

# The GOLD PAN

The newsletter of the  
**Comstock Gold Prospectors**

February 2010



## *BLACK BILLIE*

### **Next Meeting Feb. 23, 2010**

#### **UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(Mark your calendars !!!)

Feb 23, 2010	-	Board/General Meeting
Mar 23, 2010	-	Board/General Meeting
Apr 27, 2010	-	Board/General Meeting
May 25, 2010	-	Board/General Meeting
Jun 22, 2010	-	Board/General Meeting

#### **1 Year Gold – NYSE**

<u>2/5/10 – Closing</u>	\$1,065.00
1-year high	1,214.80
1-year low	868,70

#### **1 Year Silver – NYSE**

<u>2/5/10 – Closing</u>	\$ 15.15
1-year high	19.21
1-year low	11.89

#### **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

The Questions of life: If someone offered you a comfortable, successful position in a morally questionable situation, would you accept? Why or why not? Now that's food for thought.

While you all are thinking about that question of life. Lets shift gears and start thinking about getting ready for your first gold hunting trip.

First put together a list of every thing you are going to take. Make sure you check out all your equipment and you are not missing any parts on your motor, spark plug, oil level and fire up the motor to make sure there are not any fuel or oil leaks on your power sluice.

Check out your first aid kit and all your camping equipment. I am ready to go, are you? Don't forget to make sure you have charged up batteries for your metal detector and any other tools you will take on your trip. You get the idea, before you know it March and April will be here and it will be time to go out and prospect. We might get lucky and even get to dry wash in late April or early May out on the Tammy or Nadine. I hope you are all fired up to go out there and find some gold.

On another note I wanted to let you know that the claims committee made a trip out to BLM in Sacramento CA. to check out some more possible areas to look for gold. Also Bill Vogt has a great guess speaker lined up for the February meeting. Hope to see you at the February meeting.

Your President and servant to the Club,  
Grant M. Garrison  
Woody

## GUEST SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY

Chris Ralph will visit us again and this time he will tell us about *Tertiary River Channels of California and the Gold They Contain, and How to Prospect Them*. He's also bringing copies of his new book, "*Fists Full of Gold*". If you'd like to see details of the book, go to:

<http://nevada-outback-gems.com/goldbook.htm>.

## The Forest Service And Sierra County

by Bill Vogt

The Board got last minute word that the Club might want to have a representative available at the Board of Supervisor's meeting in Downieville on February 2. We were told that there was Forest Service activity against mining claims along the Yuba that might affect our claims. Since I was the only person available on the spur of the moment I attended on behalf of the Club. The meeting was standing room only with people actually standing in the hall outside of the meeting room. The subject on the agenda that had drawn the crowd (mainly miners) was an armed raid by Forest Service personnel along with the local Sheriff on a claim (referred to as the Dredge Mining Claim or the Nixon Claim). The raid resulted in several unauthorized people being removed from the claim along with a lot of material (mostly hazardous) being hauled off. The meeting started at 10AM and was normal county business up until 10:30AM when this subject was on the agenda. That was the sole topic until Noon when they adjourned for lunch and I left. Local citizens talked first followed by a representative from the Forest Service and then some of the Supervisors. Emotions were high, the atmosphere was very tense and to be perfectly honest I felt very uncomfortable. I do not think the Club has anything to worry about at this time. But I think it is safe to say that there is definite strife between the Forest Service and many of the citizens of Sierra County and the Club members might want to keep that in mind when they are in that area. You can read the minutes of the meeting at the following link or you can listen to the audio to get a real sense of what it was like.

Go to <http://sierracounty.ws>

From the main menu select Board of Supervisors then Agenda and Minutes. You can then select either the audio or the minutes for the February 2, 2010 meeting.

## GUEST SPEAKER FOR MARCH

At the March meeting we look forward to seeing Steve Tibbals who will talk to us about Hard Rock and Placer Mining.

## MARCH MEETING MINING EQUIPMENT SALE

You are invited to bring any mining equipment that you would like to sell to the March meeting. For those of you who are looking for mining equipment (used or new), this will be a good time to see what other members have to sell. For any additional information about this event, contact Al Gottsch who is heading up this event. This will be mentioned again in the March newsletter, but at least this will give you more time to think about it.

