



GSSN HIGHGRADER

Issues 5 Vol. GO-XXXVII JULY/AUGUST 2000

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

Metal Detector Raffle Announced

It's official. We are raffling off a new MINELAB METAL DETECTOR! This detector retails for over \$349. It is a Mine Lab Musketeer Colt metal detector. Tickets will be available for \$5 each or two for \$9.

We are only printing 125 tickets for this detector. Hopefully all tickets will be raffled off in time to have the drawing at the Christmas Party. Purchase your tickets at the next meeting!



GSSN Members Visit Vicroy Mine

GSSN OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	
FRANK MAHONEY	
VICE PRESIDENT	
SAM JOHNSON	2
TREASURER	
SUSAN BERGE	64
SECRETARY	
BRIDGET POPE	2
MEMBERSHIP	
GREG OLSON	3
LIBRARIAN	
DOUG PARKER	6
EDUCATION	
DANIEL GREEN	7
EXPLORATION & CLAIMS	
DAN BOONE	
NEWSLETTER	
GREG OLSON	3

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

There were several members asking me if we were going to move the meetings back to the Orr Middle School or remain at the Nevada Palace. We did a telephone survey of local members and by a very close margin, we will remain at the Nevada Palace at this time. Thanks to all who made calls and to all of you at home who answered the survey.

Frank Mahoney

GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETINGS

AUGUST	30	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER	6	GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER	2-4	OUTING TO LIDA
OCTOBER	4	GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING
DECEMBER	8	CHRISTMAS PARTY NV PALACE

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

July 7, 2000

Member meeting 7/7/00 called to order at 6:55 PM. All board members present. Treasurer gave report.

Committee reports:

New members of the Claims Committee: Dan Boone, Chairman and Jack Vaughn. If you have any suggestions for weekday outings, please contact Dan Boone. He mentioned exploring possible claims in the Searchlight area.

The Mojave Prospectors of Arizona and GSSN now has a contracted relationship. We have joined forces to combine knowledge and resources (including claims). Frank Mahoney has the contract if anyone is interested in reading it.

The need for volunteers is becoming increasingly critical in order to continue with club outings, the picnic, and the Highgrader. As our club grows, more and more work is generating. The same few folks have been taking care of the logistics of each area for many years. Please, help us. We need assistance with getting food to the outing at section 34 on the 22nd of July. We need help with the annual picnic in August. If nobody helps, we will not be able to do these things any longer. We also need help with the Highgrader. All it takes is a computer and a few minutes. Greg is overloaded and should not do it all by himself. If you have any ideas as to how to improve your newsletter, by all means, put your idea into reality. We have the means and tools to make this the best club in Nevada, but without involvement of members, it is worthless.

New members and visitors were introduced.

Skip Donohue

Tony Dejohn, Boulder City
George
Mike and Claudia
Fred Barnes
Nick
Jim and Jessica
Jerry Montana
Dennis and Pat Craig, Las Vegas
Tom Collins

Visitors
Bill James, Cedar City

Dan Greene addressed the problem with the noise level at meetings. The last guest speaker was insulted because she could not successfully present her speech.

The Education Committee plans to bring a group of 10 to the Viceroy Mine on the 12th of July. He would like to schedule a regular visit as a weekday outing on Wednesdays if enough members are interested. Everyone will meet Wednesday morning at the Railroad Pass for 2 ½ hours of mining, smelting and molding.

Greg Olson called the Park Service regarding confirmation of Cathedral Canyon as the new picnic location. He has not gotten a response as of yet. Lee Canyon (Foxtail) is under construction. We really need help with the organization of this event. Jan and Lorna have been doing this event for years. They can't do it alone anymore.

Willie mentioned that on the 14th, a group of 6 would be going to Lida to check out possible claims and dry wash to test. There is BLM land identified out there, and maybe we could get a claim.

Dan Greene introduced Boo Coo as the guest speaker for the evening. He was a medic in the USAF, and safety in the desert is of utmost importance. Boo Coo explained many

(Continued on page 3)

**Board Meeting
6-14-00**

Board Meeting 6/14/00 called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attendance Frank Mahoney
 Susan Benge
 Sam Johnson
 (late)
 Bridget Pope
 (late)
 Greg Olsen
 Dan Greene
 Mort LeMonde
 Willie Birens
 Brad Fine
 Doug Parker
 Roland and
 Leilani LeClerc
 Don Adams

Motion to accept treasury report, seconded and passed.

