

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

September 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

September

Welcome,

As the summer ends and the weather cools down to the 90's it that time to start prospecting in the desert to gather all that gold that is just waiting for us. So test that dry washer, repair what needs to be done, and get familiar with your shovel as we look forward to seeing you out in the Mojave beginning in September.

The good, the bad and the ugly, that kind of summarizes the subjects covered in this month's Minute.....

First, **the ugly**: As it has been in the past, there is not much movement regarding the court cases and the dredging status. PLP is attempting to have the six cases consolidated and the venue moved to San Bernardino, as opposed to Alameda County as this location it is not "miner friendly." The Karuks are complaining about the travel expenses, and so it goes. We are getting closer to trial, but at a snail's pace.

Second, **the bad**: We paid all of the claim fees totaling over six thousand dollars. This includes the annual fees plus taxes. This increase does have an impact on the Club's budget. The Board will assess the effect for the coming year, and we will make necessary adjustments. Initially, **the dues for 2013 will be raised \$5 to \$60 annually**. This will provide about \$1,200 in additional revenue for the upcoming year. Other changes will be essential to help balance the budget.

Third, **the good**: The Members who owned the claim, Diggers Gold have donated the Claim to the Club. This provides us with another good claim in Goler Gulch area. A "thank you" goes out to Tom, Perry, Chuck and Skipper. We will have our December Day Outing at this claim. Details will follow.

Minelab X-Terra 705 Raffle: The tickets are printed in the Aura for this raffle. You may turn in the tickets and money at the general meeting, send to the Post Office Box or give to a Board Member at an Outing.

The drawing for the detector will be held at our **Holiday Party in December.** The winner need not be present. In last month's President's Minute that appeared on our Web page, I indicated the drawing would be in January, and I am sorry for the erroneous statement.

Coin Hunt: we had a Club sponsored coin hunt at Bolsa Chica State Beach on September 26th. We had 20 Members present. The big winners in were Chuck, and John, both very dedicated and good at hunting

Outings: For the September and October Outings our official camping/ occupying area will be off RM26, the road to Duisenberg. Do read the Wagon Master report for all the details. The clubhouse at LDMA is unavailable, so we have alternate plans for the potluck. Do read the Wagon Master's report for details.

Speaker: TBA

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

August 2012

INCOME:

50-50 Income.....	\$19.00
Club Merchandise.....	0.00
Membership Renewal.....	0.00
Miscellaneous.....	0.00
New Membership.....	220.00
Raffle Income.....	240.00
Refreshments Income.....	5.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	484.00

EXPENSES:

Claims.....	\$4,820.21
Merchandise.....	100.00
Newsletters.....	496.55
Porta Potties.....	0.00
Raffle Prizes.....	87.00
Referrals.....	10.00
Refreshments.....	17.74
Rent.....	\$125.00
Supplies.....	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$5,656.50

CHECKING ACCOUNT

08/01/2012, Beginning Balance.....	14,213.84	
08/31/2012, Ending Balance.....	9,321.31	
5 Outstanding Checks.....	280.00	
CHECK BOOK BALANCE.....	9,041.31	\$9,041.31

CERT DEP

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

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS.....\$11,389.04

TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE..... 16,018.26

TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE.....20,131.43 (4,113.17)

General Meeting

August 21, 2012

Our President, Steve Reid called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, followed by the flag salute. There were no visitors. Kathi gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved as written as well as the Minutes.

We need speakers for our meetings, if you know anyone, please call Steve or Kathi.

Bryan DeGhetto brought a video of Gold Fever for us to watch.

Our raffle winners were as follows:

Gold Nugget-Bill Vallioes

Silver Round-Bill Flores

Fifty Cent Piece-Bonnie Ashcroft, Mike Hulka(2)

Silver Quarters-Ralph Ashcroft, Mike Hulka, Dean Chapman, Bill Flores

Fifty-Fifty-Sandy Hunt

Silver Dime-George Ruzanka

Thanks to Lynda Starbird for helping with the refreshments.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt

New Members Information

Shelly Edward
836 Spindrift Way
San Jose, CA 95134
650-364-1024

Shelly Tanne
836 Spindrift Way
San Jose, CA 95134
tsman1452002@gmail.com
650-679-5668

Ord Jeffrey
16226 Syttles Dr.
Riverside, CA 92504
jeff.ord@att.net
951-204-8339

Root Richard & Donna
1041 Antelope Ln
Barstow, CA 92311
desertrat20@verizon.net
760-256-0169

The Wagon Master's Report



Howdy Partners,

The August metal detecting coin hunt at Bolsa Chica State Beach was one of our best attended beach outings that I can remember. In all we had about 20 OC49ers swinging away finding lots of coins. I think the most coins found title will go to Chuck of San Pedro and second place to Johnny of Colorado. Please check out our OC website for pictures of the day.

