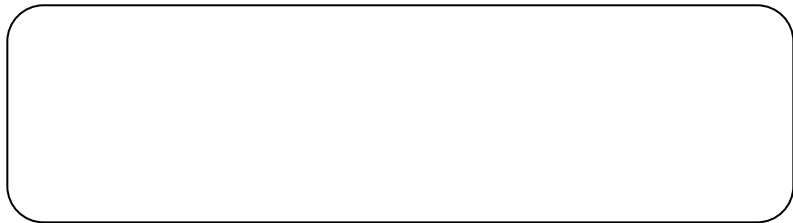


Drywasher's Gazette

February 2024

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 – February 2, 2024 – Elks Lodge San Bernardino 6-8 pm

****New Meeting Zoom Access Links. See pg 5 for details****

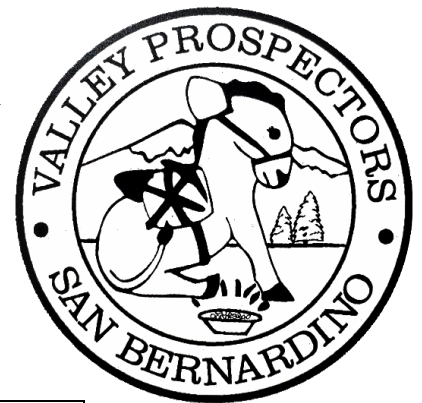
Mission and Code of Ethics

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

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

In this Issue:

CA Parks System Changes.....	2	Prospecting Jokes.....	5
President's Message.....	3	Regional News.....	6
Meeting Minutes – Jan 2024.....	4	Silversmithing Class.....	7
Renewal Information.....	5	Mercury Free Mining.....	7
Minor Miner Event.....	5	New Club Meeting Access Via Zoom Details.....	8





2024 Comes with Changes to the California State Parks Reservations System and Day Use Pass Options

By M. O'Brien

It's long been common knowledge that getting camping reservations for many of California's most popular state parks can be daunting, if not impossible in the peak season. A new law went into effect on January 1, 2024, that aims at making the process more equitable and eliminates loopholes. The biggest change is that those who do not show up by the day after their reservation is due to start will forfeit the remainder of the booking period without a refund. In the past, it was common for people to book an entire week from Wednesday to Wednesday to reserve the weekend dates before they generally opened for booking as an arrival date six months in advance. Then the site would remain empty on the remaining weekdays. Habitual offenders who no-show three times or more in a single calendar year may be banned from using the reservation system entirely. Other changes to the cancellation policies mean that cancellations made within seven days of the booking arrival date will lose their reservation fee, the cost of the first night's stay, and an additional \$8.00 cancellation fee.



Coming in the future is a new lottery system for some of the system's most popular parks that will be created for up to five of the state's most popular destinations based on the number of bookings six months in advance by 2025.

Holders of the Golden Bear Pass will get a 25% discount on campsite fees in addition to day-use access. The Golden Bear Pass program is designed for low-income Californians to get out into nature and experience all the State's beauty. More information on who qualifies is available at:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30960



Day Use Passes: Additional discounted passes for vehicle day use are available for seniors, disabled individuals, and distinguished veterans.

Two new pilot programs work to encourage and increase access to State parks. The first provides free day-use passes that residents can check out through their local libraries. Families of California fourth graders will get free entry to 54 select state parks throughout the state for their whole fourth-grade year, including the summer after covering September 1 through August 31. Sign-up is through ReserveCalifornia.com.

More Details: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1049

The National Forrest Adventure Pass system is still in place and a different pass is needed to park in most of the National Forrest areas here in the San Bernardino Mountain region.

An annual pass is \$30 and can be found at many ranger stations and some REI or Big 5 stores.

Single-day passes are also available.

Valley Prospectors President Message February 2024 PREZ SAYS

Welcome Valley Prospectors to 2024. This is looking to be a great year for gold and gem miners. With Susan as Vice President, Dianne as Secretary, and Lorraine as Treasurer, we have a fantastic Executive Board dedicated to promoting gold mining and rockhounding.

