

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

January 2013



# 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

## January

Happy New Year's to all,

Welcome to 2013. I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and New Year's.

The family and I spent a week and a half on the Island of Kauai and had a great time. I went metal detecting early mornings before the people started arriving, as I have done this for the past three years. What was disappointing was that I found only about a third of the amount of change on the various beaches compared to the prior year. Is it the economy, someone hunting before me, or a sign of our society doing more cashless transactions? I don't know the answer to that, but regardless, it's hard not to have a good time detecting on one of Poipu's beaches as the sunrise each morning.

At the beginning of the year I start dreaming about gold prospecting for the up-coming season of dry-washing and metal detecting. It is noontime on Monday the 7th as this is being written and I just checked the weather conditions for Randsburg. My iPhone states that it is a balmy 36 degrees there, and somehow my gold fever diminishes slightly, but not enough to keep me from wanting to visit one of our Club's desert claims.

**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.

**Speaker for February:** A reminder, Jim Dromi will be our speaker and will describe his experience with the Lemon Laws. This should be interesting as Jim did battle the "big guys" over the quality of their product and the net result or his effort was success. Learning about the details will be fascinating.

**Dues:** A gentle reminder, your dues for 2013 were due December 31st. The last run to the post office was on January 4th, so for those of you who did not get your checks in by that day, your name will appear on our "Claim Jumper" list later in this edition.

Happy Prospecting

Steve

# Empire Mine Evolves From Accident To Prominence

It could be said that hardrock mining around Grass Valley started by accident. George McKnight came by chance in 1850 upon an outcropping of quartz on a hillside near Wolf Creek where the white rock was laced with yellow. Rock from McKnight's four inch wide vein had to be smashed with a sledge hammer; work that cried out for mechanical improvements. With the help of friends he rigged a crude stamp mill out of pine tree logs with metal "boots" driven by Wolf Creek's rushing water. It was the beginning of Grass Valley's hardrock mining era; McKnight called his find the Gold Hill Mine. Three of McKnight's friends had been harvesting rock to use in building their cabin. Roger Lescohier tells this interesting sidelight in his book *Gold Giants of Grass Valley*. "Apparently the rocks looked very much like the one McKnight had stumbled over. Upon close examination they saw gold flecks in the rocks. They spent the whole next month crushing their fireplace and chimney and panned out \$30,000 for their effort." The Gold Hill Mine was a spotty producer, but the spots were good; \$4 million over the next 14 years. Then the vein "pinched out" and the mine disappeared. McKnight's discovery and venture into hardrock mining opened eyes. Four months after his first discovery another man, George Roberts, was out looking for timber. Instead he found gold-bearing quartz on Ophir Hill, about a mile from McKnight's find. The prosperous property changed owners a few times, finally landing in the hands of some local miners as the Empire Mining Company.

Grass Valley built up around the Empire Mine, providing homes and services for the men who went underground every day, becoming one of the more important Gold Rush towns. "In 1855 the great fire which destroyed the entire town of Grass Valley burned my building and its contents and the dwelling house of my wife's mother -- with whom we were boarding," wrote transplanted easterner George Dornin. All was destroyed, except one trunk and a few articles of household goods. Dornin did what they all did after a fire levelled a mostly wooden Gold Rush town...he rebuilt. Fine homes were commissioned by the mine owners and their elegance testified to the immense wealth being brought up out of the ground. Between 1854 and 1878 the Empire Mine produced gold worth some \$2.9 million. By 1895 that figure had climbed to top \$5 million. In its heyday the Empire employed a 30-stamp mill to crush 40 tons of gold-bearing quartz a day. William Bourne, Jr., owner of the Empire -- "Queen of the Northern Mines" -- commissioned an architect to design a \$35,000 "cottage" with landscaped gardens near the Empire in 1897. Nearby Nevada City blossomed with fine Victorian homes where mine officials dined on plates that were shipped around Cape Horn. Martin Luther Marsh made his fortune during the Gold Rush by becoming, not a mining baron, but a lumber baron. He bought timber land around Nevada City and started a sawmill, producing the lumber for the big houses being built by the glitter in the pan. Wood was a resource desperately needed in the mines, for timbers and to fire the steam engines that hauled men and minerals up out of the ground. The few remaining photos of the underground mining era in Nevada County show hills as bare as an army recruit's head.

by Don Baumgart

# The Treasure's Report

## Year End 2012

### INCOME:

50-50 Income.....	\$235.00
Club Merchandise.....	870.00
May Outing Tickets.....	2,997.00
Membership Renewal.....	10,220.00
Miscellaneous.....	786.90
New Membership.....	5,830.00
Raffle Income.....	3,214.00
Refreshments Income.....	61.11
TOTAL INCOME.....	24,214.01

