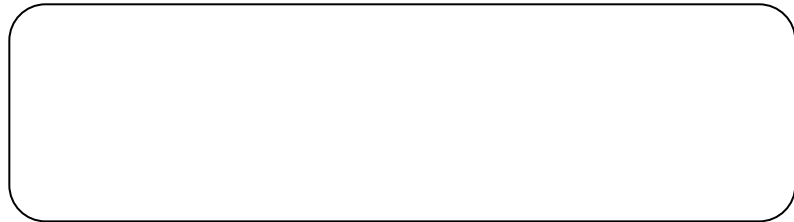


Drywasher's Gazette

December 2023

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



Web Site: www.valleyprospectors.org

Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

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

Next Meeting/Event – Holiday Potluck Saturday December 2, 2023

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

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Ord Mountain Rendezvous 2023

Good People, Great Chili, and Goopy S'mores – Connecting with Our Fellow Prospectors



View down into the Rendezvous camp at Ord Mountain taken by Brian Teeling showing the beautiful open BLM location.

Beautiful skies greeted Members and guests alike. We were joined by clubs like First Class Miners and the High Desert Gold Diggers as we gathered in the Southern California desert outside of Barstow, CA at the end of October. Some lucky metal detectorists and skilled gold panners scored big with prizes like the Garrett AT Gold Pro Metal Detector, a pin pointer detector, pan your own gold bags, and of course beautiful gold nuggets!



Campers got the chance to explore the local backroads and come back to a toasty fire complete with s'mores.

VP Susan Birrell, assisted by Joe Dixon, led

the popular Rock Talk. These events truly help educate the future rockhounds and prospectors building the Club's next generations to come.

A HUGE SHOUT OUT to Steve and Mary Schubert for coming to the rescue for our Rendezvous this year. Yes, they always worked hard at this event, but unforeseen circumstances created even more opportunities for them to work! The Club is always impressed and deeply appreciates how much of the background work they do that makes everything go so smoothly! Thank you for everything!



*Winners showing off their prizes after the Rendezvous events
Pictured Above: Ron Matthias, Dwayne Lowrey, Lorraine Frost,
and Lisa Cox, next Susan Herring, Yvonne Mack, and Jim Mack.*

Ord Mountain Rendezvous 2023 cont.

The Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast was a top-notch offering on the crisp Saturday morning. High Desert Gold Diggers really set a high bar for camping cuisine and provided a truly delicious start to the main event day of the Rendezvous.

Competition was fierce as always in the panning competition organized by First Class Miners. This event is a coveted win for bragging rights and the times of the top panners to find the elusive gold pieces are always in mere tens of seconds. New panners are cheered on and encouraged with the same enthusiasm as the pros.



A highlight every year is the Chili Cook-Off and Potluck. Delicious offerings filled all the tables with an array of innovative and classic chili recipes. The first-place medal chili this year went to Becky Moses and was presented by Valley's President Garry Devlin. Second-place went to Kelly Crawford and Third-place was captured by Art Duysings.

Everyone wins in the end as they gather to share a meal in the beauty of Gold County under the brilliant blue sky.

Upcoming Holiday Potluck & Party

The Annual Holiday Potluck & Party is fast approaching on December 2nd at the Pinon Hills Community Center. Hopefully, you have already signed up and paid. If not, please reach out to Valleyprospectors49@gmail.com ASAP to pay and sign up for the potluck dish you want to bring.

Lady luck raffles will be held with many great prizes and the winning ticket for the mini trommel will finally be pulled! In addition to all the prizes, we will be announcing the results of the Club elections and welcoming next year's Board. Event is 11-2pm.



What is a Trommel?

It's a screen cylinder that spins to sort through the material as you feed it through. It's great at breaking up material for processing. You can win one at the VP Holiday Party!!

Location: Pinon Hills Community Center
10433 Mountain Road, Pinon Hills, CA



VP HOLIDAY
Potluck Party

SATURDAY
2nd
DECEMBER 2023

\$5 PER PERSON

Sign Up with Sherry by
E-mail and pay
by Zelle or Paypal
Valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

Valley Prospectors President's Message December 2023 PREZ SAYS

Hello Valley Prospectors,

As winter rolls in my term in office is ready to expire, after two years serving you as president, it is now time to turn over the mantle to another that will steadily move forward our mission to educate the public that prospecting is not a hobby. Since the beginning man has sought after precious metals and rocks and stones, Rulers and Kings would garnish their clothing and crowns, as well as the vessels they used to drink out of.

Men like the Studebakers who came from Germany and built covered wagons. One of the Studebaker brothers came to California to find gold during the Gold Rush days. To his dismay, they did not have the right tools to do the job in an efficient and prosperous way, so he started to build wheelbarrows to move the tools to where they needed to be. Around this time the brothers were ready to shut down the wagon-making company. No one was buying wagons until a group of religious people who were being driven out of one state to another came and asked if he could build wagons for them, he had no help, so they volunteered and started to build wagons.