## August 22, 1989 COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS REGULAR MEETING SILVER CLUB TALK

By Don Costar

First, Thanks to: Ed Hampton, Bill Duarte, and Bud Althoff.

They made my memory more accurate with the materials furnished. This is only a 5 minute talk. In "Miner's Speak" that means about 20 to 25 minutes.

Your newsletter said I was going to give a history of the Comstock Club. Well, if I did try that in one shot, it would be so long and boring. . . I'd be the only one awake at the end (or the only one left).

So, this is titled:

## THE ORIGIN OF THE COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS CLUB

Valentine's Day, February 14, 1981. I was one of the locals who went to see the GPAA show over at the fairgrounds. There was a lot of neat stuff there, like Duke Fleckenstein's big rig -- four foot trommel screen with a six yard hopper. Gold nuggets, pretty girls and of course, George Massey. George Massey was the center of attraction, red suspenders and all.

He was touting the benefits of belonging to a GPAA Chapter, but all the while he was trolling for a volunteer to head up a new chapter. He cast a look once over by Lou LeVitt, but Lou was too

cagey to bite. My mouth and my brain have never had a good solid connection, so I asked one of those questions that probably should have been aborted before it was born.

I said, "Hey George, how about starting a chapter right here in Reno?" He looked at me like I was an ice cream cone, and he said "We just did . . . You're the new temporary secretary."

I waffled around a bit, knowing I had just stepped in it, and I even said that wasn't really what I had in mind. But Ol' George said "Don't worry, Don, I'm behind you 100%."

That was the beginning of my education about GPAA. . . What he meant by 100% and what I thought were different. What he meant was he would do 100% of what he intended to do. It was sort of like sending a worm after a trout and telling him "Don't worry, kid -- I'm behind you all the way."

I know he thought I got pretty smart after a while, because one of the letters he sent was something about he didn't need any smart-assed chapter president giving him so much aggravation.

But being as smart as the average worm, I dove in and started swimming. Luck was with me, though. A lady at headquarters felt sorry for me (Nancy Ring) and sent me a copy of some start-up material that another chapter had sent her.

Then I got John Brevick at the Comstock to give us a free room for a meeting (coffee extra).

I asked George Massey for a copy of the members names that lived in our area so I could contact them. He gave me more conversational legal advice than I could handle and turned me over to his son, Perry.

After listening to Perry's alibis for a while, I got Nancy Ring again and she agreed to send post cards to members in Reno and Sparks, so I gave her a date -- March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Saint Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>, we had our first meeting at the Comstock. But that's not how we got our name. It was at the following meeting that Pauline McKinney suggested that name, and it stuck.

For three weeks I had called and talked to everybody I could think of, plus two newspapers, three TV stations, and eight radio stations -- trying to get some warm bodies at the meeting.

So for our organizational meeting I was flabbergasted to see about 80 people show up. Sixty of them signed the register sheets that my wife, Katherine, and Pauline McKinney manned at the door.

I had gone around to the UNR, the BLM and the Forest Service offices and collected about 75 pieces of literature and brochures to hand out, like the 1872 Mining Laws. They all went. They drained the coffee, filled the ash trays and stood against the walls so they could all crowd in.

I told the crowd we wanted to form a club, have a little fun, share some knowledge, teach a little, learn a little and maybe hold annual outings like picnics and such.

Right about then the MX missile problem was on to us, and the Department of Defense and the Sierra Club were joining forces against us, so I said if we had an organization, we might have a bigger voice in the Legislature.

That was about it, so I said we would have another meeting in a month, On April 14<sup>th</sup>, in the same place.

I should have left it at that and shut up, but you know, mouth and brain. . . I then said we would elect officers and set up a couple of committees. There was an immediate move towards the door, so I adjourned.

When the April meeting came, we had lost about fifty of the original eighty, but with the few new ones we still had over thirty show up.

