

Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada



!Highgrader Newsletter!



CALENDAR EVENTS

- A Big Thank You on Page 2
- Cooler Months are coming!!!
- Thank you to Ian and Stacy Thaler for helping with the Highgrader newsletter and getting it out in time!

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Secretary Minutes As of July 1st, 2009.

GSSN Meeting July 1st, 2009 Minutes.

The GSSN met at the American Legion Hall in Henderson NV on Wednesday, July 1st, 2009. President Nic Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. 45 members attended and there were three visitors.

Nic asked for a motion to approve the June board and general meeting minutes; and Fred Zajac made such motion, which was seconded by Morris Seguin. There was no discussion and the voting was unanimous in approving the motion. Next Luigi lo-presso addressed the group regarding some BLM gold claims being sold in California and showed a map of the specific areas. He said anyone could contact him about these claims and there were several comments from members about certain aspects of the gold claim sales. Nic Johnson will follow-up on the matter and report back to the group about what he finds out specifically.

Under new business Jake Jakl briefly spoke to the group, following which Dennis Johnson talked about some claims available for sale in Dolan Springs AZ (one for 114 acres and one for 119 acres). He said if anyone was interested in pursuing this opportunity on behalf of GSSN to get in touch with him. Nic Johnson mentioned to the group that he had reported the burning of Joshua trees on the GSSN claim and the response was not satisfactory in that since there was no corroboration of information (names, vehicles, ect) nothing was able to be done about the matter.

Next Nic asked the group about the proposed By-Law Amendments which were published in the Highgrader. Don Adams made a motion to approve the amended

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Club Officers Of 2009!

President	Nicolas Johnson
Vice President	Carl Richwine
Secretary	Dolores Gee
Treasurer	Dara Thaler
Membership	Marcia Richwine
Education	Fred Zajac
Outings	Morris Seguin
Claims	Carl Richwine Dennis Johnson
Librarian	Joyce Johnson
Newsletter	Nicolas Johnson
Webmaster	Jim Miller
Audit Committee	Fred Zajac John Gee Jake Jakl
Merchandising Committee	Bonnie Evelyn Al Kraus Joyce Johnson Jeff Harper
Greeter	Don Adams

Wanted: A small spiral wheel to do shop prospecting with. Please call Duwayne @ (702) 303-0977



!!RAFFLE WINNERS CORNER!!

Door Prize (\$5.00) - Duwayne Davis

3' tub.....	Bruce Roberts	Stubby Hammer.....	Dustin Miller
3-in-1 game.....	Pat Moore	Pair Work Gloves.....	Mike Collins
Dust Pan.....	John Crafts	Flashlight.....	Casey Thaler
Umbrella.....	Julie Quinn	Vinegar & Oil Decanter.....	Pam Goulder
Orange bucket & Organizer.....	Michael Holland	Box of Assorted Stones.....	Fred Hissong
12" Keene Gold Pan.....	John Bronstein	Gold Bearing Sand.....	Steve Hedland
14" Keene Gold Pan.....	Pete Thaler	Pack of 12 9-volt Batteries.....	Sam Jordan
10" Gold Pan.....	Jeff Harper	Trowel.....	Steve Hedland
Small Black round tub.....	Bruce Roberts		



By-Laws as published and Jean Davis seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously carried.

John Bronstein talked about "Using a GPS Receiver in the desert" at this time and gave an interesting and informative presentation. Afterwards, the raffle was held. Duwayne Davis won the \$5 door prize and there were 17 additional prizes.

Following the raffle, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



I would like to say, "A Big Thank You" to John Bronstein for Demonstrating and Speaking on GPS receivers. The speech was great and very informative on using a GPS and helping with how to get some where and getting back to point of Origin. If anybody is interested in seeing about GPS receivers please stop by the librarian and check it out. It looks like a manual but this is a manual that will help guide anybody to the direction they are looking for with GPS receiver devices.

GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Financial statement for month of: June 2009

Balance Forward: 5,317.23
Bank interest adjustment: .94
Balance: 5318.17

Income:
Membership Dues: 435.00
Raffle: 150.00
Bank Interest: _____
Other: _____

Total Income: 585.00
Balance: 5903.17

Expenses:
Rent: 50.00
Food: _____
Raffle Prizes: _____
Door Prize: 5.00
Newsletter Printing: 134.69
Newsletter Postage: 52.04
Office supplies, postage for membership, etc: 5.56
Miscellaneous expense: _____

Total Expenses: 247.29

Balance: 5655.88

Prepared by: [Signature] Treasurer, GSSN



You Can “Find an Ounce of Gold a Day”

By Roy Lagal

From the Highgrader Historical Records (May, 2004 Edition)

Introduction

There is no mystery to prospecting for gold. But, there is excitement. And, there can be real profit. No large expenditures of cash are required. Success is limited only by the enterprise and dreams of the prospector.

