



The NOR'WESTER

Published Quarterly by the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association

PNNA is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Oregon.

<http://www.pnna.org>

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Third Quarter

2017

July-August-September

President's Message

by PNNA President James Reinders

The Puyallup Fair (officially known as the Washington State Fair) is just around the corner – Sept. 1-24, 2017, closed on Tuesdays and September 6th. We need volunteers to staff the table at the Fair. It's very rewarding to help – and it gets you into the Fair for a day! Each year we also get help from non-numismatists (like my wife) who really enjoy helping out as well (lots of smiling children enjoy our table). Read more about what we actually do on page 3 with the "Puyallup Fair Time!" article.

Our table at the Washington State Fair helps us educate the public about numismatics as well as serve us as a recruiting tool. Rick Schulz, Puyallup Fair Coordinator, will be visiting local clubs to solicit volunteers. We encourage you to participate and sign up for a shift or two. By the way, the Fair has great entertainment in the evening. Please contact Rick by email if you would like to volunteer; his email is richardf53@yahoo.com.

You might wonder why we do not have a table at the Oregon State Fair. Well, the board wondered the same thing. Unfortunately, after considerable investigation, and some discussion with the Oregon Fair, we found that the Oregon State Fair is not an appropriate fit currently (or for the foreseeable future). Aside from not having a clear "Hobby Hall" location (the closest is the Hall where the woodworking and Oregon authors are located), the Oregon State Fair is very keen on revenue and had no place for us to have a table without a very high cost to us. The Washington State Fair is much more generous, and views us as an attraction (no charge to us for our table – and they give us a great location). That's a *huge* difference. Of course, we keep this opportunity coming year-after-year through our presence made possibly by our great volunteers. We are always open to other opportunities to have a table/presence that is effective at outreach to the public. Our presence last year at WashJam is a great example, and we cannot say enough about how happy we are to have members on the lookout for such opportunities and helping when they arise. Let us know if you find an opportunity that we should all know about.

The Spring PNNA convention was held March 17-19 in Tukwila, Wash. We had good crowds all three days. We are very thankful for all hard work by the volunteers and the Convention Committee. At the convention, I had the great honor to thank those who help numismatics with our annual awards – details are printed under "PNNA

2017 Annual Awards Summary" starting on page 2 of this newsletter. There is a lot more information about the convention, including exhibit awards, starting on page 4.

Please enjoy Mark's article on page 8. It is especially a *must read* if you think *niobium* might be a synonym for *covfefe*, or do not know *Element 41* from *Area 51*.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates and Locations:

- July 22, 2017 in Portland at the President's house.
- Oct. 21, 2017 at the WCC/PNNA Portland Convention, DoubleTree Lloyd Center Hotel, Portland, Ore., at about 6 p.m.
- Jan. 20, 2018 at the Boeing Employees Coin Show, Kent Commons, Kent, Wash., at about 6 p.m.
- March 17, 2018 at the PNNA Convention, Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, Wash., at about 8 a.m.

The Board and Officers serve at your pleasure – please contact any one of us with your suggestions. We want to grow this organization and we want to better educate our members on the subject of numismatics.

There are many coin shows to enjoy this summer and fall (see <http://pnna.org/calendar.html> for up-to-date listings). Looks like a fun summer ahead!

Total Solar Eclipse Commem



Mountain High Coins in Bend, Oregon, is currently selling Oregon Total Solar Eclipse Commemorative "Coins" to commemorate the widely-anticipated Aug. 21, 2017 event. Two designs are available, one of which glows in the dark. Both feature the eclipse path over Oregon on the reverse.

See <https://www.solareclipseoregon.org/>, or visit the shop.

If you live in the path of totality and would be interested in hosting a fellow PNNA member (or if you're looking for a place to stay), please let us know ASAP!

PNNA Officers / Directors 2016-2018

- President** - James Reinders
- Vice President** - Ed Fischer
- Secretary** - Danny Bisgaard
- Treasurer** - Scott Loos
- Directors** - John A. Brown, Kevin Charboneau, Ron Engholm, James D. Free, Mark Gruner, Tony Kalt, Lance Neumann, Gawain O'Connor, Rick Schulz, and Dan Vornbrock
- Past President** - Danny Bisgaard
- Appointed Positions**
- Dealer-Director** - Dennis Reed
- Editor/Webmaster** - Eric Holcomb

PNNA 2017 Annual Awards Summary

by Danny Bisgaard

The following presentations were made at the 2017 Tukwila convention, March 17-19, 2017.

