

**ANTELOPE VALLEY
TREASURE HUNTER'S SOCIETY (AVTHS)
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I
Purpose and Name**

Section 1 The purpose of the Antelope Valley Treasure Hunter's Society is to serve the interest of treasure hunters, to stimulate a greater interest in treasure hunting among all citizens in the area served by the club, to develop a fraternal spirit among treasure hunters, to provide a medium for the exchange of information and experience and to further the interest of treasure hunting in general.

Section 2 The name of this club shall be "ANTELOPE VALLEY TREASURE HUNTER'S SOCIETY," hereto known as AVTHS, an unincorporated association.

Section 3 The AVTHS is not a service club and shall be self-supporting.

**ARTICLE II
Membership**

Section 1 Membership in the AVTHS shall be open to all individuals within the general area who are interested in treasure hunting.

Section 2 Application for membership in the club shall be made in the manner prescribed by the Board of Directors. The membership application, in its approved form shall be an agreement by the applicant to abide by the by-laws of the club. If said application is approved, the applicant shall become a member in good standing upon payment of the required dues.

Section 3 Membership in the club may be terminated for non-payment of dues by action of the Board of Directors. Membership may also be terminated for any reason whatever by a three-quarter vote of all members of the club present at any regular or special meeting.

**ARTICLE III
Management**

Section 1 The management of the club shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IV
Board of Directors**

Section 1 The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and four Members at Large.

Section 2 All members of the Board of Directors shall hold office for one year or until a successor is duly elected and qualified. Six members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board. This number may increase as Board members increase.

Section 3 The Board of Directors may employ whatever personnel they deem necessary and for which funds are available, to aid in the management of the club.

Section 4. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, notice of which shall be given in sufficient time to permit the members to be present, taking into consideration the availability of transportation and other contributing factors. Incoming President shall establish a schedule of Board meetings for the coming year upon his/her installation.

Section 5. The Board shall address and review business that needs to be renewed annually. Each item shall be reviewed at the monthly board meeting two (2) months prior to renewal. The Board has the option of passing the renewal or bringing any concerns to the General Membership at the earliest General Membership Meeting. After a renewal has been passed, the President shall direct the Secretary to obtain and file the proper paperwork. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to create and maintain a RENEWAL SCHEDULE. A copy of the RENEWAL SCHEDULE is to be presented to the incoming President and Secretary in December of each year.

Section 6. The outgoing Board of Directors shall meet with the newly elected Board in December of each year. The purpose of this meeting is for each outgoing board member to pass on to the incoming board members all information necessary to perform his/her duties for the coming year.

Section 7. Other than normal budgeted expenditures, the Board of Directors will not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for any expenses not ratified by the General Membership.

ARTICLE V Officers

Section 1. The elective officers of the club shall be: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, and four (4) MEMBERS AT LARGE.

Section 2. Elective offices will be filled by a nomination meeting to be held at the regular meeting in November of each year. All nominees must be members in good standing. Elections will be held at the regular meeting in December. The Elected officers will take office at the next regular meeting.

Section 3. The President will preside at all meetings of the club and its Board of Directors shall appoint any additional committees they deem necessary for the proper functioning of the club. The President shall be a member ex-officio of all committees and shall carry on those responsibilities assigned to him/her by these by-laws and by the Board of Directors. President will follow Parliamentary Procedure at all meetings.

Section 4. During the absence of the president, or in his/her temporary incapacity, the Vice President shall perform the duties and have the powers of the President.

Section 5. The duties of the Vice President shall be to conduct the meetings in the absence of the President. He/she shall be the "Activities President", and may appoint research chairmen to assist him/her. The Vice President may also appoint a safety chairman and suggest safety rules for field trips.

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep the complete minutes of all meetings of the club, Board of Directors, and any committee meetings at the request of the President, a roster of members in good standing, and all correspondence as directed by the President as well as posting all notices of regular and special meetings of the club.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall keep records and have charge of the funds of the club, and shall keep all the funds of the club. He/she shall keep all the funds of the club in a bank approved by the Board of Directors and in the name of the club, subject to withdrawal by checks signed in such a manner approved by the Board of Directors. The treasurer shall dispense funds of the club under direction of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Members at Large (4) shall represent the membership as a voting member at the Board Meetings. Members at Large shall be called upon as temporary replacements for any vacated board position during the year, until an election can be held.

Section 9. Vacancies in any elected office may be filled by the members at any meeting of the club at which a quorum is present and two weeks notice of the special election has been given to members. The successor so chosen shall serve for the un-expired term of his/her predecessor.

Section 10. Removal of any officer may be done at any special or regular meeting where a quorum is present or by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote and two weeks notice of intent has been given to members in good standing.

ARTICLE VI Fiscal Year

Section 1. The fiscal year of the club shall commence on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

ARTICLE VII Membership Dues

Section 1. The dues of each member of the club and method of payment shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Membership fees shall be due and payable on January 1. After March 1, if dues are not paid in full, membership shall be dropped. Dues are now FORTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$45.00) per family per year for renewing members. A one (1) time initiation fee of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$25.00) is assessed to new members. Dues are subject to change by approval of the Board of Directors and a majority vote by membership at a regular or special meeting.

Section 2. After February 1, new member dues will be prorated at FOUR DOLLARS (\$4.00) per month for the remaining portion of that fiscal year.

