

# THE ORANGE COUNTY FORTY-NINERS GOLDEN AURA

May 2012



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Don't Forget our Next Meeting is  
May 15th, 2012

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This Months Outing is at  
RM-26 • May 26-27th, 2012

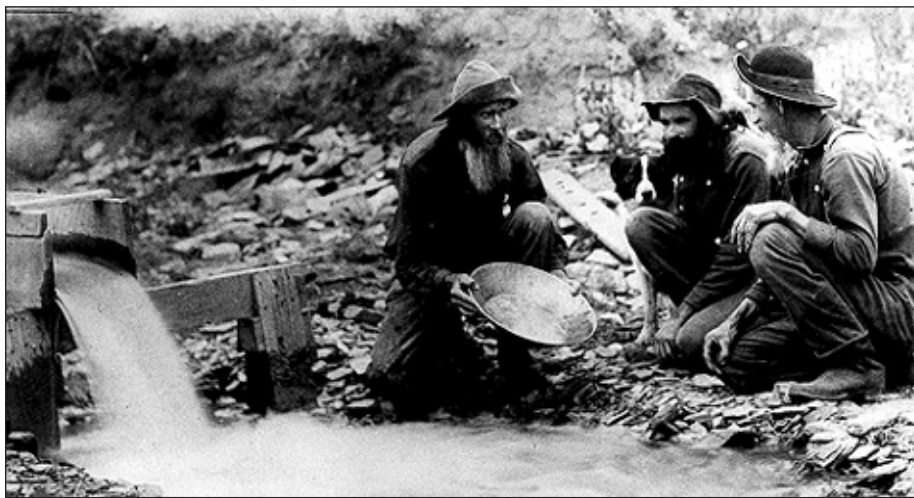
# General Membership Meetings

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

## May

Welcome,

Our largest Outing of the year is happening at the end of the month. Traditionally we have 80 plus Members along with family and friends at this Outing. We will have a potluck on Saturday evening followed by a raffle for gold, and on Sunday we will have a coin detecting hunt. Read all the details in the Wagon Master's Report.

**Do note,** the BLM has set up signs blocking access to three of our Claims, Puppy Feet, Broken Shovel and Cash1. The BLM cannot legally block us from accessing our Claims. There are alternate ways to the claims. Skipper has contacted the BLM, and we are taking steps to rectify the situation. For those of you who are newer Members, we have had to over come this opportunity before, it just takes some time. Up-dates will be noted on our Web page.

**April Day Outing:** 8 Members attended the Day outing in Newport Beach. Again, the weather chose not to cooperate. Earlier in the week the temperatures approached 90 degrees inland, but by the weekend end, Saturday was overcast all day and on Sunday, there was light precipitation and some wind. Coins were found including a "dollar" coin but nothing else of grate value was detected.

**June Day Outing:** We will go to the Bluffs or Bluff Park in Long Beach for a day of detecting on Sunday, June 3rd. We had about 20 Members attend when we went to this beach last year. This will be the weekend after Memorial Day, so hopefully the beach was filled with many sun worshippers over the three day weekend that were careless with their belongings.

**Speaker for May:** We will be having a video

**Speaker for June:** Joe Chmiel, owner of Advanced Mining will be our speaker and his topic will be announced later.

**Accident on Puppy Feet:** Many of you may know or have heard of the accident on Puppy Feet in early April. A miner was covered with a large piece of caliche (400+ pounds is a guesstimate) and debris as the side of the hole he was digging gave away. Luckily, a Member was nearby and able to offer some relief as he removed the lighter material. The BLM, highway patrol, the sheriff's department and an ambulance were all called to the claim. The miner was air-lifted to the hospital, and after a period of time he passed away. We offer our condolences to his family.

This should serve as a constant reminder to all Members that **prospecting can be dangerous.** One must continuously practice safety and be aware of your surroundings. Ask yourself, if you are putting yourself at risk. Gold is selling for \$1,650 an ounce, which is a lot of money, but, not that much with regards to loss of limb or life. Please be cautious.

**Membership List:** If you would like a listing of the Membership, please email myself or Kathi Brown and we will email you the list.

