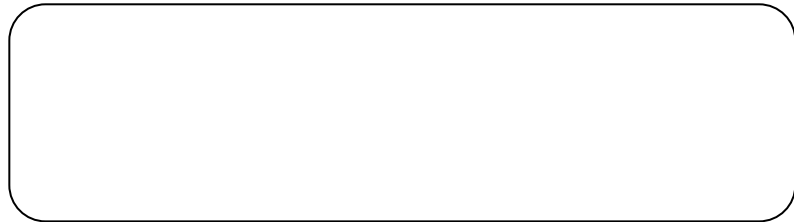


# Drywasher's Gazette

July 2023

Send Exchange Bulletins to:  
Valley Prospectors  
PO Box 2923  
San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923  
valleyprospectors49@gmail.com



Web Site: [www.valleyprospectors.org](http://www.valleyprospectors.org)

Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923

Next Meeting – Saturday July 22, 2023, @ Noon on the Miner's Folly Claim

Member Appreciation Potluck Picnic

## Mission and Code of Ethics

Valley Prospectors Inc. is a non-profit educational organization dedicated  
*To promote Gold Prospecting as a healthy family activity.*

## A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

General Membership Meeting is held first Tuesday of each month at  
6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at 2055 Elks Dr, San Bernardino, CA.

## **In this Issue:**

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*Classic drywasher powered by a leaf blower getting set up on a claim.*

*Don't forget to take the time to clear vegetation around and gas powered features for fire safety.*



*Small sluice capitalizing on the river's natural power to move material.*

## Wet vs. Dry Gold: Why Does it Matter?

The image of the grizzled prospector hunched over his gold pan surrounded by a rushing stream is an iconic image of the California Gold Rush and prospecting in general. Many of the Club's claims lay far from moving water, but that won't stop the hunt for gold. The first thing most new prospectors learn is that gold hidden in dry dirt moves differently than gold submerged in water. This is due to a phenomenon called relative density, aka specific gravity. This term seems intimidating, but it can help you understand how the components of gold bearing dirt will move using air or water as a medium. The relative density of the gold to either wet dirt or dry dirt is different and impacts the ease of separating the two substances. This means that gold is more likely to sink to the bottom of a gold pan or riffle box faster and with less work when water is used as compared to dry dirt in the same gold pan or a similar riffle box using a blower.

That prospector in the stream? He's taking the easiest route to the gold. Dry panning for gold is possible but will take more work and time to get the gold properly settled and separated. Ancient desert prospectors used a winnowing method of throwing the dirt in the air using a sheet to let the wind carry off lighter material, similar to grain separation. Lucky for the modern prospector puffers and dry washers vastly increase the efficiency of dry processing. Although, most seasoned gold seekers will recommend running dry tailings through the machines twice to ensure the gold has fully separated. Whether dry or wet, the key components of separation are suspension and motion. The air or water needs to be thoroughly mixed with the dirt in order to assist the gold separating from the other components using its higher specific gravity. The fancy term for this is "liquefaction" and it happens in both wet and dry processing. Blower powered drywashers and puffers suspend the dirt in air to encourage separation of the gold from the host material. Sluices harness rushing water to do their jobs. Choosing the right processing method for your location is the first step towards the nuggets of your dreams.

***Fun Fact:*** *Specific Gravity is the phenomenon that allows your bartender to make layered cocktails like a B-52 shot or a Tequila Sunrise.*

## Valley Prospectors President's Message July 2023 PREZ SAYS

The Next two months are lights out at the Elks Lodge Building, July, and August. Please do not come to the Elks lodge.

Welcome to our Member's appreciation outing in Big Bear for July 21, 22, and 23 of 2023. The Appreciation Picnic is on Saturday starting around 11 am to keep the hungry bears from tearing things apart. It is a potluck with burnt hot dogs if President Garry is behind the BBQ. Nevertheless, we will have an enjoyable weekend, and many will say a good time was had by all. We hope.

With all the snow and rain that was delivered to the State of California, especially to the Big Bear area. Holcomb Valley is well known for the millions in gold taken out of this area. You can just imagine just going downstream and picking gold nuggets right off the ground. Oh, that was only in my dream. As the first book in the old testament states, "By the sweat of your brow, shall you work all the days of your life, thorns and stickers." I get those every day in my backyard. But with a little digging and a little panning, you will be surprised at what you will get this year.