The Thrill of happiness is immeasurable, but monetary rewards come in all sizes... from small nuggets worth a few hundred dollars to the huge “Hand of Faith” nugget that was found by an amateur prospector with a Garret detector and sold for one million dollars.

Beginning prospectors and professionals alike can discover gold nuggets with a metal detector, find gold in a pan or dredge for gold. They can relive the past, participate in adventure in the great outdoors and enjoy physical exercise.... All the while with the potential of monetary profit at the risk of only a few dollars.

It could happen to YOU!

Basic Tools

Your Gold Pan Kit contains these tools...

1. 14 inch gravity pan
2. 10 ½ Gravity trap pan
3. Combination classifier
4. Gold Guzzler suction bottle

Gold Pan Kits

Other pre-packaged kits are available that contain one or more pans and other screening devices. Many of these kits include unnecessary items that can slow down the learning process and complicate your hobby. If you select a kit other than that offered by Garret, choose a circular design and time proven green color and avoid equipment using complicated procedures that vary from standard panning practices.

The implements in your Garret Kit will certainly be all you need to get started as a gold panner, and you may never need anything else!

Additional Tools

Persistent and successful weekend prospectors often encounter the need for additional tools, most of which will be specified in this booklet. Among these tools you will find...

- Waders (or rubber boots)
- Magnifying Glass
- Tweezers
- Small Can

Continued on Page 5 and 6.

GPS Receivers

Last meeting, we had a presentation and handout re: using a GPS receiver & maps. Here's what SHOULD have been said...

Maps and a GPSr won't help you find or recover a speck of gold, but they can help you get to promising gold districts and prospecting sites off the beaten path. The Internet is great for researching such sites, and for learning to better use maps and a GPSr, so we'll suggest a few websites. Hopefully these tips will "get you started."

A GPSr gives you an accurate location fix - the trick is to correlate that with your maps and destination coordinates. The GPSr can be set to report its position in various units, and you should choose the units that match the maps or destination data that you are using. Most common is latitude and longitude in degrees, or degrees and minutes, or degrees, minutes and seconds. UTM in Zone#, Easting, and Northing is also common. Consult your map or location source and set the GPSr to use whatever you have. Google these terms to see what they mean and how to convert between them (Wikipedia articles are often good places to start.) Also look at Art Becker's article on "GPS Receiver & Map Datum & Coordinate Systems" in the *GSSN Mining Guide and Maps Booklet*.

To find or mark a location accurately, you also need to set the GPSr to the "map datum" that matches your maps. Paper maps will have it printed in the margin and GPSr and online maps will list it somewhere in the documentation. Older USGS topo maps are generally NAD27, newer paper maps and most GPSr and online maps usually WGS84 or NAD83 (interchangeable). NAD27 maps can be over 200 yards different from WGS84/NAD83 maps. A GPSr has lots of other optional settings, but rely on the defaults at first - using the manual (or another owner's advice) you can "tune up" the display later.

The BLM GeoCommunicator website (<http://www.geocommunicator.gov/GeoComm/index.shtm>) isn't just for finding mining claims - it can display topographic maps and aerial photography along with precise map coordinates, and even help find locations specified as a legal description (LD) in PLSS (Public Land Survey System) format (Google PLSS - read the Wikipedia article first.) It's easy to get destination coordinates for loading into your GPSr while surfing GeoCommunicator or Google Earth.

A good GPSr will load and display detailed topographic maps with landscape features, landmarks, and most back roads. The common 1:100,000 scale maps are usually "good enough" - I navigate many remote 4WD trails using mostly Garmin's 1:100,000 topos loaded into my GPSr (but always have backup paper maps & a compass!) Several major GPSr manufacturers are selling a mid-range handheld GPSr model bundled with map CD-ROMs (or DVDs) for under \$200 (sales & rebates can lower that.) Look for a color display and 24 MB of map memory (or better: removable memory cards), and a USB computer interface (with a USB cable in the box!) A "high sensitivity receiver" will speed fixes and work better if the sky is partially blocked. An automotive "dashboard" GPSr can be used, but a weatherproof "outdoor" handheld is MUCH better for prospecting.

