

GSSN HIGHGRADER

Issue 1 Vol GO-XX I DECEMBER 1998/JANUARY 1999

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

Holiday Fun For Everyone

The annual GSSN Christmas party was fun and relaxing for almost 200 GSSN Members that came for the evening. The dinner served by the kind folks at the Nevada Palace was

The Club extends its warmest appreciation to the great people of the Nevada Palace for all their effort. We look forward to doing it again next year. See you there!!!

tasty and filling. As the band entertained members took the opportunity to visit and make new friends who share interests in gold prospecting and other outdoor activities. Prizes were awarded to several lucky members and we all went home full of good food and holiday spirit.



Members enjoyed an evening of good food, music and talk of prospecting at the 1998 Christmas Dinner

GSSN OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	
DOUG PARKER	64
VICE PRESIDENT	
ROLAND LECLERC	5
TREASURER	
HENRY MAYHUE	22
SECRETARY	
LORNA CALDWELL	4
MEMBERSHIP	
GREG OLSON	256
LIBRARIAN	
SUSAN BENGE	64
EDUCATION	
DANIEL GREEN	79
EXPLORATION & CLAIMS	
RICHARD KING	8
NEWSLETTER	
GREG OLSON	250

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Happy New Year To All!

This new year brings excitement to the Club. We are planning the first ever Gold Show to be produced by the GSSN. This show will bring national exposure to our local prospecting organization. We are hard at work designing the event to be held September 18 & 19 this year.

We would appreciate your input for the event. Please feel free to call me with your ideas to make the event a sure success!

Doug

GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETINGS

FEBRUARY	3	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY	10	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY	20&21	OUTING SECTION 34

**GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
January 6, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm by President Doug Parker. Ten guests and 7 new members were welcomed making a total of 127 present.

No Highgrader was mailed in December, therefore the Christmas dinner and Board meeting minutes will be printed in the January Highgrader along with the January minutes. The combined minutes will then be voted on at the February General Meeting

Henry Mayhew gave the treasurer report. A motion was made by Donna Baer, seconded and passed to accept the report subject to audit.

Everyone was in agreement that the Christmas Dinner was a great success. Doug did say however that next year we would need a bigger room and place mats with our names on them to mark our seat at the table.

The next club outing will be January 23rd at section 34.

Robyn Gibbons will be giving the first of her workshops on solar energy for the use in the desert as well as at home, at Rainbow library on January 24th. Please call Robyn a if you are interested. She is not selling anything.

Dan Green announced that he is going to try and get Larry Lister of the Nevada Dowser Club to come back and speak about meteors at a future meeting. He also reminded us that McCaw School of Mines needs volunteers.

Dan and Doug were able to get a final date for the club Gold Show. It will be September 25-26th 1999 at the Nevada Palace. Doug said Nevada Palace will not charge us if plans fall through, and we are not able to have the show. If we do have the show, they will charge us 50% of the table charges. Therefore a motion was made to hold the show on the above dates. It was seconded and passed.

Willie Biron said his first library review meeting will be held on Jan. 13th at the regular Board meeting.

Elections will held at our April General Meeting. All positions are open. Lalani will be in charge of the elections. If you are interested call her Doug said he is going to run for President one more year so he and Dan can do the Gold Show. Roland will also run for Vice President.

It was brought up that some members are being shot at on the section 10 claims. If this happens to you, go to

(Continued on page 3)

**BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
December 8, 1998**

After enjoying chili brought by Don Adams and fruit trts brought by Lorna Caldwell, President Doug Parker called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

Attending were Doug Parker, Susan Benge, Dan Green, Don Adams, Greg Olson, Ron & Lorna Caldwell.

The first item discussed was the Christmas Party. Going by rough figures, it appears the party will not cost the Club more than \$200.00. The Board decided the party was a great success and should be done similar next year, with some improvements on seating. Greg Olson suggested that placemats be handed out at the door with your name and ticket number. That way everyone will have their number handy for the drawing and know where you are sitting and save your place while in the food line.

The next item was a plaque for Lalani LeClerc for cooking food at the outings.

The last item discussed was the gold show. Doug and Dan are still talking to people at the Nevada Palace and trying to work out the details of the event. We will also need a sponsor. If you know of one, please call Doug.

The January 23 & 24, February 20 & 21, and March 21 & 21 outings will al be at Section 34 in Arizona.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Secretary, Lorna



GSSN President Doug Parker showing gold just found to students at the last prospecting field trip

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



DESERT OUTFITTERS

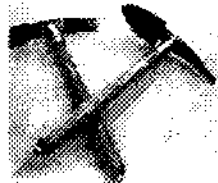


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O'Bannon

General Meeting Minutes (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Frenches or Kens Pizza, dial 911 and alert the Sheriff of Meadview. We do have a claim on section 10.