August is the Northern Claims time for members to venture away from home to see what type of color is there. It is a very different color of gold, that is why we are an educational non-Profit. Always learning about the gold in our State. Gold is not just the color of gold. It takes on many different colors. Depending on where you go.

Now it seems that I always mention Snakes at our claims, they are real, and probably more abundant than ever, be mindful. Also be aware of the deadliest flying insect, the Mosquito. Please take precautions and take medicine if you are allergic to them. Also, bees and wasps are out in force.

Coming home from Lake Tahoe, up by Bishop, California, the Owens River was moving faster than a speeding train, it was almost spooky watching the water flow so fast. Thanking God for all the water he has placed back into our rivers and lakes. But don't ever go into anything flowing so fast. And remember quicksand is not a myth, it is out there, so always go with a companion and keep them in eyesight.

While speaking with my cousin, she worked as a water tester for the city of San Bernardino and was on a few water commissions for the State of California. Not that they wanted clean water. She told me something that I did not know and thought that it might be interesting to you.

Here it is. Under the city is a great pool of water, an underground aquifer. Each time it rains the water creates a layer never mixing with what is below unless someone drills a well. Water is like a layer cake. It does not mix. San Bernardino still has its hundred-year-old water beneath the city.

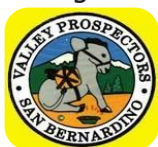
I was talking to a man while in Lake Tahoe who told me it makes sense now to him what a friend told him; he couldn't understand it until I told him about layer water.

His friend was Chuck Norris who played Walker, Texas Ranger. Chuck told this man that while he was drilling a well in Texas, he came upon prehistoric water. That blew like an oil well. He capped it off and donated all proceeds to go to charity.

He couldn't understand what made that water prehistoric. Now it made perfect sense to him.

Layered water. Layered gold. Go find it, be safe. And have fun doing so.

Garry Devlin  
President 2023



## Valley Prospectors June 6, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Garry Devlin @ 6:09 p.m, at Elks Lodge #836.  
Pledge of Allegiance led by Judy.

MINUTES: as posted/read in the newsletter. Motion to approve by Judy/Susan. Consensus.

TREASURER: current checking/savings/claims account report given by L. Frost. Storage fee discussed.  
John/Coreen makes a motion to pay the fee one year in advance. Consensus.

MEMBERSHIP: Frost reports 3 new memberships.

COURTESY: reports 2 guests.

EVENTS: Wagon Master Dixon reports 14 attended Summit. **The next outing is the July 22nd Appreciation picnic at Miner's Folly. There will be hot dogs/games/bingo/a bag of treasures for the first 20 signups.**

Raffle tickets for 50/50/special raffle/Lady Luck available during the break and Finds of the Month voting.

APPAREL: Rosie reports new inventory is available at current prices. Editor: Coreena reminded members info is needed by 06/10.

PROGRAMS: 1. Treasurer Frost instructed members in the voting procedure for changes to the constitution. Results will be announced at the end of tonight's meeting.  
2. D. Starr shared info on the AK trip.

FINDS OF THE MONTH: Everett invited members to talk 3 minutes about their finds.

Break at 6:48 p.m. Reconvene at 7:20 p.m.

Treasurer Frost reported all constitutional changes on the ballot were approved. Changes will be posted in the newsletter and sent to the Secretary of State.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Treasurer Frost made a motion to renew constitutional change to put \$100 initiation fee into the general account instead of claims account until 12/2023. John/Coreena moved. Consensus.

2. Treasurer Frost proposed a motion for a new budget line item of \$50 for each month for outings. Discussed. Cyndy/Stacey moved. Consensus.

3. Treasurer Frost proposed a motion to create an honorarium to our guest speaker of no more than \$25. Discussed. Mary/Rosie moved. Consensus.

4. CFMS: Burel suggested looking into investing the savings account into a higher-bearing interest account. Treasurer Frost will research.

Door prizes: Stacey/David, 50/50 Lorraine.

FINDS OF THE MONTH: Gold: 3rd Steve, 2nd Brian, 1st Joe. Treasures: 3rd Susan, 2nd Mike, 1st Rosie.

Meeting adjourned by President Devlin at 8 p.m.

Lady Luck was held.

AS OF MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

GOLD IS

\$1,953.73 PER OUNCE.

