



BIRD TAILINGS

Volume 21, # 9

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the RoadRunner Prospector's Club

Sept 2007

A HISOTRY OF THE ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

The largest county park system in the United States is in our backyard. Maricopa County Regional Parks also boast the single largest county park in the United States, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, at about 50 sq. miles. The ring of ten beautiful parks began with the Estrella Mountain Regional Park in Goodyear in 1954 when the widow Munroe sold 400 acres in the middle of nowhere for \$2500. It has grown to be 19,840 acres which includes everything from a busy beaver habitat on the Gila River all the way up to an unnamed 3,650' peak where desert bighorn sheep calmly graze. This park remains largely pristine desert with vast tracks of undeveloped land to the south belonging to the Gila River Indian Reservation and BLM.

As long as people have been in Arizona, people have lived in the park area because of the Gila River. This area was a major habitation zone for ancient Hohokam people from 500 C.E. to 1450 C.E. and contains some of the most extensive canals in the Valley. The mesquite bosque on the turf area was initially a shade cover for canals and presently is a favorite of summer birds. Although the park does not have the impressive number of petroglyphs of the White Tanks, it has many habitation sites and indications of a pottery industry. After the disappearance of the Hohokam, Pima (Oodham) and Maricopa peoples farmed the area. When the conquistadors came looking for gold in what they called Alta Pimeria, they were very impressed with the health of the well organized and friendly Indians living here. However, also in the area were the ferocious and hostile Apache. The Apache along with distance, difficult terrain and lack of rich mines left this area relatively unexplored until Padre Kino in the 1690's mapped the Gila River. In the 1820's trappers, including Paulino Weaver and the Patty brothers, beaver pelted the river which was Arizona's first big industry. Col. Kearny in 1846 lead an expedition along the Gila River to California before the Mexican War. In 1848 the war ended with 525,000 sq. miles (5 cents per acre) of new land and the border between the US/Mexico going through the middle of the Gila River, leaving the park area as Mexican territory. As you all know, it was that very year gold was discovered in California. Many people taking the southern route to the gold fields were traveling over this Mexican controlled territory. US Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, and the southern legislators were pushing for the Federal government to purchase the land along the 32nd parallel for a transcontinental railroad route and to protect these gold seekers. The southern path had fewer mountains and was the easiest way across the US. In 1954 the Gadsden Purchase was completed for \$10 million or 53 cents per acre (what the point of a gun can do!). Many Americans felt what Daniel Webster said about the purchase at the time, "What do we want with this vast worthless area-this region of savages and wild beasts, of shifting sand and whirlwinds of dust, of cactus and prairie dogs? To what use could we ever hope to put those great deserts and endless mountain ranges?" After the purchase, the park area was now in the US and it's all been put to pretty good use contrary to Webster's opinion! The Gadsden Purchase inspired a namesake trail in the park. The survey point, "baseline", for the purchase is next to the park and is still the point all distances in Arizona are measured from. Gila Trail is a little .5 mile wheelchair accessible trail that circles past the Baseline trailhead named after that geographical point. A prospector was investigating quartz veins long ago which can still be seen on the Baseline although no significant gold was ever mined here, mostly just mica and cinnabar. Meanwhile, in 1858 the

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AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

For the August General Meeting, there were 71 (more or less) members and guests attending.

VIP Monthly Drawing: Names drawn at the General Meeting were: #4401 Roslyn Drake for Raffle Ticket sales for the raffle to benefit Loma Linda School, #1397 Julie DiMaria for Dec. Steak Fry and # 5353 Roland Chooljian for General Meeting Raffle.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

The next meeting will be Monday Sept. 24th, at 7:00pm in the Club Office. For those attending please bring your Map Packs.

PROSPECTING BUDDIES

If you are looking for someone to prospect with, get your name on this list. If you would like your name added to this list, sign up at the General Meetings or call Rex Drake (phone number on page 2), or send email to rex@roadrunnergold.com..

