

The Loop



Lancaster, California

October 2015

Antelope Valley Treasure Hunter's Society

Volume 35 Issue 10

Meeting held 1st Monday of every month at 7:00 PM (unless otherwise noted in newsletter).

Prez Sayz, Don Duncan said he's not much of a writer, but will let me know when he has something to say. Meanwhile, I'll keep you updated with the activities.

From the Editor:

The September outing at Marie Kerr park in Palmdale was very successful. Linda Reitz told me "Ray Q. found a nice silver ring, a size small men's but covered in stones that might be diamonds. He found it about ten feet from the picnic area where we all were so we all knew right away... I only found coins and a child's pendant and one other guy found a child's ring, Lots of good food." Linda Bravo told me that Robert Weaver "eyeballed a really nice Casio watch!" I hope he also picked it up!



OCTOBER CHILI COOK-OFF!

This month's outing is one of the biggest of the year (second only to the Christmas Party in December—more on that later in this newsletter.) It's a 3-4 day outing for those who wish to camp/RV with most of the activities taking place on Saturday for those attending just the one day. There will be two hunts. One free and one with a fee. Both hunts allow scratchers but no scoops. **CHILI COOK-OFF RULES: ALL COMPETING CHILI'S MUST BE PREPARED ON-SITE!** Canned ingredients MAY be used (beans, tomatoes, etc.) but you may **NOT** take a can of chili and "doctor it up" to create your dish. Be creative! Members and their guests attending will

vote on their favorites. Whether scorching hot or mildly seasoned, there should be something to suit everyone's palate. When the contest is over, everyone will eat the chili! Those who don't bring Chili, please bring side dishes to fill out the meal. We will need some salads, breads (cornbread?) beans and other sides, and deserts. We need at least 4 contestants. I have signed up but I don't recall if anyone else had done so as of last meeting. We always *James Gilmore* have fun at this outing! For those who don't have camping equipment or RV's but want to stay over, check out motels in Ridgecrest or Mojave. They are just a few miles from the site where we camp (Ridgecrest is closest.)

Saturday, October 10th schedule:

9:00 AM—Free hunt (members only!)

11:00 AM—Skeet shooting (tentative)

1:00 PM—Five & Dime hunt (\$25 open to all)

4:00 PM—Chili Turn-in time

The skeet shooting will be dependent on whether someone brings the skeet equipment.

If you are interested in staying over, please be sure you have everything you need for "dry camping" including plenty of water. It can get warm out there, even in October! The main events are on Saturday and last year several people got lightheaded during the two hunts that we hold, so before you participate be sure you have eaten something AND are hydrated. Carry water on your belt, if necessary, so that you won't be affected so much by the heat. A wet bandana around your neck or head is also helpful! We want everyone to have fun **AND BE SAFE AND HEALTHY!**

SPECIAL RAFFLE! The raffle for the Gold Miner Gold Wheel will be held at the October outing! Be sure to buy your tickets at the September and October meetings as well as the October outing. You don't have to be present to win—but we sure would like to see your happy face when YOUR ticket is pulled! All proceeds from this raffle will go towards the next SPECIAL RAFFLE! Each special raffle will feature a quality prospecting or detecting item(s) that are too expensive to put in the monthly General Meeting raffles or Christmas raffle. The better we do selling these tickets, the better the prizes will be. And remember, if you already have a similar item, you can still sell it to another member or on eBay so there is CASH VALUE for winning!

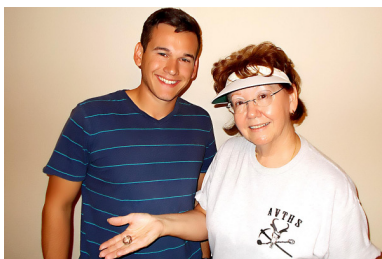
Elections in NOVEMBER! The office of **Secretary** is open (and maybe others) Please consider running! It's your club—***be a part of it!***

Scott Sandahl announced at the September meeting that he will be holding a Treasure Day at The Outpost in November. You can *Glenn & Karen Kline* sell your MD treasures in the morning and participate in a MD Treasure Hunt in the afternoon! Details later.

LINDA REITZ RETURNING RING, found in January at Marie Kerr Park, to it's owner, Josh Camps. The ring is a stainless steel spinner with the Lord's Prayer written around it. It was given to him by his mom, Cynthia, as a gift commemorating a church ceremony, and engraved with his name.