\$62.82 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

# Drywasher's Gazette



If you want to purchase VP Club branded apparel, please reach out to me with the item, quantity, and desired size before our next meet up as soon as possible. I will only be bringing out the items requested ahead of time from here on out to the meetings. I will also be unable to fill orders for a few months after the last week in July.

With Regards,

Rosie Duysings  
VP Apparel

*Check with Rosie for sizes and quantities available.*

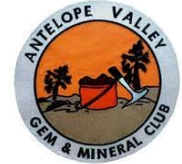
### Currently In Stock

- Crew Style Sweatshirts
- Zipper Style Sweatshirts
- Pullover Hooded Sweatshirts
- T-Shirts
- Polo Shirts
- Women V-neck Shirts-M/L only
- Hats – Camo, Classic Club Blue, and Bonnie Hats

We were again invited to participate in their Rock and Gem show in Lancaster on May 6-7.

Was great to see some friends from past years. We had a good turnout of workers at our Panning Booth thank you to : Lorraine, Ernie, Dwayne and wife Rufina, Sherry, Garry, Lee, Mary and Steve. We had a great time showing kids and adults how to be Gold Miners. Thank you for all our volunteers.

**Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club Show**  
May 6-7, 2023



**Thank You for  
a Successful Show!**



*Left: Panning Stations and Equipment Displays. President Devlin, Sherry, and Ernie all working the booth.*



*Mary holding down the fort on the panning baggies while Steve discusses the fine points of panning with a show attendee.*

**Members Eyes Only**  
**New Facebook Group**  
*The Place to Look for*  
*Updates on Club Outings*

**VP Members Only** is the best way to get the most up-to-date information on select outings.

If you have not received an invite or cannot locate it in your inbox, please reach out to the club e-mail address:

[valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com)



## From CFMS

### *CFMS Show & Convention*

June 23-25, 2023, Lodi, CA

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds,  
413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi, CA  
95240

Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sunday  
10-4

Contact:  
rocksbob@sbcglobal.net

Website: <https://cfmsinc.org>

### ***CFMS LODI SHOW CRACKER BARREL***

Hello to all CFMS members,  
Directors and EC.

There will be a silent auction  
at the Cracker Barrel on  
Friday evening at the Lodi  
show. Please send your  
clubs donations with your  
Director to the shows  
meetings. All proceeds go to  
the CFMS Endowment fund  
that keeps things running  
and able to help. Thank you  
so much for all your  
generosity in donating.

Submitted by Heidi Hall,  
CFMS 2nd VP  
June 2023 CFMS Newsletter

## SAFETY

### SNAKE BITE FIRST AID

**1** Stay calm, get safely away from the snake, and have someone call 9-1-1 (or the emergency number in your area). The less the victim moves the bitten site, the less likely the venom will be spread through the body and cause damage.

**2** Have the victim lie down with the affected limb lower than the heart. Keep the limb immobilized. If practical, splint the limb.

**3** Treat for shock and preserve body heat.

**4** Remove any rings, bracelets, boots, or other restricting items from the bitten extremity. (It WILL swell.)

**5** Apply a light constricting band about 2" above and below the bite, however never place the bands on either side of a joint (such as above and below the knee or elbow). This band should be made up of wide, soft material, which could be a handkerchief or shredded clothing. The band should only be as tight as the band the nurse applies when taking a blood test.

**6** NOTE: The purpose of constricting bands is to restrict lymphatic flow, not blood, so they should not be too tight. Check pulses below the bands and readjust the bands as necessary when they tighten due to swelling.

**7** Wash the bite with soap and water (if available).

**8** If the victim has to walk out, sit calmly for 20-30 minutes to let the venom localize at the site, then proceed calmly to the nearest source of help and try to avoid unnecessary exertion which will stimulate circulation of the venom.

**9** Get the victim to definitive medical care for antivenin, which will provide the greatest relief from the toxic effects of the bite.

**10** Bring in the dead snake only if this can be done without risk of further injury. Do not waste time hunting for the snake, and do not risk another bite if it is not easy to kill the snake. Be careful of the head when transporting it -- a dead snake can bite from reflex for up to an hour.

#### ***ACTIONS TO AVOID:***

**1 DO NOT** cut the bite. The additional tissue damage may actually increase the diffusion of the toxins throughout the body

**2 DO NOT** apply a tourniquet. Such action can result in the loss of the limb.

**3 NEVER** try to suck out the venom by mouth. You can try the suction cup in a snakebite kit if it doesn't delay other needed treatment.

