

# THE GOLD PAN

The Newsletter of the  
**Comstock Gold Prospectors**  
Mar. 15, 2017



## **BLACK BILLIE**

**Next Meeting: MAR. 28th, 2017**  
**UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***

(Mark your Calendars)  
Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017  
June 27, 2017

### **1 Year Gold – NYSE**

<u>03/15/2017 – Last</u>	\$1198.00
One Year High (at closing)	\$1219.00
One Year Low (at closing)	\$1196.00

### **1 Year Silver – NYSE**

<u>03/15/2017 – Last</u>	\$16.84
One Year High (at closing)	\$17.29
One Year Low (at closing)	\$16.81

#### **ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**

**Board Meeting is held at 6:30pm**

#### **General Meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month  
7:30 PM at the

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

## **PRESIDENTS LETTER:**

Spring has come and probably gone. We will be into summer abruptly this year. The rivers are still dangerous (been to the Feather and Yuba), except for the brave and or foolhardy, and some of our roads are still iffy in Nevada.

A lot of material has been moved and uncovered so all of our claims will be different than in times past, hopefully for the better.

Be prepared and research access before heading out. We have been attending meetings and following MMAC's efforts in the western states and Washington. I encourage all to go to their website for info and updates. The ICMJ is tracking the MMAC and reports in the mag the latest. Well worth the read.

Scott Harn is behind MMAC and is supporting them through the ICMJ. It has come up, that in order for us to be part of MMAC as a club we would have to form a NV LLC. This conforms to the Mining Law that states claims are filed with the BLM "for profit".

We are a "nonprofit" that does not fit the intent, though we are all there prospecting for profit. I encourage all claim holders to look at the MMAC website, and if you can, join as Gold (\$130) or Silver (\$30).

A little closer to home, it appears that the Washoe County Land Bill will be submitted without the several proposed wilderness areas (over 600,000 acres). The submitted bill will only deal with the urban component. This is what we were trying to get done in the County and it appears that some members have realized the appropriateness of this. More to follow and we recognize the efforts of Ira Hansen and Jeanne Herman on county issues.

Also, March 30 is the deadline for the comment period of the 10-million-acre Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal (Sage Grouse). This withdrawal pertains only to mining! The government has spent over \$40 million on this EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)! We as taxpayers have deep pockets?

Anyway, send an email: [sagebrush\\_withdrawals@blm.gov](mailto:sagebrush_withdrawals@blm.gov) with your name, address, phone, email address, and brief comment. I encourage us to be educated on this and other issues. Go to the websites and get educated.

It looks as though some federal departments (EPA for one) are going to lose funding and some of obama's monuments

*\*Personal Ads: Are free to Members for a maximum of three editions of The Gold Pan Newsletter!*

and Harry's land takings may have a chance of being returned to us. Can you imagine if...I will not go there? This is encouraging to us as owners and users, not abusers, of "Our" Lands.

We have picked 3 areas for exploratory outings and will be planning a Club outing to at least one or more. They are in Nevada. These will be Club Outings which means our equipment will be available for use and learning. Let us support this and be productive in our prospecting. Anyone who wants to step up and wrangler an outing, do not be bashful!

Speaking of outings, we had a panning demo at Hidden Valley School with about 60 kids! It was Great fun had by all and more in the letter about the demo. Thanks to the 9 volunteers! Pleasant Valley School will be the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Report to come. Anyway, be safe out there. Also, we need input of pros and cons of the Club going to an LLC.

Anyone with LLC info please step up. We would like to have some of us volunteers to look into this.

Also, Theresa is back from her operation with good results, Jim Allen is going into surgery to get something that was left in the first time, Dave and Nancy Terwillinger both have had recent surgery. Grant is feisty and nasty as ever! God be with those we know with medical issues...

JIM

### **Claim Assessment Form** **By Claims Committee**

A claim owner has one of two choices to make every year by September 1<sup>st</sup> to keep their claim in good standing with the BLM and the State the claim is located in. One is to pay an assessment fee for each 20 acre portion of the claim and the other is to file a waiver which states that by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September of the following year a minimum amount of assessment work will be performed and a document will be filed attesting to the work.

Failure to perform one or the other of these tasks will result in the claim being closed and then it is open for re-location by anyone else. Our club, and the claim owners we license from, opts for the waiver due to cost considerations.

Consequently, we must do a minimum amount of assessment work on all the claims we own and license every year. This is the main purpose of the assessment form members are asked to complete and submit in a timely manner anytime they go to a club owned or licensed claim. A secondary purpose of the form is to give members an opportunity to evaluate the claim so that the committee can make recommendations to the club concerning which claims should be disposed of and which should be kept on a regular basis.

