

The GOLD PAN

The newsletter of the
Comstock Gold Prospectors

September 2009



BLACK BILLIE

Next Meeting Sept. 22, 2009

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Mark your calendars !!!)

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

1 Year Gold – NYSE

<u>9/8/2009 – 9:15 a.m. PST</u>	\$ 995.60
One Year High	1,004.50
One Year Low	709.50

1 Year Silver – NYSE

<u>9/8/2009 – 9:15 a.m. PST</u>	\$ 16.50
One Year High	16.80
One Year Low	8.92

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Below is the latest on dredging and a little humor. We will be back in the water dredging again. Please don't give up and sell your dredges. It might take until next year, but we will be dredging again. We are also aggressively looking for river claims here in Nevada. Remember to bring the garbage you found dredging and looking for gold in California. I need to get it to the PLP. Also we need to do some panning demos for kids. If you know of a group that wants to learn to pan let me know.

Michael Wiegand

THE LATEST ON CALIFORNIA'S SB 670 NO SUCTION DREDGING LAW.

THE MOST RECENT ACTIVITY HAS BEEN HOBBS NEW PARTY STATUS AND INTERVENTION IN THE KARUK VS. THE CALIF. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEW 49ERS. HOBBS AND PLP ATTORNEY DAVID YOUNG ARE IN A NEW LAWSUIT, OUTSIDE THE KARUK VS. DFG CASE, AGAINST THE CALIF. DEPT. OF FISH & GAME FOR CEQA AND APA VIOLATIONS IN THE PROMULGATING OF NEW SUCTION DREDGE REGULATIONS FOR LATE 2005 & 2009. PLP & HOBBS HAVE INTERVENED IN THE HILLMAN KARUK TAXPAYER LAWSUIT AND THE INJUNCTION ON THE SAME CASE. PLP AND HOBBS HAVE NOW FILED AN APPEAL IN THE HILLMAN KARUK INJUNCTION AND PLP, HOBBS AND SEVERAL PLP MEMBERS ARE FILING A FEDERAL LAWSUIT AND INJUNCTION AGAINST THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S SB 670 NO SUCTION DREDGING LAW.

PLP IS IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION BY PHONE & LETTERS WITH THE PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES THAT HAVE PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, HELPING THEM TO RESOLVE ISSUES IN THEIR PART OF THE COUNTRY. THIS COMMUNICATION HELPS TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON THEIR RIGHTS AND THE LAWS THAT THEY MAY OR MAY NOT BE GOVERNED UNDER. THIS IS ONE OF THE METHODS THAT WE USE TO EDUCATE AND UNITE IN A COMMON CAUSE

DAVID YOUNG IS THE ATTORNEY FOR P.L.P AND IS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST ALL PLP MEMBERS . OUR WEB PAGE IS: WWW. PLP2.ORG

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TO THE PLP LEGAL RESEARCH FUND

INTERVIEW WITH A COHO SALMON

by Scott Harn

WE'VE OBTAINED THE RIGHTS TO PUBLISH THIS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED ON THE KLAMATH RIVER BETWEEN DAVID, AN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST, AND A COHO SALMON.

David: "What do you think about these suction gold dredgers?"

Coho: "Suction gold dredgers?"

David: "They're the miners who run those noisy machines, vacuuming the river bottoms in search of gold while destroying the rivers."

Coho: "They make noise? Hmm, I hadn't noticed. They're never running when I come through. Does it bother you? It seems like you're bothered by it. Have you tried going to a different area so you aren't annoyed by the noise? Do you have a problem with sharing the river? Is that the issue? You know, I hear there's counseling available for those humans who have problems with sharing."

David: "I'm asking the questions here."

Coho: "Sorry. I spend much of my life out in the ocean. I'm not really around when the dredges are operating, so the noise doesn't bother me."

David: "Don't you swim up the rivers during spawning season and lay your eggs?"

Coho: "Yeah, but I've heard there are some rules or something the dredgers follow so they aren't in the water during that time."

David: "Well, what about these holes they make when they move the gravel and boulders? That must make you pretty angry!"

Coho: "Suction dredgers create the holes? I thought you guys did that, because those are a huge help. Some of the water is too warm for us. The deeper water in the hole is cooler, and it's a great place to get out of the faster currents and rest. Holes are awesome."