Our guest speaker for the night was John Landreth of the Moly Corp. He gave a very good talk and slide show on gold in Australia.

Ed Dibble won the gold pick award, a nugget.

Chris Baumgras received a test nugget for drawing the door prize tickets.

Door prizes: Walter Dempsey, Gary Emery, Wanda Morris, Donna Baer-gold nuggets

Jack Hurley -earphones

Robyn Gibbons

Madeline Dayton-belly packs

Louis Edwards-figurine,

Steve Corcoran-hammer

Danial Boone-atlas water jug

Chris Baumbras, Ron Woods,

Henry Mayhew-gold pans,

Fran Davis-classifier,

Leonard Osborne-map.

Thanks to BooCoo for donating the figurine, and Russels Metal Detectors for donation three gold pans.

Meeting concluded at 8:50 pm.

Secretary, Lorna

**BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
January 13, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Attending were: Doug Parker, Susan Benge, Roland La-Clerc, Don Adams, Willie Biron, Henry Mayhew, Morton Lemonde, Greg Olson, Dan Green, Ron & Lorna Caldwell.

The first item discussed was the club gold show to be held in Sept. It was decided that we need something to draw the people to the show. Greg said he would talk to Nevada Mining, and Dan Green would talk to Moly Corp and Bull Frog Mine about the possibility of getting a large truck and some gold to put on display. Also discussed was advertising, such as TV, Radio, News Papers and other organizations news letters. If you have any ideas or can help call Dan Green. Dan and Roland are also working with some printers to get good prices on printing handouts, the news letters, and brochures.

A motion was made by Greg Olsen to buy a quarter page add in the Knights of Columbus show guide for \$25.00 to advertise our club and gold show.

Doug will have a class on Jan. 20th at Orr School, and the outing will be Jan.

23rd at section 34. Willie Biron will also have a metal detecting class at the outing at 1:00pm. Hot dogs will be served.

The next general meeting Feb.3rd 1999.

Henry Mayhew will call and see if he can reserve Foxglove Picnic area for Aug. 7th for the club picnic. Henry also said any checks received in Nov. And Dec. Were deposited this week.

Willie Biron will head the Library Committee. They will review books, make a short description, put it on disk and have a few in the Highgrader each month. So when you check a book out you will know a little about it. If you want to help call Willie at

it was also suggested that at the next general meeting the board members tell a little about their jobs. Elections will be held at the April General meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:00pm

Lorna



Truitt, Lee

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



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

Ames, Ron & Dorothy
Baldis, Gary & Elaine
Broderick, Eugene
Fenton, George & Nancy Jo
Greymore, Russell
LeClerc, Roland & Leihani
Mayhue, Henry & Sally
Urbauer, Alton & Pamela
Utley, Robery & Ruth
Fentress, Phillip & Demaris
Kennedy, D.F. & Ruth
Kennedy, Ron & Susan
Kilgore, C. Jim & Loretta
Madison, Joseph & Georgene
Picotte, Hubert & Bernice
Dibble, Ed
Howell, Gib
Summers, Jerry & Virginia
Howard, Tom

ONE MONTH

Bowles, Melvin
Brownlee, Walter
Carnes, Bill & Katie
Dixon, William & Toni
Drayer, Jr., Louis & Helen
Eggleston, Gordon
Fisher, Roger & Kristene
Flanagan, R.A. & Barbara
Knapp, Herschel
Krotz, Laird
Lipely, Delmer & Verda

Noland, Douglass
Pederson, Dave & Edith
Picotte, Anne
Prohaska, Chuck & Mary
Ranum, Pete & Kit
Sayer, Wayne L
Schultz, Ed
Swartz, John & Donna
Truitt, Lee
Underwood, Boyd & Kathy
Hale, Robert & Virginia
Bryant, Spencer
Johnson, Bill & Pat
Steffen, Jim & Shari
Dayton, Madeline
Howard, Frank & Angelina
Bodo, Richard
Adams, Elizabeth
Peterson, Alan & Janet
Sallee, Larry & Sue
Hinson, Larry & Alice
Nenstiel, Larry & Sandra

TWO MONTHS

Teplitz, Norman & Sharon
Reiter, Harry & Janet
Dobyns, Michael & Stacy
Charlton, Millard
Hernandez, Tony
Alberson, Alton & Linda
Boone, Daniel
Wright, Mike & Gabriela
Kimball, Floyd & Eloise
Sullivan, Richard
Mabey, Greg

THREE MONTHS

Kocjan, Joseph
Dempsey, Walter & Heather
Moser, Ronald & Arlene
McElroy, Phyllis
Koper, George
Alltounian, Howard
Peterson, Richard & Grace
Hanes, Lyle
Staynar, John & Donna
Fairchild, Milton & Helene

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**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!

