

The GOLD PAN

The newsletter of the
Comstock Gold Prospectors

August 2009



BLACK BILLIE

Next Meeting Aug. 25, 2009

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Mark your calendars !!!)

Aug 25, 2009 - Board/General Meeting
Sept 22, 2009 - Board/General Meeting
Oct 27, 2009 - Board/General Meeting
Nov 24, 2009 - Board/General Meeting

1 Year Gold – NYSE

<u>8/10/2009 – 9:15 a.m. PST</u>	\$	948.30
One Year High		993.20
One Year Low		709.50
All-Time High (March 2008)		1,032.70
All-Time Low (1800-1835)		19.39

1 Year Silver – NYSE

<u>8/10/2009 – 9:15 a.m. PST</u>	\$	14.44
One Year High		15.96
One Year Low		8.92

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Claim and Forest Etiquette:

When camping, walking, or mining in the forest we should take out everything we take in. If you see trash, remove it. Don't just leave it because it isn't yours. Don't trash other's camp areas. If they are having trouble keeping it up, help them. Clean up all trash that you bring that might have gotten away from you. You know, sometimes your dog or even a wild animal gets into the trash and scatters things. (The wind can be a litter bug too!) It's nice to leave the area in better shape than when you arrived. Always use appropriate facilities for human waste.

If you meet others be kind to them. If you don't know them, ask if they are Club members. If they are not, let them know that Club claims are for members only. They can camp, fish, play -- but not prospect. You can tell them that they can be your guest for the day and tell them about the Club. Refer them to a Board member so they can consider becoming a member. There's no need to have a confrontation. Most times people are unaware that they are on claimed land.

Don't cut down trees or limbs. If you need to make a fire, use wood that is already on the ground.

If someone is mining in an area and they move their equipment, ask if you can move into their spot. Don't just take it over. They may not be done with it. Work in different areas unless invited. Don't jump in too close to another's area.

Enjoy the weather and the claims and be safe out there.

Mike Wiegand

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dan Barlow	Susanville, CA
John Gregory	Quincy, CA
Cheryl & John Knox	Minden, NV
Max Oklob	Sparks, NV
Jan & Kerry Sarras	Sparks, NV
Joseph Stella	Reno, NV

LOST AT THE LUCKY LINDA

A Power Jet for a 3" hibanker/dredge was accidentally left behind by Russell Rehbein, CGP Club member. It was left down the hill from the 6.5 marker, 30 to 40 yards going west down the river on the bank. The 27th of July was the date that it was left there. If you have found it, please call Russell at (775) 450-3616, or call Mike at (775) 884-2360, or you can bring it to Darryl at Reno Prospector's Supply if you are close to that location.

"Look and you will find it --
What is unsought will go
undetected."

--Sophocles

POSTING OF THE 7N7 CLAIM

The corner monuments for the 7N7 claim have been placed.

Two of the monuments (NE and SE) are uphill from the road

The SW corner monument is just upstream from the discovery monument right at the east edge of the creek and next to a monument for the upstream claim.

The NW corner monument is on the west side of the creek downstream a little over 1300 feet and

about 200 feet West of the creek. This monument was placed right next to a corner monument for the downstream claim. The discovery monument was originally placed by the prior owner and will be repainted in the near future. In addition, 5 rectangular gold colored signs with the claim information were nailed to trees. One is on a tree near the discovery monument. One is downstream on a tree near the creek designating where the claim ends in that direction (close by is a sign for the downstream claim). Another is on a tree next to the road going down to the camping area where the discovery monument is. The other two signs are near the road downstream indicating about where the claim ends from that approach.

To recap, the claim runs from a short distance upstream from the discovery monument to about 1300 feet downstream. There are active claims on both sides so be careful when prospecting that you stay on the Club claim. If in doubt ask.

Bill Vogt and Grant Garrison

08/06/2009

Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 670 today, which temporarily halts suction dredging in California until a new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is completed. This was despite a request from his staff for a report on the economic harm this bill will cause.

