

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

November 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

## November

Welcome,

I was traveling up North for work and missed the October General Meeting. It is my understanding that there were several questions, issues and concerns brought up by the Membership and this resulted in some lively conversations. Since the majority of our Members do not attend the General Meetings, it was thought that I would address some of the topics as it may be of interest to all Members. I may cover some of the other issues in the next President's Minute.

The easiest one is **the increase in dues**. This was address briefly in the past newsletter but I may be at fault by not explaining it more depth. The fact is our mining fees have increased about \$4,000 as the BLM increase the costs for this year from a \$140 per claim to \$140 per 20 acres, meaning claims like HMC1 which is 160 acres now costs the Club \$1,120 instead of \$140. Our other popular claims Triple RC and Puppy Feet are in that range also. Also, the other costs to operate have also increased since we last raised dues 3 years ago. As a Club, we have to increase revenue or reduce costs or a combination of both. The idea of increasing dues was brought up by a member in the audience in the August meeting, and most Members in attendance concurred. At the following Board meeting the Board voted to increase the dues \$5. With 240 paying Members and an attrition rate of about 15% annually, this will amount to approximately \$1,000 in additional funds. The Board also voted to not print the October issue of the Aura to cut some expenses for this year. There will be a need for other actions to be taken next year by the new Board for 2013. The Board is truly interested in hearing your thoughts and solutions on ways to reduce costs or increase net revenue for the 49ers.

A question was raised about the 49ers using the **small miner's exemption** to save money on our annual filing fees. According to the BLM's rules, we do not qualify for the small miner's exemption. The Rules state that the Club and its Board Members in total, cannot own more than 10 claims. We therefore do not qualify as we have Board Members who are claim owners and this places us over the limit of 10.

There was disappointment in hearing that our **Potluck** was changed, and we were once again having "Saturday Night's Potluck" at John's Pizza in

Ridgecrest. This summer we (the Board) were told we could utilize the facilities at LDMA for our October Outing and Potluck. Just before the Board met in September, we were told we COULD NOT use the LDMA facilities as they needed to get ready for a GPAA Outing. This gave us little time to look for alternatives as we had to have the plans for the Potluck finalized within a week to make the September issue of the Aura so that the Membership would know what the plans were for the Outing. We know the weather in the desert is very unpredictable, and based on our past experiences we knew we needed to have a plan where weather conditions would not affect the food. We choose to have the Potluck at the pizza joint again. Earlier in the year we utilized a cargo trailer for the May's Potluck, but that trailer was not available as it was sold. So the Board did not have any viable alternatives with such short notice. If any Member has a solution for future Potlucks when we do not access to the LDMA facilities please let the Board know.

It was noted that some Members are not pleased with the **direction** the Club is moving, and that is their right to express such. As President for the past four years and Treasurer for the prior 6 years, I will take responsibility for the direction and am more than willing to step down and be a Member only again. For those of you who would like to have input as to the direction of the Club, elections will be taking place in January and I very much encourage you to become involved.

**December's Outing:** We will have a day outing on Saturday, December 1st to Diggers Gold. We will meet at Highway 395 and RM26 (the road to LDMA) at 8:30 and caravan shortly thereafter to Goler Gulch and the claim.

**Christmas Party:** This annual event will be held on our normal meeting night, the third Tuesday of the month which will be December 18th. We will have ham and turkey and Members need to bring a side dish. We will be holding the drawing for the winner of the Minelab detector.

**Speaker:** Instead of a speaker, we will have an open forum to respond to some the questions that were raised in September's General Meeting and any new ones that Membership may have.

**Elections:** In January we will have the election for the 2013 Board. The Wagon Master and Treasurer will not run again. The responsibilities of all the positions can be found in this edition of the Aura.

Looking forward to seeing and prospecting with you at Diggers Gold.

Happy Prospecting,

Steve

# The Treasurer's Report

## October 2012

### INCOME:

50-50 Income.....	\$20.00
Club Merchandise.....	0.00
Membership Renewal.....	240.00
Miscellaneous.....	30.00
New Membership.....	330.00
Raffle Income.....	295.00
Refreshments Income.....	7.75
TOTAL INCOME.....	922.75

### EXPENSES:

Claims.....	\$278.00
Merchandise.....	0.00
Newsletters.....	0.00
Porta Potties.....	136.46
Raffle Prizes.....	478.42
Referrals.....	20.00
Refreshments.....	0.00
Rent.....	125.00
Supplies.....	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$1,037.88

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### CHECKING ACCOUNT

10/01/2012, Beginning Balance.....	8,879.03	
10/31/2012, Ending Balance.....	8,396.15	
6 Outstanding Checks.....	182.00	
CHECK BOOK BALANCE.....	8,726.90	\$8,726.90

### CERT DEP

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

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS.....\$11,074.63

TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE..... 16,941.01

TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE.....21,169.31 (4,228.30)

# General Meeting

## October 16, 2012

Our meeting was called to order by our Vice-President, B.A. Skipper, followed by the flag salute. Our visitors were Jim and Yvonne Thompson. Kathi gave the Treasurer's Report and they were approved as written along with the minutes from last month's meeting.