Josh lost the ring shortly after he got it about 2 1/2 years ago, when he was 16. He is now 19 and is working towards being a Deputy Sheriff. The ring fits much better now, so hopefully he won't lose it again.

He and his mom were very excited to have the ring returned..



CHRISTMAS IS COMING! Vicki will start to take payments for the Christmas Party at Medrano's at the Chili Cook-Off! We need at least 50 prepaid dinner tix to get the room for free! Get 'em while they're hot!

Month	Meeting Date	Outing Date	Location	Notes
January	1/5/2015	1/10/2015	Santa Monica Pier	BYOF
February	2/2/2015	2/7/2015	Zuma Beach	Club food/potluck (Hunt)
March	3/2/2015	3/7/2015	El Cariso Park—Sylmar	Club food/potluck
April	4/6/2015	4/11/2015	Lovetta's Mystery Hunt	BYOF
May	5/4/2015	5/9/2015	Map Hunt—Lancaster City Park	Club food (breakfast) (Hunt)
June	6/1/2015	6/6/2015	East Fork—San Gabriel River	BYOF
July	7/6/2015	7/11/2015	Lake Isabella and/or Lake Isabella ski area	BYOF
August	8/3/2015	8/8/2015	Silverwood Lake	Club food/potluck
September	9/14/2015	9/19/2015	Marie Kerr Park	Club food/potluck
October	10/5/2015	10/9-11/2015	Chili Cookoff—Rocky Road	Chili/potluck (Hunt 1 free, 1 paid)
November	11/2/2015	11/7/2015	AVT claim off 395	BYOF
December	12/7/2015	12/12/2015	Christmas Party	Medrano's Mexican Restaurant

AMRA fends off Forest Service

Federal agency claims suction dredge mining an afternoon fire hazard

By Sarah Reijonen

For the GPAA

The U.S. Forest Service is picking up where the Environmental Protection Agency left off in Idaho, said American Mining Rights Association President Shannon Poe.

After attending the Occupy Idaho Waters II event hosted by the Southwest Idaho Mining Association in July, AMRA members headed north to one of their newest claims on the Clearwater River. About 25 small-scale suction dredgers mined on the river for a week undisturbed until the Forest Service sent out one of its law enforcement officers. The officer came to inform the miners that they would have to shut off their suction dredge engines by 1 p.m. every day because they were fire hazards, Poe said.

“What they were trying to do is shut dredging down this year, and they were just gonna use whatever method they could come up with,” Poe said. “This thing they passed out stated that we were in an off-road activity—according to this notice signed by three different Forest Service supervisors—and it stated that we had to turn our motors off at one o’clock because they posed a fire danger, but in this case they had some exclusions that said if you have a generator in your camp, as long as you cleared a three-foot circle on the round, you could run a generator.”

While the generator was a permissible exclusion, a dredge in the middle of the river was not, according to the Forest Service officer, Poe said.

“We measured my dredge and it was 40 feet from the nearest point of any vegetation because it was sitting out in the middle of the river that’s 105 feet wide,” he said.

Poe and several other AMRA members leapt into action, driving to Grangeville, Idaho to meet with the sheriff’s department as well as Idaho County commissioners. Poe also proceeded to call state and local representatives and alert fellow members via social media.

“By the time I got a hold of the guy that was allegedly in charge of this ridiculous closure, I told him, ‘Look, if you shut us down, you’re going to have to shut down all the commercial jet boats on the Salmon River if you’re going to use that same

ideology that any motorized combustion engine in the middle of a river is gonna cause a danger,’” Poe said. “They never considered that; they were just targeting us. He admitted that it didn’t apply to us and we could go back dredging.”

But, that wasn’t the end of it. The next day Forest Service Geologist Cling Hughes showed up, Poe said.

“He handed two of our AMRA members a notice of noncompliance saying we could not dredge any longer and that we had to cease and desist and remove all mining equipment from ‘the forest,’” Poe said.

So, Poe fired back, questioning Hughes’ authority and citing the laws and cases that allowed the miners to dredge legally.

“He couldn’t cite anything. I put him on notice, which is called constructive and direct notice, that his ignorance of the law is no excuse for him to violate all of our rights, and because of that, we would sue him if he continued his harassment. Well, he did,” Poe said. “His entire goal is based on political ideology.”

Again, AMRA was forced to contact the Idaho County Sheriff’s Department, which is headed by Sheriff Doug Giddings, who has fully supported the miners since day one, voicing that support on record at the 2014 hearing conducted by the Idaho Senate Committee on Resources and Environment and the House Committee on Resources and Conservation.

