

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

December 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

December

Welcome to the Holidays

As Members of the 49ers, we always look forward to our annual Christmas Potluck. It is a chance to visit with our fellow Members and rehash the year. One can hear stories about the gold that was either found or not; where they will prospect in the upcoming year or where they won't; the success of their equipment or what needs to be modified or replaced, and an abundance of tall tales. Whatever the story, everyone appears to have a good time and walks away full of all the delicious food that was prepared by the Members, in reality, the female members, and for that we are very thankful. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas Party December 18th and listening to some of those tails.

The topic at our November Meeting was a quasi-open forum about the Club, and the reasoning behind several decisions. Topics included the necessity of increasing the dues, small miner's exemption, the Aura and potlucks. The Club will do its best to have our potlucks either at LDMA or at one of our claims. We will attempt to qualify for the small miner's exemption so as to reduce our future annual mining fees.

One suggestion from the floor was to have as many people read the Aura on-line and reduce our monthly printing costs. So, for all you "techies" and "computer savvy" Members who are willing to read the Aura electronically, would you please email either Kathi (katper56@msn.com) or me (oc49ersteve@sbcglobal.net) and let us know that you no longer need a printed version of the Aura. If we obtain enough of the Membership to respond "yes" to reading the newsletter on-line we will reduce some of our monthly costs and save the Club some money.

In November we lost two Members, Jack Dutchess and Don Ruthruff. We express our sincerest sympathy to their respective families in their loss.

Election Time: The January meeting is our election day for the 2013 Board Members. All the positions are available for those who wish to serve the Club and help in its direction. You can read about the responsibilities of the various positions later in this newsletter.

Speaker for February: Jim Dromi, a Member will speak to us about his experience with the Lemon Laws. The net result of his efforts was success and he will educate us about the process and what to do and not to do.

I wish all of you a wonderful Holiday Season and hope that you fill numerous vials in upcoming year.

Happy Prospecting

Steve

How They Forecast a Cold Winter

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter of 2011/12 was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes.

In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service in Gaylord Michigan.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked.

'Yes, very cold', the weather officer

As a result of this brief conversatic went back to the tribe and told his collect every bit of wood they could

A month later the chief called the Weather Service once more and ask about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.'



Condolences to the Family Jack Dutchess

The OC 49ers would like to offer their condolences to the Family of Jack Dutchess. Jack was a kind and giving individual, and was always one of the first to step up and help. He purchased the pig for one of our October outings, and I think all who attended will never forget it. Thank you, Jack, for all you did for the 49ers, you will always be remembered.

The Treasure's Report

November 2012

INCOME:

50-50 Income.....	\$13.00
Club Merchandise.....	103.00
Membership Renewal.....	1,140.00
Miscellaneous.....	100.00
New Membership.....	660.00
Raffle Income.....	211.00
Refreshments Income.....	7.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	2,234.00

EXPENSES:

Claims.....	\$0.00
Merchandise.....	0.00
Newsletters.....	507.20
Porta Potties.....	0.00
Raffle Prizes.....	0.00
Referrals.....	0.00
Refreshments.....	10.55
Rent.....	125.00
Supplies.....	0.00
Web Site Hosting.....	95.88
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$738.63

CHECKING ACCOUNT

11/01/2012, Beginning Balance.....	8,396.15	
11/30/2012, Ending Balance.....	10,037.27	
4 Outstanding Checks.....	155.00	
CHECK BOOK BALANCE.....	10,222.27	\$10,222.27

CERT DEP

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

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS.....\$12,570.00

TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE..... 19,264.01

TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE..... 22,196.25 (2,932.24)

General Meeting

November 20, 2012

Steve Reid, our President, called the meeting to order followed by the flag salute. We had one visitor, Chris Perry. Kathi gave the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as written, along with the Minutes from last month's meeting.

Our Wagon Master, Chris, talked about our upcoming Christmas Party.

