

FINDERS KEEPERS

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Editor: LINDA DURBIN

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Special Thanks to Jim Mears for his presentation on Garnets at the October meeting!!

The Many Facets of Hunting for Garnets

While experienced hunters thoroughly enjoy a good day of garnet hunting, you don't have to be an experienced hunter to find these dazzling little gemstones. In fact, they are probably the best stone for the inexperienced rockhound to begin hunting for. These delightful gemstones are quite common can be found in many US states and countries around the world.. The rock which bears the garnet is very often peppered with the stones, too, so once you find a good garnet bearing area you will easily be able to take a very healthy cache home with you.

Garnets come in many varieties and the type of rocks in your chosen area will determine the type of garnet you will be collecting. The most desirable crystals will be a deep wine red to purplish, pink, or brilliant green. Even smaller crystals are quite distinct in their natural form and you will be able to recognize them when you see them.

Your first step in garnet hunting, as with all gemstones, is to check your maps and guides. When it comes to garnets, I never worry too much about a location being "picked over" as the stones are usually so plentiful in any garnet area. Next you will want to make sure that you pack all of the equipment you need to gather the stones.

You will want to take your rock pick and mallet and a small screwdriver (1/8th of an inch blade is good) or chisel for any stones you find in the matrix rocks. I use these a bit at garnet locations as every once in a while I will see a stone still embedded in the matrix rock that I just can't pass up. Many times the rock bearing the garnet is soft and the stones can be removed easily with a small flat screwdriver or knife blade. A mallet can be used to break the rocks apart to find the stones. This is actually the hard way to get the garnets, however, and I don't usually resort to bothering with the rock itself. The tools that I use most frequently hunting for this particular type of gemstone is a spaghetti colander, a screen, and an army issue fold up shovel.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 5th - 1::00 PM - Board Meeting

Sunday, November 8th - metal detecting outing -

Saturday and Sunday, November 21st and 22nd - Hall of Fame outing

Wednesday, December 2nd - 6:30 PM - Chapter Meeting - Joslyn Senior Center

Thursday, December 3rd - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting

Saturday, December 5th - 4:00 PM - Annual Christmas Party at Madrid Manor Mobil Home Park, San Marcos

Sunday, December 6th - metal detecting outing - Place to be announced.

Then we will have nothing until the January 2010 meeting.

SPLASH

By Blakely Sanford

There were 9 of us at Splash this weekend. Some doing Metal Detecting, some doing drywashing. We were at the camp 6.7 miles from 395 instead of the 7.0 mile camp. I did not see a likely site where I would want to dig for gold. Maybe I didnt walk far enough down the claim to the west where there could be some concentrations of black sand and gold instead of just bentonite, volcanic ash and lead shot. I spent most of my weekend geocaching. Yes there already was a geocache right on this claim too. One of my goals for the weekend was to locate the crash site of the X-15-3. Finding the sight was easier than I thought compared to some of the geocaches I attempted to find. But the real highlight of my weekend was on Sunday. On the way out of the area and back to San Diego, I took Julie and arol to show them the memorial Karol for Maj, Michael Adams where he crashed his X-15. And while Julie watched me metal detect, I was able to locate two pieces of the X-15-3 Rocket that crashed 11-15-1969. I had found a number of lead bullets which gave me hope that Dain Blackburn hadnt detected all the crash debris. Then I found the two pieces of the rocket, one electrical, and one structural. The crash sight, may not be as sanitized as the government reports it to be. I will be going back there to see if I can locate more pieces. Anyone else interested?

The Many Facets of Hunting for Garnets ...cont'd

Over time garnets erode from the matrix rock. By scooping the dirt in the area of the gem bearing rock and sifting it in the colander you can easily find handfuls of gems. I use a colander for hunting gem rock as the holes are about the right size to let the stones which are smaller than I am interested in keeping fall through. If you want to spend money at a hardware store for special screens, they do have different sized meshes that will allow you to choose how large the gems must be for them to be trapped by the screen. If an area seems to have been picked over, by digging down deeper you can usually find the stones that fell and were covered before the area became popular to hunters.