Presidential Awards – 2017 PNNA presidential awards were presented to Tukwila/Portland bourse chairman Scott Loos, Tukwila convention chairman & Scout WashJam volunteer Kevin Charboneau, Portland convention chairman Ed Fischer, Puyallup Fair chairman & Scout WashJam volunteer Rick Schulz, Scout WashJam volunteer Tony Kalt and Editor/Webmaster/Chief Judge Eric Holcomb.



Photo: Scott Loos (left) receives his presidential award from James Reinders (right).

Bob Everett Memorial Award – This prestigious PNNA annual award was presented to Tony Kalt for his extensive service to the hobby, including the PNNA and the Boeing Employees' Coin Club.



Photo: Tony Kalt (left), PNNA Director and president of the Boeing Employees' Coin Club, received the Bob Everett Memorial Award from PNNA president James Reinders (right).

Nina Nystrom Memorial Award – This award for “Goodwill Ambassador” was presented to Kevin Charboneau, the current PNNA Tukwila convention general chairman.



Photo: Kevin Charboneau (left) received the Nina Nystrom Memorial Goodwill Ambassador Award from PNNA president James Reinders (right).

Literary Awards –

PNNA literary awards for best club newsletter (2017 for 2016 newsletters) were as follows: 1st place - Boeing Employees' Coin Club, 2nd place - Olympia Coin Club, 3rd place - Salem Numismatic Society.

PNNA literary awards for best article in *The Nor'wester* (2nd Q 2016 - 1st Q 2017) were as follows: 1st Place - “Letters to the Rescue” by Tom Tullis, 2nd Place - “Year 1 C.E.: The Earliest Lifetime Portrait of a Biblical Ruler” by Jean-Philippe Fontanille, 3rd Place - “Dollars - North, Middle and South” by Mark Benvenuto.



Photo: Tom Tullis (left) accepts the 1st place best article in The Nor'wester award from James Reinders (right). Tom was also the Best-of-Show collector exhibit award winner!

National Coin Week – The Olympia Coin Club won the PNNA NCW award for the 14th time! PNNA board member Dennis Reed was scheduled to present the award to the club in June. The 2017 NCW theme was “Conflict and Courage: Money and the Military,” commemorating the 100th anniversary of United States involvement in World War I.

Scholarships – This year’s adult scholarship was presented to Jason Breedlove, and the YN scholarship was presented to Kellen Hoard. Recipients attend the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs.

Thanks to the members who took the time to nominate or submit applications for these important PNNA awards. Your interest and continued education are the reasons these awards are made available to all of you.

More information about the various PNNA awards can be found on the PNNA website at:

<http://www.pnna.org/awards/awards.html>

Puyallup Fair Time!

I am sure most of you know, every year the PNNA sponsors a coin collecting display at the Washington State (Puyallup) Fair and every year the PNNA coordinator for this event is tasked with signing up volunteers to staff the display throughout the run of the Fair. Our coordinator this year is Rick Schulz. Most volunteers Rick signs up are from clubs in the Puget Sound area, generally from Olympia to Everett. Previously Rick reached out and signed volunteers from south of the Columbia River. This year he would like to continue to reach out to all PNNA member clubs. If any members of your local club are interested in working the Fair have them get in touch with Rick at the phone number or email address below.

So why would anyone want to travel a couple hundred miles just to go to a fair? It's not just a fair, it's The Fair. The Puyallup Fair routinely ranks as one of the top fairs in the country and occasionally ranks in the top five. And, everyone has fun in the Hobby Hall!

The Fair offers big name entertainment every night. There have been volunteers that have scheduled their shifts to coincide with the day their favorite entertainer is performing. Have fun at the Hobby Hall, see the rest of the Fair and enjoy the evening shows!

So, what are we asking of you? The coin collecting display consists of a large glass display case filled with coins, currency and other numismatic related items. Next to the case is a desk with enough area for two to three to sit comfortably. During the hours the Hobby Hall is open volunteers greet visitors and answer their coin-related questions. We understand that nobody knows everything and you may have to refer visitors to other sources of information. Lists of local coin clubs and coin show calendars will be available. Your biggest job will be to play the penny game with the kids. If the kids can find their birth year in a tray of pennies they can have it all 2x2'd up as a souvenir. There will also be a tray of foreign coins for handouts.

