

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

February 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

## February

Hello everyone,

I want to start by saying Thank You to all the Board members leaving, Steve Reid (president), Perry Brown (member at large),

Kathi Brown (treasure), Chris Kelly (wagon master) and Tommy Grogan (claims chairman).

Returning Board members Vice President: B.A. Skipper (aka Skip) , Secretary: Sandy Hunt, Member at Large Mike Hulka

Editor & Web Master: Robert Selinger and our PLP Representative: Paul Topel

And say Hello and welcome to the new Board members Steve Reid (treasure), Scott Reynolds (wagon master),

Blair Johnson (claims chairman) Stan Gilman (member at large) Mike Hulka will take over the raffle duties.

**THE BOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!**

We need ideas, suggestions on things you the "MEMBERS" would like the club to do.

How about some ideas on speakers for the monthly meetings.

**SMALL MINERS EXEMPTION**

If anyone has any information that could help the club with the small miners exemption please contact me with that information.

You can email me at [oc49erbryan@gmail.com](mailto:oc49erbryan@gmail.com)

I look forward to seeing you out at Puppy Feet on the 23rd.

Happy Digging

Bryan

# The Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2013

## Income

50-50 .....	\$21.00
Raffle .....	\$303.00
Refreshments .....	\$4.00
New Members .....	\$110.00
Renewal .....	\$2,635.00
Merchandise .....	\$30.00
Misc .....	
May Outing .....	
Total .....	\$3,103.00

## Expenses

Rent .....	\$211.00
Aura .....	\$526.70
Refreshments .....	\$11.59
Mining Fees .....	
Bank Charges .....	
Office Supplies .....	
Hat, caps, etc .....	\$319.58
Postage .....	\$191.00
Potlucks .....	
Total .....	\$1,259.87
Month .....	\$1,843.13

## Checkbook

Stmt Balance .....	\$17,336.31	
Outstanding Checks .....	\$280.00	
Checkbook Balance .....	\$17,056.31	\$17,056.31
CD Balance .....	\$2,347.73	
Total Cash .....	\$19,404.04	

# The Wagon Master's Report

Not Available at time of printing



## 49er's Club Claims

Below is a listing of our Claims and the annual mining fees we paid last year. The fee was \$140 per twenty acres. We are not sure what the fees will be this year, but one can be certain it won't be less. On several of the claims we also pay a property tax.

Do look over the claims below. Are there any claims that we as a Club, may not want to keep?

<b>Claim</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>HMC1</b> . . . . .	<b>160</b>	<b>\$1,120.00</b>
<b>Puppyfeet</b> . . . . .	<b>80</b>	<b>560.00</b>
<b>Cash1</b> . . . . .	<b>20</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>Broken Shovel</b> . . . . .	<b>20</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>Golpher Gold</b> . . . . .	<b>80</b>	<b>560.00</b>
<b>Triple RC</b> . . . . .	<b>120</b>	<b>840.00</b>
<b>Tailings</b> . . . . .	<b>120</b>	<b>840.00</b>
<b>Hidden Gulch</b> . . . . .	<b>20</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>Condor2</b> . . . . .	<b>20</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>Diggers Gold</b> . . . . .	<b>160</b>	<b>1,120.00</b>

*Note: HMC1 is a consolidation of HMC1, HMC2 & Amazing Grace*

# Snakes are Beautiful Creatures, Best Left Alone

**Rattler!** Despite all we have learned about venomous creatures since television featured programs starring spiders, scorpions and snakes, our minds are still hard-wired with the images produced by Hollywood; life in the old west of the US of A and the creature feared and shot at more than any other, except perhaps Clint Eastwood - the Rattlesnake, usually shortened to Rattler!

Curiously, and due to our usual skewed judgement, rattlesnakes are the species of serpent which presents the least danger to man, as he announces his presence from as much as 25 meters away by rattling his tail bones together and saying, "Pass by, stranger, and fare ye well, but keep your bloody great horse from stamping on me or I'll throw a hissy fit and you'll regret it." Or words to that effect.