After "panning" the rock area, I like to also pan the nearby streams for the gems. Garnets will wash downstream from their source over time and are not as heavy as some other minerals so you don't need to dig too deep to find good quality stones. Water currents can erode the natural facets of the stone however, so you may find many of the crystals in water are much smoother than those from the actual rock area, depending on how long they have been there. When I choose a spot in a stream I will use the colander again to check for gem quality and sized stones.

The normal sized screen I use for concentrated gem areas in streams where the stream bed is literally pink with small garnets. You will see this in many garnet areas. Most of these little garnets are not of gem size or quality, but they make great craft supplies. These I scoop up in the screen and just put in a bucket. Later at home I separate the small stones from the rest of the sand while watching television or talking on the phone.

© 2007 Sally Taylor You don't have to be Indiana Jones to find gemstones and fossils or prospect for gold and artifacts. Come on over to <http://www.rockhoundstation1.com> and learn how easy it is to turn those dull weekends into a life of adventure.

GARNET - Gem- and specimen-quality white to pale green grossularite garnet occurs on Indian Creek in Siskiyou County and along Traverse Creek near Georgetown in Eldorado County. Other locations for these types of grossularites are the south side of Watts Valley in Fresno County, near Selma in Tulare County, near Big Bar in Butte County and near El Toro in Orange County. Some of the finest quality spessartite garnet known come from pegmatites in San Diego County. Spessartites have been found on Gem Hill near Mesa Grande and in mines in the Rincon and Pala Districts. The most productive area with the finest quality garnets is on the western side of Hatfield Creek Valley near Romona. Near Indian Head Hill in San Diego County is a deposit of fine-quality hessonite garnet, and another deposit is near Dos Cabezas.

<http://www.treasurefish.com/california%20metal%20detecting.htm>

TSS MEMBERSHIP AND CLAIMS GUIDE

Membership to Treasure Seekers of San Diego is free. We do not charge an annual dues. All we ask is that you attend the meetings and participate with the group.

A membership application must be completed. Please see anyone at the back sign in table for an application. This should be done at your first meeting.

By the second meeting that you attend, you will be given a membership card, at which time you are able to purchase one of TSS's Claim Guides.

TSS LIBRARY

Treasure Seekers of San Diego has a tremendous library for it's members usage. Donna Brock, the Librarian and Robert Otto, the Librarian Assistant, are there to assist you. The library ranges from VHS/DVD "How To" shows, magazines, books of history, gold locations, treasure hunting and some maps. The process for checking out the material is easy.

October Meeting Attendance

October meeting we had 91 people in attendance. With 15 new members signing up.

Drawing Winners:

Door Prize: Jim Mears

Finds of the Month:

Gold -Gene Lepper

Metal Detecting - Dwight Reed

Gems/Minerals - Travis Carter

50/50 of \$87.00 - Thomas Hale

Gold Nuggets - Trish King (twice), Lois Dolan, and Marty Neal.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: AZ Desert Gold Echo ES-210 dry washer/vac combo as seen on azdesertgold.com. \$375. Jerry - (619)-417-6590.

TSS EQUIPMENT FOR MEMBER'S USE

Treasure Seekers of San Diego has a storage unit at Diablo Mini Storage in Escondido. Kent Donalson is the Equipment Manager.