*Reprinted from the internet web site
www.dnai.com/~wfw/how.html*

How to Find Gold

This page will focus on the different methods for getting placer gold from where it is now into your bottle.

How fascinating the pursuit of gold is! It can be found in most mountainous areas in our country. Finding gold can be an enjoyable experience, not so much for the monetary value of the metal itself, but more for the opportunity to stop and experience the beauty of nature or sharing in a family activity, perhaps where the kids can enjoy a little time to swim and explore can be very rewarding.

Many of us travel too fast in our lives. Panning for gold is an activity that can really pay dividends other than the procurement of the precious metal. But as anyone interested in the sport of fishing knows, the fisherman can never predict whether the next cast will bring him a trophy or no fish at all. So to the prospector does not know what his pan will yield with each successive panning. Perhaps nothing, perhaps a few lead sinkers from those fisherman who have also plied the stream for rewards, or just maybe a small nugget of.... Good hunting!

Interesting facts about gold:

When it is found in nature it can be pure, 24 karat. Since gold does not oxidize, its color makes it easily identified. The high density of gold allows its deposition in unique places in a stream. A bar of pure gold measuring 2" X 3" X 10" would weigh approximately 43 pounds. Although it is rare, many areas of the United States contain enough gold to readily find it. Among metals it has the highest degree of malleability, that is, bendability. Gold Leaf can be pounded out to a thickness of 15 atoms wide. 1000 sheets of gold leaf equal the thickness of a human hair.

Where is the Gold?

Gold can be found in many areas. The techniques discussed in this article can be employed to find gold in many areas, therefore, the finding of the gold will be approached from a general point of view.

Streams are commonly associated with the finding of gold. This gold is known as placer gold. This means that the gold has been weathered away from its mother lode, literally the mother of the smaller fragments. It is the finding of placer gold that can create a trail to the mother lode. The method most commonly employed is panning. The process of panning is when the prospector uses a specially designed gold panning pan to locate his treasure. Streams are an excellent place to look because of several factors:

1. A stream passes through many miles of possibly gold laden minerals.
2. The density of gold (10 times as much as common sand) allows it to be deposited in special places in or adjacent to the stream area. These places are commonly known as "pay streaks"



3. Spring floods will redeposit gold to provide a new supply annually.
4. It is a cool place to spend a summer afternoon.
5. The kids will love a frolic in the water while you can prospect for gold.
6. There is a variety of other natural things to enjoy while you unwind.
7. Roads commonly pass along streams and river paths creating ample opportunity to prospect.
8. The placer gold that is located will sometimes form a trail to the location of higher quantities of gold and its source, the mother lode.

Mineral Rich Area: A good indication as to whether you are in a mineral rich area is to look at the rocks exposed by the stream erosion and highway cuts used in road construction. Virtually any place that the rocks show a non sedimentary layering will probably be an excellent place to look. This mineral layering is very infrequently level. Many times the rock layers appear to bend and incline. Quartz is commonly found in parts of the layering along with feldspar or other identifiable minerals. Consult field identification manuals for a more specific description of these minerals. They are common and can be easily identified with a little research. Another indication of a mineral rich area is the presence of

(Continued on page 7)

Prospecting Tips

(Continued from page 6)

black sand. Placer gold is usually found with black sand but the presence of black sand does not necessarily indicate the presence of gold.

Where to look for gold

Gravel bars usually found on the inside of the river bends. Although the gold here is mostly small flakes to very fine, there sometimes is a lot of it. Where the stream levels out after a steeper part such as downstream of rapids or waterfalls. Newly formed gravel bars. Small streaks of gravel laying on the bed rock but you will need some sort of sucker to retrieve it if it is underwater. Down stream sides of large boulders and other obstacles.

Pot holes in the bed rock

Cracks in the bed rock. In popular prospecting areas, the large, obvious cracks have most likely been cleaned out many times. Look for lines of moss running along the bed rock. There is almost always a small crack under the moss and these cracks can contain a surprising amount of gold. As a stream cuts deeper into a canyon, it can leave patches of gravel high on the canyon wall. These are called benches. Look for round or rounded rocks well above the present high water level. Round or rounded rocks have lived in a river at some time in their lives.

Always keep in mind that these are the most likely places to find gold. There is an old saying: "Gold is where you find it." What this really means is, you may find a spot that looks perfect and not find any gold at all or you may find a spot that looks like it would be barren but you find a "bonanza." Just try to



keep your mind open to all possibilities.

