



# GSSN HIGHGRADER

Issue 4 Vol. GO-XXIV APRIL/MAY 1999

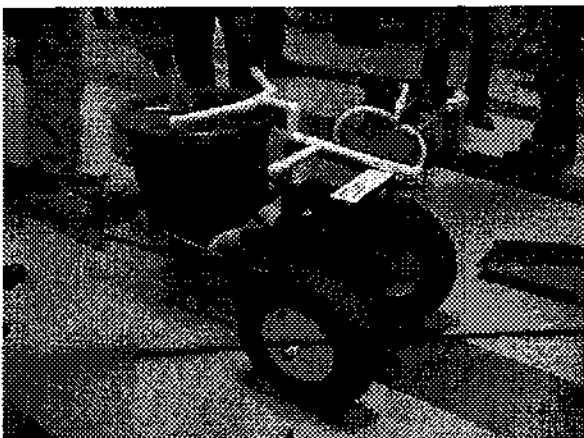
The Official Monthly Newsletter Of The Gold Searchers Of Southern Nevada, Inc. A not-for profit Nevada Corp.

## PROSPECTORS SHARE SECRETS AT APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Club Members received a special inside look at the working projects of active prospecting mem-

bers at the April Meeting. There were several varieties of equipment including high bankers, dry washers, rocker boxes, modified sluices and many other "modified-up" gizmos all designed to improve the odds of locating gold.

Our winner, Eric Naught, received a



gold nugget for his Recirculating high high banker combo.

### GSSN OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

#### PRESIDENT

DOUG PARKER 64

#### VICE PRESIDENT

JEANNE MOORE 29

#### TREASURER

DONNA SCHORN 65

#### SECRETARY

LEIHANI LeCLERC 565

#### MEMBERSHIP

GREG OLSON 3

#### LIBRARIAN

SUSAN BENGE 64

#### EDUCATION

DANIEL GREEN 79

#### EXPLORATION & CLAIMS

CALL GREG FOR CLAIM MAPS

#### NEWSLETTER

GREG OLSON

### GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETINGS

APRIL	7	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ORR MIDDLE SCHOOL
APRIL	14	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
APRIL	24	OUTING SECTION 34
MAY	5	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ORR MIDDLE SCHOOL
MAY	22&23	OUTING GPAA GOLD SHOW AT UNION PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO
AUGUST	7	ANNUAL PICNIC MT. CHARLESTON
SEPTEMBER	25 & 26	GSSN'S GREAT GOLD SHOW



### NEW SLATE OF GSSN OFFICERS ELECTED BY ACCLIMATION

With the new board we look forward to an exciting and prosperous year for the Club. My goal as President for this year is to continue making the Club as enjoyable and educational as possible for each of you as members and guests.

I will also be focusing on the Gold Show being produced by the Club. I feel this event will be a milestone for the Club and provide recognition at a national level. Please volunteer to assist with this event. Let's have another great year!!!

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES April 7, 1999

Meeting was called to order at 6:55p.m. by Doug Parker, President. A motion was made to accept minutes as read and stated, motion was seconded and passed by all.

Attendance totaled an astonishing 123 to which 8 were guests and 14 new members. We welcome all.

Henry Mayhew—Treasurer, gave report. Acceptance is subject to audit "passed." Motion was made to vote in and elect all new offices as the following:

Doug Parker-President  
Jeanne Moore- Vice President  
Donna Shorn- Treasurer  
Leilani LeClerc- Secretary

Motion passed by all for Board elected personnel. Good luck to all new board members through the coming year.

Gem Show will be held at the Henderson Convention Center on Water Street (Dates & Times)

April 16- 12:00 pm-6:00 pm  
April 17- 10:00 am- 6:00 pm  
April 18-10:00 am- 4:30 pm

How many can volunteer and attend this show please call Dan Green :

The meeting was short due to the Show & Tell of equipment used for prospecting gold. Doug asked for volunteers to judge by clapping. The person with the loudest clapping was Eric Naught. Congratulations to Eric who won a gold nugget. Guest speaker was John Landretr. He invited everyone whom is interested in the Me-

dia Workshop being co-sponsored by "People for the USA" Forms were passed out to those who were interested.