The governor's office specifically requested a report to substantiate claims made by miners that the bill would cause in excess of \$60 million harm to the economy of California. I was a participant in this study, and the results presented to the governor's staff were rock solid. The proven contribution of suction dredgers to the economy of California amounted to \$65.47 million. When additional estimated contributions were included for items such as commercial retail rents, payroll taxes and property taxes, the economic harm to California was approaching \$100 million. Despite this evidence, Governor Schwarzenegger still signed SB 670.

What's Next

Public Lands for the People (PLP) had already begun preparations for a lawsuit against the State. The lawsuit will be filed shortly to restore the rights of suction dredge miners. Mining is a right that has been argued in court on many occasions, and there is plenty of precedence addressing this topic.

What You Need To Do Right Now

Public Lands for the People is in need of funds. They already have several lawsuits in progress against state and federal agencies, and would like to file a lawsuit against the State of California in federal court to restore the rights of suction dredge miners as soon as possible.

PLP is a non-profit organization and will continue to fight to restore the rights of suction dredgers, but they can only accomplish this task with your support. You can make a contribution by clicking on the Donate link on their website at www.plp2.org or by mail at:

PLP, c/o Barrett Wetherby
3700 Santa Carlotta, La Crescenta, CA 91214

As An Added Bonus

We (Prospecting and Mining Journal) will add twenty-five cents for every dollar you donate to PLP for donations made between August 6 and September 15, 2009, or until we have added at least \$4,000 to the donation effort. [After you donate](#), send us your name, city and state, and the amount of your donation. We will check with PLP to confirm the amount, then add twenty-five cents for every dollar you donated. It's that simple. Then look for the list of contributors to be published here and in the October 2009 issue of *ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal*.

Email your name and contribution amount to: PLPmatch@icmj.com

Only those names emailed to us can be included in the match program, so don't forget to let us know!

We will continue to keep you posted on our website and in our monthly Journal as new developments arise.

Donation by	Amt.
Scott Keogh Portola, CA	\$ 50.00
Bill & Irene Vogt Reno, NV	100.00
Donald Espey Vancouver, WA	50.00
(Many more have donated since this table was first published)	

Each of us that can afford it should donate as much money as possible to the PLP. They are fighting this bill for all of us dredge miners. Yes a law suit has been filed by them.

Bill SB 670 was signed by the California Governor. The bill is as follows:

SB 670, Wiggins. Vacuum or suction dredge equipment.

Existing law prohibits the use of any vacuum or suction dredge equipment by any person in any river, stream, or lake of this state without a permit issued by the

Department of Fish and Game. Under existing law, it is unlawful to possess a vacuum or suction dredge in areas, or within 100 yards of waters, that are closed to the use of vacuum or suction dredges. A violation of the permit requirement is a misdemeanor.

The department is authorized to close areas otherwise open for dredging and for which permits have been issued if there is an unanticipated water level change and the department determines that closure is necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources.

Existing law requires the department to adopt regulations to implement certain of the vacuum or suction dredge equipment requirements and authorizes the department to issue regulations with respect to other requirements. Existing law requires that the regulations be adopted in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared by contract, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a project, as defined, that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment, or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. The act exempts from its provisions, among other things, certain types of ministerial projects proposed to be carried out or approved by public agencies, and emergency repairs to public service facilities necessary to maintain service. This bill would designate the issuance of permits to operate vacuum or suction dredge equipment to be a project under CEQA, and would suspend the issuance of permits, and mining pursuant to a permit, until the department has completed an environmental impact report for the project as ordered by the court in a specified court action. The bill would prohibit the use of any vacuum or suction dredge equipment in any river, stream, or lake, for instream mining purposes, until the director of the department certifies to the Secretary of State that (1) the department has completed the environmental review of its existing vacuum or suction dredge equipment regulations as ordered by the court, (2) the department has transmitted for filing with the Secretary of State a certified copy of new regulations, as necessary, and (3) the new regulations are operative. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 5653.1 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to read:

