Presidents Corner

May 2019

Going for that chilly gold,

Your El Presidente,

Mike

Important Dates 2019-2020

06/14    Monthly Meeting
07/12    Monthly Meeting
07/18—23  Roaring Camp
08/09    Monthly Meeting
          Ice Cream Social
09/13    Monthly Meeting
10/11    Monthly Meeting
11/08    Monthly Meeting
12/13    Pot Luck, Ugly Sweater Contest
1/10     Monthly Meeting
2/14     Monthly Meeting
3/13     Monthly Meeting

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Meeting Notes
April 2019

Mike called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked everybody for coming and asked for any new visitors to stand and introduce themselves and say where they are from. We had 8 guests.

Mike

I am retiring in two months. My wife has been retired for six years. She tells me I’m not going to enjoy retirement, that I won’t have anything to do. However, I have plans. I’m looking for a little trailer so I can go out and spend a few days with the trailer gold mining and camping out. She is telling me that I can go for one or two days and I’m thinking one or two weeks. Every time I find a travel trailer that I like she tells me it’s too big. She has last word because she has the Honda Ridgeline and I have a car. I say the Ridgeline will pull this 18’ trailer just fine and she says oh no, it’s too big. I’ve been kind of going back and forth with her on this. Still have two months to work out the details.

Before we get started on our announcements is there anybody here for the first time tonight? Can you please stand and tell us your name and the equipment you use? Yes, what’s your name, sir? What’s your name, sir? God where you from? I live here. Now. Live in Auburn. Is there any gold on your place? I’m going to be there is okay. [00:01:42] You can go home Timeless. Welcome Marie. Welcome. Thank you for coming. Yes, sir. Yeah, Jim Watson from Rocklin. Lot of gold down there. Bobby we’re from Texas, Hello, Lucy. Where are you from? Peru. Thank you all for coming.

We have the Max Bell here as our guest speaker tonight. He is tops. He’s biting belt buckles for me that I find. He is biting belt buckles from Jerry too. This guy is really is a museum coordinator. We’re lucky to have a Max talk to us this evening.

Heather

Hi everybody. I have some announcements I need to make, and I wanted to do this before certain people arrived. We had a loss in our Goldhound family, Alice Johnson, the wife of Steve Johnson who runs the raffle. There is going to be a service for Alice tomorrow. if anybody wants to attend it is going to be at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Colfax. It starts at 10 a.m. tomorrow, if anybody would like to go and pay your respects. She was a truly wonderful human being; she gave us so much for heart and soul of this life. This hurt, and I wanted to make sure I made the announcement because of the commitments the
Johnsons have to this Club. A commitment so deep that although Steve is literally planning his wife’s funeral now and he is coming to the meeting later because he doesn’t want to let us down so he will here to finish the raffle this evening. If anybody has any questions, you can pull me aside. There’s a card rolling around here and it says Alice on it and that’s for respects for her.

In case you haven’t noticed, refreshments are pretty light tonight. Lee had to go in for surgery. She had a major eye operation that required that the doctors pull out our eye and put it back to correct it. She will not be coming back anytime soon. We’ve been warning you that our refreshment crew needed serious help. I found out late yesterday that she had just had the surgery. I spent three and a half hours baking cupcakes last night so we would have something back there. On the left side are the Root beer float cupcakes and chocolate peanut butter cupcakes are on the right. We have water but that’s all we have. I love to bake but can’t do this every month. Ray brought some graham crackers and there are a couple of other items back there for tonight. We need to come up with some solutions. We would like a list of people that are willing to be contacted and help when they can since nobody has stepped up to be trained for the position. At least if we get some backup people to pick up supplies from Lee and maybe cover for a month or two when they can’t do would be much appreciated. If anybody would like to assist with refreshments when supplies arrive, please feel free to come back and see me over at the raffle table. We spend $30 to $40 on refreshments and $10-$15 on drinks each meeting. We are hearing some good ideas as to how we can proceed with refreshments.

I did the best I could, but the reality is that we’ve been through a lot this year and we need help. Cindy is still going through cancer treatment. We have the passing of Steve’s wife Alice. And Lee being out and not able to take care of the snack bar. It takes a whole club to do this.

We have one other announcement, and this is good news. Mr. President, we finally have a little bit of help in a different way. We were going to wait until the camp out to announce it, but this is the perfect time. We now have a new VP; Chris Miller and we are so grateful to him. So how about we get another round of applause for him stepping up.

You’re going to see two cards going around the tables for signing one is for Lee because of the surgery and other one is for Ms. Alice. Well, family of Ms. Alice.

I had a client come into the shop the other day to tell me that there was over 2,000 ancient mining books that were going to be donated to the Nevada County Historical Society’s Library. They’re going to be getting rid of them. They’re having a special book sale to address these mining books. It’ll be open to the public on May 25th and it’s going to be at the Sierra Historical Library up in Nevada City. If anybody’s interested in that, you can come see me and take a picture of it on your phone for later and then you can attend.

Financials: we’re above water. That’s all I have for right now. Nothing’s changed.
Mike

I would like to say thank you to Chris. He adds a new dimension to our group. He is really a nice person. He has different ideas, that’s what we need as a club. We get stuck on old ideas and old ways of doing things sometimes. Well, I think Chris is coming up here to make an announcement.

Chris

Well, thank you. I'm retired and have been doing this hobby for five years and I am having so much fun doing it. I enjoy the club and meeting so many of you. I see that the club needs help right now and maybe some new ideas. If any of you have ideas of activities or programs that you'd like to see the club doing, I'll be glad to listen, and I'll bring them along to the board. Maybe it's something they've already talked about in the past, but maybe not. I'm ready to start fresh and get some good to do things going. I'm looking forward to it. And I'm going to help scheduling our guest speakers too.

Mike

We have a Bear River outing coming up. As you know is first come first serve. Get there early to get the spot that you want. Everybody's got in mind where they want to camp - close to the bathroom is possible unless it's hot and then further away from the bathroom. Bear River Trip starts next Thursday. Gates open about 2 o'clock Thursday and Matt will be the first one at the gate. Yeah, we are going to call for the combination.

Gary

We only get this young lady at a meeting about twice a year because he's so busy. Renee Fernandez please come here. Renee has been helping with our Nuggets scheduling during the week. That helps us out when we really need her, like last year when we needed her for our dog and pony show last year at Roseville fair grounds. Welcome to the Nuggets. We will put you to more use.

