

TREASURE SEEKERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

FINDERS KEEPERS

September, 2011

Editor: Michael Michalski



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I finally got the chance to prospect up north off of the Yuba River. I was up there for two weeks. Beautiful, green and lots of fresh air. We were up where miners in the old days tore away huge cliffs by hydraulic mining. Their mining techniques were somewhat primitive, so a lot of gold slipped through and prospectors in the modern age are still getting rich on their leftovers. We didn't get rich, but we did find gold and had a lot of fun. We highbanded, sluiced, metal detected and just gold panned. Found a couple of gold with quartz specimens.

We have lost our rights to dredge for another five years. There was a lot of hard work put into getting our dredging right back, but the environmentalist, along with Governor Brown got their way. Some say, we could have done more, but many didn't think that this would go as far as it did. I have to quote portions of an open letter to miners from the Western Mining Alliance.

"We lost round one because we didn't see it coming. If Birkenstock wearing, cafe latte sipping environmentalists who've never humped a dredge into a canyon can beat us then we deserve to be beaten. When smug lawyers with bad haircuts can stand in front of a room and tell a group of miners that 'we offered to settle' and think we're willing to trade full rights for something they're willing to concede to us - they deserve to be beaten." "Rights, once taken by the government are not given back - they are taken back by the people." I'm sure we haven't heard the last of this fight, but it has begun to be a more uphill battle. We have to keep a watchful eye out because the same type of environmentalists are working on taking away our rights to be in the deserts too.

The government hasn't taken our rights away to sluice up on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River and that is where our next outing is scheduled. The only problem with this outing is that is on the weekend. That is when everyone else will be there. Families playing in the water and the prospectors. Jim and Sue Jeffrey schedule outings there on some Wednesdays, and this can be a better time if it fits your days off. When you find your way to the Oaks Picnic Grounds, look across the road on the river side. There is a bathroom building with ample off road parking. Find yourself a spot. Pack lightly and find the path down to the river while heading towards the bridge upstream. Cross the river and the washed out banks on the other side are your best bet.

Won't be long until we get packed up to go out to our new claims in the Cargo Mountains. I believe we are scheduled to go in October, weather permitting. We are going to put up our corner markers, do some other maintenance and look for gold and other minerals. This should be a good place to do some metal detecting. One thing to keep in mind is that it can unexpectedly become very windy. I hear that there may be a tour of all the new claims.

A lot of our members are interested in metal detecting and coin shooting. I have now been out at the beaches and am beginning to like this. Early to me is on the beach at seven am and off around ten or eleven. Works for me. Also, metal detecting in the parks has turned into fun. All this during the week is much better without the crowds. I have been doing much better with each outing. It's great that

some of our new officers are more interested in this part of our program.

Well, that's all for now. May your pans and drywashers become golden, may your scoops be filled with rings and coins and may your metal detector find enough relics to make you happy.

Sourdough Chet

Thank You

Gary Eckert, for an excellent presentation. Hope you can do another one in the future.

P.S. ICMJ's Prospecting & Mining Journal, September issue, has an excellent Q&A With Detector Designer Dave Johnson.

Last Month

Door Prize- Ron Graham

50/50- \$85.00 Scott McGross

Finds of the month winners-

Gold 1st- Frank Huberts **2nd-** Randy Oyler

Metal 1st- John Davis **2nd-** Dwight Reed

Gems 1st- Frank Huberts

Gold Nuggets- Dan Denman, Ken Maltby, Frank Huberts, & Jerry Kaplan

Club outing - O'side Harbor 8/7/11

Attendees: John Howe, Brian Kinnear, Jack Stangle, Mark Posvistak, Frank & Zee Trutta, Bob & Becky Adimari, Dwight Reed, Tom Hall, Dave Coolen, Big "C", John Hendricks & Al Freeman

I think this might be a club record for attendance. Probably because of Gary Eckert's fine metal detector presentation at the last meeting. It might have gotten the juices flowing again.