Julie Burb won the grand door prize of the evening and the rest of the winners are:

### GOLD NUGGET:

B.G. Goldsmite  
Doc Lousignont  
Jerry McKee  
Doug Lorenz

### SLUICE:

Hank Mayhew

### SHOVEL:

D. Roberts

### PICK:

Doc Lousignont

### ATLAS MAP:

Frank Auerswald

### PAN:

Doug Lorenz

### WATER JUG & CASE:

Robbyn Gibbons

### MAP:

M. Mullins

### EAR PHONES & SHOVEL:

J. Burb

Remember our outing is on April 24th at Section 34—refreshments will be supplied and enjoyed by all—so come and be part of the fun.

If anything was wrong in the minutes or not mentioned, please excuse, for the microphone was not working, sorry for any inconveniences. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 14, 1999

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Doug Parker President. A.; board members were present with the exception of Jeanne Moore—Vice President.

Dan Green will be contacting Larry Lister President of the Dowsers club to speak at our meeting again. We hope to have him back soon.

A member of our club, John O'Donald wants to entertain us at our June meeting, he is a comedian. He needs all of our help and support he can get, because he wants to be on t.v. It will be a family and friends night, the more the merrier. It sounds like it will be lots and lots of fun, so gather all of your friends and children up and haul 'em to the June meeting.

Doug will have a class at Paradise Park on April 21st. Don't forget about our outing on April 24th at Section 34. Chili and hot dogs will be served to all who goes, so eat up, have fun, but most importantly, find some GOLD!

Printing has been finished for The Gold Show and has already been sent out in the mail. The Gold Show will be held on September 25th and 26th at Nevada Palace. We have had many inquires for booths. However, the price of

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Board Meeting Minutes (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

the booths have not been put into a motion by Dan Green. The first 30 responses will get their booth/booths half price. Greg Olson seconded this motion, motion passed and carried by all present.

The board opened the position for claims 393-GOLD or Dan Green at 795-0383.

Hank Mayhue has taken over the position "Beverage & Refreshment" committee for our General Meeting replacing Rick from Desert Outfitters who has done it for 3 years. Thank you Rick for your time, generosity and dedication.

We have a new claim, Section 28 which is right along Highway 93. It is very easy to get to this claim with any vehicle. Maps were issued at the April General Meeting. Decision to go to this claim will be on June 19. Look for more information about the outing in future newsletters.

The May 22nd The GPAA Show in Lyda will end on may 30th. Also don't forget the picnic on August 7th.

We need people to undertake the task of running and setting up the picnic in order of having a successful event for all to enjoy. All volunteers would be much appreciated., call Doug Parker prior to this date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40

## Fun Comming at June Meeting

Don't miss the June 2 General Membership Meeting.

We will have a special guest Comedian,  
**Joe O'Donnel**  
performing for all members. Joe's a Member of our Club!

Bring your friends and the entire family to this special presentation. The will be filming the event for the Rosie O'Donnell T.V. Show!

## PROSPECTING CLASSES

Did you know that The Gold Searcher's of Southern Nevada

sponsors and teaches a class each month on Gold Prospecting?

The classes are once a month at the Orr Middle School where we hold our monthly meetings.

The class then meets at the Outing at one of the Club's Claims usually the following weekend. For additional information, including dates and times please call Doug Parker at 6

## MEETING

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OUR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS HELD AT ORR MIDDLE SCHOOL'S CAFETERIA LOCATED AT 1562 E. KATIE ST. 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 SCHOOL 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 7:00PM 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 8:00PM. 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

# Prospectors Share Gold Searching Secrets

Ever wonder what contraptions those prospectors use out in the desert to really go after the gold?

Wonder no more! Several prospector brought their homemade and modified prospecting gear to the



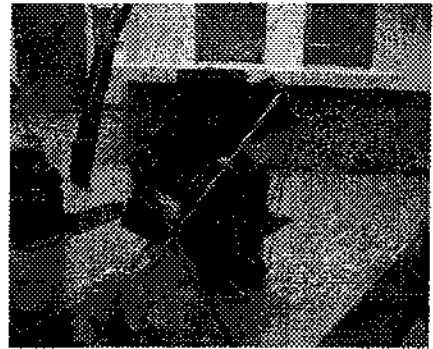
April meeting for an interesting and educational "Show And Tell" There were homemade and modified dry washers, fancy gold pans that were souped-up to really collect the gold, re-circulating wetwashers and a variety of gadgets and contraptions that all share the similar purpose of increasing gold recovery in the field.

Several members gathered around the prospec-

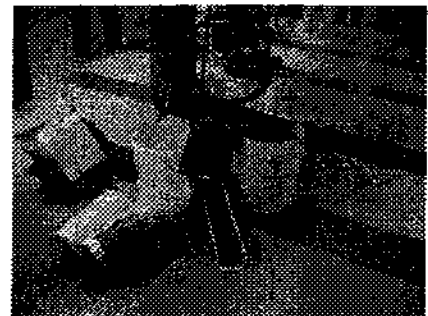
tors to learn how the gear worked. I was impressed with the ingenuity and creativity of our Club Members who designed this equipment.

