

# FINDERS KEEPERS

WWW.TREASURESEEKERSOFSANDIEGO.COM

EDITOR: CHARLENE MYERS

OCTOBER 2007

## UNUSUAL MINERALS NEAR RANDSBURG, CA.

The Randsburg area has long been known as a premier gold, silver and tungsten mining location. In April of 1895, gold was discovered by John Singleton, Charlie Burchaim and F. M. Mooers while they were prospecting in what was soon to be known as the Rand Mountains. After only a few days work, following a lead obtained a number of months earlier, the three men discovered gold. This was to be the famous Yellow Aster Mine, and word spread quickly of the men's success.

Because of the huge influx of people employed at the Yellow Aster and the other mines in the area, the towns of Randsburg and Johannesburg formed and both became thriving mining camps. Nearly two hundred thousand dollars a month in gold was being taken from the Yellow Aster in its heyday, not to mention what was being found at the other diggings. By the time the Yellow Aster was finally closed, in 1942, more than sixteen million dollars worth of bullion was taken from it and the area had become famous as one of the state's most productive mining regions.

To add to the area's fame, other important discoveries were made. In 1902, a man named Churchill discovered tungsten near Spud Patch, a few miles to the south of the Yellow Aster operation. Rich bodies of tungsten hearing scheelite were found, and mining rapidly got underway.

Soon after the tungsten discoveries, yet another major find was made nearby Red Mountain. This time it was silver. Rich deposits were found in June of 1919 by two prospectors named Williams and Nosser. This discovery was the California Rand, and was destined to be one of the most productive silver mines in this region. Interestingly, in the Rand Mining District, most of the gold was located in the western portion, silver in the east and tungsten to the south.

In addition to the gold, silver and tungsten, other minerals can be found in and around the Rand Mountains, many of which are of great interest to the collector. One, in particular, is fuchsite, an extremely bright green variety of muscovite. The vivid color is due to the rich chromium content of the mica, and it makes a spectacular specimen.

Before discussing the specifics of the collecting location and other materials that can be found. It should be pointed out that while most of the mines in the area are not currently active, many are still protected by claims and are being worked from time to time. You will see countless "inactive" mines while driving through these hills, and it is very tempting to explore their dumps. I would suggest, however, not doing so unless you are sure the particular dump is abandoned, safe and/or collecting is allowed on it.

Con't to page: 4

### MARK YOUR

### CALENDAR ~

- Sunday, October 7th  
7:00 AM  
*Metal Detecting Outing*  
*North of Oceanside Pier*
- Outing  
October 20th & 21st  
*Freedom Claim*
- Event  
October 27th & 28th  
*Corn Festival*  
*Temecula*
- Event  
Sunday, November 4th  
*Fallback Festival*  
*Gaslamp Quarters, San Diego*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE	2
UPCOMING EVENTS	2
OUTING INFORMATION	3
METAL DETECTING	4
MINER'S COOKBOOK	5
MEMBERS PHOTOS	6-8
CLASSIFIED AD'S	11

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Well, we went over to the GPAA office again. Last month, we went to set up some kind of schedule where Harriett and I could come and volunteer. We volunteered this time. They had us put together files and folders for both the GPAA and LDMA. They had some notebooks for the LDMA that needed completion. They had some commemorative coins of George (Buzzard) Massey that they wanted placed in plastic holders and onto post cards. Also mailers and handouts for the Gold Shows. These are things that the small staff does not have time for. We did it all. We stayed there all day and had fun. Harriett and I set up a system and we got the projects done. We proved that we are a team. The staff was very pleased and were promised some more Chapter points toward purchasing items for our Christmas party. These are the same points our Chapter gets if you join GPAA through our club or helping out at the gold shows. We are building up a stack of points. Still, don't forget to tell them that you belong to TSS when you join or renew your membership. More points mean more money for us to spend.

We had quite a large number show up at the Banner Grade outing. We had much too many cars to fit into the parking area, but there were plenty who volunteered to carpool. The stream water was much lower this year. Our plan was to go on a tour of the old mines first, then prospect for gold. It didn't happen that way. Most everyone got busy with their drywashers right away. You could tell that by all the dust flying right along the pathway. Mine tours were put off temporary until everyone was covered in dust.

