

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 26, Issue 7

July 2026

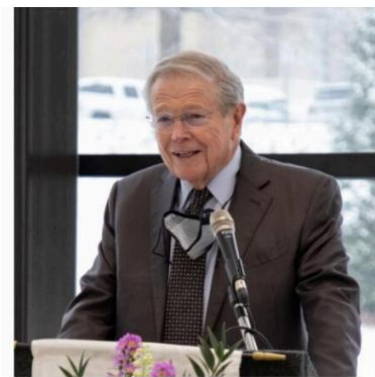
Our next meeting will be at the

South Huntsville Public Library
7901-L Bailey Cove Rd SE
Huntsville, AL 35802

July 13, 2026
from 6:00 – 7:30
Doors Open at 5:30

Aaron Wales
presents
2-5-0 What to Know

Charles Anderson



It is with deep sadness that I share the news of the passing of our dear friend and long-time member, Charles Anderson.

For 25 years, Mr. Anderson was a member of our club — a valued colleague whose loyalty and support helped shape the Madison County Coin Club into what it is today. His contributions over the years will not be forgotten, and his absence will be felt.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Respectfully,
Harold Fears

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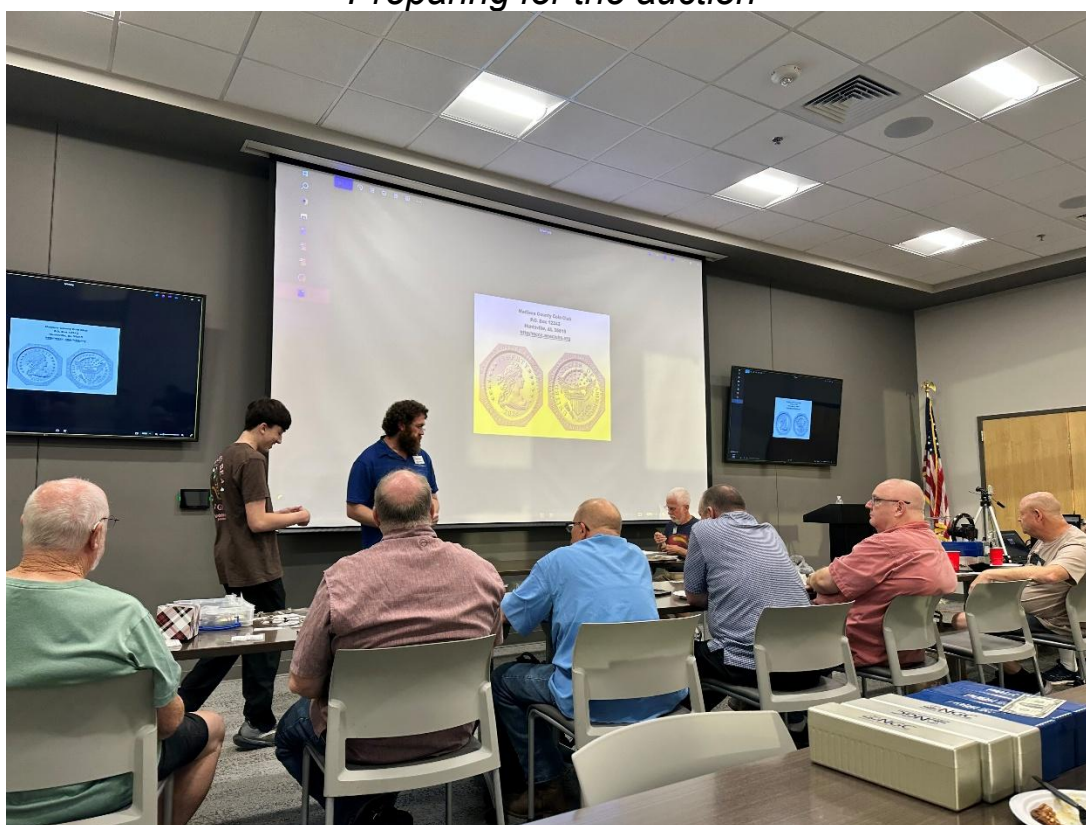
Some Scenes from our last Meeting



Nate presents Stephen with the first challenge coin.



