



GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA NEWSLETTER

Geological Society of Nevada, 2175 Raggio Parkway, Room 107, Reno, NV 89512
(775) 323-3500 - Hours Tuesday -- Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday by appointment.

Website: www.gsnv.org • E-mail: gsn@gsnv.org



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Published monthly except June and July

CALENDAR OF GSN EVENTS

- Dec. 11, 2019 WEDNESDAY** **WINNEMUCCA CHAPTER HOLIDAY MEETING & SILENT AUCTION!**
At The Martin Hotel, 94 W. Railroad St. Drinks and Silent Auction start at 6:00 pm, Appetizers at 6:30 pm, Talk at 7:00 pm. **Speaker: Warren Thompson. Title: "Visiting the Vishnu - Reflections from the Grand Canyon". Food and Drinks Sponsored by: ENVIROTECH DRILLING!** For more information, please contact Chapter President, Robbie Anderson @ Robbie.agau@gmail.com. **AUCTION ITEMS STILL NEEDED! To Donate,** please contact Jenna Micovic @ jenmicovic@gmail.com. See pg. 6.
- Dec. 12, 2019 THURSDAY** **SO. NEVADA CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETING**
The monthly meeting will be held at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 900 N. Las Vegas Blvd. Pizza & beer at 5:30 pm, Talk at 6 pm. **Speaker: Rich Perry, NDOM. Title: "2018 Nevada Mineral Production, New Mines, Exploration, Critical Minerals, and other Fun Facts". Food and Drinks Sponsored by: MDA a division of RESPEC!** Contact Joshua Bonde for more information. Josh's email is: paleo@lvnhm.org. Details on page 6.
- Dec. 18, 2019 WEDNESDAY** **GSN CHRISTMAS MEETING, SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE!**

The GSN's annual Christmas meeting and Foundation Fundraiser will be held at the Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, NV. Silent Auction/ Drinks-6:00 pm; Dinner-7:00 pm; Live Gold auction-7:45 pm; Talk-8:00pm. **Speaker: Greg Crouch, Author. Topic: The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle over the Greatest Riches in the American West. Party sponsor is: ENVIROTECH DRILLING!** Dinner cost is \$50 Please buy dinner and raffle tickets online: <https://www.gsnv.org/dinner-reservations/>. RSVP by Dec. 13th. GSN@GSNV.ORG. Details on page 3. **AUCTION ITEMS STILL NEEDED! Please contact Cami Prenn to donate @ camiprenn@mda.com**
- Dec. 19, 2019 THURSDAY** **ELKO CHAPTER HOLIDAY MEETING & SILENT AUCTION!**
The holiday meeting will be held at the Western Folklife Center, 501 Railroad St. Drinks and Silent Auction starts at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm, **Speaker or Entertainment to be determined. Dinner and Drinks Sponsored by: LEGARZA EXPLORATION!** For more info please contact Diane Cheung-Harris at: dianehcheung@gmail.com. **AUCTION ITEMS STILL NEEDED! Details on page 7.**



G.S.N. DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING SPONSOR

Envirotech Drilling LLC

FROM THE PRESIDENT
Dennis Bryan, GSN President 2019-2020
DECEMBER 2019



Winter has definitely arrived! Am glad I didn't have to go "over the hill" this Thanksgiving holiday.

Last month the Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition (NMEC) had their annual meeting and one of the interesting exchanges was a panel discussion on the possibility of archiving exploration data, or: Do you relish a requirement that your hard-fought data from that last property you evaluated, and spent a fortune on, be surrendered to any claim jumping opportunist who may be interested. A lot of discussion and feedback ensued but no consensus was obtained, nor was there expected to be. The topic was thrown out there as a timely discussion to be pondered. (It was cleverly scheduled as the last topic of the day, so that when the beer flowed there would be ample time and incentive to further espouse your opinion.)

First off, the philosophical question was asked: Should the public have a right to your exploration data? Feedback varied from no, (or hell no!), it's mine, or my client's, and keep your grubby paws off it, to; if it's on public land (BLM – USFS) then it should be made available to the public because the public owns it. And the public includes all those other explorers out there, foreign or domestic. But to beg the question, mining claims are an actual "property" right, so does that make data taken off that mining claim personal property as well? The only apparent consensus was the discussion should only be pertinent to public lands.

So, what are some of the benefits to make such data available to others? Well, it sure would be great to have previous "data" on your current projects available wouldn't it? We've all been there; a potential prospect with visible drill pads but no way to know what was found (other than the fact there are no haul trucks present). It could save considerable time and money for the current explorer. It may even be an incentive for additional investors to pump more money into a potential prospect based on theirs or someone's "revolutionary" new model.

The major objections would be the loss of proprietary information, competitors would gain access to data they didn't envision nor pay for, and claim owners/prospectors would lose the ability to sell that hard-fought-for information to the next guy, and the next guy, and the next.....

If it were to be implemented (purely hypothetical, lets reiterate) it should only include raw data such as drill logs, geophysical or other types of surveys, analytical data, etc. and not interpretive reports. And there should be a time delay and it should not include past activity.

The discussion was left with many questions: What about including representative core? Include geologic mapping? How would it be implemented? Who would archive the data? How would the program be paid for? How would it be enforced? (I'm probably missing some important facts/arguments/pluses/minuses here but let's call it a day.) So, the whole discussion concluded with "Where do we go from here..... if anywhere?" One of the last comments of the day came from someone who has the insight of a true earthly prophet, when he said: Well does it even really matter..... for we are all going to be dead someday anyway!

Think I'll have one of those beers now and ponder the meaning of.... whatever should be pondered.

