

THE ORANGE COUNTY FORTY-NINERS

GOLDEN AURA

May 2010

Volume: XXVIII Number: V



**DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING IS
May 18th, 2010**

**Our Next Outing is at Duiesenbergl
May 28th-31st, 2010**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

When: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:30 pm

Where: Garden Grove Woman's Club
9501 Chapman Avenue
Garden Grove, California 92841
(Corner of Chapman and Gilbert)

**Check us out on the Internet
at
www.oc49ers.com**



CLUB OUTINGS

Regular scheduled outings take place the last full weekend of the month. "Regular" Club outings in November, December and January are scheduled around the Holidays and/or inclement weather.

The PRESIDENT'S MINUTE

I hoped to see many of you at the 49ers' annual **May Outing** over the Memorial Day weekend. This is our largest Outing of the year, and is always very well attended. In years past, there have been several occasions when we have had over one hundred Members, their family and friends in attendance. We will start the weekend off Friday night with our annual **chili cook-off**. I do believe last year we had 9 contestants, all vying to win the coveted award, an engraved copper gold pan. Andrea Ayers' chili was voted last year's winner, and she will be receiving her award at this year's event. We are always in need of more entries, so go steal grandma's secret recipe or copy one from the newspaper and enter the cook-off and enjoy the fun. Hint... chilies that are extremely hot have not fared well in this contest, so consider your self warned as you prepare your secret concoction of meat, beans and spices. Saturday we will have our potluck followed by the drawing for the gold nuggets. This year, we have added something new to the agenda, an auction. The auction will take place prior to the Potluck at 5:00 desert time. The Wagon Master has the details later in this edition of the Aura. And finally, don't forget all the free gold that is available on any of our eight claims in the vicinity, all you have to do is just bend over and pick it up, more-or-less, and, as a Member, it's yours for the taking.

A reminder: There is a no alcohol policy at the LDMA Clubhouse.

April Outing: The Outing was scheduled for Puppy Feet. We had about twenty Members in attendance for the April Outing all prospecting the various claims we have in that region. I believe we only had 6 or so Members camping at Puppy Feet, the rest either coming for the day or staying some place else. As for me, I chose to enjoy the refined comforts of the "Holiday Inn" designed by Skipper, or as some know it, as his storage trailer at LDMA. The weather was great, the ground is starting to dry out, and everyone I spoke with found some gold, but nothing to shout "eureka" or jump up-and-down about. Still, everyone seemed to enjoy their time in the desert and all it's glory.

Desert Time: I have been asked what is "desert time" as I use that nomenclature when describing different events that the Club is having. Simply, it is a term I made up. When we schedule something for 6 PM "Desert Time" it means it may happen at 5:50 PM, but it is more likely to start around 6:30 PM. For some of our events, there are too many variables that can cause a delay, the weather, the set up, too much gold being found, or just waiting for the coals to get hot. You just have to relax, take it easy, and go with the flow. This will

keep everyone's blood pressure at an acceptable level, and it is a good time to listen to all the "tall tails" being told by Members who are full of "tall tails."

Speaker for last month: Scott Reynolds of Pedersen's Metal Detecting did a great job of entertaining us at the April meeting. He brought a small, portable trommel for "show & tell" that fascinated every one, as it could be described as "cute and compact." A number of questions were raised, such as, what is the production capability, and how much water does it need to operate for a day. Those questions and more should be answered at the May Outing, as Scott will be bringing the trommel. We will then have a chance to experience the trommel in action, and hopefully, our questions will be answered.

Speaker for May: We will show a video of Huel Houser on location at Randsburg.

HMC1, HMC2 and Amazing Grace: For **New Members** or those who have joined since **June of 2009**, as you may or may not know, the area West of Red Mountain has been named a "sensitive" area for turtles. In theory, the BLM does not want anyone in or around in that area, but as miners we have the right to work our claims. Do carry the copy of the BLM letter that you received when you joined the 49ers. If a ranger should ask, why you are here, or states that you cannot be here, this letter acknowledges your rights as a miner to access our/your claim(s) and work them. Do note, that this letter is valid for our claims only, and not the surrounding area. Since you are given the right to prospect on the claims, please understand that you cannot be chasing butterflies, photographing lizards, or picking daisy as this letter only gives you the right to occupy the claim while you are prospecting.

