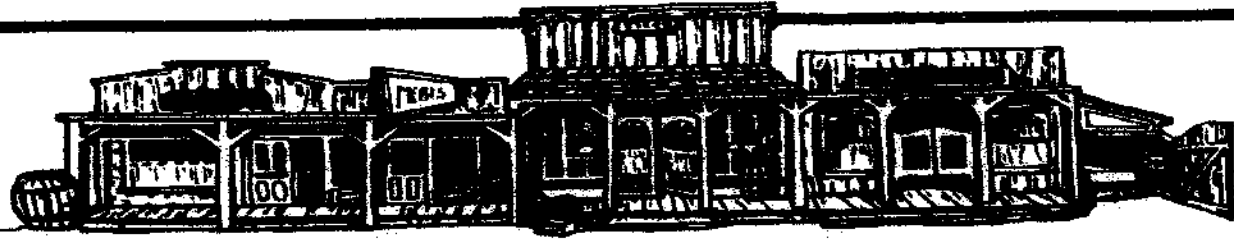


Appeal for Volunteers

No Dues Complaints!

No Board Minutes



# GSSN HIGHGRADER

Issue 3 Vol. 111 AUGUST 2001

The Official Publication Of The Gold Searchers Of Southern Nevada, Inc.  
A not-for profit Nevada Corporation.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Gold Prospectors Association has been a leader in matters relating to mining and prospecting. They have been a Champion in the fight to keep open space available for you and for generations to come. The following excerpt is from an editorial in their July-August 2001 issue.

We all have been aware of the political games in today's world. The groups with the money seem to get things to go their way. Money is power. Even though these groups are the minority voices. Their money speaks louder than the silent majority. I have gotten many letters and phone calls on my recent articles.

Thank You very much for your support, but we all need to get involved. WE need to write to our state assembly people, our congressmen and our senators. Not to mention, Gale Norton's office at the Department of Interior. We need to show strength by sheer numbers. Which by the way is the only thing greater than money. If a politician becomes suddenly worried about his reelection, he becomes more amiable to the public outcry.

We Need to speak of issues like mass land closures without our consent, as what happened in the Clinton, Babbot Dynasty with millions and millions of acres closed, displacing residents and eliminating sources of income for people who have lived there all their lives. They've torn away access to our own public lands.

In some cases, without the help of groups like PLP, PFUSA or Blue Ribbon Coalition, more areas would be lost forever. These issues can be brought into the light of day. If we act now in a reasonable, accurate, letter writing campaign, and enough public comment is received, the people voted in to public office WILL pay attention.

We need all of you out there to get each and every member to either write a letter or sign a form letter that you can put together that deals with issues in your particular area. By ALL of us getting our voice out there, it can and will make a dent in the perception of public concern and who we want representing us. All of us have issues depending on where we live. In this great nation, we have the power to change the direction we are headed.

Please help us all by writing just one letter, signing a form letter or supporting a cause for common sense because this is America, "Land of the Free", and YOU count as a voice.

This quote means more today than ever before, "The constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people. It is an instrument for the people to restrain the government" (Patrick Henry)

Let's do our part, NOW is the time. Until next time, may your pockets fill with nuggets.

**GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS.**

June 27	Board meeting
July 11	General Membership Meeting
July 18	Paradise Park Field House 6:30
July 21	Pahrump outing 0700 AM
July 25	Board Meeting 7:00 PM
August 1	General Membership Meeting
August 18	Outing to Section 28
August 30	Paradise Pk Field House 6:PM



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I want to thank all of the members who came to the Posse outing in Pahrump. It was neat to see so many of our members respond to this worthwhile project. It was a hot day and hard work. Congratulations on a job well done.

**TO ALL MEMBERS**

The club is looking to buy a GOLD nugget for the Christmas party raffle. We are looking in the price range of \$90 to \$125 dollars. If you have nuggets for sale in this price range, please bring them to the next meeting so we may pick one. Thank You.  
Daniel Boone. President.

**TREASURER REPORT**

CAL-FED BANK	\$ 2538.51
VALLEY BANK	\$ 1814.56
CAL-FED CHECKING	\$15,695.88
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$20,048.95</b>
As of 7/23/2001	

Checking will be discontinued at Cal-Fed Bank as of 8/1/2001  
\$10,000 will be moved to VALLEY BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT

**GOLD SEARCHERS "Code of Ethics"**

1. Before searching/prospecting public sites or lands, always check on laws, ordinances or regulations that may govern your search.
2. NEVER trespass. Always get permission when searching/prospecting private property or claims.
3. NEVER leave open holes. Try to leave the area as it was. Fill in and/or level your prospect holes and piles. Leave protected flora and fauna alone. NOTE: Anyone caught not filling holes, will be banned from club claims.
4. Report the discovery of any item of significant historical value to the local historian or museum.
5. If you discover live ammo, explosives or a lethal object, DON'T touch it. Mark the site and notify the Police at once.
6. Be polite and informative to those who inquire about your club/sport/hobby. You are an ambassador of our club and a pastime we want to protect. We will be judged by how we act and respond.
7. Do not litter. Pick up your trash and some extra, please.

*Donna Swartz +*

**PARTNER NEEDED**

SOMEONE THAT WOULD LIKE TO GO OUT NUGGET SHOOTING AND USING DRY WASHER WITH ME. I HAVE NEW ATV AND TRAILER TO CARRY MY DRY WASHER, BATTERIES, WATER ETC. I CAN GO OUT ANY TIME AS I AM RETIRED. CALL ROBERT PETERSON AT 870-8980 OR E-MAIL RPETE21014@AOL.COM

GENERAL MEETING JULY 11,01

Meeting called to order by Pres Dan Boone. He welcomed over 6 visitors and some new members. Wrong way Dan told us this club goes out and get dirty, sweats and finds Gold.

Treasurer Report: \$18,964.93 in assets like bank account, saving account and a CD.

Secretary Report of the general and board meeting was referred to the newsletter. Motions made and seconded to accept both reports. Passed.

