



# SAND DOLLAR

*Newsletter of the Ocean County Coin Club, Inc.  
(The Coin Club on the Jersey Shore)  
ANA Member Nr. C-1067395 -- GSNA Member Nr. CLM #2  
Volume 45 - Number 2 - February 2015 (Meeting Number 964)*



## **Catlin, DiMatteo & Cardillo Receive Special Recognition Awards**

*In our January Sand Dollar issue, Treasurer Dolly Harris took the spotlight with her selection as the 2014 Numismatist of the Year. In this issue, we highlight three additional members who have accomplished great strides for our club since they have been members. They are Gary Catlin, who for the past 15 years, took over the club's YN program and has done an outstanding job in working with our youth to reviewing their homework assignments, monitoring attendance, show and tells, distributing the appropriate club money for their use in club YN auctions and conducting interesting programs for them. Gary was presented with a plaque, a club certificate and a silver ounce coin.*

*Recognition awards also were presented to a dynamic duo of Nancy DiMatteo and John Cardillo for their many contributions to club programs whenever they were requested to assist. They included monitoring treasurer's activities, kitchen assistance, monitor auction results and other programs. Nancy and John were presented with a certificate, photographic plaque and a one ounce silver coin.*

## **"A VERY GRAND SOCIAL EVENT"**

**Thanks very much to all ninety plus members and friends who attended our annual "Holiday and Awards" Social on Thursday, December fourth at the firehouse meeting location. We had it catered by Joe Leone's of Point Pleasant and they did a great job. Filling the tables were Penne alla Vodka, Cheese Lasagna, Chicken Francese, Chicken Tenders along with salads and Antipasto and bread baskets. Plenty of soda, coffee and thanks to all members who brought in those delicious deserts.**

**President Dennis and YN Director Gary Catlin gave out gifts to all dozen YN's that attended and we also had seventeen gifts for seventeen members that drew the lucky numbers. We had over a dozen members pitch in to put everything away and spend time to clean up the room of which they did an exemplary job with too many names to mention, but our thanks to you all. Comments afterward were all positive and many suggested we do it every month - LOL**

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**There is only one meeting in February - it is on Thursday, February 19  
There will be an auction. LOCATION: Ocean Fire House, Point Pleasant Beach, 400 Arnold  
Avenue - Doors open 6 pm - YN program begins at 6:30 - regular meeting at 7:30 pm  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS \$15 (Adults) \$10 (Juniors) \$20 (Family) - Application on Website**

## "PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE"

Dennis Berube

### "A MONTH OF HOLIDAYS!"



Happy Ground Hog day! This month is full of holidays and celebrations. It's "Black History" month, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday and Valentine's Day! All this in the shortest month of the year.

A reminder to all YN's: The ANA (American Numismatic Association) has a program rewarding students that achieve three or more A's on their report card. This has been around for a number of years, but doesn't get too much publicity. Jim M and Mr C have announced this at YN meetings, but hopefully, parents will read this and remind their youngsters of the benefit. Have them bring in a copy of their report card and it will be sent to Rod Gillis at ANA Headquarters. Rod will send the club a nice coin from a foreign country to present to the student. The student does not have to be a member of the ANA. It's a great deal for those YN's who qualify.

Don't forget we have only one meeting in February and that is the 19<sup>th</sup> and in the words of "Roy Rogers," "Happy Trails until we meet again."

President Dennis

### "CLUB NEWS"

by Bill Smith



Kevin Golec and Bill Ball were the lucky number winners. Treasurer Dolly reported \$3,175 as the balance in our bank account. \$1,219 was taken in on our raffle sales this year.

Kari Brower gave a S&T on Confederate paper notes, Elizabeth Cronin on NJ State Coppers book available at the Ocean County Library and President Dennis on an article from WWI pertaining to the banning of rum on Navy Ships. President Dennis also mentioned a possible tour of Lakehurst Naval Air Station in 2015.

There were 88 lots up for auction. Richard Wolpin donated two books to the club for auction along with Bob Holloway donating a proof set to the YN's.

Bill also donated the music to be played at the Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Social and Awards Evening.

