message

Hello everyone! It will be a busy next few months for the CCC. Our annual Youth Night general meeting will be held on 10 October (page 2). Please try to bring a youth to that meeting. 10 October is also the deadline for applications for the annual award banquet (pg. 6, insert) which will be on 18 October.



Coming up in December is our Fourth Annual Gary L. Acquistapace Memorial Donation Auction (pg. 4) run by Don P. Make sure to attend that—the auctions are always a lot of fun.

This month, Dan S. has decided to do something different in his quiz column (pgs. 3,6)—a “Guess the AI!” essay challenge on the three cent coin.

In case you missed last month's presentation by Don P., page five has a recap of his program on “Coin Photography.” A list of the U.S. Mint's upcoming releases can be found on page 6, and a list of approaching numismatic events is on page 2. Personally, I am looking forward to the Northern California Numismatic Association Educational Forum which will be held on 15 November (insert) in Vallejo.

As always, a big thank you goes to our advertisers and contributors. I'm always looking for content and am very willing to work with contributors, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me with an article or advertisement idea.

Contents:

Editor's Message- page 1

Upcoming Meetings and Events- pg. 2

Dues Are Past Due- pg. 2

Happy Birthday- pg. 2

Upcoming Numismatic Events- pg. 2

Quiz Column: Guess the AI!- pgs. 3, 6

General Meeting Minutes- pg.5

Fourth Annual Gary L. Acquistapace Memorial Fundraising Auction- pg. 4

Please Share Your Opinion- pg. 5

Program Recap: Coin Photography- pg. 5

September Quiz Answers: Bullion Coins- pg. 5

Banquet- pg. 6

Upcoming U.S. Mint Releases- pg. 6

General Meeting Minutes- pg. 7

Quiz: Guess the AI! Answers- pg. 7

Board Meeting Minutes- pg.8

Advertising Index:

Time Capsule Coins- pg. 5

Make sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the *Coin Press*!

Club News

Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 10: General Meeting;
Youth Night!; Presenter: Cam S.;
Topic: "Roman Republican History
as Viewed Through Coins"

October 16: In-person board
meeting.

October 18: CCC 41st Annual
Banquet.

November 14: General Meeting;
Presenter: Bryce B.; Topic: "101
Ways To Collect Bust Coinage"

December 12: General Meeting;
Holiday Celebration, Program: 4th
Gary L. Acquistapace Memorial
Donation Fundraising Auction
Auction Chair: Don Pannell
(No guest speaker)

December 18: Online board
meeting

The Cupertino Coin Club will have
their general meetings in person at
St. Joseph's Church of Cupertino,
located at 10110 N De Anza Blvd in
Cupertino. Meetings start at 7:30
p.m. unless noted. Meetings
feature an auction, show and tell,
and drawings, as well as a speaker.

**Guests and youth are always
welcome!**

Dues Are Past Due!

Dues were due on April 1, 2025. Dues are only \$12 for adults and \$6 for youth. If you would like the printed newsletter, please add \$15 to your dues payment. To pay your dues, you may either mail your check to the club's PO Box address listed in the masthead or pay by cash or check to Membership Chair Al L. at a monthly meeting. To pay electronically by PayPal, first email cupertinocoinclub@gmail.com for instructions.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday cheers go to our October birthday members. Happy Birthday: Briita E., Ralph K., Pearl L., Lucy M.-L., Diego R., John S., Matthew W., Aurelie M.!

Please join us on 10 October!

October's general meeting will be held on the 10th. There, Cam S. will present on "Roman Republican History as Viewed Through Coins." The presentation will cover the history of coinage in Italy, its spread to Rome, and the evolution of the usage and designs of coins in the Roman Republic.



Upcoming Numismatic Events

- 10–11 October: Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show; Elks Lodge - Walnut Creek, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.
- 19 October: Vacaville Coin Show, Vacaville Elk's Lodge, 302 Parker Street, Vacaville, CA 95688.
- 7–8 October: Sacramento Coin Show, Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover Street, McClellan, CA 95652
- 15 November: NCNA Educational Forum, Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin Street, Vallejo, CA

Quiz Column: Guess the AI!