We have made an agreement with the Mojave County Prospectors to combine claims and interests. Dan Boone will assist Willie with the Claims Committee. We need volunteer assistance with the Highgrader, as Greg Olson will soon be resigning his efforts.

A proposal to purchase a \$300 Mine lab Musketeer Colt metal detector for raffle was seconded and passed. Tickets will be available for \$5 each or 2 for \$9. There will be 125 tickets.

A proposal to purchase a \$3000 Gold nugget for raffle was opposed by all. We discussed several different

raffle methods and time frames, however we concluded the expense of such a nugget was just too much for an experimental raffle. It would be too difficult to forecast sales of tickets in lieu of the cost of the nugget. We also decided that it would be too difficult to determine how much time may lapse before sales of tickets would balance the cost of

**July 7, 2000
General Meeting (Cont.)**

(Continued from page 2)

seemingly obvious points. Perhaps the points are not so obvious until spoken. Bring and drink lots of water. Wear clothes to block the sun and prevent sunburn. If someone has sunstroke due to lack of water, keep the feet raised. If you are dry washing, wear a mask to prevent inhalation of dust. Ice and pressure stop bleeding wounds. If someone gets snakebite, use the spark plugs in your vehicle to electrically shock the area. Somehow, the shock changes the molecular structure of the poison. Beware of yucca and Joshua pricks. Don't wander in the desert alone. Don't wander into mines. If someone has a heart attack, say a lot of prayers, because there are few medical facilities out there. Boo Coo also gave us a panning demonstration.

Door prizes:

Tom Collins got the nugget pick.
 Chuck Dietz - Screen Classifier
 Robbyn Gibbons - Binoculars
 Gerald Gallagher - Nugget
 Bill Pash - Nugget
 Mark Kaufman - Pick
 Henry Leighow - Nugget
 Bill Rexford - Shovel
 Shane Young - Solar Radio
 Jeanette Rexford - Accessory Pouch
 Edward Dibble - Compass
 Chuck Carpenter - Spoon
 Doug Roberts - Magnet
 Robbyn Gibbons - Gold Quarter
 Will Cooper - Tent

The Meeting was adjourned at Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.



Volunteer a small amount of time for the Club. Call Dan Green €

**Board Meeting
6-14-00 (Cont.)**

the nugget.

Sam contacted an artist in Pahrump to finalize details on Doug's copper "thank you" pan. She would love to finish it, however, she was on vacation. Sam will contact her when she returns home.

Greg received a flyer in the mail mentions a "Midas" outing that will take place on July 02, and it is supposedly sponsored by GSSN. No board members know anything about this event.

A motion to shift the board meetings was passed in order to attempt better timing of Highgrader publications. The board felt as though if we hold the board meetings one week prior to the member meetings, then perhaps we will have better opportunity to get the Highgrader to the press, thereby improving distribution timing.

Dan Boone will take over as Claims Committee Chairman. Willie said he will continue to assist the Claims Committee.

Willie has topographic maps, a new GPS, and a book of mining laws of Nevada -and Arizona. We need to schedule a map reading class and an instructor. If any member of the club is interested and capable of volunteering assistance with this project, please contact Frank Mahoney.

We need feedback from members regarding a claim in Lida. Board members voiced concerns regarding the 4-hour distance from Las Vegas. Willie and Dan Boone will research gold availability in the area. Please contact Frank if any club members have suggestions as

to where else there may be good claims.

The next outing will be held on June 24. Hot does and chili will be provided.

A proposal to purchase a \$99 grill and a \$10 adapter (for tank switching) was passed with no opposition. This grill will be used specifically for club outings.

Concerns rose regarding the location of our member meetings. Our guest speaker at the last member meeting was offended in regards to the noise level, and said she would never return. The casino employees were rude in their break room; however, it is their break room. They are not allowed to socialize on the clock. The biggest problem, however, was not the casino employees. It was that our members would not stop talking and give the speaker respect enough to speak. We do not have the best acoustical arrangement, as we are all aware. Members, the board asks you to please allow us the opportunity to bring you professional guest speakers. The guests will absolutely not return if they are not allowed to speak due to loud socializing on the floor. They do not feel as though what they have to say is important if people are talking over them. Perhaps we need to move the location of our meetings to a more acoustical setting, and the board understands this problem. However, meanwhile, until we can find another solution, please be respectful

The next Member Meeting will be held on July 5, 2000 at the Nevada Palace.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40

HIGHGRADER

Board Meeting July 26, 2000

President Frank Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance

Frank Mahoney, Doug Parker, Greg Olson, Susan Bengé, Leilani and Roland LeClerc, Mort LeMonde, Willie Biren, Brad Fine, Dan Boone, and Dan Green

Doug reported that there were only ten people at the last outing. He said it was very hot out there.