* #1619 Ed Sammons	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5684 Darryl Burnett	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5498 Gary Strauch	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5528 Victor Krstec	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #3012 E. Mark Murphy	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5739 Garrett Torrey	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5743 Bill Dyer	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5559 Steve Hanson	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5651 Ray Ollette	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5712 Jerry Perrier	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5705 Terry Singleterry (Cottonwood)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5567 Richard Meisel	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5797 Al Sund	xxx-xxx-xxxx
* #5065 Von Kidd (needs ride)	xxx-xxx-xxxx

AUGUST OUTING

Regretfully, for this outing, water had ceased running in Turkey Creek. On Friday afternoon, there were 5 members who were there to camp. Gail and Sharon Baker tried to do a little dry-washing, but the ground was too moist. The 5 did sit around a small fire for a while on Friday night.

Early Saturday morning more members started to

drift in, with most all going on back to Wolf Creek, where there was running water. There were already a few members who had camped on the Wolf Creek claims. We do not know what the dredging or panning results were from those who did manage to get in some dredging. We do know that there were about 23 members (or more) who came out to enjoy the claims

RULES AND REGULATIONS

It was recently noticed that there was a mistake in the Rules and Regulations dated 3-20-07, which all members should have in their possession. This mistake was the result of changes in the By-laws in the past.

Under "DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS," the last sentence should read: Violation of this regulation shall be enforced by ARTICLE I, SECTION 5, A, of the Club By-laws.

Within this newsletter is an updated copy of the Rules and Regulations, dated 8-21-07. Please replace this document in your Map Packet.

CLUB PROMOTION

We plan on having a Club Promotion Booth, set-up at the Congress Days Swap Meet and Craft Show. We will need volunteers to man the booth from 8:00am - through about 4:00pm on both Saturday October 6th and Sunday October 7th. Booth can only be set up after 3:00pm on Friday October 5th.

We will need at least 2 or 3 members to volunteer to work the booth, during 4 hour periods in the mornings and afternoons. There will be plenty time for those volunteers to browse the other booths during these times. For those members willing to volunteer their time, please contact Rex Drake (phone number on second page of the newsletter). There will also be a sign-up sheet at the Sept. General Meeting.

TREASURER'S NOTE:

Just a reminder to all members that when you make payments via check to PLEASE be sure to write you membership number on the check and specify if the payment is for DUES or AMF. Any payments received without notations will default to dues. Thank you.

NEW MEMBER AWARDS

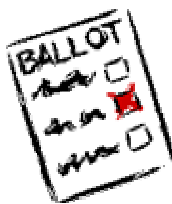
- 1 nugget to #1437 Bobby Roberts for bringing in Douglas & Betty Irvine
- 1 nugget to #5562 Paul Root for bringing in Del & Marilyn Talley
- 1 nugget to #5619 Larry Wright for bringing in Joe & Carolyn Ribaud
- 1 nugget to #5262 Pete Matastasio for bringing in Don Ashcraft

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

George & Audrey DeLange of Glendale, AZ
Douglas & Betty Irvine of Mayer, AZ
Oliver & Sandi Murrell of Phoenix, AZ
Del & Marilyn Talley of Chelan, WA
Joe & Carolyn Ribaud of Lake Havasu City, AZ
Dave & Wendy Bishop of Mayer, AZ
Don Ashcraft of Wickenburg, AZ
Steven & Linda Smith of Phoenix, AZ
Ernest & Kastik Green of Scottsdale, AZ

ELECTIONS

It is that time again! Nominations for Vice President, Treasurer and 2 Three Year Board Members will be taken at the September and October General Meetings, with election ballots going out, the week after the October General Meeting. If you really want to make a difference, have the time and are concerned about the future of your club, then let someone know and accept a nomination or step up and volunteer.



What are some of the responsibilities of officers and board member?

- * **Attend** General Meetings, Board Meetings.
- * **Be** informed about the club's mission, policies, and responsibilities.
- * **Head** up a Committee or take up special assignments.
- * **Provide** financial oversight, ensuring that financial guidelines and controls are in place.
- * **Ensure** that legal and ethical integrity are maintained, in the overall operation of the club. The Board is responsible for ensuring adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.

