



August 2015 Motherlode Monitor Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Aug. 5 Membership Meeting – Our August 5th Membership Meeting was rescheduled to August 29th to allow us to meet at the Miners Picnic. This has resulted in some scheduling overlap, outlined below, giving members some choices. We hope everyone shows up for the Aug. 30th special event at Lyla Tracy's.

August 29th, 2015 Miners Picnic at Empire State Park – the 120th Miners Picnic is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Picnic was first held in 1895 to raise money for miner's widows and orphans, as well as injured and out-of-work miners. For any Sierrans that attend, meet up at the Bourne House entrance/lawn area between 1 and 2 p.m. for an informal meet and greet.

August 29th, 2015 Celebration of Life for Errol Clark Christman – Errol Cristman passed away on July 25, 2015 at the age of 74. A Celebration of Life is scheduled between 1 to 5 p.m. at the Nevada City Elks Lodge, Highway 49 North, Nevada City.

August 30, 2015 Membership Meeting: Membership Potluck Picnic and Swap Meet – will be hosted by Lyla Tracy at her home in the town of Washington, CA. It will be from 11 a.m. to late afternoon or evening. Some members from the Western Mining Association may also be attending.

Part of the event will include a swap meet (a gathering at which enthusiasts or collectors trade or exchange items of common interest).

Any collectors of smallish mining antiques, historic papers, historic photos, books, stock certificates, etc. can bring them and buy, sell, or trade with other collectors. Lyla has some Pelton wheels, monitor parts, antique papers, gold balances, etc. that she will have on hand and is contacting others who might want to participate.

- Please RSVP to info@sierrans.org or call Lyla at (530) 265-5466 if you plan to attend.
- The format will be pot-luck, so please bring a dish to share with everyone.
- Please bring your own meat to cook – four barbecues will be available.
- Bring your own cutlery.
- Serving tables, chairs (about 20), ice, and coolers will be available. Lyla also has several refrigerators for use. If you have a few extra chairs and/or tables that you can bring, it would ensure we have enough seating.
- Lemonade and snacks provided.
- If you can buddy up for a ride out to make parking easier, it would be appreciated.
- Fishing is available (license required).
- Swimming is available, so come prepared.
- This is a non-alcoholic event.
- Donations for the Sierrans respectfully requested.
- Bring a friend!

Directions traveling east from Nevada City:

1. Take highway 20 from Nevada City and travel about 16 miles to the Washington road sign. Turn left onto Washington road.
2. Travel about 5.5 miles to the first left turn with a sharp drop off onto a dirt road (road is unmarked and is about 50 feet before

- River Rest Resort and the Post Office entrance. A ribbon will mark the road.
3. Follow the road down the hill, turn left, and go across a small concrete bridge. Continue on this road until you reach the first right turn, about a 16th of a mile (marked with a ribbon).
 4. Turn in and follow the road to the parking area. Walk to the main house, marked with ribbons.

Directions travelling west from Truckee/Reno on Interstate Highway 80:

1. On highway 80, west of Truckee, take the Highway 20 exit to Grass Valley/Nevada City. Follow highway 20 to the Washington road turn off.
2. Follow steps 2-4 above.

Sep. 2, 2015 Membership Meeting – our next membership meeting is scheduled for Sep. 2, 2015 at 12 noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150.

Sierrans Website

The Sierrans now have a website domain, website, and email set up. Please visit the website at www.sierrans.org. Please let us know comments on the site and how it functions. If you find any typo or other issues, please let us know at info@sierrans.org.

Sierrans Bank Account

We now have a bank account established and are in the process of setting up the accounting systems and controls, file systems, and other necessary administrative controls for the organization. Christine Daggett has joined the Sierrans and will act as Treasurer.

SB209 and AB1142 SMARA Reform

Two bills are currently moving through the California Senate and Assembly with the goal of

updating and reforming the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). These bills will potentially increase the maximum annual reporting fees for mining operators with operating or idle mines from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year. The maximum amount that can be collected annually from reporting fees will increase from \$3.5 million to \$8.0 million. Operations would be inspected annually and inspectors would have to have certain qualifications and training. A dual system of approval is mandated requiring both lead agency and state approval of reclamation plans and bond amounts. Concern is for the small miner who will potentially see increased requirements for reclamation plans, annual reporting fees, and bond requirements. These bills are both moving to the appropriations stage, where the fiscal analysis of their impacts should be evaluated. The Sierrans is researching these bills to gain a better understanding of their impacts, especially to the small miners of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. We plan to network with other similar organizations that are representing the mining industry's interests.

Membership Drive

With the website up and other administrative items in place, the Sierrans plan to commence a membership drive in September through the end of the year. Please help us get the word out about our organization and help us find like minded people who are interested in supporting the resource industries in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The best way to do this is to direct people to our website, where they can find information about our organization and membership forms are available for us.

Contact Us

You can contact us at info@sierrans.org or by mail at the address in the footer of Page 1 of this newsletter.

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