

FINDERS KEEPERS

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EDITOR: CHARLENE MYERS

MARCH 2007

CRYSTAL PEAK - VERDI, NEVADA

BY JIM MEARS

"Nevada may not have any yellow brick roads, but it does have a mountain that glistens with crystals. Located less than an hour drive from Reno, Crystal Peak attracts a diverse collection of families, campers and explorers.

The first recorded visit to Crystal Peak, which is near the Bald Mountain Range west of Reno, was made by the Stevens wagon train in 1845. The town of Crystal was settled in 1864 by prospectors for gold and coal and reach a peak population of 1,500. The Central Pacific Railroad ran through Crystal until 1867 when the tracks relocated to Verdi. The settlement dwindled thereafter and was abandoned shortly after 1881. Dog Valley gets its name from the feral dogs left after the town of Crystal was abandoned by disappointed prospectors. The U.S. Forest Service acquired the land in the late 1930's. Commercial mining is no longer allowed and a special use permit is required to collect crystals to sell."

Is this really the history of this mine? There is more than the government wants you to know.

Crystal Peak is one of the few areas that produces intact crystals that are hexagonal and have pointed ends. Ranging in colors from clear to common white to yellow, brown, pink, green, blue or black. Are they valuable? You bet! The quartz from this mine was used in World War II for radio crystals and Norton Bombsights. These crystals were extremely valuable before transistors became widely available because they vibrate at an exact frequency and were essential for reliable radio communication.

When the mine originally closed, Government officials did not want to put this mine on the map due to fear that the enemy would destroy our source of optical quartz.

Today, when crystal quartz is cut at an exact angle to its axis, pressure on it generates a minute electrical charge. This effect makes quartz of great usefulness in radio, television, and radar. The supply of natural radio quartz is so limited that methods for growing quartz crystals in the laboratory have been developed. When not of radio quality, crystal quartz is melted to form blanks to make special lenses and prisms. Optical quartz can be made only from crystals. Quartz sand is used in making glass.

Quartz has a commercial value in the production of aluminum. "Quartz" watches contain synthetic crystals that are quality controlled.



Sunday
March 11th, 2007
2:00 AM

MARK YOUR

CALENDAR ~

- *Sunday, March 11th*

10:30 AM

Metal Detecting Outing

South Of Oceanside Pier

- *Outing*

Friendly Fox Claim

March 17th & 18th

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Well, with the high price of gasoline, it may be hard to attend outings that are far away. We have the Friendly Fox and the Freedom outings coming up. It would be nice to schedule some other metal detecting outings close by. Maybe some kind of metal detecting contests. We would still do the beach outings. Let me know if this sounds like a good thing. Let me know if you have any other ideas too. Outings are very important. That is how we learn from each other.

We want to have a couple of common digs this year. We have this new Gold Grabber we picked up at the Lancaster Gold Show. The members that work on those digs will all share the gold. Those digs will be at the East Fork of the San Gabriel River and the Lytle Creek outing. We also have plenty of other equipment for others to use that the TSS owns. We could do a common dig with our Keene Drywasher up in the desert too.

We had a lot of help at the Lancaster Gold Show. We had a lot of fun too. The attendance was way down at both the Lancaster Show and the Primm Gold Show this year. A lot of vendors were complaining that they were not doing as well as past years. I know they changed the months on both shows and that may have been the problem. We are going to discuss this at the board meetings to see if we want to continue going if they use the same months next year. We were off a very large amount on the funds we normally make.

The Temecula Valley Prospectors want to partner up for an event in Fallbrook. This is the Avocado Festival on April 22nd. Fallbrook puts on this event and invites vendors to set up booths up and down Main Street in Fallbrook. They would do the gold drawing and we would do the dowsing rods and gold panning. This would probably be a better draw for new club members than a money maker. We may also get some to join the GPAA and we get GPAA money for that. I know there will be a gem and mineral booth as well as other vendors too. You all think about it and we will talk it over at the board meeting. We will try to get some local events, but this year the local events were scheduled at the same time the GPAA gold shows were scheduled.

The weather is starting to warm up. Time to knock the dust off of the metal detectors. Time to take inventory of the prospecting equipment. See if it's all still there. Try to remember if you left some at the last diggings. If not, see Frank about any new stuff you need. Get ready for this year and lets go have some fun. Lets go find the gold and do some coin shooting.