So what do you get for volunteering besides interacting with scores of Fair goers? You get free passes to the Fair and free parking in employee lots. A few parking passes will be available for closer-in lots. If you sign up for any four-hour shift you'll have eight hours to do the Puyallup. A table top locking display case will be available at the Hobby Hall display so you can show off some of your own collection.

The Puyallup Fair runs from Sept. 1 through Sept. 24, a longer schedule than in the past, however the Fair is now closed on Tuesdays and also on Wednesday Sept. 6. Every day of the Fair we need to fill three four-hour shifts. Shifts run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Deadline for submission of material for 4th Quarter 2017 Nor'wester: Sunday, September 10, 2017.

Please send your ad copy to Eric Holcomb, Eric@Holcomb.com, and payment to the PNNA treasurer. Or call Eric (541-647-1021) for more info.

Advertising rates (per regular/convention issue) are:
 \$4.00/\$5.00 (1 column inch; no oversized text)
 \$7.50/\$10.00 (1/8-page; business card)
 \$10.00/\$12.50 (1/6-page); \$15.00/\$18.00 (1/4-page)
 \$25.00/\$30.00 (1/2-page); \$45.00/\$50.00 (full page)

Note: Rates for color pages are higher; please inquire about prices and availability.

Web advertising rates, per year on www.pnna.org:

1-line web site listing — Free to members

\$10.00 (sponsor page ad; business card size)

Tom Sheehan is buying!!

Tom is interested in buying
 Washington State Nationals.
CASH PAID!!

Life Member ANA, ANS, SPMC and PNNA

P.O. Box 1477, Edmonds, WA 98020

Phone — 206-949-COIN(2646)

(If Tom is out please leave name and phone number.)

E-mail — ThomasSheehan@msn.com

If you are interested in volunteering and having a lot of fun or just interested in more information at this time contact Rick Schulz by phone at 253-535-0690 or by email at richardf53@yahoo.com.

If you're interested in what the Fair has to offer check out their web site, www.thefair.com.

By the way, Rick is also the PNNA Club Rep Program Coordinator, so also contact him if you would like information about that program.

PNNA-Willamette Fall Convention

Put October 21-22, 2017 on your calendars ... the 13th Annual PNNA/Willamette Coin Club Fall Convention and Coin Show will be here before you know it. This year will feature an expanded bourse, YN program and collector exhibit area – more details will follow in the fall issue of *The Nor'Wester*. (Note that dealer and exhibitor setup are on Friday Oct. 20.)

PNNA 68th Annual Convention, March 17-19, 2017 in Tukwila

The biggest annual coin show in the Pacific Northwest, sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association (PNNA) and now in its 17th year in Tukwila, was once again a big success, with strong attendance in moderate “almost spring” weather conditions (except for some heavy rain on Friday afternoon and Saturday). Total three-day paid attendance was approximately 1,000 as usual.



The photo shows the new PNNA banner in the hallway outside the bourse.

In addition to bourse activity, there were collector exhibits, awards, meetings on Saturday, and a popular Young Numismatists (YN) program.

Juniors on the bourse floor were excited to have the opportunity to complete a set of numismatic items as part of the Young Numismatist (YN) “Treasure Hunt” game. Participation was strong on Saturday, with the program conducted this year by Boeing Employees’ Coin Club President Tony Kalt.

A Boy Scout workshop was offered by James Reinders and Tony Kalt, and was well-attended this year, with approximately 30 Scouts.

There were nine competitive collector exhibits this year in 20 cases. There was an additional non-competitive exhibit of the PNNA’s U.S. type coin collection.

There were souvenir elongated coins with a new design, and you could make your own with the PNNA’s “penny press.”

The annual PNNA general membership and awards meeting was held on Saturday March 18 after the close of the bourse.

Special thanks to Kevin Charboneau for serving as general chairman for the 2017 convention. This was Kevin’s fourth convention as chairman, and he did a nice job once again.

The PNNA is pleased to announce that the association’s annual convention will again be held at the Tukwila Community Center, March 16-18, 2018.

