



GSSN HIGHGRADER

Issues 3 Vol. GO-XXXIII APRIL 2000

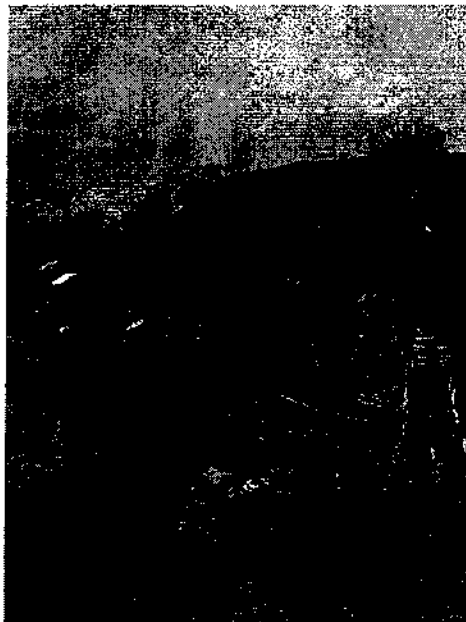
The Official Monthly Newsletter Publication of the Gold Searcher's of Southern Nevada, Inc. A not-for profit Nevada Corp.

Welcome Message From The New President

As the new President, I look forward to meeting each and every member. With the help of the Board, we are looking into some new ideas and growth. I ask for your support, blessing and patience.

Let's have a great time, big fun and help others in the Club learn more about prospecting.

Also if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me. If you take the time to call, I'll listen. Frank



Working At A GSSN Claim

GSSN OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

FRANK MAHONEY

VICE PRESIDENT

SAM JOHNSON

TREASURER

SUSAN BENGE 6

SECRETARY

BRIDGET POPE 2

MEMBERSHIP

GREG OLSON 3

LIBRARIAN

DOUG PARKER 6

EDUCATION

DANIEL GREEN 7

EXPLORATION & CLAIMS

GREG OLSON

NEWSLETTER

GREG OLSON

FROM OUR SECRETARY

Remember as a general rule to always bring lots of water and shade to the outings. Most of our events and outings are held in remote areas in the desert. It can be very hot and dry, and neither water nor shade is guaranteed accessible. Each member or family is responsible for his/her own.

Please get involved with the club! We all share a common purpose. We need volunteers to assist with activities and outings. Please, we ask the members of this organization to band together and help out so that we can have the most fun and interactive non-profit club in Nevada. Volunteering not only helps your club out, but it also provides a fabulous way to meet other people with the same interests.

Thank You, and ENJOY YOUR CLUB!

Bridget

GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETINGS

APRIL	15	OUTING AT SEC. 34 CLAIM
MAY	3	GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING
MAY	10	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MAY	13&14	WILLIE OUTING SEC. 28 CLAIM
MAY	20&21	GPA GOLD SHOW AT PRIMM
JUNE	24	OUTING PAHRUMP CLAIM

**GENERAL MEETING
April 5, 2000**

The meeting called to order at 7:10 p. m. by Doug Parker, President. First on the agenda was to introduce new members and guests. Motion was passed to accept the minutes as published in the Highgrader. Welcome to our club!

As tonight was election night, acknowledgements to new board members were in order. Sam Johnson and Frank Mahoney were the candidates for president. The winner was appointed President, of course, and the runner up was appointed Vice President. No other board seats required any rallying, as there was only one candidate for each position. Both presidential candidates gave a short speech regarding their intentions for improving the club, and what to expect from each if elected president of GSSN.

Election results and new board members are as follows:

Frank Mahoney- President
Sammy Johnson- Vice President
Susan Benge- Treasurer
Bridget Pope- Secretary
Welcome new board members and good luck! We look forward to an interesting year.

Farewell to our previous board members, and special thanks for your efforts and participation in the logistics of our club! You did a great job.

Doug Parker- President
Roland LeClerc- Vice President
Donna – Treasurer (may she rest in peace)
Leilani - Secretary

Doug mentioned extreme gratitude to Gregg Olsen for creating such a fabulous website! It looks great! We have already had over 10,000 hits since its creation. Go to www.goldsearchers.com for information regarding all activities, outings, and other social events, as well as pictures from past events and other pertinent GSSN information.

Dan Green said there will be approximately 1,000 children eager to learn about panning for gold at the Rock and Gem Show at the Henderson Convention Center on Friday, April 14, from 9 am until noon. Dan needs help with sharing the excitement of seeing real gold in pans with children of all ages. Volunteers needed to display a pan with gold flakes to children, as well as to help set up on Friday and tear down on Sunday. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Dan if you could be so kind as to help at 795-0383.

There is an outing scheduled for April 15. This should be a healthy and reassuring way to spend the ever dreaded TAX DAY!! Reassuring, of course, if you strike it rich and find that nugget. (Is it mandatory to inform the IRS of all findings?)

Willie said not to forget about the BIG outing scheduled for May 13 & 14, rain or shine. We will have a grill fare on the evening of the 13th, including some sort of delicacy such as burgers or ribs. On the morning of the 14th, we will have a breakfast grill as well. The menu, unfortunately, at this time, is undecided. There will also be a treasure hunt. All possible proceeds will go to GSSN to benefit our next big outing. Please contact Willie Byron (wbyron@yahoo.com) to sign up, as spaces are filling quickly. Sam Johnson has volunteered to pull the trailer to Willie's and they will load the tables, grill and tent. We will post all information on the website as soon as we make definite arrangements. Volunteers are needed to assist with the big event. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a GPAA Gold Show in Primm May 20-21. Details will be provided later.