We elected me and my mouth as President, Ron Lahti as Vice President, and Jim Brown as Treasurer. No Secretary. Damned near caused another exodus trying for that one. Pauline saved my ass by volunteering to be Temporary Secretary for that meeting only.

I was ready to close the meeting, but Jim Brown had enough sense to realize that he was going to be Treasurer in name only if we did not have a treasury. So he pulled 50 cents out of his pocket and dropped it in a hat, and at that point literally "passed the hat".

We collected about \$43.00, so I didn't have to pay for the coffee that time. And we had money left over. So Jim Brown's 50 cents is what started the Club on April 14, 1981.

A few days later I talked Suey Woods into being our Secretary and then we were really on our way.

After that we really did have some fun. And made friends. Lou LeVitt started bringing cookies with coffee, tea and cocoa, (and his own coffee pot), all out of his own pocket until we finally started a sort of "kitty" to help Lou pay for it. I think that was Rudy's idea, or maybe John Stevenson.

We had speakers at almost every meeting. It was a lot of work, but worth it. We had Dr. Art Baker of Mackay School of Mines, Jiggs Taylor and his mining equipment, Swede Hovlund for metal detecting and more, all interesting as hell.

We didn't have a newsletter, so every month Jim and I and Suzy would call everybody and tell them who the speaker was going to be, and invite them to the meeting.

by August of '81 I decided to hell with that, so I started a newsletter. It was only a single page, but it took the phone pressure off. So with me furnishing the stamps and Lou furnishing the cookies and coffee, our treasury started to grow.

Well I'm going to shut up now. I purposely left out the fascinating saga of the Con Costar/George Massey battle. That's another five minute speech and we don't have the extra hour. But it was the reason we are an independent club now instead of a GPAA Chapter.

What this club needs now is a "Club Historian". Someone who will collect all the data and paperwork and put it into some sort of file for posterity. There are photos too that should be included, like our first outing on Lou's claim on Peavine. Whoever claps first is the volunteer for that job.

The Club wishes to thank you for all your contributions to the raffle table. It helps to pay for the meeting hall. Please remember to contribute. It does not really matter what it is. Clean out your garage. If you don't have a use for it, someone else does. Don't throw it away; put it on the table. ONE MANS GARBAGE IS ANOTHER'S MANS GOLD!  
Thank you.

Mike Maxwell, Member at Large

## NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, BILL VOGT

### MAPS:

At the last meeting some members were expressing some difficulty they were having with locating the Nadine claim using information off of the new map I recently issued. Much to my horror the problem was caused by a major error on the map. Because of this I decided to go through all 5 maps double checking everything. Unfortunately, I found at least 1 error on 4 out of the 5 maps issued. I have corrected all of the errors I found and will have complete new sets available at the next meeting. I want to thank those who brought the Nadine error to my attention and encourage anyone else who finds any other errors to let me know immediately.

The errors I found and corrected are listed next:

**7N7:** The 3 GPS reading under the heading Directions From Reno are close but not close enough. Going in the order top to bottom they should be (120-41-50W, 39-45-25N), (120-45-21W, 39-44-5N), (120-45-27W, 39-44-56N). Under Emergency Medical the phone number should be 530-283-2121.

**NADINE:** Under General Information, item #1, the mining claim is NMC946619 and in the Legal Description the Township is 34N not 35N (that's a biggie). The 4<sup>th</sup> instruction under Directions from Reno should end with turn right (not turn left).

**TAMMY:** The 5<sup>th</sup> GPS reading from the top under Directions From Reno should be (119-15-9W, 40-28-26N).

**WHO-DO:** Under General Information item #1 should be CAMC286237 (that is the claim number).

### 300 MEMBERSHIPS:

We are once again at 300 memberships and a waiting list has been started. I would once again like to ask all members that if you know you will not be renewing your membership would you please let me know as soon as possible so that I can let someone else into the Club when your renewal date is reached (or earlier with your permission).

### PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENT:

I have alerted all Board members that I will be proposing at the next meeting that we amend our

By-Laws to change the grace period for membership renewal from the current 60 days to 30 days. When you have a waiting list, 60 days is a long time to wait when a member does not renew before you can bring in a new person. A 30 day grace period should be more than enough time for an active supportive member to renew their dues. Assuming the Board approves this suggestion, it will take a two-thirds vote of the members present at the General Meeting for the change to be enacted.

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2010

President Grant Garrison called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.

**Board Members Present:** Grant Garrison, Lee Nielson, Gary Nielson, Bill Vogt, Nadine Miller, Jim Richards, Mike Maxwell, Tom Newell

**Absent:** Mike Wiegand, Claire Wiegand

**Corrections to Minutes:** None

### Claims Report

The claims committee planed to check out the Lucky Linda and Shilo claims on December 28. The committee arrived at the Lucky Linda about 1:00 PM. Two signs were posted on the Lucky Linda. There was not enough time left in the day to visit the Shilo claim.

The claims committee is looking at the Blue Wing Mine adjacent to the Tammy claims.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nadine Miller.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

Insurance for 2010 has been paid. Insurance costs \$8.00 per member plus fee for claims. A general discussion about insurance followed the report. The whole issue of insurance for the club will be reviewed.

### Old Business:

A letter to notify Vern Murray that his membership in the Comstock Gold Prospectors has been terminated will be drafted and sent by Grant Garrison.

Public Lands for People filed a preliminary injunction against SB 670 the California DFG moratorium on suction dredging at 12 Noon on January 21, 2010. The case will be heard before Judge Morrison C. England in Court Room 7 of the Federal Eastern District Court in Sacramento. Originally scheduled for February 25, 2010, Judge England has moved the hearing to March 25, 2010.

### New Business:

The club is still pursuing non-profit status.

Chris Ralph will be the speaker for the February meeting.

A surplus equipment sale will be held after the March meeting. The club will collect a small fee from each sale. Al Gottsch will head up this project.

Bill Vogt needs new membership cards made. The format will be changed so that the Membership Chairman will sign the cards.

The club needs more silver rounds. Gary Nielson will be authorized to purchase these.

Bill Vogt presented the 2009 Membership Report

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Memberships</u>
Starting Membership	289	218
Lost During the Year	42	35
Gained	165	149
At Year End	412	292

**Motion to Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM

Minutes prepared by Tom Newell

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

January 26, 2010

President Grant Garrison called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

**Corrections to Minutes:** None

**Treasure's Report:** Nadine Miller. The treasure's Report was read and approved.

**Claims Report:** Grant Garrison. The claims committee went to the Lucky Linda on December

28. Put up two signs. Ran out of time for visiting the Shilo claim.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Kevin McFarland, Outings Chairman, presented a proposed schedule for 2010 prospecting outings.

June 12-13 at Adavan Claim  
August 21-22 at Ken Bennett Claim  
October 2-3 at Tammy Claim

During the general discussion that followed, it was mentioned that October might be too late in the season for drywashing at the Tammy claims. Also it was suggested that a fourth trip be added in July. More on these trips later.

The surplus equipment sale is scheduled after the March meeting. The club will take a small percentage of the sale price. Al Gottsch is heading up this project. See Al about details and to add equipment to the list.

The club may ask for volunteers to check out possible new claims in California based on a map provided by past president Don Costar. Any prospecting trip would be scheduled after the snow melts in the late spring.

Chris Ralph will be the speaker for the February Meeting. His topic will be "Tertiary Channels-How to Prospect".

There was a general discussion about scheduling demonstrations of prospecting skills by knowledgeable club members such as drywashing, metal detecting and dredging. The first of these demonstrations will be about dredging. It is scheduled for the April meeting.

**Speaker:** Cancelled due to an injury, will be rescheduled for March.

**Attendance:** There were 56 people at the meeting, 51 members and five guests. Nadine Miller won the silver round attendance prize.

**New Members:** There were four new members present. Ron Dronen, Dillard Nakashima, Thomas Nakashima and Steve Smith. Dillard won the piece of gold.

**Membership:** Member drawn was not present.

**Guests:** Ron Yaakam, Joe Rau, Julius Holler, Pat Grinder and Ken Milkovich.

Minutes prepared by Tom Newell.

