



Pocket Change

Promoting Numismatics Through Education

VOLUME 73 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2026

COIN SHOW

Fri. 17—Sun. 19
Marriott Pyramid

Summer Seminar
Stipend Applications DUE by April 27th, Only if no ANA Scholarship.

PICNIC

Sat. May 9

1—4 pm

Pay \$2 to Byron K.
by May 2nd

Magical History Tour

Tue. June 9th

Corrales Library

ask Rod F.

Trade Fair/Coin Show

Sat. July 18 ;10—3:30

Talk to Phil V.

Depression Era Stamp Scrip By Phil Vitale

A couple of months ago I was mentoring a young fellow in the ANA Kids Club on a research project. In the course of the investigation I found out about an interesting numismatic practice from the past: stamp scrip.



During the early 1930s, towns across the country were struggling to keep their merchants in business and pay for the increased burden of welfare programs. One method used widely by many municipalities was stamp scrip. The primary goal was to create a circulating medium of exchange in a cash poor economy.

This is how the system worked (with some variations). Local governments would provide merchants with cards and sell them tax stamps at a slightly discounted rate. With each sales transaction the merchant would charge the customer a “tax” for the amount of a stamp and affix the stamp to the card. When the card was full, the customer could redeem the card for the nominal value of the stamps on it – usually one dollar.

The process provided several benefits. Merchants saw increased sales traffic because once people started filling their cards they wanted to continue so they could get their tax money back. Customers didn’t balk at paying the tax since they knew they would see that money back. Municipalities collected their stamp tax up front from the merchants and didn’t have to pay out the cash until the cards were redeemed. If customers didn’t follow through with filling their cards, the town would get to keep all of the unclaimed revenue.

I became familiar with the process used in Carmel, California; their process was called Carmel Dollars. As seen in the accompanying picture, their card had 36 three cent stamps (\$1.08 in tax). When the card was full, the customer could redeem the card for one dollar.



The stamp scrip process had varying levels of success. It was very successful in Iowa. In many cases the merchants and town lost interest over time and stopped issuing cards all together.

“Carmel Dollars”... Notes from the Internet



You are the expert. Do a presentation at a club meeting and share your expertise.

This "Carmel Dollar" was designed by Jo Mora, the same artist who sculpted the La Novia diorama for Hotel Del Monte. This note speaks to the difficult economic circumstances of the Great Depression and reflects Spanish Missionary activity in the area dating back to the 1700s. This example sold at auction in June 2025 for \$180.

Purpose: It was used as a form of local currency during the Great Depression to pay citizens for public service projects, allowing them to purchase necessities.

Mechanism: The note acquired its face value of one dollar when thirty-six three-cent "Unemployment Relief Stamps" were affixed to the back.

Validity: The document explicitly states it is not legal tender but could be redeemed for one dollar in cash within one year of issuance.

Design: The green-tinted note features the Carmel Mission bell tower and was designed to support the local economy.

Bill Constantine

Rick Ewing

Joe Abbin

David Colonna

Stephen Lynch

Esther Feske

James Finnance

Lee Owens

John Fryar

Lance Schweiter

Marian Wrage

Timothy Wintermute

Kerry Renshaw

Bob Stalcup, Jr.

James Evatt

Ben Costello

YOUR BIRTHDAY'S IN
APRIL?
 MY BIRTHDAY'S IN
APRIL!
 GUESS ALL OF THE MOST
 AWESOME PEOPLE WERE
 BORN IN APRIL!



ANA News

by: Phil Vitale

The 103rd National Coin Week is being celebrated on April 19th to 25nd. This year's theme is "Striking Independence: 250 Years of American Numismatics." As always, the week will be packed with special activities for clubs and individuals. Our Coin Week chairperson is Bill DeWeese.



