

Dear Members,

The snow has melted and the Iris and daffodils are just starting to bloom so Don and I are already thinking about our upcoming Outings. Be sure to check the dates each month as they will change because we are still in late winter here in the Mountains. The March 29 and April 26 will be metal detecting at the Gleeson Pit. Early Spring works better for this pit as it can be very hot in the summer time and we hope to have some water so we can do a little gold panning also. We will send an email as to time and where to meet.

Don't forget the great Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Show on 3/22 and 3/23. This is always a fun event. I am working on the flyers for our own Labor Day Foresthill Heritage Day celebration to hand out when we go.

With the snow and ice outside it gave me a chance to get out my old Gold Rush History books and read about the great Mother Lode that we live in and never tire of all the gold stories. When we first moved here in 1980 we lived in Auburn Lake Trails in Cool. Don was still working part time in the Bay Area and I felt safe living in a gated community. It was a new place over looking the golf course. We had bought our property already in the remote area of Iowa Hill. Every weekend when Don came home our dog, a St. Bernard named Mandy, Don and I, would go prospecting all over the Georgetown and El Dorado County area.

We subscribed to the weekly El Dorado Gazette, out of Georgetown, and could not wait until we received it to read it cover to cover all about the gold strikes, history and pioneers of this famous area. Peg Presba wrote an article each week called "Tailings..." and I saved them all. The following story was written by Peg for the 6/15/93 Gazette.

KELSEY FLATS...a reflection of the past compiled by Peg Presba

Nowhere else on the Georgetown Divide were so many little hamlets, small towns and communities so densely located as in the Kelsey mining District. Phyllis Gernes records in her book, Hidden in the Chaparral, "In all the camps counted in the Kelsey mining area in the 1850 census, there were approximately 3,275 people. There could have been many more, as it was conceded that the coverage was sketchy, and many localities were completely missed. It was impossible to find the miners scattered in all the remote ravines."

Union Flat was located about a half mile north of Spanish Flat. It was established in 1852 by the Star Mining Company, of which several members were from Union County, Indiana. Ezra Bourne kept a journal of his activities in the gold fields and Phyllis Gernes quotes his activities extensively: "They began digging a ditch four feet wide down to bed-rock. They struck a rich lead twelve feet from the surface, and sunk several more shafts. Soon water began to come in so fast that a pump had to be kept going constantly...It was necessary to curb the timbers to keep the clay from caving. Bourne wrote, 'One day, after finishing a shaft from which we had gotten almost a thousand dollars, we removed the timbers to use for our next shafting. I found some very rich pay dirt in a corner. As a cave started on the opposite side, I asked one of the boys to watch and give me a signal. In the meantime two others came down to help me. While we were busy, the opposite side of the hole, which seemed perfectly safe, gave way, and covered my two companions. They could not extricate themselves. I made a sudden spring, so was only stunned by the falling clay. By hard shoveling the men were released not one minute too soon, for the whole side of the shaft fell in and piled up dirt about ten feet deep. This warned us never to remove our curbing until we were safe above the ground.' The last shaft they sank on that land was twenty-five feet deep. They were able to glean \$1300 from it before water came in so fast that they had to abandon it."

Stag Flat was located on Rock Creek Canal, about half a mile south of Spanish Flat. This area was used very heavily for agriculture purposes. Phyllis Gernes' research revealed that "Elisha Keith had filed for 160 acres on May 1, 1852. Ira Hale staked out 160 acres on the Divide between Rock Creek and Musquito Canon, at the head of Jaybird Canon, El Veach pre-empted 95 acres located at Stag Flat, Called Proverty Canon." Gold was also found here as reported in the Georgetown news in 1854. "Coyote or hill diggings have been found in several places that have proved immensely rich and profitable. At Stag Flat they found a lead so rich and extensive that stockholders value their interest from four to five thousand dollars a share..."

Alabama Flat and Sailor's Flat, were located near Garden Valley and are not included here. Louisville was located on Dutch Creek about four miles northeast of Coloma, or about one mile north of Kelsey. In 1850 the U.S. Bureau of Census listed the names of 420 inhabitants of Louisville and vicinity. For a time Greenwood was also called Lewisville or Louisville after the first white child born there, a Mormon named Lewis B. Meyers. But, when a post office was established there in July of 1851, to eliminate confusion of two towns with the same name, Greenwood received its new name 10/9/1851. Dutch Creek was probably the first creek explored in 1848 after the discovery of gold in the American River. This creek empties from the Georgetown Divide side of the river very close in proximity to the gold discovery site. The early miners followed its course up the steep terrain, circling Mt. Murphy until they found a level, suitable spot to camp.