Dain did really great job again and found gold in the layers of shiest. We are going to have to have a really good rain before next year's outing to clean out the area for some good Drywashing and sluicing. We lucked out in leaving when we did. There was another fire up in Julian and most roads were closed off right after everyone left.

Only three months left for this year and we are booked up. We have the Freedom Claim outing the third weekend of October. The Corn Festival on the fourth weekend. I went to the Temecula Chapter to get them to volunteer because the Corn Festival is in their town. Only one family signed up for it. Not too much enthusiasm over there for events. I told them we get club members from their town coming to our meetings, and we make club money from their town too. I am so glad we have good officers and club members.

We also have the Fallback Festival in the Gaslamp area of San Diego too. That will be before our November meeting. We have an add on for November. The Oceanview Tourmaline Mine Tour on November 18th. And then we have our famous Thanksgiving outing at the Friendly Fox Claim. Also, don't forget our Christmas party on December 8th. I'll keep reminding you all till the end of this year and we are now planning on next year's fun. I'm glad you all are members and I love seeing you at the meetings. Till next time.

~Sourdough Chet~

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **Sunday, October 7th:**

Metal Detecting Outing  
7:00 AM  
North of Oceanside Pier

### **Saturday and Sunday,**

### **October 20th & 21st:**

Freedom Claim Outing

### **Saturday and Sunday,**

### **October 27th & 28th:**

Corn Festival Event  
Temecula, CA.

### **Sunday, November 4th:**

Fallback Festival Event  
Gaslamp Quarter, San Diego

### **Wednesday, November 7th:**

### **Chapter Meeting**

6:30 PM Joslyn Senior Center  
Escondido, CA

### **Sunday, November 18th:**

Oceanview Tourmaline Mine  
Pala, CA.

## OUTING INFORMATION:

Saturday and Sunday, October 20th and 21st will be the clubs outing to the Freedom Claim.

The Freedom Claim is located approximately 75 miles north of Hwy. #15 on Hwy. #395.

For complete directions to this claim, please see Lee Crnkovic for maps to this claim.

This claim is known for lost of fine gold to flakes and some smaller nuggets. Drywashing and metal detecting (even dowsing) is recommended.

The road into this claim is a good dirt road. Motorhomes and trailers have access. Many flat areas for tents and vehicles. Water is avail-

able at the Johannesburg Water Dept. for .08¢ a gallon. They are located on St. Elmo Street, to your left as you enter Johannesburg.

The previous owner of this claim dug many holes and the piles of overburden can be accessed easily. In these piles of overburden is where the gold has been found. Gold has also been found in the caliches, so don't forget your clay-begone or jet dry for panning.

When out here, don't forget to go check and prospect the other three claims that are in the immediate area. They are: Smokin', Little Bit and Splash. All are in the TSS mining claim guide.

A potluck will be held on Saturday night. Please bring a dish to share for approximately 8 to 10 people. Every kind of dish is welcome.

Firewood is also needed for the evening fires. So if you have additional firewood, please bring some.

The wagon-master for this trip will be discussed at this meeting.

The wagon-master is to make sure that everyone signs in, which is also the liability release form and answers any questions about the claim that someone might have.

Are you interested?

---

## SEPTEMBER'S ATTENDANCE REPORT

### Wednesday, September 5th:

#### Chapter Meeting

68 members in attendance.

3 new members

### Sunday, September 9th:

#### Metal Detecting Outing - Mission Beach

6 members in attendance.

Frank and Zee Trutta, Stoney, John Howe, John Gonsalves (guest)

### Saturday, September 15th:

#### Ready Relief Mine, Banner Grade

31 members in attendance & 1 Guest

Leah & Stephen Thompson, Brian Winter (guest), Perry Dawson, Al Freeman, Keith Browning, Jerry Farris, Dan Felthan, Barbara & Ray Wilkerson, Pat Roycroft, Robert Collier, Robert & Lori Otto, Frank & Gay Huberts, Chester Nowicki, Jerry & Connie Duke, Karen & Robert Cook, John Howe, Davide & Jill Patterson, Blakey Sanford, Tom Williams, Jerry & Janet Kaplan and Dain Blackburn.

