



Bird Tailings

Volume 18, #1

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the RoadRunner Prospectors' Club

January 2004

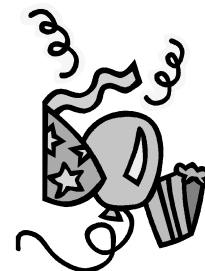
2003 STEAK FRY

The annual Roadrunner Prospector club steak fry was held at Saguaro Ranch Park on December 13th 2003. The weather cooperated with blue skies and no wind. If you sat in the sun it was actually warm enough to chase away the chill in the air. Turn out at the steak fry was fantastic. There were approximately 470 tickets sold and we estimate we fed about 440 or more. Drawing prizes this year was all gold nuggets of various sizes. There were enough prizes for half the membership steak fry tickets sold. Each member had a 50/50 chance of winning a nugget. There were no prizes for non-members including member spouses who do not have a separate membership

Some club business was also addressed as we had more members present than normally attend a regular meeting. The big issue was where to have the Steak Fry next year. The City of Glendale has raised the rent for the pavilions by almost triple to around \$1,000. Several possible sites were explored by the board, with help from some member's suggestions, but nothing quite matched what Glendale has for facilities. The SRP facility at Tempe was the only place that could accommodate our growing numbers and still be central in location. The costs would eventually turn out close to what Glendale wants to charge so the benefit of saving money was not great. A motion was made at the steak fry to keep the event at the Glendale facility and an overwhelming majority of members voted in favor of the motion. The 2004 Steak Fry will be at the Saguaro Ranch Park in Glendale. The fees to reserve the park for that event have been paid as of Monday 12-15-03.

A letter is going to be written to the City of Glendale Parks and Recreation concerning the conditions we had this past Steak Fry with plugged sewers, the smell and lack of proper electrical outlets with the hope some improvements can be made with the extra fees. Your board will continue to work on making the annual Steak Fry a great event.

*Happy New Year
from your board.*



AT WORK FOR YOU

A lot of members may take for granted the some 200+ claims that there are to choose from when you decide to go prospecting. Did you know that a lot of work went into filing the claims, writing the plan of operations acceptable to the Forrest Service and the use plans filed with the BLM. This is just the beginning of the work as the claims have to be properly located on a map, recorded in the County the claim is in and accurately marked. All this occurs before any of us can use the claim and may in some cases take a year to get all the approvals and necessary marking done. This work can not be accomplished on an occasional part time basis any more. It is almost a full time job and requires dedication to the club to do the job that's needed.

For the past 2 years the Jack Engbrecht has been responsible for or involved in this task. Jack has gone above the call of duty and has done an outstanding job. If not for his diligence the club would have lost claims and not filed on some promising prospects that we have just obtained. Jack has traveled many a mile and invested many hours in seeing to it we can enjoy our claims and the hobby we all love. So—the next time you see Jack on the claims or at a general meeting, give him a pat on the back or shake his hand and thank him for all his work. He deserves it!!

VOLUNTEER AWARDS **(gold, gold)**

In December, we reinstated our VIP (Volunteer Incentive Program). Commencing with the January General Meeting and for each month thereafter, we will be a drawing for three (3) nuggets to members who have volunteered their time and effort in support of our club. Names not drawn stay in the VIP Bucket until the next drawing and on until the end of the year. At the December Steak Fry, we will make the final month drawing, plus another drawing for a chance for **ALL** volunteers from throughout the year being eligible for a **1/2 oz nugget**. This is your club and the success is dependent upon our members.

ADOPT-A-CLAIM

Starting in October 2003, we commenced a quarterly drawing for those members who have volunteered to Adopt-A-Claim. For those volunteers who have adopted a claim or group of claims and been active, with submission of reports, their names go in for this drawing. There will be two (2) nuggets drawn each quarter (Jan., April, July, Oct. & December). At the December Steak Fry, after the quarterly drawing, there will be a year end drawing for a **1/4 oz. nugget**.

We need the help of all members in maintaining our claims and letting the Board know of those claims in need of maintenance/remarking.

MAP PACKET DOCUMENTS

Within this newsletter, there are three (3) revised documents that need to be attached to member map packets: Roadrunner Prospectors= Club, Inc. General Information, Rules and Regulations and Claim Map Table of Contents.

NOV. GENERAL MEETING

During our General Meeting in November, one member who was parked on the street, had their vehicle broken into and a metal detector stolen. Regretfully there is only limited parking on the North side of the school and the street is not lighted. We will look into being able to park on the front (South) side of the school, if it can be arranged to leave the gates on that side open until after our meeting.