The annual picnic will be held on August 5 at the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area in Kyle Canyon instead of Lee Canyon. Details will be provided

(Continued on page 3)

**BOARD MEETING
April 12, 2000**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll call held, present were:

Frank Mahoney – President
Sam Johnson – Vice President
Susan Benge - Treasurer
Bridget Pope – Secretary
Willie Biron – Member
Mort LeMonde – Member
Brad Fine – Member
Daniel Green – Edu. Committee
Greg Olsen – Newsletter, Membership and Claims Committees
Doug Parker – Librarian
Roland LeClerc - Member
Leilani LeClerc – Member

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Willie, Doug and Gordon went to visit the plot of land that we are evaluating for purchase. It is a great 20-acre plot of land. Frank said the Land Committee must contact the owners ASAP and obtain a proposition and outline the details of the purchase. Opinions stated the SW corner seems best, as the other side of the plot is BLM, as this would be prime parking land. Greg Olson stated that he has discussed the plan with an attorney. According to the attorney, there is a bill that has passed the House Of Representatives regarding mineral rights. The bill concerns the government having the right to prohibit the taking of minerals from land, both public and private. In other words, there may be no mineral rights available, if this bill becomes law. The final decision was to work out the details and perhaps we need to put the idea on the back burner temporarily until we figure out how and if we can obtain the mineral rights. It would be pointless for the club to purchase prop-

Pauls, Jim

March General Meeting Minutes (Continued)

MCCAW SCHOOL OF MINES

Let me take the opportunity to thank all the Club Members who have given so unselfishly of their time to the McCaw School Mining project. YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE! To date over 12,000 students have joined the mine and learn to pan for gold. Your continued support does make a difference.

MAY 2000

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30	10:00
31	10:30

For more information call
DAVE

later, as they surface.

A committee has been appointed to discuss the purchase of property near the area known as "King Tut" off Pierce Ferry Road near Meadeview in northern Arizona. The property is suspected to be a great site for gold prospecting. No decisions have yet been made, although everyone at the meeting seems to strongly favor the purchase.

GSSN is currently attempting to negotiate a deal to charter through GPAA, which will allow members the ability to add claims. You can join GPAA through GSSN if you are interested.

Bill Grant from Chino Valley, AZ brought his antique shaker and hand made dry washer to the meeting for Show and Tell. The shaker was in prime condition. The dry washer was fabricated from an ironing board, a wheelchair, a satellite dish, and a boat motor. It could be powered by either electric or manually hand cranked. What a concoction!! Great job, Bill, and thanks for sharing with us. We plan to conduct a Show and Tell at all meetings under Frank's administration, and this was a fabulous beginning. Feel free to bring your neat prospecting stuff along to share with us at the meetings!!

Finally, the winners of the door prizes are as follows:

- Jan Sprague – Pick and Shovel
- Madelaine Dayton won twice – gold nugget and propane camping stove
- Mark Kaufman – gold nugget
- Ronald McDonald – gold nugget
- Harry Reiter won twice – first aid kit and calculator
- Phil Selman - camping tool
- Herman Theel – propane stove
- Marguerite Riddle – government blanket
- Joe Bahde – binoculars

- Sammy Johnson – fanny pack
- Pete Tedeschi – Coleman lantern
- BooCoo - Coleman lantern
- Marsha Rogers-Hand won twice – magnifier and calculator
- Peter Hand – compass
- Dave Weaver – shovel
- Gary Emory – utility pouch
- Tom Pepper – Coleman lantern
- Veronica Johnson – magnet
- Kelly Powell – mattress, which she chose to donate back to GSSN (thanks Kelly)
- Amber picked the tickets out of the bucket and GSSN gave her a necklace for her efforts.

GSSN also provided \$5 to the hostess for a small tip for her efforts with the coffee and potato chips. (Frank apologizes about the potato chips and lack of cookies.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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Gold Nuggets & Claims Bought And Sold

7/2000

WHO NEEDS THE BLM?

By: Greg Olson

The Bureau of Land Management (the "Bureau") was formed by Congress in 1946. Supervised by the Department of The Interior, the Bureau's purpose is to maintain responsibility for the balanced management of the public lands and resources and their values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American people. The Bureau currently is responsible for the management of 264 million acres of land. This is approximately one-eighth of all the land in the United States. The Bureau also manages an additional 300 million acres of sub-surface mineral resources (Legislative Counsel Bureau 1997).

Most of the land the Bureau manages is located in the western United States, including Alaska, and are dominated by extensive grasslands, forests, high mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts. The Bureau manages a wide variety of resources and uses, including energy and minerals; timber; forage; wild horse and burro populations; fish and wildlife habitat; wilderness areas; archaeological, and historical sites; and other natural heritage values.

According to Mike Moran, Land Manager for the Southern Nevada BLM office in Las Vegas, "The Bureau recognizes the Nation's need for a domestic source of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands. The BLM manages land for a myriad of these commercial activities in addition to personal recreation uses." The Bureau manages valuable natural re-

sources including energy and mineral commodities, forest products, grazing forage, and special uses such as rights-of-way for pipelines and transmission lines.

Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield (Arizona Mining Summit 1999). This is a combination of uses that take into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. Energy and minerals generate the highest commercial production values. The public lands produce 33% of the Nation's coal, 8% of its natural gas, and 5% of its oil. These lands also produce a large portion of the Nation's fertilizer minerals, mineral materials, gold, silver, and other metals. In addition to overseeing activities on the Nation's public lands, the Bureau provides technical supervision of mineral development on Indian lands.

The Bureau is the heart of the Habitat Conservation Plan. This Plan relates to private land and protection of species. The Habitat Conservation Plan originated under the Endangered Species Act as a way to provide regulatory relief for private landowners that have endangered species on their land. (blm.gov). The Bureau has become more creative and more innovative with land management, and with the protection of entire ecosystems that don't know political boundaries the Bureau of Land Management is playing an active role in the protection of endangered species on private lands.

In 1998 the Bureau became responsible for the manage-

ment of a National Monument. The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is a dramatic landscape that is rich in natural and human history. Extending across 1.9 million acres of Utah public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the Monument represents a unique combination of archaeological, historical, paleontological, geological, and biological resources.

Through balanced management of the public lands and resources our future generations will be able to enjoy recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish, wildlife and wilderness from coast to coast.

Who needs the Bureau of Land Management? We all do!

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)

erty if we are unable to obtain or hold mineral rights of the land in question.