We had no speaker, instead there was an open Forum to discuss the procedures of our club and to get the general memberships opinion on how to improve the club.

Our raffle winners Were:

Gold Nugget-Charlie

Silver Round-Mike Hulka & Bryan DeGhetto

Silver Quarter-Clint DeFields, Al Hamerski, Sandy Hoon, Yvonne Thompson, Randal Ringley, Art Chavez, BA Skipper, Mike Hulka

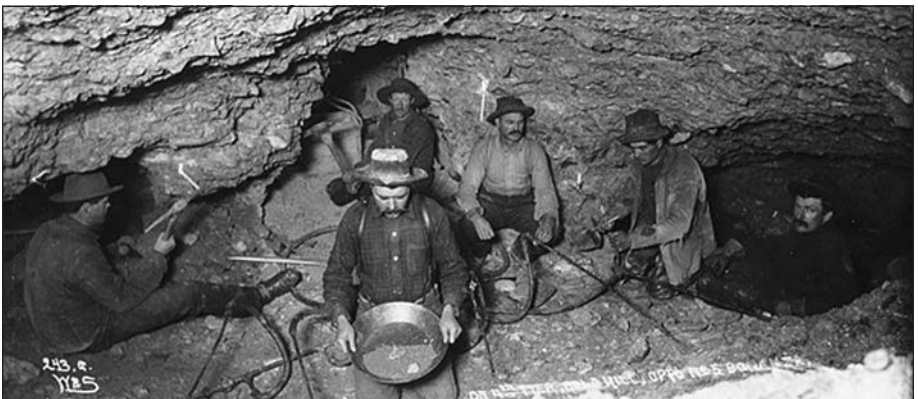
50/50- Art Chavez

Membership-Sandy Hunt

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt



The Wagon Master's Report

Merry Christmas from the Wagon Master

Howdy Partners,

While most folks were home tucked away in their beds nice and warm the OC49ers were out on the wet and windy trail being pulled by the noble metal Gold and looking forward to a day filled with good fun. With anticipation running high neither snow, sleet, rain or wind could keep us from the treasure we all hope and search for.

The December outing at Diggers Gold was a lot of fun. I spent some time walking around our new claim. There looks to be some real deep washes with steep canyon walls that may have some promise at the bottom of them. This claim is perfect for a common dig operation because you will need some extra hands to help dig and move equipment around. We had 18 OC49ers in attendance for this outing some of them made their way to the bottom of the claim where some gold was found. With this being our first outing to the new claim, my next visit will be just about sampling the area to improve my chances at finding some gold. Also with this claim being so close to the Triple RC claim, I am hoping there maybe some nuggets to be found. Please check the website for pictures of the outing. <http://oc49ers.com>

The Christmas potluck party is coming up on December 18th. 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 6:30-6:45pm. Party starts at 7:00pm. Location of the party is:

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

JANUARY 26th will be our day outing held at Puppy Feet. The Puppy Feet claim has easy access. There will be NO Porta-Potties provided. Please bring with you your current membership cards and claim guide to help you navigate the area. Please check the weather report for the Ridgecrest area for any rain; this time of year, you can even get snow. 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!

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.

New Members Information

Morton Scott & Amy
4893 Avedon Rd.
Moorpark, CA 93021
sjm90048@yahoo.comnew

Heppe Ben & Angela
2143 Drummond St.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
heppe@live.com

Selnick Steve & Shari
5372 Via Maria
Yirba Linda, CA 92886
steve.mailbox@yahoo.com

Anderson Ken
PO Box 1870
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

Anderson James
PO Box 1870
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

McKinstry Mark
PO Box 7392
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359
markmckinstry2@yahoo.com

Dues are Due!

It is that time of the year again, as your Membership in the Orange County 49ers expires on December 31st if you haven't already paid your 2013 dues, the Club would appreciate you doing such.

Our Club functions on dues, as we do not hold any fund raisers. Timely payment of your dues is important as the Board needs to make decisions based on our financial status.