Blank assessment forms can be obtained in one of three ways. Periodically a form will be included in the newsletter as it is this time. They can be picked up at regular meetings at the check-in table. And lastly, they can be obtained from the clubs website ([www.cgpgold.org](http://www.cgpgold.org)).

To get the form from the website you must have access to the member only side. This access is something all members who have access to the internet and with email accounts are encouraged to get. If you haven't already established your account please contact the Membership Chairperson to get an account established.

You have three choices for submitting the completed assessment form. For one, you can drop it off at the check-in table at a regular meeting. A second method is to mail it to the club's PO Box attention VP. And the last, and easiest if you have established your access, is to complete and submit it on-line through the club website. In order to accomplish this last method you must log on to the website. Once you are logged on, click on the menu header "Claims" (not the drop down menu "Claim Maps & Documents") and then click on the claim name in the table.

As an incentive to encourage submission of these forms the VP conducts a random drawing at a regular meeting approximately once a quarter. The winner, who doesn't have to be present, is awarded a silver round. The drawing is a random selection from the assessments received since the last drawing.

### **Hidden Valley Revisited** **By Bill Vogt**

Hidden Valley Elementary school liked the gold panning demo we did last month so much that they invited us back again this month on March 10th. This time instead of a class of 24, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, we worked with three classes of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students totaling about 65 students. This was all arranged by teacher Denise Allen who had come into our demonstration last month and thought it would be good for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students as well.

All the classes have just recently been studying about prospecting so this fit right in with what they were learning. The other teachers involved were Rachele Carno and Scott Wendt. In addition, due to the fact that there was a hearing impaired student in one of the classes, we were joined by Interpreter Michon Carruth. Michon stood beside Wyatt Erd, our panner, and signed what Wyatt was saying to the student. Sometime during our presentation we were also joined by the school Principal, Robin Olson, who even tried her hand at panning.

Fortunately for us, we only had to set up our equipment once. As soon as we were set up one class of students was brought into the room. Jim Richards and Wade Lavery presented a short talk about the club, prospecting, and what we were going to be doing that day. Then six students manned the tubs with six more behind them listening to what the first student was being told. This was repeated until all students, and some teachers, had learned how to pan for gold and walked away with small plastic bags containing bb's, iron pyrite, and a few flakes of gold.

The students were then led out and the next class was brought in and the process was repeated. This was done a total of three times with approximately 40 minutes spent with each class. This cadence was broken only slightly during Jim's and Wade's presentation to the second class when the fire alarm went off. We then got to participate, along with all the students and teachers, in a fire drill. Fortunately the weather was nice that day as we all stood out in the school yard waiting for the drill to end which it did in a very orderly manner.

Our panners for this event were Wyatt Erd, Fred Leissler, Ken Mela, Harley Ponsler, Sherm Tresca, and Keith Wilson. I got to take pictures and talk to the students and teachers. I also helped Jim Richards keep the panners supplied with freshly filled pans and baggies. Wade Lavery stayed busy filling the pans with gold, BB's, iron pyrite, and dirt.

Some of the pictures of this event and the previous Hidden Valley demo are now posted on our web site. Eventually all of the pictures will be available for viewing at the Historian table during regular meetings.

#### **Call to Order:**

Jim Richards began the Board Meeting at 6:30pm.

#### **Board Members Present:**

Jim Richards, Justin Shaw, Nadine Miller and Wade Lavery. Member at Large: Harley Ponsler present.

#### **Board Members Not Present:**

Member at Large: Tim Bartlett.

#### **Claims Committee at Board Meeting:**

Chairman Mr. Shaw, with fellow Board Members Mr. Richards and Mr. Lavery and Member at Large: Mr. Ponsler present.

**Support Staff on-site:** Membership/Chairperson & Historian: Bill Vogt, Sergeant of Arms: Al Gottsch, Clothing Custodian: Teresa Jones and Equipment Custodian/Raffle Coordinator: Mike Maxwell.

**Support Staff not on-site:** Outings Chairperson: Nancy Terwilliger and Webmaster: Dave Terwilliger.

#### **Correction to Minutes:**

See General Meeting Minutes.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

See General Meeting Minutes.

#### **Membership's Report:**

See General Meeting Minutes.

**Claims Report:** See General Meeting Minutes.

#### **Old Business Report:**

See General Meeting Minutes.

**New Business Report:** None

**Outings Report:** See General Meeting Minutes.

#### **Report on Club Notices:**

See General Meeting Minutes.