See p. 2 or the PNNA website for PNNA awards made at the convention.

2017 Convention Exhibit Report

The following are the results of this year’s competitive collector exhibits at the Tukwila convention. Each exhibitor will receive a PNNA medal or other numismatic item encased in an engraved holder.

Class 1 - United States and Canadian Coins

1st Place — Benjamin M. — “Beautiful Beavers.”

2nd Place — Scott McClaine — “Which U.S. cent is in your pocket?”

Class 2 - United States and Canadian Paper Money

1st Place — Thomas Tullis — “Spotlight on Signatures: A Display of Series of 1902 National Currency / Regarding the Signatures of Local Bank Officials.”

Class 3 - Tokens, Medals and Decorations

1st Place — Tom Sparks — “Trust in the Lord and Keep Your Powder Dry.”

2nd Place — Anthony Kalt — “O.P.A. - WWII Rationing.”

Class 4 - World Coins and Paper Money

1st Place — Alexander M. — “Our Feathered Friends.”

Class 5 - General or Specialized

1st Place — Tom Sparks — “The Short Snorter Project: Lt. John Paul Benson / United States Army Air Corps / World War II Journey of a Short Snorter” (also Gerald Ford and Frank Sinatra signed snorters).

2nd Place — Truus Lagerman — “Crowned Cats.”

Class 6 - Pacific Northwest Numismatic Material

1st Place — Anthony Kalt — “Community Currency.”

Best Tokens and Medals

C.E. “Hepp” Heppner Memorial Award

Tom Sparks — “Trust in the Lord and Keep Your Powder Dry.”

Best of Show

Byron F. Johnson Jr. Memorial Award

Thomas Tullis — “Spotlight on Signatures: A Display of Series of 1902 National Currency / Regarding the Signatures of Local Bank Officials.”

Best YN Exhibit

Benjamin M. — “Beautiful Beavers.”

People’s Choice Award

Scott McClaine — “Which U.S. cent is in your pocket?”

Exhibit Committee and Judges:

Judges: Danny Bisgaard, James Reinders, Tom Sheehan.

Chief Judge: Eric Holcomb.

Exhibit Chairman: Dan Vornbrock.

Congratulations to all winners. Why not consider an exhibit yourself at next year’s Tukwila convention, or at the fall show in Portland?

For exhibit photos, see the PNNA website at http://www.pnna.org/exhibits/exhibits_completed.html.

PNNA Board Meeting Minutes

18 March 2017, Tukwila, Washington

Members in Attendance: James Reinders, President; Ed Fischer, Vice President; Scott Loos, Treasurer; Danny Bisgaard, Secretary; Lance Nesemann, Director; Tony Kalt, Director; James Free, Director; Dennis Reed, Dealer Rep.; Rick Schulz, Director; Ron Engholm, Director; Dan Vornbrock, Director; Mark Gruner, Director; Kevin Charbonneau, Director; Gawain O'Connor, Director; Eric Holcomb, Webmaster/Editor.

Members Absent: John Brown, Director.

Guests in Attendance: Lisa Loos, Owen Gruner, Allen Berman and Dick Billings.

The board meeting was called to order by President James Reinders at 8:05 a.m. who welcomed the members and guests.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Kevin after Danny corrected the Board's meeting time and seconded by Dennis to accept the January 21, 2017 minutes. Approved unanimously.

Danny reported no new correspondence.

Treasure's Report: Scott reported total expenses through February are \$8,016.61 and revenues are \$15,407.09. Cash balances are \$75,094.82 and Fund balances are: General Fund \$60,735.72; LM Fund \$6,562.27 and Bob Everett Memorial Fund \$7,796.83. The 25 cases and locks have been purchased.

Motion made by Kevin and seconded by Danny to accept the treasurer's report. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Convention – Kevin reported 300 through the door. Some dealers upset with the \$35 badge charge for forgotten badges. Continue to improve staffing, next year more on Friday needed for set-up. James R. noted the number of exhibits and Kevin advised the tables outside the door are staffed to promote PNNA, local clubs and answer questions. Tony reported scouting clinic on Saturday at 1p. No numismatic theatre due to miscommunication between Kevin, James R. and Gawain. Eric missed the printed program and felt we should continue to do one with the list of dealers. Kevin advised that a large map of the floor was inside near the case.