Our members at large have fantastic ideas and outings scheduled for our members to enjoy each other's company finding gold and gems. Our first board meeting was a great success with many ideas and concerns for our club. Susan set up the outings calendar with a year's worth of places and things to do that will please every member of Valley. Our President will keep meetings short and interesting for all members. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and on the claims. May all your pans have gold in them.

Happy New Year.

Steve Schubert
2024 President



**DON'T
FORGET**



You Must Report 2023 Gold Finds and Prospecting Activity on Club Claims

Claims reports help the Club maintain the Claims' registration. The information will be used for the Affidavit of Assessment Work (Proof of Labor), Notice of Intent to Hold, and/or BLM Maintenance fees. A form must be filled out for each Claim you work in a year.

Link to Form: <https://www.valleyprospectors.org/claims/claim-report/>

Valley Prospectors January 2, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Steve Schubert @ 6:13 p.m. at San Bernardino Elks Lodge #836. Pledge of Allegiance led by Art.

MINUTES: as read in the newsletter. Motion to approve by VP Birrell/Gary. Passed by consensus.

TREASURER: current account report given by L. Frost. She reports year-end accounting complete. Board meeting for 2024 budget is Sunday 01/07/24 at President Steve Schubert's home in Perris. She requests any committee chairs to submit any preliminary budget requests. Nine months of room rent is paid for next year.

MEMBERSHIP: L. Frost reports 270 memberships/7 life and 138 renewals not made. She will send out an email reminder.

INTRODUCTIONS: President Schubert acknowledged and introduced the following committee chairpersons.

1. *50/50* - Cecilia Lash
2. *Lady Luck* - Joe and Stacey Dixon
3. *Finds of the Month* - Everett Miller
4. *Library* - Mark Lash
5. *Editors* - Coreena Ross and Michelle O'Brien (articles due by the 10th)
6. *CFMS* - Bural LaRue (He Thanked us for the \$500 donation)
7. *Historian* - Michelle O'Brien
8. *Claims* - Lorraine Frost (all updated and clear)
9. *Blood Bank* - Lorraine Frost
10. *Courtesy* - Mary Schubert and Rebecca Miller
11. *Apparel* - Rosie Duysings
12. *Membership & Name Badges* - Andrea Frost
13. *Show and School Rep* - Steve Schubert
14. *Wagon Master* - **open position**

EVENTS:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. 01/27 | Victor Valley Museum Gold Demo |
| 2. 03/02-3 | Ventura Gem Show |
| 3. 03/08-10 | Stoddard Wells |
| 4. 05/25-26 | Ventura CFMS |

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ALL EVENTS!

Break at 6:36 p.m./Resume at 6:52 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Rosie requests Lady Luck holiday party prizes that were gift-wrapped should be opened first because she missed seeing everyone's gifts.

NEW BUSINESS: none

PRESENTATION: VP Birrell gave a PowerPoint presentation on 2024 upcoming activities. Again, volunteers are needed.

FINDS OF THE MONTH: Gold: 1st Rosie/2nd Ernie. Treasure: 1st Rosie/2nd Mindy/3rd Susie. 50/50 won by Ernie. Door prizes were won by Stacey and Calvin.

Meeting was adjourned by President Schubert at 7:17 p.m. Motion by Art/Lee. Consensus. Lady Luck was held.

AS OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

GOLD IS

\$2,048.99 PER OUNCE.

\$65.88 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

Membership Renewal

Are you Late?

Renewals are \$40 and need to be paid by January 31, 2024, or a \$20 late fee will be added.

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



Minor Miner's Event San Bernardino Museum Trip February 24, 2024 Starts 10:00am

The Minor Miners first event of the year will be held at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands on Feb 24, 2024.

The topic will be Gemstones and myths surrounding rocks and minerals. We will go into the museum and look at their mineral collection! This is free for Minor Miners, all others pay the admittance fees to enter the museum.

Please RSVP so we know you are attending.

Meet at the front door by 10:00 am.