For those who haven't paid, please mail your \$60 renewal to our post office box by December 31st.

**OC 49ers
P.O. Box 1491
Orange, CA 92856-1491**

Thank you,
The Board

The Lost Flannigan Mine

THE TALE

The Gila Bend region of Maricopa County, Arizona was perilous country for early mountain men, emigrants, and settlers. In 1826, the first mountain men arrived in Arizona. They came in search of beaver but found hostile Indians instead. One of these early mountain men, James Ohio Pattie, claimed that after only one year of trapping on the Gila River, he could remember only 16 men left alive out of a total of 160 who started the season.

The emigrants and 49'ers who passed through the Gila Bend region during the mid 1800's also encountered a hostile land and people. In 1851, tragedy struck the family of Royce Oatman who were on their way to California. While camping near present-day Gila Bend, the Oatman family was attacked by Yavapai Indians who killed both parents and two of the children. Two other girls, Olive and Mary Ann, were abducted by the Indians. Mary Ann died in captivity but Olive was eventually ransomed from the Indians and returned to civilization.

The settlers who carved out their ranches and farms from the land also encountered hostile Indians. One such attack in 1869 led to the discovery of a fabulously rich deposit of gold-bearing quartz in the Gila Bend Mountains of southwest Arizona. It was in that year that the Gila Bend farm of Abner McKeever was raided by hostile Apaches. The Indians kidnapped his daughter Belle and headed north into the Gila Bend Mountains. Several scouting parties went out in search of the war party; one group in particular penetrated deeply into the Gila Bend Mountains. This party was made up of three soldiers, a sergeant named Crossthwaite and two privates named Wormley and Flannigan. The three men soon lost their way and found themselves wandering through some low hills. In a depression filled with water they discovered nuggets of pure gold. Above the pool of water were two veins of gold-bearing quartz, one 5 inches wide and the other an incredible 16 inches wide! The soldiers filled their saddlebags with gold and headed southeast in search of the Gila River. Eventually they were forced to separate in a desperate attempt to reach water. Unfortunately, Crossthwaite died in the wilderness. Wormley made it back to civilization but was mentally never the same again. But Private Flannigan managed to reach safety with his saddlebags full of gold! He mounted many prospecting expeditions into the mountains but never found the pool of gold. Finally, in 1881, his body was found in the desert of northwest Yuma County. He had been carrying his saddlebags with him when he died - they were full of gold nuggets again.

MINING HISTORY

The mining history of the American Southwest began with early Spanish explorers in the middle of the 16th century. In 1582, the Espejo expedition discovered rich silver ore in the mountains of central Arizona. In the following century, a unique deposit of native silver was discovered by Spanish miners near present-day Nogales, Arizona. Huge sheets and nuggets of pure silver were found lying on or near the surface. One chunk of silver weighed 425 pounds! By the 1700's, Spanish prospectors had scoured many of Arizona's mountain ranges. The Little Harquahala Mountains, home of the famous Harquahala Mine, were first prospected in 1762 by Spanish miners. Their workings were discovered by American prospectors a hundred years later. Mining in Arizona began in earnest in 1858. This was the year of the first real gold rush in the state. A party of prospectors led by Colonel Jacob Snively discovered rich deposits of placer gold some 20 miles above the mouth of the Gila River.

No major mining districts occur near the Gila Bend Mountains, but many of the surrounding ranges and the Gila Bend Mountains themselves, contain mines and prospect pits. The Gila Bend Mountains are host to several mines and prospect pits - these occur on the northern flank of the range, near Gillespie and the old site of Crag. The Idazona Mines, the Harcan Mine, and the Buckeye Copper Mine are all found within 5 miles of each other along the northern front of the range.

Seventeen miles east of the Gila Bend mines lie the little-known Dad's Creek placers. These placers occur at the foot of the Buckeye Hills, on their southern flank. A small amount of gold was recovered from the gravels in 1935.