Preparing for the auction



Nate and Aaron running the auction

Some Scenes from the Coin Show



Volunteers man our table



Searching for that special coin



He thinks he has one



Have you seen this guy somewhere before?



Dropping by the booth

Tashmoo Cigar Token

By Randy Partin



One of the many categories of tokens that I collect are tokens which show the name brand of a cigar. Many years ago, I was pleased to acquire the above token. It is made of brass and measures 23x29mm. It was issued by the Norseman Cigar Company out of Detroit, Michigan. It was good for one Tashmoo cigar. This is an odd name which must have had some meaning at least to the people living around the Detroit area. After a little research I found that it did have a very interesting story to tell. The Tashmoo was a large passenger sidewheel paddlewheel steamboat operating on Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron. It was named after a popular

amusement park called Tashmoo Park that it stopped at along its route. It was launched in 1899 and was nicknamed the “White Flyer” as it was one of the fastest ships of that time.



In June 1901 on Lake Erie the Detroit-based luxury steamer Tashmoo faced a 100-mile race against the Cleveland-based steamer City of Erie. As much as \$1 million was said to have been bet among many others interested in the outcome of the race. Bragging rights soon gave way to a \$1,000 bet between the owners of two steamers.

The City of Erie was owned and operated by the Cleveland & Buffalo Transit Company. It operated on Lake Erie as a freight and passenger steamer that was launched in 1898. City of Erie made frequent runs between Cleveland and Erie, Pennsylvania, but also went to Put-In-Bay, Cedar Point, and Port Stanley, Ontario, among its many destinations.

The Tashmoo was owned by White Star Lines and was the pride of the Michigan side. Much beloved along the Detroit River immediately following its launching in 1899, the Tashmoo was regarded as the most regal of the resort ships. It is said a newspaper quote from the owner of White Star Lines laid the initial foundation for what has since been known among Lake Erie historians as "The Great Race." Newspaper reporters throughout much of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River regions stirred up public interest in the race that was reminiscent of the well-known steamboat races along the Mississippi river.

As race day arrived, many businesses and schools were closed. Thousands of people took their place across Ohio's northeast shoreline to catch sight of these two mighty steamers racing from downtown Cleveland's breakwater to the Erie lighthouse.



The Great Race was on and the Tashmoo assumed the early lead at Fairport Harbor only to yield it to the hometown City of Erie by the time both ships approached Ashtabula. The Great Race remained closely contested, with the Tashmoo trailing by approximately 250 yards. Still 20 miles west of the Erie lighthouse, the City of Erie held on to its lead and won the Great Race by the margin of 45 seconds. The City of Erie operated through the end of the 1938 boating and shipping season and subsequently retired from service. In 1941, the steamer was scrapped in Cleveland to aid in the war effort.

It was a far different ending, however, for the Tashmoo. On a late June evening in 1936, loaded with nearly 1,500 passengers, the Tashmoo struck a rock in the Detroit River and began taking on great amounts of water. The mortally wounded steamer made her last "Great Race" and quickly docked on the Canadian side. Having hastily and safely delivered her 1,500 passengers and crew, the Tashmoo promptly sank in 18 feet of water and with it came her abrupt ending.

Inclement Weather Notice



If the Huntsville Public Libraries are closed due to inclement weather, there will be no club meeting. Local TV and radio stations will give notice of any closure.

Challenge Accepted

By Stephen D'Angelo

History of Challenge Coins

Challenge coins are a tradition in the modern U.S. military. They are frequently minted to commemorate a unit, commander, or military exercise and are gifted to those who are part of the group or considered friends of the group. Receiving a coin from a unit is both an honor and a fun collectible.

There are several stories about how the tradition started, but none of them have been validated. In one story, a World War I pilot received a medallion from his unit, then after crashing behind German lines, he used the coin to prove his identity and escape. In another story, an infantry unit in Vietnam used a coin-sized emblem to get access to an infantry-only bar. The oldest existing example of a challenge coin in the modern style dates to the mid-1950s and by the 1980s they were in widespread use.