Dan Boone as librarian told us the clubs Gold Master metal detector has been reserved up to November. We have many books to check out. A list was made up and distributed some time ago. If you call Dan Boone, he will bring the book to the next meeting for you and you return it the next meeting. We are looking for a member to be the Librarian to free the President of that duty which he had before the election.

Education Report: Earl Hunter stated that he will be giving panning demonstrations before and during the break each meeting.

Field trip: George not present.

Claims: Willie not present.

Sheriff Dick of the Posse gave out the dates for the next outing. Target will be the Congress mine area in Pahrump.

These abandoned mines have taken lives and injured people. Injuries and deaths have occurred all over the State.

Dan Green went to the public BLM meeting in June. He elaborated on how important it is to call or write your representatives about your concerns on this closure issue. He introduced Don Dayton. He is President of SNORE. He talked about his group and others that are working to fight big government.

They want to take 4.1 million acres in Clark County away from the people.

New Business: Need volunteers to do cooking at the outings. A retail sales person at the door to sell out the tee shirts, etc. We need a new claims committee chairman. Call Dan if interested. Training is available for the chairman if needed. Robbyn needs someone to take over as Secretary. She has to leave the meetings before they finish. There is an opening for Web Master. Dan Boone wants someone who is a member so that stuff can get on line real quick. Objections from the floor. Robbyn sees a person that is not connected to the club as a better option because there will be no conflict of interest. Idea tabled to bring it to the board with a clearer option and something to vote on. It was suggested that the dues be collected once a year.

It was voted down with some discussion. Ban Boone said to all "Do not bring any dues complaints to him"

Dan Green mentioned a great tape in the library. "Gold Prospecting and Metal Detecting with the Pros" The Master copy was donated by Russell Gremore. Green made copies for the club. Two hours classes are being held at Paradise Park by the Education committee. New members are welcome to attend. Joe Cathcart had a rare Ghost Town book he is willing to share the information. If you are heading out, just contact him.

BREAK FOR COFFEE AND DONUTS. FREE SOFT DRINKS ARE AT THE BAR

Nuggets:

Andrew S Ruth K Mark P Mike P Hank S

Classifier: John F Jewelers Loop: Gary E  
Scoop: Richard M Calibration Scale: Dick V  
Jewelry Holder: Bud K Concentrate Bag: Ed P  
Gold Pan: Mike P Gold Pan: Joy S  
T Shirt: Richard M Sweat Shirt: Pauline M  
Sign in Sheet Gold Nugget winner: Pauline Moore

OFFICERS

President Dan Boone  
Vice Pres Dan Green  
Treasurer Dick Vezzini 1 77!  
Secretary Robbyn Gibbons

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Greeter Leilani Lecleric  
Education Earl Hunter  
Outings George Niederriter  
Newsletter Dan Green  
Membership Frank Mahoney  
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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.

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

PLEASE CALL TO GET HELP  
ON ANY MATTER.

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PLEASE WRITE THE CLUB WITH  
ANY COMPLAINTS OR  
RECOMMENDATIONS

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throughout the newsletter.  
This is what you do. Locate  
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It can be anywhere. Circle it  
and take it with you the the next  
meeting. Locate the person  
selling tickets that evening and  
tell him. You will then receive  
seven free door prize tickets.  
You may well win one of the  
many door prize items to be  
given away that evening.  
It is free to you, those whose  
names appear in the  
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MOVING

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as soon as possible. You  
may either send it to clubs  
address, or send it via  
e-mail to:

dan5243@juno.com

Don't put it off, do it today, so  
you will not miss any issues of  
the

HIGHGRADER

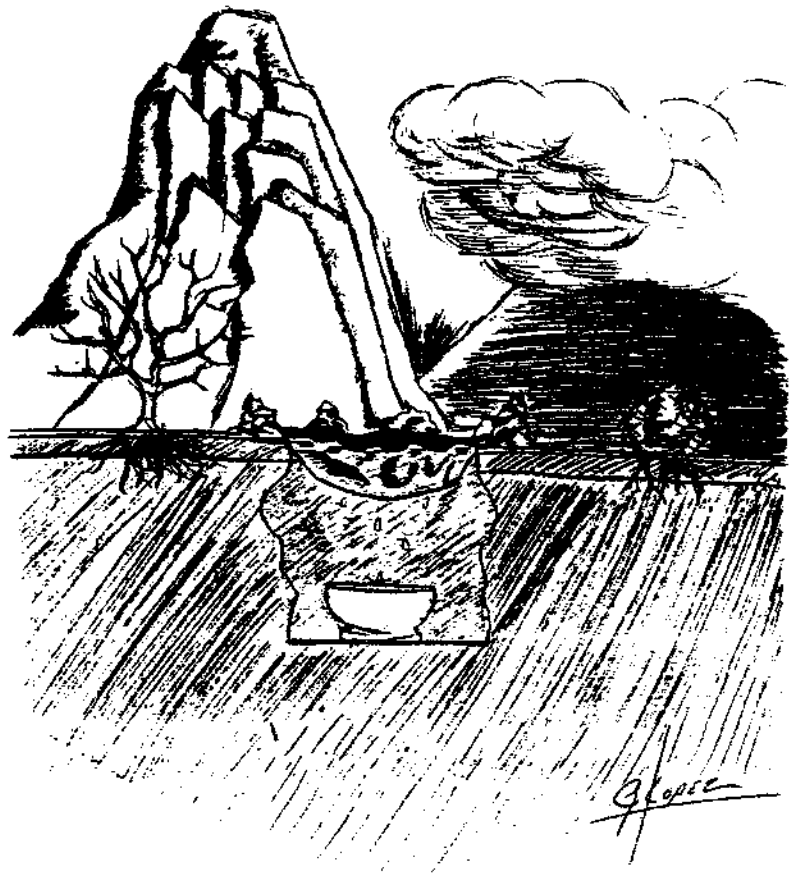
# A Little Water from a Dry Desert

by Robert Desmarais, J-R Mining, San Bernardino, CA

**M**ost parts of the desert are void of visible water. There are places in the desert that have hidden streams or pools of water, but in some areas if you find a water hole, it may be unfit to drink.

