

THE  
**ORANGE COUNTY  
FORTY-NINERS**

**GOLDEN AURA**

June 2011

Volume: XXIX Number: VI



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**DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING IS  
June 21st, 2011**

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# **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**When:** 3rd Tuesday of each month

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**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](http://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 did not attend the May Outing, so our Wagon Master, Bryan has a report farther back in this edition. I did hear it was a might breezy, and a little on the cool side for this time of the year in the desert. I also heard that we had a great turnout, and I am sorry I missed the event.

It seems the weather has affected many of our Outings in 2011. A couple of our outings have had snow, and if it wasn't snowing, we had more rain in the desert than normal. So it was not a particularly good year for the dry-washing prospector who like to find dry ground. Now with the desert heating up, it is time to look at alternatives to shoveling dirt in the 90 plus degree heat. With the ban on dredging (and not looking good for a quick resolution) and the high price of gas, the Board has made decisions with some substitute activities for June, July and August, which would normally be to visit our wet claims up North. These alternative Outings are noted below.

**Day Outing in May:** It seems the weather has been a factor in all of the club's activities this year. Here we are in May with ten Members at Huntington Beach, and it is raining. The Members who arrived early spent a good part of the morning looking for cover under the tailgate of a Jeep or under the pier. It briefly rained pretty hard several times, but by mid morning the rain had stopped, it was windy and cool, and the sun was shining the rest of the day. The finds were minimal at best. Clint found approximately three dollars in change and is considered the winner for the day.

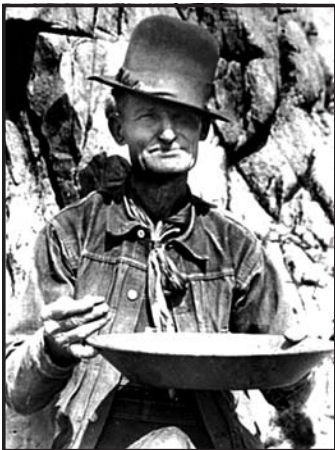
**June Day Outing:** The Outing again at Huntington Beach will have taken place by the time you read this and I will report on it in August Aura.

**July's Outing:** Will be Sunday July 31st at Santa Monica Beach. We will meet just north of the pier at 8:00 AM.

**August Day Outing:** Will be Saturday August 27th. We will go to the East Fork of San Gabriel River and meet at 8:00 AM at the parking lot where the road ends. We will hike up the canyon a short ways. Bring your pan, sluice, shovel, classifier, lunch and whatever else you may need and want to carry.

**Speaker for June:** Our speaker will be Bill Samarian. He will show and demonstrate a small portable trommel that he manufacturers. This is a viable solution for prospecting while there still is a ban on dredging in California. Based on the movement of the BLM (or lack thereof) it may be a very practical way of working in the waterways for years to come.

**July Aura:** Again, this year, The Club will not be printing a the Aura in July. For up-to-dates to our activities, check out our Web page at [OC49ers.com](http://OC49ers.com).



Hope to see you at Santa Monica Beach and the East Fork San Gabriel River in July and August respectfully.

Happy Prospecting,  
Steve

# The TREASURE'S REPORT

## MAY 2011

### INCOME:

50-50 Income.....	\$ 10.00
Club Merchandise.....	150.00
May Outing .....	2,055.00
Membership Renewal.....	110.00
New Membership.....	540.00
Raffle Income.....	234.00
Refreshments Income.....	8.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$ 3,107.00</b>

### EXPENSES:

May Outing .....	\$ 949.85
Newsletters.....	457.37
Porta Potties.....	0.00
Postage.....	0.00
Raffle Prizes.....	173.50
Referrals.....	0.00
Refreshments.....	36.36
Rent .....	125.00
Supplies.....	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,742.08</b>

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### CHECKING ACCOUNT

5/01/2011, Beginning Balance.....	11,485.89	
5/31/2011, Ending Balance.....	11,848.81	
3 Outstanding Checks .....	310.00	
<b>CHECK BOOK BALANCE.....</b>	<b>11,538.81</b>	<b>\$ 11,538.81</b>

### CERT DEP

00/00 CD Balance .....	2,344.23	<b>\$ 2,344.23</b>
CD Statements are sent Quarterly		

**TOTAL CLUB ASSETS .....** **\$ 13,883.04**

**TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE .....** **\$11,347.00**

**TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE .....** **\$9,826.86** **\$ (1,520.14)**

# GENERAL MEETING

## May 17, 2011

Our President, Steve Reid called the meeting to order at 7:35, followed by the flag salute. Steve introduced our six visitors, William Web, John and Susan Marino, Donna and Tim Nightingale and Bryan Milstead and each of them told how they heard about the club.

Kathi Brown gave the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as written. Steve called for a vote of the Minutes from the April meeting, and it also was approved as written.

Bryan DeGhetto, our wagon master talked about our upcoming Memorial Day Weekend outing.