~Sourdough Chet~

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Sunday, March 11th:

Metal Detecting:
10:30 AM
South Of Oceanside Pier

*May you have food and raiment, a soft pillow for your head:
May you be 40 years in heaven before the devil knows you're dead.*

**Saturday and Sunday,
March 17th & 18th:**

Outing:
Friendly Fox Claim
Potluck on Saturday



Dates to Remember for the Month of March -

- Sunday, March 11th - Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Saturday - March 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- Monday - March 19th - Swallows return to San Juan Capistrano
- Wednesday - March 21st - Spring Begins

OUTING INFORMATION:

Saturday and Sunday, March 17th and 18th will find T.S.S. members at the Friendly Fox Claim, outside of Yuma.

Directions: Take Hwy. I-8 to Ogilby Road exit (approximately 151 miles from San Diego). Go north on Ogilby Road for approximately 10 miles.

Please refer to the TSS Claim guide for exact coordinates.

The "camp site" is located approximately 0.9 miles from Ogilby Road.

Accessibility is easy. Motorhomes up

to 33 feet have no problem.

Lots of flat spots for tents and trailers.

Drinking water can be obtained at the Rest Area on I-8 just before Ogilby Road turnoff. (Rest Area is located in the center of the Highway. The town of Yuma is only 10 miles away.

Fine gold to flakes have been found in the area. Good for dry washing, metal detecting and dowsing.

A potluck will be held on Saturday night. Please bring a dish to share for

approximately 10 people.

Firewood is always welcome for the evening fires and story telling.

The Wagon Master will be decided this meeting.

Please be sure to sign in upon arrival at the campsite.

There is many things to see and do at this location. Old mines, gems, relics, old dumps, etc. to explore.

Just be Safe.

JANUARY'S ATTENDANCE REPORT

Thursday, February 1st:

Chapter Meeting:

49 People in Attendance.

Judy Carpenter, Gene Lepper, Bruce McCoy, Loren Raddatz, Dorothy Raddatz, Richard Gravel, Jerry Farris, Kay Farris, Grady Burleson, Kathy Burleson, Ray Wilkerson, Roy Stone, Chester Nowicki, Harriett Nowicki, Jim Mears, and Kent Donalson.

Sunday, February 11th:

Metal Detecting - Mission Beach

2 people in attendance:

Bonnie Monahan, Ray Wilkerson,

Rained out.

Saturday & Sunday, February 17th & 18th:

GPAA Gold Show - Lancaster, CA.

15 Members worked the booth.

TREASURE SEEKERS OF
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

CLAIMS GUIDE

AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE

CONTRACT:
LEE CRNKOVIC

FEBRUARY'S MEETING WINNERS

Gold Nugget Raffle Winners: Lee Crnkovic, Janet Kaplan and Lee Crnkovic (for two nuggets in one night!)

Door Prize Winner - Carlos Yturralde

50/50 Winner - Janet Kaplan

Finds of the Month Winner - Frank Hubberts

SEARCHING THE BEACHES

BY FRANK TRUITTA

The beaches have been very poor lately. It's not like in the summer time with a lot of people coming to the beach dropping valuables. With the sand wet from the extreme high tides and rain anything dropped will stay on the surface.

The wet sand area at low tide has not been productive either. The few storms we have had has actually moved sand onto the beach rather than take it off, burying the recoverable targets here, as well as La Jolla and San Diego areas.

I still think there are areas with a lot of targets when you consider the people who do detect do it on a hap hazard manner, they just spot check and never really cover 100 per cent of the sand plus the do not have a clue on the proper operation of their detector.

I have a beach area, that is dry sand, I want to check that is about 80 to 100 feet wide and about 1,500 feet long. My wife and I are going to grid it out, it will take us two or three trips to do it, but I want to check out my theory.

During the summer time I would like to set up a trip with about six people and grid Mission Beach, from the roller coaster up to the pier at Pacific Beach. If there's anything there it should be recovered.

HUNT SMART!



May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you,

The angels protect you, and heaven accept you.

RAY'S TIPS

BY RAY WILKERSON

When working with the new Gold Grabber II, be sure to look through the two side ports for any nuggets 1/4 inch or bigger because they are rejected by the grate inside.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

T.S.S. has NEW Membership Applications as of last month.

On these NEW applications your birth date is requested. The reason, Joslyn Senior Center is increasing their rental rates, but if we can prove that some many members are over a "certain" age, then we will get a reduced rate.

If you did not fill out a NEW application at last month's meeting, PLEASE see Charlene Myers at the sign in table.