## CLUB FOUNDER –

### Chuck Fifield dies

Following was received from the son of our club founder, Chuck Fifield: It is with deep regret that I must inform you of the death of my father, Charles E. "Chuck" Fifield, founder and lifetime member of the Ocean County Coin Club. He passed away on November 8, 2014. I have fond memories of meetings in a bowling alley and trying to collect coins from every country. I wish your organization continued growth and success.

In remembrance of my Dad –  
Charles E. "Chuck" Fifield,



"CHUCK FIFIELD" – Founder and President of the Ocean County Coin Club (from May 1970 thru May 1973)

## OCEAN COUNTY COIN CLUB, Inc.

(New Jersey's most active coin club)

Meets monthly at Ocean Fire House in Point Pleasant Beach, 400 Arnold Ave, Corner of Arnold and St Louis Avenues).

Junior program (ages 6 – 17) begins at 6:30 pm and regular meeting at 7:30 pm.

ANNUAL DUES: Individual \$15, Juniors \$10 Family \$20, Life membership \$150.

(O.C.C.C. 65 – 16<sup>th</sup> St, Toms River, NJ 08753)

President – Dennis Berube    VP/CEO – Doug Ball  
Rec Sec – Bill Smith        Cor Sec – Norm Gertner  
Treasurer – Dolly Harris    YN Director – Gary Catlin  
Membership – Sandy Ross    Historian – Kari Brower  
Librarian – Doug Ball        Dealer Rep – Bob Holloway  
ANA Rep – Kari Brower       Auctioneer – Bob Holloway  
Exhibits – Kari Brower, Bill Smith, Howard Hauck  
Show Directors- Bill Morris-Tim Macaluso-Doug Ball  
Board " -Fred Pennachio-Howard Hauck-Jim Majoros  
Sunshine Club – Barbara Newman  
Editor & Past President – Jim Majoros

## EDITOR'S "2 Cents" WORTH

Jim Majoros

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR "NATIONAL COIN WEEK 2015"**



April 19 - 25 has been designated by the ANA as "National Coin Week, 2015" and this year's theme is: "Building Tomorrows: Inspiration and Innovation at World's Fairs" celebrating the history of

great events and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.

Our volunteers don't have to fly to San Francisco or Panama in order to promote the ANA, but there may be a small way we could promote our hobby right here at home. Suggestions could be an exhibit at a bank, post office, school, library or a mall, etc.

I've requested an ANA promotional kit with educational materials, buttons, bookmarks, etc and when received, will announce it to the membership.

It would be nice and beneficial to the club if one or more members would step up and discuss what areas we could show the public as to what our club is about and possibly recruit new adult and young members - See Dennis or Jim M with your interest.

### MEMBERS ON RECORD FOR THE GOLD AND SILVER CONTEST

Following is a listing of the members who have submitted their predictions for gold and silver prices at the market close on April 20<sup>th</sup>:

Doug Ball - Bob Bejarano - Renee Berube - Dennis Berube - Archie Black - Richard Brewer - Kari Brower - John Cardillo - Elizabeth Cronin - Peter Devine - Ron Diehm - John Dietz - Nancy DiMatteo - Larry Ferrara - Gavin Heagele - Dennis Kalichstein - John Leavey - Rich Ludwig - Tim Macaluso - Jim Majoros - Vin Maloney - Russell Martone - Bill Megargle - Yechezkel Nakdimen - Barbara Newman - Jeff Nosal - Hilory O'Neal - Harry Orton - Nick Ruggiero - Ben Sattely - Bill Smith - Mike Solimene - Debra Sopronyi - Peter Sopronyi - Amy Sullivan - Tim Sullivan - Val Weiss - Cedric Derecho - Jason Komisar - Michael Johnson.

*(P.S. - Just so there is no problem in the event Jim M wins, my gold guess was \$1,333 and my Silver guess was \$34.50.)*

Submissions were due in by December 4<sup>th</sup> and announcement of winners will be at the meeting of May 7, 2015. Good luck everyone!