*\*\* If any names are missing, it is because we could not read them. Please remember to PRINT.*

---

## SEPTEMBER'S MEETING WINNERS

Gold Nugget Raffle Winners: Big "C" Charlie Freeman, Jerry Duke/Mat Buccat and Dain Blackburn

Door Prize Winner: Lew Eakman

50/50 Winner: Randy Oyler

Finds of the Month Winner - Gold/Prospecting: Randy Oyler

Finds of the Month Winner - Metal Detecting: Jim Daughtery

---

## SEARCHING THE BEACHES

BY FRANK M. TRUTTA

The long awaited low tide searching has finally arrived to our local beaches. All you have to do is watch the weather reports for clues and the beach conditions. They always announce when the high and low tides are and report to the surfers the size of the breakers. Low tides are in the daylight hours now. No need to hit the beaches at 2:00 AM to work the flats.

Right now the cuts are the best to detect, there hasn't been enough wave action to start the winter removal of sand from the beaches. Don't forget in the winter time sand is removed from the beaches and in summer sand is added to the beaches.

Some people thought we were crazy, but my wife Zee and I went detecting on the 23rd of September (our 40th wedding anniversary). She said "you better find a gold ring." We found a nice two foot cut and started grid-ding at the base of the cut out to the water. From the cut and out about forty feet I started hitting targets, farther out toward the water there were no targets. All the targets I was hitting were 8 to 10 inches deep and deeper. All I was getting in my earphones was a slight sound distortion of the threshold so I would dig about 8 to 10 scoops of sand and re-scan the pile and hole. Most of the time the response did not repeat so I would take out another 5 to 6 scoops and eventually my coin would show up.

On the Minelab Explorer no matter how weak the signal is it always discriminates so when a target pops up on the screen in the location where nickels, pulltabs and gold show up you end up with a very large hole. After about twenty coins I hit a nice low sound and did recover a titanium ring with a gold inlay on it after about another 40 coins and two hours later another weak low response. Digging down about ten inches something caught my scoop, looking into the hole all I saw was gold. What a pleasant surprise, it was a 32 inch gold chain and a rhinestone encrusted three inch long cross. Made my day! So my wife and I will always remember our 40th anniversary.

Hunt Smart!

---

## UNUSUAL MINERALS NEAR RANDSBURG, CA.

Yellow-green zoisite, its crystals resemble tourmaline in shape and structure and range in size from very small to many inches in length, can also be found in and around the schist outcroppings.

To gather specimens, break the schist with a sledge hammer and chisel, looking for telltale green areas. Be sure to check the other outcrops higher on the hill as well as any abandoned dumps in the area for additional minerals, including olive-green actinolite which makes very interesting specimens, with its mass of needle-like crystals and nice green color. Epidote, quartz, talc, sercite, calcite and even some faint rhodonite. The fushsite and zoisite crystals are the most prized, but the other minerals are also very nice.

*This information has been obtained from the October 1979 issue of Rock Hound Magazine and Gem Trails of California and Gem Trails of Southern California written by: James R. Mitchell*

*Both of his books show detailed maps of the collecting area.*

---

If you were born in the month of October -

Your flower is: Marigold, Calendula, Cosmos

Your stone is: Opal, Tourmaline, Jasper, Zircon, Aquamarine

Your meaning is: Hope

Your colors are: White, Yellow and varied

Aquamarine: The bluer the stone, the more valuable it is; presence of green or gray decreases its value. This stone is durable; suitable for jewelry worn daily.

---

## MINER'S COOKBOOK CORNER

BY JUDY CARPENTER

*HAPPY HALLOWEEN or ALL HALLOWS EVE*

I really like Halloween. It's fun to dress up, entertain the kids with fun tricks or treats, scare the neighbors, and make up names for your favorite foods.

