



# Coinfusion

Newsletter of the  
**Lower Cape Fear Coin Club**  
P.O. Box 4744, Wilmington, NC 28406  
www.LCFCC.org  
Service to the numismatic community of  
Southeastern North Carolina since 1963



**Host of the NC Azalea Festival Coin Show Every April**

August 2018

Our Fifty-Sixth Year

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month

## CLUB BOOSTERS

**Rich Jewell** (2-19), **Franklin Fussell** (4-19), **Bill Snyder** (4-19), **Bob Doleman** (8-19), **C. J. Lindsey** (2-20), **George Rogers** (2-30), **Bob Neale** (2-30), **Mike Samaskeawicz** (2-30) and **Stanley Rehder** (2-30).

To become a Club Booster, please send \$10 or donate an equal or greater amount of usable numismatic material. All Booster's names will be placed near the top of our monthly newsletter followed by the month your booster contribution expires. Thank you ALL for your support.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There's nothing really big on our immediate agenda; EXCEPT the annual FREE picnic on 8 AUG (2nd WED!) at 6:30 pm at Hugh McRae Park at shelter # 5; prizes, games, etc., included. Maybe more details elsewhere in this "COINFUSION"! All you have to do is show up and not park on the grass - AND call or e-mail John Balestrine (910) 395-6775; (gbalestrine@gmail.com) with how many are coming - so that we order enough food!!!

Darn! Nobody "extra" showed up at the last board meeting to see what we do and, perhaps, decide that's not too hard and volunteer to join the board. Try the next one after the picnic (details in this "COINFUSION").

The Christmas party is coming together; details being worked out; all of which will be revealed in enough time to make your reservations. No surprise that it will be the 2nd WED of DEC, the 12th.

**Robert D. Doleman**

## COIN EVENTS COMING UP \*

**August 11 & 12, Statesville, NC, Coin Show**, Civic Center, 300 South Center Street., 704-450-1639.

**August 14-18, Philadelphia, PA, ANA Summer Convention**, Pennsylvania Convention Center.

**August 18 & 19, Raleigh, NC, Coin Show**, State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Blvd., 919-790-8544.

**August 24-26, Dalton, GA, BRNA Convention**, Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd., 321-258-0325. \*\*

**September 15 & 16, Jacksonville, NC, Coin Show**, Hilton Garden Inn, 1016 Jacksonville Parkway, 919-790-8544.

**April 6 & 7, 2019, Wilmington, NC, Annual N. C. Azalea Festival Coin Show**, Elk's Lodge, 5102 Oleander Drive, 910-520-8405.

\* Please verify coin show dates, times and locations at contact number or email address before going.

\*\* **Randy'L Teton, model for the Sacagawea Dollar coin, will attend on Saturday.**

## NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next **REGULAR** Club meeting will be in the form of our annual '**Summer Picnic**' on **August 8** at Hugh MacRae Park, 314 Pine Grove Dr. Wilmington, NC. A better entrance may be near our regular meeting location just south of 1602 S. College Rd. at the Lake Ave traffic signal. The picnic will begin at 5:00 pm with food being served at 6:30. The picnic will be in Shelter #5, right next to the children's water park so have them bring their swim suits. It is free for members and their families, **BUT you NEED to let John Balestrine know how many are coming. His phone number is (910) 395-6775.** Food will be from Smithfield's BBQ.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

There will be NO board meeting in August. Have a pleasant time at the beaches.

## LAST REGULAR MEETING

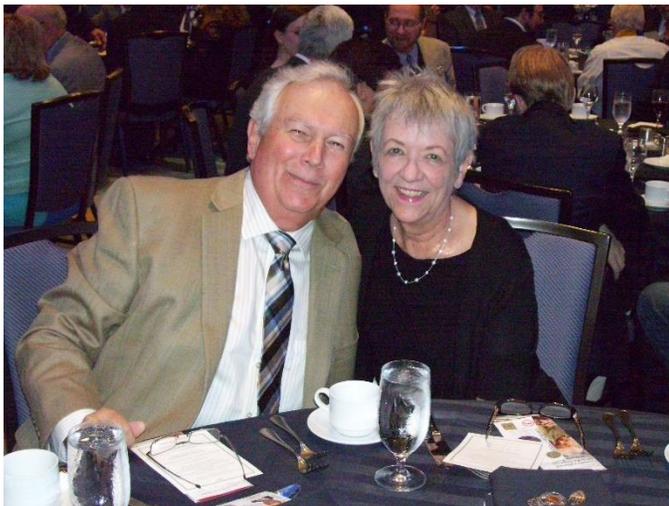
Our July 11 meeting drew thirty-two members and guests. **Paul Landsberg, Karen Foster, Franklin Fussell, C. J. Lindsey, Tom Bromley, Fred Whitman** and **Ken Barlow** brought something for 'Show and Tell' and many great deals were found at the auction following the meeting. SIX new member applications were submitted, a record for a meeting.

**Tom Bromley** won the 50/50 of \$56 and **O. T.** won the attendance prize.

## LAST BOARD MEETING

The July 17 BM was held at Carolina BBQ with 80% of the Board in attendance. The short meeting consisted of finalizing our August picnic and buying a new printer for the Club and approving the six new member applications from **Doris Whitman, Joseph Goromboly, Doug Daniels, Wendy Daniels, Paul Landsberg** and **Ben Reischer**.

## MEMBER NEWS



Rich and Fran Jewell

LCFCC member **Rich Jewell** and Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) *The Clarion* editor, had the following article published in the July 22 *E-Sylum*.