This proves again that the Gold Searcher's of Southern Nevada like to have fun while finding that elusive gold!

You will probable see several pieces of the equipment displayed in action when you attend the Club Outings. The next outing is April 24 in Section 34.



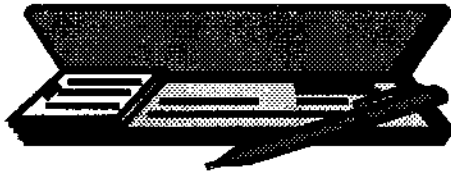
There will be hot dogs and Chili served at Noon. See you there!!!



*Show-And-Tell Proves Interesting and Educational At April Club Meeting*



Prospector Willie Biron showing his gear at April Meeting Show-And-Tell



# HAVE YOU SENT YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

## HAVE WE RECEIVED

### YOUR RENEWAL?

We have not received renewals from the following members. If your name is on this list, please complete the application on the back of this newsletter and send it to the Club with your renewal check payable to Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada in the amount of \$20.00.

## CURRENT

Baker, Bruce  
 Burke, James  
 Devine, Kenneth & Betty  
 Hildum, Jack  
 Holmes, Gene & Grace  
 Lorenz, Clive & Elaine  
 Pegg, Curt & Chris  
 Sprague, Gerald & Jan  
 Hartigan, Jim  
 Van Horn, Rick & Wendy  
 Young, John & Carolyn  
 Savage, Ron  
 Warren, Robert & Sally  
 Frain, Norman & Polly  
 LeMonde, Morton  
 Mahoney, Chris & Georgine  
 McCarty, Dennis & Virginia  
 Cherry, Kevin & Annette  
 Auerswald, Frank & Judi  
 Frazier, Robert & Ev  
 Abrams, Howard  
 Huffman, Rodney & Star  
 Wilson, Bill & Joy  
 Downes, Tom & Deborah  
 Thomas, Bruce & Majorie  
 Paulis, Jim  
 Salvaterra, Gene & Susan  
 Mayhood, Mitch

## ONE MONTH

Arola, John  
 Miller, Larry & Ida  
 Cathcart, Joe & Gloria  
 Kleier, Gene & Mary  
 Bradbury, Harold  
 Carlo, John C & Frances  
 Denton, Ada  
 Knowlson, Jack & Helen  
 Stratton, H. Allen & Frances  
 Rosemark, Ed & Linda  
 Eagleson, Mark & Cyndi  
 Blair, Michael  
 Davis, Brian & Gwen  
 Leissa, Denny  
 Headman, Deloris  
 Gordon, Clifford  
 Richards, Mike & Linda  
 Malaney, Keith  
 Goehring, Ray & Myra  
 Miller, Marv & Patty  
 Foster, Rufus  
 Richardson, Jerry & Margaret  
 McMackin, Bobby & Emma  
 Hetchler, Bill & Arlene  
 Gallo, Tony & Shannon  
 Burke, Rudy & Kerrie  
 Bradley, Harold & Debra  
 Abromowitz, Tony & Kristie  
 Simak, Jim & Lorri  
 Sant, Milton  
 Purdy, Lee & Jeanne  
 Haws, Jack & Dee  
 Gedrites, Rick  
 Dooley, Dixie & Margie  
 Denaro, David

## TWO MONTHS

DellaGagna & Domenick  
 Cook, Tuffy & Rhonda  
 Nutter, Howard & Shirley  
 Plante, Gerard  
 Williams, Ron & Linda

Schultz, Wesley & Louise  
 Metzger, Harold & Nancy  
 Hubber, Harry  
 Manning, Bill  
 Caldaro, Benedict  
 Thompson, JT  
 Woods, Ron  
 Williams, Dale & Yon  
 Kettner, Otto & Marge  
 Tontsch, William & Marry Ann  
 Svzdek, Bruno & Phyllis  
 Mayes, John & Betty  
 Kay, Clark & Jane  
 Johnson, Sam & Deanna  
 Johnson, Larry & Barb  
 Jepsen, CW & Cora  
 Hansinger, Christ & Elaine  
 Hall, Barbara  
 Doss, Tony & Margie  
 Clunan, Regis

## THREE MONTHS

Kennedy, Ron & Susan  
 Kilgore, C. Jim & Loretta  
 Dibble, Ed  
 Picotte, Hubert & Bernice  
 Howard, Tom

## LAST CALL

Sallee, Larry & Sue  
 Howard, Frank & Angelina  
 Steffen, Jim & Shari  
 Bryant, Spencer  
 Hale, Robert & Virginia  
 Noland, Douglass  
 Knapp, Herschel

**If you know any of these members, please encourage them to send in their renewal as soon as possible.**

Call Greg Olson, Membership Committee at 313-2600 with questions related to dues.