We have:

- 2 Sluice Boxes – 3 feet long
- 1 Sluice Box – 4 feet long
- 1 Mini Recirculating 9 inch Sluice with pump and motor and tub.
- 1 Mini Recirculating Sluice with pump and motor (no tub)
- 1 Highbanker with motor and pump
- 1 Gold Grabber (box type high banker with motor and pump)
- 1 Small Dry Washer (no leaf blower)
- 1 Large Dry Washer (Keene 151 with leaf blower)
- 1 Dry Vac (5 gallon size) with motor
- 1 Dredge 3 inch (with motor, pump, hooka air, misc. hoses, end nozzles and accessories)
- 1 Magnetic Sweeper on rollers

All that we ask (and it's not much) is that, anything that is checked out, is to be returned in the same or better condition than when it is borrowed. It's understandable that with the nature of our hobby the equipment will get some bumps and bruises, which is acceptable, but if parts are lost or broken, it is the responsibility of the "borrower" to repair or replace missing or broken parts. To go a little more in depth—if a motor is on it's last leg and you are using it and it poops out, we understand that it's not your fault and don't expect you to replace it. On the other hand, if you have been using the motor for an extended period of time and forget to check and see if oil is needed, and the motor burns up, that would be a different story.

Feel free to give Kent a call if you would like to use "your equipment", his phone number is on the back page of the newsletter. All he asks, is that you give him a couple of days notice when you might need something, and when items are returned that they be in a CLEAN condition. This is to be respectful to the next person checking out the item. All equipment must be returned by the next meeting from when it was checked out. This will allow you any where from one week to three weeks usage.

Books by Blakey

Blakey Stanford, a TSS member, is the proud publisher of many interesting books. His books are compilations and re-prints of old magazine articles from the 30s, 40s, 50s and later. Many are first hand accounts of what it was like when there were real prospectors. There is nothing being printed today that compares to these articles. Often whenever possible there is a treasure map that corresponds to the article. He sells these books on e-bay for \$20 each or three for \$50. Frank Trutta at Columbia Metal Detectors also sells them for \$20 each. All have no shipping – no sales tax. Blake also sets up his books for purchase at the TSS Chapter meetings. Available compilations and re-prints are:

Basement Chemistry for Prospectors

Lost Arch Gold Mine

Duke's Short Course in Prospecting and Mineral Identification

Peg Leg's Lost Gold

Randsburg Gold

Twenty-nine Palms Gold

Yuma Gold

(November please request books via email or snail mail.)

TREASURE SEEKERS OF



SANDIEGO CO.

TREASURE SEEKERS OF SAN DIEGO
COUNTY

TREASURE SEEKERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

MISSION STATEMENT:

Treasure Seekers of San Diego County (T.S.S.) was officially organized on May 21, 2003 when the election of officers was held. We are a GPAA chapter. Non GPAA members may attend meetings and participate in the raffle, but are not eligible to vote, hold office, be on the claims committee, or utilize GPAA claims. The purpose of this organization is to provide an environment to increase public awareness, with education and training, of locating, identification and legal removal of minerals, caches and treasures while keeping in mind the preservation of the environment and wild habitat.

Meetings are held at the Joslyn Senior Center
210 Park Avenue, Escondido

On the first Wednesday of each month, 6:30-9:00PM

BOARD MEMBERS

Acting President:	Ray Wilkerson	760-598-6441	bwilkerson@cox.net
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METAL DETECTING REPORT:

An outing took place Oct 11, on the southside of the Oceanside pier. The tides did not cooperate with our plans and we only found a few coins. Fun was had by all..."A bad day metal detecting is better than a good day..."

Attendees:

John Howe
Frank & Zee Trutta
Gary Eckert
Stoney (Roy Stone)
Dwight Reed
Charlie Freeman

November Outing Info

Here is the information for the upcoming November outing to TSS's Hall of Fame claim:

Date: November 21st and 22nd, 2009

Saturday and Sunday, November 21st and 22nd, 2009, TSS will be holding their monthly outing at the Hall of Fame Claim.

Directions: Take Hwy.I-15 to I-10 East to the Cottonwood Springs and Mecca Road exit (approximately 50 miles past Palm Springs). Go North on cottonwood Springs Road for approximately 30 miles.