Being stuck out on a prospecting trip and running out of water can lead to an unpleasant or dangerous situation. There is a way to create a small amount of drinking water even in the driest looking spot of the desert. All it takes is a few feet of plastic sheeting, a few mils thick or so, and some sort of cup or container to hold some liquid. A shovel will come in handy, but one could dig a shallow hole with their hands if a real need arose.

How do you get water from a dry area? Dig a pit about 3 to 4 feet across and about 2 feet deep. If possible, put some cut-up cactus in the hole along with the container. Place the container in the middle of the hole and if you have a straw or tube long enough to go to the top of the hole, put it in the container. This tube or straw will save having to remove the plastic to extract



water from the container. Now you can cover the hole with the plastic sheet, leaving a slit with the straw sticking out, if so used, and secure all the ends of the plastic with some dirt from the hole.

Place a rock or weight in the center of the plastic directly over the middle of the container. This rock should be heavy enough to depress the plastic down a few inches to create a dimple over the container.

As the day and evening pass, moisture which is naturally in the earth will condense on the backside of the plastic. With the plastic tapered downwards, gravity will cause the condensed water to drop into the cup. Without a

long straw to reach down into the container, you will have to slide back part of the plastic and reach in for the water. No problem, but watch out for the possibility of an unwanted creature getting into the hole.

What this set-up is called is a solar still, and it really works. It doesn't produce a lot of water, but it can create up to a pint or so in a day depending on certain conditions. It can even work without the cactus in the hole, and for demonstration purposes, don't unnecessarily cut any cactus or other plants, since we must all do our share to preserve the environment.

Good luck on your prospecting.....

• • •

Prospecting & Mining Equipment  
Portable 12V Power Supply  
by Art Becker

When prospecting or mining, it's always a good idea to make sure your car or truck battery is fully charged. The traditional way to do this has been with a battery charger. Lots of portable equipment uses 12 volts DC. This includes the bilge pumps on recirculating sluices, and gold wheels, or spirals. One way to provide power is with an extra car battery. If you are going to use one of them, my suggestion is to get the cheapest battery that is the same size your car uses. You can get a cheap one for \$30. However, there is an alternative, which can handle several jobs at once. It is called a portable power source, or battery booster.

A battery booster is a relatively easy to carry self-contained unit that contains a sealed high amperage battery, built-in jumper cables, built-in battery charger, test button, power level indicator LEDs, and a built-in power outlet, using a cigarette lighter connector. The main purpose of such a device is to jump-start cars, with dead batteries. Depending on circumstances, a booster can jump start from 1 to 30 dead batteries. The thing is, few car batteries ever go completely dead. Rather, they just don't have enough of a charge to start your car, but, if the car is already running, they have enough juice to provide an ignition spark for a long time. So, keep in mind you usually need a booster to start your car, but not to keep it running.

Let's first talk about traditional battery chargers. There are fast chargers, which use the rate of up to 10 amps per hour, and trickle chargers, which use the rate of about 2 amps per hour. Fancier models have both options in one unit. If your battery won't start your car, you need to

get as much power into it, as quickly as possible. You'd use the fast charge rate. If your battery is a little low, an overnight trickle charge will probably bring it back up to full charge. Now, what if you have a battery booster? You can use it to immediately start your car, using the built-in jumper cables. Once your car gets started, you disconnect the booster. The regular battery should have enough power to keep the car running, until you got home.

Once you get home, you can then actually charge your car battery from the booster! That's right, just connect the booster to your car battery, and let it charge overnight. You can also trickle charge the booster and car battery at the same time, from the 110V adapter, used to trickle charge the booster. With this setup, you no longer need a separate battery for a power supply, and you don't need an ordinary battery charger anymore, either. There's no need for a quick charger, since you have the booster unit, to get your car started. You don't need to carry jumper cables any more, either. There's no need for a separate trickle charger, since a 1/2A unit is built right into the booster. Best of all, the maintenance-free battery inside the booster is sealed, so you can store it in any position.

There's more. You can get an inexpensive inverter, that will convert 12VDC into 110VAC, which can then be connected to the booster, to run, say, a small TV set. The battery booster comes with one or two automobile cigarette lighter sockets. Using the appropriate plug, you can run your 12V bilge pumps, cell phone, GPS, laptop computer, or anything else along those lines, from your portable power supply.

Where can you get such a device? I went shopping the other day, and found a Prestone 400A version at WalMart, for \$80. It has one cigarette lighter outlet. A few blocks away, at Sam's Club, a much better Century 1000A unit

is being sold for a few bucks under \$50. It has two cigarette lighter outlets. I sure like easy decisions like this one. A 300 watt inverter, also at Sam's Club, costs about \$30, and plugs into the booster outlet, to provide 110VAC. The portable power supply is a sensible and handy item, that will be useful in emergencies, as well as in your day to day mining and prospecting activities. If you are an economic animal, you could charge (pun) people \$10 for a jump start, and let your booster pay for itself in no time at all. I always carry mine in the trunk of my car ... just in case. It's a great feeling knowing that it's there.

**WHAT I'VE LEARNED.....**

By Andy Rooney

I've Learned...

That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

That when you're in love, it shows.

That just one person saying to me, "you've made my day!" makes my day.

That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

That being kind is more important than being right.

That you should never say NO to a gift from a child

That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned.....

That Love, not time heals all wounds.

That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

That everyone you meet, deserves to be greeted with a smile.....

That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.

That no one is perfect, until you fall in love with them.

That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere. (continued next month)

**Desert Survival Notes**

by Jack Halham

**Before You Leave Home**

1. Leave a note and directions to where you're going and when you expect to be back.
2. Leave emergency key to your house or apartment with a friend or neighbor and advise them of your plans.
3. Obtain seven day supply of non-perishable food such as granola bars or trail mix.
4. Take ample water supply for seven days, minimum of one gallon per person per day.
5. Have emergency kit for vehicle ie: duct tape, engine oil, jumper cables, coolant, and tire fix, bar of soap to seal oil or gas leaks.
6. Good spare fully inflated.
7. Double check everything as you load vehicle.