Thank You!

**WHERE'S THE GOLD?  
TIPS AND TECHNIQUES**

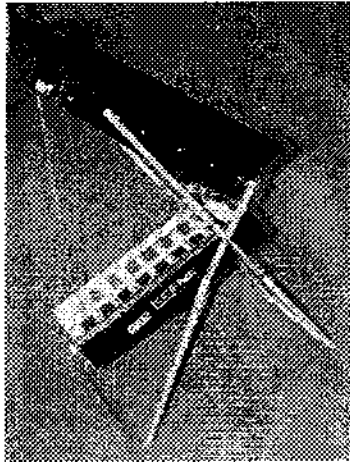
*In this column each month we will try to give newcomers to our hobby some valuable tips and techniques which may help them get more enjoyment out of recreational prospecting and mining. Who knows, it may even help them find GOLD!*

**DRYWASHING  
FOR GOLD !!!**

*By Tina Lane*

So you're thinking about attending the Club outing in June but are wondering what type of equipment to bring with you to Section 34. Other than a metal detector, a drywasher is probable the natural choice.

The recovery of gold from placer gravel by dry concentration is a subject that has received much attention over the years. Inventive minds have been occupied with this subject for years, and a great many machines have been designed for this type of work. It is interesting that the late Thomas A. Edison, about 1897, designed a dry process machine for saving gold from a placer deposit in New Mexico. Prior to this invention, prospectors in Mexico put placer gravel concentrates in blankets and tossed them in the wind exposing the concentrates to the wind while the fine gold is enmeshed in the hair of the blanket. Early machine type dry washers were of various designs and sizes and were utilized in working the placer deposits of Nevada, where the water available



is insufficient for wet methods. As this machinery developed the Mexican dry washer, or air jig, became the most popular. Although there were a number of different styles of the machine, the same principle is employed in the construction of all of them. The dry

the basis behind the modern Drywasher. All dry washers share one common characteristic...all materials must be completely dry as gold will not settle down to the bottom of the pan if the material is even slightly damp.

When digging, try to get as close to the bedrock as you can. When exploring dry river beds and arroyos, look for the same signs that you would in a flowing stream; large rocks and boulders that create "pockets", bend in the now dry gravel beds, etc. Dig as deep into cracks and crevices as you can. Use a small bar, a rock hammer, creciving device and a whisk broom to help you get all the fine materials into your pan. When running materials on your drywasher, be sure to keep an eye out for



**Drywashing for gold at the GSSN Club's Keystone Canyon Claim**

washer operates on the same principle of the jig, and consists essentially of a screen, hopper, rifle board, and some type of air transfer such as bellows, all mounted on a frame so as to be easily portable. The basics of the machine are still used today. The machines used a intermittent pulsation of air, whereby the heavier mineral particles settle to the bottom and the lighter material came to the top and is removed by gravity and air pulsations. That early machine is

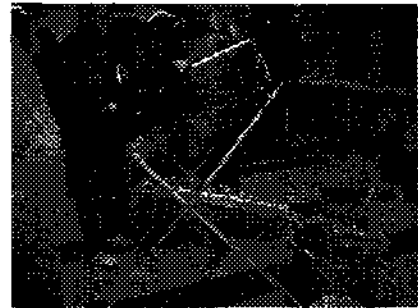
gemstones. And remember... **THERE MAY BE GOLD IN THAT DUST!!!** Contact a mining supply store such as Desert Outfitters to learn more about dredging equipment.

Come to the General Meeting and purchase your tickets for the Keene Drywasher Raffle. Tickets are 2 for \$9 and there are only 185 tickets total. See you at the meeting!!!

# For Sale Wet Washer - Dry Washer Combo.

This is the homemade system built by Ron Ames that was shown at the April Meeting.