Our September outing will be out in the desert at our HMC1 claim on Sept 29-30. Our official camp site location will be 8/10 of a mile from Hwy 395 on LDMA's Duisenburg's Road (RM26). There will be Porta-Potties at the site. Please bring with you your current membership cards and claim guide to help you navigate the area. The desert weather can be tricky so you must come prepared for the different types of weather and remember to stay hydrated and drink lots water!

The October outing will also be held in the desert on October 27-28. Our official camp site location will be 8/10 of a mile from Hwy 395 on LDMA's Duisenburg's Road (RM26). There will be Porta-Potties at the site. Just a reminder, the 405 San Diego Fwy will be closed thru the Sepulveda Pass starting Friday night to Monday morning.

Just an update on Saturday night's dinner, we will be meeting at John's Pizza in Ridgecrest at 6pm. The cost of the buffet is \$12.35 for food and drink. Please allow about 25 minutes driving time from our campsite to John's Pizza-Bufferet in Ridgecrest.

John's Pizza-Bufferet & Home Made Ice Cream
348 W. Ridgecrest Blvd
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 375-4407

Just a FYI, no Aura will be mailed out for October and December and we will post information on the OC website to keep everybody informed. <http://www.oc49ers.com>

See ya on the dusty trail.

Wagon Master

Claim Jumping

One night early in January of 2009 the owner of a mining company waved down a sheriff's deputy on the road near his mining claim. Using night vision equipment the officer then saw three men with flashlights working in a steep, rocky canyon. When confronted one of the men managed to flee but the other two were arrested carrying a metal detector, rock picks and a hammer and were taken to jail where they were charged with attempted grand theft from a mining claim.

According California Penal Code 487 (d), "every person who feloniously steals, takes, and carries away, or attempts to take, steal, and carry from any mining claim, tunnel, sluice, undercurrent, riffle box, or sulfurate machine, another's gold dust, amalgam, or quicksilver is guilty of grand theft and is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison." It certainly looked like these two men were attempting to steal another person's gold and doing it at night surely adds to that suspicion. It would seem claim jumping is alive and well in the California gold country.

But if this is the law in California, that no man can take another's gold dust, amalgam or quicksilver, and quicksilver is the dreaded mercury that the environmentalists want to eliminate from the rivers and an amalgam is the bond mercury makes with gold enabling the gold to be more easily recovered, then how can anyone clean any river currently under a mining claim without breaking the law? If they attempt to remove the mercury, much less the

gold, from the claim of another man they are, by law, in the act of grand theft and can be sent to state prison.

As far as is known no welcoming hand of cooperation has been extended from those whose desire is to clean the offending toxins from the water to those who own the mining rights. Why? It would seem that cooperation between the two parties would be in the best interest of both sides. Everyone who uses our rivers wants to see the toxin's removed. Suction dredge miners remove mercury in the course of their daily activities. Perhaps the lack of cooperation was a simple oversight on the part of both parties and they will soon meet and work out a solution as reasonable men should.



But what if this is not about cleaning the rivers and protecting fish and wildlife? What if it is simply about the gold? Already miners complain of harassment from state officials that make mining difficult and suction dredge mining impossible. Anyone can take possession of an abandoned claim, or a claim where the requirements of the law have not been met. And finally a claim can be taken by stealth, fraud or force. Keep a careful eye to the claim holders. If they are being forced from their claims then this is simply about the gold. Always remember, mineral rights in America belong to the people not the government, and claim jumping, no matter the reason, no matter the scale, is illegal, no matter who does it.

www.examiner.com

Mindelab X-Terra 705 Raffle

If you need more tickets, copy this page, cut out the tickets and deliver the ticket and money to a meeting or mail in to:

OC49ers
P.O. Box 1491
Orange, Ca. 92856-1491



The drawing will be held at the January Meeting.
The winner does not need to be present.

X-Terra 705 Raffle Ticket
\$5.00 each

Name: _____

Phone # _____



X-Terra 705 Raffle Ticket
\$5.00 each

Name: _____

Phone # _____



X-Terra 705 Raffle Ticket
\$5.00 each

Name: _____

Phone # _____



X-Terra 705 Raffle Ticket
\$5.00 each

Name: _____

Phone # _____



Lost Pegleg Smith Mine

THE TALE

The famous mountain man Thomas L. "Pegleg" Smith holds a special place in the annals of the early West. Indeed, in some ways he has attained a nearly legendary status. In his forty years on the western frontier Smith wandered the length and breadth of that vast wilderness. From the Missouri River settlements to the western shores of California, Smith fought, trapped, and traded his way across the continent.