Activities include:

Promotional Kit Giveaways

Lesson Plans

Club Trivia Challenge

Daily Online Trivia

YN Activities

Daily eLearning Presentations



An Attempt at Winter-15

By Scott Bucholtz

At the March general meeting, I presented a talk discussing the CoinWeek(tm) article from famed numismatist, Doug Winter, entitled "15 US Gold Coins All Collectors Should Own" and my attempt at completing his list. While his title is a bit misleading (gold coins are beyond the budget of many collectors), it is certainly aspirational for all serious coin collectors. From the diminutive gold dollars produced at the Charlotte and Dahlonega mints to the stately double eagles recovered from the SS Central America shipwreck, the gold coins on the Winter-15 list are chosen for their artistic beauty, historical or political significance, and collectible diversity.

Welcome
to our
New Members

Gaeton Falance

Member Profile

by: Jonas Thaler

HELLO I'm Jonas Thaler

I live in Puerto de Luna, New Mexico. I joined the Albuquerque Coin Club, ANA and NCG all in the same week! Now to chip away at the mountain of knowledge necessary to do this right!

BACKGROUND: I was born a Baby Boomer in Los Alamos, NM, son of a theorist at the Lab, grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, studied at UC Berkeley and ultimately got a BFA in Photography from the San Francisco Art Institute. Then to Los Angeles, where I pursued my career in theatrical movie post production. I wrapped it all up as a studio executive, which I enjoyed immensely. As the movie credits shrink in the rear view mirror, I'm still proud of 40+ years of struggles, successes, technical innovations and collaborations. In other news, I am also an (advanced?) player of the piano accordion and am looking to start a Folk-Balkan-Irish-Klezmer-Bach band!



COLLECTING: I collected coins as a boy, at my father's urging. Mom squirreled away anything silver, although her plan for these assets was unclear. I saved a fraction of that scuffed-up booty. In storage, I found several of my ratty old Whitman's penny books. Late night eBay forays resulted in a collection. My focus is 19th-century US coinage. Thanks to an age-related vision problem, I started with dollar coins because I could see them! Now my eyes have been fixed and I buy tiny dimes, trimes, half-dimes etc. At my budget level, I do best buying AU (or occasionally MS) half dollars.



THE GRADING ISSUE: After learning the hard way how coins have been cleaned and altered savagely for a century, I now prefer to buy graded coins. The thought of buying a fake breaks my heart. I have my own esthetic for choosing lower grade coins. Sometimes a well-worn example tells its story better than a sterile museum-quality version. If I can read text, see Liberty's mysterious smirk, see hints of the painstaking architectural details of a dais, arrow shafts or (my favorite detail) vines and branches, I am sold! I know the market, but I still bristle at "ghost" coins, smooth metal discs imparting hardly any data, valued at thousands of dollars.

SHINY OBJECTS: I love the artwork of Scot (Draped Bust), Reich (Capped Bust), Gobrecht (Seated Liberty), Longacre (Flying Eagle) et al through Barber. I also love Art Nouveau/Art Deco coins like the Standing Liberty half and the Mercury dime. I recently bought a silver coin from the Papal States (Vatican), early American counter-stamped coins, and I have my eye on 400+ years of pre-decimalization English shillings!

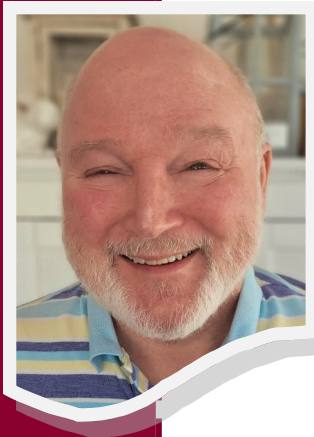


The Coin Cabinet

by: Jim Derrick

This month, the Albuquerque Coin Club is hosting one of the best coin shows in the western USA. The Great Southwest Coin Expo will be held at the newly renovated and remodeled Marriott Pyramid Hotel, 5151 San Francisco Rd. NE, in Albuquerque, from Friday April 17 – Sunday April 19, 2026. The show times are 12PM to 5PM on Friday, April 17, 9AM to 5PM on Saturday, April 18, and 9AM to 2:00PM on Sunday, April 19. Cash only admission is \$6 for adults and free for children 17 and younger. There will be 77 dealer tables, a kids

Treasure Hunt, raffle ticket sales, coin supply table sales and ACC Coin Displays to view. An American Numismatic Association Table, Albuquerque Coin Club Table and a ANACs (American Numismatic Association Certification Service) Table for submitting coins for national grading and certification. Please join us for this fun experience.