Spider web soup, witches brew, ghostly goulash, black cat cookies, vampire eyeball and bat wings.

Don't let these recipe titles scare you, it's only for fun and entertainment.

***Slimy Swamp Punch*** (Party Punch)

1 Large can Hi-C Orange Drink, chilled

1 Large can Pineapple Juice, chilled

1 Large Bottle 7-Up, sprite or Ginger Ale, chilled

Ice

1/2 Gallon Orange Sherbet

Pour first 3 ingredients into punch bowl, add ice, then add scoops of the sherbet.

***Batty Wings*** (Barbequed Chicken Wings)

3 pounds of Chicken Wings, approximately 24 wings

Marinate for wings:

1 tsp. each cayenne pepper, white pepper, black pepper

2 tsp. each salt, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika

1 T. Tabasco sauce

2 tsp. dark soy sauce

1/2 onion, finely diced

1/4 cup soda pop (Dr. Pepper, Pepsi, Coke, Root Beer, your choice)

Mix all marinate ingredients into large zip lock bag, add chicken wings. Marinate, over night in refrigerator.

Line cookie sheet with foil and layer wings in a single layer.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 - 60 minutes. Makes approximately 6 servings.

***Erie Ghoulish Goo*** (Beefy Noodle Casserole)

1 - 8 oz. package of noodles, shell or elbow. Cook according to package directions

1 pound ground beef, browned and crumbled

1½ - 2 cups Prego sauce or your favorite spaghetti sauce

1 small can (4 oz or less) each of sliced black olives and sliced mushroom, drained

2 cups grated cheese, cheddar, longhorn, jack or mozzarella

After browning ground beef, (drain off any extra grease), pour in prego sauce and stir, add the cooked noodles and stir again coating the noodles, add 1/2 cup cheese, mix well. Pour mixture into 1½ - 2 quart casserole dish. Top with remaining grated cheese. Bake in 325 degree oven for 20 - 30 mins. Or until heated through (cheese is melted and stringy). Serve with Garlic Toast.

# WHO'S SIGNED UP

## **Corn Festival, Temecula - Saturday and Sunday, October 27th and 28th:**

This event is where the club promotes itself to the general public, bring in new members, sell prospecting equipment and bags of gold, and introduce the art of panning for gold. We also promote GPAA.

This starts at 10:00 AM and volunteers should be there at 9:00 AM to help set up. Shut down is at 4:30 PM.

Members signed up, so far, are: Colette Preston, Ray Wilkerson, Donna Brock, Randy Oyler, Roy Stone, Robert Otto, Charlene & Bill Myers, Loren Raddatz, David Patterson, Chester & Harriett Nowicki.

## **Fallback Festival, Gaslamp Quarters, San Diego - Sunday, November 4th:**

The City of San Diego has 'hired' TSS to help the children of San Diego learn how to pan for gold that the City of San Diego is providing. It is fast paced throughout the day.

The festival opens at 11:00 AM, set up and ready by 10:00 AM, getting down there around 8:30 or 9:00 AM is suggested for a good close parking space.

Members are needed that know how to pan, people that can help keep the water cleaned, the dirt removed from the tubs, gold bags and vials ready to go, dried towels available to the panners and such.

Members signed up, so far, are: Colette Preston, Ray Wilkerson, Donna Brock, Bill Diaz, Robert Otto, Charlene & Bill Myers, Loren Raddatz, Robert Cook, Lee & Sharon Crnkovic and Chester & Harriett Nowicki.

## **Oceanview Tourmaline Mine Tour and Gem Hunting - Sunday, November 18th:**

TSS will be holding an outing at the Oceanview Mine, located in Pala, CA. Jeff Swanger, co-owner of the Oceanview was our guest at the September meeting. He is offering our members a \$10.00 per person discount. The cost will be \$50.00 per adult, \$40.00 per youth (12 yrs. and under). 5 years and younger will be free. He can accommodate 60 people on this day. If TSS can not fill up that many spots then he will open it to the public and he needs to know in advance how many of our members will be attending. Jeff even mentioned something about doing a cookout up there. This is something we will work on after we know how many people plan on attending. Jeff supplies all needed equipment (screens, etc.) you just need to bring something to take all your finds home in.