**On The Road & at Your Claim**

1. Before you grab your equipment and take off in search of the grand daddy of all nuggets, stop, look and take notes.
2. Using your topo map and compass, take sightings on major landmarks and note on your map where your base camp is.
3. If someone will be staying at base camp arrange for a timely radio check via the hand held CB radio. Every half hour is best and normally there is no need to leave radio turned on until time to check in. Otherwise you will run the batteries down.
4. Very Important!! If for what ever reason, you change your plans and go to another site find a phone and call your emergency contact and advise them of the change. If you have an answering machine on your phone, call your own phone and leave a message on the answer machine.
5. If you have done all the above and trouble does rear it's ugly head, stay where you are and let help come to you. Exceptions would depend on your particular emergency.
6. Be prepared!! Good old boy scout motto, but very sage advice for anyone who likes to get away from it all. If you haven't taken an emergency first aid course lately then please do so. These courses are available through the American Red Cross. Remember if you invite others to share the joy of the outdoors then you must be responsible for their safety and their welfare.



## Recirculating Wet Washer By Daniel Green.

# 2 and # 3 buckets are for collection of discarded materials.

# 3 bucket is smaller than the outer bucket.

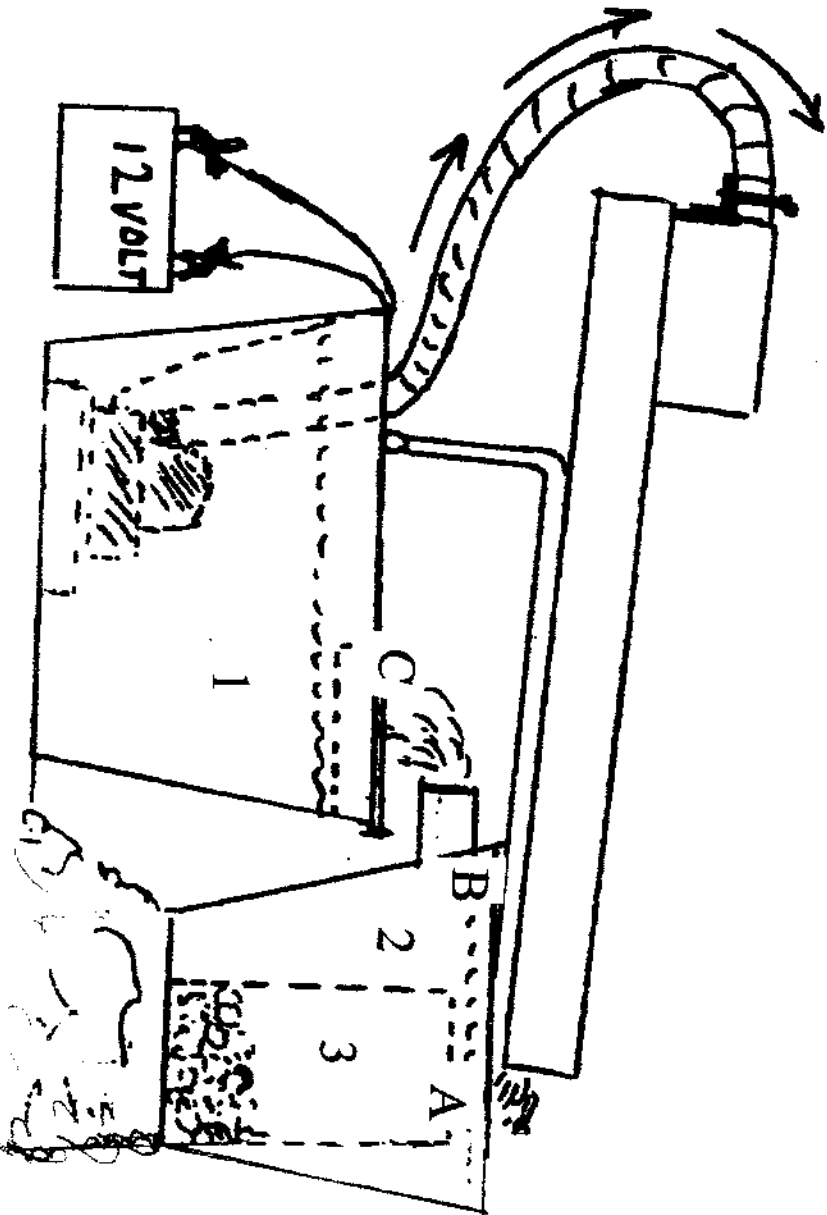
PUMP: comes from K Mart. Cost is around \$15.00. Any 12 Volt pump will do. The buckets are plastic. Bucket # 2 has a plastic pipe glued in for the overflow.

SLUICE: Any trough or ramp will do. Put carpeting in the bottom to collect the gold.

FILTER: A and B are filtering material from a swamp cooler or netting material. Make an extra set of filters for easy cleaning.

C has a baby's diaper as the filter. Gene and Gloria Forest were able to have CLEAN WATER for the pump after 3 days of running this rig. Thank You, Mr. & Mrs. Forest.

Do you have a rig that you would like to share with the club members ?? Bring it in for a "SHOW AND TELL".





## THE GOLD PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION !

By Daniel Green

Many of our members are also members of the Gold Prospectors Association. Membership in the GPAA has been a worthwhile experience. Their monthly magazine is full of useful information on prospecting, stories on treasure adventures, places to hunt for gold and where to contact suppliers. The page on 'Coming Events list the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada meeting dates and location. The March/April 2001 edition has an article by Mike "Hawkeye Pickett. His "Treasure Hunters University" article has some interesting computer locations:

### History of Ghost towns in the American West:

[www.ghosttowns.com](http://www.ghosttowns.com) Search any state for a listing, location and history of the ghost towns you are looking for.

### North American Fortifications:

[www.geocities.com/naforts.htm](http://www.geocities.com/naforts.htm) Listings, locations and histories of many of the frontier post, camps, forts, fortresses and seacoast batteries in the U.S. and Canada.

### Civil War Maps and Charts:

[HTTP//anchor.ncd.noaa.gov/cwstates.htm](http://anchor.ncd.noaa.gov/cwstates.htm) Shows civil war maps and charts for more than 18 states, loaded with information in detail

### Library Map Collection of Congress 1544-1996:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammen/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html> This is the geography and map division of the Library of Congress. Over 4.5 million items of information. The map collection is only a small part of this vast storehouse of knowledge.

