

# Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada

# Highgrader



## Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Officers and Standing Committees...

**President**—Ian Thaler  
**Vice President**—John Roberts  
**Treasurer**—Dara Thaler  
**Secretary**—Dolores Gee  
**Membership**—Steve Christenson



**Claims Committee**— John Bronstein  
**Education Committee**— Fred Zajac  
**Librarian / Historian**— Larry Clay  
**Merchandise** Al Krause  
**Website** J. Miller  
**Newsletter** - Ian Thaler and Dara Thaler

INSIDE HIGHGRADER	OUTTINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	GSSN NOTICE
<p><b>General Minutes</b>      2</p> <p><b>Outings and Classifieds</b>      3</p> <p>4</p> <p><b>Membership Application</b>      5</p>	<p>Hi All,                  Doug Parker, GSSN Member, is working with the Coyote Melon Festival this year and suggested we combine the September outing with the melon festival. Doug is working with the Coyote Melon Festival this year and has secured a free booth at the festival for the club to promote prospecting.</p> <p>We will need volunteers to help working the booth. The dates of the festival and outing will be September 10 and 11. This will be a two day outing. If you would be interested in helping out with the booth for one or both days, please email any of the board members via the GSSN website. Thank you in advance for volunteering.</p>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b>                  September 7th, 2011    <b>6:30 PM</b>                    425 East Van Wagenen                  Henderson NV 89002    <a href="http://www.goldsearcher.com">www.goldsearcher.com</a></p>



**Raffle Winners 8-3-2011**

50/50 \$40.00 I van Ishihara  
 Door Prize \$13.00 Jim Bisnaw

**Raffle Winners 8-3-11**

50/50 \$42.00 Chuck Prohaska  
 Door Prize \$13.75 Richard Harding



**RAFFLE PRIZE LIST 7-3-2011**

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Panning tub-Melissa Tallant          | 13. Green bag-John Anderson  |
| 2. Knife Set-Jack Wherry                | 14. BBQ set-Melinda Woolman  |
| 3. Umbrella-Mike Otte                   | 15. Tool Bag kit-Jim Hansen  |
| 4. Rotary Tool-Randy Huffine            | 16. Classifier-Rick Young    |
| 5. Cap Light/flashlight-Phyllis Harding |                              |
| 6. Green Bag....John Bronstein          | 17. Chair-Dolores Gee        |
| 7. Coolwrap....Pam Goulder              | 18. Cup/Magnifier-Rick Young |
| 8. Knee pads....John Anderson           | 19. Walking stick-Mike Otte  |
| 9. Watch....Dolores Gee                 | 20. Coolwrap-Janet Schelling |
| 10. Pick Axe...Fred Josephs             | 21. Bead Set-Morris Seguin   |
| 11. Mini Shovel..Rose Marteeny          |                              |
| 12. Book/Belt holder...Tom Gonzale      |                              |

**RAFFLE PRIZE LIST 8-3-11**

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Umbrella-Frank Calhoun            | 14. Folding trowel-Dolores Gee |
| 2. Solar Light-Morris Sequin         | 15. Kneepad/pan-Jim Hansen     |
| 3. Wash Bucket- Chuck Prohaska       |                                |
| 4. Walking stick-Dolores Gee         | 17. Bag of gold/gum-Fred Z.    |
| 5. Black pan/claybegone-Robert Price | 18. LV Map-Fred Z              |
| 6. Hammer Pick-Phyllis Harding       | 19. Griddle-Robert Price       |
| 7. Bucket/organizer-P Harding        | 20. Storage box-Jerry Lucas    |
| 8. green shovel-John Bronsten        |                                |
| 9. Compass-Julie Quinn               |                                |
| 10. Knife-Theresa Weir               |                                |
| 11. Arctic ties-Frank Calhoun        |                                |
| 12. Water canvas bucket-Fred Zajac   |                                |