That's all the time Don is going to allow me so this will be continued later. Enjoy, Annie

Nuggets on the Move

By Carol Ebbitt Roving Reporter



Left to right: Annie Robinson, Barbara Brown, Henrietta Markley, Jan Makiney, Don Evans, Barbara Cardoza, Karen Bartholomew, Carol Ebbitt, Brian Bartholomew, Stan Makiney, Ray Dodds, Lorelie Merrill, and Joe Cardoza (taking the picture)

While winter was still on the calendar, spring was certainly in the air as the Goldhound "Nuggets" were on the move once again for a new year of teaching gold panning to local youths.

Once more the Nuggets were to share in the excitement of the annual American Heritage Day event at the Mount Vernon Memorial Park in Fair Oaks. Dressed in our 1800's outfits, we arrived at 9 am to set up the tubs for the kids that were soon to appear. By 10 am here they came. Dozens of children at a time were anxious to pan for gold. The thirteen Nugget teachers were continuously busy for the next four hours.

By the end of the day there had been 278 pans of material panned out by the excited children. The seemingly untiring Nugget teachers for this event were: Karen and Brian Bartholomew, Joe and Barbara Cardoza, Stan and Jan Makiney, Lorelie Merrill, Barbara Brown, Henrietta Markley, Annie Robinson, Don Evans, Ray Dodds and Carol Ebbitt.

Once again the group received high praise from those putting on the event as well as teachers from local school districts, parents and members of other mineral clubs. The Goldhound Organization was well represented.



Nuggets on the Move

(All pictures by Joe Cardoza. Thanks Joe)



Annie



Barbara



Ray



Brian



Don



Annie and Stan



Karen



Stan

Drivers Flat Exploration for Hardrock Mine and Mill - Feb 6, 2008



Kneeling, left to right: J.P. Korn, Ron Metcalf. Jeff Chambers. Back row, left to right: Ken Hillard, Lee Leishman, Steve Paul, Ray Dodds, Merle Litzsinger, Tom Fischer, Dave Kitchen, Greg Pickens, Dawn Forcier, Jim Kelly, Arnie Ward, Don Robinson taking picture.

The snow has made us look lower for prospecting opportunities and this exploration trip was to check out an area near Drivers Flat, about half way between Auburn and Foresthill. We knew of a hardrock mill site right at the main curve there but didn't know where the ore came from. Our objective was to find the source of the ore and another mill that was in the vicinity. Merle Litzsinger had been in this area many years earlier and thought he could lead us to the first mine site. This was the same area that Merle, many years ago, had run into a trip wire set by pot growers. Being a Ranger in the military as a young man, he knew about trip wires and followed the line to a live grenade, which he dismantled! Now that takes courage. He reported it to the Sheriff at that time.

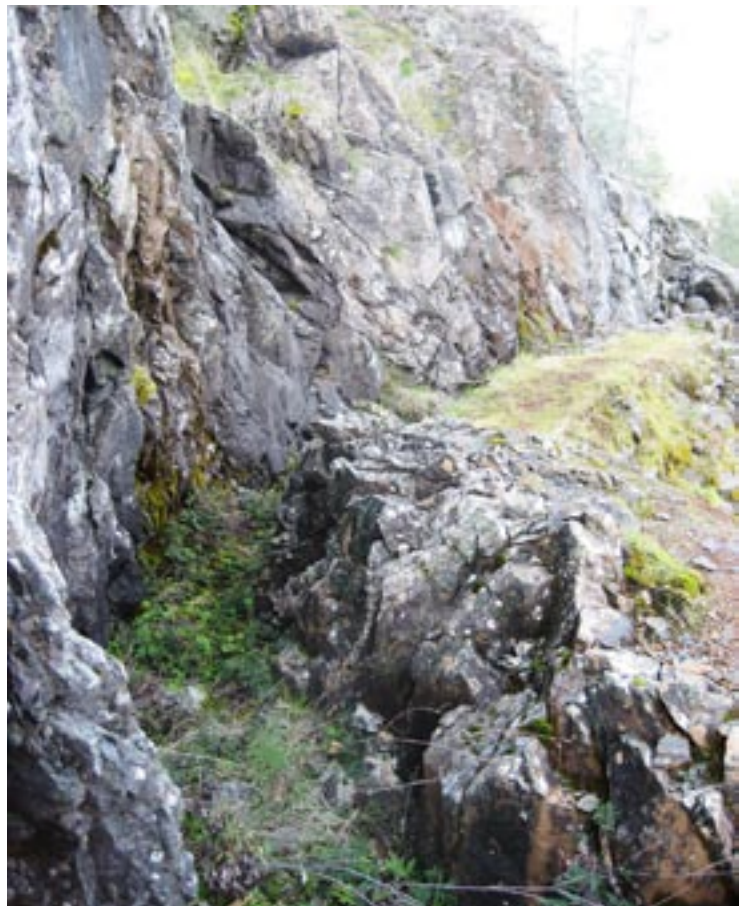
Merle was successful in leading us to an old house site and a main tunnel, which appeared to be the source of the mine ore. We also found a large open pit cut, which appeared to be directly on the vein. It was now buried with leaves and debris of Mother Nature. The rest of our trip was on the mountainside, searching for a mill that I had seen many years earlier.