There are no formal or widespread rules on how to use a challenge coin, but the “challenge” is often given when out drinking. One unit member pulls out their coin and whoever cannot pull out theirs gets to buy a drink for those who have their coin. Challenges can similarly be used to decide who gets to ride shotgun or who gets the last piece of cake.

Why use coins? My opinion is that coins are ideal by being small, easy to carry, unlikely to break, capable of being very artistically rendered, and can be made cheaply enough to get under the government’s maximum gift allowance.

The use of challenge coins spread into the business world as well. I have some fantastic challenge coins from two of my employers and they are fun to display in racks to showcase your own history using metallic discs.

The Madison County Coin Club has produced some wonderful medals in silver and copper during the past several years, but I noticed that the use precious metals prices quite a few members out of participating in the program. I asked if the club had considered making a challenge coin (it is always dangerous to ask questions like this) and was rewarded with the opportunity to put together a proposal.

Coming Up with a Design

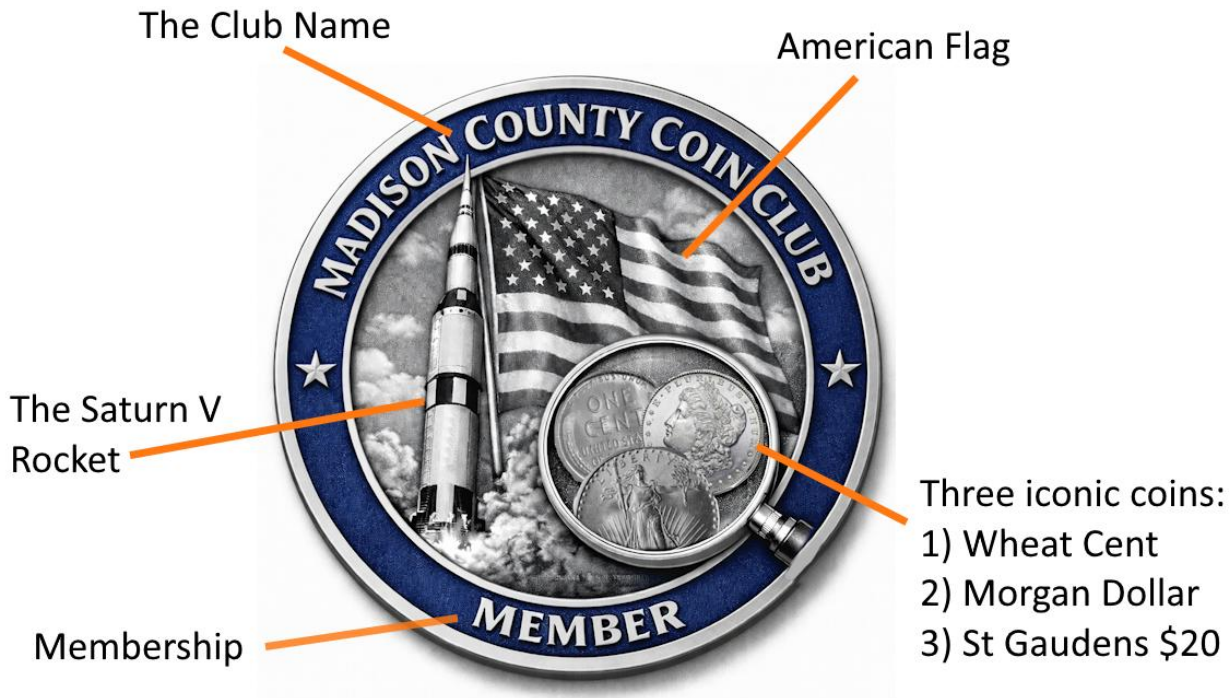
I spent a couple of months looking for inspiration for a good design. I was torn between wanting to do something modern that centered on Huntsville and Alabama versus doing something that felt more historic or coin-like. Here are a few pieces that were used as inspiration. First is the Alabama Innovation Dollar coin, the next was generated using ChatGPT by our club president after prompting it for Huntsville and coin themes, and final one is the recent club medal, which shows a classic coin design.