But no matter, out came the six-shooters and screen cowboys exhibited their machismo by blasting the long suffering rattlesnake to kingdom come. Few of us back then mused that you had as much chance of hitting a small target, like a moving snake, from a bucking horse with a pistol, as you would in hitting the moon with a quarrel, (look it up). But there was one piece of honesty in that footage. Rattlesnake venom is a lot more dangerous to your horse than it is to the riders, which is why horses rightly fear snakes.

Of the 30 or so types of rattlesnakes, nearly all are confined to the American continent: North, Mid and South. The word "crotalus" is from the Greek and means "castanet," although the sound is less well defined in all the ones I have heard give warnings. Another piece of folklore that needs dispelling is the myth that they cannot hear, they can, but have no external ears.

I have found through limited research than many venomous creatures, who want you to leave them alone; they don't really want to harm you, don't inject all their venom in a strike. I have found that common paper wasps are capable of merely brushing you with their sting and leaving a tingling sensation, giving you a chance to bugger-off before they let you have the thermal lance!

Those who panic and flap around after wasps, or take mighty swings at it with an object big enough to stun an ox, don't merit, or get, consideration, and the annoyed wasp rightly sends them howling. I cannot understand the childish fear of these minute and humble creatures; I leave them alone and they never sting me. (yes, they will invade your space; they see it as theirs, based on their accurate summation that they have been here millions of years before you).

I have been more circumspect with snakes which have crossed my path - or theirs, mine. But only to the extent of halting in my tracks, perhaps withdrawing a foot or two so the creature senses the lack of threat and moves calmly away, or even curls up and goes back to sleep. Instinct, lost to man, is highly developed in wild creatures and they can usually sense your intent immediately.

In fact, like human teenagers, the immature snakes can often be the more dangerous as they have not learned through experience to sort out friend from foe and may let you have the whole dose of venom; they are able to hunt, and have venom as soon as they are born.

Rattlesnakes are actually great friends to man. Rats and other small rodents are high on their menu; perhaps less fortunately, are small birds and their eggs. A rattlesnake's venom typically kills its prey within 20 seconds or so and the creature will follow larger prey until its venom does take effect. You, your horse, or your dog don't fit into the category of prey for these snakes, so their strike is purely defensive and you won't be chased as you sensibly leave the area. (some snakes will chase man, like the taipans or mambas, etc.).

If you do get bitten severely - or at all - you need professional help quickly and an antivenin administered.

The rattlesnakes shed their skin due to growth once, or more, per year and as they do another "bead" is added to the tail. So you can get an idea of a snake's age by the number of "rattles" he has. Make sure you count them from distance, as the snake can strike 2/3rds of its body length faster than your eye can follow. Another good tip to remember is that when the rattles get wet they make no sound!

## **Mojave Rattlesnake.**

This is the most dangerous of the family Crotalinae, the rattlesnakes. He is found in Mexico and in several of the southern states of the US. His name is a misnomer, because his range well exceeds the Mojave Desert. There are two varieties, possessing distinctive neurotoxin venom (most rattlers are haematotoxic). Of the two, class A and B, the A is 10 times more potent and you will be unlucky if getting bitten by this snake. These rattlesnakes are brown to pale green in color, with a dark diamond pattern down the back. They all look very similar and only experts can tell the more dangerous from the other, so treat all rattlers with caution and respect, as they will surely treat you.

Rattlesnakes are eaten as human fare in parts of Mexico and the US, I believe. In Mexico, the snake is feared and called "Vibora de Cascabel." Many peoples south of the border know nothing about snakes, cannot tell the harmless from the lethal and, so, kill them all regardless. They run them over sooner than slow, or drive round them and show really disgusting ignorance which I wish would cease.

Yet the Mexicans protect and love their Monarch butterflies. . .go figure!

*diogenes.hubpages.com*

## **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*.

# Dues are Past Due !

It is past the time of the year for your dues to be paid. You will find a list of Claim Jumpers and if your name appears on this list, you are not permitted to prospect on the Orange County 49er's Claims. My last trip to the Post Office Box was February 2nd.

If your dues have not been received by February 28th, you name will be removed from the mailing list and you will not be receiving the March Aura which will contain the map and direction to Diggers Gold.

