

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



NCGS FIELD TRIP Gold Country Field Trip Saturday June 13 & 14, 2009

Leader: Ross Smith, Precious Metals Consulting Geologist

This will be an easy two-day ramble (mostly driving) along Highway 49 through the historic Gold Country of California from Placerville to Mariposa. The spring is a beautiful time to see this magnificent countryside of our Golden State, replete with green hills, running streams, wildflowers, and superb rock exposures.

Because of the strange social policies of this State, there are no remaining working gold mines. However, there are certain sites where we can view the internal workings of a real gold mine, and these are well documented and generally adequately guided. Some have a modest fee. On day one we will do an underground tour of the Gold Bug mine in Placerville, and a surface tour of the Kennedy Mine in Jackson. As we proceed along Highway 49 we will view the great Melones Fault, also known as the Mother Lode, at a number of locations. We will see numerous gold sites, towns, and historical residues. Just south of Angels Camp we will pull into the Glory Hole Recreation area where we will camp. There is small fee of \$18 (\$9 for seniors) for use of this California State Recreation Area. Hot showers, fire pits, etc. Quite a pleasant place. The NCGS will put on a barbeque dinner. Bring your own breakfast.

On day two we will start early. We will view the Carson Hill gold mine (now an operating rock quarry—a good story here!); the New Melones reservoir (fault-defined), the Columbia limestone placer deposits near Sonora; the Table Mountain (with numerous drift mines—now abandoned) and (from a distance) the open-pit Harvard Mine near Jamestown; the Mocassin Creek placer tailings (miles of them); an abandoned Mariposite quarry (good collecting point for this California mineral); and the abandoned Virginia Mine (careful-open shafts) near Coulterville. We will continue along Highway 49, looking at various exposures and abandoned mine remains. Time permitting we will walk about ¾ of a mile along an old haul road to view the remains of the Josephine Mine. Around mid-day we arrive at the California State Mineralogy Museum near Mariposa. After lunch in town, we may visit the old Stamp Mill in town. We then go west on Highway 140 to the Dial Rock Shop. Gold panning for those interested, lots of rocks to buy and view, and good exposures along the highway. Then return to Danville (2 hours).

For those who cannot do the two days, or do not wish to camp, they could return to Danville directly from Angels Camp at the end of the first day. For those who hate camping, there are several pleasant motels in Angels Camp—only about 4 miles from our campsite. Our guide is an active commercial gold prospector, a member of the NCGS, and a peripatetic wanderer. He holds a BS in Engineering, with a minor in Geology, and a MS in Geophysics. He spent 30 years in international oil exploration, and for the last 10 years has been a consulting and practicing geologist in precious metals. He will give brief explanations on gold origin, occurrence, and recovery from his modest store of knowledge.

*******Field Trip Logistics*******

THIS FIELD TRIP WILL BE LIMITED TO 30 PEOPLE.

Cost: \$50/person

Time & Departure: Depart precisely at 8:00 am from Danville Park and Ride (Sycamore Valley Road at I-680) June 13, 2009. Alternatively, or if late, meet us at the Gold Bug Park (aka Bedford Park) in Placerville at 10:30. Call me on my cell phone at 707-548-3268 if you have any problems.

*******REGISTRATION FORM (Gold Country Field Trip)*******

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone (day): _____ Phone (evening): _____

Lunch and Dinner: Regular: _____ Vegetarian: _____ (Please check one) Check Amount: _____

Please mail a check made out to NCGS to: **Rob Nelson, 269 College View Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928**

Carpooling is suggested for this fieldtrip. Please let us know if you can provide a van and NCGS can reimburse your gasoline expenses. Questions: e-mail: rlngeology@sbcglobal.net Phone: (707) 795-8090 (evening) (707) 548-3268 (day).