The Club’s Spring Picnic is also approaching and is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 1-4PM, at the Jewish Community Center, 5520 Wyoming Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 in Albuquerque. This is always a fun time to visit with other members and eat some great food. Tickets will be sold at the April Membership Meetings and are 2.00 per adult, and children will get in for free. ACC Club Bucks may also be used to purchase tickets. Chef and Board Director, Byron Kesner, will be cooking up burgers, dogs and other goodies. Guests are encouraged to bring side dishes and desserts. There will also be some games and prizes. This event is sponsored by the ACC for all members and their families and guests. Please join us.

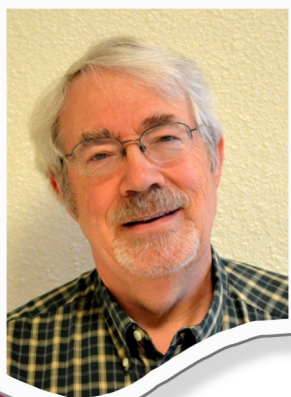
MELANOMA AWARENESS - Although April 19, 2026, is a Coin Show Day, it is also the “1st ANNUAL STEPS AGAINST MELANOMA WALK”, in Albuquerque. The walk starts at 8AM and will be held at Arroyo Del Oso Park, 7001 Osuna Road, NE 87109.

Please support this important cause by donating or participating in the walk. Melanoma is a serious cancer that affects many, including some of our own family, friends and members.

Your participation helps to raise awareness, fund research and support patients and their caregivers. Make your donation or get more information [HTTPS://AIMATMELANOMA.ORG](https://aimatmelanoma.org) or Scan the QR Code in the attached flyer. Every bit helps and supports those affected.

Rex's Record

by Rex Borders



Our club exists to serve our members. Get involved and enjoy it more.

The Coin Club Board of Directors met on March 14, 2026 with all members present. The BOD plans, manages and executes the business of the club with the help of many others. Important highlights from this meeting include the report of the finance committee on our fund management. Recommendations were made, and since acted on, to move a portion of our savings to higher return investments. Please see the Treasurer's Report.

A draft Bylaw revision was presented where a new VIP class of membership was proposed, revised spending limits were presented, and voting to include proxy voting by board members was added. The final language of these recommended changes will be discussed and then they will be presented to the membership for approval.

2026 (250 years of America) club bucks are coming. This is discussed elsewhere but supply will be limited and volunteer service awards will receive preference for distribution of these club bucks to members.

Of course, the April Coin Show is upon us and that was extensively discussed. Bottom line is smooth seas ahead (hey, I was in the Navy for 8 years). See Jim's Coin Cabinet article where he updates the show's status.

Important events and dates were discussed and are include on the back of the newsletter. One thing to call out is the Club's Spring Picnic. This is a social gathering and is approaching, scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 1-4PM, at the Jewish Community

Center, 5520 Wyoming Blvd NE, Albuquerque. This is always a fun time to visit with other members and eat some great food. Tickets will be sold at the April Membership Meetings and are 2.00 per adult, and children will get in for free.

The March membership meeting was March 30. About 50 attendees were treated to Scott Bucholtz presentation of "An Attempt at the Winter-15". Scott explained the Winter 15 is a listing of important and historical gold coins originally listed by Doug Winter (reknown US numismatist). Scott had many of the 15 on display and offered the membership an opportunity to view some rare coins. Please say thanks and "job-well done" to Scott.