Editor's Note

Below are two articles about three-cent coins, one written by Dan S. and the other generated by ChatGPT. Your challenge is to identify which essay was written by which. I provided both Dan and ChatGPT the same prompt for their essays: "Compose a 250–275 word essay examining the history of the U.S. three-cent coin. The essay should include the historical circumstances that led to its introduction and removal, the evolution of its design and composition over time, and the coin's technical specifications. Aim for a clear, informative, and well-structured narrative." Please note that not all the information in one or both of the essay's may be correct. Answers are on page 6.

Essay #1

The three-cent coin occupies a unique place in U.S. monetary history, reflecting the nation's economic needs and shifting priorities during the mid-nineteenth century. First authorized in 1851, the coin was introduced largely to address practical issues in

commerce and postage. At the time, the cost of mailing a letter was reduced from five cents to three, creating demand for a convenient denomination to match the rate. Additionally, the shortage of small silver coins in

circulation, exacerbated by hoarding during the California Gold Rush, made a lightweight, low-value silver coin especially useful.

The earliest version, known as the three-cent silver or "trime," was produced from 1851 to 1873. Designed by James B. Longacre, it featured a six-pointed star on the obverse and a Roman numeral III within a decorative "C" on the reverse (above left). Initially struck from an alloy of 75% silver and 25% copper—unusual for the time— it was

intentionally debased to discourage hoarding. Its small size (14 mm in diameter, weighing 0.8 grams) made it practical yet notoriously easy to lose.

During the Civil War, silver coins disappeared from circulation, prompting Congress to authorize a three-cent nickel coin in 1865. Composed of 75% copper and 25% nickel, this new piece was larger (17.9 mm, 1.94 grams) and sturdier, featuring Liberty's head on the obverse and a Roman numeral III (above right) on the reverse. While it initially served a vital role in daily transactions, the coin's usefulness waned as postage rates changed and the five-cent piece gained popularity. The three-cent nickel was last struck for circulation in 1889, quietly fading from use.

Ultimately, the three-cent coin represents a creative but temporary solution to specific monetary needs, offering insight into the adaptability of U.S. coinage during a transformative era.



Essay #2

The second half of the nineteenth century was marked by the birth and demise of unusual denominations in U.S. coinage, such as the two-cent copper, twenty-cent silver, gold dollar and gold three-dollar coins. Most extraordinary, however, were the three-cent coins minted between 1851 and 1889 in two very different types. The first of these types, the silver trime, was created in

the years following the California gold rush when silver's value relative to gold increased to the point where circulating 90% silver coins became more valuable than their denomination and thus were hoarded. The trime, initially composed of 75% silver, had **(Essay #2 continued on page 6)**

Fourth Annual Gary L. Acquistapace Memorial Donation Fundraising Auction

By **Don P.**

The Fourth Annual Gary L. Acquistapace Memorial Fundraising Auction for the Cupertino Coin Club will be held at our meeting on 12 December. Members are encouraged to donate items to the club for the auction. All proceeds will be used to support the monthly meetings and ongoing club operations. To submit items, send an email to Don P.. with pictures, a description, and an estimated value by 1 December. Lots from past years are shown below for inspiration.

Some ideas of items to donate:

Gifts

- Themed gift baskets
- Boxes of chocolate
- Bottles of wine

Collectibles

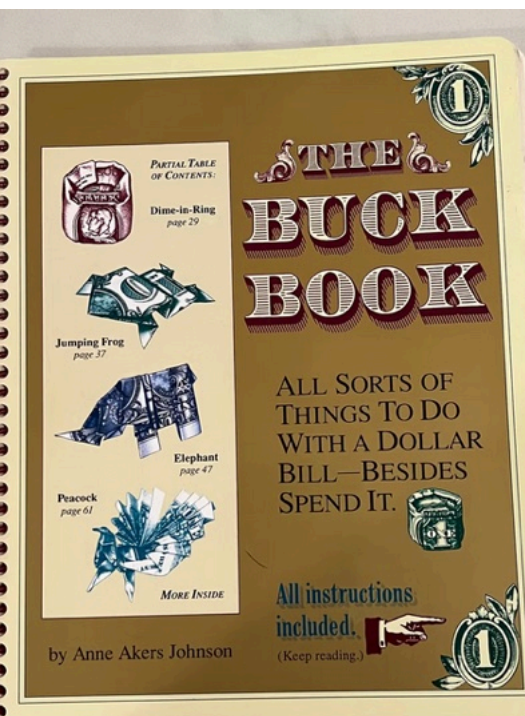
- Collectible coins or currency
- Coin supplies, folders
- Books (in English)
- Other hobbies - stamps, baseball cards, comics, etc.