David: "Never mind. What about those gravel areas, where the compacted gravels are broken up and redistributed?"

Coho: "I've been meaning to thank you for that. We lose a few of our offspring if high water comes, but we still prefer those areas for spawning."

David: "Ummm, let's move on. Let's talk about mercury. Mercury is in the gravels and these dredgers are stirring it up. Doesn't that bother you?"

Coho: "Yeah that shiny, liquid metal is nasty stuff. It messes with my nervous system."

David: "Now we're making progress. So tell me how the dredgers are causing you severe harm by stirring up the mercury?"

Coho: "Yeah, I think you're confused. I'm pretty sure when they vacuum the river bottom to get the gold they also capture almost all of the mercury. The tiny amount they don't get ends up making its way back through the gravels and settles in the cracks of the bedrock. I heard that mercury is bad for humans, too! I'm sure you guys know this. Haven't you read the studies?"

David: "No. I mean, yes. Well, we've produced our own studies."

Coho: "Are these studies biased? Are the results predetermined?"

David: "Let's get back to the questions. How about all that sediment they stir up? That must be a pain."

Coho: "Have you ever been to a river during the winter run off? That's some serious cloudy water, like thousands of times worse than what comes off a dredge. The dredge plumes are a joke in comparison. Next question."

David: "Okay. Let's talk about trash. You know, garbage. Doesn't that stuff mess up your habitat?"

Coho: "Sure does. Those dredgers leave tons of lead with these stringy things attached."

David: "Ummm, the lead is actually left by fishermen."

Coho: "Oh. So, what is it you guys actually do to help us?"

David: "Well, we collect money, which we use to conduct studies, educate the public, and provide legislators with funds for their elections so they will support our position. We also file lawsuits against the state to stop any activity that might damage your environment."

Coho: "That's cool. So you constantly harass the fishermen while supporting the dredgers? And the Indians too, of course -- they use gill nets."

David: "Ummm, no. We team up with fishermen and Indians and sue the dredgers."

Coho: "I am soooo confused."

David: "The fishermen, the Indian tribes, and other groups who want exclusive use of the rivers are the ones who give us money, so we're all on the same team."

Coho: "So, you team up with those who kill us to stop those who help us?? Even a fish can recognize a problem with your logic!"

David: "What would you recommend?"

Coho: "Why don't you guys start suction dredging? That would be a huge help to us. You could totally clean up our habitat, get rid of that nasty mercury and those lead things, make some nice spawning beds and some of those awesome holes. You'd get some gold to help your family and the economy. I hear the economy is pretty messed up right now."

David: "You want us to start dredging?"

Coho: "It would create a win-win situation for fish and humans! Oh, I forgot—the noise bothers you and you don't like to share. I guess it's much easier to mine the humans for contributions than it is to mine for gold. And it seems to me you should be suing the fishermen instead of the dredgers."

David: "Just between you and me, the fishermen are the next target on our list, but we're not done using them yet."



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Michael & Sheri Beck	Herlong, CA
Sue & Tom Clemens	Wellington, NV
Mike Cooper & Sue Feiler	Wellington, NV
Brent & Shelby Grabill	Reno, NV
Chuck & Dee Hewitt	Fallon, NV
Cheri Kellie & Ralph Torsiello	Sparks, NV
Aviars Loginous	Marlboro, NY

PHOTO ALBUMS AND NEWSLETTERS

So many members seemed to enjoy going through the photo albums and newsletters at the last meeting that I have decided I will set up the Historian table at every meeting to give everyone a chance to look over this material. Unfortunately, there are no photos in this decade so only the old timers can really appreciate the albums. Going forward I will be taking pictures at our events or I will make sure that someone in attendance takes pictures. Looking back, I encourage anyone who has pictures from past events to make copies and give them to me so that I can put together some more current albums. If you have some pictures for me please annotate them as much as possible so that everyone will know what they are looking at. Also, I am still looking for past newsletters. There is a real void in the 1995 – 2000 time frame.