Our Club functions on dues. 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:

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

Thank you,  
The Board

## Claim Jumper's List 1/21/2013

Anthony Clete & Trina	Glover Bob & Nan	Pedersen Pete
Arndell Robert & Margaret	Gmur Arthur	Peralta Joseph
Ayers Herbert & Andrea	Haarsager Erik & Heidi	Popken Larry & Colleen
Baker Thomas	Hagewood Shepard & Terry	Potts Charalene
Blackburn Dain & Christine	Henggeler Joseph	Rafferty Micheal
Brand Chuck	Hinton Jack & Janice	Reed Keith
Brennan Mike & Dianna	Hoff Frederick D.	Reynolds Scott & Jennifer
Browning Joe	Honda Tak & June	Rusznak George
Brudvig Craig & Cheryl	Jamieson Will	Shelly Tanner
Buehn David	Johnson Arlon & Dona Anderson	Sipolnieks Wolf G.
Collier Gerard & Linda	Jules William & Chris	Smith Duane & Sharon
Collier LH & Joan	Kimoto Leroy	Smith Fred & Hazel
Conway Drew	Kunz Val & Susan	Spicer Adam
Covey Ray	La Rose Frank & Marion	Sulatycky Robert & Barbara
Crist Doug & Carol	Landis Roger "Dutch" & Sandy	Thomaneck Kurt & Nina
Cross Brent & Michelle	Lewis Florence	Thorup David & Janice
Davis Cathy	Lewis James	Thorup Rick
DeHaven Lynn & Diana	Martinez Karen	Timmons Curtis
Dempsie Bob	McGrath John	Uhart Jean & Pat
Dodd Gary & Dona	Miller Douglas	Vallieres William & Debby
Dolim Russell & Lisa	Muller Frank	Vanderbaan Bonnie
Dutchess Jack & Linda	Nach Kevin	White Allan & Christine
Eagan Joseph	Noreen Donald W.	William Jules & Chris
Elam Erik	O'Brien Ken & Denise	Willis Jon
Ernst Jeff	Ord Jeffery	Wilson James M.
Fish Jeff & Vickie	Oyama Harry & Jane	
Gillum Jeff & Alice	Park Victor & Helen	



# New Members Information

Harris Randy  
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Glendale, CA 91205  
rnadallharris@fastmail.us  
818-484-5973

Scott Brian  
26641 Avenida Arivaca  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691  
patro78@aol.com

Howard Steven & Peggy  
8241 West Ave. D-6  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
pegs3@juno.com  
661-951-7375

Mohler Tom & Freda  
PO Box 216  
Johannesberg, CA 93528  
fretom@1cyurbunet.com  
775-726-3595

Kanach Joseph  
2516 Vanderbilt Lane Apt 6  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
mrkanach@notmail.com  
541-510-4896

## 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

# The Lost Mine of Bronco Canyon The Lost Mine of Bronco Canyon

## THE TALE

The Bronco Canyon watershed is located almost at the exact geographical center of the state of Arizona. This extremely rugged area lies between the Aqua Fria River to the west and the Verde River to the east. Both rivers flow southward, the Aqua Fria on its way to the Gila and the Verde River heading to its junction with the Salt River. Bronco Canyon is located about 50 miles north of Phoenix and about 25 miles northwest of old Fort McDowell. The famous Bradshaw Mountains loom to the west less than 20 miles away. This southern portion of the Bradshaws is home to a number of rich mining operations including the Crown King, Tiger, and Howard mines.

The 1870's were the glory years of the southern Bradshaws. The area was alive with excitement as prospectors scrambled through the mountains in search of gold. In 1870, the fabulous Tiger lode was discovered near the southern crest of the range. Five years later, a school teacher stumbled on a massive gold deposit less than three miles north of the Tiger Mine. Initially dubbed the Red Rock Mine, the famous deposit eventually came to be known as the Crown King Mine.



The fabulous strikes in the southern Bradshaws galvanized the area. It seemed like every man in central Arizona was on the lookout for gold. During those early years of the 1870's, any prospector riding into Phoenix with gold ore in his packs was likely to attract attention. If that man was an Indian then it was a sure thing that all eyes would be on him. Such a thing occurred at this time in Phoenix.

