



February 2016 Motherlode Monitor Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Mar. 2, 2016 Membership Meeting – Presentation by Jeff Huggins of the California Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board – scheduled at 12 noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley.

Jeff Huggins is a Water Resources Control Engineer with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). He will give a presentation on permitting and monitoring requirements for small mines. The requirements for permitting and water quality monitoring for small mines in the Sierra Nevada Mountains have increased dramatically over the last decade. Jeff can clarify who needs permits, what is required to obtain a permit, what monitoring requirements may be necessary, and what small mines need to do to remain compliant.

There are 9 regional water quality control boards in California. The CVRWQCB covers the following counties: Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Glen, Colusa, Lake, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, Yolo, Napa, (N. East), Solano (West), Sacramento, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Contra Costa (East), Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Kings, Fresno, Tulare, Kern. It also covered very small portions of San Benito and San Luis Obispo counties.

Jeff is a graduate of the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology (Montana Tech) in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering. From 1989 to 1998, Jeff worked primarily for Vector Engineering of Grass Valley on design and construction of large scale heap leach facilities, tailings impoundments, landfills, and other small

scale engineering projects in most of the western states and on four major mining projects in Chile.

From 1999 to 2005, Jeff worked for Ridge Rock Quarry in Nevada County in the production of aggregate products for the building and construction industry.

Since 2006, Jeff has been employed by the CVRWQCB in the Title 27 Permitting and Mining Unit, working primarily on mining related water quality issues.

Mar. 16, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting – scheduled at 12 Noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley.

Renew Your Membership or Join

For existing individual, family, or corporate members, it is time for your 2016 membership renewal. Forms can be found online at www.sierrans.org under the "Join Us" tab. If you receive our Newsletter and would like to join the Sierrans, now is the time to do it. If you know of anyone that might be interested in joining the Sierrans, please approach them and provide them with the appropriate membership form. Help us grow our organization.

Tribute to Robert Shoemaker

The Sierrans sadly announce the passing of Robert S. Shoemaker. Mr. Shoemaker was a world-renowned metallurgist. He was born in Roseburg, Oregon on July 3, 1925. He volunteered for the US Army Corps of Engineers and spent 26 months in the Pacific theater during World War II. After his

***Sierrans for Responsible Resource Development
P.O. Box 404, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (530) 271-0679
www.sierrans.org***

discharge at the rank of acting First Sergeant, he attended Oregon State College where he received B.S. and M.S. degrees in inorganic chemistry in 1950 and 1951 respectively. In 1953, he received an M.S. degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Wisconsin.

After college, Mr. Shoemaker joined the Minerals Research Department of the Union Carbide Research Laboratories in Niagara Falls, New York in 1953, and in 1956 was transferred to the Development Department of the Union Carbide Metals Company. In 1957 he was based in the Engineering Department of the Union Carbide Ore Company in New York where he was Metallurgist for numerous projects in Norway, Australia and the United States.

In 1962, Mr. Shoemaker joined the Bechtel Corporation in San Francisco as Supervising Engineer for Bechtel's Mining and Metals Division. In later became chief metallurgical engineer, consulting engineer, and eventually, manager of plant design for Bechtel's Mining and Metals Division offices in San Francisco, Toronto, and Melbourne. He has participated in the design of numerous metallurgical projects throughout the world.

In 1975, he was awarded the degree of Metallurgical Engineer honoris causa from Montana College of Mineral Science and Engineering. He retired from Bechtel in 1981 and opened a consulting firm RS Shoemaker Limited in San Francisco and subsequently Grass Valley. He retired in from his consulting business 1998.

Mr. Shoemaker is a former President of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration Inc. (SME), former Vice President of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), and former President of the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America (MMSA). He received the AIME Richards Award in 1974 and the SME Presidential Citation in 2007. He co-authored two SME technical volumes on cyanidation and crushing plant design with Frank McQuiston. He also co-edited with David Evans two SME volumes on hydrometallurgy.

After retirement in Grass Valley, Mr. Shoemaker became active in the North Star Mining Museum, where he became Director in 2002. He spearheaded the refurbishing of the Pelton Wheel at the museum, getting it working again for visitors to see. He also spearheaded refurbishment of other mining equipment to help preserve the mining history and culture of Grass Valley and Nevada County. During his 10 years as Director, attendance at the museum doubled.

In 2013, the Nevada County Historical Society named Mr. Shoemaker (at age 88) the 2013 Citizen of the Year and bestowed on him the tiles of director Emeritus of the museum.

In 2014, Mr. Shoemaker donated \$1 million to the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration Inc. (SME) Foundation to support the Foundation's educational programs.

Mr. Shoemaker was an active member of the Sierrans and we would like to pay tribute to his outstanding career in the mining and metallurgical industries, his support of related organizations like the SME, AIME, and MMSA, and to his work to in Grass Valley to preserve the historic mining history and culture.

A Celebration of Life Ceremony will be held for Mr. Shoemaker on April 9th at 1:30 p.m. at the North Star House in Grass Valley (not the North Star Mining Museum). However, the Mining Museum will be open that day for anyone that wants to visit after the service. More details will follow in our March newsletter.

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.

Sierrans for Responsible Resource Development – Officers

David Watkinson, President	(530) 271-0679
Lyla Tracy, Vice President	(530) 470-9232
Patricia Nelson, Secretary	(415) 847-0862
Christine Daggett, Treasurer	(530) 274-8222

dwatkinson@sierrans.org
lyla@rubygoldinc.com
plnelsonco@gmail.com
info@sierrans.org