

THE GOLD PAN

The Newsletter of the
Comstock Gold Prospectors

March 10, 2014



BLACK BILLIE*

Next Meeting March 25, 2014

Speaker: Chris Ralph

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Mark your Calendars)

Future Meetings:

April 22, 2014

May 27, 2014

June 24, 2014

1 Year Gold – NYSE

03/10/2014 – Last	\$1338.00
One Year High (at closing)	\$1334.00
One Year Low (at closing)	\$1337.00

1 Year Silver – NYSE

03/10/2014 – Last	\$20.94
One Year High (at closing)	\$20.96
One Year Low (at closing)	\$20.80

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Board Meeting is held at 6:30pm

General Meeting

4th Tuesday of each month

7:30 PM at the

Masonic Wadsworth Lodge #25
2425 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Jim Richards

Richard Harris gave quite an interesting presentation on the Small Miners Exemption. There seems to be differing opinions and grey areas concerning the benefits of the SME!

The Club, as usual, will continue to monitor and study the SME and will be on top of any updates and changes from BLM.

Chris Ralph will be our speaker in March. Chris always has interesting topics of discussion. Chris will also be speaking at the ICMJ Summit in Placerville, April 5 and 6.

Our Club has secured a booth at the ICMJ Summit and will be giving out information on our Club.

We will have a raffle of items. First and second prizes will be gold recovery items provided by Ken Walls at cost (***Thanks Ken!***) and the third will be a one year club membership.

After our costs of the Summit, the proceeds will go to Brandon for his recurring costs of the legal battle concerning our mining rights in California.

We also anticipate the signing up of new members at the Summit. The last time we had signed up 15 new members. We have about 125 memberships available. We need members to work our booth on Saturday and Sunday. Mark your calendars to attend and stop by the booth for a couple of hours. We will be asking members who are going to carpool for the trip on Saturday or Sunday.

Concerning the raffle at the ICMJ- "Our members will be able to buy tickets at the March meeting for the raffle for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00 dollars!!!"

This is a great event to view and get hands on equipment from the vendors and attend one of the

many informative presentations. We have more events coming up. The Pleasant Valley School panning demo will be on Tuesday, April 1st We need about 12 volunteers to assist the kids with the hands on panning.

We will be asking for and be signing up volunteers at the March meeting. Also gold is needed for the pans to brighten up the kids' day!

Also, down the road is the Second Annual Rye Patch Nugget Shoot September 27 hosted by the Reno Prospecting and Detecting Club, we will be providing two silver rounds as prizes at the event. Good fun with demonstrations and hands on training with metal detectors.

The Outings Chairman is still open. It has been suggested that we have a member volunteer for each of our outings. This would really help. We need an outing chairman to "oversee" the outings.

The Chairman would not have to attend all of the outings but it would sure help with the organization and logistics. Remember the Club has purchased equipment with Club monies that can only be used during our club outings.

We are still following the Placerites claims. As a member, feel free to explore the area (approx. 2000 acres), let us know if we can be of any assistance in helping to secure a claim in Placerites or any other area.

The Club has been authorized to secure a claim with the input of the Claims committee. This is important as timing is sometimes very critical!

We and James Allen et. al. have completed the Exploration License agreement for the Sacramento Canyon claims. Maps are now available. This agreement can be used for any other claims that may become available.

This agreement does not impact out 10 claim maximum. This is a win-win for the claim holders and the club.

We voted Webb Varnum for an Honorary Membership. Thank You, Webb for all that you have done and continue to do for us as a club!

Feel free to bring equipment to the meetings for a demo or show and tell. We can all use more knowledge and will always have time set aside for you. Also volunteer yourself as a speaker.

There is a lot of knowledge in our membership!
Save a pinch of gold for the tip pan.