### EXPENSES:

Claims.....	\$6,903.59
Donations.....	500.00
Gold.....	350.00
Legal Fees.....	500.00
May Outing.....	2,107.72
Merchandise.....	2,079.29
Misc.....	117.00
Newsletters.....	4,775.55
Porta Potties.....	443.65
Postage.....	170.60
Potluck.....	288.88
Raffle Prizes.....	1,702.79
Referrals.....	140.00
Refreshments.....	206.20
Rent.....	1,375.00
Supplies.....	1,194.19
Web Site Hosting.....	95.88
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$22,950.34

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TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE..... 24,234.01

TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE..... 22,950.34 1,283.67

# The Wagon Master's Report

Howdy Partners,

Happy New Year to you and your family I hope this will be a great year where we all find some color in our pans.

The Christmas party was held on December 18th and I want to thank all of the OC 49ers for bringing their favorite dishes which made it a great success. Our lucky member Stan G. won the Minelab X-Terra 705 Raffle. Also, thank you to Walt Wegner, Vice President of Public Lands For The People (PLP) who shared with us the status of mining in California. The PLP works tirelessly to protect your land rights.

The Gold and Treasure Expo held at the Pomona FairPlex was a lot of fun and the OC49ers attendees were out in force. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves, trading stories of the past year gold adventures. In the words of George "Buzzard" Massie "The Expo introduces the public to modern- day prospecting and treasure hunting. Remember, there are only two places that everything comes from...if you can't mine it and you can't grow it, it doesn't exist, folks." I purchased a new piece of prospecting equipment at the Expo. It's a hand pump used for sniping in bedrock below the waterline. My goal is to work the streams in the HOT summer months when the desert is Very Hot in the triple digits; I will be relaxing and prospecting in the water.

January 15th is our monthly meeting and Election Day for the 2013 Board Members. Hope to see you all there.

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!

Save the Date for February 25th our day outing. Location TBA, please check our web site. [www.oc49ers.com](http://www.oc49ers.com)

Folks my time is up as the Wagon Master. This past year I have met many of our club members and their families out at our outings and have enjoyed the time spent in conversation and prospecting with all of you.

See ya on the dusty trail,

Wagon Master

# 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



# Diggers Gold

This is the claim that the Club acquired at the end of last year. In the March edition of the Aura we will publish the map, directions and other pertinent information about the claim. Make sure your Membership is current so you will receive that edition of the Aura.

# Claim Jumper's List

Albrecht, Joe & Sandi  
Anthony, Clete & Trina  
Arndell, Robert & Margaret  
Ayers, Herbert & Andrea  
Baker, Thomas  
Balcer, Jerome  
Bame, Jerry  
Barney, Tad  
Beaman, Dona  
Beebe, Johnnie  
Blackburn, Dain & Christine  
Brand, Chuck  
Brennan, Mike & Dianna  
Brown, Melissa  
Browning, Joe  
Brudvig, Craig & Cheryl  
Buehn, David  
Callaway, Lisa & David  
Carr, Kevin & Joan  
Chapman, David  
Chmiel, Joe  
Collier, Gerard & Linda  
Collier, LH & Joan  
Conway, Drew  
Covey, Ray  
Crist, Doug & Carol  
Cross, Brent & Michelle  
Cunningham, Chris  
Cunningham, Marlene & Joan  
Curtis, Fred  
Davis, Cathy  
DeHaven, Lynn & Diana  
Dempsie, Bob  
Divine, Bob & Motoko  
Dobbins, Everette  
Dodd, Gary & Dona  
Dolim, Russell & Lisa  
Dorsky, Cody & Larissa  
Dutchess, Jack & Linda  
Dutchess, James & Kathy  
Eagan, Joseph  
Elam, Erik  
Ernst, Jeff  
Etheridge, Steven & Peggy  
Fish, Jeff & Vickie  
Flores, William & Terri  
Fowler, Charles & Teresa  
Gallucci, Tom & Linda  
Gettis, Chuck & Pam  
Gettis, Steven  
Gillum, Jeff & Alice  
Glover, Bob & Nan  
Gmur, Arthur  
Godbold, Peter & Joy  
Haarsager, Erik & Heidi  
Hagewood, Shepard & Terry  
Henderson, James & Megan  
Henggeler, Joseph  
Hill, Fred  
Hinton, Jack & Janice  
Hoff, Frederick D.  
Honda, Tak & June  
Hostetler, Evan  
Jamieson, Will  
Johnson, Arlon & Dona Anderson  
Jules, William & Chris  
Keene, Gerald & Emily  
Kimoto, Leroy  
Kunz, Val & Susan  
La Rose, Dion  
La Rose, Frank & Marion  
Landis, Roger "Dutch" & Sandy  
Lane, Brent & Judy  
Lewis, Florence  
Lewis, James  
Linenberger, David & Duane  
Mackay, James  
Marszalek, Phil  
Martinez, Karen  
McGrath, John  
Milas, Martin & Jill  
Miller, Douglas  
Muller, Frank  
Murphy, Andy & Karen  
Myers, "Chip" & Jessica  
Nach, Kevin  
Noreen, Donald W.  
O'Brien, Ken & Denise  
Ord, Jeffery  
Oyama, Harry & Jane  
Park, Victor & Helen  
Pedersen, Pete  
Peralta, Joseph  
Pierzina, Dwaine  
Popken, Larry & Colleen  
Potts, Charalene  
Rafferty, Micheal  
Ralph, Brent  
Reed, Keith  
Reynolds, Scott & Jennifer  
Roelle, Doug & Darline  
Rowles, Jon & Lydia  
Rucker, Dan  
Rupe, Melvin & Charlote  
Ruszak, George  
Ruthruff, Carl & Ann  
Ruthruff, Don  
Ruthruff, John & Marie  
Rymer, Richard & Cynthia  
Seligman, Steven  
Shelly, Edward  
Shelly, Tanner  
Sibley, Donald & Patricia  
Simons, Darrel & Jewel  
Sipolnieks, Wolf G.  
Smith, Duane & Sharon  
Smith, Fred & Hazel  
Spicer, Adam  
Sulatycky, Robert & Barbara  
Terrel, Elvin  
Thomaneck, Kurt & Nina  
Thorup, David & Janice  
Thorup, Rick  
Timmons, Curtis  
Trabert, Andrew & Michelle  
Uhart, Jean & Pat  
Vallieres, William & Debby  
Vanderbaan, Bonnie  
Webb, Gary & Kari  
Webb, William & Phyllis  
Welsh, Bill  
White, Allan & Christine  
Wilkins, Al & Audrey  
William, Jules & Chris  
Williams, Gary & Mindy  
Willis, Jon  
Wilson, James M.  
Winchell, Brian & Patti  
Wisberger, Bruce & Mary  
Wood, Andrew & Lind



