

THE
**ORANGE COUNTY
FORTY-NINERS
GOLDEN AURA**

June 2012



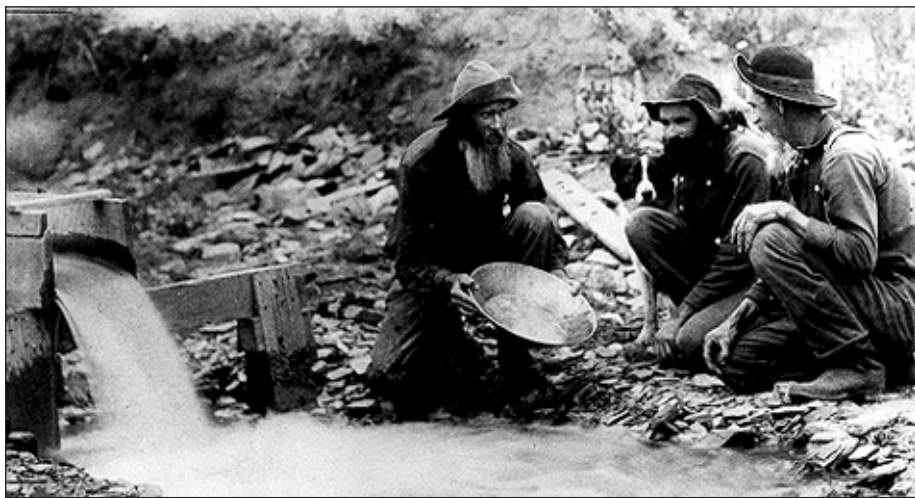
General Membership Meetings

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



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

June

Welcome to Summer,

We had our largest Outing of the year in May. I have heard that it was a success, as it was well attended and everyone was finding gold. You will need to read about the details in the Wagon Master's report.

As many of you know, the **BLM** has set up signs blocking many roads and access to a number of our Claims in the desert. On behalf of the 49ers, Skipper has been in contact with the BLM in Ridgecrest, and we will have a letter that will be provided to Members acknowledging that we have a right to access our claims. We have the initial draft, but like many interactions with bureaucrats, there are some errors and omissions, so it will need to be edited before going out to the Membership. In the meantime, just keeping digging for that yellow metal as we have a right to access or claims.

Mining Fees: Speaking of the government, Congress amended one of their many bills and now the annual fee for a placer mining claim is \$100 for each 20 acres of a claim. Prior to this new law, it was \$140 per claim regardless of it size. What this means to the 49ers is that our annual fees will be \$3,000 plus any miscellaneous charges and applicable property taxes. Last year our fees were about half that amount.

Doing research regarding the "small miner's wavier" it is the Board's belief to just pay the fees this year. The rules have changed and it is noted that road work and brush clearing are no longer acceptable improvements to qualify for the "miner's exemption." There are some other criteria that the Board believes would make it tough or impossible for the OC49ers to meet the requirements.

The Board has considered various alternatives so that we do not have to raise our annual renewal fees because of the mining fee increase. **Our solution for this year is that we will not print the Aura in June, October and December.** One will need to look at the Web page for updates during those months.

There are some **positives to the BLM raising annual fees.** First, it will be costly for others to file over existing claims, as the new fee structure for filing a new claim is also \$100 per 20 acres, plus a \$25 dollar fee. This should minimize the number of people who continually file over existing claims in hopes of acquiring them and then reselling them. This may also provide clubs like the OC49ers the chance

to pick up some new claims as there will be claim owners that dropped claims because of these higher annual costs especially if they are absentee owners and do not work their claims. Time will tell how beneficial this may be for us.

June Day Outing: We had our Day Outing June 3rd at Bluff Park in Long Beach. There were ten Members present. Perry found a gold ring, but unfortunately the stone was missing. Linda DeFields found a very nice Tiffany & Co. sterling ring that appeared to be made of woven silver. I am sure it retailed for several hundred bucks.

We will be having another Day Outing in Long Beach on June 24th. The Wagon Master has the details.

Speaker for June: Joe Chmiel, owner of Advanced Mining will be our speaker. Joe will be speaking about **“Locating gold on our club claims with a VLF detector”** of which he has much experience and success.

If you are continually hitting your limits in “found nuggets”, this may not be for you, but for those of us who are still looking to find our first one, this may be of interest.

Minelab had a nationwide marketing day on May 19th in which they released their newest product, the CTX 3030. They had events taking place in six cities across the US and also in Canada and Mexico. The event took place at StaRanch in Corona. I along with Skipper, Mike Hulka, Sandy Hunt, Bryan DeGhetto, Robert Selinger, Clint DeFields, Jon Kishi, Keith Reed, Jim Dromi, Noel Clinton and Ray Proefrock volunteered to assist in the running of the event. In exchange for our time, we each were allowed to participate in a couple of coin hunts and our club will receive a Minelab detector as a “thank you.” We will have a raffle for the detector as a fund raiser for the Club. Details will be forth coming.