Aura: The Board of Directors has made a decision to not print the Aura in the month of July. We will do our best to supply all the pertinent information in the June edition of the Aura. If there is any news worthy information or updates, they will be posted on our Web page or you may contact any of the Board Members.

Hope to see you in the desert over Memorial Day weekend.

Happy Prospecting

Steve

The TREASURE'S REPORT

April 2010

INCOME:

50-50 Income.....	\$ 39.00
Club Merchandise.....	63.00
May Outing Tickets.....	930.00
Membership Renewal.....	220.00
New Membership.....	210.00
Raffle Income.....	310.00
Refreshments Income.....	6.00
Miscellaneous.....	105.82
Add Checks Back.....	0.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$ 1,883.82

EXPENSES:

May Outing.....	\$ 0.00
Merchandise.....	0.00
Miscellaneous.....(GOLD)	3,124.54
Newsletters.....	446.68
Postage.....	26.04
Porta Potties.....	211.64
Raffle Prizes.....	143.84
Referrals.....	10.00
Refreshments.....	9.80
Rent.....	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$ 4,072.54

CHECKING ACCOUNT

3/31/2010	Beginning Balance.....	9,057.27	
4/30/2010	Ending Balance.....	7,698.87	
8	Outstanding Checks.....	830.32	
CHECK BOOK BALANCE.....		6,868.55	\$ 6,868.55

CERT DEP

00/00	CD Balance.....	2,336.39
	CD Statements are sent Quarterly	

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS.....\$ 9,204.94

TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE.....\$ 6,971.34

TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE.....\$ 8,754.97\$ (1,783.63)

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by our President, Steve Reid. Steve started the meeting with the flag salute and introduction of our guest.

Kathi gave the Treasurer's Report with one correction on the year-to date being a positive number instead of the negative that was printed.

Bryan DeGhetto, our Wagon Master, stated we have collected several gifts to be auctioned at the Memorial Day Outing. This weekend is our outing at Puppy Feet, and we will provide a porta potty. Bryan spoke about the upcoming May Outing with the Chili cook-off on Friday, the pot luck and auction on Saturday night, followed by the gold giveaway. If you are needing extra tickets for the gold drawing please see Kathi.

Paul Toepel passed out papers about the PLP, and talked about the PLP Debate on Mercury affects in our rivers. He stated that there is no evidence that mercury is harming the environment. PLP had won their debate.

Our program was given by Scott Reynolds of Pedersen's. Scott informed us that his store would be moving to a larger facility in Stanton and will open on June 1st. He brought a new trammel for everyone to see, as well as, a meteorite stick and Jim Straight's new book. He then answered questions from our members.

The nightly winners of our monthly drawing were as follows: Gold Nugget was won by Mike Hulka, Silver Rounds by Noel Clinton, Tom Weiss, Skipper, Mike Hulka, Bryan DeGhetto, Khachatur Kzlyan, Art Garcia, and Chuck Brand. A Green Scoop donated by DeFields was won by Skipper.

Ralph Kolbush won the 50/50 drawing.

Sandy Hunt was the winner of the Gold Nugget Door Prize.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt

The WAGON MASTER'S REPORT



MAY OUTING 5/28-5/30

Last year was a real fun time we want this to be even better then last year.

FRIDAY MAY 28TH 6PM DESERT TIME

The world famous Orange County 49ers chili cook off will be starting at 6pm in the clubhouse. The club will furnish hot dogs and buns. If you are not bringing chili please bring something for the potluck.

SATURDAY MAY 29TH 6PM DESERT TIME

Orange County 49ers amazing potluck and gold raffle extravaganza. We will be burning the coals on the new BBQ for some tasty burgers and dogs. I want to take this time to volunteer to be first to taste the food in the potluck to make sure it is up to the 49ers standards. I can not wait for the feast to begin there will not be a better place to eat for miles.

We will be having a auction on Saturday starting at 5pm.

If you would like to donate items for the auction talk with me (bryan). You can also auction off your own items with a portion of the selling price going to the club.