The issue of non-profit organization tax exemption of purchases was brought up. Greg said that in order to take advantage of this exemption, we must file monthly reports with the Government subjecting our Club to fines and audits if we miss a filing or error in a filing. We really do not purchase enough materials to make the hassle of the paperwork worth the effort.

Doug mentioned that he would like three independent people to balance our financial records before turning them over to the new Treasurer. Frank suggested a utilizing a CPA service. The cost of the service would be too high based on the amount of work required. We have been doing our own records since 1978 because there is not a whole lot of transactions. It would take approximately 10 minutes to complete the task.

The issue regarding potato chips being served at the meetings came up. The hotel supplies potato chips, coffee and soft drinks included in the price of renting the room. People seem to be aggravated about having to eat potato chips with coffee, as the two are not complimentary to the palate.

Willie is still researching the purchase of a new, high tech GPS device to add to our library of equipment. He was authorized in the February meeting to make the purchase on behalf of the Club.

New Business:

Welcome new board members, and sincere gratitude to old members. Motion to provide a gift of bronzed

gold pans to members who have provided extended service to the club, as well as plaques for other exiting board members:

Susan Benge: 7 years in various positions

Doug Parker: 6 years as President

Greg Olsen: 6 years in various positions

Dan Green: 5 years as Vice President and Education Committee

Leilani LeClerc: 3 years as Secretary

The motion was passed.

Once again we discussed the timing of Highgrader publication, There are complications regarding the timing between receipt of meeting notes to formatting and approving, getting them to the printer and finally to the mail. The second Wednesday of each month is the deadline to turn in all ads, articles, notes, etcetera to Greg for timely publication.

Frank received two complaints regarding the member meeting. The first complaint regarded smoking. We ask that if you must smoke during the meeting, please do so at the bar, according to the designated rules. There is no ventilation in the meeting room, and some people are allergic to second hand smoke. We must respect all members. The second complaint regarded the setup of the room. A motion was passed to have the ticket sales sit on the opposite side of the room at a table strictly for the use of raffle ticket sales, badge disbursement and membership payments. The Sign in table will be located near the employee break room so the line must form around the fence. These changes will prevent the chaotic conglomeration of people blocking the entrance by the stairs, and will

(Continued on page 8)

MEETING

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OUR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS HELD AT NEVADA PALACE HOTEL & CASINO 2ND FLOOR LOCATED AT 5255 S. BOULDER HIGHWAY, LAS VEGAS, NV ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM ALL GUEST AND PROSPECTORS ARE WELCOMED. THE MAP TO THIS LOCATION IS LOCATED IN THE REAR OF THIS PUBLICATION.

GSSN BOARD MEETING

GSSN BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE VALLEY VISTA MOBILE HOME PARK RE BUILDING ON CABANA DRIVE. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 PM ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. TAKE DESERT INN TO CABANA AND TURN LEFT GO 1/4 MILE AND TURN LEFT INTO VALLEY VISTA MOBILE HOME PARK. REC BLDG. IS ON LEFT JUST INSIDE GATE.

CLAIM'S COMMITTEE MEETING

CLAIM'S COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE VALLEY VISTA MOBILE HOME PARK. THE MEETINGS ARE AT 8:00 PM. THIS MEETING IS THE SAME LOCATION AS THE BOARD MEETING AND ON THE SAME NIGHT.

**THE CLUB'S PHONE
NUMBER : 393-GOLD (-4653)**

**PLEASE CALL TO GET HELP
ON ANY MATTER.**

**THIS IS YOUR CLUB.
PLEASE WRITE THE CLUB WITH
ANY COMPLAINTS OR
RECOMMENDATIONS**

A Note To Our Guests And Potential Fellow Prospectors

What's gold prospecting all about anyway? Simple. One day a guy goes out along the creek or a river, and he sees someone squatting down by the water. The guy will be twirling a pan around with a bunch of dirt and rocks in it. You watch as the rocks go out one by one, then the small gravel, then the dirt, and finally, as you peek over the guy's shoulder, you notice that there's just some old black colored sand left in the pan. But then, all of a sudden, there's this glitter in amongst the black, and you realize this guy has found some real gold. Now you are all excited, and ask if the guy will let you try. It's not as easy as he made it look. There must be some tricks to this panning thing. Anyway, you finally get down to the black sand, and there in the bottom of the pan is a picker size piece of gold. The guy who let you use his pan says he hasn't found one that big all summer, but you can barely hear him. You see, you have been bitten by the gold bug, and in that instant, you are under the control of gold fever. You'll never be the same again. Every time you go past a hill, or a wash, or a gorge, your mind will be spinning with the question, "I wonder if there's gold in

there?" You'll go by a creek or a river, and you'll want to pull over to try a few test pans to see how much gold is in there. Face it! You are a gold prospector now. The fever has taken full effect. From now on you'll be chasing empty white 5 gallon buckets that you see along the highway. You'll buy pans, classifiers, shovels, gloves, and maybe a sluice, and you'll carry them with you where ever you go so you can stop to pan any time it looks like a good spot. I've got news for you prospector, they all look like good spots. What seems like a hobby for some people becomes a quest.

**JOIN THE GOLD
SEARCHER'S OF
SOUTHERN NEVADA
AND FIND OUT!**

We will look and look time after time in hopes of finding just one big nugget that will give us bragging rights for a while. We'll keep a lot of little stuff along the way, but now we are hooked on panning until we find that big one.

This serious gold fever infection spreads to your family and friends. It does another thing too. It brings you all

closer together as you all work toward that common goal, finding the nugget. You'll find yourself enjoying each others company. You'll have great conversations with your family members while you all commonly look for the big one. In short, you will be acting all family together. It's a good thing. The gold you find is almost as good as the time you have spending the day or week-end with your family. And you are going to have others come along to watch, and to ask you how to do it. Now you have to go and make friends with other prospectors. Just wait until you attend an exciting camp-out during our weekend outings at a Club Claim. We'll be sitting around a campfire all night telling stories, including the ones about the one pound gold nugget found and then lost up in the hills.

Well, what is it all about anyway?