Outings for June, July and August: As dredging is still banned in California, the Board has decided to cancel the Outings up North to our wet Claims. We do not have any planned activities for the summer months but we are looking into some activities. If you have any ideas, please contact a Board Member and let us know.

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 Treasurer's Report

May 2012

INCOME:

50-50 Income.....	\$22.00
Club Merchandise.....	238.00
May Outing	2,027.00
Membership Renewal.....	55.00
Miscellaneous.....	0.00
New Membership.....	220.00
Raffle Income.....	300.00
Refreshments Income.....	15.61
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$2,877.61

EXPENSES:

Gold	\$350.00
May Outing	1,530.01
Merchandise	1,569.29
Newsletters	467.68
Porta Potties	0.00
Raffle Prizes.....	73.00
Referrals.....	0
Refreshments.....	15.64
Rent	\$125.00
Supplies	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,130.62

CHECKING ACCOUNT

05/01/2012, Beginning Balance.....	15,770.55	
05/31/2012, Ending Balance.....	15,950.37	
8 Outstanding Checks	1,317.63	
CHECK BOOK BALANCE.....	14,623.74	\$14,623.74

CERT DEP

00/00 CD Balance	2,347.73	\$ 2,347.73
CD Statements are sent Quarterly		

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS **\$16,971.47**

TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE 13,659.54

TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE 12,171.23 1,488.31

General Meeting

May 15, 2012

Steve Reid, our President called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, followed by the flag salute. Our visitors were Len Steiyer and Jammie Richter. Kathi gave the Tresurer's Report and Minutes from the last meeting and they were both approved as written.

BA Skipper gave his report on the BLM and is working with them to make our claims accessible.

We watched a video pf Gold Fever. Next month we will have a speaker, Joe Chimel, he will talk on mining.

Many thanks to Sandy Hoon for bringing cookies to our meeting.

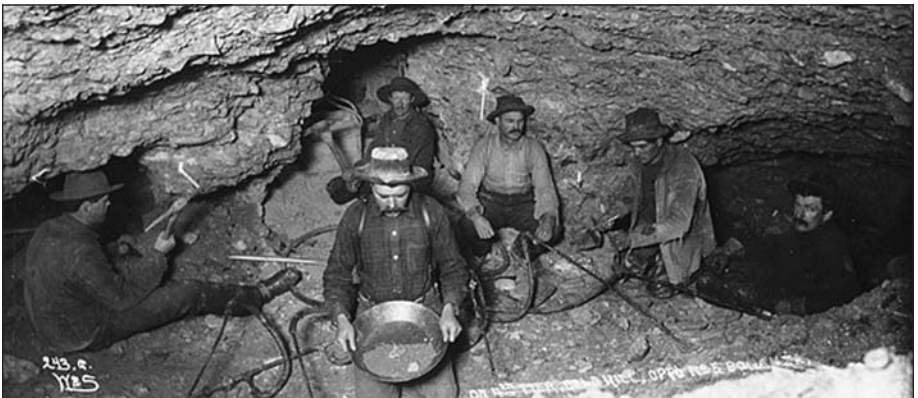
Our raffle winners were as follow:

- Gold Nugget:** Stan Gilman
- Silver Rounds:** Carolyn Kelly, Ralph Ashcroft
- Fifty cent Piece:** Noel Clinton, Leroy Kimoto, Steve Reid and Ralph Ashcroft
- Copper Round:** Steve Reid
- 50/50:** Pat Mellier

Meeting was adjourned at 900 PM.

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt



The Wagon Master's Report



Howdy Partners,

It's good to be alive and when I'm out with my fellow 49ers in the desert you sure feel good. This past Memorial weekend outing was well attended. We had somewhere between 60 to 70 members and guests at the potluck dinner. When you ask our members to pitch in and help with the shin-dig they really turn out in a BIG way, miners are very generous people. After the potluck we got down to the serious business of raffling off some gold nuggets, you know the yellow stuff. The Grand Prizes this year were a 5 gram nugget, a 4 gram nugget and a 3 gram nugget along with 13 one gram nuggets. I would like to thank Scott Pedersen of Pedersens Metal Detectors, Stanton, Ca for donating some great prospecting items for our raffle. Boy did we have lots of fun, hoping for Lady Luck to shine on your raffle ticket.

Spending time together with your family, friends and fellow 49ers finding the gold out on our mining claims is sure an adventure. Mean while, back at the Ranch, you know our camp site; we had a modern day wagon train with some of the smallest RV's to the very large toy haulers, and even a tent. On Sunday morning we had our metal detecting contest with lots of coins to be found by our members, I think our youngest member was a 3-year old and she had a shovel with a working detector. What a sight to see, kids with their Mothers and Fathers all having a memory to share forever.