5653.1. (a) The issuance of permits to operate vacuum or suction dredge equipment is a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code) and permits may only be issued, and vacuum or suction dredge mining may only occur as authorized by any existing permit, if the department has caused to be prepared, and certified the completion of, an environmental impact report for the project pursuant to the court order and consent judgment entered in the case of Karuk Tribe of California et al. v. California Department of Fish and Game et al., Alameda County Superior Court

Case No. RG 05211597. (b) notwithstanding Section 5653, the use of any vacuum or suction dredge equipment in any river, stream, or lake of this state is prohibited until the director certifies to the Secretary of State that all of the following have occurred: (1) The department has completed the environmental review of its existing suction dredge mining regulations, as ordered by the court in the case of Karuk Tribe of California et al. v. California Department of Fish and Game et al., Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG 05211597. (2) The department has transmitted for filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 11343 of the Government Code, a certified copy of new regulations adopted, as necessary, pursuant to Chapter 3.5 commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. (3) The new regulations described in paragraph (2) are operative. (c) The Legislature finds and declares that this section, as added during the 2009-10 Regular Session, applies solely to vacuum and suction dredging activities conducted for instream mining purposes. This section does not expand or provide new authority for the department to close or regulate suction dredging conducted for regular maintenance of energy or water supply management infrastructure, flood control, or navigational purposes governed by other state or federal law. (d) This section does not prohibit or restrict nonmotorized recreational mining activities, including panning for gold.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are: The Legislature finds that suction or vacuum dredge mining results in various adverse environmental impacts to protected fish species, the water quality of this state, and the health of the people of this state, and, in order to protect the environment and the people of California pending the completion of a court-ordered environmental review by the Department of Fish and Game and the operation of new regulations, as necessary, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

(Prospecting and Mining Journal web site)

TO THE COMSTOCK GOLD PROSPECTORS

No Dredging! It's a real shame that this has happened. We did our part by writing to Governor Schwarzenegger, but the other side has won -- temporarily. Until this matter has been finalized, we can pan for gold, use non-motorized sluices, metal detect, dry wash in the desert, or mine in any manner that is not prohibited as stated in the above article. This is a good time to get your dredging equipment into good condition and perhaps to seek places to dredge in Nevada instead of California.

Claims Committee. Read the MINUTES and the article herein entitled "POSTING OF THE 7N7 CLAIM"

and you will discover all of the work that the Claims Committee has been doing on our claims. I am really impressed with them. A lot of driving, a lot of walking, a lot of figuring out where posting needs to be done, and a deep commitment to their job -- marking the claims, keeping the paperwork up to date, etc. If it weren't for them, we would be lost. Thank You Claims Committee!

I'm Ready To Go To The Meeting. Or *am* I? Let's see, have I got everything I need? Yup, I've got my notebook. I've got my CGP name tag. I've got on my CGP hat and my CGP shirt (the more CGP items that I wear to the meeting, the more red tickets I will get from Membership Chairman Bill Vogt -- so I've a better chance to win a silver round). But what's that really important thing that I should take to the meeting? I sure don't want to forget it! It's my donation to the raffle table! I mustn't forget that. It helps pay the rent for our meetings at the Masonic hall.

Lee.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

July 28, 2009

President Mike Wiegand called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Board Members Present: Bill Vogt, Nadine Miller, Mike Wiegand, Claire Wiegand, Jennifer Nelson, Jim Richards, Mike Maxwell, Lee Nielson, Gary Nielson, Leland Wong, Grant Garrison

Absent: None

Corrections to Minutes: None

Treasurer's Report: Nadine Miller. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Motion to Accept: Jennifer, 2nd Bill Vogt

Claims Report: Bill Vogt and Grant went on Tuesday and properly marked the 7N7 with 6 signs. The claim wasn't previously marked. The Nadine and Tammy are marked. The Who-Do and the Adaven were checked and are OK. Also the Shiloh and Lucky Linda are good.

Grant has 2 suggestions. First that we purchase a pallet of posts for marking claims, it's cheaper in the long run than buying individual posts. The Board voted and agreed. Second that we form a "claim marking committee" of Club volunteers -- preferably some "young bucks" who are up to the challenge! At the end of every September each claim would be checked and properly marked by the committee. The Board voted and it was

unanimous that we ask for 4 strong volunteers for a Claim Marking Committee.