We prefer to only auction off mining or camping related products.

PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE



LEGAL FUND SPRING 2010 RAFFLE JUNE 17, 2010

PRIZE

DONATED BY

160 Acre Arizona Mining Claim	PLP
Keene 4 inch Dredge Model #4405PH	Keene Engineering
1 oz. Placer Gold	Roger Plata
Whites GMT Metal Detector	Jimmy Sierra, CA
Custom Gold Pendant	Natural Gold Jewery
Deluxe Blue Bowl Kit	Pioneer Mining Supplies
1 Year Membership Golden Caribou Mining Association	Gordon Burton
Gold Neggut Pendant	Scott Wrner
4.4 grams Alaskan Placer Gold	Ed Romine
Badger Pick	Apex Picks
Crystalline Gold Tie Tac	Scott Warner
Hystware Mines & Minerals CD	Arizona Outback

DONATIONS \$1.00 EACH OR 12 FOR \$10.00

Contact: Paul Toepel • pgtoepel@sbcglobal.net

A501 [C] (3) Non-Profit Org. ID#95-4521318

GOLD NUGGETS - MAY OUTING RAFFLE



ACTUAL SIZE - 4, 6 & 8 GRAM NUGGETS

ORANGE COUNTY 49ERS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2010

Meeting was opened by our President, Steve Reid at 7:06pm. In attendance were as follows: Skip Skipper, Brian DeGhetto, Robert Selinger, Perry Brown, Mike Hulka, Sandy Hunt, and Kathi Brown.

We discussed the May outing and Steve showed the gold we purchased from Pedersen. Also Skip has a few drawings that we can either auction or add to the gold drawing. Kathi took pictures of the nuggets to be added to the next issue of the Aura, so our members can see the gold and possibly purchase more tickets.

Al Wilkins has asked our club if he can hold his annual outing at one of our claims. All lost his claim and is willing to pay the club for the usage of our claim. The board voted for him to make a donation to the 49ers and he can use Puppy Feet, Cash 1, and Broken Shovel.

There is a Boy Scout troop that wishes to learn about dry washing and have an outing for some of our members to teach them. The board was in favor of this.

Since it is expensive to print the Aura every month, Kathi suggested we do bi-monthly issues through the summer months. There will be one issue for June & July and another issue for August and September, and if there are any updates that need to be published, they will be placed on the web-site. All were in favor of this.

Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt



***COOKS, CHIEFS AND CONCOCTION CREATORS COME FROM ALL
AROUND THE GLOBE TO COMPETE IN THE WORLD FAMOUS***

ORANGE COUNTY 49ERS CHILI COOK-OFF

Last year was tuff, 9 chilies fighting for the prestigious copper gold pan. Who will win this year! The club will provide BBQ hot dogs, buns and condiments. We are asking the folks who are not entering chili to bring something to the Friday pot luck.

SATURDAY MAY 29TH 5:00PM DESERT TIME

Will be starting the auction at 5:00pm around the clubhouse area. Talk with Bryan about items you want to auction.

THE POTLUCK WILL START AT 6PM

We will BBQ some big burgers and dogs (maybe some fish) Please bring your items in a little bit early to set them up. Remember to bring your own serving spoons and forks. The club will provide paper plates, napkins and utensils.

GOLD*GOLD*GOLD*GOLD*GOLD*GOLD*GOLD*GOLD*GOLD

The raffle tickets have been mailed out to all members. Who do not or can not make the meetings.

Please fill out and send in your raffle tickets. ASAP!!!!

This year Steve has selected some beautiful nuggets for the raffle. The gold nugget raffle will be held right after dinner.