Bill Vogt, Historian

DISCUSSION TOPIC FOR OCTOBER MEETING:

The discussion topic for the October meeting is GPS and it will be led by Bill Vogt (membership chairperson). The talk will be specific to handheld GPS units used in activities such as hiking, fishing, backpacking, prospecting, geocaching, etc.. What GPS is and how it works will be discussed somewhat so users of car navigational GPS units will also benefit from the presentation. Specific handheld units will not be discussed since there are so many different ones but attendees are encouraged to bring their own units (this will help identify just how many there are and they might be useful for some demonstrations that are being planned). If you have any specific questions concerning GPS that might require a little research please e-mail them to Bill at wvogt@sbcglobal.net by the September meeting (put GPS question in subject line). You could also write them down in advance of the September meeting and give them to Bill at the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

August 25, 2009

Vice-President Grant Garrison called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Board Members Present: Grant Garrison, Mike Maxwell, Nadine Miller, Jim Richards, Bill Vogt and Leland Wong.

Absent: Lee Nielson, Gary Nielson (proxies to Nadine), Mike Wiegand, Claire Wiegand (proxies to Grant Garrison), Jennifer Nelson.

Corrections to Minutes: None

Treasurer's Report: Nadine Miller

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.
Motion to Accept: Bill Vogt, 2nd Mike Maxwell

Claims Report: Grant Garrison

Mining claim form paperwork and taxes are completed for all of our claims.

An article in the August ICMJ (www.icmj.com) about The Last Chance Mining District actually described our claim, the Ken Bennett. Below is a retraction from their website.

(Note: It was discovered later that the area discussed is under claim by the Comstock Gold Prospectors, a club based in Reno, Nevada. The author offers his sincere apologies for this error. If you would like access to mine in this area, you can get information on joining the club.)

Old Business: The expulsion hearing for Vern Murray was tabled until next month because President Mike Wiegand was absent.

New Business: Sid Parrish moved out of the area and isn't able to continue on as the Webmaster. Thank you for your time and effort. Bill Vogt and Leland Wong will temporarily maintain the website.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:10 p.m. by Bill Vogt, 2nd Nadine Miller

Minutes prepared by Leland Wong

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

August 25, 2009

Vice-President Grant Garrison called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Corrections to Minutes: None

Treasurer's Report: Nadine Miller

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

Claims Report: Grant Garrison

Mining claim form paperwork and taxes are completed for all of our claims.

An article in the August ICMJ (www.icmj.com) about The Last Chance Mining District actually described our claim, the Ken Bennett. A retraction will be published in the September or October issue.

Guest Speaker: Webb Varnum did another excellent presentation on how to conduct a Placer Evaluation. Thank you Webb!

Old Business:

Bill Vogt is also our Historian and he brought in a few picture albums from the 90's. If anyone would like to "fill in the blanks" and help identify the event and names of members, please contact Bill.

New Business:

Webb Varnum is planning a Mineral Identification Class on the 3rd and 4th Wednesday in October. More details will be in the newsletter or website.

The Club will experiment to set up an email membership bulletin board for members to find a prospecting partner or post messages requesting information – possibly using Yahoo Groups or something similar.

Guests: None

New Members: Seven new members were at the meeting. Shelby Grabill won a piece of gold and has an IOU from President Mike Wiegand.

Attendance: Brian Brandt won a silver round and has an IOU from President Mike Wiegand.

Membership: Kim Pon was drawn and was not present. The September meeting will rollover to 4 silver rounds.

Motion to Adjourn: 8:40 p.m. by Ron Dunlap, 2nd Jim Bowman

Minutes prepared by Leland Wong

Comstock Gold Prospectors
PO Box 20781
Reno NV 89515-0781
Web site: <http://www.cqgold.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: Llw1345@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

FOR SALE -- Camel Mountain Goat Trommel Concentrator. Used one time. Like new with Rubbermaid container. Paid new \$695.00 plus S&H. Will sell for \$500.00 or trade?. Russell Rehbein (775) 450-3616.

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

Material from many sources is used in *The Gold Pan*. While it is believed that these items are accurate, neither the editor nor Comstock Gold Prospectors assumes any responsibility for their use. Advertiser's claims are their own, and their products are not warranted by Comstock Gold Prospectors. Material from this publication may be reprinted. Please give credit to the author and *The Gold Pan*.