(I would be neglectful if I didn't point out that such requirements are currently in place for oil & gas and geothermal exploration in Nevada. And some Canadian Provinces do have some type of data archival requirement)

And in changing the subject; my big experiment of seeing if anyone actually reads my letter in the GSN monthly newsletter has been answered. I had expounded on and asked for input on the state of general interest in geologic publications in the last edition, and I actually received three responses. They even agreed with me. For those who read it and didn't agree they probably thought why bother, that guy's out to lunch anyway!

The Christmas party at the Nugget is almost here and we all look forward to bidding on all those fantastic items that we can't live without. It's for the GSN Foundation. More description elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks, and looking forward to seeing you on December 18th at the Nugget.

Dennis

***The G.S.N. wishes to thank
KEL BUCHANAN, HB ENGINEERING
for sponsoring the GSN's
November 15th meeting in Reno!***



GSN CHRISTMAS MEETING—DECEMBER 18, 2019



Special Guest Speaker: Gregory Crouch, Author

Title: “The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle over the Greatest Riches in the American West.”

Social Hour, Silent Auction and Raffle begin @ 6:00 pm; Dinner @ 7:00 pm

LIVE SPECIMEN AUCTION @ 7:45 pm and Speaker to Follow @ 8:00 pm

Location: Nugget Casino Resort’s Rose Ballroom, 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks, Nevada

DINNER COST—\$50.00 per person. RAFFLE TICKETS—\$1.00 Each.

(You will be invoiced \$50 if you do not cancel your reservation by Monday, Dec. 16th)

For dinner reservations, please e-mail gsn@gsnv.org or call 775-323-3500

Reservations required. Please click here to prepay for dinner and raffle tickets:

<https://www.gsnv.org/dinner-reservations/>.

Reservations due by 5 p.m. on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019!!!

Please donate auction & raffle items by Monday, December 16th. Contact Cami Prenn @ camimda@gmail.com



“A monumentally researched biography of one of the nineteenth century’s wealthiest self-made Americans... Well-written and worthwhile” (*The Wall Street Journal*) it’s the rags-to-riches frontier tale of an Irish immigrant who outwits, outworks, and outmaneuvers thousands of rivals to take control of Nevada’s Comstock Lode.

Born in 1831, John W. Mackay was a penniless Irish immigrant who came of age in New York City, went to California during the Gold Rush, and mined without much luck for eight years. When he heard of riches found on the other side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in 1859, Mackay abandoned his claim and walked a hundred miles to the Comstock Lode in Nevada.



Over the course of the next dozen years, Mackay worked his way up from nothing, thwarting the pernicious “Bank Ring” monopoly to seize control of the most concentrated cache of precious metals ever found on earth, the legendary “Big Bonanza,” a stupendously rich body of gold and silver ore discovered 1,500 feet beneath the streets of Virginia City, the ultimate Old West boomtown. But for the ore to be worth anything it had to be found, claimed, and successfully extracted, each step requiring enormous risk and the creation of an entirely new industry.

Now Gregory Crouch tells Mackay’s amazing story—how he extracted the ore from deep underground and used his vast mining fortune to crush the transatlantic telegraph monopoly of the notorious Jay Gould. “No one does a better job than Crouch when he explores the subject of mining, and no one does a better job than he when he describes the hardscrabble lives of miners” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Featuring great period photographs and maps, *The Bonanza King* is a dazzling tour de force, a riveting history of Virginia City, Nevada, the Comstock Lode, and America itself.

About Gregory Crouch

Gregory Crouch is an author who specializes in historic and adventurous subjects. He is the author of the epic rags-to-riches tale *THE BONANZA KING: John Mackay and the Battle Over the Greatest Riches in the American West* (Scribner, 2018), the World War II flying adventure *CHINA’S WINGS: War, Intrigue, Romance, and Adventure in the Middle Kingdom During the Golden Age of Flight* (Bantam, 2012), and the alpine memoir *ENDURING PATAGONIA* (Random House, 2001). Crouch graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he studied history. He completed U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger schools and led two infantry platoons before leaving the Army to pursue other interests, most notably in rock and ice climbing and in mountaineering. He developed a particular fascination with the peaks of Patagonia. Along the way he became a writer. His work has appeared in *National Geographic*, the *Atlantic*, *Outside*, *Islands*, *American History*, *Ascent*, *Rock & Ice*, *Climbing* (where he was a senior contributing editor), and many others. A regular book reviewer, Crouch has reviewed for the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and NPR. He lives in Walnut Creek, California, in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and son.

“FACES OF GSN”

Matthew L. Cunningham, Fernley, NV

“I knew I wanted to be a geologist ever since I was a small child” is not something I could say. In fact I didn’t even start pursuing geology until I was in my early 20’s and it wasn’t always smooth. But it definitely made sense in the end, and I can’t think of a more natural place for me to be.

Some of the geologist components were always there: I grew up in Colorado, and hiking and camping in the Rockies was something my family did regularly. We made many trips to National Parks where so much geology is on display. I’ve always loved large rock exposures, whether they were towering sandstone monoliths at Red Rocks Amphitheater, or sharp glacially carved “granite” peaks high above tree-line that make up so many 14,000’ peaks in Colorado (granite in quotes because I learned later a number of my favorites aren’t granite or even intrusive!).