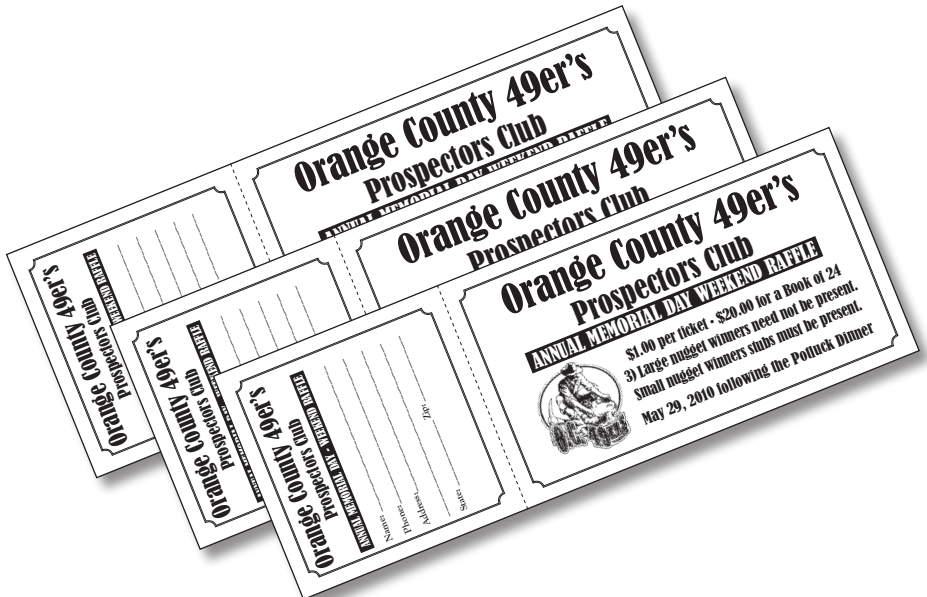
ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

RAFFLE TICKETS

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED
OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE MORE
RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE MAY OUTING
PLEASE CONTACT**

**KATHI BROWN
AT 562-233-3022**

**OR E-MAIL
KATPER56@MSN.COM**



**REMEMBER TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT
THE GENERAL MEETINGS AND ANY TICKETS
REMAINING WILL BE SOLD AT THE OUTING.
BEFORE AND AFTER THE DRAWING.**

ORANGE COUNTY FORTY-NINER'S STORE

100% Cotton Short Sleeve Tee-Shirt with Pocket

**Full color logo on the back
and black ink logo on the front**

Colors Available: Ash and Tan (4-XL Ash only)

ALL SIZES \$20.00 each

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AVAILABLE AT THE MAY OUTING**



OC49ers Hats

***Tan with Full Color Embroidered
OC49ers Logo, One size fits all.***

Baseball Caps \$23.00 each

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW MEMBER

Larry & Judy Belcher

210-867-3548

246 Rainbow XR# 14618

Livingston, TX 77399

easyout1@yahoo.com

Lost Gold Ledge of the Chocolate Mountains

THE TALE

For the land that would eventually become California, the year 1542 was a pivotal point in time. The first recorded sighting of the California coastline occurred in that momentous year. Two small ships commanded by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo worked their way up the west coast of Mexico to what is now San Diego Bay. Cabrillo had been present during the final conquest of Mexico City and had personally witnessed the fall of the Aztec empire. But his discovery of California would be his crowning achievement, although he didn't realize it at the time.

Sixty years later, the Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaino cruised the California coastline in search of wealth. Vizcaino named many locations along the coast including Carmel, Monterey, Santa Catalina, and San Pedro. The expedition found no treasure but did discover "fool's gold" and a metallic silvery-blue mineral used by the natives.

It wasn't until 1769 that a joint land and sea expedition to California was mounted by the Spaniards. Don Gaspar de Portola arrived in San Diego in June of that year as California's first governor. The expedition included a number of illustrious men including Father Junipero Serra, Father Juan Crespi, Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada, and Lieutenant Pedro Fages. The Spanish presence was now firmly established in California.

Five years later, another expedition set out for the newly-established San Gabriel Mission in southern California. Led by Juan Bautista de Anza, the Spaniards marched from Sonora along the Camino de Diablo trail to the junction of the Colorado and Gila rivers. Here they encountered the Yuma Indians led by their famous chief Palma. From the Yuma villages, the Spaniards marched westward through the desert sands to Borrego Springs and then on to San Gabriel Mission. The floodgates were now open. Spanish prospectors quickly followed on the heels of de Anza and by 1780, were scouring the mountains of the lower Colorado River country. In that same year, gold was discovered in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains, in the Picacho

Basin, and at the "Potholes" near the southern end of the Chocolate Mountains. The Cargo Muchachos have veteran status among the mountain ranges of southern California. They were the site of the first discovery of gold in California by Spanish prospectors. Initially the surface ores were extremely rich, but deeper down they gave way to very low grade ore. The Spanish miners quickly skimmed off the richest ores and moved on to other locations. The Cargo Muchacho deposits were sporadically worked by Mexican prospectors, but they essentially lay dormant for over 80 years.

