



July 2017 Motherlode Monitor Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Wednesday August 2, 2017, 11 a.m., Sierrans' Board of Directors Meeting, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley, CA.

This meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m., prior to the membership meeting.

Wednesday August 2, 2017, 12 noon, Membership Meeting – Presentation by Ross Guenther, General Manager, Ceramext™ on the Ceramext™ Technology and Its Potential Applications, 431, Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley, CA.

Ross Guenther is a geologist with over 35 years of experience in the mining industry in areas of mineral exploration, mine operation, mineral processing, and mine finance. Twenty years ago he began developing a concept to stabilize and add value to gold mine tailings by using them to produce ceramic building products. This led to the development of the Ceramext™ technology and Ross subsequently obtained three patents for "Synthesized Hybrid Rock Composition, Method, and article Formed by Method", "Apparatus for Hot Vacuum Extrusion of Ceramics", and "Process for Hot-Forging Synthetic Ceramics."

Ross will discuss the technology and its potential applications to make high quality building products such as floor tile, roof tile, pavers, counter tops, etc. Use of the technology would reduce waste currently going into landfills and create 100% recycled feed stocks including:

1. Tailings from metal mines.
2. Fines from aggregate quarries.
3. Fly ash from coal fired power plants.

The technology could also be utilized to process fines generated from cleaning out reservoirs in the State of California. Residual mercury in the fines would be volatilized in the tile making process, collected, and properly disposed.

August 9 2017, 12 noon, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting to Plan Potential Sierrans' Conference on "Technologies to Clean-Up Mercury in California's Rivers and Reservoirs", 431, Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley, CA.

The Sierrans are exploring setting up a conference in 2018 to educate the public about technologies to clean up mercury in California's rivers and reservoirs. Alternatively, we could propose a panel discussion at the AEMA conference scheduled for Dec. 4th. Plans are to set up an adhoc committee that will focus on planning and implementing such an event. The meeting agenda will include:

1. Event theme.
2. Event structure.
3. Potential speakers and topics.
4. Event location.
5. Event schedule.
6. Potential attendees.
7. Event cost and cost recovery.

Contact Dave Watkinson at dwatkinson@sierrans.org or (530) 271-0679 if you are interested in participating.

August 9 to 13, 2017, Nevada County Fair, 11288 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA.

The Sierrans plan to attend the Nevada County Fair again this year with a booth shared with other resource industry groups. We will be looking for

volunteers to man the booth for one day. Please contact Dave Watkinson at dwatkinson@sierrans.org or (530) 271-0679 if you are interested participating.

September 6, 2017, , 12 noon, Membership Meeting – Presentation by Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, Nevada Irrigation District, Update on NID Projects , 431, Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley, CA.

Greg Jones will update the Sierrans on various NID projects including:

1. Combie Reservoir Sediment and Mercury Removal Project.
2. Greenhorn Sediment Removal Project (Rollins Reservoir).
3. Bear River Sediment Removal Project (Rollins Reservoir).
4. Centennial Reservoir Project.

Water Quality Control Plan for Mercury Approved

The EPA and California State Water Quality Control Board have approved new statewide water quality standards for mercury consistent with requirements of the Clean Water Act. The standards encompass specific beneficial uses to account for tribal cultural use and subsistence fish consumption, mercury water quality objectives to safeguard human health and aquatic wildlife, and flexibility to achieve permit compliance. Additional information can be found at the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/mercury/docs/ca_hq_approval_letter_with_enclosures_signed_071417.pdf

Boy Scouts of America Mining in Society Merit Badge Project

The Sierrans plan to become involved with the Boy Scouts of America ("BSA") to assist local Scouts in obtaining their Mining in Society Merit Badge. The BSA launched the Mining in Society Merit Badge in 2014 as part of a series of merit badges focused on science, technology, engineering, and math ("STEM") projects. The Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration ("SME") was instrumental in the development of the badge.

This Project will involve the development of a program with a variety of components (including options) that that Scouts will have to complete to earn the badge. For additional information, go to the following link:

<http://mineralseducationcoalition.org/outreach-awareness/mining-in-society-merit-badge/>

Sierrans' Scholarship Program

The Sierrans are moving to establish a scholarship programs. One or more \$500 annual scholarships would be established associated with Sierra College. In order to fund the scholarships, donations of \$10 will be expected at membership meeting lunches to cover the cost of lunches with any remaining funds to be used to fund scholarships.

Sierrans "Walking Tour" Brochure Highlighting Mining Attractions

The Sierrans are establishing a Walking Tour Brochure to highlight mining attractions in the City of Grass Valley.

Sierrans' Placemat Project

The Sierrans are in the process of creating a placemats that could be used in local restaurants and eateries to promote the resource industries in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Sierrans' 2018 Calendar

The Sierrans are starting the design of our 2018 calendar.

Renew or Become a New Member

Individual/Family Membership and Corporate Membership Forms can be found at www.sierrans.org.

Contact Us

Contact us at motherlodemonitor@sierrans.org or by mail at the address in the footer of Page 1 of this newsletter.