### Military History, Maps and Atlases:

[www.dean.usma.edu/history/dhistory](http://www.dean.usma.edu/history/dhistory) This web site is the United States Military Academy. Military history, maps and atlases dating back to the Colonial Wars.

### Panoramic Maps:

<http://lcweb2.loc/ammem/pmhtml/panmap.html> Panoramic maps of entire U.S. and Canada

### Terra Server:

<http://terraserver.micrrsoft.com> Satellite photos of just about anywhere in the U.S. and parts of other countries. Great for finding old trails, tailing piles and diggings. Can get down to 1 or 2 resolutions.

### Wreckcovery Salvage:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~tvgius/shipwreck.index.html> Recovery and salvage of historical shipwrecks..

### Discovery Channel:

[www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com)

### History Channel:

[Www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)

Lost Treasure:

[www.losttreasure.com](http://www.losttreasure.com) Research back through their library of magazines for articles relating to your find. Join the chat room.

Gold Prospector/GPAA/LDMA:

[www.goldprospectors.org](http://www.goldprospectors.org) I highly recommend that you visit this site. You might even catch me in the chat room. I saved this website for last. No matter what each American may think or say about our government, we do enjoy the freedoms we still have, the ones that our government hasn't already taken from us.

United States Government:

[www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov) A wealth of information on almost anything imaginable. Read about the Antiquities Acts, Shipwreck Acts, treasure troves and sites that are off limits. Get into the Library of Congress. Historical writings, documents, maps, books and more. Links to each state's web site, for laws, acts and sites off limits to us prospectors/treasure hunters. Write your congress person or senator directly from this web site. In future installments, I will be bringing you more web sites that I believe will help you in your research. Until then be safe out there.

Please call or send all correspondence and photos to: Mike "Hawkeye" Pickett C/O

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# The Casual Prospector

By John R. Duncan

I knew it was early because pain still radiated from my bloodshot eyes and sand filled joints. Though my spirit can still leap up and greet the rosy dawn, my body marches to the beat of a different chiropractor. Toots, my wife of many years and navigator extraordinaire, was in the copilot seat and I was at the helm of our trusty sedan. We were off on our first gold hunting adventure.

As we happily motored toward our destination, visions of the "Prime Nugget" danced in our daydreams. We drove from our San Francisco Bay area abode via I-80. Soon we passed Sacramento and headed for Auburn.

This was to be our maiden voyage to search the Sierra foothills for a new Mother Lode. We had thoroughly researched the history of gold prospecting in the California foothills and decided not to reinvent the wheel. The first gold strike was on the American River, and that is where we would start our search.

We selected the Auburn area which has gold panning sites open to the public. We were filled with confidence. It would probably take four or five trips before we could expect to retire on our profits, but we were willing to work hard to reach our goal.

Following Highway 49 through Auburn is like finding your way through a maze.

Leaving the Auburn city limits behind, we headed south in search of our American River site. We drove for twenty minutes without finding a sign showing the turnoff to the river. We began to have second thoughts when the road crossed the river and began to rise.

After a hair-raising hill climb, highlighted by hairpin curves and surly California drivers trying to test the basic laws of physics, we entered Coloma. Unfortunately, a brief review of the map showed that we had overshot the American River by about thirty miles. We turned around and resumed our search for the site.

We finally found the proper turnoff

for the American River site but to our dismay, the pavement ended shortly beyond the turnoff. What followed made Barstow look like swamp land. The dirt resembled talcum powder and the road had ruts deep enough to hide a Volkswagon. Pointed rocks searched for tires not protected by road hazard insurance.

After a time, I stopped to let the dust settle and discovered we were right beside the river. There were no sizeable nuggets lying about so we began to unload our panning gear.

**After months of reading about and watching videos showing various gold panning techniques, it was time to begin.**

After an hour of carrying all of our equipment through the sand dunes to a likely spot by the river, I stopped and gazed at the heap. Mentally, I checked off the list of gold recovery equipment. There were gold pans with "Chinese riffles," a concentrate pan, "gold sniffer," a glass vial for gold, lunch, blankets and a change of clothing. Tiger, our Toy Fox Terrier, glared defiantly at me from atop the heap.

After months of reading about, and watching videos showing various gold panning techniques, it was time to begin. I grabbed a shovel and pan and waded boldly into the water in search of a likely spot to retrieve lurking gold. The rush of frigid water around my body kept all my senses on full alert and me on tiptoes. I turned and headed for calmer, shallower water,

confident of finding ample gold there.

I loaded the pan with a promising mix of sand and gravel and settled on a convenient rock and began panning. The first step was to classify. This means to remove large, valueless rocks from the mix. I classified the top half as just rocks and tossed them aside. To my surprise, there was no layer of gold beneath the rocks.

I decided to move on to stratification. This process moves heavier materials to the bottom of the pan and allows you to wash off non-gold materials. For ten minutes I alternated between stratifying and washing. Soon all the sand was classified and washed. What remained was the shiny green bottom of my pan with nothing left in it.

On the second load I decided to ease up on the washing motion. This time the reward was several teaspoons of black sand in my pan. I held my breath as I fanned the black sand for inspection. Yup, it was black sand all right. There was still nothing remotely resembling gold in the pan.

Over the next two hours, I began to recover tiny flecks of gold from the bottom of the pan. Panning technique improves with the slowing of frozen, aching muscles. This occurs naturally as you sit on a now submerged rock (do rivers have tides?) and bend over the pan. The growing pain, coupled with the frigid waters, combined to cool my gold fever. I decided I didn't need any more gold that day and rose to leave. To my amazement, I could still walk without help.

With the car reloaded, we paused to compare results. Toots subtly observed that she had twice as much gold as I did. I replied that I only kept, the "better" specimens. She just gave me a "yes dear" look and chuckled as we began our ascent back to civilization and home.

On the way back, we talked about our next trip. The Stanislaus River is our next target. Surely it will hold the elusive "Prime Nugget."