I'm pretty sure everybody found something. Of note, Al Freeman found an Australian half dollar, Dave Coolen found a 20 pence British coin, Dwight found 2 silver rings, and Zee Trutta found a silver ring (I think). But the find of the day was Becky Adimari who found a man's 14k ring with 5 good sized diamonds! There may be more but I forget! There were a lot of coins to be found, so the beaches are good right now. But by the time you read this, beach season will be winding down, so I hope you all had your share of the goodies.



Big "C" outing - O'side pier (south) 8/11/2011

Attendees: Big "C", Al Freeman, John Howe, Dwight Reed, Jerry Berman & Ralph Scharbata

The coins are still there. Charlie even found a couple of quarters! Dwight got another silver ring.

Jim Mears told the members about the forest service posting closed signed on roads going to the rock hound sites. And 10 miles on both sides of Rt. 66 near Barstow will be closing for public access.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Everyone needs to pick up their new membership card & wear them

September outing will be at the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.

Metal Detecting Schedule

Club outing - Sept 11th, 7:00AM-ish La Jolla Shores. I hope there'll be some stuff left over after the last big summer holiday.

Big C Mid-week outing - Sept 13th, 8:00AM-ish, Oceanside Harbor, south end (jetty). Again, you can keep all you find! See you all there!

Free Admission to All National Parks on National Public Lands Day, September 24

Entrance fees at all national parks across the country will be waived for National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 24. Whether you join the thousands of volunteers helping to clean up parks around the nation or just want to spend a nice fall day outside, be sure to find a park near you and mark your calendar to enjoy your visit for free! -Thanks Charlene

GOLD TESTING AND EQUIPMENT

Gold testing stone. After and in between uses, clean with a light emery cloth. after each testing with acid wipe with a clean cloth or paper towel.

Test kit acids come in 10K,14K,18K,22K,24K. You will only generally use just three the 10K,14K, and 18K.

Testing for platinum is highly dangerous. To tell if something is made of platinum, the weight would seem to be double that of gold as a rule.

Do not breath the acid fumes or rub your eyes when using the acids. When you drop the acid on the stone make sure just to use small drops do not use to much. It does not need to runoff the slab.

When you scratch an item, make sure that you are getting to what it is actually made of right thru. Plated pieces will test good on the outside.

With suspected items, file a notch and drop some acid in and watch for any reaction. If the acid turns a pink-cream color, this means that the item is gold plate on silver. A green reaction means that the item is gold plate on base metal, possibly copper. White gold will react very strongly because of the nickel or palladium content. An item that is less than test will take several minutes to show it.

If the item is not hard to scratch on, put a few drops of acid on and wait to see if it is 10K or not; higher karat items require some know how. Many will be between designations and the scratch will fade off slowly. They will be approximately 9 1/2K or 17 1/2K. Generally if most of the scratch holds test for a few minutes, it is pretty close to the karat rating.

When you see the sample scratch fading out to only traces of how it started, you have something that is considerably lower. In that case, try the test acid grade below what you are using to look for a conclusive test hold.

Finally a lot of brass items can be identified by the smell. This is something that is handy to know. Wet the suspected pieces with 18K acid and wave it across in front of your nose quickly. Brass has a tinny, metallic smell to it. Gold has no smell at all.

Use 18K gold acid when testing silver. The acid will turn a pink-cream color.

I hope this information is helpful. -Dwight Reed

Finds of the Month

Show off what you have done in the **last month!**
1st and 2nd Prize winners for each category.

Gold
Gems and Minerals
Metal Detecting

Items available for purchase at the meeting

Claim Guides - \$20.00 per guide with your TSSD membership card.

Dowsing Rods - \$20.00 as available

Bags of Gold Pay Dirt - one bag/\$10.00 or four bags/\$35.00

Save on the cost of gasoline and still get some practice time in!

One in every 10 bags will have a 'little' something extra!

Drawings at this meeting

Door Prize
50/50 Drawing
Gold Nuggets
Table Drawing

Quarterly Grand Prize drawing for September:
A Wooden Puffer Drywasher



See Yoko For your WINNING Ticket!!!

MINER'S COOKBOOK

By Judy Carpenter

The perfect summer salad made with fresh cooked green beans and ripe red tomatoes.