Section 3. If a minor child joins within 60 days of his/her birthday, they shall be exempt from the initiation fee.

ARTICLE VIII Meetings

Section 1. The regular meeting of the membership shall be held on the first (1st) Monday of each month. If the first Monday of the month falls on a recognized holiday, the meeting shall be held the second (2nd) Monday of the month.

Section 2. Written notice of the day, place, and hour of all regular meetings shall be prepared and distributed by the Secretary.

Section 3. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the President or any ten (10) members upon giving three (3) days written notice to the membership. Such notice shall state the time, place, and date plus the purpose of the meeting.

Section 4. All meetings of the membership shall be held at the place, time, and date, designated in the notice.

Section 5. At any regular or special meeting, twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum. Any action taken at such a meeting shall require a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE IX
By-Laws

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the club at which a quorum is present, by a majority vote, providing notice of such proposed amendment or amendments shall be mailed to each member with notice of the meetings at which the amendment or amendments are to be considered

ARTICLE X
Find of the Month (FOM)

Section 1. The club shall have a Find of the Month (FOM) award at each monthly general membership meeting.

Section 2. Awards and find categories shall be set forth by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Eligibility shall be determined on a find made since the last meeting and the current meeting. Organized contest finds or items purchased are not eligible.

Section 4. The member must appear in person with their finds to be eligible.

Section 5. Winners shall be determined by a vote of the members and guests present.

Section 6. Displays must be identified with owner's name.

Section 7. FOM contest is open only to members in good standing.

Section 8. Family units are not eligible to display together. Displays must be on an individual basis only.

Section 9. For each month that a member enters the FOM contest they will be able to enter in a drawing for a fifty (\$50.00) dollar bill to be held at the annual Christmas party.

ARTICLE XI
Order of Business

Section 1. The order of business at any General Membership Meeting shall include the following:

Opening of the meeting by the President or presiding officer.

- A) Introduction of visitors and new members.
- B) Reading of the minutes of the last meeting by the Secretary.
- C) Reading of the financial report by the Treasurer.
- D) Program.

- E) Attendance drawing.
- F) Committee reports.
- G) Break.
- H) Find of the Month award.
- I) Monthly raffle.
- J) Old business.
- K) New business.
- L) Closing of the meeting by the President or presiding officer.

ARTICLE XII
Committees

Section 1. The President shall appoint the Chairperson to the following committees, plus any additional committees as they become needed.

- A) Early hospitality
- B) Welcome
- C) Hunt
- D) Find of the Month
- E) Raffle
- F) Refreshment

ARTICLE XIII
Dissolution

Section 1. In the event of the dissolution of the organization the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all liabilities, sell all property and equipment. All monies will then be donated to local charities. This charity or charities will be decided by the general membership at the time of dissolution.

ARTICLE XIV
Indemnification

Section 1. To the fullest extent possible by California law, the organization shall indemnify and hold harmless every appointee director and officer of the organization, against all expenses and liabilities, including attorney fees actually and reasonably incurred by or imposed on him/her in connection with any legal proceeding (or settlement or appeal of such proceeding) to which he/she may be a party to because of his/her being or having been a director or an officer of the organization

ARTICLE XV
Rules Governing the Club's Mining Claims

Section 1. No heavy equipment shall be used, i.e., front end loaders, tractors, graders, etc. (Except for Board approved improvements).

A. All digging of dirt to be put through drywasher will be done by hand tools only.

Section 2. On any outing, do not intentionally hi-grade another member's diggings. Do not set up equipment any closer than 20 feet of a fellow member, except with their approval.

Section 3. You may hold your dig area only while you are on the claim. If you are staying for multiple days, you may mark your area with a 5 gallon bucket with your name, date and length of stay. If you leave the claim for any reason (*except to attend the club's annual chili cook-off and treasure hunt*) your dig area now becomes open for any club member to use. Guest may not hold dig area.

Section 4. No staking a "personal claim" within the club's claim boundaries.

Section 5. Work / dig areas will be no larger than a 30ft. radius.

Section 6. Upon leaving the area fill in or slope the sides of your dig area to allow desert tortoise escape route in the event they fall into the hole.

Section 7. Do not dig into or under any road.

Section 8. Keep all roads clear of vehicles, as any roads on our claims are access roads to all other area claims.

Section 9. No one shall enter any known mine shafts on any of the Club's claims. The Club shall not be held responsible for any harm done to any person who does so.

Section 10. All Club members shall have badge or membership card in possession when working Club claims.

Section 11. A member may sponsor a guest at AVTHS events and claims under the following conditions. A guest must first execute and date the written AVTHS Hold Harmless Agreement (Downloadable from the AVTHS web site as part of the application form) and present it to a sponsoring member or current AVTHS officer/ board member prior to using a club claim or attending a club event.

A. The sponsoring member must be present with the guest during the event.

Section 12. No guest may be sponsored by more than one member, nor may any guest be sponsored for more than one event.

A. An “event” may consist of either an AVTHS outing or a single trip with a member to an AVTHS Club claim for one or more continuous days. Not to exceed 3 days. If the guest wants to continue to use the club’s claims they must join the club.

Section 13. No dumping or littering of any kind. (Take your trash out)

Section 14. No living on any Club claims. Camping is allowed for 14 days per BLM Regulations.