Treasurer's report was accepted and passed.

Greg asked for help with the newsletter and so far is has gone unanswered. It was mentioned that five regular raffle tickets would be given to any one who submits a story about anything that took place on their time and adventure.

Dan Green has a speaker coming for the August meeting. The speaker will be from the American Red Cross.

There will be no outing in the month of August due to the heat.

At the August general meeting we will be discussing where our meetings will be held in the future. I hope many of our members will be at this meeting. The location of our general meeting is very important and needs to be discussed thoroughly by everyone.

Gold nuggets will be the raffle prizes for the August general meeting. This is a chance for everyone to go home with some gold.

A motion was made by Greg Olson to charge our "Show & Tell" people \$5.00 per table or donate one item of some sort to the club to be raffled. Motion passed and carried to do so.

Outings and Events

September 2,3, &4 Lida Outing
October 21-22

November No Outings

December 8 Christmas party at the Nevada Palace

Christmas party tickets will go on sale during the September general meeting. Tickets will be \$5.00 per person and the club will pick up the balance.

Claims committee searched Lida for potential claims. There is no new claim in Lida at this time. A motion was made not to file a claim in Lida.

Doug Parker has inquired about the club joining with the GPAA. He has acquired the bylaws. He will have more on this later.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Gold Nuggets & Claims Bought And Sold

7/2000

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



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

SEPTEMBER 2000

- Kilpatrick, Jenny
- Gourley,, Pat
- Hall, Francis & Fay
- Davis, Rea & Carolyn
- Saylor, Dean
- Hickey, John & Leslie
- Hays, James G
- Duncan, Roy
- Kandler, Robert
- Louisgnont, Gregory & Diana
- Hardie, John
- Anderson, Linwood
- Brown, Walter & Jane
- Graves, Jim & Kim
- Szabo, Gary
- Pieri, David
- Zimmer, Dennis
- Woods, John
- Pezza, Dominick
- Shanley, Richard
- Bates, Don
- Wells, Curtis
- VanRhyn, Jeff & Anna
- Small, George & Audrey
- Pinto, Jenny
- Parsick, Jim
- Lambie, Bill
- Dyer, Phil & Janice
- Crawford, Nate
- Caldwell, Ron & Lorna
- Biron, Willie

ONE MONTH

AUGUST 2000

- Chopp, John W
- Lescenski, William S & Marlene
- King, Bob & Deb
- Cummins, Richard
- James, John & Valeri
- Bernard, Roger & Elizabeth
- Schmidt, Wayne & Kuemany
- Strother, Raymond & Debbie
- Hubbard, Ron & Fran
- Sgambato, Mark & Cyndi

TWO MONTHS

JULY 2000

- Gubachy, James & Elizabeth
- McCoy, David & Terri
- Morris, Roger & Sandra
- Seyller, Leo
- Slaughter, Butch & Janet
- King, Richard
- Orozco, Manny
- Urbansky, Julie
- Pung, Matthew
- Richmand, Margie
- Williams, Larry & Alma
- Werner, Pat & Flo
- Obole, Tim & Rebecca
- Chapulin, Loren
- Edwards, Lewis J & Dee

THREE MONTHS

JUNE 2000

- Laub, Stanley
- Spratley, David
- McWeeney, Theresa
- Ayers, Rich & Jennifer
- Powell, William & Kelly
- Campbell, Wayne G.
- Hahn, Larry & Christina
- Wagner, Reid & Elaine
- O'Connell, Rick

Strickler, Terry & Jan
Kendrick, Jack

LAST CALL MAY 2000

- Norris, Joe
- Parker, Denise & Cary
- Downes, Tom & Deborah
- Wilson, Bill & Jay
- Auserwald, Frank & Judi
- Mahoney, Chris & Georgine
- Warren, Robert & Sally
- Baker, Bruce H.

If you know any of these members, please encourage them to send in their renewal as soon as possible.
Call Greg Olson, Membership Committee with questions related to dues.