The other thing is Smartsville. We had 23 kids last year. We had 21 this year. Ed and I are going to talk to the organizers one more time to work out a way we can get on Main Street. It's a cute little festival. We had five of us up there. Some of the guys had a chance to go on the rides and all that and get a little education. It wasn’t stressful.

The stressful one is booked for June 19, it’s a Wednesday. We will have 150 kids from the day camp with the City of Lincoln. The City is paying for this. We're going to start panning at nine o'clock in the morning till and continue until every kid goes through. With that many kids we're going to be busy. We don’t need anyone there to take the cash. I do need one person for check out so we can do an accurate head count. and then as many panners as we can. We're looking at four tubs going all day and putting the kids through at a reasonable rate and still take a lunch break something like that. It's going to be an all-day event. It's going to be shorter than
Roseville, but it's going to last till probably about 2:00 2:30. We don't have the exact location yet. I'm waiting for that to come in. I will send it out in Constant Contact so we can get you the information, but it is confirmed. I booked it last week. They're just trying to figure out if they want to cut me a check for $600 and we use the gold until it's gone or if they want to send me a check seven days afterwards and only pay for the people who went through. That's their decision.

This is with their Parks and Rec. Not sure which Park it's going to be yet, but it's for the kid's day camp. They wanted to do it on the 18th, but I told them that wasn't going to work, because I must bring Ray along because I need him to show the kids how they invented things. Not all the kids are going to come at once, they're going to bring them over in groups. Water is going to be within 50 feet.

I don't have all the funds yet, but the head count for all the events this year so far is two hundred seventy-five kids. We've paid off a third of the new tent, so we have $900 to make up, we have $275 so far. The ladies love sitting under the tent. It is a nice setup. We're still having a lot of growing pains as we're trying to incorporate Ray's ideas was with mine and it'll grow a little more every year. I need to find someone to cut an opening in the back wall of the tent so people can walk through it and I have some other work done too. We have everything we need and we can downsize a little bit here and there.

Mike

Want to talk for a few minutes about drought. Has anybody been in a gold drought, where it just seems nothing is working for you and you are not finding any gold? We're not counting years we're caught counting months. I'm in a gold drought right now and I've been out every Saturday for the last two or three months and I'm digging in places where I was finding gold nuggets everywhere. Now I'm digging into the bank, I'm tasting the Bedrock and I just not finding anything. How many of you have not found a nugget with a metal detector? Who has metal detectors? Yeah, that's about right.

I took my supervisor gold mining with me. He is a super nice guy one of those kinds of guys that if he's having a drink you will drink with him. We've been out five times and he hasn't found any gold and was really ticked off. I'm finding gold nuggets left and right and he's not finding anything. He's getting more and more and more discouraged thinking his metal detector isn't working. Something's not right. Maybe he's never going to find any gold all, you know those kinds of scenarios. I took an 1882 silver dollar and I stuck it up underneath a bush. It wasn't anything of great value, but it was a dollar and I had found it mining. He found that silver dollar and you would have thought that, he had really struck a rich even though it wasn't worth that much. He was excited. And from that point on he started finding gold all over the place. He found a 2-ounce nugget that we call a triscuit because it has a lot of holes and lines in it. I cut a trail down through the bushes and checking all the little gullies. I got a signal in the gully and it was screaming - too loud to be gold. I ignored the signal and that was the two-ounce nugget. I can laugh about it now.

Jerry was with me one day as we're walking down a creek one day and we leapfrog each other as we're going down the stream, that way the person in front has an advantage or disadvantage or whatever. I'm in front of Jerry as we're going down a creek and I come up to this waterfall and I get a
screaming signal. I've already dug up two or three nails - little tiny shoe tacks that sound just like nuggets and I figure it's going to be another shoe tack. I walk about another 50 feet and I hear Jerry. Oh, man, you should see the nugget I just found. I had just walked past that area and I look over and right there at the top of that waterfall down about four or five inches deep was a half an ounce nugget. Yeah, it was beautiful.

One time we were at the gold show at the Gleason Digs, a lady was on top of a hill metal detecting all by herself. Her name was Angie. She was going around and around. You can tell the beginners because they get a signal and then they get down on their hands and knees and move around the dirt and then lose the signal. You could tell she was dealing with hot rocks. I walked up to her. I put a half pennyweight nugget in my mouth first. I asked her how she was doing. She said that she was chasing signals and that she hadn't found any gold with her metal detector yet. I asked here where the signal was and she goes across the ground and I'm listening to this hot rock. It's there one time you pass over it's gone the next time you pass over. I said, okay. Let me look I'll spread out the dirt and we'll check it again. I spread out the dirt and I spit that nugget into the dirt pile. She goes over this dirt pile and she says, “Oh, I think that's it right there. I said, “Okay, let's see if you can find it. She moves the dirt over and buries it. Now she can't hear anything. It's gone. I said, “It's got to be here. It was a good signal got to be here.” She moves the dirt around again and relocates it and digs it up and he was the half pennyweight nugget. I'm helping her find it because she's having trouble locating and identifying it. She finally gets it and is holding in her hand looking at it. And for the longest time she just stood there and looked at it like she couldn't believe what she was looking at and I said, what is it? She goes, I don't know. It looks like gold. That's it. Yeah that's a gold nugget. I move over in the other side and she continues to work, and you can tell she's picked up the pace quite a bit now. She's found a nugget. It motivated her, got her all excited. I went over to the other guys that were working on this hill. I asked them how they were doing today. Well, we're finding little pieces here and there not much. I told them that that the lady over there just found a nugget. Are you talking about Angie? Yeah, that lady over there. She never finds any gold. I didn't realize this was a big group of people that were all there together. About 10 of them ran over to her and wanted to see this nugget that she found. They all gathered around her to see her nugget, so she took it out and showed it to them and they were all happy and patted her on the back and all excited about it. From that point on she was out there, and she was out there even when everybody else was going back to the car to have snacks and drinks and stuff. She was out there looking for more gold. Sometimes all it takes is a little encouragement.

That's the whole secret to finding gold. How many of you could say you would find gold in your front yard? The chances are slim depending on where you live. If you lived in Dutch Flats, where most of the homes are sitting on hydraulic diggings your chances are pretty good. The whole idea is to go were gold has been found in the past. Going where miners found large gold in the past is even better. Look for bedrock, especially if you have a metal detector that's super sensitive but doesn't go deep. If it can find small gold like a Gold Monster, Gold-Bug or Gold Master, which are all super highly sensitive metal detectors. They're not made for depth but to find small targets. You want to look for bedrock or look for areas where the bedrock is shallow. And that increases your chances of finding gold.