Happy Prospecting,  
Steve



# The Treasure's Report

April 2012

## INCOME:

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| New Membership.....      | \$ 0.00        |
| Membership Renewal ..... | 0.00           |
| Club Merchandise.....    | 0.00           |
| Raffle Income.....       | 0.00           |
| 50-50 Income.....        | 0.00           |
| Refreshments Income..... | 0.00           |
| Miscellaneous.....       | 0.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b> | <b>\$ 0.00</b> |

## EXPENSES:

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Rent .....                     | \$ 125.00      |
| Newsletters .....              | 0.00           |
| Printing and Reproduction..... | 0.00           |
| Legal Fees .....               | 0.00           |
| Donations.....                 | 0.00           |
| Postage.....                   | 0.00           |
| Porta Potties .....            | 0.00           |
| Potluck.....                   | 0.00           |
| Referrals.....                 | 0.00           |
| Refreshments.....              | 0.00           |
| Raffle Prizes.....             | 0.00           |
| Supplies .....                 | 0.00           |
| Merchandise .....              | 0.00           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>    | <b>\$ 0.00</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

April 17, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by our President, Steve Reid. He welcomed our visitors Mark & Mary Thistle and their son Luke, and Bonnie Vanderboan, now a new member. Kathi gave our Treasurer's Report and it was approved as written., along with the Minutes from last month's meeting.

Chris, our wagon master, talked about our upcoming outings.

BA Skipper was our speaker and talked about fire arm laws and safety. Also the proper way to transport and handle them without being considered a concealed weapon.

Our raffle winners were as follows:

**Gold Nugget:** Bonnie Vanderboan

**Silver Rounds:** Bill Flores, Shirley Rowe, and Ralph Kolbush

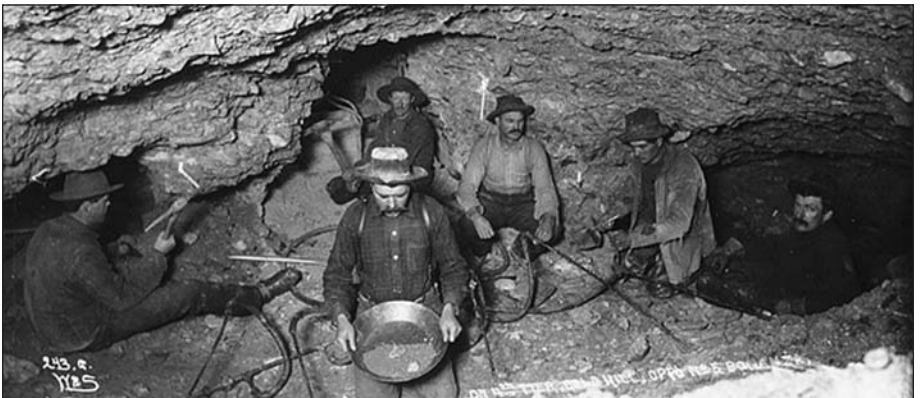
**Fifty Cent Pieces:** Dean Chapman, Luke Thistle, Sandy Hunt, Noel Clinton, Clint DeFields, and Bill Flores

**50/50 Winner:** Paul Toepel was our

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt



# The Wagon Master's Report



## Howdy Partner,

The OC49ers had a great April! Our Day Outing detecting at Newport Beach was attended by seven members and some treasures were found!

April's outing at HMC1 was a great success. We packed up the gear and hit the road looking forward to finding some gold. Our club outings are always good to attend for the newer members to learn about prospecting, and if you're lucky maybe an old-timer will give you a word or two on what to do, that's like finding gold! This outing had a few locals' members from the Ridgecrest area in attendance, just to name a few there was Red Mountain, Sandtrap, Desert Nut, Goldbug and a family from the O.C. with 6 members ranging from Grandpa and Grandma down to their grandchildren. In all we had 17 members total on Saturday prospecting with one shared interest, the search for gold!! The weather was in the high 80's with a nice breeze and blue skies. The desert weather can be tricky so you must come prepared for the different types of weather and remember to stay hydrated and drink water!

