

QUARTERLY EXPLORER

The Voice of Nevada Exploration

Newsletter of the Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition

April 2020 Vol. 1 Issue 2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAVE SHADDRICK

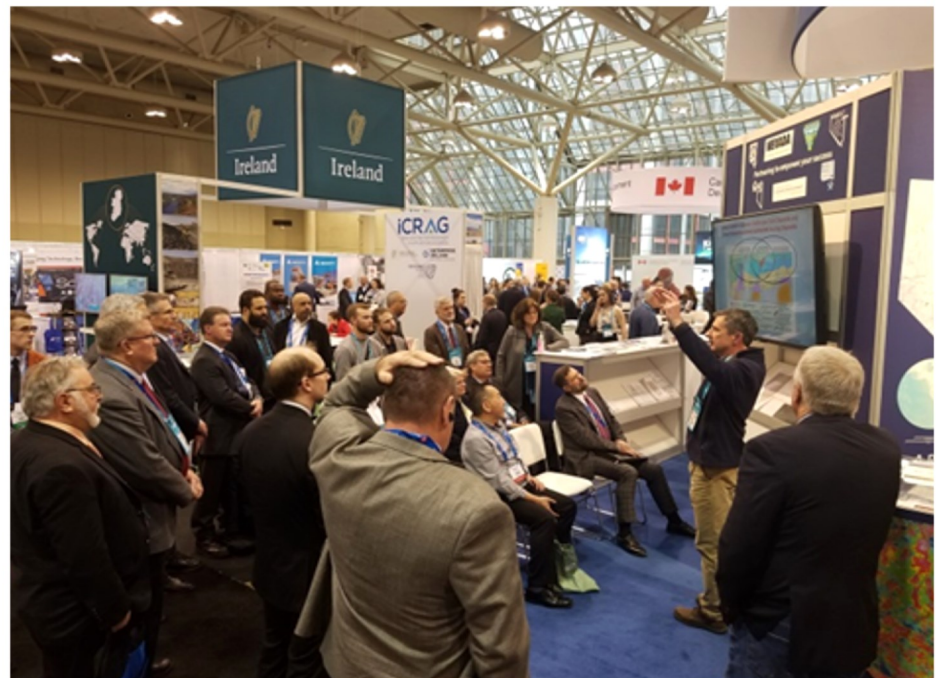
Well, here we are fighting the coronavirus pandemic and still trying to maintain some semblance of normality. Our monthly Operating Committee meetings have always had a significant number of call-in participants and now, for the foreseeable future, it will be 100% call-in. We will continue to monitor and respond to the many threats to our industry, and you are probably not surprised that the pandemic hasn't slowed them down much. With the ban on meetings, I expect to see an upsurge in editorials, blogs and press releases promoting the many seemingly "good" ideas that have very negative impacts on mineral exploration. Sneaking things in with emergency legislation seems to be a popular game.

Shortly after our last Newsletter (January 2020) we went to the AME Roundup in Vancouver, B.C. and hosted our traditional Nevada Explorers Lounge. Our participation was a bit better than last year, and quite a few of our members were able to use the lounge to promote their companies and services as well as meeting with investors and clients. Once again, the Geological Society of

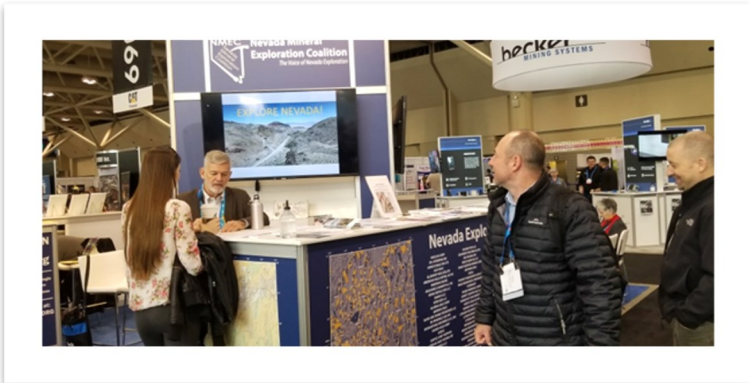
Nevada was a major participant, and we thank them for their support and for Laura's help during the event. Although I believe the lounge was a great success, it is an ongoing challenge to increase the awareness of our presence to conference attendees. We get better every year.

In early March we took part in the Nevada "pavilion" at the Prospector's and Developer's Association of Canada convention in Toronto. This is a major effort by multiple Nevada entities, led by the

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Dr. John Muntean regales an international audience at PDAC with the wonders of Nevada geology and mineral deposits.



The NMEC display at PDAC attracts attention and Steve Green provides information on our members companies, services and projects

Nevada Division of Minerals, to showcase Nevada’s exploration and mining industries and potential. NMEC, GSN and NDOM had the major displays with support from NvMA, and BLM. Nevada focused presentations were a real highlight and attracted significant attention.

The NMEC crew; Steve Green, Ruth Carraher and I, just made it back from Toronto before the pandemic closed everything down. To date, I’ve only heard of three positive Covid-19 tests on PDAC participants: a guy from Sudbury and two people from Toronto. My bet is that PDAC just can’t gather that data. The PDAC was a success.