A GOLD MINERS VACATION

Poem submitted by: Linalu Bowman

I was hanging around camp just pending my time
All dredging was banned, not earning a dime
A stranger stepped up and said,
"I suppose you're a
Gold miner from the looks of your clothes"
He figured me right.
I'm a good one, I claim
Gold nuggets and dust to my fortune and fame
I said, "I've got one."
I had lots of luck.
I thought it was pyrite until it I struck
I got all excited cause I knew what it's worth
So I picked up my sluice and went back to work,
I found more than ten and nearly went blind
In a small crevice that was hard to find
I said, "Get your gear and you'll find the same"
On the footpath we hopped and ran for the claim
We mined until evening then right before dusk
We cleaned out the sluice to see our gold dust
Down on the riffle bar lying alone was one giant
nugget. It looked like a bone its sides were all
gleaming.
It shined in the sun
Four times as big as the end of your thumb
Jagged and sharp yet thick at the tip
I knew we were rich so I picked it up quick
Into the washer, then gold pan then jar
Then back to the creek with my pick and crowbar
We panned out the mercury with glee and delight
Next came the acid and it sure was a sight
Then back to the camp for some food and some
sleep
Eat in the morning and back to the creek
We moved some big rocks and heaved a big sigh
Till' something a' shining hit me in the eye
I tripped on a rock. My foot hit my eye
I thought I was drowning. I thought I would die.
It's about the worst fall I've had in this place
All scratched and scraped from my knuckles to face
As I look at myself I knew I must go
We packed up the sluice and moved it out slow
We load up the groceries and put out the fire
And draw our last breath of mountain fresh air
I know there is gold that hasn't been found
There always will be as long as there is ground
As we cross the creek and head out the road
I know I'll return until I'm too old.

In Reference to the Map-Per: Bill Vogt- Range for MJ-13 should be R30E not R29E

**COMSTOCK GOLD
PROSPECTORS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD
MEETING**

February 25th, 2014

Jim Richards called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members Present: Jim Richards, Nadine Miller, Linalu Bowman, Justin Shaw, Ken Walls and Harley Ponsler

Motion to call meeting to order: Harley Ponsler
Second: Linalu Bowman
Meeting called to order

Members Present: Bud Miller, James Bowman, and Lisa Walls

Corrections to Minutes:

Harry Ponsler's name and information was not listed in the newsletter.

Motion to accept correction to the minutes: Ken Walls
Second: Harley Ponsler
Voted and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Nadine Miller

Motion to accept the treasurer's report:
Harley Ponsler
Second: Ken Walls
Voted and Accepted

Claims Report: Justin Shaw

Changes have been made to the leasing agreement with

Jim Allen. Agreement has been signed for Sacramento Canyon claims.

Motion to accept claims report:
Harley Ponsler
Second: Ken Walls
Voted and accepted

Membership Report:

Membership is now at 275. There are 18 lifetime memberships available.
2 members dropped. 4 added. 1 reinstalled.

Motion to accept membership report: Harley Ponsler
Second: Ken Walls
Voted and Accepted

Old Business:

None

Motion to accept old business: Ken Walls
Second: Harley Ponsler
Voted and accepted

New Business:

Bill Vogt has requested 300 copies of newsletter to take to ICMJ for handouts, will cost approximately \$200.

Spiral Wheel to be raffled at ICMJ, Ken Walls can get at cost of \$250.

The Blue Bowl will be raffled for support for Brandon Rhinehardt.

Ken Walls can get at cost for \$70.

Honor lifetime membership for Webb Varnum.

Rye Patch Nugget Shoot - would we like to donate 2 silver ounce rounds in September?

Motion to accept new business: Harley Ponsler
Second: Justin Shaw
Voted and accepted

Outings:

We need a leader. Demonstrators needed to help new people. Equipment is going to waste as it can only be used on club outings.

Motion to accept outings report: Harley Ponsler
Second: Ken Walls

Voted and passed

Motion to Adjourn the Board Meeting: Harley Ponsler
Second: Nadine Miller

Voted and approved
Board Meeting adjourn at 7:15

Minutes prepared by Linalu Bowman

<u>WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:</u>	
Daniel & Paulette Bowers,	Silver City, NV
Dan McGuigan,	Reno, NV
Tom Williams,	Placerville, CA

**COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

February 25th, 2014

Motion to call meeting to order: Al Gottsch
Second: Virginia Brown
Meeting called to order: 7:30

President Jim Richards began the meeting at 7:30 PM by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Corrections to Minutes:

None

Motion to accept minutes: Al Gottsch
Second: Virginia Brown
Voted and Accepted

Treasurer's Report: Read by Nadine Miller

Motion to accept: Al Gottsch
Second: Steve Clark
Voted and Accepted

Membership Report:

Membership is now at 275. There are 18 lifetime memberships available. 2 have dropped, 1 reinstated and 4 added.