Then in 1862, American prospectors discovered rich gold-bearing quartz veins in the Cargo Muchachos. Miners and prospectors swarmed into the area. In 1884, the rich Gold Rock lodes were discovered by a railroad worker named Pete Walters. Railroad

men sure seem to make good prospectors. Besides Pete Walters' Gold Rock strike in the Cargo Muchachos there was John Sutter's discovery of the fabulous Bagdad-Chase lode and Tom Schofield's lost mine in the Clipper Mountains.

The Gold Rock claims were extremely rich. A mining camp known as Gold Rock Camp sprang up near the workings, but it was renamed Hedges soon after. (In 1910, the name was again changed to Tumco.) Hedges was a hell-raising town during its heyday. During the late 1800's, an Irishman named Jim Sullivan worked at one of the saloons in town. One of his fellow employees was an old Indian who had lived in the lower Colorado River country all his life. The Indian carried a secret with him. In his wanderings he had stumbled on a ledge of gold-bearing ore and had samples to prove it! Sullivan eventually persuaded him to reveal the location of the ledge and the two of them set out from Hedges. The Indian led Sullivan eastward towards the Chocolate Mountains. After about 15 miles, they located the ledge, worked it, and then returned to town. Soon after, the old Indian disappeared but Sullivan always figured he could find the ledge on his own. He was never able to.

MINING HISTORY

The Chocolate Mountains of southeastern California have a venerable mining history. Spanish prospectors discovered gold in these mountains way back in 1780. At the southern end of the range, the Spaniards discovered placer gold trapped in small pockets and cavities in the bedrock. The "Potholes", as the area came to be called, were worked by Mexican miners and then by Americans during the 1860's. Further north, near Picacho Peak, Spanish prospectors also discovered placer gold. The placer deposits that made the Picacho Basin famous were located in the washes and arroyos that drain the Chocolate Mountains and empty into the Colorado River. The Picacho gold deposits were rediscovered during the early 1860's by the famous Mexican prospector and mining man Jose Maria Mendivil. The placers have been worked sporadically ever since.

The Cargo Muchacho Mountains rise up from the desert floor only 10 miles west of the Chocolates.

They are an uplifted block of Mesozoic rocks, the majority of which are granites which have intruded slightly older metamorphic rocks. Spanish prospectors discovered gold in the Cargo Muchachos in 1780. Over 80 years later, American prospectors rediscovered the old Spanish workings and also made a few big strikes of their own. In 1884, the amazingly rich Gold Rock veins were discovered by a railroad worker named Pete Walters. That first year, the rich ores assayed out at \$150 per ton, but by 1897, the tenor of the ores had decreased to \$3 per ton. Fortunately, the Cargo Muchachos were rejuvenated in 1897 by the discovery of the American Girl lode in the central part of the range. This new discovery fueled the local economy for a number of years, but by 1906 the vein had played out and the Cargo Muchachos slowly faded into obscurity.

GEOLOGY OF THE AREA

The Chocolate Mountains are an elongated northwest-southeast trending range of uplifted, block-faulted Precambrian to Pre-Cretaceous igneous and metamorphic rocks intruded by younger Mesozoic granite plutons and younger still Tertiary volcanics. The range extends some 80 miles from the Laguna Dam (on the California/Arizona border) northwestward to the Orocopia Mountains (located near the northeast end of the Salton Sea). The uplifted basement rock consists of ancient Precambrian igneous and metamorphic crystalline rocks; these are abundant in the northern and central portions of the range. Several large exposures of younger Pre-Cretaceous metasediments also occur in the central portion of the range.