B.A. Skipper was our speaker for the night. He talked about being prepared and the items you should bring with you to survive in the desert. Such items as things to start fire, first aid, water, food, flashlight, etc.

Thank you goes to Linda DeFields for bringing refreshments.

Our drawing winners were:

- Gold Nugget: ..... Shirley Rowe
- Silver Round: ..... Mike Hulka and Robbie Schurtzer
- Silver Quarter: ..... B.A. Skipper, Robbie Schurtzer,  
Sandy Hoon, Bryan DeGhetto
- Silver Dimes: ..... Mike Hulka and Paul Toepel
- 50/50: ..... Paul Toepel
- Membership drawing: ..... Stan Gilman

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt

# New Members Information

Martin Kevin & Siena  
151 Dana  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
kmartin@martin.com  
760-677-6280

Gibson Thomas & Dianna  
PO Box 206  
Fairacres, NM 88033  
dianna.gibson22@gmail.com  
575-523-8943

Farrar Curtis & Gabriele  
419 Bridlewood Lane  
Fillmore, CA 93015  
mxcurt3@sbcglobal.net  
805-524-5249

Hiser Brian  
4147 San Onofre Ct.  
Chino, CA 91710  
brianhiser1958@yahoo.com  
909-215-5213

# The Wagon Master's Report



Howdy Partners,

The October outing was a lot of fun, everybody looked to be enjoying themselves and there was color in everyone's pan that I talked with.

We will have a day outing on December 1st. We will meet at Hwy 395 and RM#26 (the road to LDMA) at 8:30 am and head to Diggers Gold via caravan and shared rides if needed. Please bring a lunch and water for the day. The desert weather can be tricky so you must come prepared for the different types of weather and remember to stay hydrated by drinking lots of water.

The Christmas potluck party is coming up. This event is held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, just like our regular meetings. We are requesting that members bring a side dish for turkey and ham dinner. Those of you that are bringing dishes please have them at the meeting hall between 6:30-6:45 pm. Party starts at 7:00 pm. Location of the party is:

Garden Grove Woman's Club  
9501 Chapman Avenue  
Garden Grove, Ca 92841  
(Corner of Chapman and Gilbert)

See ya on the dusty trail,

Wagon Master

# Responsibilities of the Board Members

For any Members who may be interested in becoming a Board Member, below is a brief summary of the job responsibilities. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member and have questions please ask them of a current or past Board Member.

## ***President:***

- To oversee the operation and functions of the Club.
- To preside over the Monthly Meeting.
- To head the Board of Directors monthly meeting.
- To monitor/direct/manage/oversee the other Board members.
- To chose Members-at-large.
- To votes on motions only as a tie-breaker.

## ***Vice President:***

- To make themselves available to take over the responsibilities of the President if he/she can not perform their duties.
- To assist other Board Members as required.

## ***Treasurer:***

- To keep accurate records of the Club's monies both income and expenses.
- To reconcile the bank statement monthly.
- To provide a monthly report of income and expenses for the Club.
- To submit reports as required by law for such agencies as the IRS and Secretary of the State.

## ***Secretary:***

- To take notes at the Board Meeting and General Meetings.
- To keep the notes for compliance .
- To submitted appropriate notes to the editor for publication in the Aura.

## ***Claim Chairman:***

- To keep informed of mining laws changes that will affect the Club.
- To file annual maintenance/fee/taxes for our claims.
- To be on the "look-out" for possible new claims.

## ***Wagon Master:***

- To set and schedule the Outings of the Club with assistance/input from the Board.
- To facilitate the Club's two large Outings in May and October.

## ***Editor:***

- To collect information/reports from the Board Members for the Aura.
- To be responsible for the production/printing/distributing the monthly newsletter.

## ***Member at Large:*** (Appointed by the President)

- To participate at the Board Meetings.
- To assist where and when needed.



