Optimistic outlooks for exploration during 2005 prevailed during two festive dinner meetings in December. The 15th annual AIPG exploration outlook dinner meeting had eight managers representing major and junior companies present their plans for next year. The common message was that 2005 will see increased exploration budgets resulting in a greater need for geologists and drill rigs in Nevada. Thanks go to Kel Buchanan and AIPG for putting together the meeting.

The GSN Christmas dinner was also a fun evening of socializing and fund raising enjoyed by a record attendance of 200 people. The large crowd came to hear our speaker Jim Gibbons, who is the only geologist in the US Congress, present his thoughts on exploration in the United States. Representative Gibbons was optimistic that there will be a...
window of opportunity over the next 18 months to produce meaningful mining law reform. We thank him for his support of the exploration and mining business and for helping to make our Christmas meeting such a success.

The 4th annual raffle and silent auction that preceded the Christmas dinner was again an enormous success. Round Mountain Gold Corp. donated a 20 gram crystalline gold specimen that was auctioned to the highest bidder (Dan Kappes) for $975. A big thank you goes to everyone who donated items for the raffle and auction. See page 6 for a listing of the donors. In total, we raised $5,594 for the GSN Foundation, which is another record. We all appreciate D.D. LaPointe, Rachel Dolbier, & Mario Desilets efforts for again making the event so tremendously successful. We also would like to extend a big thanks to Boart Longyear/Lang Exploratory Drilling for sponsoring the December meeting.

The Elko Chapter of the GSN is organizing a short course entitled “G3: Recent Advances in the Exploration Geosciences” to be held on Saturday, January 15, 2005. The focus will be a review of the newest techniques in mineral exploration geochemistry and geophysics through presentations by leaders in those fields. The all day short course will be held at the Great Basin College in Elko. See page 9 for more details. Our thanks go to Dave Caldwell and the GSN Elko Chapter for organizing this event.

We will return to our technical format during our next membership meeting scheduled for January 21st. Alan Branham will give us an update on the Midway gold project in Nye County. Many thanks go to J-Pacific Gold Inc. for sponsoring the social hour during the January meeting. Members of the GSN Executive Committee will also be canvassing members during the social hour for comments and suggestions on how we can improve the Society.

I look forward to an exciting year for mineral exploration in Nevada and I hope to see you at our next membership meeting.

The GSN Foundation wishes to thank the following donors:

Keith Blair  Bill Dubrin
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GSN 2005 SYMPOSIUM
“Window to the World”

New Year Resolutions have been made and it is now 20 weeks to the 2005 Symposium. Many manuscripts are being compiled; field trips to exciting locations are planned; and great poster and core shack exhibits are being arranged. The oral presentations will be excellent with large screens and a great sound system. If you want to see more detail on the symposium, go to the website and see what is being offered and then sign up for the program. The Symposium is expecting a record turnout for this once every five year event. It is important that if you wish to attend any of the Field Trips or Short Courses, or be an Exhibitor at this world-class meeting that you register soon. If you have questions, contact Brenda Estay at the Symposium office, 775/355-8388. The Symposium office is located at the Gold Summit office on Caughlin Ranch Parkway. To register for the Symposium, Exhibits, Short Courses and Field Trips, please go to the Symposium Website – www.gsn2005.org.

Thanks to Boart Longyear/Lang Exploratory Drilling for hosting the December meeting.
MIDWAY PROJECT, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA: HIGH-GRADE GOLD UNDER SAND DUNES

Alan Branham, Midway Gold Corporation

Midway Gold Corporation has been exploring the Midway project, located 15 miles northeast of Tonopah, Nevada for three years. To date a large, quartz adularia hydrothermal system enriched with bonanza grade gold has been discovered beneath shallow sand dunes adjacent to State Highway 376. Numerous spectacular gold intercepts have been discovered with grades as high as 90 ounces/ton.