(Photos by Don Robinson and Dawn Forcier)



The first tunnel we located at the house site Merle knew about. The portal had partially collapsed backing up the water. We'll have to prospect this later.



After hiking on the mountainside for quite a distance, we encountered this old water ditch carved right into the bedrock.



From the mountainside we were hiking, this was the view of the North Fork of the American. You can see a road on the upper left. This goes down to the Ponderosa Bridge from the Weimar side and goes over to the Foresthill Divide main road. It turns out we had passed the old mill we were looking for some distance back. It was down lower than we anticipated. We finished this trip without finding the old mill, but a subsequent trip did locate it. It is the picture just to the right!



We found this mill on a subsequent trip as a followup. perhaps one of you out there knows what this is and how it operated. Would sure like to know!

Searching and Exploring the Old Vore Mine

After making the Drivers Flat exploration effort, our attention turned to the Old Vore hardrock mine located between Weimar and the Ponderosa Bridge area. First we had to find it and, believe me, this was no easy task. A small team of us did the first location, going down to the Ponderosa Bridge and going downstream for 1.2 miles, along the trail to Codfish Creek. The mine was supposed to be located just above where Codfish Creek split as you headed upstream. The terrain was rough, steep, uncharted, and with poison oak. After three hours of hiking and making our way, we finally located it. Thanks particularly to Dawn Forcier, who brought her GPS system, which helped a lot (although the USGS map coordinates were also incorrect because the mine wasn't properly located there either!). With that done, and on a subsequent trip, a second, larger team moved in to make the trail



This is the crew that cleared the trail, once the first small team had located the mine. Sitting is J.P. Korn, and starting at the far left and coming forward: Greg Pickens, Rick Humphreys, Mike Ronkovick, Jim Swinneiton, Maggie Martinez, Ken Hillard, and Don Robinson, taking the picture. Dawn Forcier came to join the team later that morning, and was therefore not in the picture.

This crew got all the way to the mine, making the trail much better and safer to travel. Once there, we prospected around, checked things out, but didn't find any gold. We then worked our way downstream on Codfish Creek, hoping to pick up some nice color on our way down. The creek was extremely spotty, yielding almost nothing until we were almost all the way back. By then part of the crew had headed on back and Rick Humphreys, Dawn Forcier and I remained to do further panning. Rick found the first color that was worth while and then Dawn found a nice, coarse picker that told us that gold was present and could be heavier. The three of us then headed on back, but first went to where Codfish flattened out just before going into the North Fork of the American. There lots of tailing piles existed from the old days, which indicated that perhaps Codfish dumped most of the gold at the bottom, because of the swiftness of the stream.

Searching and Exploring the Old Vore Mine

Based upon our finding a potential where Codfish dumped into the river, and now wanting to get back to the hardrock mine for further exploration, we set up an outing to proceed with our prospecting. Here's



Kneeling in front: Wendy Sorenson, Dale Sorenson, Diane Vida. Back row, left to right: Jim Vessely, David Schoonover, Larry Stephens, Bonnie Stephens, Greg Mast, Jim Swinneiton, David Klatt, Pete Moulton, C.J. Smith, Ron Earl, Tony McNamara, and Don Robinson, taking the picture.

We all headed down stream and made it to where Codfish Creek came into a flat, just prior to reaching the North Fork. There we worked without much success, finding only small gold and nothing to brag about. A few wanted to go up to the Vore Mine, so off we went to explore the mine and the rest worked that area and then went back to the North Fork and worked it back towards the parking lot. The trip back to the mine was interesting. here's some of the pictures:



Greg Mast



Jim Vessely and David Klatt

Searching and Exploring the Old Vore Mine



Dawn Forcier at the stamp mill



tracks into one of the tunnels



Part of Codfish Falls



David Schoonover in the portal of a tunnel

I made one last final trip to the mine by myself to take some samples from a previous area we had found some gold in the quartz (by crushing). Four sample bags were taken and the first two yielded nothing. That was discouraging. The third bag had oxidized quartz in it and it yielded some color, but nothing to brag about. The final bag did the trick. This was primarily gold out of the seams between the quartz and the slates. These were very small veinlets and lots of oxidized matter, likely from iron pyrites. What does all this mean? It means we go back! After all this work, we now have a better concept of what we're looking for!



