



# Raleigh Coin Club

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 15 March 2014

## Raleigh Coin Club Takes Part in Reed Gold Mine Opening of Blackbeard Exhibit

Members of the Raleigh Coin Club (RCC) traveled to the Reed Gold Mine (RGM) in Midland, NC on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> to attend the official ribbon-cutting ceremonies and opening of "Blackbeard's *Queen Anne's Revenge*: 1718," a traveling exhibit prepared by the North Carolina Maritime Museums in conjunction with the NC Department of Cultural Resources. The exhibit will be on display at the Reed Gold Mine through April 5, 2014.

The Blackbeard exhibit features genuine items recovered from the shipwreck of the *Queen Anne's Revenge* which ran aground near Beaufort, NC in 1718.

The exhibit displays artifacts that represent weaponry, nautical tools and personal items. Items range from what one would expect on a pirate ship, such as cannonballs, lead shot, gun flint, spikes and grinding stones, to items representing normal life in the 18th century, such as dinner plates, a pipe stem and bowl, thumb screws and cask hoops.

The recovery and restoration process for the raised artifacts has taken years and represents the ongoing efforts on the part of staff at the NC Maritime Museums, East Carolina University, the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

To enhance the exhibit, the RCC was invited to set up a display of coins from the time of Blackbeard as part of the opening day activities. Several members of the RCC contributed coins from their personal collection to the display. RCC members were also on hand throughout the day to answer questions from exhibit visitors. The coin display was well-received, with many visitors making particular note of the small British silver pennies that were presented.

The Reed Gold Mine has invited the RCC back to be part of the exhibit's closing day events on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The Blackbeard exhibit's closing coincides with the opening of the Reed's annual gold panning season, one of the most popular attractions of the RGM site. A sizeable crowd is expected to tour the facility that Saturday and all North Carolina numismatists are encouraged to come out and join the festivities. The RCC's coin display will be expanded to include pieces struck up until 1860 and will also present examples of gold coinage produced in NC.

Collectors seeking more information about the RCC should visit [www.RaleighCoinClub.org](http://www.RaleighCoinClub.org).



*Local officials participate in ribbon cutting to open the Blackbeard exhibit.*



*Dr. Kevin Cherry, NC Deputy Secretary for Archives & History, offers visitors valuable insights into the exhibit upon its opening.*





*One of the exhibit cases displaying artifacts recovered from Blackbeard's sunken ship.*



*RCC Member Sanford Steelman "guards" part of the RCC coin display.*



*A “member” of Blackbeard’s crew was on hand to support the exhibit.*

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*The Raleigh Coin Club is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to educating and encouraging people to collect and study money and related items; it was organized in 1954. The club meets at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Ridge Road Baptist Church on Ridge Road in Raleigh.*