Please send in your renewal as soon as possible so you don't miss out on any of the Club's exciting events.

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SUMMER HEAT CAUSES 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 approximately 50% 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.

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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.

*An elderly person's body weight is
approximately
50% water*

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.



Bring Lots of Water When Prospecting In Summer Heat

Don't underestimate the importance of proper preparation when prospecting in the summer heat. Even experienced outdoors people may become dehydrated when venturing out in the summertime.

Proper preparation, a couple extra bottles of water and Gatorade could just save your life.

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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, 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

Saylor, Dean

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:

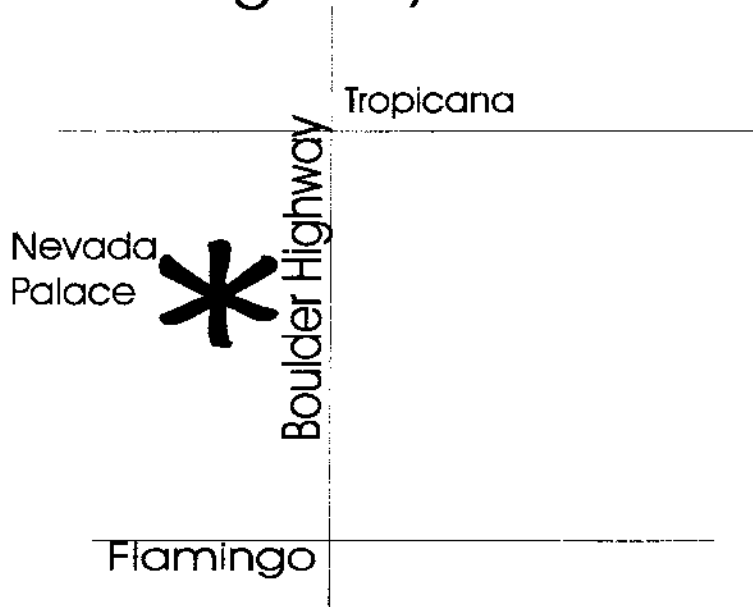
**GSSN
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(702) 393-GOLD

HIGHGRADER

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)

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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:

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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 [redacted]. Ads are only \$20 for six months and 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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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**
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- * **Sign Our Public Guest Book**
- * **View Dry washer 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

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HOW TO TELL REAL GOLD FROM FOOLS GOLD

The most important key to success for any miner is to be able to positively identify placer gold.

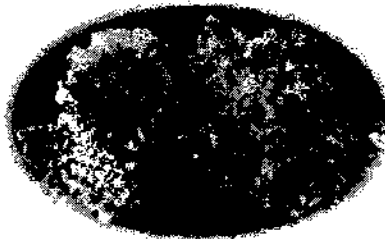
So many times "leaverite" (leave it right where you find it) is mistaken for gold when a few simple tests, which can be made in the field, would remove any doubt.

Gold is a very heavy mineral with a specific gravity of 19. That means that it is 19 times heavier than water. In a gold pan, gold has a tendency to "hang back" as compared to lighter, worthless minerals. Most of the fools-gold that is lost in panning is in reality, shiny flakes of mica or chunks of iron pyrite.

When oil or grease is present in the water, fine, flat flakes of gold can float on the surface of the water. Try to avoid getting oil into the water.

Placer gold, (the stuff we find on or near the sur-

face) does not always shine like jeweler's gold which is refined and highly polished. Sometimes the gold can have a coating of oxide minerals that can be cleaned off with nitric acid.



Is it real?

The surface of placer gold is nearly always roughened or pitted by abrasion in the stream due to its softness. Sometimes gold may have quartz particles attached which indicates that the gold has not moved a great distance from its source.

A further test for gold is to try dissolving the specimen in nitric acid. Gold will not be affected by nitric acid while pyrite

and other sulfide minerals will smoke and dissolve. When in doubt, bring it in and have someone check it out.

Make a map of anywhere you found or thought you found something. Memory and landscapes tend to change over time. It is always a good idea to draw a clear map of where your findings originated from so you may return to the spot in the future. A GPS unit may be your best method for marking the spot as many units like the one in the GSSN library have a memory feature where you can push a button and the computer remembers your spot. When you get home, you can write the coordinates down for future travel to the same spot.

These simple methods and many others will help you to determine what you found. For additional reading on this topic, please call Doug the Librarian at 642-8972 and he will bring a book on the topic to the meeting.