I would like to send a special thank you to Melvin and Charlotte for their incredible support of our outing as well as thanking our members who helped out in so many ways. I also would encourage all our members to visit our website: <http://www.oc49ers.com/> and view the pictures of the Memorial Day weekend outing. If you have to travel a long distance to attend one of our outings, this one is a lot of fun! I hope to see my new and old friends at next year's event.

My scouts reported the May Beach outing was attended by 10 members swinging their metal detectors at Bluff Park in Long Beach. They discovered lots of coins and several rings.

June's beach outing will be at Belmont Shores next to the pool in Long Beach, Ca. If you are not familiar with the area, I suggest using Google or MapQuest to help navigate you to the location. The event is on June 24th, Sunday at 7:00am. Bring plenty of quarters for the parking meters.

SPECIAL NOTICE regarding the monthly Golden Aura news booklet. We will not be sending out July's issue to help offset the increased cost of claim fees. All NEW information will be posted on the OC49ers website.

See ya on the dusty trail,

Wagon Master

New Members Information

Hostetler Evan
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West Covina, CA 91790
evanhostetler@gmail.com
626-393-4368

Buehn David
15539 Graham St.
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
dbcolts@aol.com
714-310-9934

Gmur Arthur
PO Box 91
Johannesburg, Ca 93528
661-839-2928

Brudvig Craig & Cheryl
10400 Palm Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93312
cvik47@att.net
661-333-2832

Lost Mine of the Sheep Hole Mountains

THE TALE

The rugged Sheep Hole Mountains rise up from the desert sands of southern California about 20 miles east of Twentynine Palms. The Sheep Hole Mountains are a small range, stretching only about 15 miles in a northwest-southeast direction. They lie about 8 miles northeast of the Pinto Mountains, which straddle the San Bernardino/Riverside county line. The dry lake bed known as Dale Lake lies between the Sheep Hole Mountains and the Pinto Mountains.

The Sheep Hole Mountains are virtually waterless. Only one freshwater spring flows for most of the year. It is located on the northwest flank of the range, near Sheep Hole Pass. The Sheep Hole Mine lies close by.

During the early 1950's, a stash of old letters was discovered in the attic of a house in El Dorado, California. The letters contained the ramblings of an old California prospector named L. O. Long. They also revealed a secret! During his travels in Southern California, Long stumbled on a rich placer deposit of gold somewhere east of the alkali beds of Dale Lake.

The letters provided many clues to the location of the gold placer. In them, Long mentioned several landmarks including the "Sheep Mountains", the "Palms", the old Dale Mining District, and the dried-up lake bed of the same name. He claimed that the placer deposit was in a small canyon east of Dale Lake. A small spring issued from the rocks above.

Long apparently worked the deposit for a short time, recovering over 3 pounds of gold! In his letters, he estimated that the placer deposit was located about 15 miles east of Dale Lake. In that case, the small weathered range just east of the Sheep Hole Mountains must also be considered. This desolate stretch of broken hills is known as the Calumet range. Neither it nor the Sheep Holes are highly mineralized. But somewhere in that rugged country lies a glory hole of placer gold.

MINING HISTORY

No major mining districts exist in either the Sheep Hole or Calumet Mountains, although both are home to a single important mine. In both cases, the mines are named after the mountains themselves. Both the Sheep Hole Mine and the Calumet Mine were discovered in the northernmost portion of their respective ranges. Other than these two major deposits, the Sheep Hole and Calumet Mountains have so far proven to be nearly devoid of mineralization.

The nearest major mining district is located in the Pinto Mountains, about 8 miles southwest of the Sheep Hole range. The Pinto Mountains are richly mineralized. The first gold strikes occurred there in the early 1880's, but it wasn't until 1885 that the fabulous Virginia Dale lode was discovered. Eventually, many rich veins were located in the northern and eastern portions of the Pinto range.

Interestingly, placer gold was first discovered near the dry lake bed north of the Pinto Mountains. The Sheep Hole Mountains may have served as a source for some of this placer gold, but early prospectors traced most of it to the Pinto Mountains. As it turned out, the placer deposits of the Dale District produced an enormous amount of gold. One of the richest canyons was dubbed “25 Ounce Gulch”. Modern-day prospectors using metal-detectors have found gold nuggets in nearly every canyon and arroyo in the district. Any gully or hillside close to a mine has good potential. A legend surrounds the famous O.K. Mine, located about 3 miles southeast of the Virginia Dale deposit. A Hungarian prospector named Miklos Kovacs stumbled on a rich gold vein somewhere near the portal of the O.K. Mine. Unfortunately, he was unable to relocate it! Prospectors still search for the lost vein today.