The gold is hosted in 24 Ma rhyolite volcanic tuff and tuffaceous sandstone and in the underlying Ordovician Palmetto argillite and hornfels. Numerous felsic dikes intrude the older sediments and appear to dome the argillite. The north side of the dome is cut by dextral strike-slip, northwest striking, high angle faults called the Rye Patch and Discovery Faults. The better gold grades occur in intensely silica and adularia altered tuffs at or above the Tertiary-Ordovician unconformity within high angle veins that contain bladed quartz after calcite textures. Both northwest and northeast striking high angle faults host high-grade banded quartz and clay altered adularia rich veins in the Tertiary and Ordovician rocks. The entire rock package is covered by a thin veneer of sand 20 to 60 feet thick.

Various geophysical and geochemical exploration techniques have been applied to the project with differing degrees of success. The most successful techniques in mapping the alteration are CSAMT and detailed airborne magnetic surveys. Airborne radiometric surveys measuring potassic alteration identified a large altered zone associated with adularia on the project. These various techniques will be reviewed and summarized. Detailed geologic mapping coupled with oriented core helped identify vein orientations and structures for drill targeting.

A brief review of the Spring Valley, Nevada project may also be presented, in which large, rhyolite volcanic breccia pipes and structures host disseminated and high grade gold in a new discovery, located north of the Rochester District, Pershing Co., Nevada. This new deposit is also totally covered with younger sand and gravel.

Alan Branham is the President and CEO of Midway Gold Corporation. He worked 21 years with Newmont Mining in North and Central America from Circle, Alaska to Northern Brazil. The last ten years with Newmont were spent exploring in the Great Basin and along the Carlin Trend. Alan graduated from Stanford University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology and from Washington State University in 1987 with Master of Science degree in Economic Geology.
GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON INORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY AND ORE DEPOSITS

Proctor Academy
Andover, New Hampshire
July 31 – August 5, 2005

The Gordon Research Conference on Inorganic Geochemistry traditionally addresses the geochemistry of metal-rich systems, and has been held every three to four years over a period of 36 years. The meeting serves as one of the premier conferences for international scientists with differing levels of experience in ore deposit research. A major theme of the conference is to promote increased communication and collaboration between industry, academia, and government. The next Gordon Research Conference will be held at Proctor Academy in Andover, New Hampshire, July 31 - August 5, 2005 and the organizers are seeking expressions of interest from those who wish to participate. Students are encouraged to attend and subsidies for students and junior level participants are anticipated, particularly for those presenting posters. We also seek the participation of women and members of minority groups.

The theme of this 5-day conference is “Metals in ore-forming systems: Sources, transport, and deposition.” The focus of the meeting is on ore-related processes, which will highlight linkages between factors involved in the concentration of metals in the earth’s crust and the resultant economic beneficiation of ore. The meeting will be interdisciplinary, with invited speakers who are experts in the fields of biogeochemistry, tectonics, structural geology, experimental geochemistry, and numerical modeling. A preliminary speakers program and conference details are available at the website:


To increase industry involvement, the organizers have included the opinions of corporate scientists to create a program that will appeal to industry as well as academic researchers. The introductory session will outline some of the problems that corporate researchers recognize from their field-based work, and set the tone for discussions throughout the meeting. During the final overview session, a group of scientists from industry and academia will review key discussion topics, highlight important ore-forming processes, and outline critical topics for future research.

The 2005 Gordon Conference organizers are Jean Cline (cline@ccmail.nevada.edu), Steve Garwin (steve.garwin@geoinformex.com) and Chris Heinrich (heinrich@erdw.ethz.ch). Those who wish to participate should contact Britt Meyer by e-mail at meyer@erdw.ethz.ch. Poster space will be available and those who wish to present a poster are invited to send a brief abstract together with your expression of interest. Students and other participants who wish to apply for funding to attend the meeting should contact Jean Cline.
Jo Beth Allen
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A word of thanks to all who donated - treasures, objects, time, effort and of course to all of you who bought the raffle tickets and tried your luck!

