

FRANCONIA

9-18-2011

Wendy and I were in the mood to go hunting and we were really interested in what the Arizona monsoon did to the earth at Franconia. So, on this day we decided to get up early and head there to see first hand.

We departed the house at 4:15 in the morning. We figured we'd stop and get coffee at the truck stop along the freeway and be ready to hunt when the sun came up. We could not have timed it better! We noticed on the way in there were no previous vehicle tracks in the Sacramento Wash (SAW). We were making tracks on new soil, since the last flow of water in the wash. We also noticed the small washes feeding SAW had ran. This was promising!

We arrived at the tunnel parking area just as it started to get light. We drank some good coffee and ate a pastry and put on the typical gear. Snake gators went on first, then the packs. Tuned up the detectors and off we went.

The plan was to go to a spot that was not too far into the Strewn, just South and East of Jason's Hill. On the way, we did notice some soil movement from the weather, but as the day went on, we could see that nothing in the area moved enough to make any real difference from before. A real disappointment for us as we were really hoping for a lot of movement...just did not happen.

We arrive at the area I wanted to hunt. All of Team Hershey had been in this area before and I think all have found meteorites there. We began gridding very small areas. Within the first 30 minutes, I scored a nice 19.5 gram stone! That really eased the tension that had been building since my last hunt! It's the 3rd from the left in the picture. Within the next 30 minutes I scored a small 1.6 gram fragment. First one on the left in the picture. I messed around that area for probably an hour looking for the rest of this stone and came up empty.

It was Wendy's turn to score and I was really hoping she would. We moved North East about one hundred yards and suddenly I hear Wendy calling me.

She scored a nice one! 64.6 grams at 6 inches deep! This was her first find under the ground! And at about 6 inches, 1 foot from the base of a bush! It's the stone to the right in the picture! She is getting really good with that detector. Obviously, she can hang right in there with all of us! Awesome! That stone turned out to be the stone of the day.

We hunted about another hour in that area and decided to walk toward Jason's Hill. Well, we ended up in Stan's Valley and I found a nice little 6 gram stone along the way. Second to the left in the picture. Shortly after that find, my batteries died in my detector! Wow! So looking through my pack, I learned my spares were not in there! And Wendy did not have any either! We both noticed it was getting hot fast and it turned out to be 9:30. So we figured we'd hunt by eye for a little while and then head back.

Well, it got hot fast and as we were heading back both of us were feeling the pain of the heat! Too hot and out of shape for the first hunt of the season! Not good! It was a tough journey back to the tunnel and shade. There was absolutely no breeze and I felt like I was going to die! Wendy kept falling back. We finally made it! The shade in the tunnel saved our butts, that's for sure. We stopped there, took the snake gators off and took a picture with the cell phone to send to some of you. Cooled down a bit and then made the last 50 yards to the truck.

Did not see anyone else hunting. I am not sure anyone is crazy enough to hunt in the heat like that. It's still too hot to enjoy it. However, had we stuck to our original plan, the walk back would not have been so bad. Still, we both found meteorites and did not skunk...and that my friends, says it all!