Despite all that I really wasn’t too sure what to do after high school. I had taken auto shop and aerospace classes and I had a fair amount of experience working on the 1977 Dodge Pickup I was driving at the time, so I was seriously considering going into aviation maintenance. I figured it would be good to get at least an associate’s degree and went to community college to get the basic classes; one of my science electives was “Intro to Geology”. I liked it enough that I followed up with “Historic Geology”. Glacial processes especially intrigued me. I never quite had an epiphany, but I decided a Geology degree made sense. Though I had initial struggles with my memorization-heavy Mineralogy course, the big conceptual courses like structural geology and stratigraphy I loved. I got my Bachelor’s at Colorado State in December 2004.

Right out of school I looked for work for a while but didn’t find anything. I ended up taking a job doing graveyard shift milk deliveries door to door for a couple years (yep, I was a milkman). It wasn’t all bad, physical work, good pay and benefits, I occasionally got to see wildlife including bears out at night; but my back didn’t love it and my body never really adjusted to working at night.

A uranium exploration company found my resume and contacted me in 2007. They were looking for someone to do data entry: digitizing old lithology logs and doing uranium grade calculation off of 1970’s gamma logs. It was a pay cut from milk deliveries and without any benefits, but I took the risk. After I proved myself in the office I ended up on a truly green-fields roll-front uranium drilling program. It was an exciting dynamic program following a sinuous redox boundary in a buried sandstone unit. We would often drill multiple holes per day, the next hole picked immediately based on the results of the current hole. I stayed with that company as long as they could keep me on making maps and sections, doing water well research, and even playing Landman. Following that I did a few contract gigs, mostly from contacts I made on the uranium job and with my (continued on page 5)



(M.L. Cunningham, cont. from pg. 4)

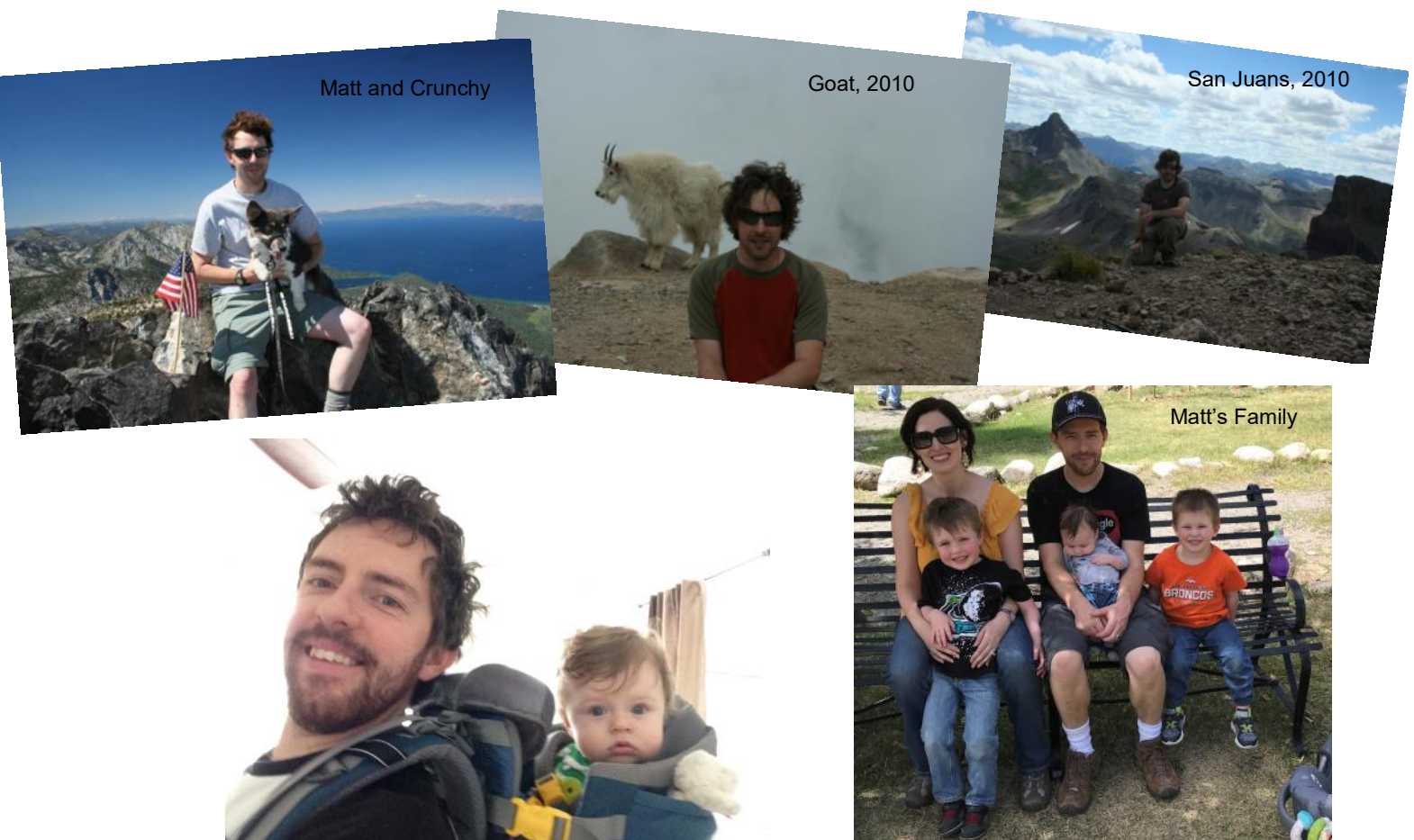
new abundant free time really did a lot of hiking. After a bit of that I decided it was a good time get a Masters.