Events/Sports

- Tickets for a museum
- Movie tickets
- Tickets to local sporting events
- Sports memorabilia - autographed items, framed items, bobble heads

Social/Food

- Gift certificate for a restaurant
- Gift cards for coffee shops
- Baked goods



Please Share Your Opinion

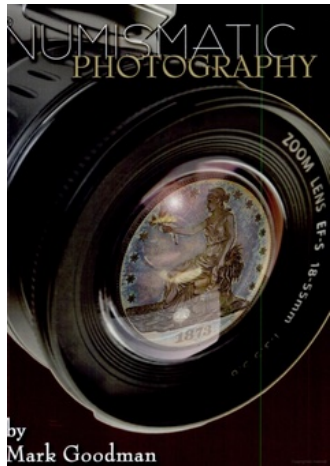
The CCC Board is tracking the increasing costs in all aspects of our operation, while also noting that some local coin clubs are falling into hard financial times, particularly after COVID. We have implemented many cost-cutting procedures on certain events which are diminishing the Member experience. We have been considering options to strengthen the vibrancy of our club, including changing the policies regarding Life Membership. The Board wishes to ask our Members on the potential changes to the Life Membership policies that will get incorporated in an update to the CCC By-Laws that will be voted on by the Membership. In an email earlier this week, we include links to a survey to poll members on their opinions on the life membership policy. Please fill out the form only once to help the Board reach a decision. Also, please fill out the form corresponding to the first letter of your last name. Please submit the form by 11 October.

Program Recap: Coin Photography

Our general meeting on 12 September featured Don P. presenting on “Coin Photography.” He learned all the information in his presentation at the American Numismatic Association’s Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, where he took a class on the subject. At the end of the presentation, he highlighted the value of the Seminar as a way to connect with other numismatists and learn more about the hobby.

During his presentation, Don described the pieces of equipment necessary to take high-quality pictures. Most important are a DSLR camera, a copy stand or tripod to move the camera the correct distance from the coin, a fixed focal length macro lens, and an 18% grey card to correct lighting.

At the end of the presentation, Don gave a photography demonstration, where he took pictures of coins attendees brought using his advanced set-up. For more information, Don recommends finding a copy of Mark Goodman’s book *Numismatic Photography* (above, now out of print), which has much information on taking pictures of coins. Thank you Don for presenting!



September Quiz Answers: Bullion Coins

By Dan S.

1. Kangaroo, koala, and kookaburra
2. The purity of their gold: Gold Eagles are 22 karat (91.67%) gold and Gold Buffalos are 24 karat (99.99%). They both contain 1 troy ounce of gold, so the Eagle weighs slightly more than a Buffalo.
3. Spot price. The spread.
4. United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, China, Austria
5. The American Gold Eagle contains 1 troy ounce of gold; the double-eagle contains 0.9675 troy ounce of gold.
6. To bubble or boil. Bullion is produced by refining precious metals by melting them and separating away their impurities.



Time Capsule Coins
Mike Wagner & Ben Karr
timecapsulecoins@gmail.com 669-295-5543
Local in Sunnyvale - Coin club life member
Filling Want Lists & Special Requests
Buying Estates & Collections
Free Appraisals

Banquet

By Suzy T.

The Cupertino Coin Club invites members and their guests to our 41st Annual Banquet, which will be held at St. Jude's Episcopal Church at 20920 McClellan Road in Cupertino on Saturday, October 18, 2025, starting at 5:00 pm.



