



# THE FRESNO NUMISMATIST

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRESNO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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MEETS **THIRD** TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1084 W. Bullard Ave., Fresno CA 93711

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Steve Mendyk- President

Carolyn Vance- Treasurer

Sandra Arie- Auction Coordinator

James Obler- Vice President/Editor

Tambra Eddy- Secretary

Bob Holston- Coin Show Chairman

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**Number 5**

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## May, 2026 Meeting:

*Redeemer Lutheran Church*

*1084 W. Bullard Ave.,*

*Fresno, CA 93711*

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Redeemer Lutheran. Our scheduled activities include a live auction, member reports, Show & Tell, and our prize raffle and membership drawing. Dave Cadenasso is scheduled to share an ANA-supplied educational program focusing on ancient coins. The program will be transmitted via Zoom and will be narrated by Mr. Douglas Mudd, who is the Money Museum Curator at the ANA in Colorado Springs. Dave asserts that this program is a "must see" for FNS so hopefully we will get a solid turnout of interested members. Refreshments at the meeting will be provided by Randy Clifton.

We had an FNS Board meeting on 04/14 and covered a number of topics that can be reported here. Our October coin show plans are proceeding, with our Bourse Chairman ready to distribute bourse applications to dealers, starting in May. Although we are committed to American Legion Post 509 for our 2026 show venue, the Board continues to explore alternate locations, just in case something better is available. We discussed some options for signage and advertisements. We agreed that general adult admission price would be increased to \$5, with every admission to include one raffle ticket. We also agreed that we would offer a special ticket price discount, for FNS members only. The price for members who buy tickets at the August and September general FNS meetings will be \$20 for five tickets. No discount will be offered at the show.

There was a coin show in Visalia on 05/08 & 05/09/26, presented by CalJohn66 Silver. It was a

*Continued on Page 2*

small show with just 10 dealers. I attended on 05/08 and spoke with each dealer and inspected some of their offerings. Perhaps our membership would be interested in my observations.

My first stop was Fragner & Fragner where Will Fragner offered his usual vast assortment of world coins and currency. He offered an 1836 Argentina 8 reales piece that might have appealed to me but it had some rim issues so I passed. We did close a deal on a gold Belgium 20-franc piece from 1869, in nice uncirculated condition. Many European gold coins from this era contain exactly the same amount of gold: 0.1867 troy ounces. The common dates typically sell for bullion value.

Scott McNatt operates World Paper Money Club, offering paper currency exclusively. I saw notes from exotic locations like Uzbekistan, Estonia, and Rwanda. They had scrip notes from a mining enclave called Orania, located in South Africa. I'd never heard of that one! Scott also runs California Coin Events, which advertises and promotes coin events in California. They are a competitor to CoinZip.

Peter Yeung was at the P/A Coin table. They had a nice assortment of silver rounds and world currency. They also had steel "master printing plates" for paper notes and stock certificates. These are solid steel cylinders which are used to make working plates; the working plate is what actually stamps out the printed paper products. Interesting and unique!

Kurt Herrmann was there, with his usual large inventory of US collector coins, in copper, nickel, and silver, plus some silver world coins. I was looking for a nice circulated 1916 Walking Liberty half dollar and Kurt had one, with solid XF detail. Unfortunately, it had hairlines from an abrasive cleaning so I passed. Maybe next time!

John Ward (a.k.a. CalJohn66 Silver) had several tables loaded with US mint sets and commemorative sets. John's associate Keith was manning the tables when I was there; he and John had been switching off between the bourse and the show admission desk. They offered raw US silver coins and lots of BU Lincoln cents in 2x2 holders. They had many "perfect" PCGS-certified silver Eagles, graded MS-70.

Bill Wolverton was manning the Pahrump (Nevada) Coin Shop tables. Bill had many large binders representing most US coin denominations (Lincoln cents, Barber quarters, Morgan dollars, etc.). There were bins of loose Morgan and Peace dollars for buyers to pick through, plus assorted silver rounds and bars.

Arnold Coin Exchange offered a large inventory of the new Semi-quincentennial coins (nickels, dimes, quarters, and halves). Apparently there will be at least three different quarter issues, plus a special Lincoln cent that will only be available in mint or proof sets. All coins are dual-dated 1776-2026. Arnold also had albums of circulated coins in 2x2s plus a selection of modern proof sets.

Sam Magnotti was at the SAM's Numismatics table. Sam had various binders of US coins in denominations from cents through halves, plus the modern-issue silver Morgan and Peace dollars. He had a bowl of deceptive counterfeit coins (for instructive purposes only, of course!) including Morgan dollars and a Standing Liberty quarter. A couple of young collectors came by while I was inspecting the fake coins and they seemed very interested in the concept of counterfeits.