Our speaker for the evening was Walt Lombardo of the Nevada Mineral & Book Company. Walt gave us a great education on Meteorites and had many samples to show us. His new bookstore and Natural History Gallery is located at 342 S. Tustin Street, Orange, Ca. 92866 (in Eldorado Plaza). minbooks@aol.com or 714.633.1549.

Winners of our drawings were as follows: Carolyn Kelly won the Gold Nugget, Leroy Kimoto, Steve Reid, Mike Hulka, Jake Komathy, Brent Cross, Bryan DeGhetto, Clint DeFields and Stan Gilman were our Silver Dollar winners and Carolyn Kelly as the 50/50 winner.

Our thanks to Linda Starbird for decorating the refreshment table with a wonderful all American Memorial Day theme and delicious cookies. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm

Stand-in Secretary,  
Carolyn Kelly

# The WAGON MASTER'S REPORT



## ***May Outing***

***It sure was a great time out in the desert this memorial weekend. Well it was really windy and made it hard to do anything. It sure was a good time out in the desert this memorial weekend. Well it sucked we were not able to use the clubhouse for our potluck. Well it was a fun time out in the desert this memorial weekend. There was so much food that I am still full.***

***First of all I want to give a very big thank you to the Brown's, Perry & Kathi For letting us use their big trailer for the Mess Hall and putting on the coin hunt.***

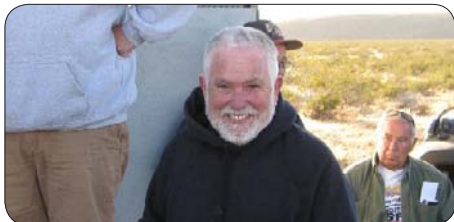
***I would also like to thank Carolyn & Chris, Mike & Sandy & Peggy Sandoval***

***for all their help this weekend.***

***I hope everyone had a good time.***

***Wagon Master.***

# MAY OUTING PHOTOS





# Gold Rush Foods were as Diverse as the Miners

Ever eaten an English Monkey? Not as horrible as it sounds: a mixture of bread crumbs, cheese, milk and eggs. The dish is one of many listed in *The 49er Cookbook* published by the Nevada County branch of the American Association of University Women.

The book's introduction says, "The Mother lode country of California is nourished not only by the legends but by the recipes of the 49ers. In many families, foods are being cooked as they were during Gold Rush days. These recipes of various lands and races, brought to the camps by people from all over the world when news of the great gold discovery spread, have served the miners well for over a hundred years."

The foods concocted in California's gold fields reflect the miners' wide range of nationalities.

Dutch Pea Soup includes onions, celery, peas - of course - and an ox tail with instructions to "boil for a long time."

English crumpets are another international food recipe gathered in this interesting and historical cookbook, which can be found at the Doris Foley Historical Library in Nevada City. It is delightfully illustrated by drawings done by local school students.

German bread dumplings sound like a heavy belly-filler, along with Swedish pancakes. Greek stew and Swiss steak represent those nations, which also contributed part of the nearly 100,000 young men who headed for California from all around the world, certain they would soon be rich.

Chicken Italian was on some camp menus along with the one food that remains available today, Cornish pasties. Pasties were usually made of meat and potatoes baked inside a pastry or bread shell. One observer said the definition of a mine was a hole in the ground with a Cornish man at the bottom eating a pasty.

Using the materials at hand the miners also fed on a regular diet of fried rabbit and duck. "Mock duck" dishes were made from turkey.

One recipe called for the cook to "cut up three pounds of chicken (you can use two squirrels instead)."

And the camp cooks often borrowed that great Latin flavor enhancer and disguise, Spanish sauce.

The recipes from the Gold Rush were preserved as they passed from mother to daughter to granddaughter, "just in my head." To prevent them from being lost forever, the University Women created this cookbook, whose sale once helped create college scholarships and sponsored foreign students who wished to study in the United States.

Food also was on the minds of barkeepers in San Francisco, who tried unsuccessfully to abolish the free lunch, instituted to keep patrons sober - and drinking. In November of 1854 San Francisco saloon proprietors met to try to end the increasingly expensive free lunch practice. After two meetings it became clear that unless every bar in town dropped the practice those few remaining free lunch bars would attract the lion's share of patrons.

The Golden Gazette reported the result: "So, free lunches are still on tap for the free-loaders."

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# Lost Silver Ledge of the Chocolate Mountains

## THE TALE

The Chocolate Mountains of southeast California have been prospected since the days of the early Spaniards. As early as 1780, Spanish prospectors discovered gold at Picacho and at the "Potholes", a small district located at the southern end of the range. In 1861, Mexican prospectors rediscovered the placer deposits at Picacho. Virtually every canyon, dry wash, and arroyo in the Picacho Basin yielded placer gold. Shortly thereafter, Jose Maria Mendivil discovered the source of most of this placer gold on the mountain slopes near Picacho Peak. The famous Apache lode had been missed by the Spaniards but Mendivil's careful tracing of the gold-bearing float had led him to the vein. In 1880, placer gold was discovered in the washes and ravines that drain the western flank of the Chocolate Mountains. The richest deposits were located east and northeast of Glamis Station. The area came to be known as the Mesquite Diggings and by 1881 was crawling with prospectors. The placers were more or less exhausted by 1885, but prospectors have continued to work the deposits on a limited basis ever since.