Ed reported on Portland's progress. Use the same room as the scouts for any educational opportunities at 11a or noon, i.e., Collecting 101 or Grading. Reconfigure entrance by putting empty case boxes where the coffee is available for the dealers. Coffee will still be served but the extra room will be used to promote PNNA. Ed has contacted some of the vendors. Ed to discuss with Portland's board about purchasing additional cases.

Exhibit – Dan V. reported 20 competitive cases being used. Eric would like the People's choice Ballot Box to be refinished. In addition, a banner outside the room would be beneficial for marketing the exhibits. A

motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Danny to buy a generic banner for marketing exhibits that can be used at both conventions. Rick will check pricing or outdoor vinyl and share estimates with James R., who in turn will check with his supplier.

Dan V. reported the 2016 exhibit awards were not up to our standards. Washington's awards will be fixed and mailed by Dan V. Oregon's awards will be fixed and mailed by Danny. Danny volunteered to take care of producing and mailing the 2017 exhibit awards.

Membership – John worked with Eric and produced the final draft of the new tri-fold. Eric advised it still had a couple of modifications. Rick/Eric will get a quote on printing costs of a handout that has glossy and heavier paper features. Rick will compare his estimates with James R. and he will compare with this supplier. July was the deadline to have this done. A motion was made by Rick and seconded by Danny that 5,000 be produced. Passed unanimously.

Outreach:

YN/Scouting/Fair – Tony reported there will be scouts. A time will be picked to publicly award merit badges. Rick ran off about 50 squished pennies honoring the scouts that will be used at the Puyallup Fair. Kevin reported the planning of the Puyallup Fair has become a year-round endeavor. Rick is looking into having an all day shift for clubs to staff.

Kevin updated the Board on his progress of working with the ANA and Whitman on producing cent holders to be used at the fair. The cost of the folders has been reduced to \$1.00/folder. A total of 6,000 would be needed to hand out at the fair. Scott weighed in to determine that this is a one-time shot and was in agreement with the costing and concept. Kevin continues to work with Whitman on specific printing and the tri-fold design would have the 2017 cent at the end of the first row of the third page. James R. made the motion and Mark seconded that we allocate \$6,000 for the folders with the stipulation that Whitman will work with us with the special printing needs. If they cannot meet our needs, PNNA will not spend the funds. The majority of the Board voted yes, 1 no vote. James F. voiced concerns about the price and rhetorically asked each one of us what we individually were doing to promote the PNNA. Danny advised he had been contacted by Steve Estes about donating cents and other items to the PNNA. Some could be used in the Whitman folders.

Dealers:

Dennis asked if there had been any discussion on closing the show on Friday earlier than 7p.m. Kevin did not have any data on the number of visitors between the hours of 5p to 7p. James F. thought the show should close at 5p. James R. felt the later time allowed those that worked to attend. Guest feedback from Allen Berman included that we should pay attention to the numerous dealers staying to the end with plenty of business, instead of those choosing not to earn as much by

staying to the end. First aid kit should be available, Kevin will take care of obtaining one. James F., James R. and Scott will look at the front entrance layout to determine if any space could be freed up at the end of the table line to allow visitors to sit at Dennis' table.

Education – James R. continuing discussions with Scott and Tony and John. Clubs surveyed with no strong feedback.

Publication – Danny continues to work with Eric on the mailing of *The Nor'wester*. Mailed postcards for the Tukwila convention. Danny (OR) and Rick (WA) and Mark (ID) continue to receive updated calendars from Eric which are distributed to the local coin shops, clubs and shows in the area that they serve in.

Awards – Danny reported the awards and certificates are ready for the membership meeting. James R. and Danny will work the floor for presidential award coins.

Show Security – Rick reported the video system was not set up.

Old Business:

PNNA Collection Update – Tony continues to inventory the collection. Handed out samples of his worksheet for comments. Travelling display will be added to the inventory in the future.

Paper Copies of *The Nor'wester* – Eric reported more old copies of *The Nor'wester* are needed for scanning. David Schmidt and the ANA may have copies for scanning. Tony to follow-up with Del to determine if there are any old copies. Rick will ask in the local club newsletters. Eric to ask in the next publishing of *The Nor'wester*.