It is light weight, sturdy and proven to deliver. That's because all the sluice and shaker parts are KEENE components. The wet sluice is the 3' X 10' wide model and the dry sluice is the 30" X 10" unit. Includes the KEENE Air Pump Shaker, the 12v water pump and all accessories. \$200 OBO Call Ron Ames at 631-0902



## Upcomming Events GSSN GOLD SHOW

Mark your calendar for the 1999 Gold and Treasure Show Sept 25 & 26, 1999  
Nevada Palace Hotel  
5255 Boulder Highway  
Las Vegas, NV  
Call 393-GOLD or 795-0383 to reserve Exhibitor Space.

### MEMBERSHIP BADGES

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

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

No Name Tag  
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#### NEVER Manually Ground Balance your Gold Detector Again!

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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

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Did you find your name in this month's HIGHGRADER? If so you are a winner of 7 free door prize raffle tickets!!!!

There are 5 names hidden throughout the newsletter.

This is what you do..... locate your name in The HIGHGRADER next locate Greg Olson at the meeting and tell him, "Greg! Guess what I won the 7 free door prize raffle tickets!" Then he will kindly give you what you deserve a chance to win any of the raffle prizes on the table!! Wow! That's deal.....so,

Win Doorprize Raffle Tickets

**McCaw School of Mines**

Vice President, Daniel Green has announced the dates and times for the panning classes for the students visiting the McCaw of Mines. We urge all members to attend this special tour and show our support for this "Very Worth-while" project. Each tour lasts approx. two hours. For additional information regarding the school call Daniel Green

May	03	10:00am
	04	10:00am
	05	10:00am
	06	9:30am
	07	10:00am
	10	9:30am
	11	10:00am
	12	10:00am
	13	10:00am
	14	10:00am
	15	10:00am
	17	10:00am
	18	10:00am
	19	10:00am
	20	10:00am
	21	10:00am
	24	9:30am
	25	9:30am
	23	9:30am
	26	10:00am
	27	10:00am
	28	10:00am

These are all forth and fifth grade students that are scheduled to visit the mine for about two hours on the above dates and times.

We would sincerely appreciate your help in working the tour of the mine. All helpers are provided a script of what to tell students and are given a certain area of the tour to help with.

We need your support!

Please call Dan Green at 795-0383 for additional information and directions to the mine school.

**Two Injured In Abandoned Mine**

It is with great regret that I report on yet another incident related to abandoned mine openings in Nevada. This is the third such report for calendar year 1998 and I sincerely hope that it is the last!

Sunday, October 11, 1998

Las Vegas area residents Vern Johnson and Richared Strickland ventured out into the desert southwest of Las Vegas. They drove out Warm Springs Road to the end of the pavement and continued on for another mile and a half to a grouping of old mine dumps. They parked their faded GMC pickup below the dumps and climbed a short distance up the rocky slope to take a look. They may have been imbibing a few "brewskies" and were admiring the panoramic view of the Las Vegas skyline that one has at that location.

Eventually, a flawed decision was made and the two passed through a vandalized fence and entered an adit that was, at one time, an opening into an underground gypsum mine. The two left a pack of cigarettes and a dollar bill held down with a small rock and the portal. Approximately 120 feet inside the adit was a raise that connected to an adit higher up the hill. Loose rock that had been fallen (or thrown) from above mostly clogged the adit the men entered. They crawled over the loose material and continued farther into the adit, reportedly running in the mine and had no matches, lights, or sup-

(Continued on page 9)



**Two Injured In  
Abandoned Mine  
(Continued)**

*(Continued from page 8)*

plies with them. At 180 feet inside the mine was a 50 foot deep vertical shaft (winze) which the two failed to see and down they fell.

**Wednesday, October 14, 1998**

Bill Pennington, a 71 year old prospector, had passed by the area and noticed the battered GMC parked near the mines as early as Monday, but thought it to be abandoned. On Wednesday morning, something told him he better check things out. He was a bit wary because some prospectors don't like to be bothered when they are working. Finding the cigarettes and the dollar bill at the portal he had a sense that something was wrong. He entered the mine and called out. Johnson and Strickland called back. Pennington contacted the authorities and a three-hour rescue effort was conducted by the Clark County Fire Department Rescue Team.

Both men were severely dehydrated as a result of being trapped for four full days. Vern Johnson received a broken ankle and broken ribs in the fall and was transported by ambulance. Richard Strickland suffered serious head injuries and was flown by Care Flight to a Las Vegas hospital. Both men miraculously survived the ordeal. Johnson reportedly told rescuers that he had seen NDOM's "Stay Out and Stay Alive" public service announcements many times on TV but failed to listen to the message.