# 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.

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X-Terra 705 Raffle Ticket  
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X-Terra 705 Raffle Ticket  
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# The Lost Schofield Mine

## THE TALE

The Mohave Desert of southeastern California is home to some of the most forbidding country in North America. This nearly waterless expanse of mountains and deserts is also rumored to contain a number of fabulously-rich gold mines. In the Ivanpah Mountains, north of Cima, a legendary “river of gold” is said to flow beneath Kokoweef Peak. The Turtle Mountains, which rise up from the desert sands north of Rice, are thought to harbor an incredibly rich gold placer. Although most of the gold-bearing ores of the Mohave Desert tend to be lean, a few fabulously-rich bonanzas have actually been found. In 1915, an amazing pocket of high-grade ore was discovered in the Hidden Hill Mine, located on the southeastern slopes of the Providence Mountains. The ore from this pocket assayed out at \$1.5 million per ton! Like most of the gold-bearing ores of the Mohave Desert, the Hidden Hill lode consisted of free-milling gold in quartz.

From the Hidden Hill Mine, the Clipper Mountains dominate the view to the southeast. Only 6 miles away, the Clipper Mountains loom up out of the sediment-filled basins that surround it. The Clippers also harbor a secret. Like many of the mountain ranges in the Mohave Desert, the Clippers are said to contain a lost vein of rich gold-bearing ore.

The year was 1894. A railroad employee and part-time prospector named Tom Schofield was working in the Clipper Mountains, north of Danby. Schofield was searching for a source of water for the railroad. The Clipper Mountains, which contain several springs, was a likely choice for his search and Schofield managed to scour much of the range. One day he found an old trail that led him to a canyon and then up the side of a mountain to a small niche or cleft in the rock. Schofield followed the trail through the niche to an outcrop of heavy, black rock. Nearby was an old abandoned mine shaft containing a rich vein of gold! Schofield collected samples of the ore and returned to his camp. He traveled to Los Angeles in June of that year where he showed his gold ore to several people.

Schofield tried to relocate the old mine shaft after his trip to Los Angeles, but was never able to find it. Since 1894, many Mohave Desert prospectors have searched for Schofield’s lost mine, but all in vain.

## MINING HISTORY

The history of mining in the Clipper Mountains of southeastern California consists of a brief flurry of activity that started in 1915 and ended in the mid-1920’s. Huge deposits of low-grade gold ore were discovered along the southern flanks of the Clipper Mountains in 1915. The Gold Reef District, as the area came to be called, contained extensive deposits of very low-grade gold ore. Several mines were developed on these deposits, including the Tom Reed, the Clipper, and the Gold Reef.

The famous Arrowhead District is located on the southeastern slopes of the Providence

Mountains, only 8 miles from the Clippers. The incredibly rich surface deposits were discovered by Mexican prospectors during the 1880's. The Mexican miners extracted the gold using primitive arrastres. Large-scale mining operations were conducted by American companies during the early 1900's. In 1915, blasting in the Hidden Hill Mine revealed a fabulous pocket of nearly pure gold!

## **GEOLOGY OF THE AREA**

The Clipper Mountains consist of an uplifted core of heavily weathered and dissected igneous and metamorphic rocks that include older Precambrian granites and gneisses and younger Tertiary volcanics (mostly basalts with minor pyroclastic rocks). A small exposure of Pliocene-Pleistocene nonmarine sedimentary rocks occurs along the southern flank of the Clippers. In addition, three small Tertiary-age rhyolitic intrusions occur just south of Castle Dome. The Tom Reed Mine is located just to the south of the largest Tertiary intrusion; the Clipper Mine and the Gold Reef Mine are also located in the same general area.



The Clippers are cut by a series of northwest-southeast trending faults, the result of widespread block faulting which characterizes the Basin and Range Province of North America.

## **PROSPECTING POTENTIAL**

Railroad men seem to make pretty good prospectors. Tom Schofield's lost mine in the Clippers and John Sutter's fabulous Bagdad-Chase lode were both discovered by railroad men and both were incredibly rich. The Bagdad-Chase Mine eventually produced more than \$6 million worth of gold during its lifetime. That a rich vein of gold lies hidden in the Clipper Mountains is entirely possible. The Hidden Hill Mine is very close to the Clipper Mountains, only about 8 miles or so. We should never forget the extraordinary gold pocket taken out of that mine in 1915.

Prospectors may want to concentrate on the southern flanks of the Clippers and along the fault zones that cut the range. In addition, all contacts between the Tertiary rhyolites and older country rock should be checked for mineralization.

A metal-detector may be useful in tracing gold-bearing float. Importantly, wear boots, spats, and heavy gloves if you are considering venturing into this area on foot! -- this is home ground for the highly poisonous and aggressive Mohave Rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*). Alone among rattlesnakes, the Mohave possesses a venom consisting of a mixture of hematotoxic and neurotoxic agents. Drop for drop, it is the most toxic of all rattlesnake venoms.

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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 18	December 18	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