## **WOOA DOGGIE IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND OUTING**

**OC49ERS** annual May extravaganza outing Gold Digging Pot Luck eating thing we do every year.

**Date: May 26-27 (Sat & Sun)**

**Where:** Our camp will be 8/10 of a mile from Hwy395 on LDMA's Duisenburg's Road (RM26). Our OC49ers banner/sign will be on RM26, turn right at the OC sign and you can camp anywhere around there. Bring some Fire Wood and sit around the fire and tell Gold stories. There will be Porta-Potties at the site.

**Gold:** Puppy Feet, Broken Shovel and Cash1. As our President Steve reminds us "Gold is where you find it".

**Saturday:** Saturday night's POT LUCK DINNER will be held at a location to be determined later. We will post information regarding location at our unofficial campsite off of RM26. Electrical power will not be available. Our main course will be Fried Chicken, so please bring the side dishes. Suggestions for side dishes macaroni salad, potato salad, deviled eggs and the Jell-O stuff with whipped cream and fruit.

**The Club will provide** the fried chicken, paper plates, napkins and utensils. Please have all the good Vittles ready by **5:30**. Eatin should start around **6:00ish**. We are looking for your Pot Luck items to be able to serve 8-10 Hungry Miners. We will be holding the Grand Ole Nugget drawing immediately following dinner. Good Luck!!

**Sunday: Coin Hunt:** *10:00am - No Entry Fee - The field will be planted with lots of Clad.* This will be organized by Kathi & Perry Brown and the Wagon Master (Chris).

Very important please pack out what you bring in, there is not trash service. We want to leave the place cleaner then we found it.

**May's Beach day outing:** It will be June 3rd, a Sunday. Time 8am but many will get there sooner like Perry. **Place:** It's Called Bluff Park in Long Beach. **Directions** printed in last year Feb Aura: in Long Beach, at the intersection of Cherry Ave and E. Ocean Blvd. Head south to Junipero Ave and turn right and take the road to the end where we will meet in the parking lot F

See ya on the dusty trail,

Wagon Mater



# The Lost Black Canyon Placer

## THE TALE

Named for the black metamorphic rocks that it cuts through, Black Canyon Creek is part of the drainage system that taps the southeastern flank of the Bradshaw Mountains. Turkey Creek, Crazy Basin Creek, and Poland Creek are all feeder streams of Black Canyon Creek, which empties into the Aqua Fria River at Black Canyon City.

The Black Canyon area has a history of gold placer mining extending back at least to the 1850's. Nearly every tributary of Black Canyon Creek, and the main stream itself, contained placer gold. The adjacent slopes of the Bradshaws were intensely mineralized. For millennia, the mountains had shed nuggets of gold into the surrounding streams. Rich pockets of placer gold accumulated throughout the Black Canyon Creek watershed. In the early 1920's, a prospector recovered \$20,000 worth of placer gold from a gravel bar in Black Canyon Creek, just downstream from the Howard Copper Mine.



In the 1850's, Mexican prospectors were active in the southern Bradshaw Mountains. They worked a few of the lode deposits, panned many of the streams, and built arrastres to separate the gold from the gangue. Sometime in the latter half of the 1800's, a Mexican prospector discovered an extremely rich pocket of placer gold somewhere in the Black Canyon area. The Mexican worked the deposit for a short time and then left the country, intending to return later. He never did, but his two sons tried to find the placer deposit years later. They were unable to locate the pocket. There has been much gold taken from Black Canyon, but the big pocket apparently still remains.

## MINING HISTORY

The history of placer mining in the state of Arizona extends back to the days of the early Spaniards. Certainly in 1582, the Spaniards under Espejo were testing the sands and gravels of central Arizona for gold. In 1774, the Spanish priest Padre Manuel Lopez enlisted the help of local Papago Indians to mine the placer deposits near the flanks of the Quijotoa Mountains in southern Arizona. During the early 1800's, Spanish and then Mexican prospectors combed the mountains and deserts of Arizona for gold. By the 1850's, placer gold had been discovered at Oro Blanco, the Arivaca district, the Bagdad area, the Chemuehuevis Mountains, and at the Gila diggings. The early 1860's saw huge strikes at La Paz, Rich Hill, and Lynx Creek. The gold nuggets at Rich Hill were just lying on the surface! It turned out to be the

richest placer gold discovery in Arizona mining history. Placer mining continued in Arizona for the next 70 years although with diminishing returns. By the 1940's, it had nearly died out. A renewed interest in placer mining has occurred since the inception of high-quality metal-detectors in the 1990's.