Dealer Promotion – Keeping the lines of communication open so Eric can continue to update the website with dealer information. If we get more advertising, could expand *The Nor'wester* from 16 pages to 32 pages. Heritage continues to buy the middle ad for \$200. (This applies to the convention editions.)

Discussion will continue during the summer board meeting.

Travelling Collection – Rick and Kevin passed out to the dealers the outstanding needs of the collection. Rick to e-mail to the Board what is still needed.

New Business:

Boeing Club Storage – Tony reported on the library and 3 cabinets that may be available. PNNA has no room in their locker, but may be interested in one of the cabinets. Tony will keep us updated on the status of the closure and available contents.

PNNA Vivid Logo – To be presented to the members at the membership meeting.

There being no further business, the motion was made by Rick and seconded by Lance and carried to adjourn at 9:30 a.m.

The next board meeting will be held at James R. house on 7/22/2017 at noon.

Danny Bisgaard, Recording.

PNNA Membership Meeting Minutes

18 March 2017, Tukwila, Washington

Members in Attendance: James Reinders, President; Ed Fischer, Vice President; Scott Loos, Treasurer; Danny Bisgaard, Secretary; Rick Schulz, Director; Dennis Reed, Dealer Rep.; James Free, Director; Tony Kalt, Director; Kevin Charbonneau, Director; Gawain O'Connor, Director; Mark Gruner, Director; Dan Vornbrock, Director; Eric Holcomb, Webmaster/Editor.

Members Absent: John Brown, Director; Lance Neseemann, Director; Ron Engholm, Director.

Guests: Scott McClaine, Lisa Loos, Owen Gruner, Tom Tullis and Allen Berman.

The membership meeting was called to order by President James R. at 6:30 p.m., and James R. welcomed the board members and guests.

Updates:

James R. thanked all the volunteers. He continues to be encouraged by those that take the time to get involved. Logo, got input from the board and members that the vivid logo can be used for special occasions. Enhanced security with the dealer badging system and video security system. More cases and locks have been purchased and there continues to be an increased involvement in exhibiting and writing articles for *The Nor'wester*.

Exhibits:

Eric reported on 9 exhibitors covering 6 classes. All award winners will be listed on the website. People's choice award would be tallied on Sunday and also reported on the website.

Awards:

James R. presented the annual awards which can be found on the website.

Open Forum:

Scott McClaine reminded PNNA that the 250th anniversary of our country is only 9 years away. Discussions are already ongoing for a national coin contest.

Allen Bergman discussed the center ad paid by Heritage. Keep it as it is. In addition, logo replacement should not ignore our Canadian partners. Kevin commented that the PNNA has reached out to help co-sponsor the Royal Canadian Show to be held in Vancouver or Victoria in the next 6 years. Much discussion on the difficulty of moving inventory back and forth across the Canadian border. PNNA will continue to research the issue and see if some solution can be found. Bruce Wonder may be a resource on this subject.

[Editor's note: The new PNNA logo no longer features a map, in part because of the small number of Canadian members. The logo is based on the beautiful 75th anniversary medal design by Thomas D. Rogers, which could represent a mountain and forest scene anywhere in the Northwest.]

Scott McClaine asked the question: How do we reach out east of I-5? Rick advised the board has discussed the issue in the past – Tri Cities, Spokane, Idaho. Alan Franke is sponsoring the Spokane Show (sponsored by the club for many years) – club dissolved and members from Washington and Idaho do not see eye-to-eye on a variety of issues. James R. advised would continue the discussion at the summer Board meeting on 7/22/2017.

James R. asked the audience to be thinking about increasing ad space in *The Nor'wester* – if done the publication could grow from 16 pages to 32 pages (for the convention editions). In addition, copies of old *Nor'westers* are needed to scan.

Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Danny Bisgaard, Recording.