The following members have 'confirmed' their attendance: Terry & Trish King, Yoko Weidmann-Riggs, Pat Roycroft, Charlene Myers, Warren & Phyllis Pape, Eric Neptune, Kent Donalson, Wes Donalson, Steve Berdan, Charlie Freeman, Kay Byrne, Colette Preston, Randy Oyler, Barbara & Ray Wilkerson, Ray Drennan, Blakely Sanford, one guest of Blakely's, Bob Cartwright, Andy Collier, Andy's wife and two children, Mike & Rosalie Mahr, Robert & Lori Otto, Jerry Farris, John Farris, Evelyn & Pat Allen, Jay Davis and John Davis.

The following members can possibly attend and will confirm by the middle of this month: Laura Doughty, Tom Vizthum and two of Jerry Farris' children.

So, we have 35 members confirmed and 4 possible.

\*\*\*\*\*

This does not mean that we have more than enough members to help out.

We need more members to step up to the plate. At these events, it is nice to be able to get a 'break' from the TSS booth and go wonder and look at the other booths, get something to eat.

The sign up sheets are at the back table at tonight's meeting.

As stated, you do not need to know how to pan for gold to help. There is many, many other ways to help.

Have you signed up?

MEMBER'S PHOTO'S:

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING



MEMBER'S PHOTO'S:

READY RELIEF MINE OUTING



## HEX PAN AND REBATE

Travis, who is famous for his Trinity gold pan, is here tonight with us to demonstrate his newest creation, the Hex gold pan.

The board members of TSS is making an offer to it's members tonight only.

There will be a \$3.00 rebate coupon with each pan that is purchased at tonight's meeting. This coupon is to be taken to Treasurer, Lee Crnkovic before the end of the meeting for redemption.

Members will pay the \$15.00 per pan to Travis and then take the TSS \$3.00 rebate coupon to Lee to redeem.

---

## QUARTERLY ATTENDANCE POINTS

What is Quarterly Attendance Points?

Each member that attends one of the following receives points:

Chapter Meeting - 1 point per meeting

TSS scheduled Outings - 2 points per day

TSS scheduled Events - 3 points per day

At the end of the quarter, the points are calculated on an Excel program. At which time, everyone's name that has at least one point next to it, is written on a ticket and placed in a barrel.

The winning ticket is drawn from this barrel.

---

## TSS NAME TAGS AND CLUB SHIRTS WITH LOGO'S

TSS name tags are available for purchase from Ray Wilkerson, 1st Vice President. The cost is \$5.00 per tag.

TSS shirts with the TSS logo is available from Steve Berdan. You pick the shirt and what logo you would like on it. You can contact Steve at the meetings or through the website or phone number listed on page 10.

---

## GRAND PRIZE

Treasure Seekers of San Diego is offering for the Grand Prize Opportunity Drawing a Famous Trails Metal Detector, Model #1023.

The drawing will take place either in November or December meeting, depending on the sale of tickets.

---

## TID-BIT

Did you know - a spider will make its web facing south if it can.

If a black cat crosses your path it is bad luck, but if a black cat comes toward you, it will bring you good luck.

---

Page Reserved for Ad's

**COLUMBIA METAL DETECTORS**

**[www.columbiametaldetectors.com](http://www.columbiametaldetectors.com)**

Your one stop prospecting store

Locally owned and operated by Frank Trutta

Member of Treasure Seekers of San Diego

760 East Valley Parkway

Escondido, CA. 92025

760-743-8516

**Club Embroider Shirts**

Steve Berdan

TSS Member

4823 Windjammer Way

Carlsbad, CA. 92008

760-729-0246

[steve.berdan@nationalds.net](mailto:steve.berdan@nationalds.net)

## CLASSIFIEDS FOR MEMBERS:

## BOOKS BY BLAKEY

Blakely Sanford, a TSS member, is the proud publisher of many interesting books. He has donated several to the TSS library.