In 1824, Tom Smith began his western odyssey by signing on with a wagon caravan owned by William Becknell, M. M. Marmaduke, and Augustus Storrs. Recruited by Ceran St. Vrain, the young Tom Smith traveled west with the caravan to the sleepy towns and pueblos of New Mexico. Smith quickly took up with the American trappers based in Taos and Santa Fe and began his first career in the mountains. By the following year, Tom Smith and a fellow trapper named Maurice LeDuc had completed a grand circuit of the Colorado Plateau while hunting for beaver. In 1826, Smith was back in Santa Fe, outfitting for a trapping venture along with a distinguished group of mountain men that included Old Bill Williams, Alexander Branch, Sylvestre Pratte, Michel Robidoux, and the "Thunderbolt of the Rockies", Milton Sublette. Later that year, Michel Robidoux's trapping party was ambushed and nearly wiped out by Papago Indians near present-day Phoenix, Arizona. A retaliatory raid by over thirty trappers caught the Papagos and worked a considerable slaughter on the Indians. This party included Ewing Young, Tom Smith, and Milton Sublette.

1827 was a momentous year for Tom Smith. In the fall of that year, Smith joined a trapping expedition led by Sylvestre S. Pratte bound for the beaver streams of the Central Rockies. While in Colorado's North Park, disaster struck the party. First of all, Pratte was bitten by a rabid dog and died a horrible death. Secondly, Tom Smith was shot in the leg by an Indian while checking his traps. The leg eventually developed gangrene and had to be amputated. Incredibly, Smith cut the leg off himself! The legend of "Pegleg" Smith was born with that amazing feat.

By 1840, the fur trade was dead. It was the end of an era. That year, the last rendezvous was held on the Green River, near the junction of Horse Creek. The declining fur trade forced the mountain men into other occupations. Some chose to act as guides for emigrant trains traveling west, a natural livelihood for that "reckless breed" of wanderers. Others chose a more nefarious profession, that of stealing horses in California and driving them eastward over the Old Spanish Trail to the settlements in New Mexico. Mountain men like Philip Thompson, Bill New, Richard Owens, Doc Newell, and Thomas I. "Pegleg" Smith chose this particular means of employment. Smith probably stole more horses and mules from California than any of his fellow mountain men. During the early 1840's, he became notorious for his raids on the haciendas and presidios of California.

After a few years, Smith left the deserts of the American Southwest and made his way north to Idaho where he worked as a trader. But the restless mountain man soon had enough of that sedentary life and returned to California in 1850. There was a reason for his return to southern California.

Way back in 1829, Smith and his trapping partner Maurice LeDuc had decided to sell the beaver pelts taken that season in California. From the Yuma villages on the Colorado River, they journeyed west for 3 days until they sighted three small buttes in the distance. On top of one of these buttes, Smith found a fabulous deposit of curious, black-coated gold nuggets! He collected some of the nuggets and continued on westward, eventually arriving in Los Angeles. "Pegleg" Smith never forgot about those three buttes back in the desert. He organized several prospecting trips from California to search for the gold but all were fruitless. As the years passed, an aura of romance and mystery began to surround Smith. The "Pegleg" Mine grew to become California's most famous and popular

lost mine. As for Tom Smith, he ended his days in the golden west, dying in San Francisco in 1866.

MINING HISTORY

The Salton Basin of southern California contains no major gold-mining districts, although a few minor producers do exist in the area. The Chocolate Mountains have a venerable mining history extending back to the days of the early Spaniards. As early as 1780, Spanish prospectors were working the gold placers near Picacho and the gold-filled depressions at the southern end of the range known as the "Potholes". Rich pockets of placer gold, some of it coated with black desert varnish, have also been found along the western flank of the range. The slopes east of Glamis were the most productive. This area includes the so-called Mesquite placers which were discovered by an unknown prospector in 1880. Some of the pockets at the Mesquite diggings were amazingly rich. The area was worked extensively from 1881 to 1885 and then again from 1893 to 1896.

The Chuckwalla District was a minor producer of both lode gold and placer gold. The ore bodies were small but locally quite rich. Several isolated pockets of rich bonanza ore were discovered during mining operations. A number of mines occur in the Chuckwalla Mountains including the Red Cloud Mine (the richest), the Great Western Mine, the Lost Pony Mine, and the Aztec mines. Although not noted for large nuggets, the placer deposits in the Chuckwalla Mountains are still productive today. Some of the richest ores lie between the Aztec mines and Chuckwalla Spring.