Personal Characteristics to Consider:

- * **Ability to:** listen, analyze, think clearly and creatively, work well with people individually and in a group.
- * **Willing to:** prepare for and attend General Meetings, Board and committee meetings, ask questions, take responsibility and follow through on a given assignment.
- * **Possess:** honesty, sensitivity to and tolerance of differing views, exhibit a friendly, responsive and patient approach, exhibit personal integrity, maintain a sense of values, concern for your non-profit organization's development and not least be able to maintain a sense of humor.

ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

At the August board meeting, the board indirectly heard that several members were not happy with the previous outing. Apparently the weather was too hot, the ground was too damp, the creek had no water and gold was not found..

In response to these comments we would like to remind folks of the following:

- The main goal of this organization is to provide it's members with access to mining claims with the potential for possessing gold.
- The board selects the site of the outing a month in advance
- This is Arizona - it is HOT in the summer.
- The board has no control over the weather.
- The board cannot guarantee that gold will be found.

The board would also like to remind folks that they are all volunteers and that anyone in the club can volunteer at any time. If you have complaints, suggestions or commendations, send us a letter, email, phone message or slip a note under the door. Remember - *There is no situation so bad that complaining can't make worse*

PASSINGS

It is with a sad heart that we are writing to let you know of the death of our mother, Shirley Rivetts. Shirley died unexpectedly Sunday, July 29, 2007.

MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

RRPC recognizes **Denny Bockelman** member #4278 who joined on March 9, 1996. Denny is always available when difficult tasks need to be performed. He has tackled some of the most rough terrain when marking claims and frequently doing so working alone. Both he and his son Alan, can always be counted on, in time of need. The article below was submitted by his son:

Denny W. Bockelman

My dad was born in California in September, 1955. He moved to Ashfork when he was 4, then latter to Williams. From there he moved to Phoenix for the fourth grade in 1963. He was married to my mother on November 7th, 1986. On advice from my grandpa, Dad joined the R.R.P.C.



My dad is almost always at every meeting, and is always helping out at meeting and picnics. From marking claims, cooking steaks at Saguaro Ranch Park, to setting up shade at Turkey Creek, or participating in the geo cache hunt at Rich Hill, my dad has done a lot, and because of him, so have I.

Aside from the Roadrunners, Denny likes to fish, hunt, and go riding on his quad.

The picture to the right is him with a cow elk in December of '05.

- By Alan Bockelman

SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES IS A PAN

Just to confirm that you can find some gold by panning, attached is a photo of a Saturday morning's efforts in Crooks Canyon. - Jim Christensen #1049



(Continued from page 1)

Butterfield Overland Mail transcontinental stage route was begun just south of the park. Our Coldwater Trail originally was a feeder stage route to the town of Coldwater (Agua Fria), now known as Avondale. In 1859 the settler friendly Gila River Indians had the very first reservation which included all of their ancestral lands. This is the second largest Indian nation in the country and they are on the southern border of the park. Trouble was brewing in the nation and soon the Civil War stopped the Butterfield stages and all thought of a rail line, although no hostilities came this far north. After the war, the Buffalo Soldiers and other US Army began to pacify the Indians which made it much easier for migrants to settle the area. The Toothaker Trail is named after a beloved post mistress of the time, Harriet Toothaker, who also ran a cotton gin in 1895. A short connecting trail is named after another early settler, Samuel Dysart. WWII introduced many soldiers to the nearby area and after the war they returned. The Pedersen ranch which was in the middle of what is now the park is the namesake of a long, flat trail deep in the park. All that is left of their home is a cement foundation. The area west of the park is Rainbow Valley. Its namesake trail is now divided into East and West. Rainbow Valley West is the most difficult trail in the park.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park was originally designed to be an equestrian park. We have a full rodeo arena, suitable for any equestrian event, with big staging areas. Every year we host the Goodyear Rodeo. Our trails are long and looping for a fun ride. We have three mountain biking loops-easy to technical. This is the only park with a large turf area for reunions, events, picnics and we always have scouts nearby in the Navy Area camping out. Between the bosque and the riparian area it's fantastic for bird watching. There is always a roadrunner or two on the south side of the turf. We have an amphitheatre that is available for events. A wide variety of programs are offered Wed-Sat. Every week we have a program for preschoolers and each month we have a hike for astronomy, deaf, blind, disabled, Spanish speakers and honoring the ethnic diversity of our Arizona. The programs here are more varied than any other park. Check out the county parks website at www.maricopa.gov/parks for a park near you and the programs they offer. Come out and enjoy your parks!

