

# THE ORANGE COUNTY FORTY-NINERS GOLDEN AURA

March 2012



<<First>> <<Last>>

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Don't Forget our Next Meeting is  
March 20th, 2012

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This Months Outing is at  
Puppy Feet • March 24-25th, 2012

# 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

## March

Welcome,

Here is the latest up-date on dredging in California. As you may or may not know, the DFG released their new regulations February 17th, just before the court date that PLP was to ask for an injunction. Without all the legalese, the judge asked both attorneys to prepare Briefs educating the Court as to exactly what the "New Proposed Regulations" say and what affect they will have. That Briefing is set for April 30th and then a new hearing will be held in San Bernardino on May 10th regarding a preliminary injunction against SB670 and AB120. Stay tuned and become involved.

The OC49ers has provided PLP and Jerry Hobbs with information stating how the "new proposed regulations" will affect us. It will reduce our potential dredging season dramatically, and in the case of the Condor2 claim, potentially eliminate it. You can respond to PLP as an individual and help protect your mining rights. Here is something to think about if you chose not to be active in protecting our mining rights.....if people are successful in eliminating our rights to dredge, what is the next activity they may want to bring to a halt? It could be dry washing, metal detecting, or just our presence in the open land. Please become involved and go to PLP's web page and respond to your concerns. [plp1.org/home.html](http://plp1.org/home.html)

**March Outings:** This will be held at our Puppy Feet claim. A portipottie will be ordered if the weather is favorable and if I hear that there will be Members who plan on spending the night at the claim.

**Speaker for March:** Walt Lombardo owner of Nevada Mineral & Book Company located in Orange will be our speaker. Last time Walt spoke about meteorites, and this time his talk will be on diamonds in California. As we all very much enjoyed his prior talk we have high expectations on this new subject.

**February Outing:** You will need to read the Wagon Master's report to see how the Outing turned out, as I was out of town or more accurately I was out of the country. I was attending a conference with my wife in Cabo San Lucas. I did take the metal detector but the pickings were slim. The resort was all-inclusive and no one carries any change. About 9 hours of detecting amounted to: 5 American coins; a hand full of pesos; junk jewelry; a ton of fishing weights, and in the last hour a man's 14K wedding band, which made it all worthwhile.

**Speaker for February:** Ralph Crowther was our speaker and he did a tremendous job with a slide show and description of his various hunts in his search for civil wars artifacts. He had display cases representing each of his hunts. They were packed with bullets, button, coins and other memorabilia including a 20 pound mortar shell. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his presentation and the Club "thanks" Ralph for his time and efforts.

**Dues:** Just so you know in case someone asks.....if we have not received dues from any Member by March 1st they will not receive a March Aura. They will be removed from the Membership list and have no right to prospect the Club's claims.

I hope you have a prosperous time in the desert at the end of the month.

Happy Prospecting,

Steve



# The Treasure's Report

## January 2012

### INCOME:

New Membership.....	\$ 990.00
Membership Renewal.....	595.00
Club Merchandise.....	84.00
Raffle Income.....	330.00
50-50 Income.....	29.00
Refreshments Income.....	4.00
Miscellaneous.....	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$ 2,032.00</b>

### EXPENSES:

Rent.....	\$ 125.00
Newsletters.....	479.48
Printing and Reproduction.....	0.00
Legal Fees.....	0.00
Donations.....	0.00
Postage.....	0.00
Porta Potties.....	105.73
Potluck.....	36.69
Referrals.....	40.00
Refreshments.....	8.79
Raffle Prizes.....	174.60
Supplies.....	0.00
Merchandise.....	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>\$ 970.29</b>

### CHECKING ACCOUNT

02/01/2012, Beginning Balance.....	14,949.65	
02/29/2012, Ending Balance.....	15,830.15	
8 Outstanding Checks.....	363.79	
<b>CHECK BOOK BALANCE.....</b>	<b>15,466.36</b>	<b>\$15,466.36</b>

### CERT DEP

00/00 CD Balance.....	2,348.03	<b>\$ 2,348.03</b>
CD Statements are sent Quarterly		

**TOTAL CLUB ASSETS.....** **\$17,814.39**

**TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE.....** 6,049.00

**TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE.....** 3,175.15      2,873.85

# General Meeting

## February 21, 2012

Our President, Steve Reid called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, followed by the flag salute. Steve welcomed out visitors, William Floes, Steve Gettis, Will Jameison, Emmi and George OHara, and Josh Nash. Kathi gave the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as written. The Minutes from last month's meeting were also approved as written.

Chris Kelly, our wagon master talked about our upcoming outing at Puppy Feet on the weekend of February 25th and 26th. There will be porta potties available.

Ralph Crowther was our speaker this month. Ralph is very knowledgeable in the practice of metal detecting and relic hunting. He brought a slide show of the relic hunts he has been involved in.