## **CLUB PROFILE - - -**

**Norm Gertner - Every month, he mails  
the Sand Dollar -**

Norm Gertner is from a very large family As a matter of fact Norm was the youngest of *nine* (Yes I said "nine") brothers. A few of our members may even recall a very popular and famous bakery on second street in Lakewood by that name. I know because it was one of my favorites when I went through Lakewood to my home off Route 88 in Laurelton (now called Brick) back in the sixties.

Norm joined our club in the seventies and became club Life Member # 23 (My life member number is 25) Norm and I also have birthdays only a day apart in December. Norm became a close friend of dealer Dave Wilson (now deceased) and worked with him at coin shows in Jersey and other areas. Dave gave Norm a great numismatic education of which Norm was very grateful.

When the Gertner Bakery closed in 1972, Norm went into the ice cream business and opened up a store at the corner of Route 9 and Kennedy Blvd in Lakewood. This is where he became more involved in the hobby by checking his cash register for change to add to his collection, especially the silver coinage, which there was many at that time. Although he took a break from coin club activity for about a year, he came back and became fully active until just recently, when at age 86, night driving became a bit of a problem (like all of us at that age).

One of the greatest assets Norm's family has is the Gertner picnic held every summer at Lakewood's Pine Park. If you were a Gertner or family member, you were invited and every year, attendance would be between 60 and 100 and they came from New York and Pennsylvania.

"We were always a close knit family," said Norm, whose parents came to Lakewood in 1930 (*the year Jim M was born in Bayonne*). Brother Michael served as Lakewood's Mayor in the early 1960's; Henry is an attorney and former Municipal judge and Chester operated the Red Oak Music Theater in Lakewood. Oscar, Paul and club member Norm were retired school teachers. David was an electrician while Meyer and Barney worked in the bakery until it closed in 1972.

Five of Norm's brothers served in World War 2. Norm was an aircraft mechanic in the Air Force for four years in the early fifties.

Their children and grandchildren have also acquired many family values over the years as evidenced with their positions in life, another municipal judge, an audiologist, two are attorneys, a physician and Norm's daughter, Allison Mann has been on tour with the New York Theater Group. Norm, born in Elizabeth, said his parents, Samuel and Bertha always stressed the importance of a close-knit family and the Gertner's were.

**AWARD WINNERS – Dec 4, 2014 Holiday Social**

Recipients of club awards are in the top row – (l to r) Gary Catlin, Special Recognition Award as YN Director, Center is Dolly Harris, 2014 Numismatist of the Year and at right are Nancy DiMatteo and John Cardillo who also received Club Recognition Awards



## **BIRDS IN NUMISMATICS!**

By Bill Smith

Birds have always inspired me. Indeed, I enjoy bird watching, sometimes wishing I was free as a bird. When I needed a theme for my exhibit at the 2014 OCCC Show, I decided to explore the avian world in my coin and banknote collection and came up with a pleasant surprise.

I began with the most familiar birds, those eagles that grace the reverses of so many American coins. Even here, I was pleasantly surprised at the variety that the eagles offered. There is the flying eagles on the 1857 cent, as well as the gold eagles. The Morgan dollars feature an eagle with outstretched wings. More recently, a soaring eagle adorns the back of the Sacajawea dollar coins. Indeed bald eagles have been on nearly every US denomination, however, other birds have also been on US coins. These come from the state quarters. In 2002, Louisiana put a pelican on their design. Prior to that, South Carolina showed a small thrush as part of their logo in its 2000 quarter. With the 2005 quarters, came the California condor. Then in 2007, Idaho added a peregrine falcon. South Dakota chimed in with a pheasant in flight in 2008.

The picture became a lot more diverse when I got into my foreign coinage collection. First I searched through the Canadian pieces. I obtained a decent loon on their one dollar coin. These are commonly called loonies. However, I also found a 1967 Canadian penny instead of the familiar maple leaf, there was a bird in flight on the reverse.

From Canada, I headed into my Mexican collection. On nearly all Mexican coins, an eagle clutching a serpent appears on the reverse. The 1970 one peso coins shows a nice example. From Bermuda came a seabird in flight on a 1967 quarter, however, my favorite avian piece came from Belize. This is a proof 1975 silver quarter. What I like is the simplicity of the design. A small tropical bird is sitting on a small branch. Nothing else takes away from the bird.