2004 DECEMBER STEAK FRY

For 2004, the fee charged for our use of Sahuaro Ranch Park, has been increased from \$350 to \$900. This is for all entities/persons renting the facility. By a vote of those members in attendance (400+), it was voted to continue to use this park, even with the increase. RRPC has used this park annually since 1987.

SECRETARY POSITION

Since September 2002, Roslyn Drake has volunteered to fill the Secretary position, except for a few months, when Jim DiMaria who was voted in as Secretary in November 2002, held the position, until he had to step down due to work commitments. It has now reached the point that due to her work as Special Education Teacher at Queen Creek Middle School and ongoing health reasons; after January, she will no longer be able to continue holding the Secretary position.

Commencing with the January General Meeting, we need a member (male or female) to step up and accept the responsibilities as Secretary for RRPC. Roslyn will help such volunteer to become familiar with what is expected and required.

VIDEO LIBRARY

RRPC Club Office has a variety of video's, available to club members, that relate to gold and prospecting. If you are interested in checking-out any of these video's, you can contact our Office Manager, Ray Wright on Monday and Friday between 9:00am and 1:00pm. You can also e-mail him at Ray@roadrunnergold.com and he will respond. We now have the office setup on the internet and can be reached through rrpcoffice@aol.com.

2004 PROSPECTING BUDDIES

For those members who had their names on the Prospecting Buddies list last year, we are starting a new list for 2004. Any member who is looking for someone to prospect with, please place your name on the list at the January General Meeting. Names will then be published in the February Bird Tailings. If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to include your name on this list, you can e-mail Rex, at rex@roadrunnergold.com and I will add your name to the list.

OUTINGS

January outing will be held on the Vulture Mine area Red Basin #1 claim, map #13. For those who are not sure how to get into the claims, we will have someone meet you at 9:00am on Saturday morning,

at the intersection of Vulture Mine Road and the dirt road leading into the claims. There is a RRPC sign near the gate on the West side of Vulture Mine Road, plus signs leading you on into the claims.

It is our plan to have a back-hoe on site for the weekend, digging various spots within the claim, for members to use in their prospecting. For those members who would like to try dry-washing, but do not have the equipment, we will set up the club dry-washer that can be used by a group.

We will try to have holes dug on Friday afternoon and fill them back in, late Sunday afternoon. We will also use the equipment for reclamation work, as needed.

For those who intend to stay the night on Saturday, let's plan on a Pot-Luck Supper. Those who do not camp over, you are also invited to participate; just add something to the variety of food for supper. Let's plan on setting up and eating prior to sunset.

February outing will be our Annual Assessment Outing to be held on one of our Morristown area claims. The exact claim has yet to be determined. If by some chance we get rain and the ground is too wet, we will try again in March. We are looking for Team Leaders, who have Keene 151 Dry-washers or equivalent size. **Sign-up sheets will be available at the January General Meeting.**

Those members who wish to be a Team Leader, please let either **Al Ordorica or Dave Prosser** know at the January Meeting. The women's team, will use the club dry-washer.

STEAK FRY AND SANTA

A special thanks to Chris Williams in his portrayal of Santa for our younger members (older ones too). Chris had to leave early, headed to Flagstaff to work later that day and before I was able to present him with a nugget in appreciation. It was delivered to him at home. Regretfully, again, I seemed to have had a mishap with my digital camera and lost the disc with photos of Santa and the kids. Also lost photos of the entire Steak Fry. - Rex.

Re-cap of RRPC Board Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2003.

The Board meeting was very productive and many issues were discussed and addressed. The annual steak fry was deemed a success and issues were discussed to improve for next year. Adopt-a-claim drawing is now in place, with next drawing for two nuggets being in January 2004. Testing and assessment were planned and finalized. Details will be forthcoming. New raffles were also discussed and are in the planning stages. The Board is still working on the Patriot Claims access with the private property owner.

FROM THE TREASURER ...

I hope each of you had a GREAT Holiday and are looking forward to what 2004 will bring.

All the December 1st statements and 2004 badges for accounts that were current were mailed by the 17th of December.

If your statement did not include your badges, your statement will tell you how much you need to pay to bring your account to a current status at which time your 2004 badges will be made and sent to you.

As always, please remember to leave your **membership number** when you call the club office or any of the board members with a question or change of address. That makes locating your membership information a whole bunch easier to access.