The 7N7 wasn't marked until this past Tuesday, July 21st. Prior to that members were confused, and were on our neighbor's claim, the Rainbo owned by Randy Schield. Randy was upset by the trash left and that some trees had been cut. We are not allowed to cut trees on claims – not even our own. Members stated the area was already full of trash and the trees were already down. One member said he cleaned and burned all the trash and left the area clean. Another member wrote on Randy's claim signs and also stole his grill. We will fix his signs and replace his grill.

We need a list of Do's & Don'ts for what is acceptable behavior on claims. Mike W. will work on that. We also agreed that in the future no information will be given to members on new claims until they are properly marked.

Member Vern Murray has been accused of stealing 1 dredge, maybe 2, from another member George. There has been a police report filed. A certified letter will be sent to Vern asking him to appear at the next meeting to defend himself. Failure to appear will result in expulsion from the Club.

Old Business: Four tables and ten buckets for the demo trailer have been purchased. There is one table left to buy.

New Business:

Al Gottsch proposed an "associate membership" for people who never use the claims. This would allow for more memberships. The Board discussed it and voted no. The memberships number will remain at 300. There are currently 18 spots left. Also Al notified the Club that we do have a member that is a notary, so if the Club needs something notarized, the Club, not individual members!, has member Toni available. Thank you Al & Toni!

Past past past President Dave Ramm dropped off a box containing the Club photo albums, and 2 or 3 years of old newsletters. Club Historian Bill Vogt will bring the albums to the next meeting for the members to see. Bill still needs newsletters from approximately 1995 to 2000. If you have any please bring them in for Bill to copy.

The Club needs more ½ ounce vials for the gold for the drawings at the meetings. Al, Mike and Grant will put the gold in the vials. Jennifer will donate the dozen vials needed.

Al talked to the Forest Service about the trash we've been finding in the rivers and turning it into the PLP. The Forest Service thought this was a great idea. Please remember to keep all the trash you find and turn it into a Board member so we can get it to PLP. Also PLP (Public Lands for the People) still needs donations (monetary!) to fund the fight against proposed legislation that would put a moratorium on dredging. The PLP website is plp2.org for more information.

Gary Nielson (and Jennifer - through silent support - ...sorry Gary, I shoulda jumped in...) has raised some concern that the Club has "taken its eyes off the ball" as far as members go. We aren't taking proper care of members. We've only had 2 guest speakers, one demo, and only one outing. Members need more information and education on mining equipment, techniques, and prospecting in general. We all agreed that we need to ask members what they would like to hear and learn, possibly through the use of a dry erase board where members can write what they'd like to learn about. Member turnout at summer meetings is smaller than other times of year, so we'd like to implement these ideas starting in September/October.

Leland Wong is donating the cost of renewing the website. Thank you Leland! The web address is cpggold.org.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:25 p.m. by Bill Vogt, 2nd Nadine Miller

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Nelson

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

July 28, 2009

President Mike Wiegand called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m.

Corrections to Minutes: None

Treasurer's Report: Nadine Miller. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Motion to Accept: Dave Weingarten, 2nd John Clayton

Claims Report: Grant Garrison. The 7N7 is properly marked. Bill Vogt and Grant made sure the claim was marked with 6 signs. They also found another small campsite on the claim. The Club would like volunteers for a Claim Marking Committee. An enthusiastic young member, 12 year old Tim Syriac was our only volunteer. Way to go Tim! You're an inspiration! Any other volunteers please contact any Board member for inclusion with Tim on the Claim Marking Committee. (Tim can't even drive yet – we need a few more volunteers!). Thank you!

Dave Weingarten found a nice little nugget panning on the Who-Do. The Adaven had reports of some doing well, others not so well, those with detectors seem to be doing ok. The Shiloh and the Lucky Linda had reports of some nice gold.