We have Chef Vic preparing the evening's meal for us, offering a choice of either bacon and shrimp angel hair pasta or pasta primavera with a delicate house-made creamy pink sauce, salad, and garlic bread. Other options include gluten-free pasta, gluten-free bread, and marinara sauce. Lemonade, water, coffee, tea, and dessert will be served. "Bring-your-own meal" is also an option for those wanting to socialize and participate but want another meal option. There will be games with prizes and an awards ceremony for those who have helped us throughout this past year. RSVP by Friday, October 10, 2025 email me at cupertinocoinclub@gmail.com with any questions. We look forward to sharing this wonderful evening with you!

Upcoming U.S. Mint Releases

- 7 October: Mighty Minters 2025 Ornament & United States Mint 2025 Ornament.
- 10 October: 250th Anniversary United States Navy American Eagle One Ounce Silver Proof Coin.
- 21 October: American Women Quarters 2025 Rolls and Bags - Althea Gibson (below).
- 6 November: Limited Edition Silver Proof Set 2025.
- 10 November: 250th Anniversary United States Marine Corps American Eagle One Ounce Silver Proof Coin



Essay #2 (continued from pg. 3)

an intrinsic value of less than three cents, so it circulated and provided some relief to day-to-day transactions that had been completed only using copper (half-cent and cent) and gold (dollar and higher) coins. As the smallest U.S. coin in weight and

diameter, the trime was never particularly popular, and when other silver coins had their silver content reduced by the Coinage Act of 1852, the trime's use plummeted. A decade later when gold and then silver coins were hoarded during the Civil War, the nickel three-cent coin was introduced to replace the

fractional paper currency and unregulated tokens that had been used in local commerce. Both the silver and nickel three-cent coins were designed by James Longacre, are marked by Roman numeral three on their reverse and have plain edges. Their obverses are strikingly different, however: the trime has a six-pointed star overlain by a shield (above left), and the nickel three-cent features a portrait of Liberty facing left (above right). Today, three-cent coins provide a tangible link to these dynamic decades in U.S. history.



General Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2025

By **Dan S.**

Club President **Gran G.** called our September general meeting to order at 7:47 p.m., and welcomed everyone. There were 29 adults and 8 youths in attendance.

Bill H. conducted our club auction; **Emile M.** was our auction chair. **Cam S., Ivan L., and Laurin M.** were our auction runners. **Gran G.** drew the winning ticket for the Buyer's Prize, which was 0.999-fine 1-oz copper round with a Braided Hair design.

Gran G. welcomed our two guests, a Scout and his father.

Announcements: **Emile M.** provided a sympathy card for the family of **Harold W.** that club members could sign. He also noted that with the rising price of silver, today would be the last opportunity to purchase our club's 1-oz silver medal at the current price of \$43; next month the price will be \$45. **Gran G.** drew attention to the sign-up forms for the Club Banquet on October 18 at St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Cupertino, highlighting that the sign-up deadline is the week before. **Gran G.** also provided flyers for the Numismatic Education Forum in Vallejo on Nov. 15th. **Lyle O.** announced upcoming shows: Sacramento Valley Coin Club show September 25–27; Fresno Numismatic Society Show October 3–4; Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show October 10–11; and South Bay/Sunnyvale Coin Show November 14–15. **Cam S.** announced that the deadline for article and advertisement submissions for the October *Coin Press* is September 26. **Mike W.** requested volunteers to help out with four efforts related to the CCC Coin Show next Spring.

A scout drew the ticket for our Attendance Prize, which was won by Art B. and was a 0.999-fine 1-oz copper round with a Liberty Nickel design.

We wished Happy Birthday to our September Birthday members. Birthday Prize winner **Tom K.** received a 0.999-fine 1-oz copper round with an Aztec calendar design.