## Minutes from the July 6th, 2011 Meeting

The GSSN met at the American Legion Hall in Henderson NV on Wed., July 6, 2011. President Ian Thaler called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. & led in pledging allegiance to the flag. He then welcomed 9 visitors; 52 signed in. Dara gave the Treasurer's Report following which Fred Z. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Approval was unanimous & the motion was carried. Rick Young then mentioned an upcoming trip to Osceola NV this month (goldsearcher.info has info for those interested). Ian then announced we'd have an outing on July 16<sup>th</sup> at the McCaw School of Mines (tour at 8 AM followed by lunch. Ian then talked about some equipment a member is interested in having available to members in a group effort, possibly on GSSN's 20 Acre Claim in Meadview. Ian asked for volunteers with prospecting equipment to explore this opportunity hopefully with a plan in place by September. Fred made a motion to form such committee; Dennis Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimously in favor of approval & the motion was carried. A few members volunteered to contact the equipment owner to conduct some tests. A motion was made by Rick Young to check out the equipment at the next outing; Cooter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Motion was carried.

After a short break the meeting resumed with Ian giving an interesting presentation on poisonous and non-poisonous invertebrates (spiders, scorpions, beetles, etc.) There being no new business, the raffle followed.

Ian thanked Jim & Melissa Tallant, John & Dolores Gee, Janet Schelling, Rick Young, the Sears family and Desert Outfitters for raffle donations. Jim Bisnaw won the \$13 door prizew and Ivan Ishihara was the \$40 50/50. Other winners were:

- |                                     |                                   |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. panning tub...Melissa Tallant    | 8. knee pads...John Anderson      | 15. tool kit bag...Jim Hansen |
| 2. knife set...Jack Wherry          | 9. watch...Dolores Gee            | 16. classifier...Rick Young   |
| 3. umbrella...Mike Otte             | 10. pick axe...Fred Josephs       | 17. chair...Dolores Gee       |
| 4. rotary tool set..Randy Huffine   | 11. mini shovel..Rose Marteeny    | 18. cup/magnifier..Rick Young |
| 5. cap light/flashlights..P.Harding | 12. book/belt holder..TomGonzalex | 19. walking stick..Mike Otte  |
| 6. green bag..John Bronstein        | 13. lg. green bag..John Anderson  | 20. coolwrap..Janet Schelling |
| 7. coolwrap..Pam Goulder            | 14. b-b-q set..Melinda Woolman    | 21. bead set..Morris Seguin   |

At 8PM Fred made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Pam Goulder & the meeting ended at that time.

Dolores Gee  
Secretary  
July 9, 2011

## Virginia City residents fear new mine will kill tourism

VIRGINIA CITY -- More than 150 years after the discovery of one of the world's richest silver veins touched off a mining frenzy that drew thousands of people west and made Virginia City a wealthy boomtown, a mining company wants to resume digging for riches in the dusty hills southeast of Reno.

But unlike the scrappy miners who used picks and shovels to chisel away at the massive, underground pocket of silver and gold known as the Comstock Lode, the company's plans are for open pit mining. They aren't being met with open arms.

Residents in the historic Comstock region embrace the catacombs of century-old mines with pride and purpose. But these days, it's not wealth from gold and silver but the mining of tourists lured by the rich history of the Old West that keep the town humming.

Tours are conducted in an old underground mine beneath a saloon, and The Way It Was Museum displays artifacts from the past. Camel and outhouse races and a Rocky Mountain oyster festival keep tourists coming to take a "Step Back in Time" -- the region's marketing slogan.

Residents fear that the Virginia City image is threatened by the Comstock Min- Continued on page 3

ing Co.'s proposal to use earth-moving machinery to dig up truckloads of earth and process the loads to extract flecks of the minerals that have reached record prices.

With the stock market fluctuating wildly, the price of gold soared last week, setting new records -- \$1,800 an ounce on Wednesday, for example.