What equipment is needed to pan for gold?

Unlike many activities that require a sizable investment, gold panning is inexpensive. Most of the tools needed are commonly found around the home. The minimum equipment needed is:

1. A gold Panning pan
2. Slotted Screwdriver
3. Paint brushes
4. Tablespoon
5. Garden shovel
6. Utility bucket
7. Small bottle.

Optional items include a classifier, sniffer bottle, ice pick, garden trowel and commercial crevice tools.

Gold panning pan: Gold panning pans are available in some commercial locations or through mail order. The pans themselves come in at least two materials, black plastic and unpainted steel. Several pan diameters are also available. These pans are designed for the specific purpose of panning and it is highly recommended that they be purchased. The strength of the prospector should be the determining factor as to which diameter to choose. The larger the pan, the more material can be searched but it will be heavier. This disadvantage in weight is an advantage in the chance of success. The larger

the amount of material searched, the greater the chance of success.

As to the pan material itself, each have their pros and cons. Steel is most often associated with the old time prospector. The prospector also could heat up food and water in his pan. If panning and heating water and food seems to make sense to you, then steel could be the better choice. Since many streams contain mercury either naturally or from previous mining operations, using a gold pan for cooking can be very dangerous. Both pan materials have their advantages and disadvantages and with a little thought the prospector will choose the style which best suits his needs.

(Continued on page 12)

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1998 CHRISTMAS DINNER

The 1998 Annual Christmas party was an even larger success than we had planned.

There were 186 members in attendance for the event that was held December 2, 1998 at the Nevada Palace Hotel. Since this was the first year to try a different location we were all a little concerned if members would come. Around 6:30 pm all concerns were gone as the room provided filled.

The band started playing and the

hostesses were busy serving refreshments to all in attendance. Soon the food began to show up and boy did it smell good!

We all feasted on ham, turkey and all the trimmings. The more we ate the more they brought us. Those folks at Nevada Palace shure know how to feed a hungry group of prospectors.

After dinner, Doug and Greg started the raffle. We used the dinner ticket numbers to select winners. The fi-

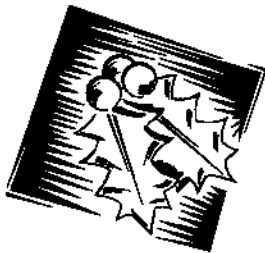
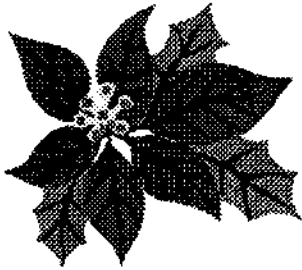


nal drawing was for the Christmas Nugget. As we left the dining room we were all full and thankful that we didn't have to do any dishes! See you next year!!!



The Annual GSSN Christmas Party

Christmas Dinner Highlights



McCaw School of Mines

Vice President, Daniel Green has announced the dates and times for the painting 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 at [redacted]

February 01	10:06am
02	9:30am
03	11:30am
04	9:30am
05	9:30am
06	10:06am
09	10:06am
10	9:30am
11	9:30am
12	10:06am
16	10:06am
17	9:30am
18	9:30am
19	9:30am
22	9:45am
23	9:30am
24	9:30am
25	9:30am
26	9:30am

These are all fourth 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 793-6383 for additional information and directions to the mine school.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

INTERESTED IN GHOST TOWNS?

By: Robbyn

In June we went to a railroad site near Nipton, CA called Brant and from there with a 4X4 you go toward the New York mountains. Less than 10 miles we arrived at the dead end!! There were stone remnants, stone coral and a beautiful view of the valley below. John, Julie, Beth, Gary, Dan, Richard and Robbyn explored the area with metal detectors, shovels, buckets and cameras in hand. Unspent and spent shells were found some took sand back home. From there we went to Vanderbilt, an 1870's gold mining town, which can be reached by any kind of vehicle it is off the Ivanpah road. There we found all kinds of mining relics, visited the Dugout homes, photographed the Gallows frames and tailings, and metal detected of course.

In October, four rigs headed out to Stateline (Gold Mt.) Esmeralda Co ghost town north of Beatty NV. There is a passable dirt road to it if you do not mind the dust gold was discovered here in 1864 but the boom was not until the late 1870's and it was a good size town. You can see the boom times and bust times by the different structures, some stone, some wood and then the concrete used. A lot of remnants Fran, Ada, Rosemary and Dolores found some interesting rocks and a cows head. Dave and Irene, who by the way went there in their Mustang convertible, picked up some Quartz rocks and square nails. Gary and Beth the serious metal detector types found square nails and a peacock rock with a flake of gold



Could These Ghost Towns Be Haunted?

in it found at the Mill site. Robbyn is the photo taker and went off exploring looking for the illusive ghost towns in the area. There was a wooden home with two bedrooms with beds (no linen) a living room, dinning room-kit with canned goods, sign-in book for visitors and a nice outhouse!! (Desert outfitters have a photo of this place behind the counter).