“We called (the sheriff’s department) and the same undersheriff, Jim Gorges, showed up and told Clint Hughes, ‘These boys have come a long way; they all have their Idaho state dredge permits, and you’re materially interfering with them. They need to go back to work and you need to quit bothering them.’ That diffused it and he left,” Poe said.

Though Hughes did not return again, Poe said five miners received non-compliance notices. He also said AMRA intends to sue Hughes for his “harassment.”

“He’s got some very, very serious civil liability issues, and I am going to sue him individually; we’re working on that right now,” Poe said. “Whatever political ideology you have, it doesn’t trump law. It doesn’t trump case law and the Constitution.”

Despite five days worth of distractions, Poe said the trip paid off. He alone averaged between half an ounce and one ounce of color per day, totaling a half-pound of gold in nine days.

Unfortunately, what happened in Idaho is just a taste of what is going on in neighboring states, such as Oregon and California.

"They're just throwing things at the wall to see what sticks," Poe said. "The primary thing that we really need to convey is that everybody should be up in arms. They need to join the cause whether it be with AMRA, Western Mining Alliance, PLP: I don't really care who they join, but they have to get in this fight and they have to financially support these entities putting their butts on the line like we did in Idaho with threats of arrest."

Sarah Reijone is a freelance writer based in California. She can be reached at sarahreijonen@yahoo.com

PROTECT YOUR LAND AND YOUR RIGHTS

The following is a list of action items you can do to help preserve the history, heritage and hands-on living legacy of gold prospecting and mining.

- Write to your federal lawmakers. Visit www.house.gov/representatives to locate your local representative and www.senate.gov to locate your senators.
- Stay informed on regional mining rights issues and oppose federal land grabs such as national monuments, national parks, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers and additions to the endangered species act lists in your area.
- Be a watchdog! Keep an eye on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service regional district offices. Attend meetings and oppose road closures to existing or future mining claims. Submit public comments so your voice is heard. Request extensions of the public comment periods whenever possible to allow more time for opposition.
- Designate a member of your local GPAA chapter as a mining rights liaison to keep GPAA national headquarters informed about local mining rights issues that affect you and your club at content@goldprospectors.org.
- Stay involved as an active member in the Gold Prospectors Association of America or Lo Dutchman's Mining Association.
- Join a local GPAA chapter and participate in community events to teach others about the heritage of gold prospecting and the importance of small-scale domestic mining to jobs and the economy.

Feds look to expand Joshua Tree National Park, eat up public lands

The National Park Service has begun its scoping process in efforts to expand Joshua Tree National Park's boundaries by annexing the Eagle Mountain area of Riverside County.

In early August, the NPS held a webinar followed by three public meetings to discuss its interest in annexing this nearly 30,000-acre chunk of public land. Public Lands for the People rallied miners to show up at the Aug. 5 meeting in Joshua Tree and surprise the NPS with 150 miners in opposition of the idea.

"They plan on coming out with a draft for presentation this winter," said PLP Vice President Ron Kliwer. "Nothing is set in stone yet. They're just getting public opinion. I know they want it in the park."

Kliwer said the NPS contradicted itself during its public presentation stating that the National Park Service is under-funded, but the expansion would require even more money to fund new roads and facilities. Furthermore, it boasted the thriving bighorn sheep and tortoise populations in this "underutilized area," yet it wants to lure in more visitors.

"all the things they mentioned you can do out there, you can already do out there," Kliwer said. "You'd be able to do less if it were part of the national park."

Namely, Eagle Mountain's inclusion in the park would result in more fees and restrictions on everything from mining to solar production, Kliwer said. In fact, NPS has already filed a request with the Secretary of the Interior to stop any new development in the area for the next two years as it continues its scoping process, he said.