In 1920, an old German prospector known only as "Desert John" was working his claim in the foothills northeast of Glamis Station. This area contained some of the richest pockets of placer gold along the entire western flank of the Chocolate Mountains. One day, the old prospector found himself with visitors in his camp. A man named Harpending and a friend were on their way to a natural spring in the mountains when they decided to visit the old man. Harpending and his companion decided to continue their search the next morning. The two set out the following day, hiking through the foothills on the western flank of the mountains. They eventually camped near the confluence of several dry washes, each one descending from the slopes of the mountains. Within one of the dry washes, Harpending stumbled on a ledge of silver-bearing quartz. Harpending collected some of the heavy dark ore and eventually had it assayed in Los Angeles. It turned out to be extremely rich in silver! Harpending returned to the Chocolate Mountains many times in search of the silver ledge but was never able to find it again. It still lies hidden in those barren mountains.

## MINING HISTORY

The history of mining in the southern Chocolates extends back to at least 1780. It was during that year that Spanish prospectors discovered gold at Picacho, at the "Potholes", and in the neighboring Cargo Muchacho Mountains. In 1861, Mexican prospectors rediscovered the Spanish workings at Picacho and then made a few big strikes of their own. Jose Maria Mendivil discovered the source of the placer gold

near Picacho Peak. Prospectors swarmed into the area, an old stamp mill was moved nearby, and the camp boomed. Picacho held on till the early 1900's, but by 1904 operations finally ceased. The Mesquite Diggings were discovered in 1880 in the western foothills of the Chocolate Mountains, about 7 miles east of Glamis Station. The placers were dry washed for a few years, but like all placer deposits they were quickly depleted.

Modern-day prospectors have found the Chocolate Mountains to be quite productive. Using metal-detectors, prospectors have found placer gold in most of the dry washes and arroyos draining the northern flank of the Chocolate Mountains near the site of the old mining town of Picacho. Not known for large nuggets, the area is still a rewarding experience for the electronic prospector.

## **GEOLOGY OF THE AREA**

The Chocolate Mountains of southeast California are a northwest-southeast trending range of uplifted igneous and metamorphic rocks. The range is heavily weathered and eroded and is a classic example of the block-faulting that is so characteristic of the Basin and Range Province of North America. The Chocolate Mountains consist of an uplifted core of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks intruded by younger Mesozoic granites and younger still Tertiary volcanics and intrusives. The Tertiary volcanics include basalts, rhyolites, andesites and associated pyroclastic rocks. Some large exposures of Pre-Cretaceous metasedimentary rocks occur along the length of the range.

Highway 78 cuts through an eroded gap in the Chocolate Mountains which has been a source of placer gold in times past. Many of these placer deposits occur within the Pleistocene gravel deposits that drape the flanks of the Chocolates in this area. Several mines and prospect pits occur in the area including the Rainbow Mine and Gold Basin Rand Mine.

## **PROSPECTING POTENTIAL**

The southern Chocolates are best known for their gold deposits. Placer gold occurs at the southern end of the range, along the western flank of the range, and in the dry washes of the Picacho Basin. Silver deposits, on the other hand, are uncommon in the Chocolates. Nevertheless, it is entirely possible that a silver-bearing vein lies hidden somewhere along the western or southern flank of the range. Prospectors may want to concentrate on the many canyons and arroyos that dissect this part of the range. A metal-detector may prove to be useful in the search. The lucky prospector may stumble on a rich gold pocket while searching for the silver lode!

# MEMBER INFORMATION

## NEW MEMBER

Murphy Mike  
30350 Fox Ridge Ct.  
Tehachapi, CA 93561

## FOR SALE

### Minelab GPX 4500 Metal Detector used

Jon Kishi 310-741-1158,..... **\$3800.00**

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Jerry Mitchell 619-417-6590..... **\$350.00**

=====

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Steve Johnson 928-277-6469

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# SCHEDULED OUTINGS 2011

**DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**

Meetings	Outing	Claim	Access	Rest Rooms
January 18	29-30	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
February 15	26-27	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
March 15	26-27	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
April 19	30, May 1	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
May 17	28-29	RM26 Road Side	Easy	Yes
June 21	24-25	Condor or TBA	Easy	No
July 19	30-31	Condor or TBA	Easy	No
August 16	2-4	TBA	Easy	No
September 20	24-25	Hidden Gulch or TBA	Easy	No
October 18	29-30	TBA	Easy	Yes
November 15	Dec. 3	Day Outing	4-WD	No
Dec. 13 or 20	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**