Using high-tech modern mapping techniques and historic records, the company says it has identified roughly \$2.8 billion in gold, if prices hold around \$1,750 per ounce. That's roughly double the price the company estimated was needed to make the venture profitable.

Doug McQuide, Comstock public relations director, said the company hopes to begin production sometime this year.

Comstock thinks modern mining can coexist with history and complement the tourist trade, he said.

The company purchased the historic Gold Hill Hotel, and has invested in shoring up old mill sites to preserve the region's history. "We want to be overwhelmingly supported" by the community, McQuide said.

But it has been a tough sell.

Continue on page 6

For many folks in Virginia City, Gold Hill and Silver City, the idea of open pit mining in this state and national historic district is repugnant.

## Classified Ads

The Gold searchers of Southern Nevada, Inc. is selling T-Shirts.. If you would like a T-Shirt, please contact Al Kraus, head of Merchandise. We have sizes small to XXL. The club is also looking into purchasing more sizes, if you need a size we do not have let us know and we will put it on the order sheet. A new order of shirts are in, and we have lots of white and grey. Check with Al for your Size.

If you are a current member of the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada, Inc. and would like to place an ad in the newsletter for 6 months it is free of charge. For non members, the fee for 6 months is \$20.00. Send a photo if you want that included.

### Desert Outfitters

Www.desertoutfitters.com

- Metal Detectors
- Topo and City Maps
- Prospecting and Rockhounding
- Equipment and Supplies

