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**Next Meeting February 24,  
2026**

All members Welcome

# The Gold Pan

January 2026 Issue

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## The Newsletter of the Comstock Gold Prospectors



## President's Letter

### **GEORGE EGLINGER – PRESIDENT**

*Comstock Gold Prospectors Club*

Welcome to 2026—may this be our most golden year yet! With gold prices holding strong (hovering well above recent highs and exciting everyone in the prospecting world), there's no better time to gear up, hit the claims, and enjoy what we love most: chasing that yellow metal responsibly.

Our January general meeting on the 27th was a great kickoff to the year! A solid turnout, lively discussions, and plenty of enthusiasm for upcoming outings. We heard updates on our club claims in Nevada and California—some fresh maintenance work is underway, and the board is planning more member-access events soon. If you haven't visited one lately, now's the time—our claims are there for you to enjoy!

A quick reminder on the importance of staying protected: If you're planning any motorized prospecting, dredging, or work on public lands, **Public Lands for the People (PLP)** membership is still the #1

recommendation from our experienced members. Join at [www.publiclandsforthepeople.org](http://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org) for guideline cards, printable docs to carry on-site, and vital legal support. It's proven to make a real difference when questions arise from authorities.

### **Quick Tips to Start the Season Strong**

- **Gear check:** Inspect hoses, nozzles, pumps, and classifiers before heading out—small fixes now prevent big headaches later.
- **Safety basics:** Buddy system always, especially in remote areas. Carry extra water, first-aid, and know your weather forecast—Nevada winters can surprise!
- **Responsible prospecting:** Follow Leave No Trace principles—pack out trash, refill holes, avoid disturbing banks or vegetation. Our club prides itself on being stewards of the land.
- **Fine gold focus:** Experiment with classifiers and better matting setups in your sluice or highbanker—many members report better recovery this way.
- **Outings prep:** Watch for sign-ups on upcoming trips—board members are organizing visits to existing claims and scouting potential new ones.

If you have ideas for speakers, outings, demos, or ways to grow the club, bring them to the next meeting or email the board—we thrive on member input!

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 7:30 PM** (board at 6:30 PM) All members welcome—hope to see you there for more updates, fellowship, and maybe even a raffle surprise or two.

*-George Eglinger*

## **January Guest Speaker**

**Manuel Figueiredo** will give a short presentation regarding his recent experiences with “Reclamation Dredging”. This includes his organized paper work, signage on his dredge, proper PLP documentation, recent successful encounter with two California Fish and Game officials, etc...

### **More To Be Announced....**

*\*\*Please feel welcome to volunteer to be our guest speaker if you have some useful information for the club; we will also take any suggestions or ideas for additional speakers.*

## A Few More Practical Tips for Reclamation Dredging

Here are some additional pointers to help you get started safely and effectively (building on Manuel's excellent advice):

- **Always prioritize safety first:** Wear a full wetsuit, dive mask, snorkel, and gloves. Dredging often involves cold water and uneven riverbeds—laying down or kneeling while working is usually more comfortable and reduces strain than bending over all day. Keep an eye on your air supply if using surface-supplied air, and never dredge alone.
  - **Choose the right nozzle and technique:** Use a blaster nozzle (or "suction nozzle") for breaking up hardpack, clay, or compacted gravel—it's much more efficient than a standard open nozzle. Work material by hand first: Remove oversized or problematic rocks (long, sharp, or flat ones near the intake size) to prevent clogs. Avoid overloading the hose by feeding material steadily rather than plunging in aggressively.
  - **Minimize environmental impact and maximize reclamation benefits:** Focus on areas with known historical pollution (e.g., old mining sites). Tailings should naturally refill the hole as you move upstream—level them out to avoid creating unstable pits. Stay within the wetted perimeter of the stream, avoid disturbing stream banks, undercutting trees, or digging into vegetated areas. This approach helps remove heavy metals like mercury while restoring habitat.
  - **Equipment maintenance tips:** Don't run your dredge motor without an air filter—dust can damage it quickly. Use ribbed matting under miner's moss in your sluice box for better fine gold capture. Check hoses, fittings, and prime regularly to avoid plugs or blowouts.
  - **Legal and permitting reminders:** Even with PLP backing, verify local Nevada rules (contact Nevada Department of Wildlife for dredging permits if needed). Document everything—carry your PLP cards, membership proof, and any site-specific notes. Reclamation dredging is about demonstrating responsible use, so transparency goes a long way.
- .....

# Juli's Tidbit

Tuesday, January 27, was a great meeting. We had close to 60 people in attendance, including 2 new memberships and several guests. I enjoyed talking to members and meeting new friends. Our next opportunity to volunteer will be Sunday, April 26 10am-1pm. This will be for Farm Day at Rancho San Rafael Park.