When we were at the Bear River two years ago the river had cut deep holes in bedrock all around the banks. I had detected out there in the past and I found bunches of little BBs but I didn't find any gold with a metal detector. Well, somebody told me that right after we left that they went out
there was a metal detector and they got a three or four pennyweight nugget with a metal detector. You never know. It's out there. Like I said, you gotta increase your chances of finding it.

That's how I found my first nugget ever. I used to go out with a guy named King. I fixed his metal detector for him. He was rough on metal detectors. I kept asking him to tell me how to find a nugget? I've been out almost every day for three weeks and I hadn't found a piece of gold yet. I asked how many bullets I had to find before I get a nugget. He tells me 45. I've already counted a hundred fifty and I still haven't found a piece of gold. One day I went to a dry creek bed in Folsom. There were cows walking all over the place and you had to make sure the cows weren't in around you when you were out there. I am going along and there's a bullet and there's a piece of split shot the next signal I got looked like a pull tab from a Coke can when I dug it up, except it was gold. When you don't find gold and then you do find gold is like it really can't be gold. It really can't. It was probably two and a half -pennyweight, so I kept it. I took it home and I showed a couple of friends and asked them if it was gold. I wouldn't admit to the fact. I didn't know what gold was at the time, so I said, hey look at this gold nugget I found. They looked at it and said oh, wow. Everybody called it a pregnant flake because it was real big flat piece of gold. Since then I've found over a hundred ounces, probably closer to a hundred fifty ounces with a metal detector. So, you know, you know you can do it. It has to do with I'm out almost every weekend. I can't go out tomorrow which really hurts a lot because I will be working. I go out every weekend which increases my chances.

They say a blind pig will eventually find a truffle, right? He's out there always looking he might not have the eyes but if he looks long enough, he's going to find a truffle. Well, you increase your chances of finding gold if you are out there looking. Look in areas where gold has been found in the past then your chances are better. So just remember that first nugget is the hardest one.

Can you imagine back in the eighteen-hundred's? Miners had to live off the gold they found. When we're walking around these this country for the first time, we know what to look for and that helps. but a lot of them didn't know what to look for. A lot of them were stopping at sandbars and digging down 12 to 15 feet to get to bedrock to discover that the gold was 10 or 15 feet from that spot. That was a rough life.

Everybody asks how much you make an hour. You know, the one person that has found more gold per hour than anybody I know is my brother Jimmy. I told you before how he found one nugget. It was a 282 pounds of quartz rock with a 3-inch seam of gold running through it and he got $32,000 for that one quartz rock. We were up at the same place a few weeks later and he wanted me to train some of his buddies. I said, no problem. I got them out of the car and I'm showing them how to use the metal detector and what to look for and where to go. My brother asks me where I was going to detect, and I told him I was going down the path here beside the car. I hadn't been down there yet. While I'm working with his buddy, I heard a shout out down below me. My brother had just found a rock with gold in it - a 292-pound rock. Then there was the one he found with black quartz and gold. He ended up with about $12,000 out of that piece. He was using a Gold Master at the time.

There was the time we were out mining with my dad and he had just found a piece of gold. I've told you the story where he got a signal that was two feet down and asked me to come check it out. I dug down two feet and told Dad he was going to have to uncover whatever it is. He thought there was an ore car down there. I didn't think so. He dug down until he hit a huge quartz rock six feet long. He checked it with his Gold Master. You know how the Gold Master will overload on big targets and it
overloaded it - really screamed. He asks me again what I thought was there. He said he thought there's an ore car underneath the dirt. If it was an ore car, you would still get a loud broad signal, but it wouldn't overload it like that. I said that this is a quartz rock number one. First rule with quartz rocks is that if you get a signal in a quartz rock, never ever throw it away. If it's a red iron stone rock or something like that possibly, but not quartz rock. It ended up being two and a half pounds of solid gold sitting in that rock. We drilled it out. My brother buried it up so we could go somewhere else. He went ten feet away to the top of a rock pile. He got a signal. He is sure his metal detector is broken. He says he can't get it to balance then moved over five feet and checked it again and sounded like it was bouncing. He went back to the original spot and checked again. He got the signal again. He dug up a piece of gold that we called a loaf of bread nugget. It looked like a loaf of bread and it was almost solid gold throughout the rock and the gold was stretched one end of the rock about four inches. You can look through half of it and see clear quartz for about four or five inches and behind the clear quartz was gold. He sold that piece for $18,000. For that hourly wage, my brother's probably up to around $500 an hour.

This is Max Bell. He is one of my good friends. A very religious man. He really believes and does what he feels. He's a really a good person.

Max

I'm just going to give a little introduction of myself. I moved to Auburn in 1973 and met some people who were bottling and immediately I aspired to be a bottle digger. For the first 20 or so years I lived in this area that's mainly what I did - dig for antique bottles. I refined my craft to where we would probe outhouse pans and stuff. I given some talks to the County Historical Society and did different projects to promote understanding of antique bottles.

I was very successful at finding bottles. Got to the point where I could no longer get new permissions and the areas we worked were worked out so to speak. Since I have permission on all this private ground, I decided to buy a metal detector. I didn't know anything about metal detectors, but I thought, I'd get one and put in a hundred hours. If I couldn’t find something in a hundred hours, then it's not for me and I can put it in the closet like a lot of other people of do. I wasn't even 20 or 25 hours into it when I located a gold miners belt buckle from the 1850's. I thought man, these things are great. Of course, then it was like the first time you find gold. I was all over all the time and I've been detecting now more than 20 years.

I'm just going to give a brief description of how these people got here and their life. I wasn't really a student of history in school, but once I started in on the gold rush, I wanted to know everything - where they were, who they were, where they came from and all of that. I got to reading John Fremont's Diaries. The Fremont Expeditions that had come to California. The third one came in 1846 and they were in California right before the Mexican War started. They ended up fighting with the Bear Flag Revolt, taking over Sonoma, raising the Bear Flag and declaring California a Republic. When the Mexican War started the U.S. was actually trying to take the land Texas, all New Mexico, Arizona and California for the United States.
The army formed what they called the New York Legion, which was a legion of men that were mustard and gathered in New York and were sent to California. They left New York in 1846 with 600 men and they were sent to conquer this area and colonize it, in other words they weren't to come back. Soldiers usually would be sent back and mustered out where they mustered in, but these men were to stay here and colonize the area. When they arrived in San Francisco in March of 1847 there were only eight hundred people in San Francisco. They sailed in on three different ships – a total of 600 soldiers arrived charged with building the presidios, the roads, sawmills and everything else. We won the battles, but the government bought the territory from the Mexicans for $15 million.