Our raffle winners were as follows:

Gold Nugget - Will Jamieson

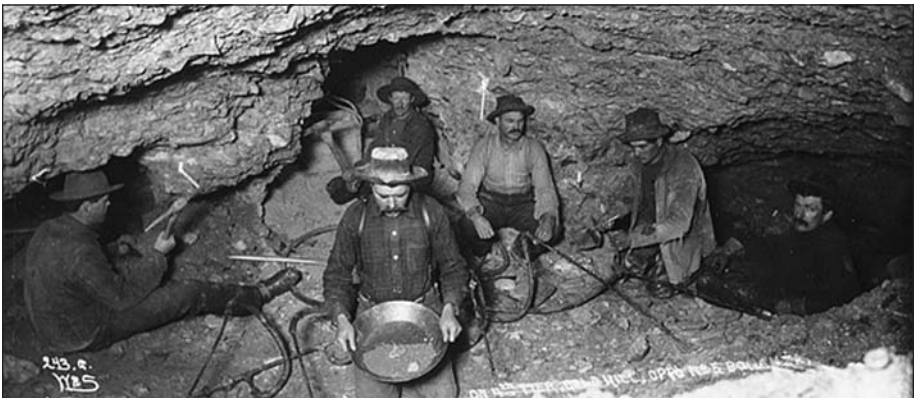
Silver rounds - Bryan DeGhetto, Mike Hulka, Clint DeFields

Silver Halves - Will Jamieson, Leroy Kimoto (2), Clint DeFields,  
Mike Hulka(2)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt



# The Wagon Master's Report



Howdy Partner,

The weather was amazingly perfect for desert prospecting, blue skies, gentle breeze and temperature in the 60's. The February outing at Puppy Feet was well attended with 20 or so members on hand for the event. With 5 new members in attendance having Gold Fever and asking how to prospect the desert, we decided to get a common dig going so everyone could get dusted from head to toe. We pointed them in the right direction and handed them a #2 shovel, the prospector's best friend. One of our new youngest members prospecting with his dad found a real nice picker in a push up. I conducted a small straw poll and everybody had GOLD in their pans.

After a day of prospecting a group of us met in Ridgecrest and had dinner at Casa Corona. It was great food at a good price!

On Sunday a few 49ers still had the gold fever so they picked up right where they left off, the others headed to the homestead with gold in their pan.

Our March outing will be at Puppy Feet on March 24th - 25th.

See ya on the dusty trail,

Wagon Master

# New Members Information

Johnson Arlon  
84 Canal Ln  
Brinnion, WA 98320  
ketchkaas@yahoo.com  
360-796-2083

Gettis Steven  
5631 Rutile St  
Riverside, CA 92509  
gettis28882@yahoo.com  
951-743-8952

Jamieson Will  
26322 Towne Centre Dr. #1314  
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610  
wjamieson@yahoo.com  
949-303-0575

Popken Larry & Colleen  
16542 Hart Circle  
Huntington Beach, CA 92641  
larypopken@yahoo.com  
714-871-1433

Potts Charlene  
PO Box 11  
Johannesburg, CA 93528  
760-384-8455

Ohara George & Emmi  
2219 Jack Place  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
imagesbyeorge@hotmail.com  
310-831-9711

## Speaker for March

Walt Lombardo the owner of Nevada Mineral & Book Company located in Orange will be our speaker. Last time Walt spoke about meteorites, and this time his talk will be on diamonds in California. As we all very much enjoyed his prior talk we have high expectations on this new subject.

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# Lost Mine of Manly Peak

## THE TALE

The fervent cry of "Gold in California!" galvanized a nation and changed forever the way Americans would view the far western frontier. The 1848 gold strike at Sutter's Mill sent a ripple of excitement around the world. The following year, nearly 50,000 emigrants crossed the vast wilderness that stretched between the California goldfields and the Missouri River settlements. Of these, about 10,000 chose the so-called southern routes which terminated at San Diego or Los Angeles. The most important of the southern routes was the Gila Trail. It was an old and venerable trail first used by the Indians who inhabited the desert wastes of southern Arizona and California. The Spaniards adopted the trail during the 18th century. They used it to travel overland from Sonora, Mexico to the mission at San Diego, California. The Mexicans inherited the trail during the early 19th century, followed by the Americans in the middle of the century.

There was another untested southern route available to the 49'ers. It stretched from Salt Lake City southwestward across the Basin and Range Province of Nevada to the Amargosa Desert. From there, the trail continued southwestward, skirting the southern end of the Sierra Nevadas. It eventually terminated at Los Angeles. Unfortunately, no one was aware of the hellish country that lay between the Amargosa Desert and the Coast Ranges of California. About a hundred 49'ers would experience this hell on Earth; their survivors would give it a name: "Death Valley".