# General Meeting - Christmas Party

December 18, 2012



# The Lost Spanish Mine of Sycamore Canyon

## THE TALE

The year was 1581. It had been 40 years since Coronado's fateful expedition into what is now Arizona. As always, the Spaniards had come looking for gold, but Coronado found none. Although he covered a vast amount of territory extending from the plains of Kansas to the mountains of Arizona, he found no precious metal deposits. That the Spaniards waited 40 years to return was due in large part to Coronado's failure to find gold. But now, plodding up the Rio Grande River, was a second expedition of Spaniards led by Antonio de Espejo. At the Rio Grande villages known as Tiguex, the expedition turned west, leaving the river behind. Eventually the Spaniards reached the Hopi villages near Oraibi. From there they headed southwest into the rugged mountains of central Arizona.

The Spaniards under Espejo were entering an awesome wilderness of mountains and canyons, but for the first time they began to see evidence of mineralization in the rocks. Near present-day Jerome, the Spaniards discovered rich silver and copper deposits, some of which had been previously worked! The Spaniards realized that the local Indians had been mining some of the oxidized copper ores for paints and pigment. Espejo discovered a large mine shaft, hacked out of the rocks by the Indians.

North of the Jerome deposits, one of Arizona's most beautiful canyons empties into the Verde River. It is called Sycamore Canyon. Sycamore Canyon was prospected by members of the Espejo expedition while the Spaniards were in the area in 1582. The Jerome deposits were a bit of a disappointment to the Spaniards. Unfortunately, very little free gold was ever found. But in the Sycamore Canyon area, prospectors from Espejo's party did find gold. The Spaniards recorded the location on a map and eventually returned to Mexico City, loaded down with mineral specimens. Unfortunately, Espejo was denied permission to return to the mines, and they slept for nearly 40 more years. In 1620, Jesuit priests visited the area, but apparently did no work in the mines. The gold mine in Sycamore Canyon again lay dormant. It wasn't until 1720 that the gold mine was reactivated. Spanish priests worked the deposit for a number of years until hostile Indians drove them off. Again, the mine slumbered. In 1853, an American prospector stumbled on the gold deposit but was driven off by the Indians. Twenty years later, prospectors again located the mine. The miners found some Spanish relics and plenty of gold! But, as before, hostile Indians ran them off. When some of the prospectors returned to Sycamore Canyon a few years later, they couldn't find the mine! The Indians had apparently concealed it forever.