You will get hooked. We all do! Welcome to our Club!



Gold Panning Techniques

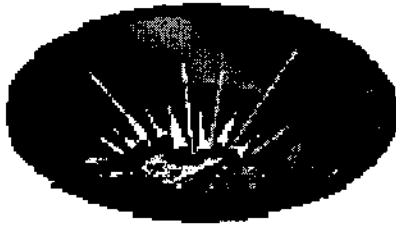
HOW PANNING WORKS

Gold panning uses one of the science lessons that everyone learned in school, but never thought they would use, called specific gravity. This is basically the weight relationship of every thing compared to water. Water has a specific gravity of 1. Gold has a specific gravity of around 19. So gold is 19 times heavier than water. So what? Well when you put dirt, sand, and rocks in a gold pan with water and shake it around the heaviest material in the pan goes to the bottom. If there is any gold, lead, or gemstones in that dirt it's now sitting in the bottom of the pan. More latter on how to get it out of the pan. This may look basic for those out there that know how to pan already, but hang on it will get more interesting.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

With all the new and more modern equipment now a days you would think that the prospector wouldn't need a gold pan. Panning is the quickest and easiest tool to use to find gold & heavier minerals- even diamonds. Gold pans are mainly used for testing and for clean up of concentrates. To get started you will need a tube of water, a pan, and some sand. Since not everyone has gold sitting around I suggest using fishing split shot. They have a specific gravity of about 12. They are lighter than gold but work good for practice. If you can learn to keep them gold won't be a problem. Try 1/4" to 3/8" size and flatten them out. You can use any type of sand, but to start with use play box sand. Fill the pan 3/4 full of sand. Put the split shot down into the sand about 1/2". With one hand on each side of the pan submerge it under the water. You may develop your own motion as you practice, but to start

with go side to side. the speed for the side to side motion is important. It needs to be as fast as possible with out loosing sand. What this does is make the sand fluid, so the stratification can take place. The side to side motion should be about 1 1/2" to 2" in length. It should make the sand look like it is dancing under water. Always keep the pan under the water. Shake for 10 to 15 seconds then stop. Now it is time to wash off some sand. With the pan still under the water tilt it



slightly away from you. Lift up and let the water wash a little sand over the edge, submerge and lift 4 times. Submerge the whole pan and shake like before. Keep repeating these two motions gradually increasing the angle on the pan each time more sand is washed out. When you get down to four or five tablespoons of material left in the pan it is time to see if you kept the split shot. Put 1/2" of water in the pan. Tip the edge of the pan towards you down slightly. Slowly rotate the pan so the water goes in a circular motion. The lead shot should be in the corner of the pan. If it's there great you did it right. If it's not keep practicing, you'll get it. By using washed play box sand you won't have much black sand. More discussion on black sand later. Well that's the basics of panning and how to do it. Practice on the lead shot until you get a better idea of the speed for settling and the angle for washing. One more thing- practice, practice, practice. With enough practice you will develop your own style.

EQUIPMENT

Pans either come in metal or plastic. Metal pans are more durable and are heavier size for size, can be used for cooking, and they rust. Plastic pans are, lighter (yes they do float), have more gold trapping designs, won't rust, come in many different colors that make it easier to see the gold. I use mainly two pans- a green 3" deep by 14" diameter and a black 2" deep by 10" diameter. the green pan is the main testing pan and the competition pan. It has the inset grooves which help catch the gold. The black pan is mainly used for cleaning up concentrates. Both have the wide bottom design. Go to a dealer and look at all the different styles they have or send for a catalog. Other items you will need while out panning are a sucker tube to take your gold out of the pan; it's easier than using your finger. A small bottle with a cap called a vial. A screen to size the material you put into your pan, which you can buy or make. A shovel to dig with. The proper work cloths, gloves and boots or shoes. Bucket or buckets to haul dirt with if you are not near water. Again remember panning is mainly a testing tool, so don't expect to find lots of gold every time you go out. However for a few hours of enjoyment on the river or in the field it is still a great recreational past time. You won't believe how excited you will be when that first nugget shows up in your pan. That's called gold fever and once you have it your hooked. Another important point, when you get a new pan is to break it in before using it. For a metal pan you will need to heat it to get the oil off of it. To do this requires putting it in a fire, when done it will look blue. For a plastic pan you will need to use sand paper or a cooking pan scrubber to rough up the smooth surface.

(Continued on page 16)

**Board Meeting Minutes
(Cont)**

(Continued from page 5)

provide a bit more organization for the sign in area. The motion was passed.

There was a discussion regarding expenses for social events, such as our annual picnic.

Doug said his next class for Parks and Recreation is scheduled for Thursday, May 10 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The class will be held at Paradise Park 4775 Harrison Road.

The new Board Members of GSSN would love some feedback from the club members regarding any suggestions for improvement and/or expectations from the club. Please email any suggestions you may have or drop suggestions in the box provided at all meetings. We will generate a suggestion card and display them on the tables at all future member meetings. We need to know your opinions regarding how we can encourage more active involvement from our club members.

Daniel Boone will be hosting mid-week outings for those of our members who work on the weekends. Details will be provided as concrete actions are taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.
Secretary, Bridget

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**GOLD
SEARCHERS of
SOUTHERN
NEVADA, INC.**

A Not-for profit Nevada
Corporation

*What is the Gold Searchers
of Southern Nevada?*

It is a local, non profit, Las Vegas Club comprised of members from all walks of humanity. Be it young "Greenhorns" or "Seasoned Prospectors." Some members are experts in such fields as Geology, Mineralogy, and even Mine Engineering. Some are Couchpotatologists. But most of all, members have a common love of their freedom to explore the "Great Outdoors."

GOLD FEVER spurs a lot of us to get out and extract enjoyment out of our mother earth, and learn more about her hidden wealth. There's a wealth of knowledge to be obtained, and friendships to be made. Lest we forget, the wealth of excitement in finding that beautiful, yellowish metal called **GOLD!**

Though finding **GOLD** is not our sole priority (we do public service for the mining industry, such as teaching scouts, and public school

(702) 393-GOLD

students how to pan gold), it is, however a lot of what we are about.