Coin Show & Event Calendar

JUL 1 COIN FEST, Tacoma Elks Lodge #174, 2013 S. Cedar St., Tacoma, WA

JUL 15-16 NORTHWEST TOKEN & MEDAL SOCIETY 32ND ANNUAL CONV. & AUCTION, Clackamas Banquet and Catering Center, off I-205 (exit 12 or 12A)

JUL 18-23 ROYAL CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, Boucherville, Quebec, Canada

JUL 31 PNG-ANA NUMISMATIC TRADE SHOW, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

AUG 1-5 ANA WORLD'S FAIR OF MONEYSM, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

AUG 13 FENWICK STAMP & COIN SHOW, Red Lion Hotel at 1 South Grady Way, Renton, WA

AUG 19-20 20TH ANNUAL FLORENCE COIN SHOW, Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., Florence, OR

AUG 20 SACRAMENTO COIN SHOW, Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover St, McClellan (Sacramento), CA

AUG 26-27 GOLDEN STATE COIN SHOW, Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W Duarte Rd, Arcadia, CA

SEP 1-24 closed on Tuesdays WASHINGTON STATE (PUYALLUP) FAIR, PNNA-sponsored coin exhibit and info table in Hobby Hall

SEP 7-9 LONG BEACH COIN, STAMP & COLLECTIBLES EXPO, Long Beach, CA

SEP 9-10 NORTH SHORE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY STAMP & COIN FAIR, Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC

SEP 9-10 NTCA ANNUAL TOKEN SHOW, Comfort Inn & Suites, 7007 Grover St., Omaha, NE

SEP 10 8AM-Noon NORTHWEST TOKEN & MEDAL SOCIETY, Olympia VFW Post #318 Hall, 2902 Martin Way, Olympia, WA

SEP 10 COIN - CURRENCY- TOKEN & MEDAL SHOW, Clackamas Banquet Center (Denny's), 15815 SE 82nd Dr & Hwy 212 E, Clackamas, OR

SEP 15-17 SANTA CLARA COIN, STAMP, AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Gateway Hall, 344 Tully Rd., San Jose, CA

SEP 16 WASHINGTON STATE 37th ANNUAL COIN SHOW, Tacoma Elks Lodge #174, 2013 S. Cedar St., Tacoma, WA

SEP 16-17 (tentative) CAVE MAN COIN CLUB COIN, CURRENCY, TOKEN and STAMP SHOW, Josephine County Fairgrounds, Redwood Hwy., Grants Pass, OR

SEP 23 KENT VALLEY COIN SHOW, Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave. N, Kent, WA

SEP 29-OCT 1 LAS VEGAS NUMIS. SOCIETY FALL COIN SHOW, Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV

SEP 30 OLYMPIA/SOUTH SOUND COIN & CURRENCY SHOW, Olympia VFW Post #318 Hall, 2902 Martin Way, Olympia, WA

SEP 30-OCT 1 TRI-CITY COIN CLUB FALL SHOW, M-Motel, 1515 George Washington Way, Richland, WA

OCT 7 TACOMA-LAKEWOOD COIN CLUB SHOW, Tacoma Elks Lodge #174, 2013 S. Cedar St., Tacoma, WA

OCT 7-8 BUENA PARK COIN SHOW, Retail Clerks Hall, 8550 Stanton Ave, Buena Park, CA

OCT 8 POLK COUNTY COIN SHOW, Polk County Fairgrounds Bldg. "B," 520 S. Pacific Hwy West, Rickreall, OR

OCT 8 FENWICK STAMP & COIN SHOW, Red Lion Hotel at 1 South Grady Way, Renton, WA

OCT 14-15 SPOKANE INLAND EMPIRE FALL COIN SHOW, Center Place, 2426 N Discovery Place, Spokane Valley, WA

OCT 21-22 (Setup OCT 20) PNNA-WILLAMETTE COIN CLUB 13TH ANNUAL FALL CONVENTION & COIN SHOW, Double-Tree Lloyd Center Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, OR

OCT 25-28 DENVER COIN EXPO, National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver, CO

OCT 28 SOUTH HILL COIN CLUB COIN SHOW, Best Western Premier, 620 South Hill Park Dr, Puyallup, WA

See website for more listings, and page 3 for fall show.

To submit or update a listing, email info@pnna.org, or call Eric at 541-647-1021 (leave a message).

North and South, the Strangest Metals

by Mark Benvenuto

In our examinations and comparisons of the coins of Canada and the United States, we have over the past few years looked at a large number of denominations from the smallest to the largest. Let's take a different angle then, and compare what might be some of the stranger aspects of coinage from either side of the border, at least in terms of composition. Let's look at two very different metals.

First, nickel.