There is an unsung hero in this story, Mr. Bill Pennington. His intuition, concern and courage saved two lives. We sincerely appreciate his actions

We also commend and say "Thank You" to the members of the Clark County Fire Department Rescue Team who ventured into dangerous territory and put their lives

on the line to save the two men.

Division staff, assisted by staff from the Clark County Public Response Office, repaired the fences surrounding the mine workings and posted new warning signs two days after the rescue operation. It was reported to NDOM that the signs were gone and the fences vandalized within the next week and a half!

There are many lessons to be learned from this incident and the others that have occurred this year and in years past. A few of these are as follows:

- Alcohol and/or drugs and abandoned mines don't mix
- Fences destroyed by vandalism and theft of warning signs endangers the public because the physical deterrent has been removed
- People need to take personal responsibility for their actions
- A thoughtless act can result in placing others at risk of injury or death

The Division continues to urge claimants and property owners to secure mine openings on lands they control. Securing work, whether it be fences, barricades, or postings of warning signs, should be checked periodically and maintained. The Division has warning signs available, on request: Metal signs for \$4.00 each (plus S&H) or paper signs at no cost (plus S&H for large orders). The signs can be obtained by visiting one of our two offices, sending a written request or by calling the Carson City office at (775) 687-5050 or the Las Vegas office at (702) 486-4343. To report an unsecured mine opening, please call the nearest NDOM office or call our 24-hour cellular number at (775) 721-ROCK (7625).

*Reprinted from State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry DIVISION OF MINERALS Update Volume 2, Issue 1 March 1999*

**DESERT  
OUTFITTERS**



**METAL DETECTOR  
CAMPING EQUIPMENT  
RENTALS**

Ice Chests, Canteens,  
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## 3809 Mining Regs Draft Released

After three years and two separate draft proposals, the Bureau of Land Management has released its draft Environmental Impact Statement for the 43 CFR 3809 surface management regulations, or "3809." It's about 480 pages, half body-half appendix. You remember that Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt attempted to rewrite 3809 in his image, as it was "no longer in the public interest to wait for Congress" (especially a Republican Congress) to reform the regs. Never mind that mining states had acted on their own to take up much of the perceived slack in the rules in the time between 1991 and 1996.

Some quick points about how the new 3809 regs would be tighter: expand the number of situations where plans of operation are required; establish plans for terminating inactive operations at both notice (less than 5 acres) and plan-level; require all operators to post estimated reclamation costs (not a per-acre fee) AND require "public comment" on such financial guarantees; and authorize BLM "to allow, at its discretion, members of the public to accompany BLM inspectors at mine sites."

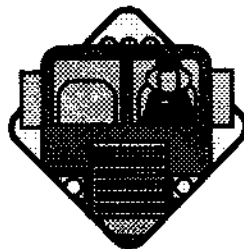
Some points which may be

good: set outcome-based performance standards for exploration through reclamation; allow BLM to "defer" to state governments in administration of mine regs; clarify parent-subsidiary liability issues; and "plain English."

For more specifics, the new 3809 rule and draft EIS are available from the BLM home page at [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov). Contacts: Larry Finfer at (202) 208-6913 or Bob Anderson at (202) 208-4201. A series of 16 public hearings are coming up, the earliest is Reno, March 23, Elko March 24; Phoenix, Fairbanks and Denver on March 30.

Written public comments are due May 10, to **Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Nevada State Office**. P.O. Box 12000, Reno! NV 89520-0006. Comments may also be filed electronically at [WOComent@wo.blm.gov](mailto:WOComent@wo.blm.gov); please include reference code attn: AD-22 in the message header along with your name, address, and contact numbers.

*Reprinted from: People for the USA. March 1999 issue.*



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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 **Doug Parker** who is going on his second consecutive year.