There are NO services. NO water. NO nothing near this claim. The nearest help and water is at the Cottonwood Springs Ranger Station and Campground, which you pass 6 miles north of I-10. It is recommended that you get your fuel, ice and whatever else at the Dillon exit on the far east side of Indio off of Hwy. 10. This is a T/A truck stop.

This claim is located in a very remote area. It is recommended for tent or vehicle camping. The last 20 miles to the claim is via dirt road, which at times can be washed out, depending on the rain for the season. A high clearance vehicle is suggested and, at times (depending on the amount of rain) a 4x4 might be needed.

Fine gold to nice nuggets have found here. Good for drywashing and metal detecting. A potluck will be held Saturday night, if you wish to join in, please bring a dish to share. A common fire is normally held on Saturday night as well. Firewood is always welcome. There are many abandon mines and trails in the area to explore. Just be safe.

Wagonmaster will be announced at the meeting.

MINER'S COOKBOOK

Recipe by Judy Carpenter

There is much to be said about mashed potatoes. The best way to make mashed potatoes - how long you cook them, with peel or without, reserving some of the cooking liquid, etc. etc. To make the best mashed potatoes for Thanksgiving or anytime of the year is to use Yukon Gold potatoes instead of Russets. That's really all there is to it (along with butter, cream, salt and pepper). Just start with the type of potato that tastes better and mashes up better. Creamy, Buttery, heavenly potatoes.

Perfect Holiday Mashed Potatoes

Ingredients:

- 5 to 10 pound for a crowd (1 1/2 lbs, for about 4 servings) Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and quartered length-wise
- approximately 1/2 teaspoon of salt per pound in water for cooking, start with cold water
- Heavy cream, I use carnation canned milk, about 1 small can
- Butter, lots of it, at least 1 stick real butter
- add 1 Tbsp milk per pound if too thick
- Salt and Pepper to taste

1. Put potatoes into a saucepan. Add 1/2 teaspoon salt per pound of potatoes. Add cold water until potatoes are just covered. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer, covered, 15-20 minutes, or until done - fork tender, a fork can easily be poked through them.

2. Warm cream and melt butter, together, either in microwave or in a pan on the stove. Drain water from potatoes. Put hot potatoes back in the saucepan or into a large bowl. Add cream and melted butter. Use potato masher to mash potatoes until well mashed. Use a strong spoon to beat further, adding milk to achieve the consistency you desire. (Do not over-beat the potatoes or they will get gummy and gluey.) Salt and pepper to taste.

This is NOT a low calorie dish, but a small serving will not hurt and you can still have pie for desert. Go for it!

A Message From Ray Wilkerson, Acting President:

----- Original Message -----

From: Wayne Peterson

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2009 7:11 AM

Subject: i posted on 28 web sites

Ray Wilkerson

Please forward to everyone on your contacts need to get the word out to as many as we can!

also Please take the time and send what you can We need it today.

Thanks NuggetBrain

As You know are rights are hard to fight!!

We do have have a way to help in the fight !

Please take a few minutes and donate! min. of \$10.00 for our future and Kids and Grandkids mining rights.

We always say I'll get to it later But now is the time !

Not only are you helping all our rights but you will also feel better knowing you money will help fight for our rights.

You can pay with a credit card on line

Just go to PLP web site at

<http://www.plp2.org/index.html>

go down to donations and pay on line open 24/7

or open this and print fill out and join today

<http://www.plp2.org/page10.html>

PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

\$35.00 FAMILY

\$50.00 CLUBS

Chapters / BUSINESSES \$100.00

PLEASE Help our rights today !!

And Thank PLP for all they do for Us.

To find out more about the PLP and how they are fighting for Your rights visit

<http://www.plp2.org/index.html>

or read about it in

<http://www.icmj.com/index.php>

Thank You for Your time and Donation

State Director of Colorado GPAA

State Director for PLP

2003-2007 Chapter President Durango Colorado(Durango Diggers)

Rendezvous Committee

www.Prospectingchannel.com