

FINDERS KEEPERS

WWW.TREASURESEEKERSOFSANDIEGO.COM

EDITOR LINDA DURBIN
JULY 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is so hard to get back to the present, when you have just come back from the best of times visiting grandsons who you haven't seen together at the same time since they graduated from high school. Now, they are married and have children or children on the way. We used to go hiking, camping, hunting, shooting, fishing together, all the time and they were more like sons.

One lives in Texas, in the Army, and one lives in Arizona. We went to AZ and the other drove from Texas to show off our newest great granddaughter. Our family now consists of four children, ten grandchildren, and four great grandchildren with another great grandson due in November. So, we will be returning to Arizona then. Speaking of AZ, it was 114 degrees on Wednesday with a low at six AM of 81. All you did was stay in the house, stay in the car, or stay in the store.

This past month, we shared educational experiences with elementary schools. Their social activities for California and the gold rush times come mostly from us now. We sure could have used more volunteers. Five to seven classes per school is pretty hard. For those who volunteered your help at the Del Mar Fair, I know you had fun. It was great times to help those little kids look for gem stones. You got a lot of smiles and "thank you's" from the youngsters.

(Continued next page)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont'd)

We also did the sluicing and panning up at the San Gabriel River. I heard that the new members were helped a lot by the older members. Possible gold pockets were discovered and gold was found. This is a great place for old and new members to practice the art of gold prospecting.

We have to gather the signatures of those who help hold our gold claims open for all of us to learn about the ancient riverbeds, volcanic areas and other places holding precious metals and other minerals. Those who are signed up have to be present for these signatures. Papers have to be in before September 1.

Then, our annual picnic is July 10. We will be having our gold panning and metal detecting contests too. In August, we will be up in Big Bear at Gold Mountain. Some of us will be camped at the Holcomb Valley Campground since it is so close to the claim. I know I have probably forgotten some items to relate to you, but when you think of them, please remind me at the meeting. See you there.

~Sourdough Chet~

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 10th - TSS Picnic @ Dixon Lake

Monday, July 12th - Metal Detecting, Mission Beach,
7:00am

Thursday, July 15th, Metal Detecting, South Side of
Oceanside pier, 8:30am, Big "C"

More Than You Could Ever Know About Pull Tabs

1 lb = 1,267 tabs

1 inch = 1 tab

1 foot = 12 pull tabs

1 meter = 40 pull tabs

1 km = 40,000 pull tabs

1 mile = 63,360 pull tabs

**Ladies Auxiliary donated 407,203 pull tabs (321.9 lbs) to
the Ronald McDonald House**

**Thanks in part to TSSD efforts!
(That's a lot of sodi pop! hiccup)**

FOR SALE

2004 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4 PS, AUTOMATIC, AC
HARDTOP LIFTED FULL WILDERNESS
RACK, SKYJACKERS, MICKEY THOMPSON ALLOY WHEELS
CALL 760-215-9030 \$17K obo

FOR SALE!

Brand New KEENE MINI Dry Washer with MOTOR Model
DW212V \$750.00

Includes 12V Motor for automated action and easy
turning hand crank for manual action.

Contact: Joey
Pick Up in Oceanside
Phone: (760)936-3543

WANTED

Used

Garrett Pro-Pointer
Call 760-215-9030

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.

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

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

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My First Competitive Coin Hunt

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to participate in a competitive coin hunt. It was sponsored by the Route 66 Gold Miners club in Rancho Jurupa Park (Riverside). For those not familiar with this type of hunt, here's a synopsis of how it went and what I learned.

The basic premise is that a quantity of coins and tokens are spread over the field, some being slightly buried. The coins are ours to keep and the tokens are numbered for chances at the prize table. Now the coins.... lots of clad coins and some wheaties, Mercury dimes, Buffalo nickels, Barber dimes and quarters, a 3-cent piece and a multitude of various foreign coins. The numbered tokens were buried "on edge" and were the real "keepers" and of course the toughest to find. The field was mown and it looked like mown hay! Large clumps of grass/weeds covered most of the coins, so you couldn't just walk around and find them. Oh, and it was almost the size of a football field. Plenty of room for 33 detectorists. Two hours in 90-degree heat didn't make things any easier.

The hunt started with everybody having "detectors up" and charging the field swinging their coils. The targets were plentiful and I picked up lots of clad, foreign coins and a few Mercs and Buffalo nickels but no tokens. An hour into the hunt, Larry the organizer walked around asking if anyone was finding the tokens. He mentioned to me that I'd need to hunt in all-metal mode to find them. I switched but couldn't get tuned in to the responses, so no luck.

