

day's planned fun and games.

## THE FUN AND GAMES

As anyone who prospects electronically should already know, the only way to make certain of a detector's ability to find gold under actual conditions, is to check the detector using a test nugget. We started by burying one of the three small test nuggets we had brought along for the outing at a depth of 3" in this highly mineralized soil. We use a 3" depth as fairly standard for checking our familiar nugget shooters. This piece weighed in at 0.9 grams and was slightly smaller than the one used at the shop for the air test. The X-5 easily found the nugget in the appropriate All-Metal mode. We were amazed! "I wonder how deep we can go?" Bill asked. We chased that little beauty down over FIVE INCHES!

Then we chose a smaller nugget yet, a 0.4 grams, to check the X-5's response to really small pieces. We chased that small piece of precious metal past the 3" mark. Again that certain word escaped my lips audibly.

Next we went the other way and pulled out the 1.2 gram nugget used at the shop. This piece was detectable with a strong signal down to a depth of 7".

Finally, we buried one of my favorite tuning targets, a nickel, about 10 inches deep. I use a nickel each time I initially tune-up and test my manually ground-balanced nugget hunting detector. I like to get a ground test of about 10 to 12 inches on a nickel sized target before I begin my hunting up here. Believe it or not, this is actually smaller than the average size of the nuggets I and others have taken out of this area over the past few years, and we didn't have a test nugget this large with us.

With the nickel at 10 inches my manually ground-balanced "old favorite" nugget shooter found it as always. Incredibly, the Shadow X-5 also gave us a strong signal, but oddly enough Bill's auto-tracking unit was just barely getting a tone.

Having seen the X-5's capabilities in our heavily mineralized soil and still function with target recognition, it was time to put our observations to work. Speaking of observations, every time Bill and I come up to our claim, we always take time to look around and soak in the unbelievable views we have surrounding us. We've got nature's paradise and gold too. Who could ask for more.

Now it was time for serious hunting. I spent the next 2 1/2 hours giving the X-5 a free-roaming test over much of the area. I found, as appropriate to nugget hunting, that I only wanted to run the machine in the All-Metal mode properly ground-balanced. I played with the DISC mode used only infrequently to check the Shadow X-5's ability to eliminate tramp iron, and it did an admirable job. However, since this is a gold bearing area, I usually dig EVERYTHING anyway. What really impressed me was the extreme depth I was getting on all kinds of targets from whole nails, to bits of tin, to small pieces of aluminum. No gold jumped out of the ground this day, but I'm certainly looking forward to our future adventures with my now new "old favorite."

## WRAP-UP

The Shadow X-5 demonstrated excellent depth in heavily mineralized soil when run in the All-Metal mode, equaling or bettering the depth I get with my "old favorite" nugget hunting detector. It demonstrated a high degree of sensitivity to small gold targets in these soil conditions. An excellent showing for a newcomer on the block.

This is a terrific all-around machine, extremely lightweight, well balanced and easy to handle. The control box fingertip layout is excellent, stable and easy to access. Also, I was amazed at the depth and power the X-5 has, as it operates on a single 9 volt battery.

Bill and I had a great time that day at one of our favorite places on this planet. We got to be one of the first to put a new machine through its paces and experience first-hand, an exceptional gold hunting machine in action.

Oh, and that certain word that came to mind when I first tested this newcomer out in Bill's shop? — Sweeeeeeet!

## Biographies

*The author — John Vivian is a detector enthusiast having over 30 years experience with a wide range of equipment from various manufacturers. A coin hunter at first, who stopped counting his finds when he hit 75,000, is a transplant from Missouri to Colorado. Upon arrival his first new detector acquisition was a nugget hunting machine. He has recovered hundreds of nuggets over that last 10 years.*

*The photographer — Bill Chapman, owner of Gold-N-Detectors, operates the premier source in the Denver area for quality machines, supplies, and hands-on training. Bill, likewise, has over 30 years experience swinging a "magic wand" and like John formerly lived in Missouri.*

*Having both come from the "Show Me" state, it was appropriate to have them give the new Shadow X-5 a good workout in the high altitude heavily mineralized gold country of central Colorado.*