Dan S. introduced the Show and Tell, which was paused at 8:30 pm to allow the Program to be presented at the allotted time for Zoom participation. The complete list of Show and Tells follows. **Art B.**, £2 coin he struck at Royal Mint; **Brian D.**, DMPL Columbian half-dollar; **Mike W.**, rectangular wooden nickel money; **Richard S.**, Gringott's \$10 credit note; **Ivan L.**, 7-sided coin; **Monty B.**, 2019 Libertad 1-kg silver coin; **Don P.**, "The" Coin Photography book. Interruption for Program. Resumption with **Emile M.**, 1928 \$1 U.S. Note; **Lucas H.**, 1853 3-cent silver coin; **Cam S.**, ChatGPT aiding in identifying Spanish bronze coin; **Ken B.**, 2014 USOC silver medal; **Howard W.**, Queen Elizabeth II commemoratives; **Bill H.**, South American 1 Real cob. A youth drew the ticket for the Show and Tell prize, which was won by **Don P.** (0.999-fine 1-oz copper round with a Draped Bust design).

Don P. presented the Program on "Coin Photography" with both a PowerPoint presentation and a live demonstration of his photographic equipment setup. He provided a live demo of photographing large and small coins with his copy stand configuration.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Dan S., on behalf of Steve C., Recording Secretary

Quiz: Guess the AI! Answers

Essay #1 was generated by ChatGPT-5 on 27 September. Essay #2 was written by Dan S. on 28 September.

Board Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2025

By **Dan S.**

We had an online board meeting over Zoom. In attendance were:

President: **Gran G.**

Vice President, Program Chair, Webmaster, Facebook Chair, Banquet Chair: **Suzy T.**

Treasurer, Curator, Youth Advisor, Medals Chair: **Emile M.**

Coin Press Editor, Youth President: **Cam S.**

Corresponding Secretary, Membership Chair: **Al L.**

Board Members (3): **Dan S., Mike R., Mike W.**

Club President **Gran G.** called our September board meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were eight board members and chairs in attendance.

Recording Secretary **Steve C.** was absent, but **Dan S.** reported that he wrote up minutes from the September general meeting. He offered to do so for this board meeting, too.

Corresponding Secretary **Al L.** reported on correspondence received, including magazines and newsletters

Treasurer **Emile M.** gave the treasurer's report. All was well.

Curator **Emile M.** reports nothing new.

Program Chair **Suzy T.** reviewed our upcoming club events, including about six months of general meeting programs. Extra events in October include a merit badge workshop (October 4) and our annual banquet (October 18).

Two membership applications and payments were received at last week's general meeting. One application form included two renewals and one new youth application for **Aurelie M.** The second form was for youth applicant **Lucas H.** The board members voted to accept these youth members.

Coin Press Editor **Cam S.** would like everything for our newsletter by September 26. He remarked that the first ad debuted in the September issue and is paid up for six months.

Webmaster and Facebook Chair **Suzy T.** made updates to the website and Facebook page with three new announcements and discussed some of the metrics available on these platforms in terms of views, people, and content interactions.

Youth Advisor **Emile M.** reported that there were seven youth present at the September general meeting, including one scout. He noted that three youth made show-and-tell presentations.

Banquet Chair **Suzy T.** reported that logistics are coming together. There was discussion about the last time when banquet applications will be picked up at the PO box.

Medals Chair **Emile M.** reports that a die is being created for the reverse of the new medal.

Old Business: Board members had a discussion regarding how to distribute the by-laws questionnaire to club members. **Cam S.** reported his research on survey forms; the free version of a Zoho survey is more capable than the free version of a Survey Monkey survey. We discussed that the member name should be added to the questionnaire to verify that at most one vote from each club member in good standing is tabulated. We will do a test survey for the board members in the next week to make sure that the rollout of the actual survey goes smoothly.

New Business: Members had a discussion about the December auction (December 12) after **Don P., Gran G.,** and **Mike W.** had a prior meeting. Members volunteered for different roles, and it was emphasized that there will be a firm final deadline for items accepted to the auction.