VICEROY MINE TOUR

By: Frank Mahoney

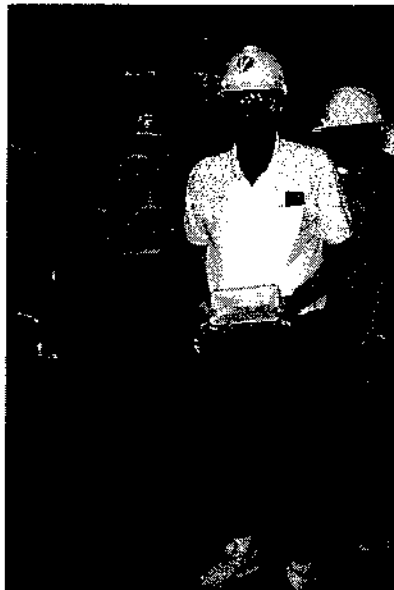
It was a warm summer July 12th morning when nine members of the Gold Searchers club



gathered at Railroad Pass Casino to venture off to visit the Viceroy gold mine. The mine is located in the southern California eighteen miles south of Searchlight, NV.

The tour was high lighted with a blast in the pit. We concluded the tour by watching the pouring of 50 pound gold and sliver bars.

While on the tour we witnessed a blast in an open pit approximately 300 feet down. We then watched the hauling of the ore from the pit to the crusher. Then we



GSSN member holding a 50lb gold bar at Vicory Mine Tour

saw the ore taken to the heap leach with geotextile pad. It was then taken to the gold recovery plant and last to the pour in the refinery.



The whole trip was approximately five hours from start to finish. Everyone who went had a great time and thought it was a wonderful learning experience. We didn't know there was so much to gold mining on a large scale. The size of the operation was extremely overwhelming. The trip was well received by all who went. It's something the nine of us will talk about for a long time to come. Special thanks to Dan Green, Education Committee Chairman for arranging such an exciting and educational event for the members of the Gold Searcher's of Southern Nevada. Look in the Highgrader for the next tour date of this great operating mine.

A Legacy of Gold The Viceroy Mine

By: Dan Green

Several groups of members from the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada were guests of the Viceroy Gold Mine. The mine is located near the town site of Hart, California. Hart no longer appears on modern maps. It is a real GHOST TOWN.

At one time Hart, CA had a population of over 30,000 people. The gold was plentiful for these citizens at the time.

Our members assembled at Railroad Pass Casino in the parking lot. They drove down to Searchlight, west to the Walking Box Ranch Road and then south all the way to the Viceroy Mine.

Our members were greeted by Dick Ray who is in charge of mine tours and public relations. They were seated in a company van and taken on a 2 1/2 hour tour of the mine property. The tour consisted of a dynamite blast in the pit area, crushing of ores, a run through the ball mill and leaching programs. The final portion of the tour and the best part was the pouring of a gold bar weighing 50 pounds. This trip will be long remembered by those who signed up for this adventure.

Look in the Highgrader for information on the next tour to the Viceroy Mine.

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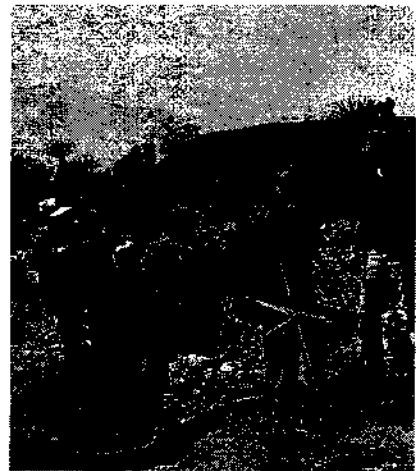
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New To The Club?

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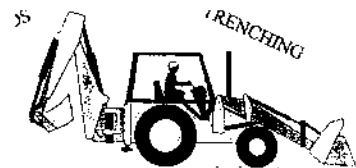


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METAL DETECTOR ADJUSTMENTS

Dredgings' by Cathcart

Note:

Joe Cathcart is a long time member of the Gold Searcher's of Southern Nevada. The sharing of his experience in Prospecting for the benefit of our less experienced members is greatly appreciated by the Club. Thanks Joe!

Since there are many types of metal locators we will discuss only the two major ones – All metal detectors and detectors designed for mainly finding gold, although, both will find metallic items or coins, etc. The gold detector is not as strong on all metals such as coin shooting based on its circuitry, which is designed for identifying very small pieces of gold. The detector designed for all metals has a harder time in identifying the very small pieces of gold but will identify with most all metals and larger nuggets.

