

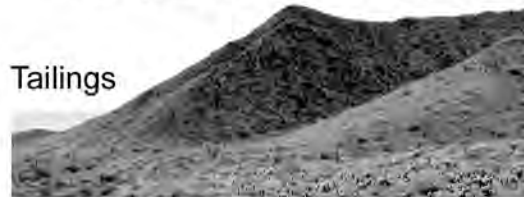
Black Cat and Minnezona Mines

There are numerous mine shafts that comprise this claim. The vertical shaft that is grated over is at least 150' deep to the water level at the bottom.

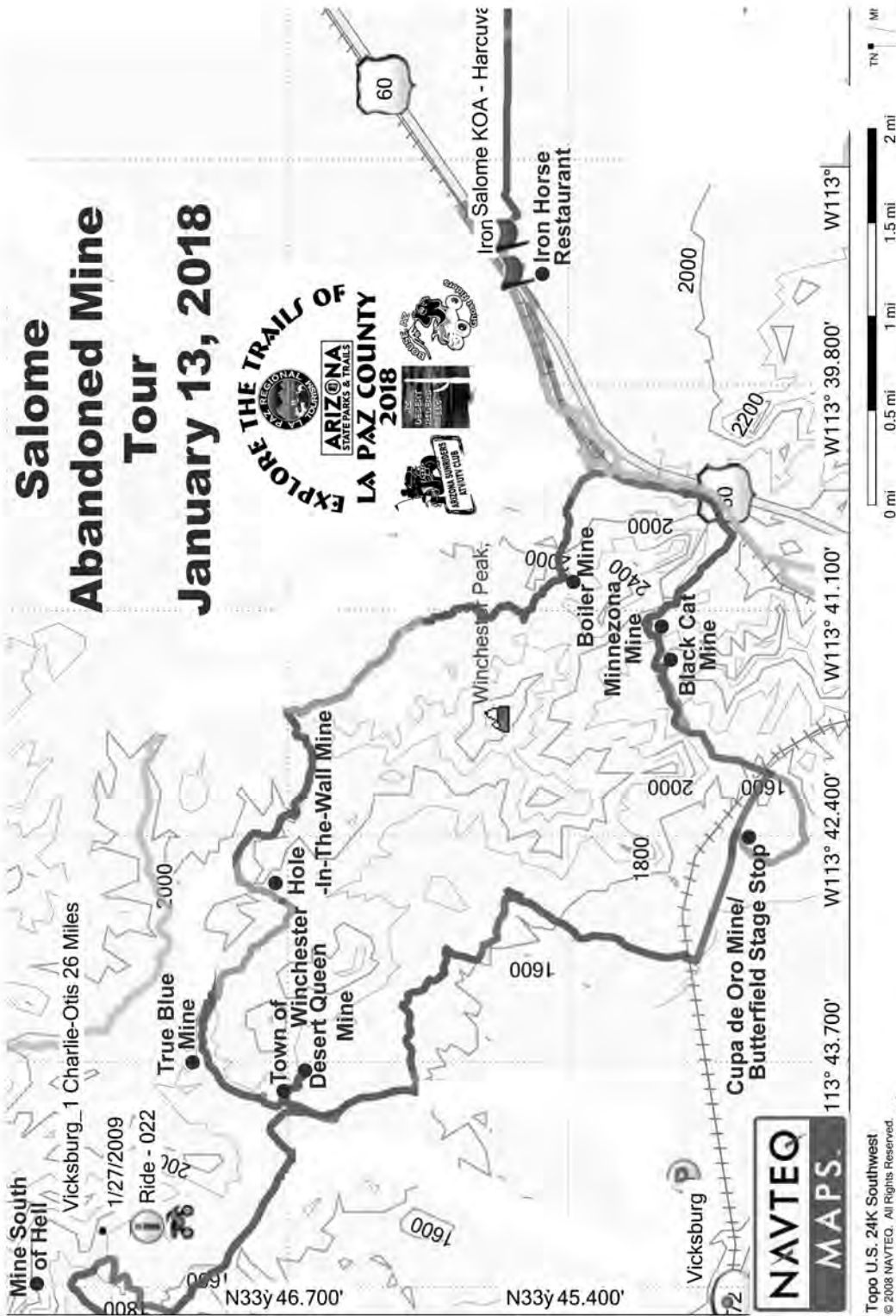
The main horizontal shaft nearby is several hundred feet and is totally dark. The tailings, ¼ mile west, show the extent of activity in the area. The following is from an E-bay listing that sold for \$7100 in July of 2013: "This claim measures 1500ft by 600ft, for a total of 20.66 acres. These mines have been worked by multiple small companies in their brief histories, from the late 1800's until around 1930. This is an obvious indicator of a good mine that had easy access to processing. The Old Black Cat is a major and producing mine. It's documented as having produced over 40,000 ounces of gold, 100,000 ounces of silver and at least 5000 lbs of lead. These mines are deep, rich and waiting for someone to bring them back to life. You are bidding on an unpatented mining site." [The owner of an unpatented claim has no public liability. If someone walks in and falls down your mine, it's the BLM that gets sued, not you. Existing clean up and environmental issues are not your problem. With a plan of operations you can fence off your site to keep the public out as well. No taxes, just your annual assessment of \$140 per year].