Mineral specimens at the revamped San Bernardino Museum Mineral Gallery

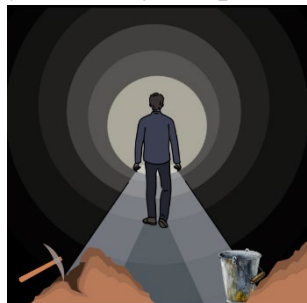


A Special Minor Miner Thank You!!

Lisa Cox generously donated her Gold Bug metal detector to the Miner Minor program. Our kids don't have their own equipment and now there is one available for their use!

Huge Shout out to our Generous Member, Lisa!

Keeping It Light – Gold Prospecting can be serious business. Laughter will get you through the days when your pan is filled with lead and a few old bullets. *Compiled and digital art by M.O.*



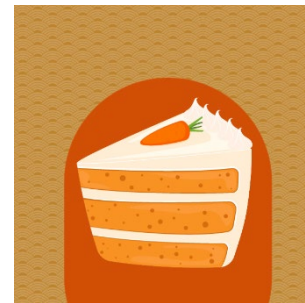
Why was the underground miner depressed?

He couldn't see the light at the end of the tunnel



Why did the prospector get kicked out of the pub?

It's illegal to sell alcohol to miners



What did the gold collector bake for dessert?

Karat cake



CFMS News

From the January 2024 CFMS Newsletter

CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, Chair

Excerpt Highlighting a Southern California Winner

Chris Koch - Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Chris Koch has been a member of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club for 26 years, starting in 1997 as a junior rockhound. Chris's dad was in the United States Air Force and traveled quite a bit bringing his family along with him. He has lived in Bakersfield, CA, Japan, Maine, Victorville and now in Apple Valley, CA. He recalls that while in Japan he started an interest in rocks, bugs, snakes, and all that nature could place in front of him. Chris says that the gutters in Japan are lined with shiny, waxy dark rocks and he remembers them as probably agate nodules. Unfortunately, the Air Force family moved back to the United States and most of their property was stolen. He says some of his treasures were rice paper, ceramic dolls of Samurai, and other ceremonial pieces. Finally, back in the states, Chris ended up in Victorville, CA in high school and word of mouth led him to the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club. He was mentored and taught what he knows now by Bill Dupue, who invented diamond grinding wheels, and had a lifelong obsession with rocks and the desert and also Al Valente, Joe Kosik, past president, and other older members and those his age. Just last week he was out with Jeremy Berg, who studied gemology at GIA in Carlsbad. Chris has been an instructor with the club for many years and at one time he was the Education Chairman. Using lists provided by the club he set up many fun and educational nights. He also brought in specialists in various subjects such as Horse Canyon material, Oregon plume agates, and more. Chris's favorite rocks are agates and jaspers of all types. He carries with him sometimes books on both but when you ask about an agate or jasper, he does not need the book as he knows 90% of them. His favorite places to go are found in the Cady Mountain Range, north, south, and in-between in the canyons. As an instructor he is all business. Teaching you to grind, polish and make a cab is one of his tasks and he excels at teaching the best techniques in the club to new and beginning members. Chris is a quiet fellow, but let me tell you, when it comes to talking about rocks or his favorites his voice picks up and you can tell he is very happy to talk about it to them. His longtime standing with the club has always been outstanding in performance, details, and patience.

Submitted by Jake Brouwer, Corresponding Secretary & Bulletin Editor, Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

CFMS Shows

January 20-21, 2024 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem and Mineral Society

Exeter Veterans Memorial Building

324 N. Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA 93221

Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

Contact: Gayle Bingaman, Show Chairperson
(559) 802-6029

Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

February 17-18, 2024 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club

Contra Costa County Fairgrounds

1201 W. 10th Street, Antioch, CA

Hours: Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5

Contact: (510) 693-9075

Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 24-25, 2024 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds

McCormack Hall

900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589

Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5

Contact: (415) 254-1506,

Website: <https://vjgems.co>

March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura Co. Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA

Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org

Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

*Valley Prospectors will be Attending this show! Volunteers needed. Talk to Steve S.