The following list covers most of the major controls of later type detectors.

1. All metal mode of operation.
2. Ground balancing, Manual or automatic, (see also GROUND BALANCE INSTRUCTIONS, page 2)
3. Variable sensitivity (power).
4. Adjustable audio threshold.
5. S.A.T., (self-adjusting-threshold) or auto tune.
6. Retune Control

1. All Metal Operation.

Models of detectors, particularly those used for finding coins, possess a "discrimination" (or trash rejection) mode. This control is used to let you know the difference between good and bad targets by producing an audible beep signal when the search coil passes over the good target, and remains silent over bad targets. This mode is used for searching for coins or metal collectibles in parks, ghost towns, etc, but is not preferred for electronic prospecting. Both are designed for their particular use since gold is a low-conductivity metal and usually rejected at relatively low levels of discrimination and will reject them. The discrimination detectors are more designed to find coin-size targets and you will find the all-metal mode of operation usually penetrates more deeply into the ground than does the discrimination mode.

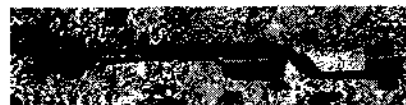
2. Ground Balancing.

This refers to adjust the detector so as to ignore most mineralization present in the soil. Soil mineralization in detector usage refers to conductive materials such as naturally occurring iron and salts occurring in rocks or the soil. A person must therefore adjust their detector to "ignore" the soil mineralization. Otherwise it will react to it, which will minimize or totally eliminate the detector's ability to react to gold nuggets. There are certain models of detectors with electronic circuitry which will automatically ground balance the detector and other models require manual ground balancing. **(This is further explained later on, with basic directions, and is one of the most important adjustments)**

3. Variable Sensitivity.

This control is actually the operat-

ing power or gain (strength). Its not like operating a motor vehicle as too much gain or power can defeat your purpose. It does reason that more power may allow greater depth of detection and could result in more gold found. However, the level of operating gain utilized in a detector is directly related to the strength of soil mineralization of the area being searched. In other words, if high soil mineralization is encountered, you will be required to use **lower** power (gain) settings. When soil mineralization is low, you can use **higher** levels of operating power (gain). Soil mineralization can differ tremendously from one area to another, and the sensitivity setting will have to be adjusted accordingly. If you operate your detector at a lower sensitivity level than necessary it will cause you to miss small nuggets, due to loss of depth potential, conversely, attempting to operate the detector at



a sensitivity setting which could be too high based on the soil conditions you are in, will cause instability and erratic or a chattering sound and may make your detector very difficult (or impossible) to properly ground balance it. This also may cause it to drift and the threshold (or sound) becomes weird or wavers as the search coil is passed over the ground or an object. If this type of instability occurs, reduce the sensitivity to an acceptable or stable level. Using too much sensitivity will also cost you nuggets, since your detector is reacting to the soil instead of nuggets. Just remember – for maximum depth penetration, always use the highest sensitivity setting which still permits a stable operation. First time users may want to start at a lower sensitivity setting until you get the

(Continued on page 15)

— Metal Detector Adjustments (Continued) —

(Continued from page 14)

feel of your detector. An easy way is to start at a halfway or slightly less setting and increase until it starts to sound erratic and then back off slightly.

4. AUDIO THRESHOLD

Audio threshold refers to the small hum, but steady hum that is heard while the detector is being operated. This control must be adjusted to its very lowest audible (hearable) setting but still audible to the person detecting. Hearing ability varies, as does the power of headphones employed. It cannot be adjusted too low or too loud. If using headphones with adjustable sound, set the detector volume louder than usual but tone it to the faint sound with the headphone volume control. If you set the sound too loud, (or the threshold) you won't be able to hear the faint signal produced by small or deep targets.

5. SELF-ADJUSTING THRESHOLD

Some detectors use the S.A.T., or self-adjusting (or auto tune) threshold. This type is used in maintaining a relatively smooth, or constant threshold sound when you operate in the all-metal mode. This type circuit smoothes out the variations in the intensity of the threshold hum, as the variation is caused by the degrees of soil mineralization when moving the search coil over the ground. With the S.A.T., if you pass over something that diminishes the sound, the circuit will increase sound to bring the threshold sound back to its original setting. Or if something increases the threshold sound the S.A.T. circuit will reduce the threshold sound back to its normal setting. The S.A.T. circuitry is really to maintain the same threshold sound intensity with out continually adjusting your detector.