These miners mustered out in August thru October of 1848 six or eight months after gold was found. All 600 of them went right to the gold fields. They were very successful at mining and so that's why we find a lot of their military relics and stuff in the gold camps. I know you guys are all into gold and run the other way on the sites with relics. I know a lot of guys don't want to be bothered with the camps. We run right to that stuff and that's what we are constantly looking for - the Gold Rush camps and tent camps in the mining camps. It's a great hobby.

I can sympathize with Mike on going through the drought so to speak. We'll go out five times. We won't find anything worth bring home. And then the next time we'll find five or six items. You know, it's just the nature of hunting. Or a friend you take finds everything and you don't. I can't tell you how many times I wanted to go home and tell my wife to just kick me.

We were hanging out in Dobbins, a mining area that we had found. I had found a 1780 Spanish coin and two or three belt buckles already that day and we were looking for another site. My friend George is along with me and I'm telling him to stay away from me, that he's too close and his signal is interfering with mine. I said, I'm going to cut across this draw and we're going to go up on this little flat here and we will hunt it out. He's crossing and he moves over a little bit. We don't like to hunt too close to the roads because people in the rural areas throw out their beer cans and stuff. We just stay fifty or a hundred feet back. He has moved over close to the road and he's going along, and he started yelling at me and I look back and I run back over there to see what he's got. He's got a five-and-a-half-ounce nugget that he almost walked away from because he thought it was a beer can. So, there you go.

I took him to another spot two weeks later and I'm finding cool stuff. I found a one-of-a-kind Nevada City token. He found a Liberty quarter and he calls me over. It's a good one but I can't read the date. Wow. Wouldn't it be nice if it's a Carson City mint, like 1871? I flip it over and look at him, it's a Carson City and it was 1871. It was worth $8,000, you know, it's just maddening. Sometimes you just you're in the right place. You got the right Karma whatever it is. It's going on it's working for you. I never get discouraged. I've been through those streaks with my hunting partners before.

We were hunting French Burrell on a Nevada County site and we've got permission on an 800-acre piece and there's some real early sites in there and we stumble through there and we're picking up some belt buckle parts and you know coins and it's getting pretty good. We walked away and we came back about two weeks later. I'm hunting a little cellar. I found a black powder flask, you know a rifle flask and well, that's cool. And then I moved over and I got an 1850s eight real Spanish coin and then right next to it an 1840's East India Company silver and then right next to that I get a 1780 Carlos III Spanish coin. After I find the fourth coin, I feel bad for George, silly me. I told George to come on over where I am. I'm finding good coins and I want to share. He said his batteries are dead. I let him go back to the truck and get new batteries and come back. I turned my detector off and let him dig his signals
till he had three. I had four already. Once he got the third one, I said game on and turned my machine back on and he got out of my way. We ended up getting 16 Spanish coins. The newest one was 1815. The oldest one was 1780 all from that one cabin. That kind of stuff keeps you going, you never forget that, and you always keep looking for that kind of site. Believe me, they’re still out there. It’s just a matter of spending enough time out in the brush.

It is probably the same way with us relic hunters as it is for you. It’s can you get a new permission, and then can you fight through the brush to find the site. And then once you find the site, it’s all gravy. Everybody asks me to them to the town, take me to my relic site. Once you locate your site, you know, a RadioShack detector can locate stuff, you know you get over the top of it and it’s yours, that’s just how it is, but it’s the perseverance.

Now I’ve been doing the detecting 20 years or so, and I just I love the history that's associated with it all. I started finding so many of buckles and there was no reference for the them being found in the California gold fields. All the references were military or Civil War Buckles.

I started using the computer to put photos of all the different examples that I knew about. Then I contacted Jerry and other people throughout the state and photographed their collections until I understood what was from California and what was Eastern stuff and then I wrote a book on California Gold Rush belt buckles. It was the first reference that identified what's special about the gold rush. People would say oh, those are Civil War buckles. Well, do your math, the gold rush was in 1848, and the Civil War started in 1860. We’re before the Civil War. There's about a hundred different buckles we've identified that came out of the California camps and they usually only came from camps from 1848 to about 1858. After that these two-piece buckles were no longer fashionable. People went to different styles of buckles.

This is what was being made and sent out and this is how that came about. San Francisco went from 800 people in 1848 and by the end of 1849 there were 250,000 people in the state, 25,000 in San Francisco alone. They just poured in and they had no services and no goods. The smart merchants back east that were already in military goods or manufacturing stuff filled the holds of all the ships coming to California with what they called goods for the California trade which were the rough flannel shirts with the big pockets the rubber boots, overalls in the denim fabric that would hold up in the mines. You could tell by seeing a miner in a daguerreotype picture if he was a California miner. No one else in the world dressed like that with that rough heavy clothing. So those merchants were smart, and they made a fortune. They opened branch stores in San Francisco starting 1850. Here on the table you will see there's belt buckles marked Ashton Pollock and Company, San Francisco 1852 when they first started. There's a Pollock Brothers buckle. There's one here that is a fantastic buckle with the California state seal with the wreath on it. It's got the bay and a miner, a sailing ship and a man with a rock. There's another one with the gold miner standing on a rock with a shovel in his hand and these are all 1850, 1852, 1853.
Everybody wishes that we could come up with something that showed them being made here, but the foundries in San Francisco in the beginning were in weren't up to speed for that type of tooled work. We think that the majority were made in New York and sent out here even though they were specifically designed for the California trade. If you see the pictures of San Francisco from 1851, it's just a sea of masts from all the abandoned ships of the Navy and everybody else. Well, this is a Navy Officer Buckle from 1850 or 1851. Military officers were getting $20 a month for wages so they jump ship when they get to the gold fields where people were making $200 a day or more during the first two or three years. They were making a lot of money then. Would you want to stay on the ship? I mean, that's why the ships just filled the bay and they would just sink them all or make store ships out of them. The just couldn't keep anybody there for wages. San Francisco emptied out in 1849. People were just gone. Nobody was minding the stores all the merchants were gone. Everyone figured there was more money out in the way he could dress it up. I mean instead of a jewel in my knife with gold or something fancy. I just stick my quarter on there to impress everyone.