The 49'ers who crossed the Death Valley inferno were divided into several companies including the Manly-Bennett party, the Jayhawker party from Illinois, a company of southerners from Georgia and Mississippi, the Towne party, and the Wade party. The Manly-Bennett party entered Death Valley via Furnace Creek and then traveled southward to Bennett's Well. From there the party journeyed southwestward, crossing the Panamint Range at its southern end. The Manly-Bennett party left its mark on the southern Panamints. Manly Peak and nearby Manly Fall were both named for the leader of the party.

Manly Peak is apparently the home of at least two lost mines. The Lost John Galler Mine is said to be located somewhere along the southern foot of the peak, near Goler Wash. The other lost mine is said to be located on the northwestern slope of the peak, overlooking Redlands Canyon.

In 1925, Asa Russell and Ernie Huhn were prospecting the southern end of the Panamints, near the upper Butte Valley. Russell and Huhn worked their way westward onto the slopes of Manly Peak. Somewhere on the northwestern slope of the peak, Huhn stumbled onto a 3-foot thick vein of extraordinary "cement-gray" ore. He collected samples of the curious ore and found them to be loaded with gold! Unfortunately, when Huhn returned to Manly Peak he was unable to find the gold-bearing ledge. He never did.

## MINING HISTORY

The history of mining in the Panamint Range of southern California begins with one of the most famous lost mines of the Old West. Discovered by a 49'er somewhere in the Death Valley desert, the fabulous hill of pure silver known as the Lost Gunsight Mine lured many a prospector into the wastelands during the 1850's and 60's. William (or Charles) Alvord was just such a prospector. Alvord certainly left his mark on southern California. The Alvord Mountains in San Bernardino County were named for him, as was a famous mine. While searching for the Lost Gunsight Mine in 1860, Alvord found and then lost a fantastic gold mine somewhere in the southern Death Valley country. (Some accounts place the mine in the Alvord Mountains.) Alvord

made another discovery that year in the Panamint Mountains. It wasn't a hill of silver, but it was silver nonetheless. While prospecting the Panamints, Alvord stumbled on several veins of the white metal. These were the first recorded discoveries of ore in the mineral-rich Panamints. Thirteen years later, rich silver

deposits were again located in the Panamints. The silver mines spawned a hell-raising mining camp known as Panamint City. Unfortunately, the veins petered out and the mines closed down after only 4 years of operation.

In 1897, the focus shifted from silver to gold. Rich gold deposits were discovered on the western flanks of the Panamints, about 7 miles south of Panamint City. The town that sprang up at the foot of the mountains was named after the famous Australian gold camp known as Ballarat.

Nine years later, the biggest strike of all occurred near the old pioneer trail in Emigrant Canyon. A mining camp quickly sprouted up as prospectors and miners poured into the area. The camp was named Skidoo after the popular aphorism "23-Skidoo". The "Skidoovian" mines poured out a stream of gold and silver until about 1917, when operations finally ceased.

## **GEOLOGY OF THE AREA**

The southern Panamint Range consists of an uplifted block of ancient Precambrian metamorphic and sedimentary basement rock intruded by younger Mesozoic granitic plutons and younger still Tertiary volcanic and hypabyssal rocks. The Panamint Range is bounded on the west by the Panamint Valley Fault Zone. In the Manly Peak area, the Butte Valley Fault forms the eastern boundary. Manly Peak, the probable site of the lost mine, consists mostly of Mesozoic-age granite. The peak is bounded on the north, west, and southwest by Precambrian basement rock. Several mines occur within this band of ancient Precambrian rock

(including the Lotus Mine, located just to the southwest of Manly Peak). Younger Tertiary volcanic rocks (and minor hypabyssal rocks) occur just south and southeast of Manly Peak. The contact between these younger Tertiary volcanics and the older Mesozoic granites of Manly Peak occurs in the Goler Wash area. The contact is apparently fault-bounded. Redlands Canyon is mostly underlain by Precambrian metamorphic and sedimentary rocks with some younger granites occurring on the west end of the canyon near Redlands Spring and Manly Fall.

## **PROSPECTING POTENTIAL**

The Panamint Range is well-endowed with mineral deposits. It is home to four major mining districts, 3 of which are gold-producing and the other silver. The gold-producing districts of the Panamints churned out a quarter of a million ounces of the yellow metal during their lifetimes! The range therefore offers some potential for future mineral strikes.