Our current membership drive has resulted in an increase in membership for 2020, and with luck (and hard work) we may be able to match our membership record of a few years ago. If you have friends or colleagues who are not part of the Coalition, please encourage them to join us in this ongoing effort to “Preserve and Promote” the exploration industry of Nevada.

A major impact of the pandemic is the postponement of the 2020 Geological Society of Nevada Symposium. It will now be held in

mid-May of 2021 and NMEC will participate at that time with an explorer’s lounge as planned.

I hope all of you are well and getting through this terrible event as well as possible.

Editor’s Notes

The NMEC newsletter is distributed to our membership, and therefore members of the Board and Operating Committee (BOC) will note many redundancies from the several emails received during the quarter. Therefore, the BOC can use these newsletters as CliffsNotes.

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The Navy has stimulated extensive public commentary as a result of the proposed expansion of the Naval Air Station Fallon Range Training Complex after releasing the final environmental analysis and have selected Alternative 3 as the preferred option. For once, all interested parties seem to be on the same page. They are opposed to the apparent overreach by the Navy, albeit for different reasons. The proposal would expand the facility by 600,000 acres in Churchill, Mineral, Pershing, and Nye counties. The dialog continues and, in the end, Congress will have the final say. Stay tuned as the process moves forward. The final EIS and Record of Decision can be found at www.FRTCModernization.com.

The BLM is proposing the construction of 11,000 miles of “strategic fuel breaks” in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, *Continued on page 3..*

California, Utah, and Nevada. The idea is to reduce the spread of wild fires and protect critical areas. The question is, how much Sage Grouse habitat will be destroyed and will they clear pinion and juniper trees to compensate for the loss of habitat? This is a requirement in many exploration/mining permits.

Dan Patterson, BLM ecologist and Whistleblower, filed a complaint against the BLM Battle Mountain office and District Manager Doug Furtado. The accusation is that Furtado abused his authority by fast-tracking mining, and oil and gas drilling projects. Specifically, Patterson sites projects in the Monte Cristo Range that are partly in bighorn sheep habitat, the Tiehm's Buckwheat near Silver Peak at Rhyolite Ridge, and pushing through the permit and EIS for the Gemfield mine development. At this point there has been no comment from the BLM. Debra Struhsacker presented a "set the record straight" response to Patterson's allegations in the Your Turn column in the March 24 RGJ. Great summary of the facts Debra, thanks.

Also, in the ["Your Turn" column in the Feb. 16 edition of the Reno Gazette Journal](#), Mike Kazmierski (CEO EDawn) spelled out all the reasons why the Truckee Meadows land bill is "good for our community". Of course, that good is for the developers. There was no mention of other interested parties, of which there are many. Several groups have come out in opposition to parts, or all, of the draft bill. Recently, Representative Amodei has introduced several northern Nevada land bills in Congress.

NEMA and the Nevada Mining Association sent a joint position letter on the Truckee Meadows land bill to Mr. Dylan Shaver, Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Reno commenting on the proposal. [View Letter](#)

Tom Callicrate, Kevin Conway and Elizabeth Zbinden produced a status report on the several land bills to be considered and [it can be found on the NMEC website](#).

NEW EXPLORATION AND MINING DEVELOPMENTS

Remember in the distant past when there were mining companies that tackled smaller near surface oxidized/leachable gold deposits? This gave the explorer a home for modest discoveries. Those days may be returning. Several such deposits have gone into production, or are in the planning stages. Americas Gold and Silver Corp has put Relief Canyon back into production, joining Gold Resource's Isabell Pearl and Fiore Gold's Pan mines. Alio Gold continues to mine Florida Canyon and Hycroft Mining is reorganizing the mine of the same name to bring it back to production.

With the retirement of Dana Bennett, the Nevada Mining Association has hired Tyre Gray as President. Mr. Gray has a background as a lobbyist representing several Nevada organizations.

PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The BLM has prepared the final EIS for the Coeur Rochester and Packard mines expansion, which would extend the mine life through 2033.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Great Basin Rendezvous is planned for September 11-13 at the Royal Peacock mine site. The location is about 38 miles west southwest of Denio, NV, on the eastern margin of the Sheldon Wildlife Refuge. More information will be forthcoming.

The NMEC annual meeting is tentatively planned for Monday and Tuesday October 19 and 20, 2020 at the Atlantis Hotel and Casino in Reno. There will be more details and email blasts as details become available.

FINAL WORDS

Several of this year's presidential candidates, past and present, have made comments about plans to increase restrictions, or outright ban exploration and development of minerals on public lands. While NMEC, and this editor, do not indorse any specific candidate, it is important for the membership to closely scrutinize all the candidates' position on our industry and make your feelings known.

Finally, with the closing, and restricted hours of operation of governmental offices, it is important to be cognizant of the ability to file and maintain claims and permits. Early may always be better.

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Contact Us

To join as a member, to renew your membership, or for more information about the NMEC, please visit us on the web at:

www.nvmec.org

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About the NMEC

The Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition (NMEC) is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan coalition of small businesses and individuals engaged in, or in support of, mineral exploration and development activities in the State. Our Mission Statement: To Preserve and Promote the Exploration Industry of Nevada.

Our Mission

To Preserve and Promote the Nevada Exploration Industry