Searching and Exploring the Old Vore Mine



Rick Humphreys panning



Old air compressor at the mine site

Mercury fears spur limits on Yuba dredging

By Laura Brown, laurab@theunion.com

12:01 a.m. PT Feb 26, 2008

The Bureau of Land Management will decline recreational dredging permits for a two-mile stretch of the South Yuba River this year, citing concerns about stirring up mercury particles before a long-anticipated water test.

During controlled studies, the Bureau of Land Management will investigate whether dredging releases methyl mercury to the sediment's surface where fish and aquatic insects could then ingest the toxin.

"What we don't want happening is other people dredging at the same time and skewing results," said Jeff Horn, outdoor recreation planner for BLM.

Gold mining activity 150 years ago turned the South Yuba River into a mercury hot spot, but up until now, few studies have been conducted in the watershed, Horn said.

The closure is not expected to impact many recreational gold seekers, since only two discretionary special use permits were issued last year. Mining claims will remain intact, Horn said.

The affected area is located about a mile and a half above Purdon Crossing at Overlook Point and spans to the Forest Service boundary. The few hardy souls who choose to search for gold in the remote area are required to haul dredging equipment in by foot for miles using a wheelbarrow on narrow dirt paths, Horn said.

"It's a long, arduous process," he said.

Recreational dredging is closed from now until August, Horn said. Check BLM's website for more information or contact the Folsom field office at (916) 985-4474.

(Article sent for the newsletter by Carol Orr. Thanks Carol)

Goldhound Meeting, Friday February 8, 2008

(Pictures by Bill Percy, thanks Bill)



Karen Bartholomew



Tom Frederick



Joe Cardoza and Carol Ebbitt

CALLING ALL GOOD MEMBERS OF THE MOTHERLODE GOLDHOUNDS - WE NEED HELP!

OUR BELOVED RAFFLE COUPLE, LEONA AND KEN GARDNER, RETIRED LAST SEPTEMBER. AND THEY ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO HANG IN THERE WITH US UNTIL WE COULD GET A REPLACEMENT. WELL THIS IS 3/10 AND WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR HELP. I KNOW THAT IT WILL BE HARD TO REPLACE THEM WITH ANOTHER COUPLE, BUT IF WE CAN GET ONE PERSON THEN I CAN HELP UNTIL WE GET SOMEONE ELSE? SOMEONE SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD ASSIGN MEMBERS TO HANDLE THE RAFFLE WITH EVERYONE TAKING A TURN? WE ARE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS. I HAVE A LIST MADE UP BY MONTH STARTING WITH OUR APRIL 11TH MEETING.. WE WILL HAVE IT AT THE END OF THE RAFFLE TABLE IF YOU CARE TO SIGN UP TO HELP ON A MONTH BY MONTH BASIS. KEN & LEONA HAVE EVERYTHING READY AND WILL LEAVE THE RAFFLE CAGE, TICKETS, ETC. WITH ME AT THE NEXT MEETING.. I WILL PACK IT BACK AND FORTH AND WITH ANY LUCK THE MEMORIAL HALL WILL HAVE A PLACE I CAN LEAVE IT FOR OUR MEETINGS. LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP? THANKS EVERYONE, ANNIE & DON

MEMBERSHIP APP.-MOTHER LODE GOLDHOUNDS, BOX 149, FORESTHILL, CA 95631

www.goldhounds.com - email: goldworld@hughes.net - 530-367-2891 VM leave message.

\$40.00 Individual or \$45.00 Family (one year) please send check to above address.

() New membership or () Renewal----Are you interested in the Exploration Team? () yes or () no

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

I APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOTHER LODE GOLDHOUNDS. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT WHATEVER RECREATIONAL 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 BY MY PARTICIPATION. I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS. I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

DON'S EXPLORATION TEAM - EMAIL GOLDWORLD@HUGHES.NET OR CALL 530-367-2891 (VM).

You will receive an email and it is your option to go or not. A rating of 1-10 will be added, 10 being very difficult. The team may not always find gold, but looking for new areas to prospect. You should be in good shape as you never know where Don may take you. If interested, send your email to be added to the team.