We are a fun-loving bunch that welcomes new members, and we gather together on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:45 PM, at **NEVADA PALACE HOTEL AND CASINO, 5255 S. Boulder Highway, Las Vegas** We voice our opinions as one on such matters as land use, and mining laws. Also, to help others who have become aware of our recreation or livelihood. We teach how to use mineral rights without abusing them, and work to protect our rights to continue in our prospecting interests. The majority of our members own a Metal Detector. Our Club plans field trips where such an instrument could help unearth that precious metal. Others in our Club put more trust into known gold extracting equipment, such as Dry Washers or Recirculating Sluices. Some of their equipment is handmade, and some of it is store bought. Being in a local Club, such as ours, can help you to see and use a variety of mining equipment first hand in a location known to produce **GOLD.**

Our Club is open for your

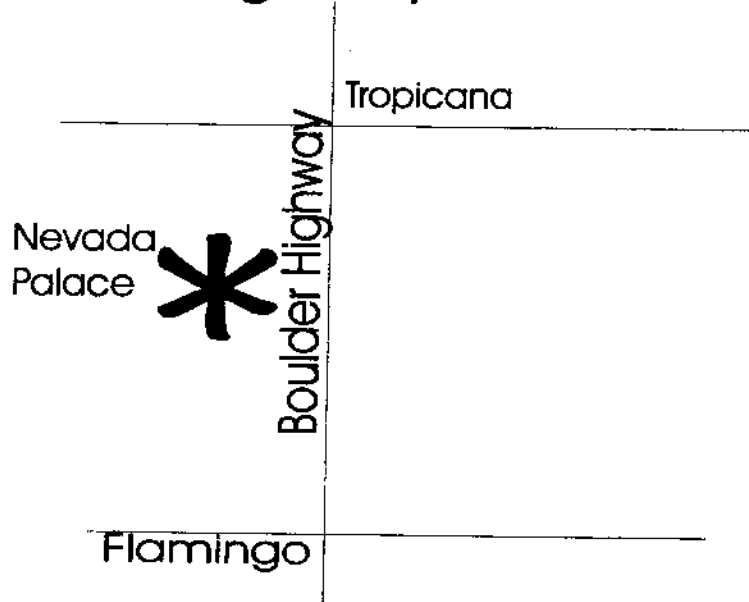
Parker, Denise & Cary

inspection. You may attend **TWO GENERAL MEETINGS** and/or go one **FIELD TRIP** with the **GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA** free of charge. After that, simply join the Club for a mere membership fee of \$35.00 for the first year and \$20.00 each year thereafter. This is a "**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**" which includes all your immediate family. Once you join, you receive the Club's monthly newsletter, **THE HIGHGRADER.** The **HIGHGRADER** contains news from the general and board meetings, upcoming field trip information, articles relating to prospecting, and you may even submit your own articles or place an ad in the Free Classified section for publication. We would love to have you join our Club! A membership application is in this issue for your convenience. Simply complete and enclose your check for \$35.00 then either bring it to our next meeting or mail to us at:

**GSSN
PO Box 96732
Las Vegas, NV 89193**



Meetings held 1st Wed. of each month
at 6:45 pm at Nevada Palace Hotel 2nd Floor
5225 S. Boulder Highway



(Cut Here And Return Bottom With Check)

APPLICATION TO:
GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, INC.

(Important Notice - Please Read Carefully)

Due to the nature of gold prospecting and/or recreational mining activities, you and/or your family are hereby forewarned that it can be dangerous and hazardous. These activities are most often outdoors and often in remote areas. You and your family are responsible for your own safety, Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada, Inc. is not and shall not be held responsible for any and all damages and/or injuries that might occur during any Club activities or events.

Dues are \$35.00 for the first year (single or family), renewable at \$20.00 annually on the month joined. Club name badges or Club hats are \$5.00 each. Make checks payable to "GOLD SEARCHERS."

Bring to meeting or mail to:

Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada
P.O. Box 96732
Las Vegas, NV 89193

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Emergency: _____ E-Mail _____

HOT MEMBER ADVERTISING

This is the new advertising section established for our members who offer products and services. Shop these ads each month and please support our members. If you are interested in advertising your product or service on this page contact **Greg Olson at** Ads are only \$20 for six months. Ads may be customized for you. All ad sizes are approximate and will be resized by the editor to fit the page. Exact sizes or ad placement within the publication are not represented or guaranteed. All advertising may be cancelled at any time by the Club and the Club reserves the right to not accept any advertising.



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"Chucks Gold Trapper"

Revolutionary Hand Dredge

See field test report in April 8

WEGM Newsletter.

This sand pump actually really works. It has a diaphragm check valve built into the bottom cap. This allows you to suck up sand and gold under a rock in a stream and transport it to a bucket or sluice without losing any of your sample. It will suck sample out of a three feet deep hole and lose any of your gold. I also have a crevice tool attachment for the bottom that will allow you to suck up gold out of bedrock crevices under water or extend the "GOLD TRAPPER" from 3-4 1/2 feet. 100% satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. I will guarantee the workmanship and materials of the "GOLD TRAPPER" (used under normal use) for one year. "GOLD TRAPPER" \$30.00, Crevice tool/Extension \$10.00, Shipping and Handling \$6.00.
Chuck Cummins 970-686-2238
or E-Mail: Chuck2238@aol.com

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Cellular 278-9584

MINELAB IS SEEKING

F/T Customer Service person

Required

Experience with metal detectors – Minelab machines and/or others
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 Team Player
 Interest in the Industry

Preferred

Quick Learner
 Understanding of other facets of gold seeking/treasure hunting
 Some Internet/PC skills, Microsoft Office applications
 Physically fit, some lifting required
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 Electronic Troubleshooting

Salary negotiable

If you fit the description above, and have a genuine love of the hobby and the people in it, please forward your resume to:

Att. Lori Owens Minelab USA, Inc. 2700 E. Patrick Lane #11 Las Vegas, NV, 89120



"We make finding GOLD routine!"