You'll mostly be using "Waypoints" (a stored location, flagged on the GPSr map), or "Tracks" (a "bread-crum trail" stored and traced on the GPSr map.) You can "mark" (and name) waypoints to save locations that you may want to revisit (e.g. where dirt sample buckets have been collected, a nugget detected, etc..) You can retrace your recent path using the "tracklog", or save tracklog sections as named "tracks" for later use. Good GPSr maps will also load searchable lists of landmarks ("POI" - Points Of Interest).

The moderately priced GPSrs that I am recommending will require that you connect them to your computer to download the maps (the pre-loaded "base map" lacks the detail you need.) The same mapping software - unique to each brand of GPSr, but easy to learn - will also allow you to upload and save your waypoints and tracks on the computer, and ease the creation of your own waypoints and tracks at home, using data from "gold maps", club claim guides, etc.

As an example, visit the Meteoritical Society website (<http://tin.er.usgs.gov/meteor/metbull.php>) and search for a nearby confirmed meteor fall. You'll see details about the recovered meteorite(s) AND AN EXACT LOCA-

TION. Mark a waypoint on your GPSr and over-write its location with the one given. You've now got a flagged location to which you can navigate. Many of these falls are "strewn fields" with many fragments, some yet to be recovered. (If you are doing several, making waypoints on the computer and downloading to the GPSr is quicker.)

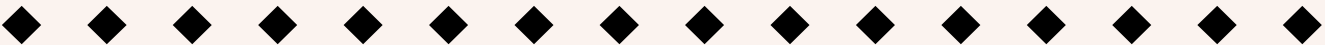
Worried about being stranded or injured in the desert out of cell phone range? Look at two solutions: PLB (Personal Locator Beacons), and the "Spot Satellite Messenger." <http://www.acelectronics.com/alerts/RussMorrison.aspx>

<http://www.findmespot.com/en/spotrescue/> -also- http://www.mcmurdo.co.uk/news/news_article.html?news_id=388

Spot has an yearly fee (PLB's don't), but the Spot has fun features beyond calling for help.

New to GPS, topo maps, or emergency beacons? There are several GSSN members who can help - bring your GPSr and maps to a meeting and ask around, or call the club for the phone number of a member who might be able to help with your question(s).

By John Bronstein
Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada, Inc.



- Ore Bag (or sturdy sack)
- Face Mask (Snorkel)
- Large Screwdriver (or Small Rod)
- Rock Hammer
- Shovel
- Large and Small pry bars
- Modern metal detector

Gold Pan

Because every tool is truly optional except the gold pan, careful attention should be given to the choice of a pan. Many sizes and types are available, and they vary in shape, color and material. Today's most popular gold pan is made of plastic, which has significant advantages over tin or steel.

Plastic is light-weight and is not affected by acid or other substances that can attack metal. Plastic is not attracted by magnets and is easy to cast or mold into a specific design. Non-biodegradable plastic will last for centuries, while steel pans rust away. True gravity-trap riffles are indented at a right angle, offering a distinct advantage... especially for the beginner.

Special Note

Speaking personally, I must recommend the Gravity Trap gold pan with its sharp 90 Degree riffles which traps gold. I designed field tested and patented these pans.

Metal Detector

A modern metal detector can produce more ounces of gold per dollar spent, than any other type of prospecting equipment used in the world today. In fact, more gold nuggets have probably been discovered in recent years with detectors than were found in all the early gold rushes.

Beginners and professionals alike have used metal detectors successfully. Detectors designed specifically for hunting gold can recover nuggets in stream beds, search for mine veins, seek nuggets in dredge tailings, locate new gold sources and otherwise prove useful in all aspects of field prospecting.

Complete information on the use of metal detectors in the search for gold can be found in my co-authored book ***Modern Electronic Prospecting***. Co-author Charles Garret has also written the authoritative ***Modern Metal Detectors***, which also contains just about everything you'd ever want to know about a metal detector.

Wet Panning

Whenever water is available, wet panning is the method that should be used. This is the type of panning traditionally associated with searching for gold. All tools in the Gold Panning Kit will be used in wet panning.

Step 1: Place classifier atop the gold pan and fill the classifier with gravel, sand and other material.

Step 2: Submerge pan and material to be classified, holding firmly with both hands, and use a twisting motion to shake them. Small gravel, sand and gold will pass through the classifier and settle in the gold pan.

Step 3: Check for nuggets in the classifier.

Step 4: Remove the classifier, and discard its remaining contents.