These Precambrian and Pre-Cretaceous rocks form the country rock into which the younger Mesozoic granites intrude. Most of these younger granites occur in the northern and central parts of the range. The largest Mesozoic granite pluton (outcrop area: approximately 20 square miles) is located about 10 miles east of Niland. The geology changes as one travels southeastward through the Chocolate Mountains. The southern end of the range is mostly covered by younger Tertiary volcanic rocks. This volcanic field is fairly extensive; the two largest exposures have a total outcrop area of roughly 160 square miles. Most of the area of interest is overlain by these Tertiary volcanic rocks.

PROSPECTING POTENTIAL

Much of the southern portion of the Chocolate Mountains is overlain by Tertiary volcanic rocks. That the area has some mineralization, there is little doubt. The Hess Mine lies near the crest of the southern Chocolate Mountains, about 15 miles east of the Cargo Muchachos. The famous "Potholes" district is located on the southern edge of the Chocolates, about 5 miles south of the Hess Mine.

Prospectors may want to concentrate on the canyons and gulches that drain the southern portion of the Chocolate Mountains. This area lies directly east of the old Tumco/Hedges mining camp. A search for gold-bearing float using a high-quality metal-detector may be productive. Careful mapping and tracing of the float may also be useful in the search for the mine.



Geology Park LLC

Comanche Horse



Comanche was known as the sole survivor of General George Custer's command at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876.

The mustang was born about 1862, captured in a wild horse roundup, gelded and sold to the U.S. Army Cavalry on April 3, 1868, for \$90. He was a bay, just over 900 pounds, stood 15 hands high with a small white star on his forehead and became the favorite mount for Captain Myles Keogh of the 7th Cavalry. Comanche participated in frequent actions of the Regiment and sustained some 12 wounds as a result of these skirmishes.

Two days after the Custer defeat, a burial party investigating the site found the severely wounded horse and transported him by steamer to Fort Lincoln, 950 miles away, where he spent the next year recuperating. Comanche remained with the 7th Cavalry and was never again ridden under orders excusing him from all duties. Most of the time he roamed the Post freely, visiting the flower gardens often. Only at formal regimental functions was he led, draped in black, stirrups and boots reversed, at the head of the Regiment.

When the Cavalry was ordered to Fort Riley, Kansas, in 1888, the elderly horse, still in moderate good health, accompanied them and continued to receive full honors as a symbol of the Little Bighorn tragedy. Finally, on November 7, 1891, about 29 years old, Comanche died of colic.

The officers of the 7th Cavalry, wanting to preserve the horse, asked Lewis Lindsay Dyche of the University of Kansas to mount the remains: skin and major bones. Comanche is currently on display in a humidity controlled glass case at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Dyche Hall, Lawrence, Kansas.

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SCHEDULED OUTINGS 2010

DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

Meetings	Outing	Claim	Access	Rest Rooms
January 19th	30 & 31	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
February 16th	27 & 28	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
March 16th	27 & 28	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
April 20th	24 & 25	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
May 18th	29, 30 & 31	Duiesenberg	Easy	Yes
June 15th	25 & 26	Rose Creek or TBA	Easy	No
July 20th	30 & 31	Rose Creek or TBA	Easy	No
August 17th	Sept. 3, 4 & 5	Tailings	Med	Yes
September 21st	24 & 25	Kern River	Easy	No
October 19th	30 & 31	Duiesenberg	Easy	Yes
November 16th	Dec. 4	Day Outing, Goler Gulch	4-WD	No
December 21st	Holiday Party	Club House	Easy	Yes



Access Easy	Good access for Passenger Car, 2 Wheel Drive, RV, and Trailers.
Access Medium	Can be accessed by 2 Wheel Drive. RV's, Trailers and 5th Wheels check with other members!!!
Access Tuff	Serious 4 Wheel Drive Trail/Dirt Road.
Restrooms	Are Chemical Toilets (Porta-Potties) that we rent for specific outings.

It is highly recommended that you attend the meetings and check with other members to discuss accessibility to these claims before going.

ORANGE COUNTY 49ERS



Orange County 49ers, Inc.
P.O. Box 1491
Orange, CA 92856-1491

GOLD NUGGETS - MAY OUTING RAFFLE



4, 6 AND 8 GRAM NUGGETS