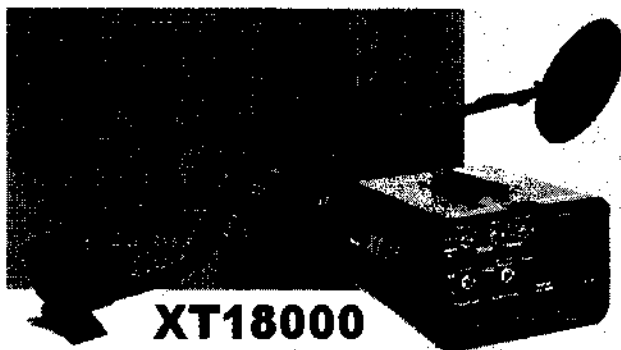
For the absolute best prices on Minelab Detectors *or* if you just want to talk about finding GOLD, CALL "DOC" NOW!

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This striking 4 dew nugget called "South America" was found by Doc in White Hills with an XT18000 on his second trip ever looking for GOLD!

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XT18000

SPRING SPECIAL for GSSN members ONLY!

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 "DOC" accepts Visa, MC, AMEX, Discover, and Dirty ol' Green Stuff!

NEVER Manually Ground Balance your Gold Detector Again!

Turn your XT18000 on, and within 10 seconds, thanks to Minelab's Auto Ground Balance feature, you're ready to hunt! And the XT18000 has an iron discriminate mode so you dig less trash and MORE GOLD!

The Minelab XT18000 has three nugget hunting frequencies: 6.4 kHz for large nuggets, 20 kHz for medium, and the Super Sensitive 60 kHz for tiny gold.

Until now, there's never been a detector made that's so easy to operate that really finds GOLD!

Among the features are:

- Auto Ground Balance and Tracking
- Three nugget hunting frequencies
- Audio Boost to enhance faint signals
- Difficult Soil Switch
- Iron Reject setting
- 10" Elliptical DD coil supplied, Optional: 11" and 8" round
- Battery System Supplied: Nicad with charger and Alkaline backup pack

Things To Do On The *www.goldsearchers.com* Internet Web Site

There are plenty of things to look at and do at the new www.goldsearchers.com web site.

- * **View Club Library List**
- * **Order Club Claim Maps**
- * **Submit Ad For Highgrader**
- * **View Club Claim Updates**
- * **Visit McCaw School of Mines Self Guided Tour**
- * **Request Newsletter & Membership Information**
- * **Hot Prospecting Links**
- * **Education Committee Information**
- * **Sign Our Public Guest Book**
- * **View Drywasher Raffle Update**
- * **Visit On-Line GSSN**
- * **Member Discussion Groups**
- * **View Outing Photos**

This site is designed, developed and scripted by Greg Olson. Please visit the site often as he updates the information daily.

Surfing For Gold

The Gold Searcher's are on the internet. Please visit us at:

www.goldsearchers.com

This is the official web site for the Gold Searcher's of Southern Nevada. We are looking for people to help create content for the web. If you have any information or ideas and would like to participate on the web project please call Greg Olson at

New Officers Elected For 2000

The Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada's yearly elections have come and gone. The brand new GSSN officers and board members are as follows.

Next time you see one of our new board members or officers congratulate them on their new positions!

The President is **Frank Mahoney** who is starting his first term as President. Frank has been a member since 09-01-98.

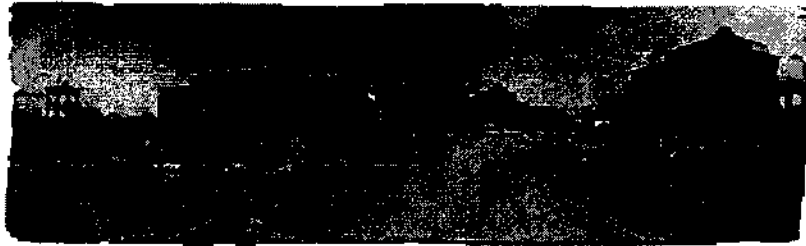
The Vice President is **Sam Johnson**. Sam is a past president (1997) OF THE Club and has been a member since 03-01-95.

The Treasurer is **Susan Benge**. Susan has donated years of loyal service to this Club and has been an active member since 07-01-93.

The Secretary is **Bridget Pope**. Bridget is a new member to our Club and we look forward to her fresh insight.

We welcome the new executive board for the year 2000 and wish them much success in their endeavors with the Gold Searcher's of Southern Nevada.

GOLDFIELD GHOST TOWN



It was a busy bustling little town perched atop a small hill between the mighty Superstition Mountains to the east and the Goldfield Mountains to the west.

The first gold-strike was made in 1892, and it took just a little under a year before the town came to life. One rich strike after another supported the town and approximately 4000 people who lived in the district for five rich years.

The town boasted 3 saloons, a boarding house, general store, blacksmith shop, brewery, meat market and a school house. Just when it looked like the town would outgrow Mesa, the vein faulted, the grade of ore dropped and the town died a slow

painful death. After several unsuccessful attempts to reopen the mines, the town did come to life again from 1910 on and off until 1926.

Today you can come and visit Goldfield. Walk down Main Street, explore the many shops and buildings, tour through the mine, visit the Superstition Mountain/Lost Dutchman Museum, pan for gold, take a narrow gauge train ride or witness an old west gun fight. Spend a fun filled day, rich in history.



WEEKDAY OUTINGS ARE BACK!

Want to go to an outing, but don't have the time on the weekends? Well, we have the answer for you.

Starting on Wednesday, June the 7th., and every Wednesday, I will be going out to

June 7th First Mid-Week Outing

search new land for gold!

All of these trips will be in Nevada, and all within two to three hours of driving time from Las Vegas.

Anyone that wishes to follow along with me can call my home each week and find out where I will be going that week. I will be using a metal detector, and a dry washer. If the weather is bad, I won't go out that day. If you are new to prospecting, I will show you how to use this equipment.

My home phone number is 70.