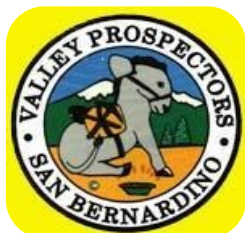
Father Studebaker was one of few people who was taught the secret of melting iron, at that time they could only bend or twist medals. so the volunteers learned the secret to use coal oil and melt the iron and to be able to use molds to form the iron to their liking. Enabling them to build picks and axes for the prospectors. The motto for the Studebaker's was "Don't just give them what they asked for. Give them a little more". We should adopt that motto.

Prospecting is not only to find Gold and Silver, others find their wealth in Lime, Concrete, iron ore, Coal, Lithium, Graphite, Chromite, and Cassiterite. Some of the future Prospectors might seek after, Cobalt, Nickel, Manganese, Copper, Lithium, and Platinum, these are the future for the green transition that the world is turning towards.

Whatever a prospector seeks, it is never a hobby. "Hobby" should never come out of anyone's lips. It is work. It is time-consuming. It also is fun, adventurous., and spiritual to be out in nature. It's educational. In the end, you grow to appreciate all that the world offers.

I welcome the new slate of officers that will be elected on December 2, 2023. I hope to see all of you there.

Garry Devlin
President 2023



Valley Prospectors November 7, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Garry Devlin @ 6:00 p.m, at Elks Lodge #836. Pledge of Allegiance led by L. Frost. Courtesy Sherry reports one guest, Bill V.

MINUTES: as read in the newsletter. Motion to approve by Steve/Frost, passed by consensus.

TREASURER: current account report given by L. Frost.

MEMBERSHIP: Treasurer Frost reports 268 family/7 lifetime memberships. L. Frost reports \$40 renewal reminders will be snail-mailed. She explained how voting will be done via email.

EVENTS:

1. Nov. 18 Burros outing canceled.
2. Dec. 2 is the holiday party. Sign up tonight and receive double raffle tickets. Sign up for potluck also. VP Birrell requests ideas/suggestions for raffle gifts.
3. VP Birrell reports Archaeology Day with Minor Miners was great. Thanks to Judy and Gene for location, John H. for rock kits, Burl for rocks, Andrea for fossil dig.

PROGRAMS:

1. Steve reports two schools would like gold panning demos for next Spring.
2. VP Birrell requests ideas/suggestions for future outings.

APPAREL: good winter inventory. Michelle requests a list for the newsletter.

EDITOR: all info is needed by 11/10. Michelle requests any photos of Ord Mt. event.

GOLD: Art reports inventory good.

CFMS: Burl reminds members of Ventura Show 03/01, and meeting 05/24-26.

Break at 6:37 p.m. Available: 50/50, Lady Luck, gold raffle, Special trommel raffle tickets, free books. Reconvene at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Open election nominations results:

President S. Schubert, VP S. Birrell, Treasurer L. Frost, Secretary D. Railsback. Members at Large: Albert N., Katherine N., Art D., Rosie D., Mike R., Mindy R., Coreena R., Ernie T., Joe C., Stacey D., Joe D., Brian T., Lee S., Keith C., John H. Finds of the month: Gold: 1st Brian/2nd Michelle/3rd Joe D. Treasure: 1st Mike/2nd Brian

50/50 won by Mike, door prizes won by Sherry/Susan.

Meeting adjourned by President Devlin at 7:30 p.m.

Lady Luck was held.

AS OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

GOLD IS

\$1,962.91 PER OUNCE.

\$63.10 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

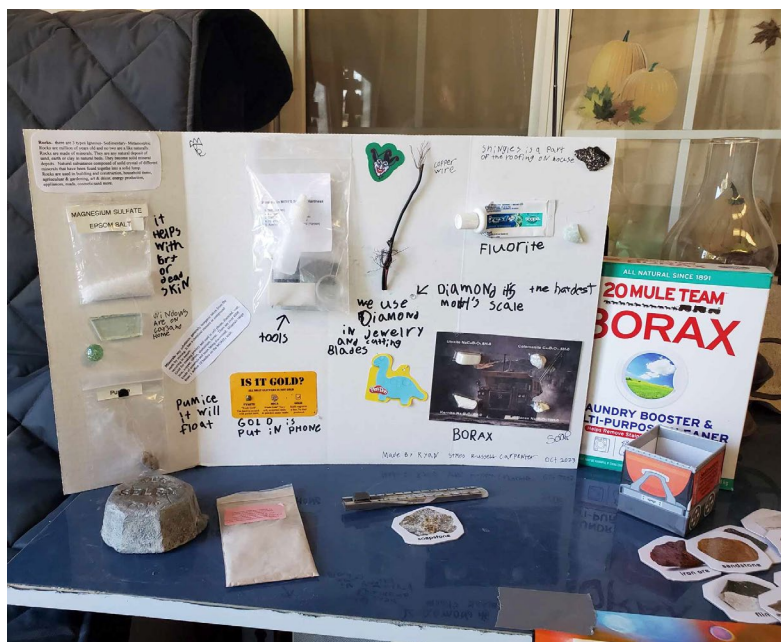
Archeology/Geology Day

Everyone learned a little something and had a great time at our Archeology/Geology Day events and it was a hit for young and old.