The granites of Manly Peak are bounded on the north, west, and southwest by Precambrian basement rock. Home to a number of small mines, the ancient Precambrian country rock apparently contains a modicum of mineralization. Prospectors

may want to concentrate on the northwestern slope of Manly Peak, overlooking Redlands Canyon. The contact between the older basement rock and the younger granites should be investigated thoroughly. The ledge was said to be exposed in a steep draw on the northwestern side of the mountain. According to Huhn, the exposure was limited to only about 20 feet. Prospectors should be mindful of the unusual nature of the ore. A nondescript, cement-gray specimen of ore may be easily overlooked by the eager gold-seeker. The floor of Redlands Canyon may contain pieces of float from the ledge. A metal-detector should certainly prove useful in the search.

*Geology Park LLC*

# Public Lands for the People, Inc.

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/suctiondredge/>

Public Lands for the People is calling on miners to help fight the battle to defeat the suction dredge mining ban in California. "In order to compare the 1994 regulations with the new regulations on suction dredging, I need to know who has been harmed by the new regulations as far as redging season changes, nozzle sizes, etcetera," said PLP President Jerry Hobbs.

"For example, [if] you have a mining claim and you used to be able to dredge for three or four months or all year round, and now you can only dredge for 30 days or maybe not at all or if you own a mining claim on a river or stream that is closed all year round now, but wasn't closed under the old regulations, we need to know," he said.

Hobbs is also asking miners to email others in the prospecting and mining community to get the word out quickly. "Please send this action alert out to your email list and tell your friends to contact me about it. This information we need as soon as possible and plenty of it," he said. "This is important." Hobbs pointed out that time is of the essence, so email is the best way to get information to him while the 15-day comment period is still open.

Miners are asked to download the Effects of Proposed New Dredge Regulations Form, fill out the form, and email it to [jerhobbs2@verizon.net](mailto:jerhobbs2@verizon.net).

You will be asked the following information:

Mining claim owners,

- Full name
- Address
- Phone number
- Email (if available)
- Name of stream or river

For more information or to submit your concerns about the proposed California Department of Fish and Game suction dredge mining regulations, email PLP president Jerry Hobbs at [jerhobbs2@verizon.net](mailto:jerhobbs2@verizon.net) or call Public Lands for the People at (909) 889-3039.

PLP - Public Lands for the People est.1990

3700 Santa Carlotta St.

La Crescenta, CA 91214

View or download the new regulations

To view the newly proposed suction dredge regulations to go to:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/suctiondredge/>

On Feb. 17, 2012 the Department of Fish and Game released proposed regulations for suction dredge mining in California. DFG released an earlier draft of these regulations for public review in February 2011. Two versions of the currently proposed regulations are available. The first version is a plain text presentation of the currently proposed regulations. The second version includes all changes, using underline/strikeout formatting, based on the regulations originally adopted in 1994, the modifications proposed in February 2011 and the additional modifications currently proposed. These documents are available at the following links:

Public Comment: The opportunity for public review of the revised regulations begins on Friday, Feb. 17, 2012. The public comment period closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2012.

# Public Land for the People • Fundraising Raffle for June 21, 2012

Prize	Donor	Value
1. Minelab Metal Detector #4800	Minelab USA	6,295
2. 2 Week Trip to Alaska All Expenses Paid	G.P.A.A Includes Air from any Major Airport	3,500
3. 4405 P.H. Dredge	Keene Engineering	3,175
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5. 151 Vibor Static Dry Washer	Keene Engineering	1,495
6. Whites Meat Detector	Whites Electroincs	800
7. Fisher Gold Bug Detecto	Fisher Labs	800
8. 1 Week Trip to Roaring Camp (1 or 2 People)	Roaring Camp	750
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10. Ten 1 oz. Silver Rounds	A.A.A. Metals	700
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13. Columbian Amber	Guy Nesbitt	300
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15. Crystalline Gold	Scott Warner	100
16. Broll Chart	Broll Tools	85

To order Tickets \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00 • TAX DEDUCTIBLE • See Paul Toepel at the monthly meeting or

## Mail: Public Lands for the People

c/o Guy Nesbitt  
 P.O. Box 7908  
 Porter Ranch, California 91236

email: [out4gold510@hotmail.com](mailto:out4gold510@hotmail.com)

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# Scheduled Outings 2012

Dates and Locations are Subject to Change!

Meetings	Outing	Claim	Access	Rest Rooms
January 17	January 29 - 30	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
February 21	February 25 - 26	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
March 20	March 24 - 25	Puppy Feet or HMC1	Easy	Yes
April 17	April 28 - 29	HMC1	Easy	Yes
May 15	May 26 - 27	Off of RM-26 near LDMA	Easy	Yes
June 19	June 23 - 24	Rose Creek	Med	No
July 17	July 28 - 29	Rose Creek	Med	No
August 21	September 1 - 3	TBA	TBA	TBA
September 18	September 29 - 30	Hidden Gulch	Easy	No
October 16	October 27 - 28	Off of RM-26 near LDMA	Easy	Yes
November 20	December 1	Goler Gulch	4WD	No
December 20	December 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 49er's