

# Central Virginia Gold Prospectors

**February 20, 2010**

We would like to thank all of you for being here today. It is always nice to see a big turnout in the winter. For all of our new people a big welcome to you. This is going to be a good year ahead if we have this amount of people at every meeting.

Our vice president Butch has been ill and we want to keep him in our prayers and wish him a speedy recovery. We also have another member Catherine who lost a family member. Please keep her in your prayers.

For all of the new people here today we will be holding a meeting after our regular scheduled meeting, to discuss the property the club has in California. Over the winter the club was given another opportunity to pay off the claims and another reduced rate. So after contacting our officers and advisory board we agreed that this would be in our best interest. So now we own the claims in California and all we need to do is pay the maintenance fees each year. The details of the property will be discussed after the regular meeting. The only thing we will charge our members is \$20.00 a year. You have to be a paid land fee member, to go to California.

Last year we discussed getting another property. We have gotten the land next to claim #1; this is near the car wash road and below where we camp. The boundaries need to be marked. As soon as the weather permits we will be taking care of this. We want to thank M. Rollins for her kindness and letting us use her land to prospect. We will vote at the next meeting on how we will use the claim.

A reminder about the claims we have. Claim #2, #5, #6 and #7 we allow you to dredge. Claims #1, #3 and #4 are non-dredging properties. Please use caution when going on the properties due to the wet weather we have had. On claim #1 the company who owns the timber has gone in this winter a logged the trees. So the road is a little more rough and we will need to do some work this year.

To our new members, we have a few rules that need to be followed. The land company we lease from does not allow any open fires. If you use a grill and have hot coals, put them out and place in a container and take out with you. Do not dump them on the ground or try to bury them. Please also remember if you smoke, we ask that you make sure the cigarette is out and you do not throw any butts on the ground. When you are prospecting in the creek, we do not allow digging in the banks or under cutting of trees. If you need help with this, please ask one of the officers or another member. We ask that if you bring a guest, please let us know, we ask for a \$10.00 donation for a weekend for a family. This is an honor system and all the money we collect supports the club.

We have members going out at all the time to prospect. Most of them use va-gold.com as a place to communicate. This is a great site, for those who wish to learn about prospecting and ask questions.

On our claims #4 and #7, there is no hunting on them and they open year round for prospecting. We ask that during any hunting season you wear blaze orange for safety. On our claim #2 we have to change when we use this during spring gobbler season, we can't access this until noon. After noon we can be in there and if there is any problem please let one of the officers know. We share our lease with a hunt club and they use the land for deer season. We can't use the property except on Sunday during this time.

Our club is active in many events and we always need people to help. This is a requirement of our club that you do one workday a year. This can be helping at an event, working a booth. We do panning demonstrations at most of our outside events. The goal of our club is also to preserve and protect the history of gold prospecting. We want to educate the public about gold and its roll it played in history. We also have workdays where we do clean up on the claims, or marking boundary lines.

Our club has been contacted by a couple of Boy Scout troops who want to learn about prospecting. One troop is looking at coming in April and one in June. We could use help for this, and this would apply as your workday. The troop in April wants to camp for the weekend, so we may need more help for this.

We will be doing the Relay For Life; this is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The date is May 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 6:30 am the next morning. We have been asked to do a panning booth at our tent, so as soon as we can get set up we need people to help with this. We ask that you help for a minimum of 2 hours. This can be set up, walking the track or working the booth. I need to know in the next 2 weeks if you are going to help. We have to get the t-shirt sizes in and you registered if you are going to participate.

This will be discussed more at our next meeting, but we want to give you a heads up. The club is working on a Gold Fest, Memorial Day weekend. We will be holding demonstrations to help our new members learn more about prospecting. We will let you know the location; it will be near our claims. Most of us will be camping out and cooking together. This will be a great time to get to know each other and spend some fun time together.

The California property will be open to all land fee members. Packets will be available to those who join and pay the \$20.00 for land use. This is a National Forest and you have to abide by their rules. They have campgrounds you can stay at, and they cost \$10.00 per night. You can only stay 14 days at a time and at that time you must pack up and move to another site if available.

David Shackleton gave a presentation on the claims and location. You still have to apply for your own dredge permit when allowed. You can stay on the claim as long as you are actively working the claim. You must obtain a permit from the ranger station, to have any type of open flame this also applies to the use of a grill or camp stove. There is no cost for the permit, but don't be caught without it. If this is your first trip out there, it would be helpful if you can go with someone who has already been. There is no close local store, so you need to stock up with supplies. We have more details in the packet and we will try to keep you updated on any changes. The club will be making an id card for you to have with you, showing you are a member of the club. Also the packet of information you need to carry with you.

You will need to send in a notice of intent to prospect. We have a format letter to go by. It has specific information you need to put on there. It must include a map, and this is on the first page. Just photo copy and send in with the Notice of Intent. You are responsible for sending your own notice of intent. The land is a National Forrest and anyone can walk on this property, camp etc. The only thing they can't do is dig on the claim.

If someone is on the claim and not part of our club, document. Take a picture of them and their license plates. Include date and time and anything else you think is important. Do not approach in a hostile manner or with any weapon. Just identify yourself and let them know that they are on a private mining claim and ask them to leave. The rangers will not help with this matter. When you return send the information to the club and we will take it from there.

Some of our members will be going out in July and there are some planned activities scheduled for the last week. So let us know if you are interested in going. Just send an email or call. Then we can work out the details.

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