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Nuggets of News and Knowledge

Jan/Feb 2024

Whether you are new to gold prospecting or an experienced old-timer, whether you have just started swinging a metal detector or have been digging targets for years, get the most out of treasure hunting with these nuggets of news and knowledge— tips, ideas, new products and more!



Winter Gold Prospecting in the Desert SW

If you're ready to head to a sunnier climate this winter to do some desert prospecting, understanding the weather and topography can add to your success.



Before loading up and heading to the Southwest, only to be disappointed by bad weather, first check out the weather patterns for the last 60 days and the predicted weather for the next 30-60 days.

Why is that important? Well, it mostly comes down to rainfall— how much and how fast. For example, if there will be a lot of rainfall over an extended time, soils will be loosened and gravity will do its job and cause deeper, and sometimes more concentrated, pay streaks. In general, cool season precipitation (October through April) is the most extensive source of rain in the desert regions. Rainfall is more widespread and of relatively long duration during the cool season. On the other hand, warm season precipitation (May through September) results largely from convective precipitation in the form of short monsoon-type thunderstorms.

There are three major desert areas that make up the American Southwest. The roughly 200,000-square-mile Chihuahuan Desert stretches from the southeastern corner of Arizona across southern New Mexico and west Texas to the Edwards Plateau. The Chihuahuan Desert is the most moderate of the three deserts, made up of low and high desert regions and grasslands. It sees the most rain on a regular basis throughout the year with anywhere between 8-12 inches, and areas in New Mexico receive up to 17 inches per year. Unfortunately, because of the Chihuahuan Desert's higher altitude in southern New Mexico, and the rain patterns there, winter prospecting is a real challenge, especially dry washing.

The Sonoran Desert occurs primarily in Mexico. In the USA, most of it can be

What is an Electroscope?

An Electroscope is a different kind of metal detector technology. It is an electronic locator that will recognize the presence of metals from a long distance, up to two miles away on sizeable targets. These fine instruments can aid treasure hunters by providing a direction and an approximate location where treasure might be buried, then you can finish off your recovery of gold, coins, relics, and more using a conventional deep seeking metal detector. Hunting for nuggets, veins, and paystreaks in highly mineralized areas is a natural application for these custom designed instruments. Cover more ground in less time and increase the chance of making a recovery-- after all, the goal of all treasure hunters is to be productive! [More about electroscopes here.](#)

Dream Mat Sluices

found in the southern third of Arizona, with small areas in southeastern California. [Article continues here...](#)

Move More Dirt, Get More Gold with CC690

The CC690 is a water operated, centrifugal concentrator and is capable of processing large volumes of material without the need for pre-classification. Existing sluice designs rely mainly on gravity to capture gold. With the CC690, not only is the force of gravity at work to trap gold, but the very force of the water itself is used to create high energy vortices that trap and hold gold particles against the matting. These forces combine to help the smaller particles work their way deep into the looped, vinyl fibers of the matting and on down to the grooves of the underlying, v-ribbed rubber mat where they remain until it is time to perform a clean up. This heavy duty piece of gold mining equipment is user friendly— no tools are required for use, and no small parts. All materials used in the construction of the CC690 were chosen for their corrosion resistance, quality and durability, so this power sluice / highbanker will survive season after season! [CC690 details, photos, video here.](#)



Desert Fox Spiral Gold Panning Machine

The Desert Fox is a compact, light-weight automatic spiral gold panning machine you can take anywhere. Operate it right out of the tub, or remove it from the case and use it in a stream. The Desert Fox gets its name because it will operate on just three gallons of water. It sets up quickly and easily and can run 70 pounds of concentrates in an hour-- it's both a separator and a concentrator in one self-contained panning machine. The Desert Fox recovers an amazing amount of flour gold so you never lose even the smallest pieces (which all add up!). Operates on any 12-volt automotive battery (not included). Comes with an owner's manual and a small bag of sand containing real placer gold so you can practice with your new machine before you take it into the field. [Desert Fox details, photos, video, accessories here.](#) Made in the USA!



The Dream Mat has been scientifically engineered and designed using advanced fluid dynamic principles and physics. The mini Hydro-Cyclone inspired vortex cells classify, separate, capture and hold gold naturally. [Mini Dream Mat](#) is ideal for sandy areas and black sands. Great for 1/4"-3/8" screened runs. Catches the gold everyone is missing! Mini Mat is great for that hard to catch gold! Front Row Gold! [Vortex Dream Mat](#) is the original that's great for both large and fine gold recovery— less cons, more gold, instant clean out. There is nothing not to like about this mat! Made in the USA.

Hand Dredge + Accessories



Gold can hide down in the deepest part of a crack or crevice or behind a boulder and often is best reached with a hand dredge. This gold prospecting tool is ideal for working below the water line to help you get the gold out of some really tight spaces. Also check out the many accessories that make your [hand dredge](#) even better. Made in the USA.

Gold Cube + Accessories

Paydirt Delivered to Your Door This Winter

If winter weather is keeping you indoors these days, you can still FIND GOLD now by ordering paydirt from Alaska or Colorado. These bags are ideal for practicing your panning skills at home, or to use with a new piece of equipment. Since you KNOW FOR SURE that good gold and/or gems are found in these bags, you'll be able to improve your skill by panning the same bag over and over again. Same holds true for perfecting your gold recovery skills using your equipment. Pan over and over again for fun, or collect what you find and display in a vial. Ideal gift to give kids or anyone else a bit of GOLD FEVER! [Shop Alaska paydirt](#) here. [Colorado paydirt found here.](#)

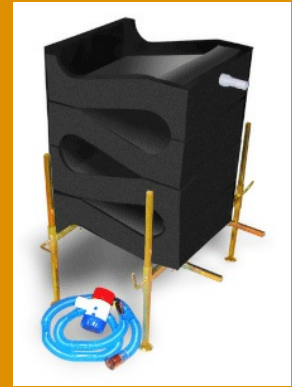


History Nugget: California Gold Rush



"Boys, by God, I believe I've found a gold mine," said James Marshall to his mill workers on January 24, 1848 after he discovered gold in the tailrace of John Sutter's sawmill at Coloma. This discovery started the epic California Gold Rush, and as they say, the rest is history. To get a good sense of that early history, visit the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, located on the South Fork of the American River. Created in 1942, the

park encompasses most of the historic town of Coloma, a number of historic buildings and sites, and a Gold Discovery Museum. You can also try your luck at gold panning, see living history demonstrations, watch skilled blacksmiths at work, and tour the park at your own pace. A full-size replica of Sutter's sawmill is the park's centerpiece, helping visitors imagine how the discovery of those first dew flecks of gold drastically changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. [Article continues here...](#)



Looking for a gold recovery product that can process tons of concentrates into mere ounces? With a small 12 volt pump (included) and a 12-volt battery (not included), you're ready to clean up your concentrates QUICKLY! Gold Cube can run a yard of material (classified down to 1/8 inch) in about 2 hours. Run half a ton of material through the Gold Cube before you have to stop for a clean up. Made in the USA. [Check out the Cube and MANY accessories that make your Gold Cube even better!](#)

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