After shopping around I decided on Professional Masters in Mineral Exploration from Colorado School of Mines, receiving my diploma in December 2011. Courses were challenging but I was more focused than I was in my younger years so it went much better. I interviewed for a core logging position working for Entrée Gold on the Ann Mason Deposit out in Nevada for summer break 2011, but ended up taking a uranium summer job instead due to timing issues. Come the fall of 2011 with my courses nearly over the Entrée Gold position came up again and I reluctantly took it starting January 2012 (reluctant this time because at this point as I was seriously dating my future wife who had a good job in Colorado). After a few months of working 20-on 10-off flying in and out, we made the decision to move out to Nevada where we've been ever since.

I can't really say much of anything negative about working out in Yerington the past almost 8 years. I've been involved in almost all aspects of the project from logging core, mapping, updating permits, coordinating with regulators, budgets, setting up drill programs, land research, and everything in between. I've made it through the spin-out of Mason Resources from Entrée Gold in 2017 and the acquisition of Mason Resources by Hudbay in 2018. I've worked through extremely busy times, including a 40 hole infill program with a crew of eight total geologists, to a period when I was the sole US employee after serious downsizing. Since 2017 I've been the Exploration Manager of the project, a position retained when Hudbay acquired the property.

Outside of looking at rocks, I live in Fernley with my wife who is a certifying scientist at a lab in Reno; we are the parents of three sons: a five year old, a three year old, and a seven month old. Three sons definitely keep us busy and I'm happy to say the oldest two love the outdoors already. We have a cat named Porkchop and a corgi named Crunchy, who also is the unofficial greeter at the Yerington office.

I know I've been blessed to be where I am today. I'm also thankful to the people I've worked with that made it all the more enjoyable and those who must have said a good thing or two about me along the way.



GSN WINNEMUCCA CHAPTER HOLIDAY MEETING & SILENT AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

Location: The MARTIN HOTEL, 94 Railroad St., Winnemucca NV

Time: 6:00 p.m.—Appetizers, Drinks & Silent Auction bidding

7:00 p.m.—Talk begins

Speaker: Warren Thompson, National Gold Mining Corp.

Title: “Visiting the Vishnu - Reflections from the Grand Canyon”

Join Warren Thompson for a photo journey of a once in a lifetime journey rafting into the bowels of the earth. Braving white-knuckle rapids, geologists venture to depths of the Grand Canyon to experience the worlds best preserved exposures of Early Paleozoic strata laying unconformably on Precambrian basement. Only on the river is so much geology available to experience.

Drinks Sponsored by: **Envirotech Drilling LLC**

To donate auction items please contact: Jenna Micovic @ jenmicovic@gmail.com

GSN SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

Location: Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Africa Hall

900 Las Vegas Blvd. North, Las Vegas, NV

(please park behind the museum)

Time: Pizza & Drinks @ 5:30 p.m., Talk begins about 6:15 p.m.

Speaker: Rich Perry, Nevada Division of Minerals

Title: “2018 Nevada Mineral Production, New Mines, Exploration, Critical Minerals, and other Fun Facts.”

Food & Drinks Sponsored by:



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Cost: \$5 donation, GSN Student Members Free!

GSN ELKO CHAPTER HOLIDAY MEETING & SILENT AUCTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019

Location: The WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER, 501 Railroad St., Elko

Time: Refreshments & Silent Auction @ 6:00 p.m., Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.

Evening Program: To Be Determined

Silent Auction & Raffle to benefit the Elko Scholarship Fund

To donate auction items please contact Diane Cheung-Harris @ dianehcheung@gmail.com or Meredith Baker @ mbaker@rangefront.com. Rangefront Geological is very kindly allowing us to store donations at their office. They can be found at 1031 Railroad Street, St. 102B in Elko, NV.

A slide show will be playing during the party. Please send any fun geo-type photos of yourself or colleagues to Meredith Baker: mbaker@rangefront.com

Food and Drinks Sponsored by:



*Thank you to our generous sponsor for the Joint Meeting of
The GSN Elko and Winnemucca Chapters in Battle Mountain in November!*



GSN FOUNDATION

News from the GSN Foundation

Cami Prenn, Chair

The first item to discuss this month is the Christmas Party! I hope you're making your reservation for the annual party to be held on Dec. 18th. The website is open for your reservation and payment AND you can buy your raffle tickets at the same time. We will have them ready for you at the door and you can start shopping right away! Remember to bring your address labels. We will have some wonderful mineral specimens for the Silent and Live Auction; Mark Stock and Scott Werschky have donated some beautiful pieces. We're collecting lots of diverse items from many sources – thank you to all our donors!

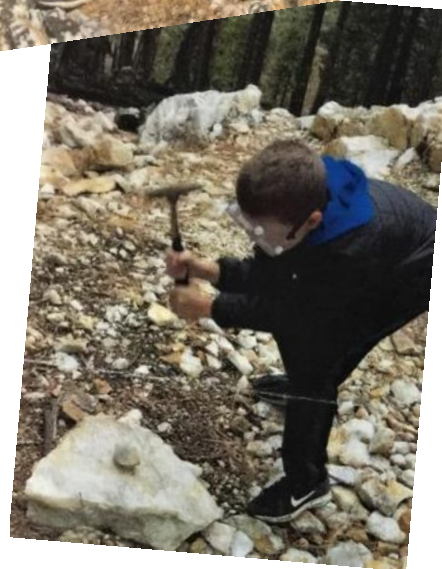
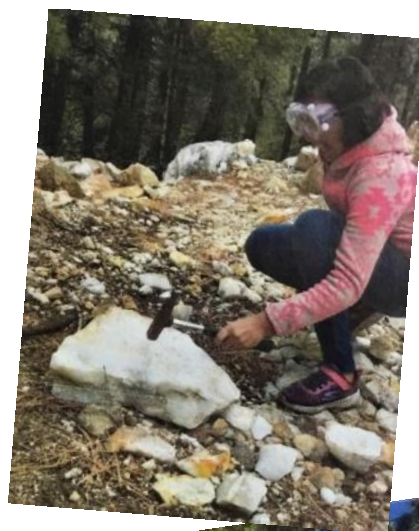
Gregory Crouch is our speaker and he will be selling AND autographing his book, *The Bonanza King, The Story of John Mackay* – what a great Christmas present for someone on your list!