Rick Kasky

702-362-7177

Fax 702-362-2561

3340 W. Sirius Ave., Las Vegas NV 89102

## FINANCIALS FOR APRIL 2011 and Message from the President

GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN  
NEVADA  
Financial Statement for the month of  
May

~~~~~  
Balance Forwarded From March 2011

\$11,467.19

Bank Interest & Adj.     \$     1.49

Total Income:             \$11,468.68

Membership               \$ 1,005.00

New19 Renew 5

Raffle                     \$   203.00

Regular \$173.00

50/50   \$ 30.00

T-Shirts                  \$   188.00

Total Income             \$ 1,396.00

Expenses:

Rent                      \$    88.00

Raffle                    \$  134.69

T-Shirts                 \$

Outing                    \$  115.90

Membership/Office      \$  292.84

Total Expenses         \$  631.43

Balance & Interest       \$11,468.68

Income                    1396.00

Total                     \$12,864.68

Less Expenses         -     \$   631.43

Balance                   \$12,233.25

|                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| Minutes from August 3rd, 2011 General meeting |
|-----------------------------------------------|

The GSSN met on Wed., August 3, 2011, at the American Legion Hall in Henderson NV. Pres. Ian Thaler called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM & led in pledging allegiance to the flag. He welcomed all (there were 4 visitors & 53 members signed in). Next Dara gave the Treasurer's Report, following which Fred made a motion to accept it as read, which was seconded by Morris. Motion unanimously in favor. Then Ian asked for a motion regarding the minutes of the June 1 meeting as published in the HighGrader. George N. made a motion to accept the minutes as published & Fred seconded the motion. It, too, was unanimously approved. Next Ian brought up the McCaw School of Mines outing (which many members had attended). After a brief discussion, Doug made a motion to donate \$500 to McCaw & Fred seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved and the Treasurer will send a \$500 check to McCaw on behalf of the GSSN. In addition, a collection was taken as a supplemental contribution to McCaw (which amounted to \$429.25). Jake asked for volunteers to act as docents at McCaw--they're much needed.

Next Dale Riddle spoke to the group about Big Bear & invited those interested in coming by to contact him first. Doug Parker then spoke to the group about the Coyote Melon Festival (Sept. 10-11) & asked those interested to sign up. After a short break Ian reminded everyone that Rick from Desert Outfitters had mdse. for sale including bags of dirt/sand & garnets. George N. then mention several upcoming outings and asked those interested to check out his website (goldsearcher.info). Ian then reminded people to think about the upcoming elections and asked if the group was satisfied with raffle table items. There being no further new business the raffles started. He thanked those donating items (ie, Desert Outfitters, the Sears, the Gees and Phyllis Harding). Richard Harding won the \$13.75 door prize & Chuck Prohaska won the 50/50 (\$42). Other raffle prizes are noted below:

- |                                 |                                      |                                     |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. umbrella...Frank Calhoun     | 8. green shovel...John Bronstein     | 16. set of 4 knives..Morris Seguin  |
| 2. solar light...Morris Seguin  | 9. compass...Julie Quinn             | 17. bag of gold/& gum-Alan Shook    |
| 3. wash bucket...Chuck Prohaska | 10. knife...Theresa Weir             | 18. LasVegas map..Fred Zajac        |
| 4. walking stick..Dolores Gee   | 11. arctic ties,etc. Frank Calhoun   | 19. griddle...Robert Price          |
| 6. Hammer pick..Phyllis Harding | 12. water canvas bucket..Fred Zajac  | 20. lg. storage chests..Jerry Lucas |
| 7. bucket/organizer..P. Harding | 14. folding trowel..Dolores Gee      |                                     |
|                                 | 15. knee pads/green pan...Jim Hensen |                                     |