<b>WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS</b>	
Horn, William D.	Carson City, NV
Horn, William R.	Carson City, NV
Kane, Sheila & Riggs, Tom	Reno, NV
Slabey, Troy	Sparks, NV
Smith, Heidi & Steve	Reno, NV
Smith, Holly & Russell	Washoe Valley, NV
Weaver, John	Sparks, NV

**Comstock Gold Prospectors**  
**PO Box 20781**  
**Reno NV 89515-0781**  
**Web site:** <http://www.cgpgold.org>

**General Meeting**  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month  
7:30 PM at the  
Masonic Wadsworth Lodge #25  
2425 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV  
(Corner of Pyramid & York Way)

**Board Meeting**  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month  
6:30 PM – prior to the General Meeting  
Masonic Wadsworth Lodge #25  
2425 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV  
(Corner of Pyramid & York Way)  
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

**Club Officers – 2010**

President: Grant Garrison - 775/359-9238  
Email: [woodygmg@aol.com](mailto:woodygmg@aol.com)

Vice-President/Past President: Mike Wiegand  
775/835-6780  
Email: [bethemiracle777@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bethemiracle777@sbcglobal.net)

Secretary: Tom Newell - 775/885-2654  
Email: [gtn1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gtn1@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer: Nadine Miller - 775/867-3550  
Email: [nmiller@cccomm.net](mailto:nmiller@cccomm.net)  
Membership/Historian: Bill Vogt - 775/747-3145  
Email: [Wvogt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Wvogt@sbcglobal.net)

Editor: Lee Nielson - 775/884-2656  
Email: [leenielson1@aol.com](mailto:leenielson1@aol.com)

### **Board Members at Large**

Mike Maxwell - 775/348-1620  
Email: [mdmbfb@aol.com](mailto:mdmbfb@aol.com)

Gary Nielson - 775/884-2656  
Email: [cgnielson@aol.com](mailto:cgnielson@aol.com)

Jim Richards - 775/225-2494  
Email: [rsmokinguns@yahoo.com](mailto:rsmokinguns@yahoo.com)

Claire Wiegand - 775/835-6780  
Email: [bethemiracle777@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bethemiracle777@sbcglobal.net)

Remember, if you have been elected to a Board position, your attendance is required at **all** Board meetings. If you can not attend, be sure one of the Board members has your proxy to allow for completion of necessary business.

*Notice to All*: The Board welcomes new ideas about outings, claims, speakers, programs, activities, social events, fund raising, public awareness, training programs, prospecting successes, anecdotes, hints, tall tales, lies, and gossip.

## **CLASSIFIED SECTION**

**FOR SALE -- Garret Infinium LS Detector.** Like new. Used 1 time. Comes with underwater headphones, also 3 x 7 power DD coil plus big coil. All for \$900.00. Contact Russell Rehbein at (775) 450-2844.

**To place or renew a business ad**, send a check to Comstock Gold Prospectors, c/o Editor, 4242 Spring Drive, Carson City, NV 89701. Include your ad layout, and your phone number or email address. Personal ads are free to members for a maximum of 3 editions of the newsletter.

Full Page Ad: \$50.00 per month  
Half Page Ad: \$25.00 per month  
Quarter Page Ad: \$12.50 per month

The Club drywasher may be rented by Club members for \$5/day, \$15/week. A VacPak is also available. The drywasher is kept at Reno Prospector's Supply (775/329-7553), 315 Claremont St., Reno.

*For all of your mining supplies*

## **Reno Prospectors Supply**



**315 Claremont St. Reno NV 89502-2529 (2 blocks  
N of Vassar St. off Wells Ave.)**

**Phone: (775) 329-7553 Fax: (775) 329-4869**

**Email: [renoprospectors@sbcglobal.net](mailto:renoprospectors@sbcglobal.net)**

**Web Site: <http://renogoldpros.com>**

Store Hours: Tuesday thru Friday - 10 to 5:00 Saturday - 10 to 2 - Closed Sunday and Monday

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