The November 1st trip was to Keystone Canyon a 1892 gold, silver and lead mining area. This is near Goodsprings and we just touched the surface. Took us a few tries to find the right road. We went in Three 4x4 rigs. Wayne and Bev, Paul, Leo and Robbyn were the explorers. After we left there we stopped for a drink at the local Goodsprings Saloon and historical site. Don't pass up this bar.

Then we headed for Beatty, NV. We went through Titus Canyon and Chloride City which are in the Death Valley monument, which meant look but do not touch. But despite the regulations the canyon was fascinating, it has a ghost town, Leadfield 1926, odd rock formations and it is a one-way road which comes real apparent when you look up about 100 ft. to the top of the canyon wall and forward to the narrow passage. It is closed in the summer because of the heat and sometimes in rainy weather

in fear of floods. High center vehicles are perfect. Chloride City 1873,1908, you might need a powerful pick-up because some of the road is in bad shape. We were running out of daylight by the time we got there so we could not stay long enough to really explore, saw silver mines and some structures.

So if any of you Gold Searchers want to turn into Ghost Town Buffs (GTB) give Robbyn a call at 645-6571 after 12 noon, I work 8pm to 4am with some weekends off. It looks like from the response we already have that there are going to be three categories of GTBs. 1. car assessable dirt roads... 2. off-road vehicles .. 3. Four wheel drive only. Don't forget your maps. I love the 15 min topos but they are gold now because the government decided to go to the 7.5 "monster maps". Now I prefer the 1:100 000 (1-10s I call them) They cover a larger area then the 15s unfortunately but if you want to get serious you can go to the 7.5s after you figure out the area you are to concentrate on. I also prefer the Nevada Map Atlas put out by the NV DOT because it shows a lot of sites and has a grid so you can figure out the miles to your destination, however it is not a topo with elevation and vegetation it is in black and white. Then when you get crazy there are the numerous Ghost Town books out there to browse through Stan Paher's books on NV are great also Shawn Hall put one out about Nye Co. just to mention a few. By the way Desert Outfitters, I noticed, carries a lot of maps and books we used.

Written By: Robbyn

PEOPLE FOR THE USA is an organization that promotes the rights and responsibilities of all outdoor land. These excerpts were reprinted from the Internet site PFUSA Nevada Division.

PFUSA UPDATE

WILDERNESS, WILD HORSE/BURRO TOP STATE ISSUES

People for Nevada

People for the USA members across Nevada have been involved with Wild Horse and Burro management issues at the federal and state levels, and also continue to grapple with the issue of wilderness set-asides. Members Rey Flake and John Balliette were chosen to testify before the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands field hearing held in Reno on July 13 concerning the Wild Horse and Burro Act.

Earlier this year a National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board was reestablished to evaluate the numerous concerns of the public, ranchers, federal land management agencies, and animal protection groups. In 1997 the State Legislature directed the Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses to prepare a statewide plan for the management of wild horses and burros on federal lands. The role of the Nevada Commission is to facilitate a plan that is compatible with the federal plan while meeting the expectations and desires of Nevada's citizens.

Nevada PFUSA established a state committee to review these issues.

"The major issue, as far as PFUSA is concerned, is probably the effect the excess number of wild horses on Nevada public lands is having

People FOR THE USA

on the range, soil and water resources and on the people who are attempting to make a sustainable living from grazing those lands," says Les MacKenzie, Nevada PFUSA Wild Horse & Burro chairman. "We believe there should be enough horses on the land to provide the public with the opportunity to see and enjoy them, but the numbers should be effectively controlled to minimize conflicts with other resource users. "We don't believe that BLM has been doing a BAD job of managing horses, they just haven't been able to do a GOOD job, which is not even close to being adequate for the magnitude of the problem," he said. Other members attending the Reno meeting were Leta Collord from the Northeast Nevada Chapter and Toiyabe Chapter members Ray Williams and Ray Salisbury. Members also attended a breakfast of the Western Caucus members held prior to the field hearing.

Wilderness vs. Multiple Use

Nevada Wilderness Committee Chairman Chris Shaw is spearheading a campaign to request county commissioners throughout the state to adopt resolutions requesting the Nevada Congressional Delegation to write a law directing the BLM to release all non-recommended BLM Wilderness study areas for multiple use. Resolutions have been prepared for all counties, and Chris and other members are scheduling meetings with commissioners in as many counties as possible. They are equipped with materials that include details on each WSA in each county. Members who would like to help with this project are urged to call Chris at (702) 625-3933.