The second item to note is our K-12 Field Trip Grants that have been awarded this year. The Foundation funded 17 field trips for nearly 700 elementary, intermediate, and high school students this year – from Reno, Incline Village, Fernley and Las Vegas. One popular trip for Reno area schools is Sierra Nevada Journeys' Outdoor School near Portola where they climb the "quartz mountain". These trips allow kids to get outside and see what happens in nature and hopefully start a lifelong interest in geology.

I hope to see you at the Christmas party!



Just one of the many great auction items is this 1901 brass plated Swift petrographic microscope owned by the famous George Beardsley (donated by Joe Tingley)!



Jessie Beck Elementary School 5th Graders' trip to Sierra Nevada Journeys Outdoor School near Portola – investigating the quartz outcrop on Bald Mountain

Donate auction items today!



30th Annual
AIPG EXPLORATION ROUNDUP

Tuesday, December 10th

ATLANTIS HOTEL

Atlantis Reservations 1-800-723-6500 – Code: SOCIAL RATE

6:00 Open Bar, 7:00 Dinner, 8:00 Program

Companies

Vance Spalding, Contact Gold	Bob Felder, Renaissance Gold
Rick Streiff, OceanaGold	Greg French, Nevada Copper
Bill Howald, Blackrock Gold	Joe Kizis, Bravada Gold
Bob Kastelic, McEwen Mining	Kevin Creel, Barrick Gold

Meeting Sponsor: Boart Longyear

\$70 AIPG/GSN Members/Spouses

\$75 Others (cash, check)

Mackay Students: Free

Reservations: Kel Buchanan (summitcrk@aol.com)

775-786-4515, fax 786-4324

by December 6th, 5:00 p.m.

Raffle for Mineral Specimens from Mark Stock to Benefit AIPG UNR Club Field Trips

BRAND NEW 2020 GEOLOGY & MINING CALENDARS
MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!

Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology's
Nevada Geology Calendar 2020—For Sale Now!



We thank Jack Hursh, Jennifer Vlcan, and Chris Henry for designing another beautiful calendar this year!

This 12-month calendar (January through December 2020) is full of beautiful photos highlighting Nevada's scenic wonders and features a different geologic topic each month: Clan Alpine Mountains, White River Country, East Humboldt Range, Strata, Fissure Ridge, Little High Rock Canyon, Ragged Top, Nevada's Largest Earthquake, Geothermal Energy, Clayton Valley Dunes, Walker Lane, and Mormon Well Road.

Click here to view/order the calendar:

<http://pubs.nbmj.unr.edu/Nevada-geology-calendar-2020-p/cal2020.htm>

When calendars arrive in late November, you may select "Pick up" on the shopping cart so you can pick yours up at the NBMG Gold building, 2175 Raggio Parkway.

Quantity discount: If you buy **10 or more** calendars per order, **you will receive a 20% discount!**

Thank you to our generous Foundation donors in November!

G.S.N. FOUNDATION (unrestricted)

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BRONZE DONORS \$1-\$99

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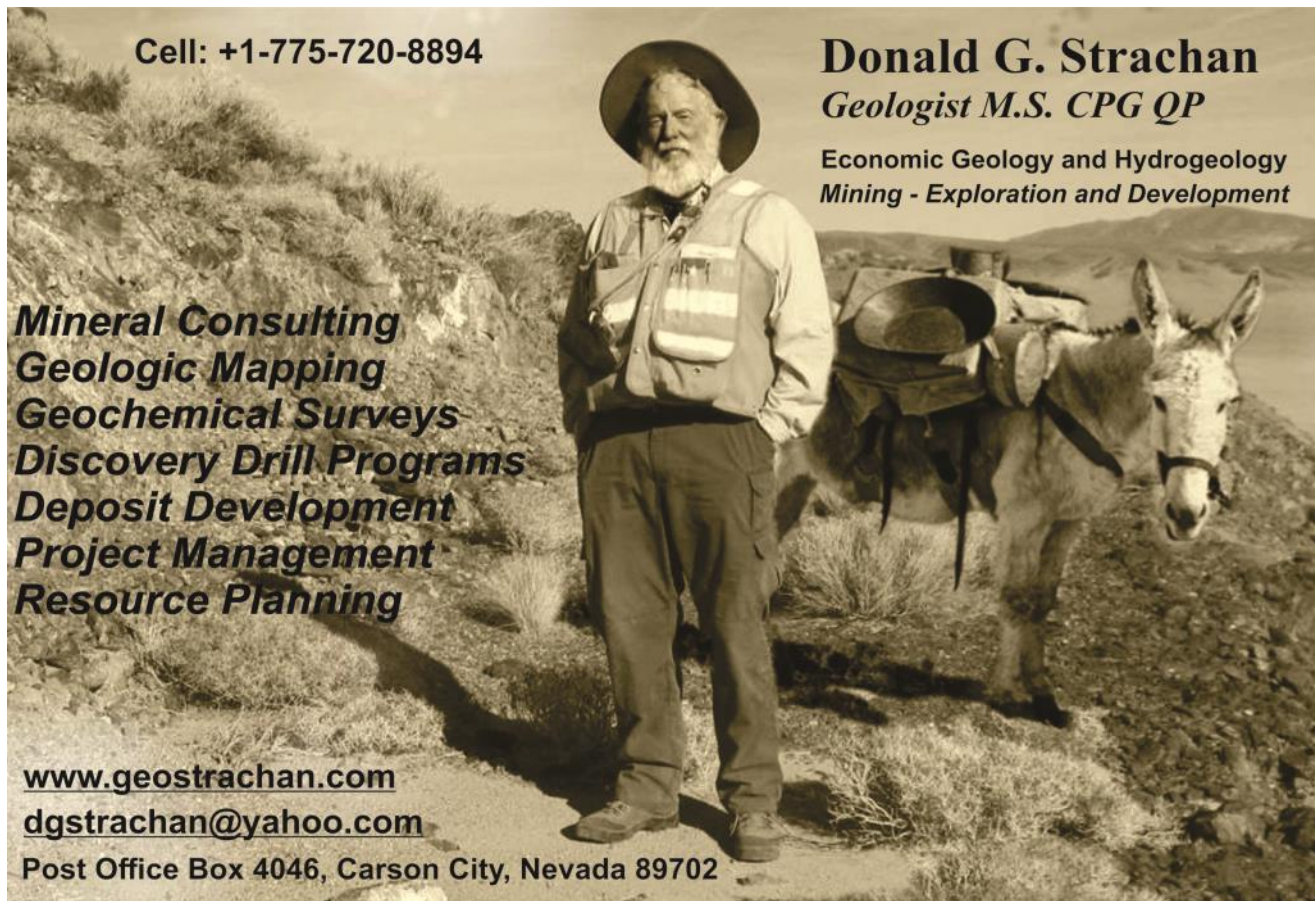
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Activity Update