We hope to see you at an outing soon.

Dan Boone

A Note To Our Guests And Potential Fellow Prospectors

What's gold prospecting all about anyway? Simple. One day a guy goes out along the creek or a river, and he sees someone squatting down by the water. The guy will be twirling a pan around with a bunch of dirt and rocks in it. You watch as the rocks go out one by one, then the small gravel, then the dirt, and finally, as you peek over the guy's shoulder, you notice that there's just some old black colored sand left in the pan. But then, all of a sudden, there's this glitter in amongst the black, and you realize this guy has found some real gold. Now you are all excited, and ask if the guy will let you try. It's not as easy as he made it look. There must be some tricks to this panning thing. Anyway, you finally get down to the black sand, and there in the bottom of the pan is a picker size piece of gold. The guy who let you use his pan says he hasn't found one that big all summer, but you can barely hear him. You see, you have been bitten by the gold bug, and in that instant, you are under the control of gold fever. You'll never be the same again. Every time you go past a hill, or a wash, or a gorge, your mind will be spinning with the question, "I wonder if there's gold in

there?" You'll go by a creek or a river, and you'll want to pull over to try a few test pans to see how much gold is in there. Face it! You are a gold prospector now. The fever has taken full effect. From now on you'll be chasing empty white 5 gallon buckets that you see along the highway. You'll buy pans, classifiers, shovels, gloves, and maybe a sluice, and you'll carry them with you where ever you go so you can stop to pan any time it looks like a good spot. I've got news for you prospector, they all look like good spots. What seems like a hobby for some people becomes a quest.

**JOIN THE GOLD
SEARCHER'S OF
SOUTHERN NEVADA
AND FIND OUT!**

We will look and look time after time in hopes of finding just one big nugget that will give us bragging rights for a while. We'll keep a lot of little stuff along the way, but now we are hooked on panning until we find that big one.

This serious gold fever infection spreads to your family and friends. It does another thing too. It brings you all

closer together as you all work toward that common goal, finding the nugget. You'll find yourself enjoying each others company. You'll have great conversations with your family members while you all commonly look for the big one. In short, you will be acting all family together. It's a good thing. The gold you find is almost as good as the time you have spending the day or week-end with your family. And you are going to have others come along to watch, and to ask you how to do it. Now you have to go and make friends with other prospectors. Just wait until you attend an exciting camp-out during our weekend outings at a Club Claim. We'll be sitting around a campfire all night telling stories, including the ones about the one pound gold nugget found and then lost up in the hills.

Well, what is it all about anyway?

You will get hooked. We all do! Welcome to our Club!



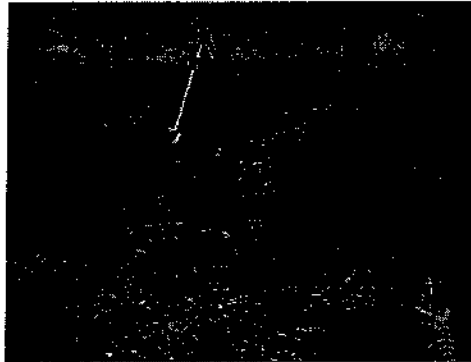
Panning Techniques (Continued)

(Continued from page 7)

COMPETITION PANNING

There are different contests at different locations here in the United States and foreign countries. The three basic types are speed, skill, and dry. I will go into the details of the types used here in Colorado by the state club. Speed contests are set up to find out how fast a contestant can recover the pieces of gold from a pan of sand. Our set up is to take a 10" metal gold pan (new and no rust or oil) fill it with wet sand. Set a board on top of it that has 8 holes. Place a 3/8" gold nugget into each hole. Remove the board and using a wooden dowel with a stop set a 1" push the nuggets into the sand. The pan is then set on the edge of the panning trough. The trough has a screen with 1/4" mesh for catching lost nuggets. Timers with stop watches time the panner. The time starts when the panner touches the pan. The person washes out the sand and must either trap the nuggets and wash out all the sand or pick up the nuggets and place them in a vial and put a lid on it. The time stops when the panner sets the pan down with either the nuggets or vile in the pan and yells GOLD!! There is a 10 second penalty for each lost nugget, and disqualification if you loose 4 or more nuggets. A competitive time will be between 20 to 30 seconds. Skill panning is basically the ability to find small pieces of gold in a pan of sand. Each contestant is given a vial with 10 gold flakes, 10 mesh or 1/16". The judge then mixes the gold flakes into the sand. Each contestant will count their own flakes before they are placed into the pan. Beginning with the pan of gold and sand each panner must remove the material, except the gold, by panning. The panner will place the gold in a vial of water using only the fingers to retrieve the gold. The panner will then screw the lid on the vial.

After this they will rinse the pan out, place the vial in the pan, yell "GOLD" and proceed to the judging area. There is a 5 minute time limit. Five or more lost flakes is a disqualification. A 30 second penalty for not having the lid screwed on



the vial. There must be more gold than sand in the vial. If there is more sand than gold this will result in a disqualification. The judge will empty the contents of each vial into the pans and count the flakes. The panner with the highest number of flakes proceeds to the front of the line. In the event of a tie in any position, the panner that was at the judging station first wins that position. On this one a competitive time