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/The Inkwell Printing Co. also sells them for \$20 each. All have No Shipping - No Sales Tax.

Blake often has a few of each book in his car available for sale at the monthly meetings, but it is best to e-mail him at [Blakelysanford@yahoo.com](mailto:Blakelysanford@yahoo.com) to ensure that he has that book with him. Or mail your check to:

Blakely Sanford, 17563 Caminito Heno, San Diego, CA. 92127

Available compilations and re-prints are:

- “Basement Chemistry for Prospectors”
- “Duke’s Short Course in Prospecting and Mineral Identification”
- “Lost Arch Gold Mine”
- “Peg Leg’s Lost Gold”
- “Randsburg Gold”
- “Twenty-nine Palms Gold”
- “Yuma Gold”

-----  
Pictures.....

This last month, several members were able to assist in taking pictures of the last couple of outings.

This is really appreciated!

If they did not make the newsletter, due to space, they will be published to the website. [www.treasureseekersofsandiego.com](http://www.treasureseekersofsandiego.com)

Please continue to assist with this task.

All pictures are welcome.

Pictures can be sent to: [charlenemyers@cox.net](mailto:charlenemyers@cox.net)

Treasure Seekers of San Diego welcomes the opportunity for it's members to run free ad's in the newsletter.

This is just a reminder that Treasure Seekers of San Diego does not endorse or guarantee any product sold or purchased through these ads.

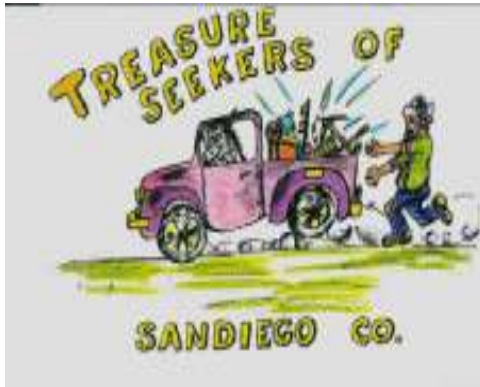
That is strictly the buyers and sellers responsibility.

### Gold Bags

**\$6.00 per bag**

T.S.S. sells bags of gold concentrates. This is a great way to practice your panning skills plus save on gas money!

Get yours today!



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—9:00 PM.

**Board Members:**

President:	Chester Nowicki	760-747-1165	CandHNow@aol.com
Vice President:	Ray Wilkerson	760-598-6441	bwilkerson9@cox.net
Recording Secretary:	Sharon Crnkovic	760-519-9899	slcrnk@aol.com
Treasurer:	Lee Crnkovic	760-519-7757	slcrnk@aol.com
Membership:	Charlene Myers	760-439-8521	charlenemyers@cox.net
Ways & Means:	Harriett Nowicki	760-747-1165	HANowicki@aol.com
Librarian	Donna Brock	760-724-8276	brock.d@sbcglobal.net
Claims:	Harriett Nowicki	760-747-1165	HANowicki@aol.com
Refreshments:	Sue Conner	760-480-5638	Goldbusters@sbcglobal.net
	Ron Gonsalves	760-480-5638	Goldbusters@sbcglobal.net
Metal Detecting:	Frank Trutta	760-743-8516	scthfrank@yahoo.com
Newsletter:	Charlene Myers	760-439-8521	charlenemyers@cox.net
Claims Guide:	Lee Crnkovic	760-519-7757	slcrnk@aol.com
Equipment Manager:	Kent Donalson	760-415-3515	kentsride@yahoo.com
Director At Large:	Lew Eakman	951-699-0794	Lew@Tecula.com
Director At Large:	Jim Mears	760-746-9698	JandCMears@netzero.net
Director At Large:	Loren Raddatz	760-726-7397	Laraddatz@cox.net
Past President:	Jim Hall		

*Publication of this Newsletter is courtesy of*

Inkwell Printing Co.

760 East Valley Parkway

Escondido, CA. 92025

760-743-8681

760-747-8182 (Fax)