## MINING HISTORY

The nearest mining district to Sycamore Canyon is the old Jerome copper district, located less than 10 miles south of the Sycamore Canyon area. The Jerome area has a venerable mining history extending back to Pre-Columbian times. When the Spaniards arrived in the area in 1582, they discovered abundant evidence of previous mining activity, including primitive tools, small carved-out pits, and at least one mine shaft. The Spaniards also discovered rich silver and copper deposits. These deposits were visited and mined sporadically throughout the next three centuries. In 1598, a party of Spaniards led by Marcos Farfan de los Godos showed up in the area. Twenty-two years later, Jesuit priests visited the mines. In 1720, the Spaniards again returned to the Jerome area. They worked the mines for a number of years until driven off by Indians. Their excavations and tools were found a century later by American prospectors.

In 1876, the famous Army scout Al Sieber filed a claim on an old Indian excavation on Mingus Mountain. Sieber's claim was one of the first in the area, but American prospectors soon found much richer deposits nearby. The Little Daisy Mine proved to be one of Arizona's richest copper mines. It also produced gold and silver as a by-product. In 1914, Jimmy Douglas and George Turner discovered the richest vein ever found in American copper mining history in one of the tunnels of the Little Daisy Mine. It was a huge vein of copper, 5 feet thick! The Little Daisy Mine eventually produced over \$150 million in copper, gold, and silver.

## **GEOLOGY OF THE AREA**

The Sycamore Canyon country lies on the boundary between two of Arizona's great physiographic provinces - the uplifted mountains and valleys of the Central Highlands Province and the stable platform deposits of the Colorado Plateau. The Mogollon Rim, which forms the southern margin of the Colorado Plateau, is deeply cut and dissected by Sycamore Creek. The two physiographic provinces present many striking contrasts. The Colorado Plateau has been a bastion of tectonic stability for much of its history whereas the Central Highlands Province has witnessed several episodes of folding, faulting, and uplift. Consequently, many of Arizona's major mining districts are found in the "disturbed" rocks of the Central Highlands Province, while the Colorado Plateau is virtually barren of economic mineral deposits. The nearest mining district to Sycamore Canyon is, of course, Jerome. This area has a rich mining history extending back to the 16th century. The ore bodies at Jerome are somewhat unique. Mineralization was a product of ancient submarine volcanism. The mineral deposits are associated with highly metamorphosed Precambrian volcanic rocks.

The Sycamore Canyon country begins some 10 miles north-northeast of Jerome. This beautiful canyon cuts through a succession of middle to late-Paleozoic sedimentary rocks. The oldest sedimentary rocks exposed in the canyon are Devonian to Mississippian in age and consist of highly fossiliferous limestones. These limestones are overlain by the red siltstones and shales of the Pennsylvanian/Permian-age Supai Formation. Further up the canyon, the Permian-age Coconino Sandstone crops out above the Supai Formation. The Coconino Sandstone consists of cross-bedded dune sands deposited in a desert environment. These sandstones are overlain by more Permian-age deposits: the Kaibab Limestone and the crossbedded sandstones of the Toroweap Formation. The Sycamore Canyon country is home to a few small faults, most of which trend roughly north-south. The Jerome area, on the other hand, harbors many faults, the largest of which is the north-south trending Verde Fault. As in many other mountain ranges in the Central Highlands Province, movement along the Verde Fault has lifted ancient Precambrian rocks to the surface. It is these rocks that contain many of the mineral deposits in this area.

## **PROSPECTING POTENTIAL**

Sycamore Creek cuts through a succession of sedimentary rocks on its way to the Verde River valley. The canyon harbors no major mineral deposits, but the nearest mining district is less than ten miles away. One account of the story places the mine in a tributary of Tule Canyon, itself a tributary of Sycamore Creek. Another account places the mine further down Sycamore Canyon near its mouth. Prospectors may want to concentrate on both areas, but the lower stretches of the canyon seem to offer the best potential.

Faults merit special attention as do any exposures of older Precambrian rocks. A metal-detector may be of some use in the search for gold-bearing float in the vicinity of the mine.

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# Scheduled Outings 2013

Dates and Locations are Subject to Change!

Meetings	Outing	Claim	Access	Rest Rooms
January 15	January 26 - 27	Puppy Feet	Easy	No
February 19	February 23 - 24	TBA	TBA	TBA
March 19	March 30 - 31	TBA	TBA	TBA
April 16	April 27 - 28	TBA	TBA	TBA
May 21	May 25 - 26	TBA	TBA	TBA
June 18	June 29 - 30	TBA	TBA	TBA
July 16	July 27 - 28	TBA	TBA	TBA
August 20	Aug 30 - Sep 1	TBA	TBA	TBA
September 17	September 28 - 29	TBA	TBA	TBA
October 15	October 26 - 27	TBA	TBA	TBA
November 19	November 30	TBA	TBA	TBA
December 17	December 17	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