Motion to Accept Membership Report: Al Gottsch

Second: Robert Swank

Voted and Accepted

Claims Report: Justin Shaw

Map handouts are available for Sacramento Canyon, Godrics Hollow and the Shire. Everyone is responsible for filling their own holes. No member may file any claim either load or placer on these claims.

Everyone going to these claims must fill out an assessment form.

We would like to say, "A Big Thank You to Jim Allen!"

The Placeridos: We are still waiting to see if paperwork will be done in time to validate these claims. They must file before March 21st. If they do not file we will file with the intent to claim it.

Old Business:

None

Motion to accept Old Business report: Grant Garrison
Second: Theresa Jones
Voted and accepted.

Outings:

We need a leader!!! Demonstrators are needed to help new people. Equipment is going to waste as it can only be used on club outings.

No outings scheduled at this time.

Mike Syriac found a petrified tooth, approximately 4 pounds at Rye patch.

ICMJ: Ralph Weiser will be our leader. Also attending will be Bill and Irene Vogt, Ken and Virginia Brown and a few other members, (sorry I didn't get your names).

Bill Vogt has requested 300 copies of newsletter to take to ICMJ for handouts, will cost approximately \$200.

Spiral Wheel to be raffled at ICMJ, Ken Walls can get at cost of \$250.

Blue Bowl to be raffled for support for Brandon Rhinehardt, Ken Walls can get at cost of \$70.

Motion: Grant Garrison to spend monies needed for ICMJ event
Second: Al Gottsch
Voted and accepted

Motion: by Jim Richards to give Honor lifetime membership for Webb Varnum
Second: Steve Clark
Voted and accepted

Rye Patch nugget shoot--would we like to donate 2 silver ounce rounds in September?

Motion to accept Outing Report: Al Gottsch
Second: Nadine Miller
Voted and accepted

New Business:

None

Motion to accept new business: Grant Garrison
Second: Dario Cruz
Voted and accepted

Club Notices:

Alert Facebook when you plan to make a trip to our claims. Maybe have a mini group. Please pick up your trash.

If anyone's phone number or e-mail has changed since you signed up, please let Bill Vogt aware.

If anyone would like to volunteer to bring something yummy to munch on, Please contact Bill Vogt.

Cookie sheet and some utensils were left at the Christmas party, please see Mike Maxwell.

Motion to accept club notices: Robert Swank
Second: Steve Clark
Voted and accepted

Motion to accept new business: Grant Garrison
Second: Webb Varnum
Voted and accepted

Club Notices:

Post on Facebook when you are planning on making a trip to our claims. Maybe have a mini group. Please pick up your trash.

SPEAKER: RICHARD HARRIS- 7- HORRIBLE WAYS TO SCREW UP THE SMALL MINERS EXEMPTIONS:

In 1992 Congress passed a new ruling that maintenance fees could be paid in lieu of assessment work giving the small miners an exemption.

The maintenance fees go up every 5 years from \$10 to \$25 per claim. Next year should be around \$155 per claim. This was supposed to benefit the small miner instead of having to do and file assessment work forms.

How to Get an Exemption:

1. Apply for it
2. Pay fee or file certificate
3. Record proof of labor
4. File with the BLM by December 30

Eligibility:

5. One person may only have 10 claims or sites in the entire US
6. Related party, spouse or dependent : all must qualify
7. Any person in control or is under common control must qualify
8. Filing late renders all claims void
9. Ineligible co-claimant renders claim void
10. Too many claims (more than 10) renders claim void
11. All claimants must sign waiver
12. Must have performed work for prior assessment year

Completing Assessment Work:

As per the mining laws written by William Stewart In 1872, filing and fees go from September 1st to September 1st. per claim.

Repetitive road work is questionable.
Geochemical related work cannot be performed more than (2) two years in a row or (5) five year maximum for a group of claims.

Issues of contiguity, common control and benefit (claims must touch each other). Gold production is the best proof of assessment work.