Long-time collector/dealer Mark Fisher had a table where some items from his personal collection were offered. These included some nice PCGS-certified halves, silver dollars, and Buffalo nickels. Mark also had a binder containing a good assortment of circulated large cents.

Mr. Laverne Hodel is a seasoned collector who has lived in many countries and naturally has accumulated lots of world coins. He combines an interest in genealogy and numismatics by collecting coins from countries where he and family members have lived. He offered a US Wildlife bronze medal set and transit tokens from various California cities. He also had a binder loaded with Russian 5-kopek copper coins dating from the 1700s. These coins aren't expensive in circulated condition and are quite impressive due to their size and age.

The Visalia show was small but still worth the trip. Like all coin shows, it offered the chance to chat with dealers and explore a wide variety of collectibles. If you have a chance to attend the next one, don't miss it!

*Continued on Page 3*

## Last Month's Meeting

Our April 21, 2026 meeting kicked off at 7:07 PM. President Mendyk greeted about 40 attendees, including Mr. Valentine Villaluz, a former stamp collector who now prefers coins. Valentine signed up as a new member. We waived a secretary report but Treasurer Carolyn Vance reported we have about \$16,450 in checking, plus we opened a \$10,000 short-term CD in order to earn a bit of interest on our surplus cash.

We discussed the October coin show, with Bob Holston reporting bourse applications will be sent out. Bob mentioned any FNS member can also rent a table and become a vendor at our show. Show admission is being raised from \$3 to \$5, with every admission to include one raffle ticket. FNS members can buy discounted tickets (\$4 each) at the general meetings in August and September.

Scott Eddy wants design ideas for the FNS elongated cent he wants to issue. The design should commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FNS. Scott will be able to roll cents as well as 1/10-ounce silver rounds, dimes, and quarters. He requests donations of pre-1982 cents for use as planchets. Scott also reports that he is seeing postings on social media about young collectors participating at shows and in clubs. He has 5 October show exhibits confirmed.

Randy Clifton reports that member James Johnson is having health challenges and is in an extended care facility for treatment. Randy circulated a "Get Well" card for signatures. Sandra Arie reports the Cupertino coin show is this weekend (04/26). It will have 24 tables and she will attend. The venue is a Catholic school gymnasium. Perhaps a similar venue could work for FNS.

In Show & Tell Patrick Hemphill shared his 2019 Apollo 11 five-ounce silver commemorative, graded NGC PF-70 DCAM. Carolyn Vance collects military-themed items, such as the US Bicentennial bronze medal she brought. Arden Estes confessed he once bought a fake 1-piastre French Indochina coin at a flea market. He shared a silver peso from the Philippines which was possibly sea-salvaged. Dave Cadenasso started a circulated Barber half dollar set 4 years ago and has completed it. He brought in his filled album. Carolyn V. won the S&T prize, a silver-clad Kennedy half dollar in BU.

After a refreshment break Your Editor offered a program on error coins. There was discussion of the mechanics of coin production, descriptions and photos plus examples of many different types of error coins. Apparently members were interested since there were many follow-up questions.

After the presentation we conducted our prize raffle and membership drawing. The President adjourned the meeting around 9:00 PM, after which members settled up accounts for the silent auction.

### April Prize Winners:

1st Draw: 1865 3-Cent Nickel in XF.

Winner- Scott Eddy.

2nd Draw: Two consecutive 1934A \$5 bills in unc.

Winner- Valentine Villaluz.

3rd Draw: 1889-S Morgan dollar in AU.

Winner- Joe Lemon.

Membership Prize: Y2K ¼-ounce silver round.

Winner: Patrick Hemphill.

## Coin Show Schedule

### Sacramento Coin Show by McIntosh Coins

DATE- May 31, 2026

LOCATION- Lions Gate Hotel / Officers Club  
3410 Westover Street, McClellan, CA 95652

### East Bay/Concord Coin Show

DATE- June 5-6, 2026

LOCATION- The Concord Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive,  
Concord, CA 94520

### Buena Park Coin Show

DATE- June 13-14, 2026

LOCATION- Retail Clerks Hall, 8530 Stanton Ave,  
Buena Park, CA 90622

### Van Nuys Coin Show

DATE- June 21, 2026

LOCATION- Van Nuys Masonic Lodge #450, 14750 Sherman  
Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405

### Santa Clara Coin Show

DATE- June 26-27, 2026.

LOCATION- American Legion Post 419,  
958 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95050

## SAM NUMISMATICS

BUYER & SELLER OF U.S. COINS

JOHN MAGNOTTI

mn\_johnm@yahoo.com  
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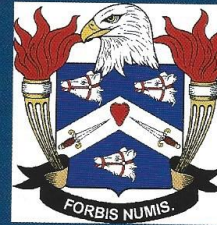
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