This year’s Christmas Raffle was a huge success, and we are grateful to all of you who helped to make this such a fine event. Special thanks are extended to D.D. LaPointe and Rachel Dolbier for their fine dedication ... they are the reason this continues to be so much fun, and such a good fundraiser for the Foundation Programs.

Merry Christmas wishes, and we will see you in the New Year, when we will be able to 'quantify' how successful we were!

Ann Carpenter
GSN Foundation Chairman

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Eric & Debra Struhsacker
Joe Tingley
Dave Varabioff - www.goldbay.com
W.M. Keck Museum
Dave Waisman & Crystals of the Earth
Jess Wellman
Western Goldfields, Inc.

We had a successful week — not to mention a good time — at the Northwest Mining Association meeting December 7th-10th, in Spokane, WA. GSN, the State of Nevada, the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, and University of Nevada Mackay School joined forces to make a multi-booth Nevada cluster. Twenty members signed up, many of them old friends who had wandered off and we’re glad to have them back again! Welcome, too, to the new members who are just getting started with GSN!

Thank you to the following people who contributed time and energy at the booth:

April Barber
Jonathan Brown
Ruth Carracher
Dean Heitt
Joe Laravie
Beth Price
Jon Price
Dave Shaddrick
Elizabeth Zbinden

Also thank you to Opal Adams and Leslie Olmstead who designed and produced graphics for the booth display. The new booth looks sharp! We first used it at the National Mining Association meeting in September.

GSN IN SPOKANE
Placer Dome Inc. announced that it acquired an option to earn a 60% interest in the Red Hill Property from Miranda Gold Corp. for $549,875 cash and $2,000,000 in exploration expenditures over 4 years. 

Press Release: October 28

Placer Dome Inc. (60%) announced that recent drill hole results at the Cortez Hills Project include 152 meters @ 0.788 opt Au; 88 meters @ 0.507 opt Au; 104 meters @ 0.375 opt Au; 27 meters @ 0.114 opt Au and 125 meters @ 0.108 opt Au proven and 25,960,000 tons @ 0.141 opt Au probable)

N.M.: October 15

Rio Fortuna Exploration Corp. announced that recent drill results at the Baxter Project include 51.8-57.9 meters @ 0.102 opt Au (B04006) and 47.2-57.9 meters @ 0.059 opt Au (B04007).

Press Release: November 18

Klondex Minerals Ltd. announced that recent drill results at the Fire Creek Project include 10 feet @ 0.404 opt Au; 10 feet @ 0.334 opt Au; 20 feet @ 0.421 opt Au and 25 feet @ 2.594 opt Au all at a depth exceeding 1,000 feet. (resource = 450,000 tons @ 0.060 opt Au)

N.M.: October 22

Lincoln Gold Corp. announced that it terminated its interest in the Hercules Project of Miranda Gold Corp. due to discouraging exploration results.

Press Release: November 2

Miranda Gold Corp. announced that it terminated its interest in the Hercules Property due to discouraging exploration results.

Press Release: November 2

Pacific Rim Mining Corp. (49%) and Kennecott Minerals Inc. (51%) announced that they signed an agreement with Nevada Resource Recovery Group LLC for Nevada Resource to purchase the Denton-Rawhide open pits to be used as a landfill for undisclosed terms.

Press Release: November 14

Queenstake Resources Ltd. announced that recent underground drill results at the Jerritt Canyon/Smith Mine Project include 195-210 feet @ 0.290 opt Au (6790-L8); 170-200 feet @ 0.280 opt Au (6790-M9) and 235-265 feet @ 0.597 opt Au (6790-M9). (reserve @ Jerritt Canyon = 2,563,000 tons @ 0.303 opt Au proven+probable)

