

MAY 2026 ISSUE

# COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS

The monthly newsletter of the Comstock Gold Prospectors



## Presidents Letter

Spring has finally unlocked the high country, and the creeks are running strong with fresh melt from the mountain ranges. We had an incredible turnout for the April meeting!

Huge thank you to Jeffrey Benik for his incredible organizational skills and conducting the meeting in my absence. Also, a huge thank you to Austin Metz, there was fantastic feedback on your presentation, and we appreciate all the time dedicated to sharing your work with our fellow prospectors.

We have some excellent upcoming speakers for our club meetings that will be of resource to all members!

May speaker, Chris Ralph is always filled with lucrative information for all prospectors. Our next meeting in MAY IS A MUST ATTEND for any dedicated prospector.

Happy Prospecting and Hope to see you all at the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting ---George

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**Board of  
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**Meetings held 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday of the Month**

**Next Meeting  
May 26<sup>th</sup> 2026**

# CALANDER OF EVENTS

Upcoming Club Meetings, Club Events, Member Events and Outings

## Planning Ahead

Mark your Calendars for the upcoming Meetings

Month	Monthly Claims Committee meeting	Monthly Club Meeting	Outings and Events
May	May 11 <sup>th</sup>	May 26 <sup>th</sup>	
June	June 9 <sup>th</sup>	June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	June 6th Panning Demo Carson Valley Museum 11-2 Gardnerville
July	July 13 <sup>th</sup>	July 28 <sup>th</sup>	

## April Guest Speaker

April Guest Speaker was Austin Metz "Nevada Expeditions"



# May Guest Speaker



## Chris Ralph

*He is a well-known professional prospector, author, and educator in Geology and Gold Prospecting*

## Guest Speakers

## Upcoming Guest Speakers

*New Speakers Welcome*

## June Guest Speaker

**Tru Hubbard**  
**Urban Wildlife Education**  
**Coordinator**  
**Conservation Education**

Phone: (775) 688-1501

Email: [tru.hubbard@ndow.org](mailto:tru.hubbard@ndow.org)

*Nevada Department of Wildlife*  
*1100 Valley Road, Reno NV 98512*

*Support Nevada's Wildlife... buy a*  
*Hunting & Fishing license!*



# *Juli's Tidbits*



Happy Mother's Day to all the treasure hunting mothers we have in the club. While I was out this last meeting, the club news didn't pass me up! April meeting was educational with Austin Metz teaching us about the history of the toll roads throughout Nevada, maps of the railways throughout the state and various historical events that took place due to the passage ways across Nevada. We had 3 new members at the meeting that was entered into the Silver round. The lucky winner that took home the silver round was Bruce Bowman.

I'm not sure if its for the word on the trails or high gold prices but our memberships continue to climb and by the end of the month we were brought to 373 total members. Although George was not able to make the meeting Jeffrey Benik didn't miss a beat.

Volunteers is how allthings are possible and we are able keep such low membership fees. We have had several inquiries regarding outings, and the Outing Chair position is still open! Anyone who like to volunteer for that position please come and let a board member know. In the meantime, please feel welcome to create an outing, send it myself. I'll send out an email to invite the whole club.

May you find your pans full gold and enjoy our claims.  
We will see you on May 26<sup>th</sup>!

# Club Outings



1479 U.S. Hwy  
395 N,  
Gardnerville, NV  
89410

**\*\*\* June 6th the club will be the featured demo club at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center in Gardnerville \*\*\***  
**11am- 2pm**

Later in the Year we have  
Downieville Gold Rush Days.

Get your rooms reserved,  
campsites booked and  
calanders marked for this fun  
filled weekend for the  
Comstock Gold Prospectors

*This is the time  
network, build  
friendships and enjoy  
your fellow  
clubmembers and the  
club*

DOWNIEVILLE  
GOLD RUSH DAYS  
PRESENTED BY:  
COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS - RENO, NV

**Downieville  
Gold Rush Days 2026**  
September 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>

Presenting Sponsor: COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS - RENO NV

**3 Days of Wild West History and Fun!**



# Additional Club News

Need a refresher course on Gold panning? How about a newbie to the Gold Prospectors and still learning how to find your yellow treasure? Offered at TMCC link provided below  
Class on Gold Panning in the Mother Lode.  
In person classroom and fieldtrip hands on learning offered at TMCC from Ken Mela



## *TMCC EPIC Summer 2026 Course Guide*

*He made us laugh, lifted our spirits, and never missed a chance to bring a little joy into the room.* ♥

WITH FULL HEARTS,  
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN  
*celebrating the life of*

### **RAYMOND W. BRATT JR.** ♥

A beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend—and an overall amazing man whose humor and warmth touched so many.

**DATE:**  
May 16, 2026

**TIME:**  
1:00–3:00 PM

**LOCATION:**  
Bartley Ranch Schoolhouse

*This will be a gathering filled with stories, laughter, and love—just the way he would have wanted it.* ♥

**DRESS CODE:**  
Please wear **yellow, blue, or both** in honor of his love for Sweden and the heritage that meant so much to him.

Lunch will be served, catered by one of his favorite places.