“LOOKING FOR PROSPECTORS” - We have a group that work with each other for day-trip outings when they get “cabin fever.” Contact leader, Jim Kury, email: jmkury@hughes.net or call 530-367-4318.

“CLUB NAME BADGES”- Jim kury also handles club badges, pin clasps for \$4 or magnetic for \$4.50

Webmaster: Bill Percy, www.goldhounds.com. Meeting: Newsletters, memberships, Kathy Percy or Annie Robinson., Goldhound Red Hat Ladies and Roving Reporter, Carol Ebbitt, Retired Club Paparazzi, Joe Cardoza. Retired Club Nurse - Barbara Cardoza, Refreshments and Avon Lady, Lee Buhler, Refreshment Manager, Ken Wooley. Director and Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Bowman and Merle Litzinger. President, Don Robinson, Helper & Cook, Annie. Ken & Leona Gardner, raffle at meetings. See letter at the top of this page.

GOLDHOUNDS MEETING SCHEDULE & OUTINGS FOR 2008 - PUBLIC INVITED

- Mar. 14 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm.
Mar. 29 Outing, time and directions will be in newsletter and email.
Apr. 11 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm. We are planning on Jim Hutchings giving the meeting on minerals and finds he has made.
Apr. 26 Outing, time and directions will be in newsletter and email.
May 9 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm.
May 17 Outing, time and directions will be in newsletter and email.
June 13 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm.
June 19-22 Goldhound Annual Outing - Father's Day weekend - info will follow in newsletter and email.
July 11 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm.
July 19 Outing, time and directions will follow in Newsletter and email.
Aug. 8 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm.
Aug. 22-24 Annual Slate Creek dredging & prospecting outing. Info. will follow in newsletter and email.
Aug. 29-30 Labor Day weekend, Calif. State Gold Panning Championships & Foresthill Heritage Celebration. Also Calif. State Lumberjack Championships. Info will follow regarding times and events.
Sept. 12 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm.
Sept. 20 Goldhound outing, time and directions will follow in newsletter and email.
Oct. 2-5 Annual Bear River Outing, info will follow.
Oct. 10 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm.
Oct. 30/11-2 Annual Outing, Ancadon mine, info will follow.
Nov. 14 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm.
Dec. 12 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm. PotLuck and Party.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Mar. 22-23 Roseville Rock Rollers, Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds, call 530-367-5108, or info below. Volunteers needed to help set up and take down. This year they are offering a raffle for workers. Each area has a chairperson who will orient you to the "job." Contact Show Chairman, Jim Barton, 916-773--0458 if interested in helping. Many of our GH members are also RRR members. See you there!

OTHER CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society meets 2nd Tues. monthly, Roseville Fairgrounds, Garden Room, 800 All America City Blvd., www.rockrollers.com or Box 212, Roseville, 95678 or call Florence, (916) 961-6868. email rockrollers@hotmail.com.
G.P.A.A. meets quarterly, for info, Jim Hutchings, 530-367-5108. (Claims) next meeting, April 19.
Sacra. Valley Detecting Buffs meet 1st Thurs. monthly, Sac. County Old SMUD Bldg. corner Elkhorn & Don Julio in No. Highlands, or call 916-987-9336 - www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com.
United Prospectors meets every other month at outings, www.unitedprospectors.com. Info 510-733-3253. Club has claims and newsletters every 2 months.

ITEMS FOR SALE - FREE TO MEMBERS

- White's GMT metal detector, all accessories, including earphones and pen-pointer, \$650 - call Phil 209-463-7989.
Plastic coin holders in 3 sizes. I have samples to show at the meeting, perfect for coin collectors. .25 cents each, lots of them, call Don Evans, 916-781-2474 or see Annie.
1958 Fiedler Gold Dredge, Keene 5HP - \$350 call Bill 916-478-2733.
Keene 6" underwater dredge on floats, needs 8HP pump, \$350, call 916-478-2733.
5" dredge suction nozzle and hose, \$75, call 916-478-2733.

MEETINGS ARE HELD the 2nd Friday of each month at the Veterans Hall in Auburn, 7:00am-9:00pm, 100 East St. Take Hwy 80 to Auburn, then Hwy 49 east, at the first stop light, turn right, go one block, turn right again, Veterans Hall sits on the left, parking in the back. Public Invited!

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THE AUBURN VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL IS 530-888-9861

MOTHER LODE GOLDHOUNDS NEWSLETTER

March 2008



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Frank, finding nuggets on the North Fork.

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