Mike Brady, October 2019

www.activityupdate.com

NEVADA

Getchell Gold Corp. announced that it acquired an option to earn a 100% interest in the Fondaway Canyon and Dixie Comstock properties from Canarc Resource Corp. for \$2,000,000 cash, \$2,000,000 in shares and \$1,450,000 in exploration expenditures over 4 years. (resource @ Fondaway Canyon = 2,050,000 tonnes @ 6.18 gpt Au inferred) *Press Release: October 17*

Fiore Gold Ltd. announced that recent drill results at the Gold Rock Project include 196.6-208.8 meters @ 1.04 gpt Au (GR19-019); 158.5-181.4 meters @ 0.72 gpt Au (GR19-023); 132.6-147.8 meters @ 1.48 gpt Au (GR19-026) and 123.4-140.2 meters @ 1.61 gpt Au (GR19-029). (resource = 9,006,000 tonnes @ 0.82 gpt Au indicated) *Press Release: October 23*

McEwen Mining Inc. announced that recent drill results at the Gold Bar South Project include 25.9-68.6 meters @ 2.32 gpt Au (GB521); 39.6-91.4 meters @ 2.21 gpt Au (GB522); 6.1-53.3 meters @ 2.10 gpt Au (GB523) and 47.2-76.2 meters @ 1.61 gpt Au (GB524). *Press Release: October 15*

Barrian Mining Corp.(50.1%) announced that recent drill results at the Bolo Project include 67-99 meters @ 2.01 gpt Au (BL19-02). *Press Release: October 21*

Barrian Mining Corp. announced that it acquired an option to earn a 100% interest in the Troy Canyon Property from Brocade Metals Corp. for \$50,000 cash, 1,250,000 shares and \$30,000 in exploration expenditures over 1 year. *Press Release: September 24*

Lincoln Gold Mining Inc. announced that it purchased back Goldcliff Resource Corp.'s earn-in of the Pine Grove Project for \$200,000 cash and 2,750,000 shares over 1 year. (resource @ Wheeler

= 2,741,000 tonnes @ 6.79 gpt Au measured+indicated) *Press Release: October 8*

Fremont Gold Ltd. announced that it acquired an option to earn a 100% interest in the Cobb Creek Property from Clover Nevada II LLC. for \$370,000 cash and 1,500,000 shares over 9 years. (resource = 1,238,000 tonnes @ 1.36 gpt Au indicated oxide) *Press Release: September 30*

Corvus Gold Inc. announced that recent drill results at the North Bullfrog Project include 54.86-76.2 meters @ 0.68 gpt Au (NB19-474); 56.39-80.77 meters @ 0.31 gpt Au (NB19-475); 251.46-268.22 meters @ 0.51 gpt Au (NB19-476) and 126.49-138.68 meters @ 0.34 gpt Au (NB19-479). (resource = 14,330,000 tonnes @ 1.59 gpt Au measured+indicated) *Press Release: October 23*

Contact Gold Corp. announced that recent drill results at the Pony Creek Project include 0-68.58 meters @ 0.25 gpt Au (PC19-21); 0-68.58 meters @ 0.29 gpt Au (PC19-23); 0-64.01 meters @ 0.35 gpt Au (PC19-24) and 0-60.96 meters @ 0.30 gpt Au (PC19-25). (resource = 29,463,000 tonnes @ 1.5 gpt Au inferred) *Press Release: October 22*

Gold Standard Ventures Corp. announced that recent drill results at the Dark Star Project include 4.6-25.9 meters @ 0.21 gpt Au (DR19-76); 24.4-30.5 meters @ 0.16 gpt Au (DR19-77); 143.3-169.2 meters @ 0.30 gpt Au (DR19-78) and 125.0-144.8 meters @ 0.43 gpt Au (DR19-80). (resource = 15,380,000 tonnes @ 0.54 gpt Au measured+indicated) *Press Release: October 9*