Press Release: November 15

Queenstake Resources Ltd. announced that recent drill results at the Jerritt Canyon/Mahala Project include 0-10 feet @ 0.491 opt Au (LX-503); 585-600 feet @ 0.266 opt Au (LX-508); 435-450 feet @ 0.375 opt Au (LX-509); 275-295 feet @ 0.454 opt Au (LX-513) and 400-425 feet @ 0.319 opt Au (LX-514). (reserve @ Jerritt Canyon = 2,563,000 tons @ 0.303 opt Au proven+probable)

Press Release: November 15

Metallic Ventures Inc. announced that it purchased four sections of fee lands within the boundaries of the Converse Project from Nevada Land and Resource Co. for undisclosed terms. (resource = 262,350,000 tons @ 0.015 opt Au measured+indicated)

Press Release: November 22

GSN Newsletter Monthly Advertising Rates

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Advertising Guidelines: submit digital files exported as a EPS, TIFF, PICT, or PDF with preview. Payment must be received by the 20th of the month in order to be placed in the following month’s newsletter.
Career Related Moves

- Paul Renken has been elected to Board Committee of the London Association of Mining Analysts. Check out www.ama.org.uk for more information.

- Jim Helgeson is Vice President of Taranis Resources, Inc., which recently went public and has three exploration properties in Nevada and one in Finland. More information concerning Taranis and the personnel involved can be found at www.taranis.us.

- Neil Phillips has stepped down after nearly four years as CSIRO's Chief of Exploration and Mining in Melbourne to focus on their exploration R&D efforts out of Perth, Western Australia. Neil is concentrating on gold research including preparation for the SEG Witwatersrand gold debate at the GSN 2005 Symposium in May.

Awards and Related Items

- Congratulations to NWMA Executive Director Laura Skaer for recently receiving an award from the U.S. Forest Service for her outstanding leadership and cooperation in representing the mining industry with the Forest Service.

- The Lyle Taylor Starter’s Award went to Eric Cheney, Associate Professor of Geology, University of Washington and a NWMA Trustee. The Lyle Taylor Starter’s Award was founded by NWMA member and Spokane resident Frank Blair in 1977 and was recently renamed to honor former NWMA president, the late Lyle Taylor, one of the mining industry’s and NWMA’s greatest supporters.

- Lance Taylor joined the Board of Trustees for the NWMA, and Lance is on the advisory board for Mackay.

Deaths

H. Walter Schull, 1934 - 2004

Herman Walter Schull III passed away quietly at his home after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer on November 5, 2004. Walter was 69 years young.

Walter Schull was a past president of GSN (1980) and a widely known and respected exploration geologist within the mineral industry. Walter was both a learner and a teacher in the earth science field and will be sadly missed by all of his colleagues and students throughout the world. In addition to his love of geology he had a constant quest for knowledge in many areas of life. Walter was an avid snow skier, he also liked water skiing, tennis and bike riding. He was always in pursuit of better personal fitness.

Walter began his world travels as a son of a military officer, he grew up moving from Europe to South America to the United States, finally settling in New York for his college years. In the 1960s Walter attended Columbia University and received his PhD in Economic Geology in 1971. During the time between earning degrees Walter worked as a carpenter and as a geologist in Haiti and Costa Rica. It was also during this period that he was bitten by the “Warren Miller bug” and spent several seasons skiing at Vail, Colorado.

Walter first worked in Nevada during 1965 completing regional gold exploration with Manning W. (Bill) Cox. After leaving Columbia he began employment with American Selco (Selection Trust) in 1973 exploring for base and precious metal deposits in the western US. Walter continued to work for Amseleco (BP Minerals) until 1985 devoting most of his efforts toward gold exploration in North America. Consulting contracts from 1986 through 1996 consisted of large blocks of time devoted to Nevada gold deposits, and precious metals deposits in Mexico and Peru. Walter completed a two-year employment contract the USGS in Saudi Arabia during 1992-94. Wherever he went in the world Walter always made new friends and became a mentor to many young geologists. He will live forever in the minds of many.