I decided that rather than limit myself to one idea, I would make the obverse of the coin be about the present and the reverse be inspired by a classic coin. After several attempts at doing art for the coin myself, I turned to ChatGPT to generate variations and then made manual adjustments to get the design right.



The 2D Design Art

The obverse of the coin was inspired by the elements above to represent Huntsville and coin collecting. I also wanted to break the frame of the circle to create visual interest.



The reverse of the coin was inspired by the Standing Liberty quarter, which was modified to turn the two walls into stacks of books that I used to get information about the club into the design.

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?



Getting It Minted

With a design in hand, I researched vendors and selected Signature Coins as one of the few vendors to showcase detailed 3D art on their coins. I put together a proposal and once it was approved by the club leadership, I worked with the manufacturer to turn the concept into a 3D design.

There were quite a few little adjustments made during this phase, including the decision to drop the colored band from the obverse. After seeing examples with and without the color, I decided that the color distracted from rather than helped the core design.

As I write this, the coins have just arrived from the manufacturer. Here are images of the final challenge coin. The design came through nicely, and I am really pleased with the dimensionality and detail on the coins.



For the Members

While this may change in the future, the current plan is for all club members who are current on their membership dues to receive a coin for free. The club leadership would like to encourage pride in membership by having members have a piece of art that is fun to show, reminds them of their hobby, and is relevant to their hobby all at once.

I encourage you to consider bringing challenge coins into your business and other organizations you work with. The advent of AI-generated image tools really put this level of visual design in the hands of those of us without artistic skills, and the coin manufacturers make it easy to produce coins like these for under \$10 each (and even cheaper in quantity). Custom minted coins make great gifts and great memories.

How Many Coin Clubs Have Challenge Coins?

Honestly, there's no reliable count anywhere — and that's a meaningful answer. Here's what we do know:

The broader context: There are almost 400 ANA-affiliated coin clubs in the United States and other countries. But no organization tracks how many of those have produced challenge coins.

Challenge coins are still rare in the coin club world. The search results turn up plenty of challenge coin manufacturers (including Signature Coins, who made the MCCC coin), but almost no examples of numismatic clubs specifically issuing them as member pieces. One notable example is the American Israel Numismatic Association (AINA), which gives all new members a challenge coin. Beyond that, it's difficult to find other coin clubs doing this.

The MCCC is in uncommon company. Most coin clubs produce traditional struck medals or tokens for anniversaries — which the MCCC also did with the 25th anniversary medal. Issuing a challenge coin specifically as a *membership* piece is a more modern, creative twist that sets the club apart. Challenge coins have traditionally been associated with military units, but manufacturers like Signature Coins note that hobbyist clubs of all kinds are increasingly adopting them to build camaraderie and celebrate shared identity.

So, while a precise number doesn't exist, the MCCC appears to be ahead of the curve among numismatic clubs — which is worth mentioning in the club's promotional materials.



Austrian Silver Commemorative 25 Schilling Coins

Overview

Austria has a long and distinguished tradition of issuing beautifully crafted commemorative coins, and the silver 25 schilling series stands as one of the most celebrated examples of this heritage. Spanning several decades and two distinct eras, these coins were struck by the Münze Österreich (Austrian Mint) in Vienna and are prized by numismatists worldwide for their artistic quality, historical subject matter, and silver content.



Historical Context

The Austrian schilling served as the nation's currency from 1925 to 1938, was abolished following Germany's annexation of Austria, and was reintroduced after World War II in 1945. The Second Republic's currency stabilized during the 1950s, and the commemorative coin program that followed became an important cultural tradition. The 25 schilling denomination occupied a distinctive place in this program — substantial enough to carry meaningful silver content, yet accessible to a broad base of collectors.

Austria ultimately adopted the euro as its official currency on January 1, 1999, with schilling coins and notes phased out of circulation by February 28, 2002. However, schilling-denominated coins that were valid at the time of the euro's introduction remain indefinitely exchangeable at branches of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank.