Basic Silver Smithing Class Available - Late January Class Added



Sample of the ring styles that can be created during the class.

Valley Prospectors are sponsoring a basic Silversmithing Class Sat January 27th in Victorville, CA from 8-2 pm.

Our February 3rd class is full. You will make a silver ring to take home and learn valuable silversmithing skills. If you wish to participate it is \$100 per person and all info/registration is through Barbara Schultheis.

Please contact her directly via email:

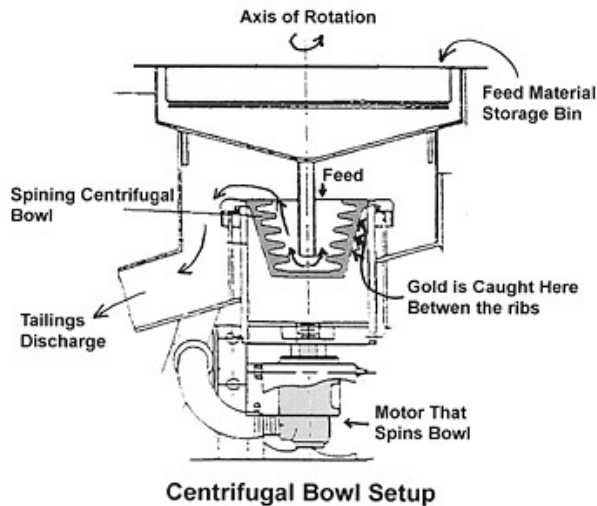
barbschultheis@yahoo.com.

Mercury Free Mining for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Miner

By M. O'Brien

Mercury has long been a controversial technique to concentrate and extract gold, especially in the last decade. The process of mixing mercury with gold-bearing material to create an amalgam that is then heated to evaporate the mercury has many potential health and safety risks to both the miners and the environment.

Efforts have been underway internationally to increase the use of non-chemical concentration techniques to limit mercury use. The EPA recommends focusing on gravity concentration methods like sluicing, shaker tables, spiral concentrators, and vortex concentrators many in the Club are already well-versed in the use of for separating gold concentrates.



A centrifugal bowl works to recover gold and other heavy materials. Ores or gravels flow down the center, where they contact the spinning bowl. They work their way up the slope of the bowl and gold is caught in the grooves. Lighter materials work their way over the lip and are discharged.

Diagram for Education Purposes Only
Originally published in *Gold Recovery with Centrifugal Bowls* - July 2014
(Vol. 83, No. 11) - *ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining*

Another technique mentioned the centrifuge method, claiming that it is more effective than the previously mentioned gravity concentration approaches. The centrifuge device depends on a rapidly rotating container fed a slurry through a pipe positioned above the unit. The slurry is around 60-75% water and 40-35% solids. As the material is pushed up the sides of the bowl's wall through centrifugal force, denser material like gold is caught in the container's ridges while lighter material is ejected from the vessel. Some skill is required to ensure optimum gold recovery by adjusting the spin cycle according to the material type and gold size to be recovered.

Illustrated Guide to Mercury Free Mining developed and released by the United Nations Environmental Program <https://indd.adobe.com/view/a9b3c39e-e7b7-412a-9d12-5cf47f484e56>

GENERAL MEETING REMINDER

You're invited to be our guest at the General membership meetings that are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at 2055 Elks Dr, San Bernardino, CA.

Food will no longer be made available at the meetings, the Lodge was not making money on the option.

Can't make it in person? Join in via Zoom meeting.

Please Note these details are New! The previously published access codes will no longer work.

NEW ZOOM ACCESS CODES FOR All 2024 Meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83026668634?pwd=ZUlyUlpLK1ZOQ1R1aTJmVndJQ0tNdz09>

Meeting ID: 830 2666 8634 Passcode: 661754

One Tap Mobile +16694449171,,83026668634#,,,,*661754# US

+16699006833,,83026668634#,,,,*661754# US (San Jose)

By Audio Only: • +1 669 444 9171 US



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