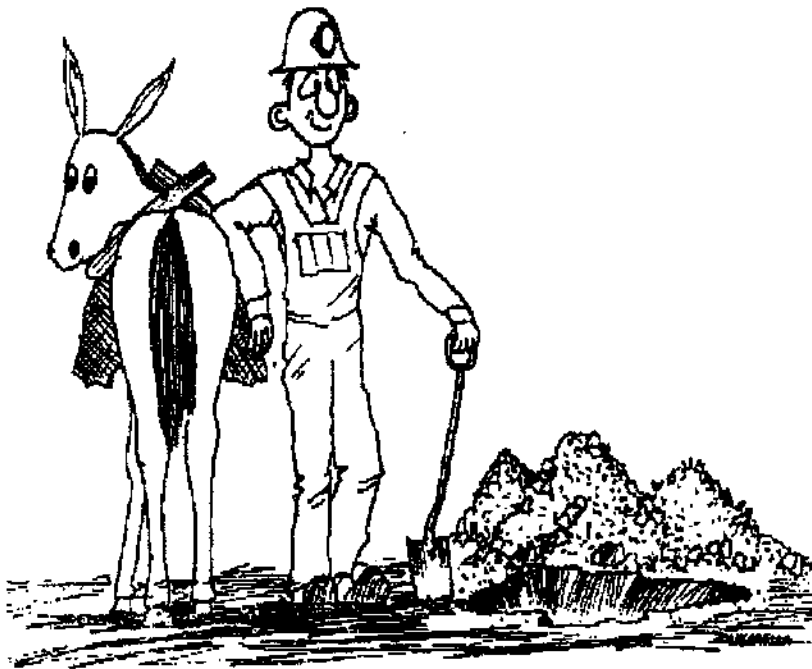
Doug has been a member since 7-1-93.

The Vice President is **Jeanne Moore**. Jeanne has been a member since 11-1-98.

The Treasurer is **Donna Schorn**. Donna has been a member since 2-1-99.

The Secretary is **Beth Fiebelkorn**. Beth has been a member since 7-1-95.

We would like to thank Roland LeClerc, Henry Mayhue and Lorna Caldwell for the great job they did for the



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*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,

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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 6:45PM, at the **ORR MIDDLE SCHOOL, 1562 E. Katie, 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

**Young, John & Carolyn**

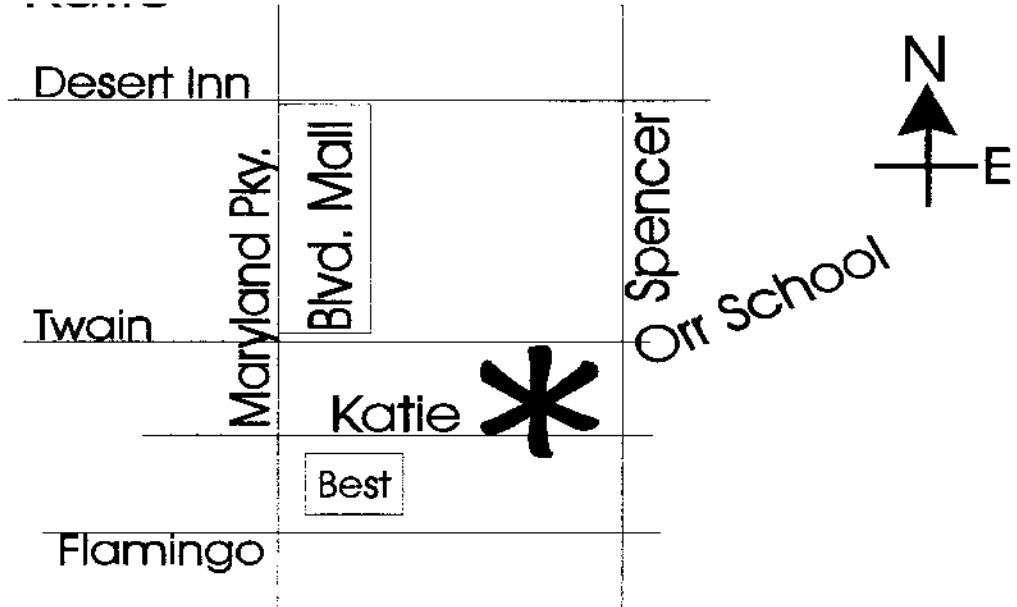
**TWO GENERAL MEETINGS** and/or go one **FIELD TRIP** with the **GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA** free of charge. After that, simply join the Club for a mere membership fee of \$35.00 for the first year and \$20.00 each year thereafter. This is a "**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**" which includes all your immediate 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:

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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."

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# Death Valley Find Is Apparent Hoax

by  
Deborah Hastings  
The Associated Press

Los Angeles (AP)—Jerry Freeman became an instant celebrity in January by announcing the discovery of a 149-year-old trunk belonging to a band of Gold Rush settlers he's obsessively researched for more than a decade.

Newspapers and television programs across the country featured his find—a wooden chest containing perfectly-preserved shoes, pottery bowls and a letter bearing the name William Robinson, a pioneer who died after crossing Death Valley in the great California Gold Rush.

This week, a big problem arose. The National Park Service, after bringing in archaeologists and curators from the Smithsonian Institute, announced the letter was a fake and that some of the trunk's contents, most notably glue containing polymers, were from the 20th century. The service would not say which items contained the glue.