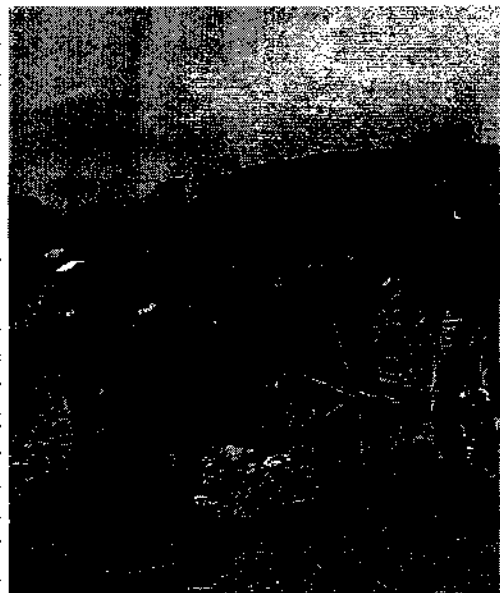
is 90 to 120 seconds. Dry Panning uses a plastic pan and dry sand. The pan used is a Garret Positive Gravity Trap Pan provided by the contest committee. Eight pea sized nuggets, provided by the contest committee will be placed in a 64 ounce jar of dry sand. The jar is half filled. The nuggets are placed in the jar. The jar is filled to the top with more sand. The pan is placed over the jar up side down. Holding the pan and jar together it is turned over and the jar lifted off, leaving the sand and gold in the pan. Beginning with the pan of nuggets and sand, each

contestant must remove the material except nuggets by panning, bump-

ing, shaking, rattling, rolling or blowing. The nuggets must remain in the pan until the panner is ready to place all the nuggets in the vial. The panner will then place the nuggets in a vial, provided by the committee, screw on the lid and place the vial in the judge's pan. There

must be more gold than other material. If there is more sand, this will result in disqualification. Timing starts when the panner touches the sides of the pan. Timing ends after the panner has placed the nuggets in the vial, screwed the lid on, placed the vial in the judge's pan, and yells "GOLD". Four or more lost nuggets is a dis-

qualification. A competitive time for dry is 20 to 30 seconds, the record is just under 11 seconds. The last official competition I know of is the one held for the National and World Championships. This one is similar in that it is timed for speed. They use sand and gravel mix, rocks up to 1" in size. There is a 5 minute penalty for each lost piece. Contestants do not know how many pieces of gold are mixed into the bucket of dirt they have.



Panning is quite exciting once you catch on. Happy Prospecting!

Summer Heat Waves Can Cause Risk for Dehydration

Whether you are lounging poolside, playing tennis or simply watching T.V. at home, it is essential to consume plenty of fluids during summer heat waves.

On average, an adult's body weight is made up of about 10 to 12 gallons of water (about 55 to 75 percent of body weight). An elderly person's body weight is only about half water. But, when exposed to extremely high temperatures, your body requires even more water to maintain its normal temperature.

Extreme weakness and potential heatstroke may result if more than 10 percent of body weight is lost from dehydration or water loss. And the average adult loses about 2 1/2 quarts (about 10 cups) of water daily through perspiration, breathing and other body functions.

What are the signs of dehydration?

The effects of the body's loss of water are progressive: thirst, then fatigue, next weakness, followed by delirium and, finally, death. Though dehydration typically won't happen over the course of a single day, it is important

to pay attention to signals of water loss and minimize risk of dehydration by drinking plenty of fluids throughout the day--before thirst sets in.

What's to drink and how much?

Of course, the most important fluid to consume is plain water, at least 8 to 12 + 8 ounce cups per day. If you are physically active, you should add one to three cups for each hour of activity. If you prefer a flavored beverage, milk and fruit juice are good options that provide other nutrients or try sports drinks or decaffeinated beverages (caffeine can act as a diuretic, causing water loss). Alcoholic beverages have a diuretic effect and promote water loss, so try alternating them with water or sparkling water at parties and social gatherings. The bottom line is that if you keep yourself fueled with plenty of water, your body will perform better, you will have more fun for any extended period of time outdoors and that just might give you the edge you need to find that illusive gold nugget hiding just up ahead.

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- * FREE FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR ENTIRE-FAMILIES
- * SIGN UP AT THE MAY MEETING

**GET YOUR MAP
TO THE OUTING
AT THE MAY 3
GENERAL MEET-
ING AT NEVADA
PALACE!**

**Or go to
www.goldsearchers.com
for more details**

FREE ADS

Did You Know you can place an ad to buy or sell your equipment here **FREE**? GSSN Members are entitled to free ad space in the **HIGHGRADER**. Ads will be run for one month for no charge to our members. Call 313-2600 to place an ad. You can fax your ad to Greg at 313-0001. Or, simply send your ad to the **HIGHGRADER** at the club's address.

NOTE:

The Newsletter committee and the Board reserve the right to alter or delete any request for advertising in this free classified area of the **HIGHGRADER**.

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Too many extras to list. Rolls Royce of dredges with VW price. Like new used 4 hrs. Also 2 Motorola Radios D33LRA5BK Call Jim 562-941-6520

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drywasher for sale. Very Good condition. 3.5 hp engine with 4" discharge hose. Sells new for \$950. Asking \$425. Call Ron at 641-8675

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Deep Sea fishing. Prefer older guy (I'm 61) to go to Baja a couple of times a year. Call Jack 459-8007

BAR STOOLS FOR SALE

Six cream colored bar stools with fabric trim and wood handles and foot bar. Great condition. Make offer call Greg **313-2600**.

GOLD MINE

32 acres patented land-7 mile E of Quincy, CA On HWY 70 on both side of the HWY 1/4 mile of Greenhorn Creek. Good dredging, placer gold, timber, trout, deer, bear, and year around access. \$200,000 more or less. ALSO:
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Whites Spectrum XLT with Phones. 120 mm Bullsete scoop & video 6 mo. old \$6501. Call Shirley396-3991

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Recently overhauled Tcumsey Engine, \$150 Bill at 646-1713.

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Six chairs from Walker Furniture. Great shape. Make offer 313-2600

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5 speed, cherry condition 4 cyl., new soft top and hard top included. Call Joe at 870-1445.

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Ster 6" Diamond Lapidary Cutter with accessories.
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Share ride to meetings from Laughlin, Searchlight or Cal Nev Ari Call George at (702) 298-4264

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Camping gear including tents, sleeping bags, prospecting gear, metal detectors, dry washers and other outdoor necessities available for rent by the day or week.
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Have Keene Drywasher and detectors. Call Gary at 453-5414 or e-mail at garyvegas@aol.com

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 \$300 call Larry at:
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 Like new-Runs great
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The official publication of the
Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada.

Please direct your comments to:
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at the P.O. Box address above.

89193-6732 24



Gold Searcher's 24 hours 7 days a week

www.goldsearchers.com