Prior to closing the meeting Larry Clay made a motion to renew the Pahrump claim for another year which was seconded by Fred Zajac. The vote was unanimously in favor. Then at 7:50 PM Fred made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Morris Sequin. The meeting ended at that time.

Dolores Gee  
Secretary  
August 4, 2011

## Membership Reminder...

The membership renewal grace period was changed from 90 days  
To 60 days in Spring 2011. Please check your  
Membership card to be sure of your renewal date to avoid  
Any interruption in your membership.

Thank You

vada," said Daan Eggenberger, proprietor of the restored Tahoe House Hotel, an antique-laden lodge on Virginia City's main drag. "It just doesn't work in a historic district."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Virginia City to its 2009 list of a dozen "Distinctive Destinations" across the country. The historic mining boomtown still boasts mines, mansions, saloons and museums that provide a glimpse into frontier life.

Founded with the discovery of the Comstock Lode in 1859, Virginia City made so many millionaires that the town was called "The Richest Place on Earth."

The wealth it generated helped finance the Union cause during the Civil War and to build San Francisco and the Bay Area.

In Gold Hill and Silver City, tiny towns a few miles down a twisting highway from Virginia City, residents say their serenity was disturbed last fall when Comstock Mining renewed exploration drilling at an existing site, and disclosed it had begun exploration on parts of mining claims it has acquired covering 6,100 acres. Of that, about 1,000 acres is on private property; the rest is public land.

Residents formed the Comstock Residents Association to fight the company's plan.

Storey County Sheriff Gerald Antinoro understands the dispute.

From a bluff outside his front door, he overlooks a canyon to the hills on the other side where heavy equipment has carved a dirt road up the steep slope. For a time, a test drill was erected a stone's throw from his front door. He hears the engines, the warning backup beeps, sees the dust.

He's not against mining.

"I'm not an opponent and I'm not a proponent," Antinoro said. But he's un-satisfied with the company response when he asks how the landscape will be restored once the gold and silver play out.

Comstock Mining has applied to Storey County for a special use permit to expand its exploration drilling. A five-hour hearing on that application drew an over-flowing, heavily anti-mining crowd on July 7. The hearing continues Thursday.

Corrado De Gasperis, Comstock president and chief executive officer, tried to assure residents and planning commissioners the company wants to be good neighbors.

"We care very much about the rich mining and natural history of the Comstock," he said. "We want to be judged by our actions."

Robin Cobbey, 62, who lives with her husband David Toll in Gold Hill, presented the planning commission with a petition signed by more than 300 opponents.

"One thing that is clear is that the residents of the area don't want this," Cobbey said.

Signs have sprung up around town reading, "No Open Pit."

McQuide said the company's plan is to begin with a "starter mine," a pit of about 30 acres and roughly 250 feet deep, but he said there's no plan to excavate the entire region. Underground mining techniques would be used to mine areas near Virginia City and Gold Hill, he said.

Of the total acreage, "probably less than 10 percent is envisioned as even targeted for pit mining," McQuide said.

Residents also question how mining can be allowed in a region that includes Superfund sites designated in 1990. They want extensive environmental studies.

The state has issued a permit for mercury emissions controls. Another general air quality permit is pending. But officials said the state lacks authority to require a full environmental study, something that would be required to mine on federal lands.

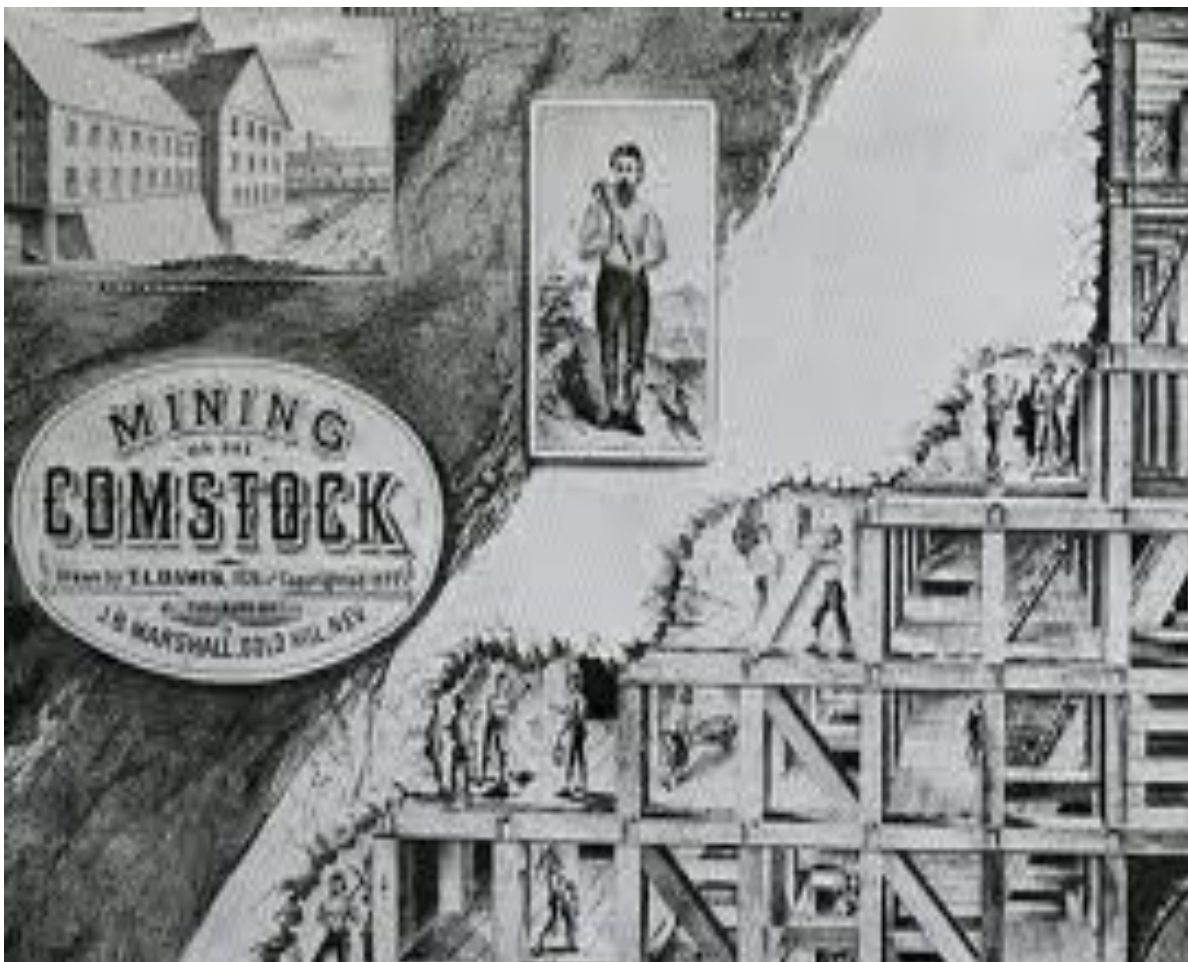