Two Distinct Eras

The First Republic Era (1926–1934)

The earliest Austrian 25 schilling coins were struck during the First Republic, composed of 90% gold rather than silver. These are rare and numismatically significant pieces, with a total mintage of only approximately 1,045,000 across the entire production run from 1926 to 1934. Even fewer survive in collectible condition today, making them among the rarest historic European coin issues of the 20th century. These coins were notably produced with proof-like finishes — an expensive and uncommon practice for the era — giving surviving specimens a brilliant luster that endures to this day.

The Second Republic Commemorative Series (1955–1973)

The silver 25 schilling commemorative series that most collectors associate with the denomination was issued during the Second Republic, running from 1955 through 1973. This series comprises 19 individual issues, each celebrating a distinct theme in Austrian history, culture, science, or architecture.

Physical Specifications	
Attribute	Detail
Denomination	25 Schilling
Composition	80% silver (800 fineness)
Weight	13.00 grams
Fine Silver Content	10.40 grams (0.334 troy oz)
Diameter	30.00 mm
Minting Facility	Austrian Mint (Münze Österreich), Vienna
Production Period	1955–1973
Total Issues	19 commemorative types

The reverse of the older coins in this series typically depicts the denomination within a beaded circle, surrounded by the nine heraldic shields of the Austrian provinces, with small decorative sprays below — a classic Austrian design motif used across multiple commemorative denominations of the period. The newer coin has the heraldic shield of Austria added.





The common reverse

The Complete Series (1955–1973)

Year	Subject
1955	Reopening of the National Theater in Vienna
1956	200th Anniversary of the Birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
1957	800th Anniversary of the Mariazell Basilica
1958	100th Anniversary of the Birth of Carl Auer von Welsbach (chemist)
1959	100th Anniversary of the Death of Archduke Johann
1960	40th Anniversary of the Carinthia Plebiscite
1961	Vienna Stock Exchange
1962	Anton Bruckner (composer)
1963	300th Anniversary of Birth of Prince Eugen
1964	Franz Grillparzer (writer)
1965	National Theater
1966	150th Anniversary of the Vienna Technical High School
1967	250th Anniversary - Birth of Maria Theresa
1968	300th Anniversary of the Birth of Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt
1969	Peter Rosegger (author)
1970	100th Anniversary of the Birth of Franz Lehar, (Composer)
1971	200th Anniversary of the Vienna Bourse
1972	100th Anniversary of the Death of Carl Michael Ziehrer (composer)
1973	100th Anniversary of the Birth of Max Reinhardt (theater director)

Madison County Coin Club Website Update

Our club's website (<http://mccc.anaclubs.org/>) has two links that will give you access to all our previous newsletters dating back to 2005. We also have a link to programs that are presented at club meetings.

Read our previous newsletters at: <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/newsletters/>

View our previous presentations at: <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/programs/>

Themes and Subject Matter

The 25 schilling series drew broadly from Austria's rich cultural heritage, honoring figures and milestones across several categories:

Music and the Arts. Composers and musicians featured prominently, reflecting Austria's exceptional musical legacy. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Anton Bruckner, and Carl Michael Ziehrer all appeared on these coins, as did the legendary theater director Max Reinhardt.

Literature and Letters. The writer Franz Grillparzer, one of Austria's most celebrated dramatists, and the popular author Peter Rosegger were among the literary figures commemorated.



Science and Industry. Carl Auer von Welsbach, the Austrian chemist who invented the gas mantle and isolated several rare earth elements, was recognized on the 1958 issue.

Architecture and Historic Institutions. The 1965 coin honored the National Theater (Burgtheater), and the 1968 issue commemorated Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt, the Baroque architect responsible for the Belvedere Palace in Vienna and other iconic structures.



Historical and Political

Milestones. The inaugural 1955 coin marked the Austrian State Treaty, which restored full Austrian sovereignty after a decade of Allied occupation — one of the most significant political events in modern Austrian history. The 1960 issue recalled the 1920 Carinthia plebiscite, through which residents of the region voted to remain part of Austria rather than join Yugoslavia.



Religious Heritage. The 1957 coin celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Mariazell Basilica, Austria's most important pilgrimage site.