I also found out that many other countries use eagles on their coins. Poland & Germany gave me two nice examples of eagles with outstretched wings. Several former Soviet states also showcase eagles. Staying in Europe, France used roosters on some of their

*(continued next column)*

## **BIRDS IN NUMISMATICS (cont'd)**

Pre-Euro coinage. The example I found is a twenty franc piece from 1950, although the rooster is also on a 100 franc coin.

When I got into my Asian collection, I was somewhat disappointed. It wasn't until I found the one rupee coin that I scored my first Asian find. This nice note shows a fan-tailed flycatcher on the obverse, however, New Zealand did not disappoint me. On the two dollar coin is a kiwi bird. More would be found here when I get to the banknotes. Africa offers a wide selection of birds to choose from. With just a cursory glance, I found a twenty cent piece with an ostrich on it. A more detailed search will likely yield more birds on coins.

To add to color to my exhibit, I often use banknotes. Here is where the birds truly took flight. Canada has robins on the two dollar note and a kingfisher on the five. My favorite bird banknote comes from China. This note showing doves being released from the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chinese Communist takeover in 1949. Interestingly, this 50 RMB note is not legal tender in China.

Coming back to New Zealand, a hummingbird is on the two dollar note. Closer to home, Trinidad and Tobago's one dollar note features a flamingo. Among the African banknote collection that I've put together, the twenty Kwacha banknote stands out. A gorgeous falcon is sitting on a small branch. I really enjoy the color shown in this specimen.

Finally, Antarctica gets into the act. Few people even know that Antarctica even issues money. Yet the one dollar note is simply beautiful. Of course penguins are the main attraction here. This is just a small sample of the birds that grace coins and banknotes around the world. With more than just a one day search, I am confident that I will turn up many more avian issues from around the world.

Enjoy your flight and soar with the Chinese doves or dive like a Canadian loon. Enjoy the trip into the world of birds on banknotes and coins.

## COUNTERFEITER IN BRICK Police asking for help

One hundred dollar bills were used to purchase over \$1,000 worth of electronic items in a Route 70 Verizon store on December 8<sup>th</sup>. It was after the suspect left, they discovered the bills were found to be counterfeit. Photos of the suspect were posted on the Verizon Facebook page as well as a photo of the individual leaving the store in the Asbury Park Press.

## \$19,800 FOR A PENNY!

I find this hard to believe, but I know there has to be someone with the money and the strong desire to make the headline circuit in numismatics that would be willing to part with \$20,000.

For what I know, this may be a great investment as long as someone later on has a desire for the same coin. This coin is an AU-55 1969-S doubled-die obverse Lincoln cent. They say this is a collector's dream because it is rare and an elusive error. They said it was discovered shortly after they were released into circulation, however, very few have been found to date with less than 100 coins believed known in all grades.

## WILL OUR HOBBY DECLINE WITH LESS YN'S ENTERING?

Will our coin clubs begin losing members when YN membership declines? If the club loses members and the hobby loses members, what happens to the coin prices. Will the demand still be there? What happens to the coin that you paid \$100 for today and you place it in an auction three years from now? What kind of bidding will take place?

Another way to look at the hobby is buy coins because you like them and enjoy having them because of any history attached to the coin or are building a set for your hobby. Don't buy coins only for the sake of selling them to make money, although its always nice if that's the case.

## NATIONAL COIN WEEK - April 19 - 25, 2015

World's Fairs and Expositions have long celebrated mankind's achievements in science, architecture and social progress. The 2015 National Coin Week theme, "Building Tomorrows: Inspiration and innovation at World's Fairs," will celebrate the history of these great events and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.

## RUSSIAN RUBLE - How Low will it go?

Since this is being written on December 20<sup>th</sup>, there most likely will be changes by the time you read this which will probably be either the end of January or early in February.

I'm just glad this pertains to the Russian Ruble and not the USA Dollar. Many Moscovites visited their currency exchange booths just before Christmas hoping to exchange their rubles for dollars or other hard currencies. While many stood in line, even 15 minutes made a change in what they were going to receive in exchange. At the time of this writing, the ruble lost half its value relative to the dollar.