"I won't call it a hoax," Park Service spokesman Tim Stone said. "At this point we know that the chest isn't from the 49er era. And whoever wrote that letter, we know it's not real.

"At present, we have no idea whether (Freeman) put it there or not. We're continuing to follow up," Stone said.

Freeman said he first saw the chest Nov. 22 in a rock cave along a trail believed taken by a group of 27 pioneers.

Freeman, a substitute teacher who majored in archaeology and has traced the party's route since 1985, insists he did not plant the chest.

"All I did was find the box," he said. "I wish I'd never walked into that cave. My reputation is in ruin."

He also says he doesn't dispute the Park Service's test results.

According to the Park Service, two photos in the trunk were tintypes, a process that was not patented until 1856. A stamp on one of two ceramic bowls was not used until after 1914. The letter, dated in January 1850, contained words not in use at the time.

The only authentic items were coins predating 1850 worth at least "thousands of dollars," Stone said. "This leaves me devastated," Freeman said. "But hey, I'm 56, I' grand kids, a loving wife and I a on."

How does he explain finding chest containing a bogus letter; a member of a group he has obsessively tracked for 14 years? "I don't know," Freeman said can't even fathom it."

## Mining Ends in Leadville

Leadville, Colorado. (AP)An ended in Leadville February 4, when the last miners left the Black Cloud mine and hung up

their brass t for the last time.

The Black Cloud was the last operating mine in Leadville and produced millions of dollars of zinc lead over the last 30 years. But pressed metals prices and a tapped out ore body led to the closure.

"I hate to see it go," said elect clan Glenn Lucero, who has work underground at the Asarco-owned mines for nearly a dozen years. "We, always had a mine in Leadville. is a sad day."

In preparation for the shut-down the miners collected tools a~ drained hydraulic fluid from heavy equipment, shored up drainage ditches where orange-tinted water gushes, and exploded excess dynamite.

Asarco, which got its start in Leadville before the turn of the century and contributed to the fortunes of Meyer Guggenheim, expects to continue searching for ore bodies 1,650 feet beneath the surface, in hopes that prices someday will rise again.

But we've gotten all the easy stuff," said Sid Lloyd, supervisor of the mine, which has lost about \$200,000 monthly for the past couple of years.

Some of the workers talked about driving buses, turning to carpentry, writing books or even flipping burgers in addition to asking about career programs they can enter when the severance pay runs out in March.

Others said they might move from Leadville to mines in Nevada and Montana that



## DEATH VALLEY HOAX (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 16)*

have posted hiring notices at the Black Cloud.

"We've had a lot of interest from other companies," Lloyd said. "Those that want to stay in mining can do that. They just can't do it here."

### Mine Woes Could Mean Higher Taxes

Silver City, New Mexico (AP)— Hard times for the copper industry could cost property owners in Grant County.

Copper mining operations account for about three-fourths of the Cobre Consolidated School District's taxable property, according to the county treasurer's office. But the area's two active mines have had massive layoffs and cut-backs because of copper prices hovering around 65 cents a pound.

The district's property and mineral values total about \$204 million, said Cobre Schools Superintendent Harrell Holder. If that drops to \$185 million, property taxes will have to go up to meet the district's bond obligations, he said.

Under a 1990 law, the portion of the mill levy assumed by copper production in the district is based on a three-year revenue average. The scaled-back production and reduced revenue mean mining companies will shoul-

der less of the district's tax burden.

If the copper slowdown continues, as projected, tax assessments from mining operations will drop even more.

Property owners are assessed a third of the appraised value of their homes times the tax rate, which for the Cobre district is about 5.5 mills. Thus, a home valued at \$90,000 pays \$165 in school

taxes.

If copper values drop 15 percent, the mill levy would have to increase to 6.1 percent to pay off the bonds, for a tax increase of \$18 on a \$90,000 home, Holder said.

"Conservatively speaking, these increases can occur over a second and third year as the three-year average declines," he said.

Chino Mines Co. produced 340 million pounds of copper last year. Its most recent newsletter said it will produce about 210 million pounds this year.

The Cobre district's last

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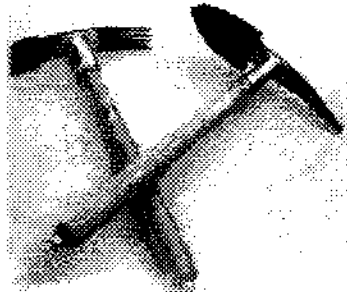
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