## American Land Rights Association

### *Effective Letters to Capital Hill*

Is your Congressman or Senator on a committee that will make major decisions about your way of life? Is there a floor vote on a bill that could effect your livelihood? Or ever heard your Congressman or Senator on the news and felt he or she was misinformed?

When this frustrating situation occurs, there is something you can do: write a letter. Policymakers from the White House to the Cabinet to Congress do pay attention to the letters they receive.

Some letters, of course, are more effective than others. The following are some tips for writing effective letters.

- **Communicate.** Make a specific request of the policy-maker when you write. You may want a decision changed, a vote cast a certain way, or to communicate specific facts, but be clear about what you want.
- **Personalize.** Although mass-produced postcards and letters can be effective -- they tell policymakers that a large number of people hold a certain viewpoint -- individually written letters or cards are more effective. The policymaker knows the individual cares a great deal about an issue if they have taken the time to write a personal letter.
- **Be brief.** Your letters are most likely to be read if they are to the point. Include one or two points, only.
- **Be courteous.** Rude comments in your letter make it less effective. You can be firm while still being courteous.
- **Follow-up.** If you receive a vague response from a policy-maker, write again and request more specific information. And, if they do something you approve of, send a thank you letter. Thank you letters are rare, and therefore, appreciated.
- **Be timely.** If you wish to influence a policymakers' opinion on a specific issue, write early and often. Your letters will be most effective if you communicate your views before they have developed an opinion.
- **Utilize letters-to-the editor.** If you get a letter-to-the-editor printed about your issue, send a copy from the newspaper to policy-makers. This will show them that you are more than casually interested, and are working actively to educate your fellow citizens about it.
- **Go public.** Send a copy of the letter to your congressman as a "letter-to-the-editor." If it is published, it will add visibility to your issue and make it more difficult for policymakers to take your issue lightly.

- **Sign your letters.** Include your name, address and telephone number, so the policymaker can respond to your concerns.
- **Type or print.** Make sure the policymaker can read how important your issue is to you.

Address your letters:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
 US House of Representatives  
 Washington DC 20515

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
 US Senate  
 Washington DC 20510

The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
 Washington DC 20500

Telephone calls to policymakers *can* be as effective as letters, sometimes more so, if time is an issue. And the phone is faster than letters. All Congressmen have offices in their home states and districts. When concerned about an issue, pick up the phone and the closest office. Staff members there *do* relay messages to DC, and many offices report that ten phone calls on an issue have greater impact than ten letters.



***For More Information Contact:***

**American Land Rights Association**  
**Tel: 360-687-3087**  
**FAX: 360-687-2973**



Send mail to [alra@pacifier.com](mailto:alra@pacifier.com) with questions or comments about this web site.  
 All pages on this website are ©2000, American Land Rights Association. Permission is granted to use any and all information herein, as long as credit is given to ALRA.  
 Last modified: November 02, 1998

**STAKE A CLAIM ON YOUR FUTURE !**

NOW is the time for all Prospectors, Miners, Hunters and Outdoor Hobbyists, to stake a claim on the future of your children, grand children and all other friends of the Southwest.

The B.L.M. is proposing a closing of the Wilderness area's of Nevada to the Legislators of our State. This is our Government lobbying our Government to keep you off of your land. This is our land ! Land use and access to public lands are under attack all across American. NOW is the time to actively protect your interests, rights and resources !

You are not alone ! Many other prospecting and outdoor organizations have been fighting the good fight for a long time. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !** Send a letter. Send several letters. Get others to send letters. Here is where some of the letters can go.

**PLEASE WRITE TODAY !**

GALE A. NORTON  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
1849 C. STREET N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20240

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528 HART SENATE OFFICE  
BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SENATOR JOHN ENSIGN  
364 RUSSELL SEN. OFFICE BLD.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

REP. JIM GIBBONS  
100 CANNON HOUSE BUILDING  
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REP. SHELLY BERKLEY  
269 CANNON HOUSE BUILDING  
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**SANTA CLARA GOLD MINERS ASSOCIATION**

**MINING.**

All of our food and raw materials come from the earth.

As population increases, so does the need for more.

We recycle only a small part of what we consume.

“ If it can't be grown, it must be mined.”

From the Sacramento Bee. Their Sunday report notes that 9 of the nation's top 10 environmental groups pay their leaders \$200,000 and up. When the National Parks Conservation Association fired its president in 1997, they gave him \$760,335. The article notes that most of the money doesn't go into saving the environment, but into overhead and fund raising. In fact, many environmental groups, including Greenpeace and the Sierra Club don't meet the standards set by philanthropic watchdog groups. The article also notes that groups ignore and twist science in order to raise funds and often ignore threatened species. If you want to read the article go to: [www.sacbee.com/news/projects/environment](http://www.sacbee.com/news/projects/environment)

**MEMBERSHIP BADGES**

**WEAR YOUR MEMBERSHIP BADGE AND INCREASE YOUR CHANCES TO BE A WINNER IN OUR RAFFLE.**

Door prize tickets are \$1.00 each, but if you are wearing your GSSN Membership Badge you will get 2 for \$1.00

**No Name Tag \$1.00 each**

*Jerry Montana +*

## ? THE ANSWER MAN!

We get questions ! Lots of questions ! You may have noticed a blockage at the top of the stairs when you come to the meetings at the Nevada Palace.

Some folks are just saying, "Howdy" Others are buying tickets for the raffle. (Two for one if you have your name badge on)

Some are looking for their name badges. New members are seeking answers to questions about the club, newsletters, membership booklet, etc. Some are paying for the renewal dues and some are paying for a new membership.


All of this takes place within the first few feet at the top of the stairs.

One of the first tables at the top of the stairs will be, "THE ANSWER MAN"

? ? ? ?

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?

Questions ? Answers ?  
Where do I?... What is this ? ?  
How can I ? All of this will be  
answered by the  
**ANSWER MAN.** ?? ??  
? ?

His will be the first table that members.....New or Old, will come to. Material such as picking up your badge, getting a newsletter or booklet and greeting first time visitors can be done at this table. Seating new members with older members will make them feel more welcome.