Nevada vs. BLM

Nevada's members are monitoring the court battles between the State Legislature and the BLM concerning stock watering applications filed by the BLM. The state has denied the BLM's stock watering applications under a law passed by the legislature in 1995.

Douglas County District Court Judge David Gamble issued an order recently that affirmed State Engineer Michael Turnipseed's denial of nine applications by the BLM. Gamble rejected the U.S. Department of Justice's contention that such action was beyond the police powers of the state and that the Nevada law was unconstitutional. "The BLM is not a qualified applicant for stock water permits because it is not legally entitled to place livestock on the public lands," Gamble said. The U.S. Department of Justice is expected to appeal the decision. This conflict could have a significant impact on water issues throughout the West.

Lower Great Basin Chapter

Members of the Lower Great Basin Chapter have been active at several public meetings recently concerning resource management plans (RMP). Chapter Chairman Don Dayton, Secretary Susan Messler and member John Landreth were on hand to give comments concerning the Las Vegas RMP, the Caliente management framework plan for neighboring Lincoln County, and the National Park Service plan regarding the Lake Mead Recreation Area, which encompasses Lake Mead, Lake Havasu and parts of the Grand Canyon.

For more info about the PFUSA campaign in Nevada, call Pat Davison at

Prospecting Tips

(Continued from page 7)

Steel pans will sink while plastic pans usually float. If a steel pan is dropped in deep water, it will quickly sink to the bottom but it will stay put in shallow water and will not float away. If a plastic pan is dropped in fast water, it must be retrieved immediately or it may have to be chased for some distance.

Steel pans must be protected from corrosion or they will rust although some prospectors believe a thin layer of rust creates a rougher surface which helps retain fine gold. The best way to prevent rust is to allow the pan to dry out when not in use. Leaving damp concentrates in a steel pan will cause it to rust rapidly. New pans usually have a thin coating of oil to prevent corrosion. This oil can cause the loss of fine gold by adhering to the small particles making them float out of the pan. The oil can be removed by heating the pan at least until it turns blue and stops smoking. Paint thinner or other solvent may also be used. Steel pans may also be used to heat up concentrates to dry them. The plastic pans are generally black, green or blue in color. Small gold flakes and black sand are more easily identified against the contrasting colored background. They do not corrode and are generally less expensive than the steel pans. A magnet may be used to remove magnetic black sand in a plastic pan.

They come in two basic shapes: the regular flat bottom and the drop center bottom (see illustration). The drop center bottom retains the heavy material at the bottom and helps prevent it from moving up the side of the pan but it will make it more difficult to remove this mate-

rial and pan down to just gold. The drop center pan is probably the best choice for beginners. Various types of gold traps called riffles are often molded into the side of plastic pans. These traps usually cover about one third of the side to help keep the heavier material in the pan. They can look like stair steps or ridges. The stair step type will allow faster panning initially but at some point they will get in the way and the smooth side of the pan will have to be used to finish up. There will be less material left in the pan with the ridge type of riffle when this point is reached.

All the different varieties of gold pans have their advocates and those who find fault. It probably all comes down to which pan one starts with. Since they don't cost very much, it may be best to purchase two or three types and determine which pan is best for you. The extras may be used by family members and friends or as a "safety pan." A safety pan is placed under the pan being used especially when panning concentrates to catch any gold that may inadvertently slide over the lip of the pan. It may also be used to check panning technique by repanning the safety pan.

The screw drivers, shovel, spoons and brushes etc. are tools that help clean out the crevasses to get out all of the material contained within. Remember, the gold is very dense so it will settle to the bottom of the space. This is why it is necessary to have these tools. The bucket is handy for carrying and organizing your collection of tools. It also can be used to transport the materials to be panned. Sniffer bottles (also called snuffer bottles) are very handy for removing the gold from your pan. They may usually be purchased wherever gold pans are sold.

The small bottle is for storing the located gold. Almost any small bottle will do so long as it can close tightly and is water tight. A good example of this is a baby food container however, be careful not to drop it! 35 mm film containers work well and don't break.

Glass gold vials are available at prospecting stores and come in a variety of sizes from 2 DWT (pennyweight) to several ounces. They work well for estimating how much gold you have accumulated and for showing off your gold.

Lets review so far:

You have: your tools, time to prospect, you are traveling along a stream which looks unregulated, curves and has what appears to be a good amount of elevation drop, there appears to be a good selection of mineral diversity in the surrounding rocks and you are ready to find gold! Look for rock formations (bedrock) with various sized crevasses or large obstacles that created eddies where the heavy materials fell out of the turbulence of the spring flood.