Show Chair **Mike W.** reported on a variety of topics about next year's show including comparisons with other club shows and a wish to solicit volunteers to help with various

President **Gran G.** adjourned our board meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan S., on behalf of Steve C., Recording Secretary 8



CUPERTINO COIN CLUB

Our 55th Year & 41st Annual Banquet

Saturday, October 18, 2025

St Jude's Episcopal Church
20920 McClellan Rd
Cupertino, CA 95014



Social Hour & Games 5:00-6:00 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm
President's Thank You following dinner
Guessing games & BINGO following

We thank Board Director Don Pannell & his wife, Charlotte, for securing the venue again this year. Meal planning, shopping, preparation, and cooking are being done by Chef Victor Sanchez (Chef Vic). We request some attendees to help with being our servers for the food service line and clean-up in the hall and kitchen after the event. Your help is greatly appreciated! Many hands make light work! Thank you!

We will have two options of the main entree with several variations. Dinner will be bacon and shrimp angel hair pasta or pasta primavera with a delicate house-made creamy pink sauce, salad, and garlic bread. Options include: gluten-free pasta, gluten-free bread, marinara sauce (dairy-free). Drinks include lemonade, water, coffee, tea, and dessert. You are welcome to bring wine or other beverage of your choice.

For those who wish to participate in the festivities but prefer to bring their own (BYO) dinner, you are welcome to join us at a reduced rate. This will allow you to socialize, have drinks and dessert, play the games which have coveted prizes, and an option to receive the annual banquet chip. Don't miss out on the fun!

If you have any questions, please email the Banquet Chair at cupertinocoinclub@gmail.com.

~~~~~ Mail this portion with your payment ~~~~~

***Cupertino Coin Club 41st Annual Banquet @ St Jude's Episcopal Church
Reservations must be made on or before **Friday, October 11, 2024.*****

Name(s): _____
(Members, please list yourself & your guest(s); youth welcome & encouraged!)

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Select One Menu item for each Attendee:

Pasta w/Bacon & Shrimp (\$27) _____ Pasta Primavera (\$27) _____

BYO meal w/Banquet Chip (\$20) _____ BYO meal w/no Banquet Chip (\$10) _____

Specify if gluten-free or dairy-free is required: _____

Prices are for each member & 1st guest. Add \$10 to the above price for additional guests.

(Non-CCC members may become members by joining!)

Annual Banquet Chip Only (\$20 each) _____ (Qty) – Free chip if attending (1st 48) – After 48, Club Medal

Make checks payable to Cupertino Coin Club. Bring reservation form & payment to Sept 12 or Oct 10 Meeting or mail to:
Cupertino Coin Club, Attn: Banquet Chair, PO Box 448, Cupertino CA 95015-0448

For electronic payment via PayPal, please send an *email* with your order form to cupertinocoinclub@gmail.com for instructions regarding electronic payment. Do *not* PayPal money to this email address

We look forward to seeing you all there on Oct.18 for this fun annual event with coin club friends! Please consider participating and bringing the family.

You Are Invited!

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

'Numismatic Educational Forum'

Saturday, November 15, 2025

Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum

734 Marin, *at Capital*, Vallejo, California

Registration Opens 8:30 AM----Presentations Begin 9:30 AM

FREE ADMISSION!

'Women Enthusiasts For Numismatics'

Four Women Numismatic Advocates Enthralling and Exciting 'The World of Money'!

LISA DARE

Calgary Numismatic Society, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

"Living With A Numismatist"

CHARMY HARKER

'The Penny Lady', Irvine, California

"Quality Cents"

MARY N. LANNIN

American Numismatic Society, New York City, New York

"Women and Water: Admirals, Pirates, and Spies"

CHRISTIAN STRAYHORN

American Numismatic Association, Colorado Springs, Colorado

"ANA's Educational Rejuvenation: eLearning"

Attending and Contributing Also Will Be **Thomas J. 'Tom' Uram**, ANA Immediate Past President, and **Kimberly S. Kiick**, ANA's Executive Director. Both Would Welcome Meeting and Mingling With Attendees

Door Prizes----Possible Sample Slab----Hobby Information----Something For Youth

Museum Open To All Attendees

On Site Simple Lunch Service Or Easy Walking To Local Eateries

Moderator: Maria E. Stillwagon----Coordinator: Michael S. Turrini

Inquiries: mstillwagon@gmail.com or dhem@aol.com or EMPERORI@juno.com