Ingredients: Serves 4

- 1 pound fresh picked green beans, trimmed
- 1/2 pound cherry tomatoes or tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 3 tbs white wine vinegar
- 2 tsp good extra virgin olive oil

Preparation: Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add green beans and cook for 3-4 minutes. Drain and plunge green beans into cold water to stop cooking and retain color. They should be still be tender crisp.

In a large bowl, combine cooked and cooled green beans and chopped tomatoes. Add basil. Whisk together vinegar and oil and drizzle over beans and tomatoes. Toss until lightly coated. Serve at room temperature or refrigerated.

This is the recipe for a salad I took to the TSS picnic. -Nancy Neal

(Ray Wilkerson thought it was so good, he requested it be included in the newsletter.)

RAMEN CABBAGE SALAD

- 1 bag Angel Hair cabbage (for slaw)
- 4 green onions, sliced thin
- 1/2 C. toasted slivered almonds
- 2 TB. sunflower seeds (I toast both almonds and seeds in a dry skillet, separately)
(This much can be done ahead, but add noodles and dressing when ready to serve.)
- 1 pkg. Ramen noodles (Oriental or Chicken flavor)
- Break up dry noodles. DO NOT COOK!
- Combine all ingredients with dressing just before serving.

DRESSING

- 1/2 C. salad oil (I use a little less)
- 3 TB. seasoned Rice Wine vinegar (or regular vinegar, if you like)
- 1/4-1/2 ts. pepper
- 1/2-1 pkg. Ramen seasoning (to taste)
- Dash cayenne or any hot sauce like Tabasco
- 1/2-1 ts. sugar (optional) (if you use seasoned vinegar, you won't need it)
- Mix well before adding to salad.
- Add cooked chicken for a main dish.

FOR SALE

Send your Ads to TSSDnewsletter@hotmail.com

TSSD MEMBERSHIP AND CLAIMS GUIDE

Membership to Treasure Seekers of San Diego is free. We do not charge 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 TSSD's Claim Guides.

TSSD 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.

TSSD EQUIPMENT FOR MEMBER'S USE

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

Inventory:

- 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, 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. *i.e. If a motor is on it's last leg, 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, forget to check if oil is needed and the motor burns up that would be a different story.*

Feel free to give Earl Sterrett at 858-922-4547 a call, if you would like to use "our equipment." 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 TSSD 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. No shipping – No sales tax. Blake also sets up his books for purchase at the TSSD 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

PLP - PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE - www.PLP2.org

Orange Challenge Card Info

While pursuing your outdoor endeavor of work, play, recreation or sport and you are challenged by a representative of a governmental agency or public servant, regarding the legality of your activity in their area, you should do the following:

- It is wise to politely ask if you are breaking any law. If you are informed that you are breaking the law, then ask for an explanation of the law and any municipal code that may pertain to the law.
- You should do as the governmental representative asks you, then ask for their name, badge number, position, and the agency and district they represent. Record this information along with the Date, time, and location of the area where you are located.
- If you do have a pleasant response from any of the representatives, such as being informative, cooperative, or helpful, we would like to hear about them also.
- Give this information to your local PLP office or representative and they will advise you of the appropriate procedure to follow.

Use this form to guide you when you are challenged and most of all be polite.

Name:

Badge or ID # Position:

Agency:

District represented:

Date & Time:

Location Details:

Forward to: Barret Wetherby - Secretary-Treasurer

818-957-1455

BHWetherby@aol.com

National Office 3700 Santa Carlotta St, La Crescenta, CA. 91214

Happy Ending

Tim DeChristopher bid \$1.7 million to lease 22,500 acres in Utah during an oil and gas auction run by the federal government in December 2008. The problem is he had no intention of paying up.

The environmental activist was charged with two felonies for making false representations and interfering with a government auction. In court, DeChristopher claimed he was using civil disobedience to highlight impending climate change.

On July 26, 2011 he was sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$10,000. -ICMJ

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.

WWW.TREASURESEEKERSOFSANDIEGO.ORG
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TreasureSeekersofSD/>

Meetings are held at the Joslyn Senior Center
210 Park Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025
On the first Wednesday of each month, 6:30-9:00PM

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