OUT OF THE PAST
PEOSPECTING IN ARIZONA
THE BRADSHAW'S The Mighty Peck Mine
By Jane Boyles

Unlike most of the other prospectors who came to Arizona from California, E G Peck rode into Arizona in 1863 from New Mexico after word of Walker's discovery had reached Santa Fe. He was an Army Scout at Fort Whipple. He first found a ledge of silver while scouting for the Army near War Eagle Creek, north of the Tiger Mine. As we all know, this area is and was covered in tough brush and it took some time for him to relocate his find. When he returned to Prescott with 100 pounds of ore, it assayed in the thousands of dollars. Shipping the ore out to San Francisco was very expensive, \$30 from Prescott and \$10 from Ehrenburg to San Francisco.

There was much speculation on the size of the vein, but Mr. Peck had already decided to spend the rest of his life in the area. His group also developed the Occident Mine. By March of 1876 the shaft was 160 feet deep and the ore assayed out at \$12,000 a ton. As usual in the old west, lawlessness and excessive drinking controlled the development of the claims with one of the partners on a wild drunken spree, signing over his interest to one of the lewd ladies of the evening. Several lawsuits entailed between the Peck owners. A town named Alexandra sprang up and mail service to the area began. Peck planned to sell the mine as the assay of the ore dropped in value, but when it did not sell, he determined to make improvements and keep the mine. Peck bought a mill and had it shipped up from Ehrenburg. It was a ten stamp mill and included a sawmill. Peck set it up at War Eagle gulch. A road was built from Wolf Creek to the Peck. Peck was further instrumental in building roads from Prescott to the Bradshaws through Battle Flat. He had already completed a lumber road from War Eagle Gulch down Bear Creek to the Del Pasco mine area. Over three hundred people were active in the area by then. In September 1877 a side tunnel in the Peck was producing ore valued at over \$17,000 a ton. The mill arrived in October and by November the Peck's payroll was running over \$10,000 a month. Ore no longer had to be shipped to San Francisco. His mining ventures were incorporated and shares of stock were valued at \$100. By this time the lawsuits were beginning to be settled over the improper sale of the original interests. This resulted in two separate companies, the California one owned by Peck and the Arizona company owned by Mr. Bean, which sued each other. The Arizona company packed its board with trustees which then voted against Peck and his California company. The lawsuits got even messier. This is a whole other story. In the meantime Peck and his ex partner Mr. Bean resolved their disputes by Peck selling out his ownership of the Occident, South Extension of the Peck Mine and the Aztlan mill. Peck was then able to concentrate on his mining activities, which continued to prosper. The Mighty Peck Mine was truly a part of the development of the Bradshaws and the "Wild West".

Next Month - Minnehaha Flats

References—CROWN KING AND THE BRADSHAW'S, Bruce Wilson; THE JOURNAL OF ARIZONA HISTORY; ROAD-SIDE HISTORY OF ARIZONA, Marshall Trimble; ARIZONA CIVILIZATION, Goff; Sharlot Hall Museum

MINING LEGESLATION

HR2262 is the latest attempt to reform the Mining Law of 1872. This bill is covers many areas of mining including Permits, Financial Assurance, Royalties, Claim holders and much more. It would have a dramatic effect on all mining operation including the Roadrunner Prospector's Club. There is currently no simple summary of

this bill's 112 pages. We urge all members to learn about this legislation by searching the web then contacting their elected officials to voice their opinions. This legislation may have the effect of ending operations of the club. We cannot afford to expect others to intercede on our behalf. Please get involved.

- The Board

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Support the 1872 Mining Law

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
September Events	October Events
General Meeting — Sept 20	General Meeting — Oct 20
Outing — Sept 22 (Turkey Creek Maps 6 & 8)	Outing — Oct 22
New Member Orientation — Sept 24 (7:00pm @ Club Office)	New Member Orientation — none
Board Meeting — Sept 25	Board Meeting — Oct 25
\$5.00 Annual badge Replacement Fee \$10.00 Life badge Replacement Fee	\$20.00 Map Packet Replacement Fee