CALL TO ACTION: For more information, visit parkplananning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=59291

Let the National Park Service know that you want to keep the public lands public:

- David Smith, Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-3597; phone (760) 367-5500; E-mail: JOTR_Study@nps.gov
- Barbara Butler Baunsgard, Project Manager, Phone (415) 623-2311

RICK & VICKIE WYATT (661) 943-1124

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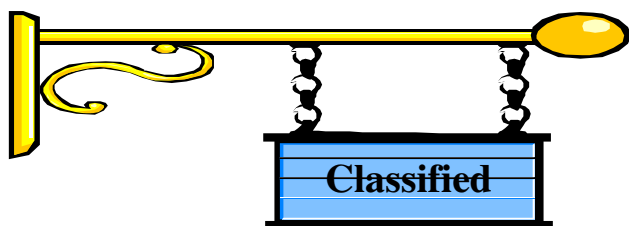
Fine Art Gallery - Coins, Gold & Collectibles

Gold Panning Ins. & Classes - Rocks & Gems

34141 116th St E Pearblossom, CA

SCOTT SANDAHL

Proprietor



FOR SALE: Minelab GPX5000 plus all accessories. \$6800 investment for \$4500. Must sell due to health issues. Contact **Martin Hill** at 760 305-9956 or lylehilljr@hotmail.com

Wanted: Bigfoot Coil for Whites DFX Call Ben Molstad at **562-209-2344**

WANTED: Old ANVIL—the bigger the better. Call Steve Molstad at **818-891-9778**

All members will be receiving *The Loop* via E-mail to save on printing and postage costs, unless they don't have e-mail. If they are currently receiving it by snail mail and later get an email account they can send their request to me at avthsnews@gmail.com and I would be happy to send it as a .pdf file. It is generally about 2mb for the issue.

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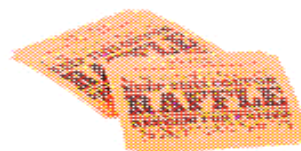
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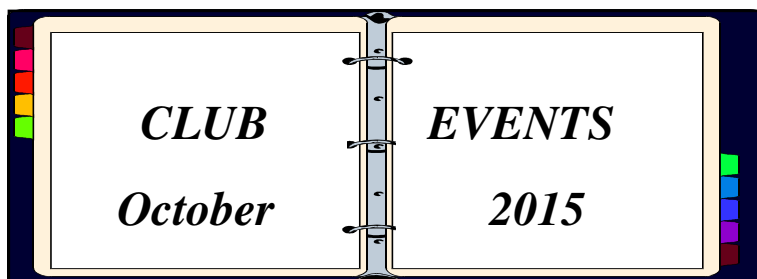
If you find your name in the newsletter and it looks like this: *Your Name* You get a free raffle ticket at the next general meeting. Bring it to the attention of the ticket seller. If two names appear (i.e. husband/wife) ONE ticket is given out.

Refreshments volunteers for 2015

Oct Don Duncan

Nov Wes Weathers

Dec David Young



- Oct. 5, 2015 General Meeting - 7:00 pm
 Leisure Lake Mobil Estates
 48303 20th St. West
 Lancaster, CA 93534
- Oct. 5, 2015 Board Meeting following
 immediately after the General
 Meeting

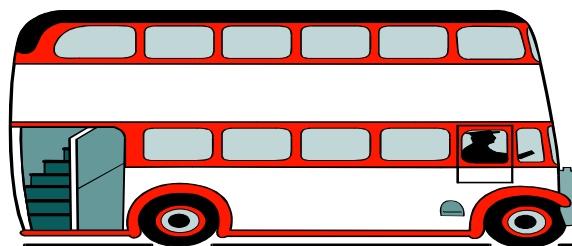
4th Qtr. 2015 Scavenger Hunt

**Scavenger Hunt items for
 October 6, 2015 to January 11, 2016*****

1. Earring - large metal hoop
2. Nut - large iron (2" or larger)
3. Quarter - West Virginia
4. Earring - silver
5. Quarter - Rhode Island
6. Gold nugget (.5 gr. or larger)
7. Faucet handle
8. Quarter - Illinois
9. Pull tab - green
10. Tent stake - metal
11. Spring
12. Coin - 1955 (any)
13. Quarter - South Carolina
14. Key - house
15. Hook - fish hook triple

Finds must be brought to the January 11, 2016 General Meeting or earlier if all found. Display owner must be present to win. First member that finds all 15 items will win a Silver Half Dollar *If there is a tie, the winner will be decided by the cut of a deck of cards and runner-up will receive a Silver Quarter. If all items are not found, the member finding the most will win a Silver Quarter. If there is a tie, a cut of a deck will decide the winner. Members finding at least 10 items will get a Silver Dime. *** Only Items found between Oct, 6, 2015 meeting and the January 11, 2016 meeting, qualify to be displayed. All items must be found in the act of treasure hunting or while prospecting. Items found with the naked eye qualify. ***No purchased items or planted hunt finds allowed.***