Remember - the S.A.T. (auto-tune) only SMOOTHES out any small changes in the threshold sound caused by sudden changes in the soil mineralization. IT DOES NOT ground balance the detector.

6. RETUNE CONTROL

Some types of detectors have what is called a "Retune" control, button, or trigger. If yours has such a control, after each adjustment or continual use, it would be necessary to press and release the retune control to "re-set" the new adjustment. Some of the older detectors also recommend that the buttons, etc. or reset or pushed every five to ten minutes just to re-set the unit incase it had drifted. Some of the older models would start drifting off of the adjustments after continual use.



GROUND BALANCING PROCEDURE

If your model detector is an automatic ground balance unit, then follow the directions in your instruction manual. If your model requires manual ground balancing, you also want to first follow your manual but for the novice, it is sometimes frustrating to understand ground balancing.. I shall attempt to explain this in general terms.

What you are trying to accomplish in ground balancing is to adjust your metal detector to ignore soil mineralization content. That is

why, when first turning on your detector, hold the search coil about waist high well off the ground in the air where no mineralization exists. This also keeps it away from any metal material which may be in the ground. Find tune the threshold level to a barely audible setting. Next,

Lower the search coil to the proper operating height above the ground (lower the coil flat to the ground, not canted at an angle) and take note of any changes in the threshold sound. What you are doing is putting the search coil from an area of NO mineralization (the air) to a point of SOME mineralization (the soil), and listening to how the detector reacts. Listen carefully to the sound from operating height (close to ground) and then flat on ground.

The threshold (sound) will do one of three things - A. the threshold will go quiet, or B. it will not change at all, or C. it will get louder.

If the threshold sound does not change at all, then your ground balance setting is perfect for the level of mineralization in the soil at that spot, and no further ground balance adjustment is necessary.

If the threshold sound either got louder, or went quiet when the search coil was lowered to the ground, then the detector is not perfectly balanced, and needs to be properly adjusted again.

(Continued on page 16)

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--- Metal Detector Adjustments (Continued) ---

(Continued from page 15)

It is the job of the S.A.T. (self-adjusting threshold) circuit to keep the threshold sound at a constant level, by either raising or lowering the sound, as necessary, to keep it at the desired level. Therefore, if ground balanced, and the setting was incorrect (the intensity of the threshold sound having changed as the search coil was lowered to the ground), the unit has to be ground balanced correctly. The following method is recommended. Hold the search coil about 12 inches above the ground, with the bottom of the search coil level to the ground. Now, **very quickly** lower the search coil to about an inch above the ground, and just as rapidly, raise the search coil away from the ground, back to the original in-air height. This action can best be described as quick down-and-up pumping action. This down and up pump procedure should take no more than a second to accomplish. The reason why the search coil is not left near the ground any real length of time is to prevent the S.A.T. circuit from correcting any changes in the now-altered threshold sound.

When the search coil approaches the ground in this pumping action, the threshold sound either remains the same, or it increases, or it decreases. If there is little or no change in the threshold sound as the search coil approaches the ground, at the bottom portion of the stroke, then the ground setting is correct. If the threshold sound had decreased when the search coil reached the bottom of the stroke, (or possibly made a chatter or whirring noise when search coil pulled quickly away from the ground) then the detector is reacting negatively to the soil's mineral content. To correct that situation, the **ground balance control** setting must be ad-

vanced more toward the positive range. Conversely, if the threshold sound had increased when search coil was lowered, the ground balance setting is miss-adjusted so as to cause the detector to react positively to the soil mineralization, and to compensate, the ground balance control must be re-adjusted more toward the negative range.

The best way to remember how to adjust the ground balance setting is: If the threshold sound had **decreased** when the search coil approached the ground, you need to **add** sound; if the threshold sound had **increased** when search coil was lowered, we need to **subtract** sound.

For most manually ground-balanced detectors, fitted with rotary control knobs, turning the control knob **clockwise** will **advance** it toward the **positive "plus sound"** range. **Counterclockwise** adjustment brings it farther into the **negative** or **"minus sound"** range. If this method is not correct for the particular model of metal detector you are using, be sure to refer to the instruction manual for the correct adjustment for your instrument.