Collectability and Value

The 1955 issue — the first in the series and tied to the historic State Treaty — carries a premium among collectors and is considered the key date of the Second Republic series. In pristine, uncirculated condition it commands a higher premium than most other dates.



The 1955 Austria 25 Schilling silver coin, commemorating the reopening of the National Theater (Burgtheater) in Vienna, is a highly significant numismatic piece often linked to the spirit of the **1955 Austrian State Treaty**. As the first commemorative 25 Schilling coin of the Second Republic, it symbolizes the restoration of Austrian independence and culture following WWII.

For most coins in the series, value is closely tied to the silver content (bullion value), with modest numismatic premiums added for coins in excellent, problem-free condition. The 0.334 troy ounces of fine silver per coin means current melt value tracks the silver spot price directly. Collectors are advised to watch for cleaned or damaged examples, which reduce both aesthetic and monetary value.

Place Within Austria's Broader Commemorative Program

The 25 schilling series existed alongside parallel commemorative denominations. The 50 schilling silver series ran from 1959 to 1973 at 90% silver fineness and 20 grams, followed by a reduced-silver version from 1974 to 1978. The 100 schilling silver series operated from 1974 to 1979, and the 500 schilling series from 1980 onward. Together, these programs form one of the most comprehensive and sustained commemorative coin programs in European numismatic history. The 25 schilling denomination was retired in 1973 as the program shifted toward higher denominations, but the coins of this series remain a staple of collections focused on 20th-century European silver and Austrian cultural history.

Summary

The Austrian silver 25 schilling commemorative coins of 1955–1973 represent a carefully curated celebration of Austrian identity — its composers, writers, architects, scientists, and defining political moments. Struck in 80% silver by the historic Vienna Mint, they offer collectors a tangible link to postwar Austria's cultural renaissance. Whether collected for their silver content, their artistic design, or their historical resonance, these coins remain enduring artifacts of one of Europe's richest numismatic traditions.

Visit us on the web at <http://mccc.anacclubs.org/>

"Numismatics, like some aspects of astronomy and natural history, remains a branch of learning in which the amateur can still do valuable work, and it is on the great collecting public, or rather on that part of which is interested in the subject at a scientific level, that the progress of numismatic science largely depends."

Philip Grierson - Professor of Numismatics, University of Cambridge

Can You Identify This Coin?

In this section each month a new coin will be pictured, and your task is to see if you can identify it. Can you step up to this numismatic challenge every month? Email your answer to the [newsletter editor](#) and we will publish the names of winners in our next newsletter.



Last month Jonathan Deller, Steve Young, Wayne Koger and Mike Campbell were able to identify the mystery coin, a 1956 twenty-five schilling coin from Austria.



Members' Notices

Rules for users of the member notice page: All notices are free and should be directed to the [newsletter editor](#) of the Madison County Coin Club newsletter. The person entering the notice must answer all responses to notices. Preference will be given in the following order to research notices when the page is oversubscribed in a single month:

1. Research Notices
2. Wanted Items
3. Trades Offered
4. For Sale Items

World Coins, Tokens, Jade, Relics, etc. for sale

Contact: [Steve Young](#), P.O. Box 8031, Huntsville, AL 35808, 334-300-5409.

Buying Tokens

Contact me if you want to buy or sell tokens, medals, pinback buttons, encased coins, etc.