Ryan did a wonderful presentation about Everyday Uses of Rocks and Minerals, he had an informative display board that he created and even shared about the 3 types of rock to be found! Great Job, Ryan!

Evan educated the group about core sampling and how it is done. He also put on a demo using play dough with different colors and a straw for extraction the "ore"! Well done, Evan.

Ethan "enlightened" us about Fluorescent Minerals! He made a black light box and showed us different specimens! His effort was visible, in daylight, and spectacular in the dark! We applaud you, Ethan!



Left: Ryan's Board showing off the practical properties of rocks and minerals



Above: Everyone huddled under a dark black cover to create mini darkroom to view fluorescing minerals under black lights

The kids also had a chance to do a mini archeological dig excavating a simulated gravesite complete with grave goods and a secret message. All this could not be possible without the generous support of our club members!



So, a huge SHOUT OUT to:
Judy and Gene Lepper for the generous use of their home!
Andie Frost for her archeology dig, gift bags, and Pokemon cards.
Burl and Pat LaRue for their donations of rocks and just about anything we ask for!
Cyndy Mandell and Lois Papner for their rock donations and for entertaining everyone with Rock Bingo!
John Howell donated 2 different rock kits for our kids to take home and enjoy.
And all of our members who support our Minor Miner Events. We couldn't do it without you all!

Drywasher's Gazette



If you want to purchase VP Club branded apparel in time for Christmas, 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.

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 extended our sympathy and prayers to the family of Robert (Bob) Wuyak who passed away in August 2023. He was a current Valley Prospector member who lived in Washington. In addition, we learned that Edward E. "Sonny" Rhoades passed away on October 4, 2023. He was a former Valley Prospector member who moved to Henly Hornbrook, CA in 2001. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.



CFMS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

THE PURPOSE

Richard Braun, 1st Place AFMS Poetry 2023

From Rock-N-Rose, 12/2022

A shattered stone lay on the ground
In hopes one day it would be found.
The life it led was sure and good
Its many uses were understood.
Tumbled in sand by the river's bed
A thing of beauty it was said.
Tapped and knapped to a razor's edge,
To serve you well was its humble pledge.
An ax or knife for a hunter's attire.
Struck against steel for warmth from fire.
Truly a stone from heaven sent
This stone, this stone, the mighty Flint.
Via AFMS Newsletter, October, 2023

Field Trip Report

Roseville Rock Rollers Field Trip Leader Gene Doyle lead the field trip to Topaz Mountain and Dugway Geode Beds, Utah on September 28 - October 1, 2023.

The field trip was open to all members and guests of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies to collect champagne topaz, red beryl, and geodes at the Bureau of Land Management Public Collecting Areas near Delta, Utah. Participants were given a trash bag and asked to pick up the area as they walked in honor of Public Lands Day (September 23). Feedback received was very positive, that it was a great trip and they were looking forward to

returning. Thanks, Gene for your report. Additional information provided by Jim Hutchins on the Roseville Rock Rollers Facebook page.



Rare red Beryl crystal on champagne Topaz crystal collected by Gene Doyle

By Jim Barton
Field Trips North
November 2023
CFMS Newsletter

2024 Membership Renewal Time

Renewals are \$40 and need to be paid by January 31, 2024.

It's easy to quickly pay online with options like Zelle available. Just use the club's e-mail address and don't forget to add your name and membership number in the notes.

Zelle send payments to:
valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

You can also use the VP website online form to get an electronic invoice sent to your email. It's easy to pay with PayPal from there.

For additional details, see the website - Membership Renewal – Valley Prospectors

**Don't Forget – Early Bird
Renewal is Always Welcome**



**Another Specials Thanks
to Gene & Judy Lepper
for their Life-Giving Blood Donations
in October!!! They are truly stepping up
to save lives!!!**

Check out the local donation centers at <https://www.lstream.org/>. The need is constant, the process is simple, and the results are priceless.

Every Drop Counts.

Lorraine Frost, Blood Bank Chairperson
(760) 868-6564 <mailto:LFrost35@gmail.com>



Note from the Club Librarian

If you checked out any books during 2023, please contact Mark Lash to arrange a return.

If you happened to check out "The Mines of the San Bernardinos" please reach out to valleyprospectors49@gmail.com. It is time to return it.

A full list of the available books covering a wide array of mining and geology topics is available on the Club website.

Bring a Little Joy to a Family in Need

*Reminder that we will
be collecting donations
for the Toys for Tots
program at the
December 2, 2023
Club Holiday Party.*

*Please Bring a
New and Unwrapped
Toy to Help.*



General Ideas:

Sports equipment; Bath toys;
Tummy time toys; Touch books
with sensory; remote controlled
cars; Art/Drawing sets; Joke
books; STEM science kits

*Donations for Pre-teen age groups
often struggle to meet needs.*

Here's some Pre-teen ideas:

Bluetooth headphones; Bath sets;
Art sets; Purses; Curling irons;
Flat irons; Skateboards and Gift
Cards; Bluetooth speakers; Fidget
toy sets; Xbox or PS4 controllers