Everyone will feel welcome if they don't have to stand in a line on the staircase with lots of questions and no answers.

**JUST ASK THE ANSWER MAN!** Top of the stairs, first table. ?/

/ ? ?  
? ?

*Art Whisler +*

## The Answer To The Question !

This article was printed in the Review Journal during the month of April. It concerns, "Toxic Releases" of compounds into the environment. This is the favorite point AGAINST mining and prospecting. It is repeated often. This letter "To the Editor" gives the perfect answer to the question.

### Mining Releases.

To the Editor:

Regarding the mining "toxic releases," perhaps this should be put in perspective (Nevada still the nation's worst toxic polluter; EPA says," April 12 )

The mining industry is required to report "releases to the environment" under the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory, but the "wastes" are predominantly (95 percent at most mines) from moving rock and dirt containing naturally occurring minerals and compounds. This rock and dirt has not been chemically processed, and is not crushed—just simply moved. Naturally occurring elements in our soils include "toxic" compounds such as arsenic and selenium. For example, in the western United States, soil contains 7 parts per million arsenic, 20 parts per million lead, and one-third part per million selenium. These elements are all reportable by the mining industry, under the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory program.

To put this "release to the environment" reporting in perspective, and if these industries were regulated similarly, the following would be reported: a farmer tilling a 40 acre parcel, 12 inches deep, would have to report a "release to the environment" of 1,586 pounds of arsenic, 4,540 pounds of lead, and 77 pounds of selenium—not just once, but every time it was tilled ! Each 100-lot subdivision constructed would contribute a "release to the environment" of 245 pounds of arsenic, 700 pounds of lead, and 12 pounds of selenium—just due to the process of regrading. Even a small 10 acre community park would "release to the environment" of 396 pounds of arsenic, 1,130 pounds of lead, and 19 pounds of selenium during construction.

Reports of these "releases to the environment" cause confusion and misunderstanding to the reader, I hope these examples will help.  
Sandy Haslem. Carson City, Nevada

The writer is an engineer with Resource Connection Engineering, LTD in Carson City, Nevada

*Ron Woods +*



# GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

P.O. BOX 96732-6732 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA PH. (702) 393-GOLD

Dear Legislator;

I am writing to urge you to please NOT endorse or draft legislation closing two-track, unmaintained roads within 90 miles of Las Vegas. These are on public lands and wilderness study areas.

Families with young children, handicapped and elderly visitors to our beautiful remote areas would no longer have easy access to these areas. In most cases, it would require multi-mile hikes to gain access to these low mountain areas—if the existing Track and four wheel drive roads were closed.

Mining, hunting and camping would be eliminated and that is pretty much what the environmental movement wants. There are important minerals in these area's that might be vital to our country. Everything we use comes from our earth. Please remember, "if it cannot be grown, it must be mined."

Do you wish to be remembered as the Legislator who closed these areas to your kids, your grandkids, and their grandkids ?

With 2 million people in Clark County, many going out into these areas to get away from the city, would you limit their access to some pristine privacy ?

We count on you to protect our freedom to travel and have easy access to public lands. It is a common sense thing to do. Please respond to my address below.

Thank You,

---

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# YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU

## **GREAT OUTINGS AND EVENTS DON'T JUST HAPPEN, THEY TAKE PEOPLE TO MAKE THEM WORK AND GO SMOOTHLY.**

**HOW ABOUT YOU, WILL YOU PLEASE HELP OUT AT, AT LEAST, ONE OUTING PER YEAR. IN MOST CASES THIS WILL ONLY AMOUNT TO ONE OR TWO HOURS ONCE A YEAR. OUR CLUB IS APPROACHING 500 MEMBERS (WITH SPOUSES AND KIDS ITS PROBABLY CLOSER TO 1000). IF ONLY 20% OF YOU SAID YES I WILL HELP AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, WE COULD HAVE SOME REALLY GREAT OUTINGS. LOOK OVER POSSIBLE PLACES BELOW YOU CAN HELP AND MARK THOSE THAT INTERESTS YOU. WHEN FINISHED PLEASE CUT THIS PAGE OUT AND SEND TO THE CLUBS ADDRESS NOW, PLEASE DON'T PUT IT OFF, DO IT NOW - PLEASE. THANK YOU**

Please cut here and send to, GSSN, P.O. Box 96732, Las Vegas, NV 89193

I will help at least once a year in the areas I have marked. Instructions: please mark your first choice with and 1 second choice with a 2 and so on and every attempt will be made to put you on your first choice.

1. Planning club outings \_\_\_\_\_ this would involve dates to go and what activities to have
2. Planning treasure hunts \_\_\_\_\_ This would include what to search for, putting items out before the search, and what prizes to award.
3. Food committee \_\_\_\_\_ This would include, what to serve, buying food, taking it to outing and preparing food.
4. Claims committee \_\_\_\_\_ This would include working with claim chairman deciding where to look for claims, checking site to see if enough gold is present to make a claim.
5. Education committee \_\_\_\_\_ This would include helping chairman with scheduling speakers, and whatever other activity needed
6. Sergeant at arms committee \_\_\_\_\_ This would involve keeping quiet at meetings and preventing any smoking during meetings.
7. Newsletter committee \_\_\_\_\_ This would involve taking digital pictures at outings, getting a short story to go with them when possible, and finding articles for Highgrader
8. Club property \_\_\_\_\_ This involves storing and maintaining club property, pots, stove etc. and seeing that someone takes items needed to outing.
9. Metal Detecting \_\_\_\_\_ Be willing to give a short lesson on metal detecting at an outing.
10. Dry Washing \_\_\_\_\_ Be willing to give short lesson on using a dry washer at outing and allowing new comers to join in where possible.
11. McCaw School \_\_\_\_\_ This would involve mainly demonstrating panning to school children for at least a couple of hours a day
12. Public relations \_\_\_\_\_ This would involve helping to organize people to clean up claims, fill in holes etc. As well as helping local law enforcement with the use of metal detectors.
13. Other help \_\_\_\_\_ Just say to our president, I will be available on occasion to help as needed.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WILLING TO HELP AT LEAST ONCE DURING THE YEAR. TO THE REST OF YOU DON'T SIT AROUND AND COMPLAIN IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO HELP.**

We realize that a few people due to hours worked or health etc. are not able to help, that's OK it's your club to, but for the rest of you

**PLEASE HELP**

# **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

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

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**



# Dangers In and Around Abandoned Mines

Department of Minerals  
Carson City, NV

by Doug Driesner,  
Administrator, Division of  
Abandoned Mine Lands

"Stay Out and Stay Alive"  
is the motto of Nevada's new  
Division of Abandoned Mine  
Lands.