Randy Partin
P.O. Box 276
Scottsboro, AL 35768
AUBRPARTIN@GMAIL.COM



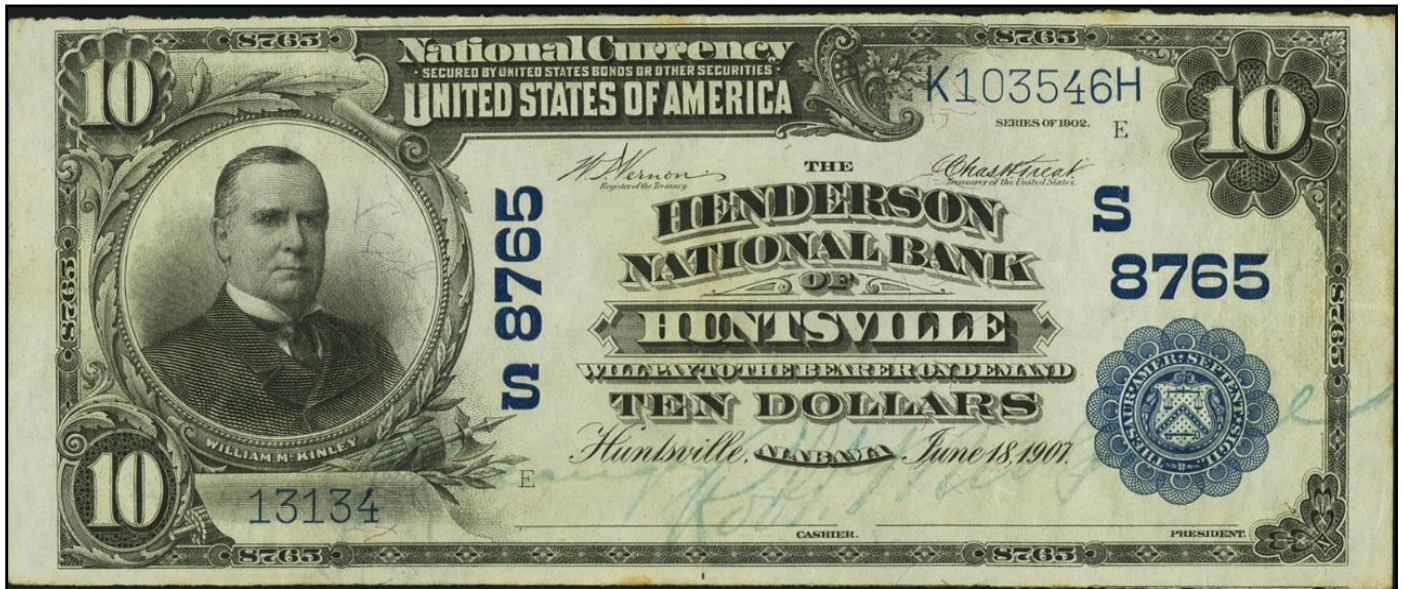
Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens



Contact: [Richard](#).

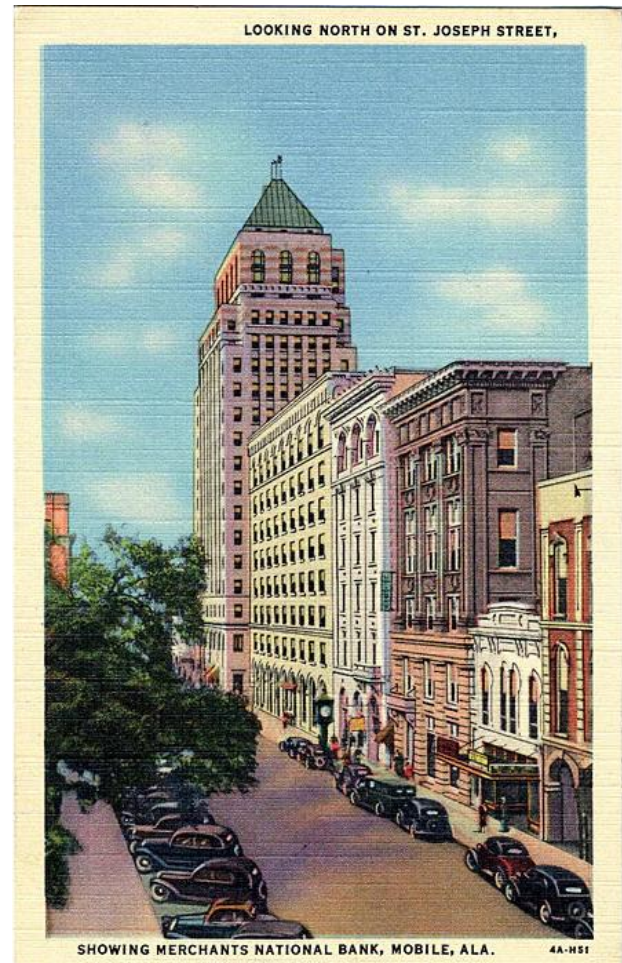


Wanted Alabama Large Size National Banknotes and better Alabama Obsolete Banknotes



Also, postcards portraying Alabama Banks.