Thanks,
- Lynne
Treasurer

NEW MEMBER AWARDS

The following members will be receiving **gold nuggets** at the JANUARY 2004 General Meeting for recruiting new members in DECEMBER 2003:

- 1 nugget to #5022, **RON PRETZER** for bringing in **DAVID & JOYCE ENGLAND**
- 1 Nugget to #3505, **RAY HARPER** for bringing in **DAN JACOBS & PAT HARPER**

NEW MEMBER AWARDS PROGRAM

Do you enjoy getting out under the blue sky of Arizona? Does seeing that gold color appear out of the black sand in your gold pan bring a large smile to your face? Are you happy with what the RRPC stands for and do you enjoy our outings, and what we provide for our membership? If you answered YES to any of the above questions then get your friends and neighbors to join us. We will always make them welcome and we reward you with a small nugget for bringing in a new member. There are no limits to the number of nuggets any member can receive B if you bring in 10 new members, you will receive 10 small nuggets.

There are two lines at the top of Our New Member Applications form for the name and membership number of the current member responsible for the new member joining our club B make sure your name and number are there and you will be rewarded.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- From December 1st through the 18th we welcomed 10 new members. Those joining us after the 18th will be recognized in next months newsletter:
- Gary Cox & Pamela Stewart of Summers, AR
- Jerry & Nancy Clagg of Gilbert, AZ
- Samuel Rosario & Wanda Aponte of Chantilly, VA
- Jerry Blaine of Clinton, IA
- David & Joyce England of Glendale, AZ
- David Wine & Jennifer Haslip of Mesa, AZ
- David & Judith Bigham of Phoenix, AZ
- Joe & Karen Greens of Philomath, OR
- Ron & Vee Meecham of Montrose, CO
- Dan Jacobs & Pat Harper of Phoenix, AZ

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FOOLS GOLD

(This article was originally published in the June 1984 Bird Tailings newsletter)

It is not unusual for a beginner to wonder about the difference between gold and the other materials found in a streambed or lode deposit. Sometimes a beginner will puzzle over shiny rocks, and quite often iron pyrites (fools gold) are mistaken for the real thing. In fact, this is so much the case that there is a story of an entire shipload of iron pyrites having been shipped over to England during the 1500's – the yellow stuff having been mistaken for gold. So you can understand where it gets the name “fools gold.”

Gold is a brassy yellow metal, and once you have seen a bit of it in its natural form a few times, you will no longer have any difficulty in distinguishing it from the other materials that are commonly associated with it. Gold does not look anything like rock. It looks like metal – gold metal. If you are just starting and have not yet had the opportunity to see much gold in its natural form, there are three easy tests which will validate your discoveries one way or the other.

Glitter Test: Gold does not glitter. It shines – sometimes it's bright, sometimes it's dull, but very seldom does it glitter. The thing about fools gold (pyrites) is that because of its crystalline structure, it tends to always be glittery. Take the sample and turn it in your hand in the sunlight. If it is gold, the

metal will continue to shine regularly as the specimen is turned. A piece of fools gold will glitter as the different sides of its crystal-like structure reflect light.

“Gold is so heavy that one cubic foot of it weighs half a ton.”

Hardness Test: Gold is a soft metal – like lead, and will dent or bend when a small amount of force is applied. Pyrites and shiny rocks are generally hard and brittle, and just a little amount of pounding will shatter them. Gold never shatters!

It is said that the old timer used to put a specimen in his mouth and bite on it to test to see if it was gold. This is another way of testing the larger sized specimens, however keep in mind that the larger sized pieces of gold are worth a great deal and the resulting tooth marks could lessen its value. If you find a piece of gold that is big enough for you to bite on, I can assure you that you will have no doubt it is the real thing, simply because of its nature – and its weight, but if you are still uncertain of your find, you might try using the sharp edge of a knife and gently press it on the specimen in a place which is less likely to be noticed. If it is gold, an indentation can easily be made into the metal with the blade of your knife. If it is a rock or iron pyrites, you will not dent its surface. If you don't want to chance lessening the value of your specimen by denting or scratching it, go to the final test.

Acid Test: Nitric acid will not affect gold (other than to clean it), whereas it will dissolve many of the other materials which are found in a streambed, including iron pyrites. Nitric acid can be purchased from most any drug store or prescription counter and is also usually found wherever gold mining equipment is sold. If in question whether your specimen is fools gold or some metal other than gold, immerse it in a solution of nitric acid. If your specimen is gold it will remain rather unaffected, whereas if it is fools gold or most any other kind of metal, it will dissolve in the acid.

Roadrunner Prospectors' Club
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Planning to move? Let us know ...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Jan Events	Feb Events
General Meeting — Jan 15	General Meeting — Feb 19
Outing — Jan 17 (Red Basin)	Outing — Feb 21 (Annual Assessment - claim TBD)
New Member Orientation — Jan 19	New Member Orientation — none
Board Meeting — Jan 20	Board Meeting — Feb 24
\$10.00 Life badge Replacement Fee	\$10.00 Map Packet Replacement Fee