The Apache Indian had been showing up in Phoenix to trade for food and supplies for many months. He never made trouble and he always paid for his supplies with gold nuggets! Phoenix was filled with prospectors going to and from the mines. Some of those prospectors had heard of the Apache Indian who never seemed to lack for gold. Two of them in particular decided to follow the Apache back to his gold mine. One day they managed to track him north out of Phoenix. Eventually, they reached the rugged Bronco Canyon area where, on the west side of the canyon, they found a massive quartz vein laced with free gold. Unfortunately, the Apaches attacked the prospectors, killing one. The other slipped away and escaped. Years later, before he could return to the mine, the old prospector passed away. The Apache's gold mine remains hidden to this day.

## MINING HISTORY

The history of mining in central Arizona must surely begin with the earliest inhabitants of the region, the Pre-Columbian Amerindians. When the Spaniards entered the area in 1582, they found abundant evidence of previous mining activities. The Spaniards were followed by Mexican prospectors during the early 1800's. They reworked many of the Spanish mines and made a few strikes of their own. By the early 1860's, a new wave of prospectors poured into central Arizona. The Americans were a rugged and seasoned lot who had cut their teeth on the California goldfields. In 1863, a group of American prospectors led by William Bradshaw penetrated the mountains that bear his name for the first time. The Bradshaw Mountains

turned out to be highly mineralized. That same year, the first substantial strikes were made near the head of the Hassayampa River and at Antelope Hill, just east of present-day Congress Junction. Many rich strikes were to follow. In 1870, the massive gold deposits of the southern Bradshaws were discovered. The famous Tiger lode was located that year near the crest of the range.

Many of the creeks, canyons, and arroyos of the southern Bradshaws contain placer gold deposits. Turkey Creek, which drains the east flank of the southern Bradshaws north of Cleator, has been a minor but steady producer. The Black Canyon drainage area has also yielded placer gold, especially between Arrastre Creek and Poland Creek. The gravels below the Howard mines were locally quite rich.

The nearest zone of mineralization lies in the southeastern part of the area of interest. Several mines and prospect pits lie about 9 miles east of Black Mesa. These include the Brooklyn, Rosalie, and Copper Queen Mines. These deposits are hosted in Precambrian basement rock, like those in the Bradshaw Mountains.

## **GEOLOGY OF THE AREA**

he Agua Fria River and its tributaries, including Bronco Creek, drain the central portion of the uplifted belt of rugged mountains and mesas that comprise the Central Highlands Province. The Central Highlands physiographic province forms a transition zone between the stable platform deposits of the Colorado Plateau to the north and the desert mountains of the Basin and Range Province to the south. This tectonically-active belt has undergone several episodes of folding, faulting, and uplift. Uplift has been quite dramatic. In fact,

so dramatic that the thick blanket of Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks that once draped the ancient Precambrian core has been completely stripped away by erosion. Consequently, many mountain ranges in the Central Highlands Province consist of an exposed core of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks. The Bradshaw Mountains, which rise up west of Black Mesa, are such a range. The Bradshaws consist almost entirely of Precambrian schist intruded by slightly younger Precambrian granitic rocks. East of the Bradshaws, in the Bronco Canyon country, an extensive field of Tertiary-Quaternary basalt covers much of the area. These basalt flows rest unconformably on deeply eroded Precambrian basement rock. They overlie Black Mesa and much of the rugged country east of the Agua Fria River. About 8 miles east of Black Mesa and the Agua Fria River, ancient Precambrian basement rock is again exposed. This belt of Precambrian crystalline rock trends roughly north-south and is about 3 to 4 miles wide. These ancient schists and granites occasionally harbor mines and mineralized veins.

## **PROSPECTING POTENTIAL**

Much of the Bronco Canyon country is overlain by Tertiary-Quaternary basalt flows. These younger basalts are almost invariably devoid of mineral deposits. On the other hand, the same Precambrian basement rock that forms the bulk of the Bradshaw Mountains extends southeastward beneath the younger basalt flows of the Bronco Canyon area and then crops out again in a narrow belt about 8 miles east of Black Mesa. Prospectors should probably focus on these Precambrian rocks

rather than the Tertiary-Quaternary basalts that overlie them in this part of Arizona. It is possible that a small "window" of mineralized Precambrian rock is exposed in some deep canyon where the overlying basalt has been eroded away.

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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