GEOLOGY OF THE AREA

"Pegleg" country roughly encompasses the deserts and mountains surrounding the Salton Sea and extending eastward to the Arizona border. This vast expanse of desert wilderness consists of uplifted, block-faulted mountain ranges separated by alluvium-filled valleys, all trending northwest-southeast. The mountain ranges have been uplifted along fault lines that have formed above small granite batholiths and plutons. Masses of younger volcanic rocks overlie many of the uplifted granites. The mountains generally consist of a core of ancient Precambrian basement rock intruded by younger Mesozoic granites and younger still Tertiary volcanics. The basins lying between the mountain ranges are comprised of Quaternary alluvium deposits, sand dunes, and occasional lake (or lacustrine) deposits.

The Chuckwalla Mountains consist of an uplifted block of ancient Precambrian metamorphic basement rock (mostly gneisses) intruded by younger Mesozoic granites. The younger granitic intrusives comprise most of the eastern part of the range. The contact between the younger granite and older country rock is generally sharp; in the center of the range the contact is fault-bounded. The Chuckwalla Mountains are highly faulted. Two sets of faults are recognized, one trending northwest-southeast and the other trending northeast-southwest. Several mines occur in the western part of the range, including the Red Cloud Mine, Lost Pony Mine, and Model Mine. All of these are hosted in Precambrian basement rock. In the eastern part of the range are the Aztec mines and several smaller mines and prospect pits just north of Chuckwalla Spring. These are likewise hosted in Precambrian basement rock. The southern part of the range is also host to a fairly extensive exposure of Tertiary volcanic rocks. The exposure trends northwest-southeast along the southern flank of the Chuckwallas.

The Chocolate Mountains form the eastern boundary of the Salton Basin. The western flank of the range, about 10 miles east of Niland, has yielded black-coated gold nuggets in the past. This section of the Chocolate Mountains consists of an uplifted, block-faulted core of ancient Precambrian igneous and metamorphic basement rock intruded by younger Mesozoic granitic plutons. Some small exposures of Pre-Cretaceous metasedimentary rocks occur in the area. The Chocolate Mountains and adjacent fault zones all trend northwest-southeast.

The Superstition Hills lie just south of the Salton Sea and east of the Fish Creek Mountains. They consist almost entirely of Pleistocene non-marine sedimentary deposits. The hills are heavily weathered and eroded and are cut by several faults (including the Superstition Hills Fault). The

ancient shoreline of Lake Coahuila laps along the northern and eastern flanks of the Superstition Hills. The shoreline is marked by the occurrence of Quaternary lake deposits.

The Fish Creek Mountains, which lie about 7 miles west of Superstition Mountain, consist of an uplifted core of Mesozoic granitic rocks. Upper Miocene marine sediments occur along the northwestern flank of the range. The Fish Creek Mountains are cut by a northwest-southeast trending fault which may be part of the larger San Felipe Fault system. The ancient shoreline of Lake Coahuila fringes the eastern edge of the range and is again marked by Quaternary lake deposits.

The Borrego Badlands lie just south of the Santa Rosa Mountains, on the western edge of the Salton Basin. The southern portion of the badlands consists of Tertiary lake (or lacustrine) deposits while the northern part is underlain by Pleistocene non-marine deposits.

PROSPECTING POTENTIAL

West of the Yuma village on the Colorado River, the searing desert sands and stark mountains of the Colorado Desert present a formidable barrier to the traveler. Three days travel by horse should place one somewhere in the Salton Basin. Curiously enough, black-coated gold nuggets have been discovered in many parts of the Salton Basin. For example, the desert terrane between Fish Creek Mountain and Grave Wash has yielded a number of black, manganese-coated nuggets. The canyons and arroyos that cut the western flank of the Chocolate Mountains have also been a source

of black-coated nuggets. Other areas include the Coyote Wash area (north of Plaster City), the Borrego Badlands (south of the Santa Rosa Mountains), the southeastern flank of Superstition Mountain, the eastern flank of the Fish Creek Mountains, and San Felipe Creek (near Anza-Borrego Park). The area is so incredibly extensive that prospectors simply cannot cover it all. Prospectors are probably best served by choosing an area that has produced black-coated nuggets in the past and scanning it with a metal-detector.

Geology Park LLC 2000

Membership Renewal Agreement Annual Renewal \$60.00



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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	RM26	Easy	Yes
September 18	September 29 - 30	HMC1	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