Step 5: Grasp the pan securely with both hands while it is still under water. Begin rotating the contents in the pan as you raise it slightly from the water. Occasionally shake the pan, which will help cause heavier contents to settle. Remove small rocks as they continually move to the top of the contents. Occasionally tip the pan forward in the water to permit water to carry off lighter material. Be careful, however, not to lose any of the other contents of the pan. Eventually about a handful of concentrate will remain in the pan.

Step 6: Transfer all the material that remains in your 14 inch pan to the smaller finishing pan.

Step 7: Make certain the Gravity Trap riffles are always on the lower side as you rotate the pan under water. This brings all material across the traps. You will develop your own method for shaking; i.e., side to side, back and forth or circular motion. Your aim in moving the pan under water is to cause the heavier gold to settle into the riffles where it will be trapped. As the contents become concentrated on the bottom of the pan and in its riffles, the total amount of material will appear smaller.

Step 8: Continue to tip the pan occasionally so that water can carry off lighter materials. Try to separate all other materials from your gold by gently swirling motion, leaving the gold concentrated together in the riffles.

Step 9: Retrieve your gold. Use tweezers for all large pieces and the gold suction bottle to vacuum up fine gold from the water.

As you follow these instructions, you will develop your own methods of panning. No unusual type of equipment such as a square or oblong pans will help because use of the standard circular pan is natural and easy for anyone to master. You can practice at home by using small BB shot which will behave like little gold nuggets. More specific wet panning instructions are contained in my new book "Gold Panning is Easy".

Dry Panning

Dry panning is not the most reliable method of discovering gold in desert areas. Often it is the only practical one. Gold pans require riffle traps that are sharp and deep. The riffles should be positioned at a 90 degree angle to the wall of the pan. Gravity Trap riffles are designed like a small dry-washing sluice box. If operated properly, the riffles make this pan

ex-



Sorry for stopping the Article right there. But The Article on Dry Panning, Nugget hunting, Field Searching, Mine Searching, Mine Dumps, Dredge Tailings, and Black Sands will be put in the Next edition of the Highgrader! I promise to have it in there!

Application To : Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada, Inc.

P.O. Box 96732

Las Vegas NV, 89193 – 6732

Phone : (928) 767-3465

Supporting Website:

Www.goldsearcher.com

Please Print Clearly

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Vehicle _____ Lic# _____ State _____

I understand that as a member of the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Inc., I can run for office and Participate in the voting on all major policies and officer elections. I will also be able to attend all meetings and use the club claims, subject to the club By-laws. I can also use club equipment by appointment and check out books and video's from out extensive library.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I / we, the undersigned, (hereafter referred to as participant) assume all risk and/or hazards associated with participant's involvement in the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Inc., a prospecting club. Participants agree to indemnify and HOLD HARMLESS all club officers, sponsors, and/or other third, fourth, etc., parties involved in club activities. Participants realize that metal detecting, gold prospecting, and associated activities can be dangerous. The terrain can be hazardous and there may be wild or domesticated animals and snakes present. Some locations may have open shafts, pits, and tunnels. Participants assume animals and snakes present. Participants assume all responsibility by signing below.

SIGNATURE _____

CLUBS ONLY FUNCTION IF MEMBERS VOLUNTEER

I/we will volunteer to assist in the areas checked. Please check at least one area.

COMMITEES

- OUTINGS FOOD CLAIMS EDUCATION / TRAINING
- NEWSLETTER MEMBERSHIP WEBSITE LIBRARIAN

ELECTED OFFICES

- PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER MEMBERSHIP

As of January 7, 2009 Dues are payable on the first of the month of your anniversary date. New members \$45.00 and to Renew is \$30.00.

Check # _____ Cash _____ By _____
 Receipt _____ From _____ To _____
 Card # _____ Card Sent _____ Claims Book Sent _____

DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT OF GOLD!

Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada
A Non-Profit Corporation
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Las Vegas, NV. 89193

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We print a membership application in each newsletter that must be used for all applications of New or Renewals. **We must have this information in its completed form to comply with our Bylaws.** Thank your for assisting your club with procedure!

Next General Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

August 5th, 2009.

**425 East Van Wagenen Street
Henderson, NV. 89002-9111**

Do a little prospecting at our Website!

**!!Supporting Website!!
www.goldsearcher.com**

Or you may call us by phone at:

1-928-767-3465

Membership is the life-blood of this Organization. Your renewal date is reflected on the address label, upper right. All of our programs cost this organization money. Your membership dues make it all possible. Membership numbers are important when contacting National Organizations, The Press, and Elected Representatives.