Suctioning seldom provides any measurable advantages, however.

**4 DO NOT** apply cold and/or ice packs. Recent studies indicate that application of cold or ice makes the injury much worse.

The recommended treatments presented are those published in the current edition of Brady's Emergency Care for the Sick and Injured, the standard training and procedures manual for Emergency Medical Technicians. This is for informational purposes and no liability is assumed in its use.

by John Martin  
May 2023 CFMS Newsletter



**SHOWS & SCHOOLS**

*Educating California's Next Generation*



## SCHOOL GOLD PANNING PROGRAMS IN MAY



*Special Thank You card from Students who participated in the program.*

After a 2-year pandemic hiatus we have started going back to 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes to do our gold panning program bringing an exciting part of California history to life with real gold. Teachers invite us to their 4<sup>th</sup>, or occasionally, 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to help the take the gold panning era out of the textbooks and into their hands. We do history and local information on Southern California. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we went to San Lauren Elementary School in Bakersfield to show the children how to pan for gold. They each got the chance to pan and discover their own gold to take home with them. The Gold Panning Crew was: Lorraine, Mike, Ernie, Joe, Gene, Judy, Steve, and Mary.



The students had a lot of fun and the teachers were very impressed with our program. We also got to see long-time member, Mike's daughter and granddaughter at the school which was very rewarding and fun.



Our next school outing was to Heritage Elementary in Phelan, CA. Both 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated. Our Gold Panning Crew was: Lorraine, Andrea, Ernie, Joe, Judy, Gene, Steve, and Mary. We had a really great time. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders had a lot of questions for us and really seem to enjoy having an interactive approach to history and the science of gold. They came well-prepared and ready to dive in. All loved the gold panning and teachers gave our program good reviews.

Thank you,

Steve Schubert



# Drywasher's Gazette

## **\*\*Updated\*\*** Calendar of Events

| DATE              | DESCRIPTION   | NOTES  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| <b>July 21-23</b> | Miner's Folly – VP Club Picnic<br><b>*July Meeting will be Saturday @Noon on the Claim*</b> | <i>Saturday Noon Meeting and Games</i>   |
| <b>Aug 4-13</b>   | Yuba River Claims Outing  | <i>Contact: Coreena Ross (Wagon Master)</i>  |
| <b>Sept 16</b>    | Randsburg Mining Days   | <i>Local festival starts @8:00am.<br/>Claim outings done independently.</i>        |
| <b>Oct 21</b>     | Archeology Day Minor Miner Event  | <i>Full day of Rock Activities for the kids location TBD</i>                       |
| <b>Oct 27-29</b>  | Ord Mountain Rendezvous   | <i>Metal Detecting events, potluck, great get together with other local clubs.</i> |
| <b>Nov 18</b>     | 2 Burros Claim Outing   | <i>Meet at Claim</i>   |
| <b>Dec 2</b>      | Annual Holiday Party & Potluck  | <i>11am-2pm Pinon Hills, CA</i>  |

*\*\* As always events are subject to last-minute change due to weather or availability. Please make sure to check the Facebook group called "VP Members Only" for any last-minute updates. If you are not on Facebook, please e-mail or text another member who has access.*

### **\*\*\*GENERAL MEETING REMINDER\*\*\***

**Zoom access will not be available for the July or August meeting.**



Remember that all prospectors may be judged by the example "You set."

Leave flora and fauna as you found it.  
"Do Not Destroy any property, public or private!"

"Obey all laws". Please do not litter.

*\*Each member of Valley Prospectors should strive to set a good example for others*



### **Experience a True Gold Rush Vacation in 2023**

**Alaskan Gold Country at its finest in a two-week trip to Nome, Alaska taking place the last week of July through the first week of August for a cost of \$4,200.**  
(Cost does not include transportation to the site.)

For more details, please contact Don Starr - 951-663-3716 or email [lindastarr2@gmail.com](mailto:lindastarr2@gmail.com). He hopes to be at the June 6th VP meeting to answer questions in person as well.

Offered through **AKAU - Alaskan Gold Rush Vacation Adventure Resort**  
Website: [akaugold.com](http://akaugold.com)



*The Club is saddened to hear of the passing of Tommy Purscelley on October 25, 2022. He will be remembered in an upcoming Newsletter. If you have any memories or photos you would like to share, please reach out to the club's e-mail at [valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com).*