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My First Competitive Hunt (Cont'd)

So now the results. 64 clad, 13 wheaties, 3 mercs, 3 buffalo nickels, and 28 foreign. NO tokens. A note on the tokens for future reference, I tested one with my machine and it was iron/steel and was discriminated out. Even in all metal I never would have dug it. I think my brain only responds to coin signals. So keep this in mind if you're ever hunting non-coin tokens!

Now the prizes. There are some really good detectorists out there. They seemed to always be at the prize table. Some had 3, 5, 10 even 16!! Tokens. The tokens were numbered starting with #1 and went to #140. Not all the tokens were found so they gave tickets to us inept who didn't find any. The token-finders received an envelope with a prize and they were good! Silver rounds, dollars, halves, a \$5 gold coin, 2 metal detectors and hats, backpacks, t-shirts, pouches, aprons, etc, etc. I won a coin apron which is probably what I deserved.

As a bonus there was a short hunt for a key to open a treasure chest containing a gold nugget and some other stuff. I found 6 keys, but only 1 Master key, which could work. I was the 3rd key from the last and it didn't work. My bad luck continued.

Here's what I learned:

- 1 find out what the tokens are made of
- 2 use all-metal mode
- 3 ignore all but shallow targets
- 4 don't admire your finds, move FAST

It was exhausting, but would I do it again... YES! As a matter of fact there's another club hunt at the same park next year and it's even bigger, so I'll be up there twice next year, since now I know

what to do.
John Howe

TREASURE SEEKERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
PAGE 10

Finds of the Month - Three Categories:

Bring in your Finds of the Month. This is what you have 'found' during the last month.

One for gems and minerals, One for Gold and the Other for metal detecting finds. Show off what you have done in the last month!

Prize for winner of each category.

Items available for purchase at the meeting are:

TSS Claim Guides - \$20.00 per guide with proof of your TSS membership card.

TSS Dowsing Rods - Member Price: \$15.00 for 1/2 inch handles and \$17.00 for 3/4 inch handles. We are limited to 20 pairs on hand - first come, first served.

TSS Bags of Gold Dirt - \$8.00 per bag - or 4 bags for \$30.00! Save on the cost of gasoline and still get some practice time in!

****** One in every 10 bags will have a 'little' something extra in it.**

You just never know what you are going to get!

Opportunity Drawings at this meeting:

50/50 Drawing, Gold Nugget Drawing, Table Drawing and the famous Door Prize drawing.

Hope to see you there - lots to do!

TREASURE SEEKERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
PAGE 11

Locating and Filing a Mining Claim

The following information has been taken from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website:

Who May Locate a Mining Claim?

Any citizen of the United States, a minor who has reached the age of discretion, a corporation, and non-citizens (aliens) who have declared their intention to become a citizen (43 CFR 3832.1)

Where Can I Locate a Mining Claim?

A mining claim can be located on federal lands (BLM and Forest Service) that are open to mineral location (entry). If you have a specific location site in mind, you may verify that the lands are open to mineral entry. This can be accomplished by checking with the BLM State Office Information Access Center (Public Room), who will assist you in determining if the lands are open to mineral entry by checking master title plats, records, files and other pertinent information (BLM LR2000).

What Type of Claims/Sites Are There?

Lode - A classic vein, ledge, or other rock in place between definite walls. A lode claim is located by metes and bounds. The maximum length is 1,500 feet by 600 feet. (43 CFR 3841)

Placer - All deposits, other than lodes. These include placer deposits of sand and gravel containing free gold and other minerals. Placer claims are located by legal subdivision. An individual may locate up to 20 acres with a maximum of 160 contiguous acres with 8 or more people (an association). A corporation is considered a single locator. (43 CFR 3842)

Tunnel Site - A tunnel site is where a tunnel is run to develop a vein or lode. It may also be used for the discovery of unknown veins or lodes. To stake a tunnel site, two stakes are placed up to 3,000 feet apart on the line of the proposed tunnel. Recordation is the same as a lode claim. A Tunnel Site can be regarded more as a right-of-way, than a mining claim. (43 CFR 3843)

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Locating and Filing a Mining Claim (Cont'd)

Mill Site - Public lands which are non-mineral in character. Mill Sites may be located in connection with a placer or lode claim for mining and milling purposes or as an independent/custom mill site that is independent of a mining claim. Mill Sites are located by metes and bounds or legal subdivision and are up to 5 acres in size. (43 CFR 3844)

What is a Location Notice and Where May I get the Form?