CLUB OUTINGS



Oct. 9-11, 2015-Rocky Road—ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF! To get to the camping area, go north on the 14 freeway past Red Rock Canyon Park. When the road goes from 4 lanes down to 2 lanes, go about 4 miles. You will see four billboards—the only ones on the whole stretch of highway, two on each side. The road to the camping area is on the right just past the first set of billboards. You will also see a sign pointing to the road for Burro Schmidt Tunnel. Go right on the dirt road and follow it for one mile. Our camping area is on the right. GPS coordinates for the camp site are 35 29' 20" N 117 56' 19" W. To get to the claim, go another aprox. 4 miles past the camp site to a fork that points to EP15 in each direction. 35 29' 3" N 117 57' 5" W Take the one on the left (the shortest and easiest route) Follow the road to the Bonanza Gulch sign. 35 26' 57" N 117 52' 56" W From there, take the very rocky road down to the valley below. You will see the old Post Office in the middle of the valley. 35 26' 41" N 117 52' 56" W This is on our claim. Actual boundaries coordinates will be given later, but are marked with white tipped posts.

Have Fun! I plan to.

Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics

I will always check federal, state, county and local laws before searching; it is my responsibility to know the law.
 I will respect private property and will not enter private property without the owner's permission. Where possible, such permission will be in writing.
 I will take care to refill any holes and try not to leave any damage.
 I will remove and dispose of any and all trash and litter that I find.
 I will appreciate and protect our inheritance of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
 I will, as an ambassador for the hobby, use thoughtfulness, consideration and courtesy at all times.
 I will work to help bring unity to our hobby by working with any organization of any geographic area that may have problems that will limit their ability to peacefully pursue the hobby.
 I will build fires in designated or safe places only.
 I will report to the proper authorities any individuals who enter and/or remove artifacts from federal parks or state preserves.

"THE END OF THE LOOP"

September Finds of the Month

Member must be present to display finds

Most Unique

Harry Surtees—Brass printing plate

Best Gold Item

Dick Wateers—gold ring

Best Natural Gold

None displayed

Best U.S. Coin

Harry Surtees—1818 Large Cent

Best Foreign Coin

Linda Reitz—Austraian 2 Euro

Best Silver Item

Scott Sandahl—silver knuckles

Best Overall

Harry Surtees

Attendance Drawing

Robert Sans—not there—rolls over

50/50 Draw

50/50 Nancy Waters for \$39 with \$39 to Club.



October Birthdays

Bruce Barron, Lovetta Burns, Rose Chartier, Rick Guethlein, Peggy Howard, Mas Kadonaga, John McGrath, John Mills, Carmen Myrick, Dan Petrozzi

Please note: If your birthday isn't listed in your birth month, you probably didn't give us your information. This information is gleaned from the active membership roster. Contact Linda Bravo. to update.

OFFICERS

President..... **Don Duncan**
H 661-478-2409

Vice-Pres..... **Lovetta Burns**
E-mail - lburns57@att.net
H 661 256-1654 C 661 428-0797

Treasurer..... **Linda Bravo**
E-mail - lsb7203@yahoo.com

Secretary..... **Lorelei Paland**
661-273-3932

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Robert Weaver..... 661-948-8350
Connie Smith661-526-7494
Mike Snowden.....661-269-2937
Rick Wyatt.....661-943-1124
James Gilmore.....661-492-8707
Vicky Wyatt.....661-943-1124
Linda Reitz.....C 661-478-7938

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Welcome.....Vivian Sexton
Raffles.....Connie Smith, Harry Surtees, Larry Blair
Club Photographer.....Anyone With Camera
Find of the Month.....Scott Sandahl
Claims.....Linda Bravo
Metal Detecting.....Scott Sandahl
Refreshments.....Volunteer for each meeting
Club Apparel.....Mike Snowden
Club Public Web Page.....Rick Wyatt
Newsletter..... Connie Smith
(H)661 526-7494
(C) 818-414-6707
Membership..... Vivian Sexton
661 478-0174
Recycling..... Jay Zeigler
661-943-0397



Remember, as with the recycling collection, the proceeds from the sale of apparel are put back in the club to fund prizes and food at the outing.

Outing Map—Rocky Road Claim



Antelope Valley Treasure Hunter's Society
P. O. Box 4718
Lancaster, California 93539



This Month's Club Outing
**Rocky Road—Annual
Chili Cook-off**