Load this material into your pan. Fill it to about 2/3 capacity or to a physically comfortable level. The next step is to perform the panning. This can be better described as separating the materials into layers based on their densities, removing the less dense materials at the top and then extracting the gold. Locate an area in the water where it will be comfortable to do the panning. The water should be flowing but not at the full force of the waterway. A flat rock in slow moving water about a foot deep is ideal. Sitting on the rock is much easier on the knees and back. Summer temperatures may offer a wading technique that

(Continued on page 16)

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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!**

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(702) 393-GOLD

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.**

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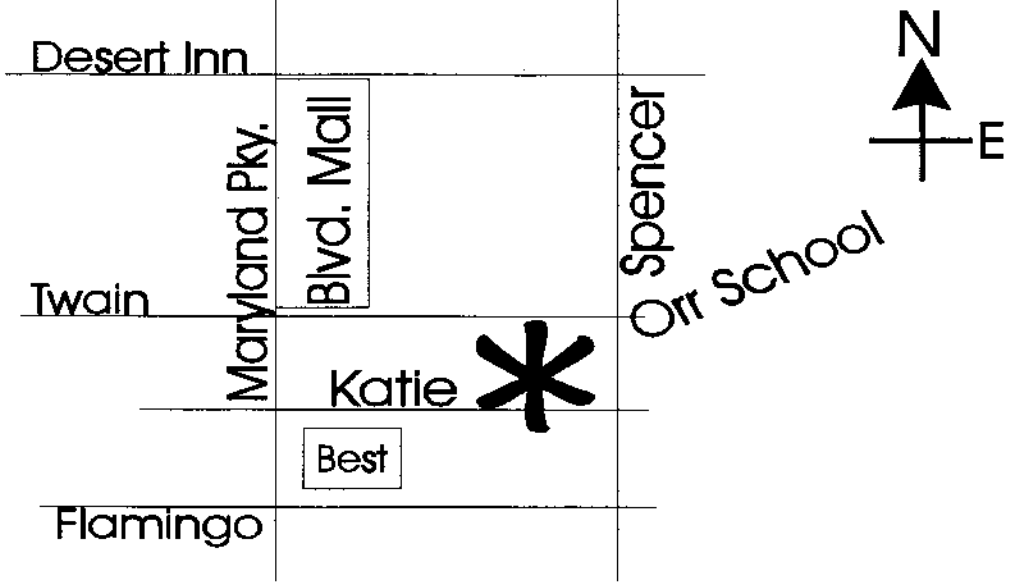
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Prospecting Tips

(Continued from page 12)

will be both easy to perform and refreshing. Fill the remaining space in the pan with water and locate the rim about the level of the water.

Remember, what you are about to perform is a separation of material based on the different material densities, then the removal of the common materials (less dense, on the top) leaving the most dense (on the bottom). Hold the pan level and agitate it sufficiently to create a homogeneous mixture where all the material seems to be suspended. All the material must be moving. I stick my finger in the mix as I agitate it to feel if everything is suspended. Almost immediately the organic material will rise to the top surface. As this is being performed, slow or stop the agitation and in a level position, gently lower the entire pan into the water, 1 or 2 inches below the surface. A gentle circular motion will cause the least dense materials to be carried away by the water. Continue the agitating procedure until all the muddy silt and organic materials are removed. It also is a good idea to sift the entire pan with your fingers to remove large stones and other non-gold items. Be sure to break up and dissolve all clay lumps if any. Not only can they hold gold, they may be sticky and pick up some free gold in your pan. Also, break up any moss clumps and thoroughly clean any grass roots as they sometimes hold a surprising amount of gold. It is easy to know when the low density organic material and silts have been removed. The water is no longer muddy while you are agitating the pan. Continue to perform this technique for a period of time stopping to sift through the mixture and removing the largest stones. As the panning proceeds,

the size of the removed stones will become smaller and smaller. How long should this part of the panning last? If the prospector remembers that the function of the agitation is to separate the materials into their respective densities, the heaviest on the bottom and so on, the time needed to do this will be easier to estimate. A good rule to first start out is to agitate no longer than one minute. Now comes the time to start removing the less dense materials and hopefully, the gold. Lift the pan out of the water just about one to two inches in a level fashion. Start agitating the pan as before and tip the pan to an angle that will allow the most dense materials to collect in the lowest corner of the pan. When you are satisfied that the most dense material is collected there, it is time to remove all the rest of the less dense materials. While the pan is still tipped on the angle, dip it into the water and lift slowly upward. This action will create a small wave. The wave will take with it an amount of the undesired, low density materials on the top. The key here is only the top layer of material is moving. Repeat the wave, taking away the low density material several times. Alternate between the horizontal agitating motion and the tip and wave removal process until roughly 2-5 tablespoons of material remains. Since small gold particles can float on the surface tension if exposed to air for any length of time, it is important to keep the material submerged as much as possible. If you see any black sand or gold during the tip and wave removal process, it is definitely time to go back to the horizontal agitating motion. The black sand or gold will appear along the line between the bottom of the pan and the material.