Arizona has nearly 90 gold placer districts. Taken as a whole, the placer deposits of the Bradshaw Mountains have been the richest. Several placer mining districts occur along the southeast flank of the Bradshaws. The Black Canyon District has officially produced nearly 50,000 ounces of placer gold. Gold has been found all along the canyon but especially between Arrastre Creek and Poland Creek. Placers in Turkey Creek occur about one mile north of Cleator. These were worked sporadically up to the early 1940's.



## **GEOLOGY OF THE AREA**

The Black Canyon country of central Arizona lies in the Central Highlands physiographic province of Arizona. The Central Highlands Province is a northwest-southeast trending belt of uplifted rock that forms a transition zone between the stable platform deposits of the Colorado Plateau to the north and the desert mountains of the Basin and Range Province to the south. This tectonically-active belt has undergone several episodes of folding, faulting, and uplift. Uplift has been quite dramatic. In fact, so dramatic that the thick blanket of Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks that once rested upon the ancient Precambrian core has been completely stripped away by erosion. Consequently, many mountain ranges in the Central Highlands Province consist of an exposed

core of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks. The Bradshaw Mountains are such a range. The Bradshaws consist almost entirely of ancient Precambrian schist intruded by slightly younger Precambrian granitic rocks. These ancient, dark-colored schists are some of the oldest rocks in Arizona and form the basement rock into which the younger granites intrude. The Black Canyon cuts through these ancient schists and takes its name from them.

## **PROSPECTING POTENTIAL**

Placer gold has been recovered in varying amounts in nearly every tributary of Black Canyon Creek and in the main stream itself. Turkey Creek, Poland Creek, and Arrastre Creek were all minor but steady producers. Prospectors may want to

concentrate on the Black Canyon gravels, in particular those lying between Arrastre Creek and Poland Creek. Gravel bars and stream terraces in this area may prove to be locally rich. In this case, a metal-detector may be useful in the search.

*Geology Park LLC*

# Camping or Occupying Location:

The Board has discussed where to have our “meeting” place for our local Outings in the desert. It has been decided that the location off RM 26 (the road to Duisenberg) will be our official camping/occupying spot for our Outings in the desert, until notified differently.

This decision was based on the following:

- Members work many of our 8 local claims in this region.
- Some of the Claims are inconvenient for a portipottie to be delivered.
- Larger vehicles and trailers have trouble accessing some of the claim sites.
- We have members who belong to LDMA, and this is close.
- The Rangers can be a nuisance for campers on some claims.

# OC 49er Logo Patches

To the Members:

Are any of you interested in purchasing embroidered club patches? These patches will be 3 ½ inches in diameter and will look like our Club's decal. We need to know how many of you may want to purchase the patches, and what is the upper limit you would be willing to pay for the patch. This will allow the Board to determine the feasibility of investing in the project.

If you support the idea of having club patches, inform a Board Member at the General Meeting, an Outing or by email.

Thank You,

The Board of Directors



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## METAL DETECTORS AND ACCESSORIES

### FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 310-475-1111

# 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   |
| 4. Gold 1oz   | Roger Plata                                 | 1,500   |
| 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     |
| 9. Pinch for PLP Gold - 1/2 oz. so far and Climbing | All Contributors                            | 750     |
| 10. Ten 1 oz. Silver Rounds                         | A.A.A. Metals                               | 700     |
| 11. Gold Cube with Stand & Pump                     | Mike Pung                                   | 480     |
| 12. Two 1 Year Memberships Goldline Caribou Mining  | Gordon & Barry Burton                       | 250 ea. |
| 13. Columbian Amber                                 | Guy Nesbitt                                 | 300     |
| 14. Gold Nugget Earrings                            | Scott Warner                                | 100     |
| 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