If you were born in the month of March -

Your flower is: Jonquil and Violet

Your stone is: Aquamarine, Bloodstone, Jade, Rock Crystal

Your meaning is: Courage

Your colors are: White and Light Blue

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

MINER'S COOKBOOK CORNER

BY JUDY CARPENTER

TOP O' THE MORNIN'

Leprechauns, Pot of Gold at the end of the Rainbow, Four Leaf Clovers, the Blarney Stone, Irish Cream, Irish Coffee, Corned Beef and Cabbage, Irish Stew, or Irish Soda Bread.

It doesn't seem possible that March is already here and Spring is just around the corner. In like a LION, out like a LAMB, the return of the Swallows to Capistrano, planting time, or just a Wee Bit O'Fun, it's time for the Irish and everyone is Irish on St. Patty's Day.

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE

5 pounds Corned Beef	4 Potatoes, peeled and sliced
Cold Water to Cover	1 lg. Cabbage, quartered
2 lg. Onions, sliced	Bay Leaf
2 lg. Carrots, sliced	Black Pepper

Cover the meat with the water and bring to a boil. Skim off any fat. Add the vegetables, except the cabbage, bay leaf and pepper, now simmer gently (boiling will make the meat tough), for 90 minutes. Add the cabbage, bay leaf, pepper. Cook 30 minutes longer or until corned beef is tender. Serve the meat surround by the vegetables.

IRISH SODA BREAD

3 cups flour	1 egg
½ cup sugar	1 cup + 2 TBS milk
3 ¾ tsp baking powder	1 cup raisins
½ tsp salt	3 TBS melted butter

Sift together flour, sugar, salt and baking soda. Mix in egg and milk until well moistened. Stir in the raisins. Add the melted butter and pour batter in a loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

**Food Facts -**

- * Irish Soda Bread originated from Scotland
- * Traditional Irish Stew is made with Lamb or Mutton, the meat is boiled in broth, not browned

Page Reserved for Ad's

COLUMBIA METAL DETECTORS

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

SHEET METAL MINING

www.sheetmetalmining.com

Custom made gold recovery items

Locally owned and operated by Al Freeman

Member of Treasure Seekers of San Diego

Encinitas, CA.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR MEMBERS:

Wanted -

German WWII Relics

Badges, Medals, Edged Weapons, Pistols, Helmets, Flags

Private Collector - Bill Myers 760-500-2266

For Sale -

L.D.M.A. Lifetime Membership

\$1,200.00

You Pay Transfer Fees

Pam McDaniel Cell # 619-379-6470

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.

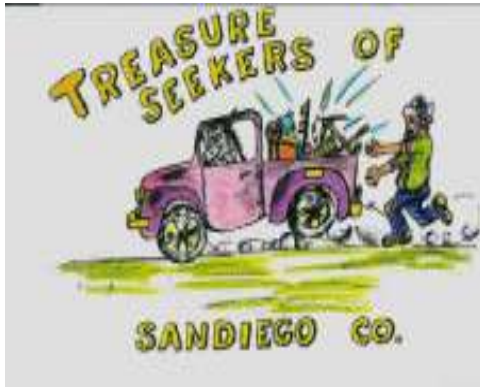
OUR NEW STORAGE UNIT & EQUIPMENT FOR USE

Treasure Seekers of San Diego is now renting a storage unit at Diablo Mini Storage in Escondido. In this storage unit is all of the club's belongings, tables, panning tubs, sign, canopy, magnetic roller, gold pans, all the goodies that the club uses at it's meetings, demonstrations and at our claims. There is also the donated prospecting equipment that was given to the club just recently. They are:

- 4 inch Dredge with 2 motors with pumps, snorkeling equipment and 5 minute reserve tank all with foot valves and hoses.
- Keene Highbanker with foot valve, pump hose and a Honda motor with pump.
- Keene Drywasher (151) with motor and hoses.
- And many other numerous small prospecting items.

If a member wishes to choose to borrow an item, they can know contact Kent Donalson, the Equipment Manager, or Chester, our President. (both contact numbers on last page of the newsletter) They will meet the member over at the storage facility and have them fill out a informational sheet regarding the borrowing of such equipment.

T.S.S. would like to see the members use these items and wish them the best of luck with the hunt!



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	760-746-9899	slcrnk@aol.com
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Publication of this Newsletter is courtesy of

Inkwell Printing Co.

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