So far, all of Comstock's activities, except for some exploration, are on private lands.

Behre Dolbear, a worldwide mining technical consulting group, said the Comstock project could conceivably double the precious metals it has estimated.

But that doesn't sway opponents.

"Virginia City is a changed place now, it's a tourism destination," said Chris Chrystal, recently retired from the Nevada Commission on Tourism. "It would not be a good idea to hurt one economic contributor for the gain of another."

BY SANDRA CHEREB  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
8-15-11



# Coyote Melon Festival

## [www.coyotemelonfestival.com](http://www.coyotemelonfestival.com)

### September 10 & 11

#### Contests

Chili Cook-off  
The Great Coyote Melon Art Contest  
Coyote Melon Launching  
Horseshoe Pitching Tournament  
Nuggets Shooting Derby  
Treasure Hunt

#### Entertainment

Casey Adams  
Cherokee Story Teller  
Mike Brubaker  
Quail Spirit  
Ron Schaffer

Coyote Melon may be recognized by its rough, stiff-haired stems and large, **palmate shaped leaves** sprawling over sandy areas or climbing via tendrils into surrounding vegetation. It may also be easily distinguished by its **three-inch**, dull green, **spheroid gourds** with pale yellow vertical stripes. As the gourds mature they become straw colored.

Flowering time is April through September. The **flowers** are a **beautiful** combination of **gold**, **yellow** and **orange**. The **pulp** within the **fruit** is **unpalatable**, but was utilized by native people and during the depression, for soap. Clothing laundered with the soap reportedly helps to repel body lice.



A yearly feature  
Sunday and will  
dren, a well-known  
our auction ra



Application To : Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada, Inc.

P.O. Box 96732  
Las Vegas NV, 89193 – 6732

Supporting Website:  
www.goldsearcher.com

**Please Print Clearly**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**PROSPECTING VEHICLE**

Vehicle \_\_\_\_\_ Lic# \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that as a member of the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Inc., I can run for office and Participate in the voting on all major policies and officer elections. I will also be able to attend all meetings and use the club claims, subject to the club By-laws. I can also use club equipment by appointment and check out books and video's from out extensive library.

**HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

I / we, the undersigned, ( hereafter referred to as participant ) assume all risk and/or hazards associated with participant's involvement in the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Inc., a prospecting club. Participants agree to indemnify and **HOLD HARMLESS** all club officers, sponsors, and/or other third, fourth, etc., parties involved in club activities. Participants realize that metal detecting, gold prospecting, and associated activities can be dangerous. The terrain can be hazardous and there may be wild or domesticated animals and snakes present. Some locations may have open shafts, pits, and tunnels. Participants assume animals and snakes present. Participants assume all responsibility by signing below.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATED \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

CLUBS ONLY FUNCTION IF MEMBERS VOLUNTEER

I/we will volunteer to assist in the areas checked. Please check at least one area.

**COMMITTEES**

Audit  Claims  Education  Librarian/Historian  Newsletter

Outing  Website

**"Feed The Children"  
Benefit Auction**

of the Festival is an art & memorabilia auction. This year the auction will take place at noon on both Saturdays allow for sealed bids prior to the start of bidding. **100% OF PROCEEDS** from this event will go to Feed The Children, a non-profit charitable organization which provides meals for impoverished children across the United States. Last year we raised enough money to provide meals for thousands of hungry children in this country. Come bid, have fun, and support a great cause!