The Eagletail Mountains lie just to the northwest of the Gila Bend Mountains, in fact, less than 5 miles separate the two ranges. Both ranges trend northwest-southeast. The Eagletails contain many old prospect pits; the most common ore minerals in these excavations are chrysocolla, malachite, and bornite. Gold has also been found in the alluvial deposits on the northeast flank of the range.

The Little Horn Mountains lie 15 miles west of the Eagletail Mountains. The Little Horns are also dotted with prospect pits and are home to at least one lost mine, the Lost Mine of the Little Horn Mountains. The Sheep Tank Mine, which produced nearly a quarter of a million dollars in gold and silver, is located nearby.

GEOLOGY OF THE AREA

The Gila Bend Mountains, and surrounding ranges, are part of the Basin and Range Province of North America. The Basin and Range Province is characterized by linear mountain ranges separated by down thrown, alluvium-filled basins. Most of the ranges trend north-south or northwest-southeast. The Basin and Range Province comprises the southern third of the state of Arizona, plus its western edge. Here, most of the mountain ranges follow the general trend, but a few deviate from the pattern.

These deviant ranges trend northeast-southwest and contain cores of ancient Precambrian metamorphic rocks. Known as Precambrian "metamorphic core complex" ranges, they include the Buckskin Mountains, Harcuvar Mountains, and Harquahala Mountains. These metamorphic core complex ranges occur in a "belt" that stretches diagonally across the state. This indistinct "belt" more or less parallels and borders the Central Highlands Province, which lies just north of the Basin and Range Province.

The majority of the desert mountains in southern Arizona trend north-south or northwest-southeast and contain cores predominantly composed of younger volcanic rocks. Four "pulses" of post-Paleozoic igneous activity are recognized in southern Arizona. The earliest occurred during early-Cretaceous times and produced vast quantities of andesitic lava flows, tuffs, and agglomerates. The second pulse occurred during Laramide times and produced silicic to intermediate volcanic rocks and granitic plutons. Most of the mineralization in southern Arizona is associated with Laramide igneous activity. The third pulse occurred during mid-Tertiary times and produced abundant basalts, rhyolites, and andesites. The final pulse occurred during Quaternary times and produced vast amounts of basalt.

The Gila Bend Mountains contain a wide variety of rock types ranging in age from Precambrian to Quaternary. The central third of the range is overlain by Cretaceous andesites, mostly lava flows and tuffs. The western third of the range is predominantly composed of ancient Precambrian basement rock - granites, gneisses, and schists. The eastern third of the range

is mostly overlain by a large flow of Quaternary basalt, but some Precambrian granite and gneiss is exposed on the eastern edge of the range.

The Eagletail Mountains are also volcanic in nature. A distinctive Laramide-age dike runs lengthwise along the spine of the range. The flanks of the Eagletail Mountains consist mostly of early-Cretaceous andesites and younger Quaternary basalts. A small wedge of Precambrian gneiss crops out on the eastern flank of the range.

PROSPECTING POTENTIAL

The Gila Bend Mountains are composed of three distinct rock types that crop out in the western, central, and eastern thirds of the range. As previously mentioned, the western third of the range is mostly composed of ancient Precambrian basement rock while the central portion is overlain by younger Cretaceous andesites. The eastern third is mostly overlain by very young Quaternary basalts, although some Precambrian granite and gneiss occurs in the area. As previously mentioned, most of the mineralization in southern Arizona is associated with Laramide igneous activity. Younger, Quaternary volcanics are almost invariably lacking in mineral deposits. Prospectors may want to concentrate on the western two-thirds of the range based on the above observations.

The southern portion of the Eagletail Mountains is very close to the area of interest and also merits attention. Particular attention should be paid to all contacts and faults. Based on the description of the deposit given by Flannigan, the water hole has formed the only catchbasin for weathered gold particles. That placer deposit must be small but incredibly rich.

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 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