*Your presence would mean so much as we celebrate his life and the joy he brought to all of us.* ♥

*With love.* ♥  
— THE FAMILY —

## **With Heavy Hearts We celebrate Ray Bratt Jr.**

*May 16<sup>th</sup> there is a celebration  
of life  
in his honor at Bartley Ranch  
School House*

*He was an essential part of our  
club and touched many of us here  
in the Comstock Gold  
Prospectors.*

*His family has opened invitation  
to our prospectors for his services  
for anyone that would like to  
attend and support the Bratt  
family.*

## **Member Recognition:**

This month member recognition goes to Jeffrey Benik. He is always showing up in every way for our prospectors. Membership chair, led the April meeting and consistently offering unwavering resources to our members.

Thank you for your perpetual dedication!



## **April Meeting**

*April was an excellent turnout for the Comstock Monthly Meeting! Ken Mela once again won the attendee Silver Round. (Lucky AGAIN)*

*3 New Members in for the Silver Round  
New Member Drawing with the winner being Bruce Bowman!*



## **New Members Pictured:**

**George Forbes  
Bruce Bowman  
Diana Forbes**



# Classifieds



**Item For Sale by Club Member:  
Asking \$2,000 obo**

**Ph: 831.588.3866  
Email:  
jstherlin3@gmail.com**

**Wheel is close to 2',  
sits on rectangular casing that is about 3'X1'**

**Willing to Pallet Ship  
at buyers expense**

**James Sutherlin  
in the beautiful area  
of Santa Cruz, CA**

## Our Commercial Partners

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Licensed in Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Arizona

**Downieville River Inn Welcomes**

**Comstock Gold Members**

**10% Discount October thru April**

**121 RIVER STREET, DOWNIEVILLE, CA**

[reservations@downievilleinn.com](mailto:reservations@downievilleinn.com)

**The One With The Pool**

*Continued Meeting Agenda:*

***Continued New Business: (Sign up Sheet at Front Table for the Panning Demo for Family Days at the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center on June 6th 11:00 am to 2:00 pm) (Sutro Tunnell Renovation Project is Underway in Dayton, NV)***

***(2 tours per month, \$35.00 per person, \$25.00 for seniors age 62 +, Tour lasts from 1.5 to 2.5 hours, I am going on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am***

### ***Outings and Events***

***June 6th Carson Valley Panning Demo  
Downieville Gold Rush Days Sept. 18-20th***

***IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN OUTING EVENT! PLEASE START ORGANIZING AN EVENT. ( Share the event so we can post it on the website and tell others) WE STILL HAVE AN OPEN POSITION FOR THE OUTINGS CHAIR PERSON.***

# General Meeting Agenda

**April 2026**

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

**Correction to minutes: No Corrections**

**Membership Report:**

**Total Members: 421**

**New Member: (85% from 03/31/2026, 261 memberships, 373 total members)**

**Claims Report:**

**Claims Committee Meeting: Meets Monday at 11:30am Denny's / Reach out to George or Rachelle for questions: (24 Total Claims, 18 are wet claims in Northern Ca, 6 are dry claims in Northern NV, Jahmach and Ken Bennett are pan and shovel only) PLEASE submit work assessment forms online or via mail.**

**Old Business: (panning demo for Farm Days at San Rafael Park this past Sunday went well, over 100 kids participated, Huge Thank You to our Volunteers – Hamilton Reed, Lorraine Schenk, Harley Ponsler, Randy Watkins, George Eglinger and Jeffrey Benik)**

**New Business:**

**(Newsletter in Folder on Table)**

**( PLP March 2026 Newsletter in Folder on Table / article about upcoming Downieville Gold Rush Days)**

**(Downieville Lodging Accommodations Sheet in Folder on Table – Lists every Hotel, Motel, Cabins and Campgrounds with contact info.in the vicinity of Downieville)**

**(Regarding the upcoming Downieville Gold Rush Days, Our President requests a Vote to give member who volunteers for the event \$25.00 per day each day they volunteer (already approved by claims committee, Voted in YES at meeting)**

# **2026 Elected Officers and Board Members by Wade Lavery • 03/14/2026**

## **2026 Elected Officers and Board Members:**

President: George Eglinger – 775.722.8554 Email: President@cgpgold.org

Vice President, ACTING:Rachelle Cranney – with support from George Eglinger

Secretary: Julianne Zamacona – 707.758.5297 Email: Secretary@cgpgold.org

Treasurer: Jim Richards – 775.225.2494 Email: Treasurer@cgpgold.org

Membership: Jeffrey Benik – 775.250.4188 Email: Membership@cgpgold.org

At Large Member(2): Hamilton Reed – 775.841.1294 Email: AtLarge2@cgpgold.org

At Large Member(1): Keith Wilson – 775.450.5723 Email: AtLarge1@cgpgold.org

2026 Presidential Appointees – Committee Chairs, Support Staff & Volunteers:

Christmas Party/Chairperson: OPEN Email: OPEN

Claims/Chairperson: OPEN Email: OPEN

Clothing Custodian: Hamilton Reed – 775.841.1294 Email: Clothing@cgpgold.org

Equipment Custodian: Grant Garrison – 775.359.9238 Email: Equipment@cgpgold.org

Gold Pan Editor: Rachelle Cranney – 775.846.8372 Email: rachelle.neilsen@gmail.com

Historian: OPEN Email: OPEN

Outings: OPEN Email: OPEN

Raffle Custodian: Keith Wilson – 775.450.5723 Email: Raffle@cgpgold.org

Sgt. at Arms: Jeffrey Benik – 775.250.4188

Web Administrator: Justin Shaw – 775.409.8560 Email: j.shaw@disroot.org

Web Master: Justin Shaw – 775.409.8560 Email: j.shaw@disroot.org