A location notice is a form that must be filed with the BLM, California State Office and your local County Recording Office. The following information must be included on the form: date of location of the claim/site, description of discovery monument, name of claim/site, legal description (metes and bounds or legal subdivision), and the names and addresses of all locators. There are separate notices for placers, lodes and mill sites. You can obtain location notice forms from the BLM Public Room and stationary stores. (43 CFR 3833.1-2)

How Do I Record a Mining Claim?

You must file your mining claim/site location notice with the BLM, California State Office, within 90 days from the date of location of the claim or site and you must also file with the County Recording Office. All new locations must be accompanied by the required fees of a \$15 service charge, a \$30 location fee, and a \$125 maintenance payment fee for the first year of location, for a total of \$170 per claim or site. By September 1st of every year or before, \$125 maintenance payment fee must be paid to the Sacramento office, or a Waiver with an assessment form and a \$10 per claim assessment fee must be turned into the Sacramento office. (43 CFR 3833.1-2 and 43 CFR 3833.1-4)

May I Change a Location Notice After I have Filed with the BLM?

You may file an amended location notice in order to change the name of the claim/site, clarify the legal description, or provide information that was incomplete. Also, you must file these amendments with the county that the claim is in. You may not add or delete locators or change the location date of the claim/site. There is a \$10 filing fee for filing an amended location notice. (43 CFR 3833.0-5[p])

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Locating and Filing a Mining Claim (Cont'd)

What Must I Do To Maintain A Claim?

Once a claim/site is serialized, an annual filing must be made on or before September 1, of each year to maintain the claim/site. If you have more than 10 claims, you must pay the \$125 maintenance fee. If you have 10 or fewer claims/sites, you may choose to file either the maintenance fee payment or file the Maintenance Fee Waiver certification (a.k.a. Small Miners Waiver). If you choose to file a small miners waiver, then you must also perform \$100 worth of labor or improvements on all placers or lode claims during the assessment year (September 1, noon through September 1, noon). An Assessment Work Notice (Proof of Labor) form must be filed on or before December 30, along with the \$10 filing fee per claim. For mill/tunnel sites, a Notice of Intent to Hold must be filed on or before December 30, along with the \$10 filing fee per site. To learn more about mining claims/sites filing instructions, please visit our web page "mining facts". (43 CFR 3833.1-5 and 43 CFR 3833.1-6)

What Is a Small Miners Waiver?

A small miners waiver is short for maintenance fee payment waiver certification. A small miners waiver may be filed by those claimants holding 10 or fewer claims/sites, instead of paying the \$125 maintenance fee by September 1, of each year. If you choose to file a small miners waiver you must also perform assessment work and file an assessment work notice by December 30, of each year. (43 CFR 3833.1-6)

What Qualifies As Assessment Work?

Some of the activities that qualify for assessment work are construction and maintenance of access roads, development drilling and sampling, and buildings that benefit the claim. For more information about what qualifies as assessment work please contact your local BLM office.

How Do I Transfer A Mining Claim?

A mining claim is transferred by recording a Quit Claim Deed with the County Recorder where the mining claim is located, and then by filing the Quit Claim Deed with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Office. The cost to file the

(Continued next page)

Locating and Filing a Mining Claim (Cont'd)

Quit Claim Deed with the BLM is \$10.00 per claimant, per claim. (Please call the County Recorders Office for their fees). Quit Claim Deeds are usually found at office supply stores.

Laws and Regulations Governing Mining Claims/Sites Mining Law of 1872
Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) - see section 314 Code of Federal Regulations, 43 CFR 3800

For More Information

Now available in the Information Access Center is our mining book titled, "Location and Patenting of Mining Claims and Mill Site, Latest Edition - Updated 2006." This book explains how to locate and patent mining claims in California. It shows location, monuments and claim maps. This book is written by the Bureau of Land Management. To order, call (916) 978-4400.

The most common question asked is "Can someone claim over an existing claim". The answer is yes. A Lode claim can be over a placer claim. TSS has several of these for example. The Splash placer claim is also home to a lode claim, a kitty cat litter company. Then there is a claim over of TSS claims West Channel and Hall of Fame. Ours are placer claims and then there is a company out there that has a lode claim over ours. Please respect all claim markers.