



## June 2017 Motherlode Monitor Newsletter

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### ***Upcoming Events***

***Wednesday July 12, 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 July 12, 2017, 12 noon, Membership Meeting – Planning Meeting for Projects and Upcoming Events, 431, Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley, CA***

We will meet to discuss ongoing projects, upcoming events and plan activities for the remainder of 2017. Please come and participate and provide your input. We are looking for volunteers to help.

Projects include:

- Nevada County Fair Participation
- Boy Scouts Merit Badge
- Potential Sierra Fund Technical Advisory Committee Participation (Combie Mercury Project)
- Sierrans' Scholarship Program
- Sierrans' Mining Attraction Walking Tour Map
- Sierrans' Placement
- Sierrans' 2018 Calendar

***August 9 to 13, 2017, Nevada County Fair, Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11288 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley***

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](mailto:dwatkinson@sierrans.org)

or (530) 271-0679 if you are interested participation. More details will be available as we get closer to the date of the Fair.

### ***Boy Scouts of America Mining in Society Merit Badge Project***

Tom Jepsen, one of the Sierrans' new members, has suggested the Sierrans 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. Given the education, expertise, and experience of many members of the Sierrans in the mining industry, our organization is ideally suited to developing a locally oriented program for the Scouts and we could potential expand this to other badges that are associated with the resource industries.

### ***Nevada Irrigation District Combie Mercury Project***

Governor Jerry Brown has approved \$6.13 million in the 2017/18 budget for the Nevada Irrigation District's Combie Reservoir Mercury Project. The Project proposes to remove sediment accumulating behind the Reservoir's dam. The sediment contains mercury from historic placer and hydraulic mining in the Bear River.

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The Project will result in increased water storage capacity, improved water quality and fish habitat, and the production of salable materials such as sand, gravel, and gold. The Sierra Fund has assisted NID in the process by helping to organize funding, providing community outreach, and offering scientific oversight and expertise.

The Sierra Fund will be holding a Mercury Source Reduction Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is not open to the public by Alberto Ramirez, one of our Directors, will be participation representing Teichert. The Sierrans have contacted the Sierra Fund about participating in the TAC and providing members with actual industry and mining, geology, and processing expertise.

### ***Sierrans' Scholarship Program***

The Sierrans are moving to establish a scholarship programs. Potentially one or more \$500 annual scholarships would be established associated with Sierra College.

### ***Sierrans "Walking Tour" Brochure Highlighting Mining Attractions***

The Sierrans are looking to establish a Walking Tour Brochure to highlight mining attractions in the City of Grass Valley. The goal would be to place this brochure in the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce and other tourist attractions in the City and promote local mining attractions (such as the Empire State Park and North Star Museum and Pelton Wheel Exhibit). Brochures could potentially be developed for other cities in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to promote tourism related to the resource industries.

### ***Sierrans' Placemat Project***

The Sierrans are looking at the potential to develop placemats that could be used in local restaurants and eateries to promote the resource industries in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. For example, a placement could be developed featuring the "City with the Heart of Gold" for Grass Valley. We are currently looking at developing designs and determining costs for the printing the placements. We then plan to talk with restaurant owners about the concept, get feedback, and determine the economics of the project and how to fund it.

### ***Sierrans' 2018 Calendar***

The Sierrans are starting the design of our 2018 calendar and are looking at a theme for the calendar and potentially pictures to go into the calendar.

### ***Robert Shoemaker Plaque Dedication***

A dedication ceremony for a memorial plaque honoring the late Robert S. Shoemaker was held on June 3, 2017 at the North Star Museum and Pelton Wheel Exhibit in Grass Valley. The Sierrans donated the plaque to the City of Grass Valley, owners of the Museum. The Nevada County Historical Society is the operator of the Museum.



**Left to right (Steve, Jan, and Scott Shoemaker)**

The event was attended by over 50 people including the Shoemaker family represented by Jan Shoemaker, Steve and Wendy Shoemaker, Scott and Cindi Shoemaker, and David Schaectele. Sierran members attending included David Watkinson, Patricia Nelson, Eleanor Kenitzer, Ross Guenther, Alberto Ramirez, Dan Barber, Robert Pease, Patrick Hurly, Olaf Bleck (and spouses, where applicable). The City of Grass Valley Council was represented by Mayor Howard Levine and wife Peggy and City Manager Tim Kiser; the North Star Museum was represented by Tony Demirir, Rudy Cisar, and several docents; the Nevada County Historical Society was represented by Pat Chestnut and Brita Rozynski; the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration ("SME") was represented by Bill Motzer;

and the Engineering Association of Nevada County ("EANC") was represented by Rich Peevers.

The Sierrans would like to thank the Museum staff for their help and the Sierrans donated \$200 to the North Star Museum. Special thanks to Steve Tintle for installing the plaque, Pat Nelson for coordinating the event with the Museum staff, and Eleanor Kenitzer for arranging for the food for the event.

### ***Renew or Become a New Member***

Renew or join the Sierrans as a member. Please find Individual/Family Membership and Corporate Membership Forms at [www.sierrans.org](http://www.sierrans.org). Print, fill out the form, and send it and your check to the address on the form. Become a voice for the resource industries in the Sierra Nevada Mountains

### ***Contact Us***

Contact us at [motherlodemonitor@sierrans.org](mailto:motherlodemonitor@sierrans.org) or by mail at the address in the footer of Page 1 of this newsletter.