Of course, you always find the black powder flasks that go along with the rifle and pistol. Some were very ornate. Eagles standing on shields, military patriotic symbols. This is a beaker. I found this in San Francisco probably in the 1970s. It has a super fancy pattern and it's got a thumb print in it. The guy probably had a down on his luck story. I imagine he drank a bunch of whiskey pushed this thing in and then threw it because there was no other reason to get rid of it. This was a high-dollar item in its time. It was gold plated pewter. gold fields. Then the smart Merchants realized that a wagon load of supplies could be sold for more than they could mine gold for, so merchants actually did better than a lot of the miners.

When we were metal detecting, we found some of these buckles with an inch or two of the original cloth attached. I have a friend whose mother runs a loom and she hand wove the exact stitch pattern and recreated a belt. This is an exact replica of an 1850's Gold Rush belt buckle. It says M. Cohen and Brothers, San Francisco. This piece is a slide, and this is the belt adjuster to take the belt in or out. That is exactly what the belts looked like, it is accurate even down to the color. It's kind of cool to have them, you can really see what they looked like. Now the heavier cast stuff was on another level. A lot of that was just a patent leather belt on the buckle.

I'm going to talk about some of the artifacts now. We're out there looking for all this stuff and we found this type of cabin making shingle axe quite often, but this one has a point on this end and it's a fighting axe for fighting Indians or battling, you know, just meant to hurt you. This is a very unusual piece. When a people see these and don't understand this is have nothing to do with a hay fork. This is a sluice fork. The larger gravel was shoveled out with these forks. One man had people run the water and gravel through and others would use these sluice forks. This one came from a cabin out of Yankee Jim's that was built in 1849. So real early for hand forged stuff.

Only about one in maybe 25 or 30 items have a blacksmith name on it. I've got a couple here that do, this one's H. Fisher in the Nevada County directory. He was a blacksmith in Nevada county in 1854 only for a couple of years. It's nice to be able to see the area it came from and how far it got from Nevada City. Here's another one CWW San Francisco, California Water Works. That's the only one we've ever seen like that so far. It's just fun to have that kind of stuff. I've got one that says Nelson and Baker and has San Francisco spelled out. Nelson and Baker were blacksmiths in San Francisco for only 1850 - that's it. So that's some of the earliest stuff I've come across. This gold pan is smaller than normal they were normally were three to four feet across. It was used for cleaning up after they would
empty out their sluice boxes. It was a little bit beat up when I found it with the metal detector, but I straighten it out. This is quite rare as the copper ones are usually used.

In the early days before hydraulic, the first method was called ground sluicing. They had a canvas hose with a brass tip, and they would take the over burden and wash it off right into the head of their box, so they didn't have to shovel. This had about two feet more tin on it and canvas after that. That's the 1850's method.

In the hydraulic areas before hydraulic, they tunneled those areas just to see if they could get to the bedrock where they thought, and they were right, the real rich deposits were located. Those tunnels made one a little leery, when you get in so far and you turn around and look back and all you see is a little hole out there and you're thinking I can't run that fast. Those guys are in there with candles and it's black is heck in there. This is an example of the hand-forged candlestick holders they used. I wouldn't do well in there. Here's some of the other lights we find. This is a whale oil lamp. These are all detected items from the cabins. They are filled with whale oil and have a little burner on them. Can you imagine when the sun goes down and you're out in the middle of the woods and the sort of the middle of nowhere and this is all you have for light. It was a lonely world out there for those guys. I mean, I don't know if you had to be a tough cookie to be out there, you know in the wintertime and in adverse conditions to sit around in your cabin and this is the only source of light.

These are some other lighting devices. Here is another whale oil lamp style. This is an interesting piece. This is a ship lamp. My friend, when he was 10 years old, was digging in the San Francisco redevelopment projects where they would take the mud from where they were going to build a high-rise and take it out to landfills. He was out where they were digging and the top of this was sticking out. He walked over and pulled on it and it wouldn't come out, so he dug it out. This is a gimbling ships lamp. It had glass down here and another burner underneath. So that's super interesting piece to think that it sailed around the cape with miners on the ships.

These are pewter spoons and forks and tin dinner plates. This stuff's not good for you – it had lead, tin, pewter and mercury. That stuff can kill you. We don't just save interesting stuff., We save a lot of the relics so we can recreate guys sitting down to dinner. Here's a tin cup. The wood beer kegs and brandy kegs – everything had lead spigots. You don't have to try to kill yourself because they are all dying at 25 years old. These are the different spigots. These are the earliest ones you find while the brass ones are usually 1860s and 70s these pewter and lead ones are early 1850s.
The bullet molds is how they cast their bullets. These are the balls, pistol balls, rifle balls and then the three ringers used a little bit later 1860s. My friend had this single shot. You guys in the back of the room are safe, you guys middle of the table you’re safe. I might hit somebody in the front row, but you’re safe, they’re good for 15 to 20 feet. I could shoot that way and it could kill my father. They were good for up close and personal and that's about all.

This is what they call a prostitute's knife or a gambler's knife. It was worn on a leather rope around your neck under your jacket or vest. If they got in an altercation for less than upstanding card tricks they would pull this knife out of the sheath. It only had one purpose and it wasn't for cleaning your fingernails or opening in your letters. It was meant to go right in here and poke a hole in your heart. And that's all this was. The prostitutes carried them, and the gamblers carried them. We found pictures of the handles, metal detected the knife and restored it and then our good friend Jerry found a sheath that is almost a perfect fit for the knife. He was kind enough to help me along with my Gold Rush collection. I got several things from Jerry and Mike over the years. This is sort of the relic condition you get most of your knives in, I probably have 15 or 20 more like this.

These are 1850 Bowie knives. In 1948-49 mining was done with a Bowie knife, tin cup in a pan. They crawled around on the high-water bedrock and pried nuggets right out of the out of the cracks. They had never been looked at by anybody but Indians. For the ten years mining was very lucrative.

This one is a blacksmith file. Files are one of the hardest steels so you can put a real edge on it. Somewhere in the camp the blacksmith decided you needed a knife. He created a brass handguard first because if you're using it and it slips you've cut your hand off. Well on the back here is the coin. This one is an 1858 seated quarter. That's what they decided to do use to secure the handle to the point. I got this from Jerry. When I got it the metal blade it was bent way over and a friend of mine was able to heat it to bring it out. It looks great now. A quarter back then was a lot of money it was it probably was the fanciest.