GEOLOGY OF THE AREA

The Sheep Hole Mountains consist of an uplifted core of early Mesozoic granitic and metamorphic rocks. The range trends northwest-southeast as do many of the mountain ranges in the Basin and Range Province of North America. The northern half of the range contains numerous faults, most of which trend northwest-southeast. The western flank of this part of the range is fault-bounded with non-marine Pleistocene sediments butting up against early Mesozoic metamorphic country rock. Northwest of the Amboy Road, in the broken country that forms the northwestern spur of the Sheep Hole Mountains, occur slightly younger Mesozoic granitic intrusives. This area is highly faulted; at least three northwest-southeast trending faults cut through the igneous and metamorphic rocks here.

The Sheep Hole Mine is located on the northwestern flank of the range, just east of the Amboy Road. It is hosted in early Mesozoic granitic and metamorphic country rock. Several other smaller mines and prospect pits occur in the area.

Just south of the Sheep Hole Mountains lie the east-west trending Pinto Mountains. This highly-mineralized range consists of a core of uplifted ancient Precambrian igneous and metamorphic basement rock (in the western portion of the range) and younger Mesozoic granites (in the eastern part of the range). Many of the mines in this district are hosted in these younger Mesozoic granites.

PROSPECTING POTENTIAL

The Sheep Hole Mountains are home to one important gold deposit, the Sheep Hole Mine. It is located in the northwestern portion of the range near Sheep Hole Pass. Prospectors may want to probe the gullies and canyons in this area with a metal-detector. Prospectors may also want to focus on the western flanks of the Sheep Hole Mountains, especially the slopes adjacent to Dale Lake. This area may have served as a source for at least some of the placer gold found in Dale Lake. Again, a metal-detector may prove to be useful in the search. Finally, prospectors may want to examine the western face of the Calumet Mountains, located about 7 miles east of the Sheep Holes. Some accounts of the story place the gold placer in the Calumets.

Geology Park LLC

Origins of Gold

No one is completely sure where gold comes from. The relative average abundance in our Solar System appears higher than can be made in the early universe, in stars, and even in typical supernova explosions. Some astronomers now suggest that neutron-rich heavy elements such as gold might be most easily made in rare neutron-rich explosions such as the collision of neutron stars. Since neutron star collisions are also suggested as the origin of short duration gamma-ray bursts, if you own some gold it is possible that you have a souvenir from one of the most powerful explosions in the universe.

Gold is widespread in low concentrations in all igneous rocks and has been discovered on every continent on earth. Estimates for its abundance in the Earth's crust vary between .001 to 0.004 parts per million. In seawater there are about 0.00001 ppm. The average human body (70 kg) contains 0.2 mg of gold with the bone containing .016 ppm and the liver .0004 ppm.

It is 75th in order of abundance of the elements in the crust of the Earth. It occurs mostly in the native state, remaining chemically uncombined except with tellurium, selenium, and possibly bismuth. The element's only naturally occurring isotope is gold-197. Two types of deposits containing significant amounts of gold are known: hydrothermal veins, where it is associated with quartz and pyrite (fool's gold); and placer deposits, both consolidated and unconsolidated, that are derived from the weathering of gold-bearing rocks.

The origin of enriched veins is not fully known, but it is believed that the gold was carried up from great depths with other minerals, at least in partial solid solution, and later precipitated. The gold in rocks usually occurs as invisible disseminated grains, more rarely as flakes large enough to be seen, and even more rarely as masses or veinlets. Crystals about 2.5 cm (1 inch) or more across have been found in California. Masses, some on the order of 90 kg (200 pounds), have been reported from Australia.

Gold occurs mostly in the native state, remaining chemically uncombined except with tellurium, selenium, and possibly bismuth. Gold is almost always associated with varying amounts of silver; the naturally occurring gold-silver alloy is called electrum, an alloy of gold, platinum and silver, with trace amounts of copper and other metals. Electrum has a warm, moonlight-tinged hue of pale to bright yellow. Electrum occurs naturally in the geographic region of ancient Lydia in Western Anatolia (present-day Turkey). Gold often occurs in association with copper and lead deposits, and, though the quantity present is often extremely small, it is readily recovered as a by-product in the refining of those base metals. Large masses of gold-bearing rock rich enough to be called ores are unusual. Gold also occurs in seawater to the extent of 5 to 250 parts by weight to 100 million parts of water. Although the quantity of gold present in seawater is more than 9 billion metric tons, the cost of recovering the gold would be far greater than the value of the gold that could thus be recovered.

<http://gold.yabz.com>

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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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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	TBA	TBA	TBA
July 17	July 28 - 29	TBA	TBA	TBA
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