Vertical and Horizontal Shafts



Tailings



ABANDONED MINE TOUR

January 13, 2018

The AZ Desert Riders, LLC, welcomes you to the McMullen Valley and the Great Arizona Outback. Our ride today will cover about 25 miles and take you to several old, abandoned mine sites. These trails are for advanced riders only and feature several obstacles to negotiate, most of which are caused by erosion from the summer monsoons. Please avoid and/or straddle these wash-outs when necessary, keeping your machine as level as possible to avoid rollovers. We sincerely hope you enjoy your outing and some of the anecdotal mining history from the Ellsworth Mining District.

Ron Hadford, President
AZ Desert Riders, LLC

Brochure Design: Mark Goldberg

Topo U.S. 24K Southwest
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The Boiler Mine

This mine was named for the steam boiler remains that littered the site near the mine shaft. The only remaining metal now at the site is the smoke stack for the boiler which lies in the weeds adjacent to the mine shaft. The scrappers will probably abscond with that in the near future. The mine shaft here is at a steep incline, and there is concrete and structure that remains that hints of a steam-powered winch to bring ore out of the mine. Boilers produced steam to power steam "donkeys" and air compressors to power mechanical devices such as rock drills.



Boiler Mine

The Hole In The Wall Mine

We find no recorded name. Us desert rats often make up a name for such mines. There are three shafts on this site; the most visible of which is directly adjacent to the trail on the uphill side. This mine shaft slopes down at about a 12-15 degree angle and was only worked for about 150 feet. There is another shaft around the edge of the hillside, accessed by a trail just above the remains of the grizzly/loadout chute. The third shaft is below the trail, adjacent to the loadout. Concrete pads litter the landscape below this area and were most probably used to support structures for ore processing and/or living quarters.



Hole in the wall Mine

The True Blue Mine

Currently owned by Au True Blue LLC, in Chandler, AZ, this vertical shaft mine is abandoned and the shaft has been grouted over for many years. There is a several thousand-gallon cyanide tank and leaching troughs behind the remains of the loadout structure. Cyanide heap leaching, is a process developed by John Stewart McArthur in 1887. The process involves placing an impervious membrane on a slope and heaping large quantities of crushed ore on top. Cyanide is then introduced to dissolve the metals (gold, silver & Copper). The slurry percolates through the heap and is collected downhill in a pond. The precious metals are then separated from the slurry by various methods. The troughs located just off the end of this derelict cyanide tank are unique to this area and how they were utilized is unknown.



Winchester / Desert Queen Mine

Winchester was named after its founder, Josiah Winchester, owner and operator of the Desert Queen Mine. He and Dick Wick Hall partnered in perpetrating a "gold rush." Shortly after Hall "paraded" the assay results in Phoenix (\$120,000 and \$340,000 per ton... at a time when the value was \$30/troy ounce). Josiah Winchester began selling building sites for the town. It is said that he made over \$2500 in sales his first day. Six months later the Desert Queen ceased to produce and the town of 2000 inhabitants, faded away into the sunset. Hall went on to found the town of Salome shortly thereafter. Both Winchester and Hall became men of legend, yet they would likely be viewed as con men by today's standards.



Remains of the Josiah Winchester Mansion



Desert Queen Mine

The Mine South of Hell

Without recorded history, the name is purely anecdotal...the crude settlement immediately to the north was named "Hell" by its inhabitants; now an abandoned conglomeration of temporary structures and distressed RVs. The horizontal mine shaft goes into the mountainside several hundred feet and has scars of blasting and rock removal. Chutes were fabricated to convey ore down the mountainside; now, the remains of the chutes litter the hillsides. This is one of the few mines in the area that still has an ore car rail attached to the ties that traverse the shaft floor. Most of these types of rails have been stolen or scrapped. On my first trip to this mine, ATV tracks with a deep single groove behind, headed in a westerly direction from the site. It was readily apparent that someone had stolen an ore car rail from the mine.

Cupa de Oro Mine

Originally staked as the "Fading Hope," research shows this to be the "Cupa de Oro" (Gold Cup) claim. Discovered around 1911, cut in on an outcrop of native silver, the mine was productive until 1919; with grand supervisor's quarters, large and luxurious apartments for the crews (remnants still stand); and, a 5 battery stamp mill with 25 crushers. The supervisor's home and miner's quarters have been purported to be an old Butterfield Stage Line way-station. Shut down for the silver and gold in the 1940s, the mine still turned out great quantities of lead. Once the War was over and the call for lead subsided, the mine shut down again. The site was sold on E-Bay for \$1700 in August, 2013.