Element 28 on the periodic table is certainly common in coins today. Indeed, it may have become the world's most popular, or perhaps it is a close runner-up to copper. But when it was originally discovered and isolated, it was an oddity, and didn't have a place among gold, silver and copper, the three main coinage metals that had been in use for centuries.

In a strange irony, Canada has much larger nickel reserves than most other countries in the world, yet the United States was the first of the two nations to put nickel into any of its coinage. Officially, that usage came in the form of the alloys used to make the newly created Flying Eagle cents in 1856, as well as the nickel three-cent pieces in 1865, and the Shield nickels, in 1866. Unofficially, it was proposed as early as 1837 in the tokens of Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger, who tried unsuccessfully to get Congress to adopt an alloy containing nickel for just about any small change denomination.

Today, Feuchtwanger cents, and other Feuchtwanger tokens, are avidly sought after by collectors who specialize in the various tokens on the nineteenth century. They can be expensive, but ultimately are available to the patient collector.

On the other hand, virtually every collector also knows that Flying Eagle cents, nickel three-cent pieces, and Shield nickels are easy to find and gather into some collection. In an interesting twist, the 88% copper and 12% nickel alloy that was used in the Flying Eagle cents was carried over to the Indian Head cents, starting in 1859. Unfortunately, what are called bronze Indian Head cents became the alloy of choice in 1864, meaning that nickel metal was taken out of the mix. So, for anyone desiring a short set of United States cents containing nickel, the entire group would include the three years of the Flying Eagle design, and the first six years of the Indian Head cents.

Collecting nickel three-cent pieces seldom seems to be a big thrust for any numismatists. Most collectors who opt to have one appear to do so as part of some greater type set. The 1865 is by far the most common date, although several other dates tend to be about equal to it in terms of price.

What we now call the U.S. nickel is an alloy that is actually 75% copper and only 25% nickel (the same alloy, incidentally, as the nickel three-cent pieces). The alloy has stayed the same for all the years from the

1860's until now, with only four years during the Second World War seeing the nickel vanish, as it was apparently needed for the war effort.

Although the Royal Canadian Mint took longer to get into the nickel "business," as it were, when it did so, it jumped in totally and completely. The RCM started producing five-cent pieces starting in 1922 that were indeed nickel. No alloy needed, no Sir. These coins were essentially pure nickel, and have remained that way, again with only a few war years getting in the way. And to top it all off, the RCM actually honored nickel on the bicentennial year of its discovery. The Canadian nickels of 1951 sport King George's royal visage on the obverse, but a nickel refinery on the reverse. They are not particularly expensive today, and remain a fun addition to any five-cent collection.

Both nations have now used nickel in alloy form for quite a few of their higher denomination coins for decades, but one denomination that deserves a specific mention is the Canadian dollar of 1968-1986. The silver was taken out of Canadian dollars, as it had been during that general time frame from many silver coins of nations throughout the world. But the Canadian dollar coin was not yet going quietly into the dark night. For almost twenty years, the RCM produced some beautiful, big, nickel "silver" dollars, including several years with commemorative reverses. A collection of these big nickel coins can be a great deal of fun to assemble.

Second, niobium.

Okay, over the course of a century and a half, nickel has gone from being a new metal in coinage to being a common one. Right now we may be at the beginning of that sort of movement for a second metal – niobium. This relatively scarce metal has gained some prominence in the past decade because niche uses have been found for it. According to the annual *Mineral Commodity Summaries*, published by the U.S. Geological Survey: "Major end-use distribution of reported niobium consumption was as follows: steels, 79%; and superalloys, 21%." The MCS also reports that Canada is a significant producer of Element 41, although Brazil is currently the world leader by a large margin. What isn't reported is that a few nations have produced niobium coins for the collector market, including the RCM.

Right now, the commemorative coins produced by the RCM that use niobium are high denomination, relatively low mintage, and yet pleasantly low in price as well. That's certainly a plus for anyone who might want to venture into this area. It's still too early to tell how deeply committed the RCM is to producing a series of such coins. Will these issues continue for a few years, or go onward for decades? The old saying, "only time will tell," is tailor made for a situation like this. It's tough to think that niobium will ever become as well-used in coinage as nickel. But since the price tags for Canadian niobium coins are quite good right now, it may prove very wise to add such coins to any growing, long-term collection.