Recording Affidavit:

1. BLM regulations requires you to file exact legal reproduction affidavit of assessment work that you filed or will file in the county
2. Effect of late filing BLM will use failure to record in claim contest to show intent to file.
Must be filed by December 30th
Can be mailed if postmarked by December

30

Failure to file renders claim “absolutely void”

Conversion from Small Miners to Maintenance Fees:

1. Must close the circle on assessment cycle already begun
2. Claimant or lease must pay fees to upcoming assessment work and file with county.
3. Failure to file affidavit renders claim void on December 30
4. Deceptive: claim file looks complete

Sale of Claim to Non-Exempt Party:

1. Deed or transfer of ownership must be filed with BLM within 602 days
County records are more complete than BLM

2. Transfer destroys exemption
3. Non-exempt must pay maintenance fees
For assessment year in which exemption is lost by September 1st
Load or Placer
Load- follows vein (enclosed minerals, like a sandwich)
Placer-everything not in a load
Association - 20 acre claim. 8 people can claim 160 acres
2 years ago BLM changes to 140 acres

Attendance Drawing: Truman Allen won one ounce of silver, CONGRATS!!

Membership Drawing: Jessica Jones won 2 silver ounce rounds. Next month goes back to one.

New Members Present:

Keith Warmboe
Tom Williams
George McGee
Paulette Bowers
Daniel Bowers

George McGee won a starter piece of gold, CONGRATS!!

Guests:

Joe Costa
Carol Costa
Shirley Shilling

Thank you for attending our meeting, hope you had a good time, love to see you again.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Ken Walls
Second: Grant Garrison
Meeting adjourned: 9:15

Meeting Adjourned

Total attendance: 77
Members: 72
Guests: 5

Minutes prepared by Linalu Bowman.

We now have new clothing and accessories available for Men and Women. Stop by the table and check it out. Thank You, Debbie Morrow!!!



Presidential Appointees - Support Staff:

Membership/Chairperson & Historian: Bill Vogt - 775/747-3145
Email: wvogt@sbcglobal.net

Facebook Co-Administrator/Newsletter Editor:
Lisa Walls - 714/742-3024
Email: comstockgoldprospectors@gmail.com

Clothing Custodian:
Debbie Morrow-775-425-1727
Home/ 775-846-4388 Cell
Email: msmoosenv@yahoo.com

Equip. Custodian & Raffle Coord.
Mike Maxwell – 775/348-1620
Email: mdmbfd@att.net

Sargeant of Arms: Jim Bowman – 775-337-6100
Email: renoclutchbrake@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster and Facebook Administrator:
Leland Wong-775/ 882-5704
Email: llw1345@att.net

Board of Directors – 2013

President: Jim Richards - 775/225-2494
Email: rsmokinguns@yahoo.com

Vice President:
Justin Shaw- 702/701-1370
Email: justbcuz147@gmail.com

Secretary: Linalu Bowman - 775/337-6100
Email: renoclutchbrake@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Nadine Miller - 775/867-3550
Email: nmiller@cccomm.net

Member at Large:
Harley Ponsler - 775/673-8532
Email: HEPGEO@aol.com

Member at Large: Ken Walls- 775/846-6357
Email: eureka prospecting@gmail.com

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RAFFLE TABLE. . .

Help to pay for the meeting hall. Please remember to contribute. It does not really matter what it is. Clean out your garage. If you don't have a use for it, someone else does. Don't throw it away; put it on the table. One man's garbage is another's man's gold! Thank You!!

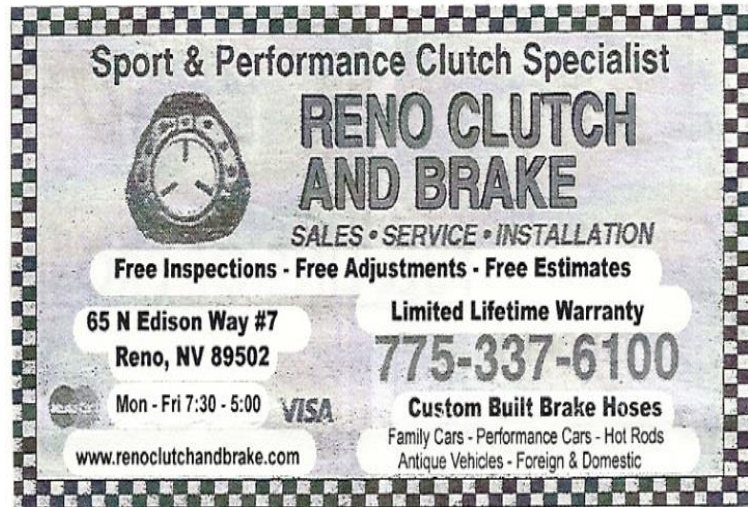
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