Remove the stones which are now

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Work From Home

large pebbles. The process is now almost complete! There should be a small amount of fine material resting in the lower corner of the pan. This material is called concentrates because you have concentrated all the material in your pan down to this small amount. You may notice the presence of a high concentration of a black sand. The presence of this indicates that you have performed the technique properly as iron is 3 times as dense as the common sand and rocks that make

(Continued on page 17)

Prospecting Tips

(Continued from page 16)

large pebbles. The process is now almost complete! There should be a small amount of fine material resting in the lower corner of the pan. This material is called concentrates because you have concentrated all the material in your pan down to this small amount. You may notice the presence of a high concentration of a black sand. The presence of this indicates that you have performed the technique properly as iron is 3 times as dense as the common sand and rocks that make up the majority of the river bed material. Some other things you may notice are old fish hooks, lead sinkers and perhaps mercury. These are all indications that your search is being performed properly. You have successfully separated a small amount of highly dense materials from the stream.

Lets review the panning procedure up to now.

1. Fill pan about 2/3 full with all debris from a small area from the stream side. In the case of cracks or under large items, remember - dense materials filter out first (deepest).
2. Fill the remainder of the pan with water and agitate the mixture to separate the mixture into the materials' respective densities. Any motion will work as long as the mixture of the material and water is homogeneous (moving). Remember to include weeds and grass in the initial material to be panned, the roots commonly pull up material from the very bottom of the crack.
3. Tip the pan to remove the least dense materials and small stones. The most dense materials will collect in the lowest corner of the pan.
4. Locate and remove the gold. This is explained next. Now comes the time to see if the time has paid off with some gold! In your pan you should have about the same amount of water as material (2-5 table-

spoons). Remember that any gold will be in the bottom of this small amount of material and at this point will still be hidden. Hold the pan in a horizontally and tip it slowly to make the water run around the bottom outside corner of the pan in a circular motion. As the wave passes over the material left in the bottom of the pan, the force of the water will push a small amount of the material with it when the small wave strikes the amount of dense material. This will expose new material at the very bottom of the sand with each successive pass of the water. The amount of water relative to the amount of material is fairly critical but easy to determine. Too much water will cause all the material to move and too little will not move the material at all. Look closely for when you have reached the bottom most part of that small pile, you should be able to see any gold that you have searched for. This last operation may be performed several times to make sure that you have searched the most dense materials thoroughly. If you see any small bright yellow pieces of material, it is most likely to be gold. Do not be concerned about Fool's Gold, the color of gold is known to most people. When you see these small fragments, look carefully at the color. The color of gold is very distinctive and is easily identified. Fool's gold, also known as iron pyrite, breaks down and oxidizes quickly in a stream. Gold will remain in its identifiable form forever as gold does not oxidize. The particles get smaller in size however, through time and being washed down stream.

Removal of small particles of gold

This step can be slow and tedious and is best done at home since your time in the field is usually limited.

After you have verified the presence of gold in the previous step, you can put the concentrates in a container for later processing in a tub or a large cat litter box. A few drops of a surfactant such as Jet-Dry® (dishwasher additive) will help keep small gold particles from floating.

The removal of larger sized pieces of gold is easily done simply by picking them up. Many times, the size of the gold is so small that this is impossible. When this happens, wet the bottom of your finger and press it against the gold fragment. Lift the finger carefully and dip it in the small bottle filled with water. All small particles can be transported into storage this way. You will be surprised at how the small fragments of gold are easily seen, removed and stored.

Another good method to remove the gold is with the use of a sniffer bottle. It is a plastic bottle with a cone shaped cap. There is a tube protruding out of the cap and extending down into the bottle. The bottle is squeezed and released with the tube under water and near the gold. The gold is sucked into the bottle and because the tube extends into the bottle, squeezing the bottle again will squirt the water but not the gold back into the pan. By the way, when squeezing the bottle,



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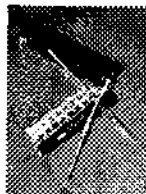
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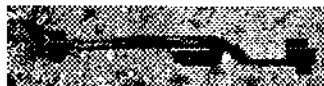
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