We found these double barrel boot pistols. Found three of them recently. This is a pepperbox pistol. It’s a six-shot. When I found this piece, I didn't really realize what it was. I got to look at it and saw that it looks like an anchor, right? It's a watch fob. The guy on the ship didn't have anything but time on his hands. As he was sailing to California he made his own watch fob out of brass. It’s kind of a personal item.

We would detect these slugs quite often around gold camps They're not just cut out round. We finally realize as real money was in such short supply in the early Gold Rush camps, they made these and used them as poker chips or markers during their card games because they didn't actually have coins, at least not enough to go around.

I was telling you about Stevenson's regiment - the New York Region guys that were out here in 1847 for the Mexican war. In this case here, here are different rows of buttons and you'll have to see them closer to understand what I am describing. These have Naval anchors on them. They’re from Commodore Sloat in the Marines and navy that was in Monterey and San Francisco in 1846. They are pre-gold rush. The next row is New York Legion, Stevenson's regiment 1st, New York volunteers.
known by all those names and being from beginning 1846 and 1847. They all came out of Gold Rush camp sites that date 1848 and as that’s when they mustered out.

Here’s some Phoenix buttons. Have you heard about Phoenix buttons? There were was an emperor in Haiti who was very rich, and he put together big armies in the 1830s. Haiti is one of the poorest places on earth now after the hurricanes. At that time this guy really had it together. He was building that country up to be one of the Premier countries and right before he got these deeds done, he died. All his buttons and uniform buttons for all these different regiments went to the fur traders and trappers and they went into the Hudson Bay Company trade routes and then a lot of them went to the West Coast of Washington and Oregon and filtered down through the mission systems. And that’s how they got into California as they’re usually found around the missions or anything pre 1840 and they are historic pieces. Of course, when you see the French sailing ships in the bay the buttons are from the French Navy. These are buttons from the Republic of Mexico Army Officers that were here in the 1840’s. There are Rifleman Dragoons, which are mounted Cavalry, infantry, general, service and officer staff. A lot of this is 1846 to 1849 or so, the first of the first military out here.

Interesting stuff, fun to collect although I seem to have a lot of it, there’s not a lot of it out there. These are the suspenders clips right here that they wore if they didn’t have belts, they would wear suspenders and then it would be a leather thing and come down to two buttons on your pants.

To the bottles. We were at Yankee Jim’s Camp metal detecting on a friend’s property and we know we had found a lot of bottles there in the past and I got a metal signal. It was a broken stove leg and stuff started coming out of there and all this glass starting coming up in the hole so I called out to my brother and we got the shovels and dug a little deeper and these are 1850 soda and mineral water bottles started coming out of that hole and unfortunately, they smashed. You try to put 10 gallons of glass in a five-gallon hole and they broke about 80%. But, it’s amazing how many bottles I’ll find with a metal detector because it gets me a metal signal that gets me to an area that I can recognize as having trash in it and I can dig it out. It’s the same thing here.

This is a cobalt blue Lancaster from New York - a soda and mineral water bottle. I was digging up above Downieville in the Monte Cristo area at a cabin site and I got a metal signal and while I’m digging up the metal signal, I see the neck of the bottle sticking out. I called over my buddy because I know it’s going to be whole. It was slander and intact right in the cabin. He came over and starts uncovering it slowly and finally pulled it out. It’s just such a thrill to find something that’s been laying there since 1852 that hasn’t moved out of that floor of the cabin. These bottles are full bottles. This is a wine bottle, and this is a Brandy bottle. This is Gold Rush 1850’s. I dug a hole with a hundred of these in one hole behind a hotel Saloon. These are a little bit later in 1860’s real pretty. This glass is made in San Francisco - Western whiskey bottles. You might guess from the shape these are called the ladies leg. It dates from 1852 1858 somewhere in there.

This is a tapered gin bottle, KC Daly Clubhouse gin. In England gin was very popular. Lot of the people came over here from England. The Clubhouse was designated as the richest place. You know if you were in the Clubhouse at the racetrack then you were one of the big shots. So, if you were drinking Clubhouse gin you were drinking the top-of-the-line gin. Again, this is 1850s Clubhouse gin.

This is the common black glass bottle that you find all over. If you guys are out in the Gold Rush Camp, you’ll see broken pieces of these laying all around. These are very ornate bottles from 1850’s for pepper sauce. They had dried peppers in them with oil and vinegar to make a sauce to use on their meat. It wouldn’t keep long as there was no way to refrigerate anything. Meat couldn’t keep, so you had to eat it relatively quickly. As the meat became what you and I might not eat they could get a few more days out of it by putting the pepper sauce on it. And that’s really how they did it. You know, there’s no store to go to and you’ve got your game so you could get it down, but it might not be the best steak you ever had.

These are the food bottles we have here. Bottles that had berries and currents and all kinds of different foods that they shipped out in the holds of the ship could last long enough to get into the min-
ing camp so they can have some staples to make their pies and whatever else they may make. These are the larger size mineral water bottles. These are made from eastern Springs like Congress and Empire Springs, New York. Late 1850’s to early 1860’s Clark and White New York.

They started making the patent medicines and would sell you just about anything and it would promise to do whatever you needed. If you need a head of hair, it will grow hair it will cure you of anything and everything - even things you didn’t even have. This one is Dr. Murray’s magic oil. I mean it doesn’t even matter what you have, the is stuff is magic. You just drink it and your better or you don’t care. There are a couple other ones here, Crabs abolition oil for abolishing pain right now. If you got down in the mines and you wanted to feel no pain, you took the abolition oil, or you take doctor McMann’s elixir of opium. So just a little dab ‘ll do ya. First, the doctors didn’t know much medicine they didn’t know cures, they didn’t know anything. They would bleed you, right? Okay, so you’re sick. We’ll take all the blood out of you like that will help. You know, that’s the kind of stuff they have going on in.

When they got cut out there They had carbolic salves and bear grease they would put on their wounds that would seal in the dirt that was there but keep off outside bits of the dirt and keep it from getting infected further, but it didn’t actually help you. It just kept you from getting worse. Doctors were quite often practitioners of quack medicine. This was outlawed in 1913 the Pure Food and Drug Act came along, and they put the kibosh on cocaine, opium and that stuff in the medicine to treat each disease. Well, unfortunately it’s back. It’s not over the counter in longer, but it’s is out there. Here’s another one that came out of a hill. We were digging on the side of the hill and we found these big bottles from the 1850’s just sparkling clean. Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla are supposedly herbal medicines. We’ll just put some yellow dock in the Sarsaparilla and will tell you that it’s good enough to just drink. They didn’t care once they sold you the bottle. Interesting stuff.