**Motion to accept the Board Meeting Minutes:  
Board Member, Second: Board Member.  
Voted and accepted by the attending Board Members.**

**Adjournment:** Jim Richards announced at 6:56pm.

### **COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 28TH, 2017**

**Call to Order:** Jim Richards began the General Meeting at 7:30pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** President Jim Richards began the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board Members Present:** Jim Richards, Justin Shaw, Nadine Miller and Wade Lavery. Member at Large: Harley Ponsler present.

#### **Board Members Not Present:**

Member at Large: Tim Bartlett.

**Support Staff on-site:** Membership/Chairperson & Historian: Bill Vogt, Sergeant of Arms: Al Gottsch, Clothing Custodian: Teresa Jones and Equipment Custodian/Raffle Coordinator: Mike Maxwell.

**Support Staff not on-site:** Outings Chairperson: Nancy Terwilliger and Clothing Custodian: Teresa Jones.

**Correction to Minutes:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** Read by Treasurer Nadine Miller.

**Membership's Report:** Current membership is 324. Number of Life Memberships available is 14. Activity since last report as follows; Members dropped 6 with new Memberships added 3.

**Claims Report:**

Membership was informed that January's high flows have receded somewhat at the Yuba River and Feather River claims. Claims that are accessible are being assessed for the need of replacement claim markers.

We are looking ahead in the next few months for Members to assist our very own Bill Vogt in that task. Please remember Bill and his "Merry Band" of volunteers keeps us LEGAL while we enjoy prospecting.

Looking at Nevada, the Board and Claims committee has approved an outing either Memorial Day weekend or July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Stay tuned!

Claims committee is once again running through possibilities of Nevada sites near Reno; 4 locations (inside 50 miles) and 3 locations (inside 150 miles). If the committee votes to ask our general membership to explore and evaluate a particular site we are not releasing our Club's intent to file.

Report back to the Claims Committee if you experienced success and the Club could consider pursuing that site for claiming for all Club members.

We will announce our release of said site for individuals to privately claim an investigated site during a meeting. This is Club etiquette.

Again, so many of our claims (owned & licensed) are in the Sierra County Mining District which we have members involved looking to developments. Another organization, Land Matters

(<http://www.mylandmatters.org>), is a non-profit group that is doing some very interesting services that can educate our members who want to be more informed and proactive in all aspects of prospecting.

Then you have MMAC (<http://www.mineralsandminingadvisorycouncil.org>) with their stated mission briefly stated as "The Council's mission is; 1: Bring together all the groups and organizations that are fighting for the same thing. 2: Organize, modernize, institute and unify all Nation-Wide Mining Districts. 3: Minerals and Mining to be recognized as Federal Mineral Grantees and Federal Public Land Stakeholders. 4: To recognize the Federal Mining Districts".

A lot of reading, but having knowledge is power and protects your prospecting rights in participating. Warning, ask about road conditions at all claims to avoid a cancelled trip. There are quite a few hardy souls that are not stopped by a little mud or snow or rain, consult them before the Meeting starts.

**Old Business Report:** None.

**New Business Report:** Follow online the PLP involvement in CA and Western US. Public Lands bills are being stalled in U.S. Congress at this time. Our Secretary has joined MMAC as an individual to pass on developments that our Club may want to know about.

**Outings Report:**

First time success has provided us a new invite. We are doing a second panning demo for Hidden Valley Elementary to be scheduled soon.

We are pleased that Pleasant Valley Elementary School has once again asked for our panning demo for March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Report on Club Notices:** None.

**Guest Speakers:** Following last newsletter article "Genesis of Mineral Deposits" by D.W. Varnum, Geologist he gave a slide and oral presentation on the History of Equipment and Machinery at the Comstock Lode 1850 – 1920.

I believe he will be back to continue this presentation as there was some technical difficulties with equipment he used which limited the length and detail of his presentation that evening. Our attending membership was thankful and appreciative of his presentation.

### Club Wear and Club Merchandise:

Call for details and place your order. Clothing Custodian: Teresa Jones, Home 775/870-9113 between 3pm to 8pm, please leave voice mail with name, phone number and subject.

Teresa's Email: [teresajones5930@sbcglobal.net](mailto:teresajones5930@sbcglobal.net)



### Looking For Outing Partner(s):

Please use our Website, The Prospecting Contact List is available for members who wish to get together. Sign up if you are going out or if you want to go out. Let us know what you want to do: panning, sniping or sluicing.

### CGPC Quarterly Assessment Drawing:

Due today, only two assessments submitted. Therefore, Club President declared they should be carried over to February's meeting.