Walter is survived by his brother Gunner, loving wife Heidi, son Rafael, and two grandchildren. Heidi was always at Walter’s side while they were doing battle with illness, she provided much needed physical and spiritual support.

UPCOMING EVENTS


Feb. 18th - GSN MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Speaker: Scott Manske, “How to shoot an elephant: A brief history of exploration and discovery in the Superior District, AZ.” 775/323-3500 or gsn@mines.unr.edu.


Mar. 16th-17th - NEVADA LANDMEN’S ASSOCIATION (NLA) & AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN (AAPL), 2005 Mining and Land Resources Institute, Reno, NV. Edd Jackson, edd.jackson@newmont.com, 775/784-8188.
Exploration and discovery rely fundamentally on the three main branches of geoscience: Geology, Geochemistry and Geophysics. Together, these disciplines can be thought of as three legs on a stool. If we are successful in integrating these three legs well, we form a stable platform on which to build a profitable pipeline for discovery. If we ignore any one of the legs, this platform becomes inherently less stable, and success in discovery more precarious.

This short course was designed to bring together leaders in these fields to discuss some of the new and cutting edge exploration techniques that have been developed for mineral exploration. The focus of the short course will be on the Geochemistry and Geophysics legs of our exploration stool, and how they dovetail with the third leg (Geology) to form a holistic system that improves our ability to identify prospective areas for exploration, and more importantly, that helps the average project geologist guide the string of drill-steel to target. In other words, we will focus on how these 2 G’s come together with the field geologist’s observations to make discovery.

The course will be presented in two sessions with ample time for questions and discussion. The aim is to keep the presentations as interactive as possible, and for both presenters and participants to walk away having learned something.

We will be asking for a small registration fee of $20 payable at the door to help offset some of the costs of hosting this event. Registration will be held at the venue from 9:00 to 9:30. The first talk will begin at 9:30 in the Theater at the Great Basin College and the morning session sill focus on Geophysics. We will break for a lunch buffet at Café-X from 1:00 to 2:30 when we will return for the afternoon session focusing on Geochemistry. The course will be over by ~6:00 and can be continued at the Stray Dog, Jack’s Clifton wine bar or over dinner for those who want to keep the discussion going!

When: Saturday, January 15th, 2005. (9:00 to 6:00, lunch and beverages to be provided on site)
Where: The Main Theater at Great Basin College
Registration: Pre-registration is requested to help us plan for catering the event (please send e-mail confirmation to David Caldwell (dcaldwell@nevadapacificgold.com).
Fees: A $20 registration fee will be charged for this event. It can be paid via snail mail with checks payable to GSN, P.O. Box 2591, Elko NV 89803, or by cash or check at the door the day of the event.

Speakers

Bill Doerner, Quantec Geosciences, Ltd, *The Applications of New Geophysical Technology to Deep Sub-Surface Imaging*
John Mims, Director of Sales, Bell Geospace Inc., *Airborne Full Tensor Gravity Gradiometry*
Hans Rasmussen, Chief Geophysicist, White Knight Gold (US) Inc, *Data Integration for Target Generation in the Great Basin*
Stewart M. Hamilton, Ontario Geological Survey, *The theory of reduced chimneys and electrochemical transport over oxidizable geological features*
Patrick Highsmith, Newmont Mining Corporation, *A Review of Soil Gas Geochemistry for Exploration through Exotic Overburden*
Richard Bedell, Vice President of Exploration, AuEx, Inc., *Remote Sensing, GIS and Integrated Ore Vectoring Techniques*

GSN wishes to express its deepest gratitude for the financial support of the following sponsors in helping to make this event possible:

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For more information or suggestions please contact one of your crepuscular officers:
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Information About the Geological Society of Nevada

The Geological Society of Nevada (GSN) is a non-profit scientific society whose principal mission is to promote the advancement of the geological sciences, especially as they relate to Nevada. The Society encourages the dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge through semiformal presentations, field trips and symposia as well as by publishing the literature resulting from these activities. The Society has developed a secondary mission, through the GSN Foundation, of funding a number of earth science related charitable programs, including grants for K-12 field trips, university scholarships and grants for geological mapping.