We’ve done quite a bit in Grass Valley. A few years ago after we did a talk for Nevada County Historical Society. I’m thinking in 1990 we talked to them about how to locate privies and outhouses and it was the largest attendance for Nevada County Historical Society meeting in 20 years. Everybody came out of the woodwork. We didn’t know what to expect and so we got in there and I did the portion on how to locate privies and how to read Sanborn fire Insurance maps and at the end of the meeting all these people came up to us and said well, do you think there's anything in my yard? All I could think is yes, we’re willing to look you know, so it snowballed. We had probably 30 or 40 permissions within a week after that talk and every time we would go into a yard and probe around and in property and the property owner would be right there with you. We very professional laid out our tarps put all the dirt on the tarp, put it all back in and landscape over it so you couldn’t tell that we had been there. Their neighbors would come out and saying “What do you think? Think there's any in my yard?” We would just go over there next. It went on for four years. My wife was giving me the “I do have a honey-do list and the kids are getting where they are ready to go to college. You haven't seen him in a while.” I had to try and do it on the weekends and work full-time to. It really got to be too much. I had to just rein it in because I could have done forever. Finally, it slowed down. These are the kind of bottles that San Francisco made in cobalt blue for soda. Casey Eagle soda works Sac City on the back its mainly 1867. So, it’s a little bit later glass made in San Francisco is pretty.

And that is it. I got to the end of the table and I just want to thank you for having me.
From Gary Shaver’s Pan:

So this coming month is going to be the 1 event on the 19th of June in the city of Lincoln. I am still waiting on some of the information to come in from Parks and Recreation as to where we are going to be. This is on a Wednesday at 9am start time. So set up will be at 8am. When they give me the rest of the info I will get it out to you at the meeting or thru E-mail sent out by Cyndy. If you would like to help the Nuggets during any event, please contact Gary Shaver at: Phone (530) 863-5387 or by email at: garyshaver64@live.com

Gary

Last month I forgot to give you some info as to where to look at river flows so here are the 2 sites I use to check the current levels.


2. [https://nidwater.com/](https://nidwater.com/) Nevada Irrigation District then click the tab for recreation and river flows go to the bottom of this list to Bear river below Rollins. The red line is the current level of flow. This site is good only for waters inside the NID water District.

Hope this helps you plan your prospecting and helps you determine the level of safety and make adjustments for high water level. We have not even seen the levels of our river rise for the spring thaw yet this will happen soon and last til late summer so be safe and watch your water they can rise quickly. Happy prospecting and hope to see you on the river somewhere. Gary
Goldhound Outings

Roaring Camp

We have reserved five tent sites at Roaring Camp on July 18-21st.
We are almost at the maximum number of people for this trip. If you have not signed up, please email me or talk to me at the next few meetings.
The price will be $100 per person. The price includes the Saturday night steak dinner. A deposit needs to be paid soon. If you could pay half or the full amount soon that would really help.
If you have not been to Roaring Camp or would like to see some pictures. You can visit their website. [https://roaringcampgold.com](https://roaringcampgold.com)

Please reach out to me directly at the next meeting, email, call or txt for any questions.
Thanks,
Mathew Morris
MathewMMorris@Hotmail.com
(360) 930-9266

From the desk of the Temporary Membership Chair

**Here’s an update on Refreshments:**

I was talking to Lee this past week and she said that she will be at the next meeting. She isn’t going to let anything like eye surgery keep her down. What they are really looking for is two strong miners who will put out water and juice and take it down and empty it at the end of the meeting. If you still have a strong back, just check in when you arrive and see if the refreshment team needs help.

**Update on Cyndy:**

Maybe, just maybe, she will come to the June meeting. Keep her in your prayers.

**Bring dues if due.**

Happy mining,
Jean Kohlhoff
Raffle Time
More Raffle Time

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The Mother Lode Goldhounds and Nuggets want to recognize and offer our sincerest Thanks to **Hansen Brothers Enterprises** for their generous donations of gravel used during the Championships and by the Nuggets during gold panning demonstrations and lessons.
OTHER CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA)
*We meet the third Saturday in January, April, July and October*
River City Prospectors Chapter meets quarterly in Rio Linda, CA. GPAA has member only claims and outings. Their “Pick & Shovel Gazette” contains good information for everyone who supports mining. For GPAA Gold Show dates check: www.goldprospectors.org or call 1-800-551-9797. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/rcpgpaa/ or Contact Jim Hutchings at (530) 367-5108 or the GPAA at 800-551-9797. Visit the GPAA web site at www.goldprospectors.com

Roseville Rock Roller Gem & Mineral Society – *Scroll down for rock show information and discount admission coupon.*
Meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at the Placerville Fairgrounds in Roseville, 800 All American City Blvd. www.rock rollers.com or email rockrollers@hotmail.com

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs
Meetings on the first Thursday of every month at the Sacramento County Old SMUD Building, corner of Elkhorn & Don Julio in North Highlands, CA. www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
Call (530) 676-2472 or visit www.eldoradomineralandgem.org

Gold Country Treasure Seekers
Located in Placerville, CA. This is a club for metal detecting enthusiasts. For more information contact Jan Nixon, gcts@gmail.com

Gold Pan California, Gold Adventures
1021 Detroit Ave., Concord, CA – For more information call (925) 825-GOLD

Golden Caribou Mining
A small-scale mining gold club in Belden, CA. For more information call (530) 283-5141 or visit www.goldencaribou.com

UPI - United Prospectors
Meets every other month at outings, President@unitedprospectors.com - Info 209-567-9987. Club can offer outings to claims. 2401 E. Orangebury Ave., Modesto, 95355 - phone (209) 567-2370.