Oil price reductions made it worse with economic uncertainty straining businesses, domestic and foreign. In addition, investor panic adds to the turbulence of their problems.

## GOLD ENTERS THE PICTURE


A few weeks ago, Switzerland voters were planning to vote on a law that would force their country's central bank to keep at least a fifth of its assets in gold. They currently are the world's sixth largest holder of gold, according to the World Gold Council with 1,040 tons. The United States has the world's largest reserves at 8,133.50 tons.

There are pros and cons about the Swiss vote. Swiss banks would increase its gold reserves from the current 7.7% to 20% within five years. They would have to bring in their gold stored abroad and buying approximately 1,500 tons of gold bullion at prices that have quadrupled since the Swiss began selling off its reserves in 2000.

## CLUB MEMBER WANTED

One of our club members, knowledgeable enough about gold, silver, economic market conditions, etc could help us out from time to time by writing an article for the Sand Dollar. Possibly someone in the field of stock trading, etc.

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## YOUNG NUMISMATIST (YN) Page 7



1 – Mr C and I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed our holiday social on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It was nice to see most of our YN's attend. We are anxious to hear if anyone received anything numismatic as a Holiday gift. Please let us know and if you can, bring it to the February 19 meeting. There is only one meeting in February, the 19<sup>th</sup>.

2 – Come up with 5 questions (with answers) for our meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> and we'll see if other YN's will know the answers.

3 – In 1955, the minimum wage in the United States increased from 75 cents to \$1.00. That was 60 years ago. What is the current minimum wage? And what does it mean.

4 – In 1955, Walt Disney opened a remarkable theme park called "Disneyland." In what state is it in? Is anyone collecting the Disney Dollars they have had printed?

5 – What 1955 dated coin commands such very high price and why?

6 – Read the Q&A on Jusin Perrault and write what you think are the most important comments he made.

(Use the generic homework sheet and turn in your questions to Mr C or Jim at the meeting or via internet at [major9@comcast.net](mailto:major9@comcast.net).)

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### **Q & A for Justin Perrault - A young collector from Milwaukee, Wisconsin - - - -**

**Q** – It's unusual to see someone in his 30s take a position of leadership in a coin organization. What made you come back to the hobby after college?

**A** -- Like many others, my time at college was busy without a lot of opportunity to stay involved in coin clubs, but I kept my memberships active. When I finally made it back home, I knew I wanted to take a greater role in the Milwaukee Numismatic Society than someone who attends the meetings and now I'm entering my third year as club president, however, without our core group of volunteers, our club wouldn't be as successful as it is.

**Q** – You were an active Young Numismatist. How did you apply those lessons in your life?

**A** – Even as a YN, I was always in the pursuit of knowledge and the connections that the past has to the present in numismatics. This has certainly carried forward with me to the current day. I also find that it is important to be active in your local club, even if it is just attending the meetings. Without the membership then there is literally no club. I always enjoyed going to the monthly club meetings as a YN, because this was the one time each month where I could actually be around others that shared my common interest. Attending meetings provides you with limitless opportunities to learn and share with others in that learning process.

**Q** – What's the biggest challenge in leading a large coin club?

**A** - Attracting new members. I wonder where the club will be in another thirty or forty years. We are celebrating our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and we are lucky if we draw in three or four new members each year. I wish that we had more YN's in the club, but with all of the modern gadgets and other distractions coin collecting doesn't always have the same pizzazz. It takes a highly motivated youth and the willingness of a parent to indulge their interest, drive them to the meetings, etc. Even so, by holding an annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic, it is my hope that the concept of coin collecting will be impressed upon them so that maybe years down the road they seek out the hobby, I'd tell leaders to plan membership outings and keep the meetings fun and engaging.

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**February Meeting:  
Thursday, Feb 19th (only  
one meeting in February —  
400 Arnold Ave, Point  
Pleasant Beach Firehouse.  
Doors open 6 pm – Junior  
meeting at 6:30 – Regular  
meeting begins at 7:30 pm**