June's *Numismatist* had an article by Western Pennsylvania writer Mitch Olszak, titled "Fraser Finds!" A very interesting article to say the least. It

seems a couple in Shell Knob, Missouri, Tom and Nancy Rochovansky, had inherited a very large collection of James Earle Fraser\* and Laura Gardin Fraser's plasters, bronzes and statues in various forms of completion. The article went on to say that some of the Fraser's personal papers and several of their bronzes wound up at Syracuse University in upstate New York. Other items were obtained by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. And even after these two institutions had their picks, hundreds of items remained available.

The article explains how the writer became involved and his story line developed through the years 2016-2018. Some of the photos in the article attracted my immediate attention and piqued my interest. But what could one do? Call or write the ANA, or the author?

While I was contemplating what to do I called an



author friend of mine in Branson, MO to see if he was going to have an article ready for an earlier issue of *The Clarion*. During the extended conversation he mentioned "did I happen to see the article in *The Numismatist* regarding the Fraser's?" I said I did and I was very interested in finding what all they had remaining. He said Shell Knob was only an hour away and he had already made contact with the Rochovansky's and was heading there in a few days. What good fortune, dumb luck, whatever. I asked my friend if he'd put a list together of what he thought was interesting or unique for a possible purchase by yours truly. He said he'd be more than happy to.

By the end of the week I had an e-mail listing of over forty-five items of interest, mostly consisting of original plasters and bronzes by the Fraser's. What a collector's dilemma-how do you narrow it down to an affordable amount? And what were the prices for each item? My friend was in such a state of shock that he hadn't asked for the prices of anything (I personally think it was an excuse to make a return visit, to be certain he had seen everything the Rochovansky's had to offer)!

Finally, prices were obtained and now the negotiations began. It wasn't long before prices were reached and agreed upon and three boxes were packed by the Branson UPS Store and headed to Western PA.



Thursday, July 19th was an anxious day - how will these plasters arrive? Around 1:15 PM the UPS truck arrives. I see the driver stacking three boxes on top of one another in the truck's door way (oh no- he's going to try to carry all three at once!) He drops the smallest one, oh crap, I'm now expecting the worst, smashed plasters or a least chipped pieces. But no, the UPS Store has done an awesome job of packaging as nothing is broken, chipped or smashed. One package was 24x 24x16," the second box was

16x16x16," and the smallest was 14x14x14." I only mention this so you get an idea how big the containers were stacked.

Most of the plasters and bronzes have already found homes in Western PA. I just wanted to share these treasure trove pieces with the many collectors out there who think the numismatic market place is unexciting or dull and to thank Mitch Olszak for bringing this to our attention.

IMAGES: Top left- 21.5" positive plaster of the Oregon Trail commemorative 50c piece Top right - 9" positive plaster of Fraser's Medal of Honor, honoring Augustus Saint Gaudens Bottom 11" positive plaster of Theodore Roosevelt Founders Medal, in an early stage of production.

#### \*JAMES EARLE FRASER

James Earle Fraser was born in Winona, MN in 1876. Fraser became interested in sculpting when he lived near a limestone pit near Mitchell, SD. He designed many medals, coins and sculptures among which were the Norse American Medal, and the Buffalo Nickel.



1925 Norse American medal



Buffalo Five-cent

## COIN OF THE MONTH



2018 Australian \$60 2 KILOS (64.3 oz) silver!

## U. S. MINT NEWS

The recently released 2018 reverse proof set looks to be a sell-out with 135,000 sold in two days.



## ANA NEWS

A full report on the 2018 ANA Convention will be in the September *COINFUSION*.

## 2018 MEETING DATES

Please mark your 2018 calendar now so you won't forget our meetings. They're all on the second Wednesday and begin at 6:30 PM on September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12

Christmas dinner. The board (Business) meeting will be held on the **Tuesday** AFTER the regular meeting except in August and December.

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

This month we feature [www.shortsnorter.org](http://www.shortsnorter.org).

A short snorter is a banknote which was signed by various persons traveling together or meeting up at different events and records who was met. The tradition was started by bush pilots in Alaska in the 1920's and subsequently spread through the growth of military and commercial aviation. If you signed a short snorter and that person could not produce it upon request, they owed you a dollar or a drink (a "short snort", aviation and alcohol do not mix!)



Short snorter signed by WWII Marine Corps fighter ace Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Joe Foss. 1935A HAWAII Silver Certificate. (Courtesy of George J. Grimm)

## SPECIAL NOTICE

PLEASE leave a message WITH your name and phone number when calling Club officers and they will get back to you. Too many junk calls are being received. Beware of fraudulent emails also. The LCFCC will never ask for money through emails and NEVER send money to an unknown address or person. Thanks!

## MCDONALD'S COINS?

McDonald's has released a 'token' commemorating fifty-years of their 'Big Mac' starting August 2. Five different ones will be given out, one for each Big Mac purchased. They can then be redeemed for another Big Mac. More information in link below. <http://fortune.com/2018/07/30/mcdonalds-cryptocurrency-maccoin-big-mac/>.

## 2018 LCFCC OFFICERS

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Show Raffle	Chris Vandall
Webmaster	Jeffrey Morse, Mike McKinnon
Youth	Karen Foster, Franklin Fussell

ANA Club Membership # 1051079 Since 1964

FUN Club Membership # 25857 Since 2014

NCNA Club Membership # C-47 Since 1972