There will be a sign-up sheet at our next 2 meetings. The board members are continuing to plan the GREAT DOWNIEVILLE GOLD DAYS. This will be held September 17-20. Thursday, September 17th will be the day for set-up and Sunday, September 20th will be for clean-up. It is not too early to start planning for this exciting event and book your accommodations. January's meeting had a surprise speaker. Well, not a real surprise. Manuel Figueiredo was scheduled to speak in November on Reclamation Dredging. Due to an unfortunate situation, he had to cancel. Manuel became available at the last minute. His information was very informative and extremely helpful, especially if you want to get back to dredging, UMM cleaning the river of pollutants called Reclamation Dredging. The #1 and most crucial advice is to join PLP, Public Lands for the People. After you join, they will send you several cards that will have all the guidelines and resources to print the documentation needed to present to authorities when asked. PLP will also provide legal backing if the authorities want to take it too far. Manuel gave several examples that you must have the backing of PLP. The only way to get backing is to join at [www.publiclandsforthepeople.org](http://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org). Next meeting is Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:30

# Outings

Sunday, April 26 10am-1pm Farm Day at Rancho San Rafael Park.

GREAT DOWNIEVILLE GOLD DAYS September 17-20. Thursday, September 17th will be the day for set-up and Sunday, September 20th will be for clean-up

# Classifieds



The logo for Downieville River Inn features a circular emblem with a mountain, trees, and a cabin. The text around the emblem reads "Bike. Hike. Fish. Swim. Relax". Below the emblem, the text reads "Downieville River Inn", "www.downievilleinn.com", and "(530) 289-3308". The background of the advertisement is a watercolor-style illustration of a resort building with a sign that says "RESORT". At the bottom of the illustration, it says "The One With The Pool".

Downieville River Inn  
Welcomes  
Comstock  
Gold  
Members  
10% Discount  
October thru April  
121 RIVER STREET,  
DOWNIEVILLE, CA  
reservations@downievilleinn.com

## Welcome to Mountain View Café at Log Cabin

**64 E Sierra Avenue Portola, CA 96122**

**Come check us out for some tasty warm food during your gold exploring in the area. Comstock Members Welcomed and encouraged to stop in!**





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**Need Help Finding a Claim?**  
**Rick Solinskey**  
**Mining Claims Researcher**  
**Sierra County Historical Society Volunteer**  
**530.277.9838**  
**ricksolinskey@gmail.com**

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## General Meeting Agenda:

January 2026

Meeting Called to order: 7:30pm by: President Jeffrey Benik

Correction to minutes: No Corrections

### **Membership Report:**

Total Members: 283

145 Individual/ 118 Family

### **Claims Report:**

Claims Committee Meeting: Meets Monday at 11:30am Denny's / Reach out to VP Ray Bratt for questions.

### **Old Business:**

Updated claims information

### **New Business:**

Outings and Events

### **Outings Report:**

Farm Days

Great Downieville Gold Days

## Board of Directors-2026

Postion:	Name	Phone Number	Email Address
President	George Eglinger	775.722.8554	President@cgpgold.org
Vice President	Ray Bratt		<a href="mailto:vbratt@att.net">vbratt@att.net</a>
Secretary	Juli Zamocana	707.758.5297	jamazama@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jim Richards	775.225.2494	Treasurer@cgpgold.org
Membership/Chairperson	Jeffrey Benik	775.250.4188	Jbc4lf@charter.net
Member At Large	Hamilton Reed	775.841.1294	AtLarge2@cgpgold.org
Member at Large	Keith Wilson	775.450.5723	AtLarge1@cgpgold.org

## Appointees

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Christmas Party Chairperson	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Claims/Chairperson	Ray Bratt		<a href="mailto:vbratt@att.net">vbratt@att.net</a>
Clothing Custodian	Hamilton Reed	775.841.1294	Clothing@cgpgold.org
Equipment Custodian	Grant Garrison	775.359.9238	Equipment@cgpgold.org
Gold Pan Editor	Rachelle Cranney	775.846.8372	rachelle.neilsen@gmail.com
Historian	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Outings Chairperson	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Raffle Custodian	Keith Wilson	775.450.5723	Raffle@cgpgold.org
Sergant of Arms	Jeffrey Benik	775.250.4188	
Web Administrator	Justin Shaw	775.409.8560	<a href="mailto:jshaw@disroot.org">jshaw@disroot.org</a>
Webmaster	Justin Shaw	775.409.8560	<a href="mailto:jshaw@disroot.org">jshaw@disroot.org</a>

**Please reach out to the board if you are interested in Volunteering!**

**\*\*All "Gold Pan" submissions are due 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month\*\***