Grijalva's Mining Law Bill (H.R. 2579) will Destroy Private-Sector Investment in Developing the Nation's Mineral Resources and Increase our Reliance on Foreign Minerals

Mining Law Background: The 1872 Mining Law governs how U.S. citizens gain access to hardrock (also known as locatable) minerals like copper, gold, silver, zinc, lithium, cobalt, rare earths, nickel, and other minerals on federal lands. Locatable minerals are essential building blocks of our economy, infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, conventional and renewable energy, and national defense. In response to President Trump's Executive Order 13817, "*A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals*," the Secretary of Interior recently finalized a list of 35 critical minerals, most of which are locatable minerals governed by the Mining Law.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) statistics show that at the end of FY 2018, there were 399,658 mining claims distributed in 19 western states, with roughly half of these claims located in Nevada. Cumulatively, mining claims cover less than 12,500 square miles scattered throughout the west. Only a small fraction of claims contain mineral deposits that are economic to mine. As a rule of thumb, hardrock mining affects about 0.1 percent of the land with mining claims.

Since its enactment in 1872, Congress has made many important changes to the Mining Law including:

The Minerals Leasing Act – In 1920, Congress removed coal, petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, sodium, sulfur, and potassium from the law and established leasing programs for these resources in part because they have different geologic characteristics than locatable minerals;

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act – In 1976, Congress created an environmental protection mandate prohibiting unnecessary or undue degradation of lands subject to mineral activities, established a claims recordation requirement that documents where claims are located and who owns mining claims, and created special environmental protection measures for claims in wilderness study areas and in the California Desert Conservation Area;

1993 to Present – Starting in 1993, Congress has used the appropriations process to establish an annual fee, the Claims Maintenance Fee, for use of federal lands for mineral exploration and development purposes, and to continue a moratorium on patenting. Claimants currently pay \$155 per claim, which will increase in 2019 as the fee is adjusted every five years to reflect the CPI.

The Mining Law, as amended, invites U.S. citizens to make substantial investments of time, knowledge, and money to explore for minerals on federal lands with the hope of discovering a mineral deposit that can be developed into a mine. This process, known as "self-initiation" greatly benefits our Nation because it effectively leverages private investments that transform undeveloped federal land into mining operations that create jobs, pay taxes, and provide the minerals the country needs – at no expense whatsoever to U.S. taxpayers.

Because mineral deposits are rare and unique geologic phenomena, they are very difficult to find. Keeping lands open to exploration and development improves the odds of finding "the needle in the haystack" mineral deposit that can be developed into a mine. Conversely, withdrawing land from operation of the Mining Law and restricting the amount of land that can be explored diminishes the odds of discovery, interferes with the Mining Law's self-initiation process, and severely compromises the Nation's ability to capitalize on private-sector investments to discover and develop domestic mineral deposits. The Department of the Interior estimates that over 50 percent of federal land is *already* off limits to mining.

(continued on pg. 13)

H.R. 2579 will Harm the Nation by Dramatically Increasing our Reliance on Foreign Sources of Minerals

Eliminates mining claims and substitutes a minerals leasing system that will substantially chill private-sector investment in exploring for and developing minerals on federal land.

- Completely destroys self-initiation;
- Creates intolerable uncertainties about lease terms, conditions, and renewal policies;
- Gives federal land managers the discretionary authority to deny a permit or revoke a lease at any stage of a project;
- Creates prospecting permits with unrealistically short time limits to discover a mineral deposit that fail to recognize that discovering minerals can take a decade or longer;
- Changes current life-of-mine permits to an arbitrary 20-year lease that may be renewed for successive 10-year terms if the mine is in continuous production, which ignores how fluctuating mineral prices influence mine operations and temporary closures. Mining occurs during periods of favorable mineral prices but may have to temporarily cease when mineral prices fall.

Puts more land off-limits to mineral exploration and development inappropriately ignoring the Nation's need for domestic minerals and increasing our reliance on foreign minerals.

- Establishes suitability criteria that will prohibit mining on lands with water resources and other environmental characteristics that completely disregard the fact that mines can only be developed where minerals have been discovered and that impacts due to mining can be mitigated.

Creates onerous and impractical environmental standards designed to make mining difficult if not impossible

- Ignores the land management agencies' current environmental protection requirements for locatable minerals, which provide effective and comprehensive environmental protection that safeguard all aspects of the environment including water resources, wildlife, special status species, air quality, cultural resources, soils, vegetation, and visual resources.
- Disregards current financial assurance programs that guarantee mines will be reclaimed. For example, Nevada state regulators and federal agencies hold over \$2.8 billion in reclamation bonds for locatable mineral exploration and mining projects.
- Overlooks BLM and Forest Service mandates that mineral projects must prevent unnecessary or undue degradation/minimize adverse environmental impacts and that NEPA environmental reviews already analyze impacts; identify ways to eliminate, minimize, and mitigate impacts; and verify compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

Imposes a retroactive royalty on pre-existing claims that will expose the federal government to takings litigation and a confiscatory prospective royalty

- In *Union Oil Co. v Smith*, 249 U.S. 337, 348-349 (1919), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that claim holders are entitled to extract and sell minerals "without paying any royalty to the United States as owner."
- The bill's prospective royalty does not consider existing state taxation and royalty requirements and third-party royalty agreements that typically burden mining claims or that mineral producers cannot pass on the royalty costs to mineral consumers.