The March meeting also saw the first "Supply Night" themed event. Members were asked, and several did, to bring in excess or unwanted coin supplies and books. These were offered for sale and at the end of the night the remaining supplies were donated to the YN group to help prop up the "YN Sales Table" at the upcoming April Show. If you enjoyed and appreciated this event, we may repeat it periodically. Please share any comments or recommendations with a board member.

Other business of the club was completed. The meeting concluded with a monthly auction where most items sold. Thanks to all who attended. Happy collecting!

Pat's Pittance

by: Pat Vitale



Spring has arrived and, shortly, so will our Spring Coin Show. Our finances are looking great with deposits of \$2,161.21 and expenses of \$4,931.12 for the month. Our ending checking amount for March was \$45,721.72. We have changed some of the Vanguard holdings. In addition to the Money Market Fund we have invested in two new areas, a High Dividend Yield account and a Growth account. Our total Vanguard holdings come to \$59,507.23. That puts are monetary assets at \$105,228.95.

Hope to see you all at the Marriott Pyramid on April 17th to the 19th. If you have any questions about the Club's finances you know where to find me.

Dates to Remember

ALBUQUERQUE COIN CLUB EVENTS:

Albuquerque Coin Club Monthly Meetings are held at the UNM Continuing Education Building located at 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque. Meetings are conducted person and on **Zoom. Meeting ID: 986 808 5956 Passcode: u6fN73**

April 27, 2026	Membership Meeting	Speaker: Brian Smith
	Topic: 20 cent Pieces	
<u>May 9, 2026</u>	<u>Spring Picnic</u>	Jewish Community Center
	5520 Wyoming Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM	
May 18, 2026	Membership Meeting	Speaker: Pat Vitale
	Topic: Overview of Fractionals	
June 29, 2026	Membership Meeting	Speaker: Rex Borders
	Topic: Learning Your AMC's	
<u>July 18, 2026</u>	<u>Show/Trade Fair</u>	UNM Continuing Ed.
	1634 University Blvd., Albuquerque, NM	

ANA EVENTS

June 19 - July 2, 2026	Summer Seminar
	Session 1: June 20 - 25
	Session 2: June 27 - July 2
	Colorado Springs, CO
August 25 - 29, 2026	World's Fair of Money
	Pittsburgh, PA

UPCOMING AREA AND MAJOR COIN SHOWS

April 17 - 19, 2026	Great Southwest Coin Expo
	Marriott Pyramid, Albuquerque, NM
April 30 - May 2, 2026	Fort Collins Coin Club Spring Coin Show
	Larimer County Fairgrounds
November 13 - 15, 2026	Great Southwest Coin Expo
	Marriott Pyramid, Albuquerque, NM

Promoting Numismatics Through Education

Albuquerque Coin Club



P.O. Box 11602
Albuquerque, NM 87192

Albuquerquecoinclub.com

ANA Member Club # C1063082

A.C.C. Monthly Meeting Agenda

The club meets the last Monday of every month, except December. Meetings are held at UNM Continuing Education Building located at 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque. We encourage and welcome visitors.

- 6:00 - 6:45 Young Numismatists Activities
Coin hunt, Show and tell, Trivia contest, Numismatic class and more...
- 6:00 pm Open floor trading and socializing
- 7:00 pm Call to order
Educational Presentation
Club Business
- 8:00 pm Break, socializing and trading
1st Door prize and 50/50 drawing
Auction of numismatic items
Payment of auction winnings



2026 ACC Board of Directors

President: Jim Derrick
505-220--3219

Vice President: Tim Fuller
479-252-2206

Secretary: Rex Borders
505-715-1999

Treasurer: Pat Vitale
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Director: Peter Tabet
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Director: Byron Kesner
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Director: Scott Bucholtz
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ANA Rep.: Byron Kesner

Website Guru: Rex Borders

Parliamentarian: Bill DeWeese

Pocket Change is published every month by the Albuquerque Coin Club. If you are interested in writing an article to be published in the newsletter, want to receive it via email, or just have ideas, please contact one of our publishers at the following email addresses. **Rod Frechette;** rodabqcc@gmail.com