**Guest Recognition:** None

**New Members Present:** Welcome to Mr. Baltasar Martinez tonight.

**New Members Drawing:** Congratulations to Mr. Baltasar Martinez, presented with gold specimens in magnifying box.

**Attendance Drawing:** (ticket(s) supplied at sign-in table): In attendance CGPC's Dennis Taylor ticket number was called for a silver ounce round! Come to our next meeting on Tuesday March 28TH, 2017 for the next silver ounce round to be awarded!

### Membership Drawing for seven Silver (ounce)

#### Rounds:

CGPC's members drawn;

- Robert Fainelli of San Rafael, CA (>50 mi., pick again)
- Cheryl & Kevin Ness of Susanville, CA (>50 mi., pick again)
- Nancy & David Terwilliger of Silver Springs, NV (<50 mi., ending pick)

Sorry, all selected were not here tonight. Next meeting on Tuesday **March 28TH, 2017** there are eight Silver (ounce) rounds to be awarded. A random number generator is used to select a possible winner from our Membership Roster and your chance to be picked is always a possibility.

Thank you for attending our meeting, hope you had a good time, your participation to be informed and also share your experiences is key to an active club such as ours, continue to see you again!

**Total attendance: 56**

**Members: 56**

**Guests: None**

**Motion to accept the Club Meeting Minutes and adjourn meeting: Club Member, Second: club Member. Voted and accepted by the attending Club Members.**

Adjournment: Jim Richards announced at 8:37pm.

**FOR SALE:**

**Grant Garrison**

**2003 Monterey Elite**

**Tent Trailer \$7,450.00 CASH**

This tent trailer has been used a total of 5 or 6 times. There are a lot of things in the tent trailer that are still new in package.

Two king size beds and a Queen Size bed. Tent trailer sleeps eight, has a refrigerator heater in the toilet.

Also, it has an outside shower, and two awnings on the trailer and the dining room table slides out, it also is automatic remote controller is the tent trailer and the two king size beds.

Two other items on the tent trailer is it has a solar panel on the top and then also it has the air conditioner water cooler.



- 1) MXT whites detector with headphones/ 9 1/2 inch coil/ and a carrying bag \$ 750 cash.
- 2) Brand new Keene desert fox gold wheel for sale I tested once. \$400 cash. Club members only 10% discount on the gold wheel.
- 3) 6 inch gold coil brand-new fits the whites MXT never been used for \$130 cash.

Call 775-359-9238 or cell 775-846-7987  
Ask for Grant Garrison



**NEW MEMBERS:**

Kathy & Michael Williams, Downieville, CA  
Beth & Mike Ronkovich, Cameron Park, CA  
Steven Link, Reno, NV  
Baltasar Martinez, Reno, NV  
Al Harris, Chico, CA  
Kimberly & Richard Martin, Fontana, CA

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS-2017**

President: Jim Richards - 775/225-2494

Email: [rsmokinguns@yahoo.com](mailto:rsmokinguns@yahoo.com)

Vice President:

Justin Shaw- 775/409-8560

Email: [jshaw@openmailbox.org](mailto:jshaw@openmailbox.org)

Secretary: Wade Lavery – 775/384-1668

(home)

Cell-650/823-8658

Email: [wadelavery@yahoo.com](mailto:wadelavery@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Nadine Miller - 775/867-3550

Email: [nmiller@ccomm.net](mailto:nmiller@ccomm.net)

Member at Large:

Harley Ponsler - 775/673-8532

Email: [HEPGEO@att.net](mailto:HEPGEO@att.net)

Member at Large: Tim Bartlett

Cell- 775/971-3202

**PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES-  
SUPPORT STAFF- 2017**

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Vogt - 775/747-3145

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Raffle Coordinator:  
Mike Maxwell – 775/686-9019  
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Sergeant of Arms:  
Al Gottsch – 775/538-7316  
Email: [bodop72@gmail.com](mailto:bodop72@gmail.com)

David Terwilliger-home-775/ 241-0186

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Outings Chairperson:

Nancy Terwilliger 775/530-8284 cell

Email: [naterwilliger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:naterwilliger@sbcglobal.net)

**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!!

Mike Maxwell  
Comstock Gold Prospectors  
O Box 20781  
Reno NV 89515-0781  
Web site: <http://www.cgpgold.org>

**TO PLACE OR RENEW  
A BUSINESS AD:**

**SEND A CHECK TO:**

**COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS**

C/O Editor P.O. Box 20781 Reno, NV. 89515-0781  
Include your ad layout, and your phone number or email address.

Half Page Ad: \$25.00 per month  
Quarter Page Ad: \$12.50 per month  
Full Page Ad: \$50.00 per month

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