Shasta Miners
Club has claims for members use. Meetings at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of every month at the Moose Lodge on Lake Blvd. in Shasta, CA., just up from Shopko on the left. Call (530) 623-0744
The 16 to 1 Underground Gold Miners Museum
Contact them for tours of a working underground mine and special events. (530) 287-3330
Write: PO Box 907, Alleghany, CA 95910
www.undergroundgold.com Email: info@undergroundgold.com

Comstock Gold Prospectors
Meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Masonic Lodge, 2425 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV. Write P.O. Box 20781, Reno, NV 89515 or visit www.cgpgold.org

The Sierrans for Responsible Resource Development (the "Sierrans") is a non-profit social welfare organization formed to educate residents, businesses, government agencies, and the community about the benefits of responsible and sustainable resource industry in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. (530) 271-0679
P.O. Box 404, Grass Valley, CA 95945 www.sierrans.org

Western Mining Alliance – Miners who fight for our rights to dredge and mine in California. WMA has a great online newsletter and a great people to work with.
Visit: www.westernminingalliance.com Email: westeringalliance@gmail.com

ICMJ’s PROSPECTING AND MINING JOURNAL - Scott Harn, Editor, and his team works hard to get this monthly mining magazine on line & in the mail. Check them out. www.icmj.com - info@icmj.com - 831-479-1500. ICMJ offers current news on the dredging regulations, PLP, Miner’s Alliance, and are the best online source of recent gold news. You can search for great “how-to” and “where-to” articles on dredging, metal detecting, mining operations, assaying, legislative updates, geology, history, metals prices and financial news.

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Email Jean Kohlhoff at jeanieologist@gmail.com for further information

Don’t even try it, remember, we hang claim jumpers.
Public Lands for the People
PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE - 7194 Conejo Dr., San Bernardino, CA 92404, (909) 889-3039, WWW.PLP2.ORG. P.L.P. continues to work on your behalf to keep public lands open. Donations are tax deductible. They have great raffles posted in the ICMJ to help with attorney fees and they need help!

Fighting for your right to mine is very expensive so PLP is auctioning off any donations you can make to help raise money. If you can help they will take just about anything from old heirlooms to vehicles. PLP hosts a running auction for gold on eBay.
http://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org/

AMRA - American Mining Rights Association
is a 501 (c)(3) Non-profit Association and was created by miners and public land users, for miners and public land users to preserve and maintain their rights as they pertain to access to their public lands and their rights to obtain the minerals on those lands. We are not a gold club but rather an advocacy group.
American Mining Rights Association
PMB #607, 6386 Greeley Hill Rd., Coulterville, CA 95311

support@americanminingrights.com      shannonp@americanminingrights.com
johnr@americanminingrights.com         www.AmericanMiningRights.com

https://www.facebook.com/americanminingrights
**GOLDHOUND CLUB INFORMATION**

**NAME BADGES**: Club name badges can be ordered at any club meeting. See Member Stephen Johnson at the meeting as you come in the door - Badge with Pin Clasp: $4.50 Magnetic Badge: $5.00.

*Please stop by the Raffle table and Thank Steve Johnson for taking over this important task for the club.*

**GOLDHOUND T-SHIRTS**

See Cyndy Burchard if you are interested in a Goldhounds T-shirt. You can call at 530-346-9481 or email her at: cyned0523@yahoo.com. Cyndy will need to know what size you need, and for the women, whether you want a Gold OR Pink one. If you worked at the Gold Panning Championships and signed in with the person in charge, you will receive a shirt. Otherwise they are $16 each.

**Announcement on Jackets and T-shirts** I have the T-shirts and Jackets from Dancing Dawg Productions. If you haven’t paid me for your Jacket, now is the time! If you see these jackets and would like to place an order, please contact Cyndy Burchard. We need to have an order at least 12 at a time to get them back quickly. The cost is $45 each.

**GOLDHOUND PATCH** for your hat or jacket are can be bought at each meeting for $6.00 each. See Jean Kohlhoff

**CYNDY BURCHARD** is our club Secretary, as well as our Sunshine Lady. Cyndy also sends emails out for the Goldhounds. A BIG THANK YOU to Cyndy for all her hard work.

**GOLDHOUND MEETINGS** are held the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00PM-9:00PM at the Auburn Veterans Hall, 100 EAST ST., AUBURN, CA. Take Hwy. 80 toward Auburn, get off at Hwy 49 and turn toward Old Town Auburn. Turn right at T-intersection (Lincoln), Go one short half-block and turn right again on to East Street. The Veterans Hall sits on your left, parking is in the back. **Invite your friends, the public is always welcome to attend. See you there!!**

**GOLDHOUND CLASSIFIEDS**

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List it free for all Goldhounds here in the Goldhound Classifieds. Send your ad and contact information to Sherry Andersen at SherryRocks57@gmail.com along with any photos. Your ad will be in the next newsletter and can go on the Goldhounds Live page on Goldhounds.com web site if requested.
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Contact Cyndy Burchard at cyned0523@yahoo.com or (775) 294-5769 for questions or concerns regarding your membership status. If you would like to join/renew your membership, please print out this form, fill it out, and send the complete form with a check/money order payable to Mother Lode Goldhounds to:

Mother Lode Goldhounds
P.O. Box 1753
Fallon, Nevada 89407

( ) $40.00 Individual  ( ) $45.00 Family  ( ) Senior & Spouse (age 70+) $30

( ) New membership  ( ) Renewal

(one year applies to all)

NAME_____________________________________________EMAIL_________________________________________

ADDRESS_________________________________________________________PHONE__________________________

CITY________________________________________  STATE__________ZIP CODE__________________

I hereby apply for membership/renewal with the Mother Lode Goldhounds. I fully understand Mother Lode Goldhounds and its agents do not provide goods or services for any of my activities including, for example, mining equipment or supplies, lodging, transportation, food, etc. Mother Lode Goldhounds is not liable for any negligent or unwillful act or failure to act by providers of such goods or services during my activities. I acknowledge that there may be certain risks involved with activities as a member including, but not limited to, rugged or uneven terrain, uncertain or unpredictable river currents, physical exertion for which I am not prepared, or other unknown forces of nature, high altitude, accident or illness without access to means or rapid evacuation or availability of medical supplies, the adequacy of medical attention once provided, or negligence on part of Mother Lode Goldhounds. I hereby agree to be responsible for my own welfare and accept any and all risks of unanticipated events, illness, injury, emotional, trauma or death. I acknowledge that the cost of Mother Lode Goldhounds membership is based upon participants executing this release of liability. That whatever casual event I, or my family, attend that I am responsible and at no time will have legal or financial claim against, nor will hold responsible, any member or club official of the Mother Lode Goldhounds for any damages or injuries. I agree that this release shall be legally binding upon me personally, all members of my family and all minors traveling with me, my heirs, successors, assigns and legal representatives, it being my intention to fully assume all risk associated with my activities as a member of the Mother Lode Goldhounds.

I have read and fully understand this release and membership application

_____________________________________________   ________________________
SIGNATURE                                           DATE