Continue to repeat this lower-and lift, test-and-adjust procedure, making slight adjustments as needed, until the ground balance setting is properly adjusted for those particular soil conditions. You may have to repeat this procedure several times before it is correct. The ground balance setting will be closer to being correct in the threshold sound as the search coil is lowered to the ground will be more steady than a loud/softer noise is heard. If adjusted correctly, you must try to adjust the ground balance control till the sound is just about the same or equal sound as the coil is raised up and down in

that pumping action. If the sound can't be totally adjusted as the same sound up and down, then it is better to have a slightly stronger sound (very slightly) when lowered toward the soil. Since materialization may change in gold bearing soil, you may be required to check your ground balance sound frequently.

Note: If you have trouble leveling out the sound in this procedure, reduce the sensitivity control slightly. Also you must always check to see that you aren't on top of some buried metal object or hot rock.

With the usual perseverance in metal detecting, proper ground balancing is the major secret in great finds.



Metal Detecting can be a very rewarding past time. One of our members found this gold in about one month while prospecting in Arizona on a side of a wash. Most of it was found in one day. The big pieces weigh 11.5 oz., 8.3 oz., 6.2 oz. The 8.3 oz. was found about 22 inches deep. Below is a picture of some meteorites he found. Congratulations to John Green for his great finds.

High Voltage Shock Treatment For Snake Bite?

This article was reprinted from the Dept. of Microbiology and Public Health Published from the University of Michigan State.

The idea of using an electrical current for treating a venomous snake bite arose from a report from a local paper in Illinois of a farmer who was hyper allergic to bee stings and who found that applying a high voltage, low amperage, direct current shock to the site of the bee stings prevented his usual severe reactions. For snake bites a 20-25 kV <1mA direct current is applied to the site of the bite. The bitten area (usually a limb) is electrically grounded as close to the bite as possible and current is applied via an insulated probe to the bite for one to two seconds. Usually four or five shocks are given with five to ten seconds between them. An outboard motor is one commonly available source of such a current. A lead carrying an insulated probe can be attached to the spark plug, and the current is best applied with the engine at half throttle. Other motors with spark plugs (e.g. Lawn mowers and auxiliary lighting plants) have also been used with excellent results.

There are records on 34 cases of bites on limbs where there was evidence of penetration of the skin. The current was applied within 30 minutes of the bite, and 10 to 15 minutes later all pain had gone and the usual sequelae of an untreated bite (swelling, serosanguinous bullae, bleeding, shock and renal failure) did not develop. No patient died. After an hour the patient was usually able to go home.

At follow up there was no necrosis of tissue around the bite due either

to the bite of the treatment. Seven people who refused the shock treatment experienced the classic complications and two needed life saving amputations. Two other patients were not treated until two hours after being bitten by viper snakes and arrived with swollen limbs and intense pain. One had signs of spontaneous bleeding. Seven electrical treatments were administered producing pain relief within 30 minutes. Twelve hours later the swellings had not progressed and there were no signs of bleeding. After three days the swelling had almost disappeared; however, one had a small necrotic area around the bite site.

This technique has been used successfully by other investigators in the jungles of Equator for other types of bite, such as those of the ant and the black scorpion. Colleagues in Iran, Jay, Indonesia and Peru have also used this technique with similar results.

Moving toward a more portable system for this treatment, we modified a stun gun with a 9 volt battery to deliver a direct pulsating current of around 25kV and less than 1 mA. One probe acts as the ground terminal while the other applies the current to the bite. Such currents do not stimulate the myocardial muscle. There may be a local effect on the host tissues or there may be a direct effect on the activity of the venom itself. Venom has a short life and a shut-down of local vessels by electro spasm may confine the venom locally enough for it to become inactive. Whatever the mechanism, this technique is practicable and potentially life saving.

Annual Christmas Party Update

The Annual GSSN Christmas party details have been finalized.

WHERE: Nevada Palace
WHEN: December 8
5:30 PM
PRICE: \$5 per person

The party will be at the Nevada Palace Hotel & Casino, upstairs in our meeting area.

- * Live Country & Pop Band
- * Buffet Style Dinner
- * Prizes
- * Great Family Fun

Tickets are only \$5 per person. This includes dinner! The price is actually higher, but the club is picking up the rest of the tab. Your price...just \$5 per person!

We always have a great time at the GSSN Christmas Party.

Get your tickets at the next General Meeting at Nevada Palace.

See you there!!!

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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