The division, administered  
by Doug Driesner, was created  
by the Department of Minerals  
as a result of a bill passed by  
the 1987 Nevada Legislature.  
The bill was designed to reduce  
the chance of death or injury

from accidents occurring in  
abandoned mines.

The division's two objectives  
are:

① Initiation of an awareness  
program to educate the public  
about recognizing and avoiding  
dangerous conditions such as  
open mine shafts.

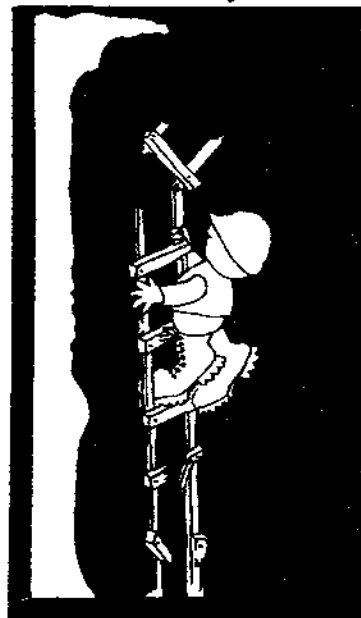
② To discover the hazards  
and work with each board of  
county commissioners to have  
the hazards secured.

As a direct result of the  
program, 45 abandoned mine  
shafts have been fenced by  
mining companies or counties  
already.

A pamphlet about the dangers  
in and around abandoned mines  
has been published and has  
been distributed to all Nevada  
students. In addition, a Nevada  
toll-free hot line (1-800-541-  
MINE) has been installed so  
anyone discovering hazardous  
abandoned mine openings can  
report them.

The division, with one staff  
member, is funded by Nevada  
Miners through a fee of 50¢  
per mining claim.

Below is a portion of the  
brochure that is available from  
the Nevada Dept. of Minerals,  
400 W. King St #106, Carson  
City, NV 89710. You can get  
the brochures and other info  
from them directly. ●●●



## WARNING!

**SHAFTS** The collar or top of a mine shaft is especially dangerous. The fall down a deep shaft is just as lethal as the fall from a tall building—with the added disadvantage of bouncing from wall to wall in a shaft and the likelihood of having falling rocks and timbers for company. Even if a person survived such a fall, it may be impossible to climb back out.

The rock at the surface is often decomposed. Timbers may be rotten or missing. So it is dangerous to walk anywhere near a shaft opening—the whole area is often ready and waiting to slide into the shaft, along with the curious.

A shaft sunk from a tunnel is called a winze. In many old mines, winzes have been boarded over. If these boards have decayed, a perfect trap is waiting.



**DESERT  
GIVES UP 7 1/4  
OZ NUGGET.  
By Denise Brown.**

Tex Condra was in the desert metal detecting all morning. After several hours of finding his usual-**NOTHING**-he ached from head to toe. He was tired, disgusted and getting hungry. He left his **Fisher Gold Bug** turned on in the auto-tune mode, with the sensitivity set to 7 1/2, as he made his way back to his truck for a bite to eat and a well deserved rest. Surely **King Tut's Placer** in the Mojave's Lost Basin Range had something besides tin cans to give up thought Tex.

As he neared his truck, the **Gold Bug** let out a tremendous scream, but in his current mood Tex didn't need more disappointment. As if being egged on by the signal, he finally decided he's better check...just in case. He swept the 10" coil over the area again and pinpointed the signal. The gravel and sand was loose and easily moved by dragging his pick across the surface. He fully expected another tin can to pop out of the sand. A glimmer of gold caught his eye as he removed more gravel and sand.

Tex couldn't believe his eyes. About 2" under the surface lay what he had dreamed of finding. His hands were shaking as

he reached down to retrieve the giant nugget. After six years of searching, Tex had finally found the "Big One". The huge chunk of gold weighed in at 7 1/4 ounces.

Tex is a "card carrying" Gold Prospector. With his confidence running on High, he knows success will be his again.

Contra said, "Keep on dreaming fellow prospectors, perhaps your dreams, along with an old reliable **Gold Bug**, will come true—mine did!:"

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garyvegas@aol.com

**E-MAILS**

We have sent out several e-mails to everyone on our email list about various club business. If you have not received any of these, you may be one that comes back undeliverable for many reasons.

If this is the case, please send me an e-mail saying simply, "Add my email to the clubs list".

This is also true if you change e-mail addresses.

Send to:

**dan5243@juno.com**

**PROSPECTING CLASSES**

Did you know that the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada sponsors and teaches a class each month or Gold Prospecting ?

The classes are held at Paradise Park Field House and/or at the Cambridge Field house.

The class then is invited to our next outing.

For additional information, including dates and times, please call Earl Hunter at:  
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## DANIEL GREEN EDITOR & PUBLISHER

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Please direct your comments to:  
dan5243@juno.com or to the  
Post Office Box 96732

**Membership is the life blood of this organization. Your membership renewal date is reflected in the address label on the front of this Newsletter. Each of our programs such as the monthly meeting, outings, door prizes and this newsletter, cost money. Your membership dues make it all possible. Membership numbers are important when speaking to National Organizations, to the press and to your elected representatives.**

Hey!! Do a little prospecting at our new and only official website

**[www.goldsearcher.com](http://www.goldsearcher.com)**

Things to do: Contact Us, Upcoming Events, About Us, Breaking News, Code of Ethics, Claim Updates, Members Only, Outing Photos, Submit Classified Ad, Order Claim Maps, Education Committee, Prospecting Links, Club Library List, School of Mines, Check back often as changes will be added frequently.