Randy Schield owns the claim next to (to the bridge) of the 7N7. He has some complaints about trash being left and trees being cut. Randy's claim is the Rainbo and is well marked. A member wrote on his signs "7N7". The Club will fix his signs.

Please do not cut trees on claims – or anywhere – without Forest Service permission. Always pack out any trash – even trash that isn't yours. Any trash taken out of the rivers/creeks needs to be turned in to any Board member to turn in to PLP to show the free service of trash removal prospectors provide.

Guest Speaker: Claire Wiegand read an article from the ICMJ about the proposed legislation to put a moratorium on dredging. Thank you Claire! And HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!! ...and many more!!!!

Old Business: Claire would like to remind members to buy more hats & shirts! Also, please bring in items for the raffle. Raffle money helps to pay for the cost of renting the meeting place.

Remember to keep and turn in any trash you find while on the claims! Lead, rusty iron, bullets, weights, mercury, garbage – anything you take out of the river is something we can show to support the fact that as prospectors we do help keep the outdoors clean!

New Business: The Club needs to do more for its members. More training/demos/seminars/outings. Please let any Board member know what you are interested in hearing/learning about. When asked, members came up with many great ideas. The next meeting topic will be finding gold with a detector. Members Darryl Nelson and Gary Nielson will teach us what they know! Other ideas for future meetings were (in no particular order) How to use a GPS, Finding a dredging partner, Drywashing, Powersluicing, Using a spiral wheel (and don't forget to buy your tickets for the one being raffled at the Christmas party!), How to file a claim, Sniping, How to research ground for possible claim filing... Any other ideas are welcome – please let any Board member know what you would like to learn or hear.

We are considering a silent auction or swap meet type meeting in the spring. A specific month's meeting would be a quick meeting followed by the auction/sale. The Club would receive a percentage of the sales.

Please remember to donate to PLP. PLP fights to keep public lands open to the public. Outdoor enthusiasts of any type should consider joining and supporting the PLP. Their web address is www.PLP2.org or you can call them at 818-845-6377 or write them at 3700 Santa Carlotta St., La Crescenta, CA 91214-1048 They need our help now more than ever.

Outings: There are no outings planned. We hope/need to do more outings. Ideas and help are encouraged and appreciated.

Guests: There were 2 guests present from Gettysburg PA. A warm welcome to guests of member Brandon Camp, John Lowe & wife Katie! Thank you for attending!

New Members: 5 new members this month, Jan and bride Kerry were the only ones in attendance and got the gold! Congratulations and Welcome!

Attendance: Nadine Miller won the silver round. Congrats Nadine!

Membership: Brian Brandt of Reno was drawn, not present and less than 50 miles away. The drawing for August will be for 3 silver rounds.

Motion to Adjourn: 8:20pm by Al Gottsch, 2nd Bob Voshall.

Reminders:

Classifieds in the newsletter are free to members. Donate to PLP!!!

Leland Wong donated the money for the renewal of the website! Thank you Leland!

2nd and 3rd prizes at the Christmas party are cut stones donated by member Eldon – Thank you Eldon!!

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Nelson.

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

General Meeting
4th 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
4th 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 – 2009

President: Mike Wiegand - 775/835-6780
Email: bethemiracle777@sbcglobal.net

Past President: Leland Wong
Email: Lw1345@cs.com 775/882-5704

Vice-President: Grant Garrison
Email: woodygmg@aol.com -- 775/359-9238

Secretary: Jennifer Nelson
renoprospectors@sbcglobal.net – 775/329-7553

Treasurer: Nadine Miller
Email: nmiller@cccomm.net -- 775/867-3550

Membership/Historian: Bill Vogt
Email: Wvogt@sbcglobal.net -- 775/747-3145

Editor: Lee Nielson
Email: leenielson1@aol.com -- 775/884-2656

Board Members at Large

Mike Maxwell
Email: mdmbfb@aol.com 775/348-1620
Gary Nielson
Email: cgnielson@aol.com 775/884-2656

Jim Richards
Email: rsmokinguns@yahoo.com 775/225-2494

Claire Wiegand 775/835-6780
Email: 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

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
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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