Currently there are about 800 members in the GSN. The majority are based in Nevada but members live throughout the United States and in a number of foreign countries. The Society is made up of a broad spectrum of individuals interested in the earth sciences and the natural resource industries. This includes geologists, geophysicists, geochemists, engineers, prospectors, educators and students as well as associated advisors and suppliers. Students are welcomed and encouraged to join and participate in the Society’s activities.

The GSN holds dinner meetings, in Reno, on the third Friday of each month from October through May. Each meeting is highlighted by semiformal presentations by leading scientists from industry, academia and government. Abstracts of these talks are published in the monthly newsletter and in the membership directory. The membership directory is published annually and is a handy source of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of individuals, companies, government agencies and service providers involved with the earth sciences.

The Society organizes two field trips annually, providing an opportunity for members to learn about the geology and ore deposits of Nevada and surrounding areas. Each of these field trips is documented in a Special Publication which provides detailed technical reports, road logs, maps and photos for the areas visited.

Every five years GSN sponsors a symposium which draws scientists from all over the world to share the results of their work and learn about the work of others. These meetings include a full slate of technical sessions, pre- and post-meeting field trips and a trade show. The symposia have been strongly attended and have gained an international reputation for excellence. Proceedings volumes and field trip guidebooks have been published from these symposia. These volumes have won awards for their quality and, taken together, are considered one of the most extensive and authoritative bodies of literature in the world on the geology and ore deposits of the Great Basin and the American Cordillera. The next symposium is scheduled for May of 2005.

The Society has three active subchapters: Elko, Southern Nevada, and Winnemucca. These subchapters also hold regularly scheduled meetings, conduct field trips and hold occasional symposia on specific geologic topics.

The secondary philanthropic mission of the GSN is funded by the newly formed GSN Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity. The Foundation derives funding from tax-deductible donations, various fundraisers and grants from the GSN. Each year, through the GSN Education Committee, the Foundation contributes thousands of dollars toward transportation costs for earth science related, K-12 school field trips. The Education Committee also organizes a speakers bureau and helps with judging of K-12 science fairs. The GSN Foundation also provides funds for scholarships and library grants at UNR and UNLV as well as geological mapping grants through the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

The GSN has an active social calendar that provides opportunities for members to socialize, network, exchange ideas and generally enjoy themselves. In addition to the monthly meetings and semiannual field trips, the GSN holds a spring golf tournament and a fall picnic.
The Geological Society of Nevada (GSN) is a non-profit, educational organization whose principal objective is to promote the advancement of geological sciences, especially as they relate to Nevada. GSN supports the dissemination of information through meetings, field trips, publications and academic endeavors. Membership is open to geologists, geophysicists, geochemists, engineers, educators, students, prospectors or anyone else with an interest in the geological sciences and/or the goals of the GSN.

The GSN membership year begins in September. Annual dues of $30.00 ($15.00 for full time students) are due in the fall. The GSN sponsors a Field Trip in the Fall and one in the Spring of each year. Monthly meetings are held on the third Friday of each month, October through May. No formal meetings are currently held during the summer field season. The following are sanctioned Chapters of the Geological Society of Nevada: Elko Chapter, based in Elko; Southern Nevada Chapter, based in Las Vegas, and the Winnemucca Chapter, based in Winnemucca. Additional dues to these Chapters are $5.00 annually.

Please remember the GSN Foundation when renewing. Foundation dollars are used for the Kindergarten through 12th grade Field Trip Grant Program, Nevada Mapping Grants and University of Nevada scholarships.

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**GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

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**STUDENT** [ ] **UNIVERSITY:** ___________________________________________________________

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I authorize GSN to send to me, via email: GSN announcements, publication updates, employment opportunities, etc.

[Yes] [No]

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