Creates a Displaced Materials Fee for each ton of rock that must be moved to mine the orebody.

- This fee will render most if not all deposits uneconomic to develop, leaving minerals in the ground and further increasing our reliance on foreign minerals.

NV Petroleum & Geothermal Society Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019

Tamarack Junction, 13101 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV

Please join us on Thursday, December 5th, 2019 at the Tamarack Junction for cocktails wine and beer (Graciously sponsored by Paul Graham Drilling, Geo Drilling Fluids and Canamera Coring!), followed by our Christmas dinner and a festive evening of outlandish Christmas sweaters, raffle prizes and good conversation.

Cocktails, wine and beer will be served starting at 6:30 pm, and dinner is served at 7:15 pm.

We will be raffling off a variety of donated gifts to help raise funds for the student scholarships. Each dinner registrant will receive 1 raffle ticket, and up to 10 additional tickets may be purchased at the door.

[Click here to register online](#) and reserve your seat.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

1-6 December 2019 American Exploration & Mining Association Annual Meeting "Challenges, Problems, Solutions". Nugget Casino Resort, Reno/Sparks, NV. Click the link for more information and to get registered: <https://www.miningamerica.org/2019-annual-meeting/>

4 December: Arizona Geological Society. Sheraton, 5151 E Grant Rd. (& Rosemont), Tucson AZ 85712. Speaker: Anita Grunder, Professor Emeritus, Geosciences, Oregon State University. Title: "Legacy of Cenozoic Volcanism in the Pacific Northwest: Emphasis on the High Lava Plains of Oregon". Registration closes at 11am on the Friday Prior to the Date of the Event. More information and online registration: [Legacy of Cenozoic Volcanism in the Pacific Northwest: Emphasis on the High Lava Plains of Oregon](#)

5 December: AEG—Great Basin Section Holiday Party: Speaker: Dr. Paul White. Title: "Legacies in Refinement: Archaeological Perspectives on Alaska's Historic Gold Mills". Location: Sure Stay Plus by Best Western, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno NV. Drinks @ 5:15 pm; Dinner @ 6:00 pm; Talk @ 7:00 pm. Please contact Merrily Graham for more information or to RSVP for dinner: [Merrily Graham <mkgraham75@gmail.com>](mailto:mkgraham75@gmail.com)

5 December: Nevada Petroleum and Geothermal Society Christmas Party. LOCATION: Tamarack Junction, 13101 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV. Cocktail Reception 6:30 PM; Dinner Served at 7:15 PM. RSVP By Monday, December 2nd. See Box above for more information and to Register.

8-9 December 2019 2019 SME Arizona Conference, hosted by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, in Tucson, Arizona. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Dirk Van Zyl, Professor of Mining Engineering, Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering, University of British Columbia. Dr. Van Zyl's talk is entitled "Tailings Governance: Are We Up to the Challenges?". For more information on the SME Arizona Conference, visit www.smeazonaconference.com/.

10 December 2019 AIPG Exploration Roundup, Atlantis Resort and Casino, Reno NV, sponsored by Boart Longyear. Contact Kel Buchanan, summitcrk@aol.com for reservations, or call HB Engineering at 775-786-4515. **Details on pg. 9!**

AEG Holiday Party & Fund Raiser —

Thursday - December 5th, 2019

SPEAKER: Paul White, Ph.D.

"Legacies in Refinement: Archaeological Perspectives on Alaska's Historic Gold Mills"

LOCATION: SURE STAY PLUS HOTEL BY BEST WESTERN
1981 TERMINAL WAY, RENO, NV 89502

TIME: SOCIAL: 5:15 PM, DINNER: 6:00 PM, TALK: 7:00 PM

COST: Members: \$30.00, Non-Members: \$32.00, Students: \$25.00

(First three students to register will be comped.)

NO LATER THAN 5 PM, MONDAY, DEC. 2ND, TO: Merrily Graham at: mkgraham75@gmail.com

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Let's go make a discovery! Contact: Ed Gates – gatesdeoro2@gmail.com



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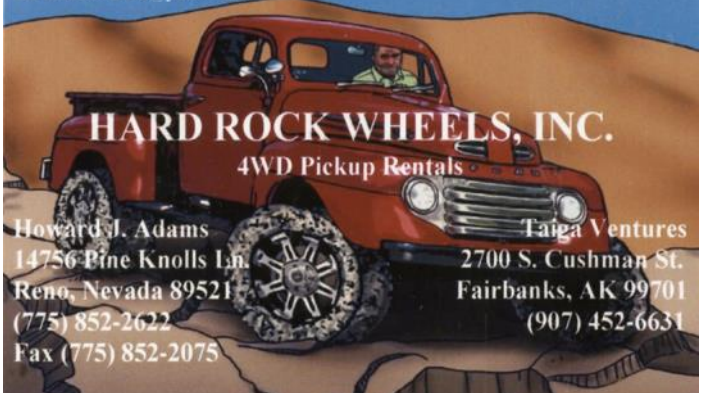


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Check out this line up of Keynote Speakers!

Monday, May 18, 2020

Eric Sedorff—Opening Speaker
Keith Meldahl—Luncheon Speaker
Chuck Thorman—Closing Speaker

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Elizabeth Miller—Opening Speaker
Joe Mazumdar—Luncheon Speaker

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

John Prochnau—Opening Speaker 1
Rich Goldfarb—Opening Speaker 2
Quenton Hennigh—Luncheon Speaker

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Dick Sillitoe—Opening Speaker
Moira Smith—Closing Speaker

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