Call David at 256-468-5891.



2026 Madison County Coin Club Program Refreshments and Programs Schedule

Meeting Date	Refreshments	Program
January 26	Meeting Cancelled	
February 2	Harold Fears	Everyone Show and Tell
March 16	Provided by the Club	Richard Jozefiak The Club's Past, Present and Future
April 6	Wayne Koger	Stephen D'Angelo <i>Odd Denominations</i>
May 18	Ann Fulmer	Kurt Kelley <i>Collecting Seated Liberty Half Dimes 1837-1873</i>
June 1	Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction	
July 13	Aaron Wales	Aaron Wales <i>2-5-0 What to Know</i>
Tuesday August 18	Chad Thrasher	Everyone Show and Tell
September 21		David Hollander The Wonderful World of Banknote Collecting
Tuesday October 20	Keith George	Chad Thrasher My Collecting Journey and What I Would Tell My Younger Self
November 16	Thanksgiving Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction Election of Officers	
December- NO MEETING		

2026 Coin Shows Within 3 Hour Driving Distance from Huntsville

Date(s)	Area	Show & Location	Contact Info	Richard's Rating
July 16-19	Bessemer, AL	63rd Alabama State Coin Show 1130 Ninth Ave SW Bessemer, AL Bessemer Civic Center 10 am – 6 pm	Corbitt Chandler 205-616-9385 jcolyn@aol.com	++
Aug 5-8	Dalton, GA	67th Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Coin Show Dalton Convention Center I-75 exit 333 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road Dalton, GA Fri-Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Ronda Leeper 678-232-6982 ronda@leeper.biz www.brna.org	+++
Nov 13-15	Chattanooga, TN	Tennessee State Numismatic Society Camp Jordan Arena I-75, Exit 1 Chattanooga, TN Fri & Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Bob Hurst 321-427-6474 forum@comcast.net www.tsns.org	++

Madison County Coin Club

For over twenty-five years, the Madison County Coin Club has served the north Alabama community by bringing numismatists together for the love of coin collecting. The Club strives to impart knowledge to its members through presentations and personal experiences. Through the sharing of knowledge and experiences, it enhances and enriches coin collecting for the numismatic community. Speaking of our members, we have a vast group of collectors who collect all types of United States coins, as well as foreign coins. Many of our members collect coins from a certain era (19th century, for example), while others collect strictly modern coins. We also have members who collect only a certain type of coin (Seated Coins, Morgan Dollars, and Commemoratives, to name a few). Some members focus solely on foreign coins (for instance English, German, and Chinese) which can span many centuries. This diversification makes our club dynamic, providing something for every type of collector.



Members of the club enjoy several benefits: Monthly lectures, covering a range of numismatic topics.

- Access to the club's extensive numismatic library.
- Monthly notices via email of club events.
- Able to purchase club medals.



We are keen to encourage anybody with an interest in numismatics to join the club. We provide a warm and friendly welcome and are very keen to encourage those new to the study, collecting of coins, tokens, or banknotes.



The club is a member of the American Numismatic Association (Member #C-195870 Region 20, AL & GA), Alabama Numismatic Society (ANS), Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA), and the Florida United Numismatists (FUN).

The Club's Mailing Address

Madison County Coin Club

P.O. Box 12242

Huntsville, AL 35815

Club Officers

President: [Nathan B.](#)

Vice President: [Wayne K.](#)

Secretary: [Keith G.](#)

Treasurer: [Mike C.](#)

Board Member: [Kurt S.](#)

Librarian: [Ann F.](#)

Board Member: [Todd H.](#)

Membership Info: [Mike C.](#)

Newsletter Contact: [Harold F.](#)

Club's YouTube Channel

You can subscribe to our YouTube Channel at [MCCC Meeting](#). There you will find links to both upcoming and past meetings.

Join the Club

The membership form can be found [here](#) on our [website](#).