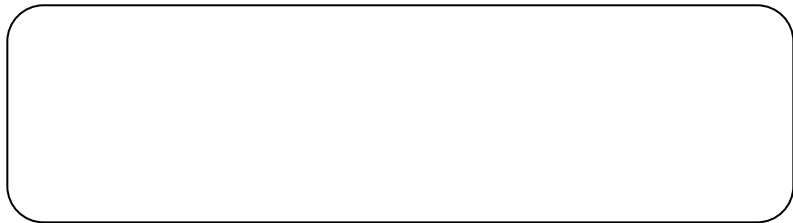


Drywasher's Gazette

March 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 – Mar 5, 2024, @ San Bernardino Elks Lodge
2055 Elks Dr, San Bernardino, CA

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.

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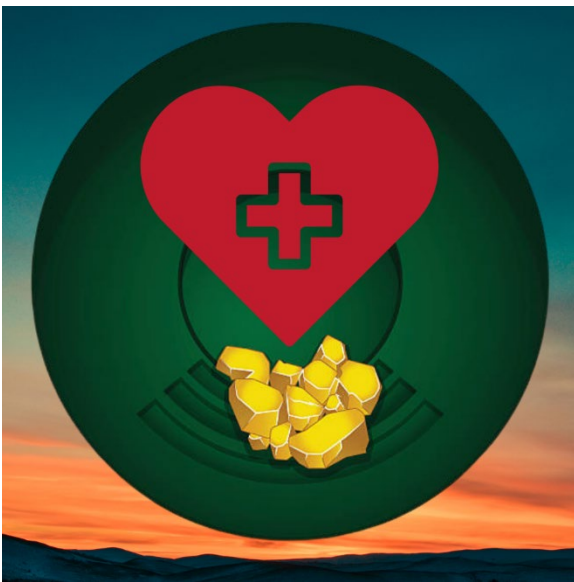


Find Peace & Healing in a Gold Pan

Disabled Veterans Use Casual Mining as Therapy

By Greg Hering

We Americans owe our freedom and way of life to our Veterans, especially our Disabled Veterans, for sacrificing so much to serve our great country.



Our Disabled Veterans often struggle with ways to cope with physical and or mental disabilities. The disabilities vary widely amongst this beloved group. One group of Disabled Veterans in our desert has found a unique way to help with their mental and physical fitness. Gold mining. Casual Use (AKA Small-Scale) mining is a form of gold mining that uses hand tools, picks and shovels, as well as metal detectors. Some veterans cannot do much digging, so metal detecting becomes an enjoyable and sometimes profitable venture. Others can do some digging and enjoy getting their hands a little dirtier. It is something about being in nature on our public lands they fought so hard for and forgetting about life and disabilities for a while, and trying to find a little gold, that relaxes the mind and helps build the body that Disabled Veterans find so therapeutic. When you are out mining the world is left behind, ask any

miner, not just disabled veterans. It is a day when nothing else matters, you get to enjoy nature and pull from the earth the gift that Mother Nature left for us to discover.

One such local organization that provides this gold mining opportunity for Disabled Veterans, as well as others, is the First Class Miners, Inc. (FCM) of the High Desert, based in Yucca Valley. Having been around for more than 30 years, the FCM has a number of Disabled Veterans that use mining as a form of therapy. It clears the mind and allows the veteran to work at his or her own pace and ability. Many of Southern Californian's Mining Clubs have Disabled Veterans. If you, or someone you know, has the ability and could benefit from this type of activity, Google the many clubs in the area and find the one that fits your location and needs.

Our Disabled Veterans need a wide range of opportunities to fit a wide range of disabilities. Gold mining is one that can provide both mental and physical therapy for some of our Disabled Veterans.



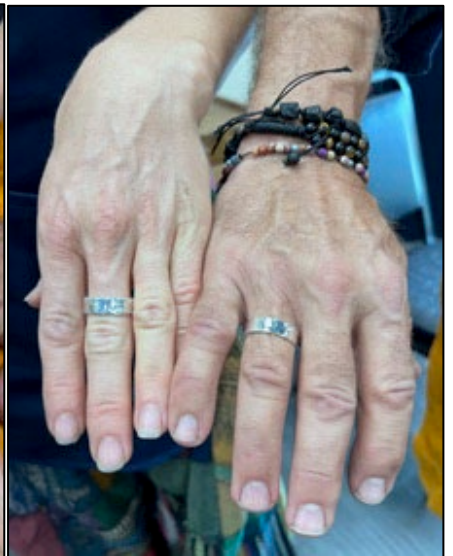
Club Claims List

Check out www.valleyprospectors.com for more information and maps to each claims. After each trip to a claim, please fill out a claim report on the website. This helps us ensure the Clubs' rights to each claim and is a vital portion of record keeping. Everyone doing their part is what makes this Club great!

The 2 Burro's Placer Claims 20 acres
Coolgardie Placer Claim Harvey's Oro Rico 120 acres
Gold Venture & Pickett #3 Placer Claims, 20 acres ea.
Hungry Man 1, 2, 3, 4 and Chunker Placer Claims 550 total acres
Indian Gulch and Indian Flat Placer Claim 60 acres
Jackass 1, Placer Claim 160 acres
Miner's Folly Placer Claim 60 acres
Moriah Placer Claim 15 acres
Pickett #2 Placer Claim 30 acres
(Cajon Pass) VP Summit Placer Claim 60 acres

The Silversmith Class Was a Shining Success

Several Club members explored Gold's moon kissed metallic cousin in a recent silversmithing class. Students walked away with custom rings and an unforgettable experience. Thank you to everyone who made it happen and to the patience of the teachers.



Announcements

Scheduled February Meetings were cancelled due to extreme weather conditions. We hope everyone stayed warm and safe through all the rain.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5th, 2024 in person and by Zoom. We look forward to seeing everyone safe and sound.

Ventura Gold Show Saturday and Sunday March 2nd and 3rd – We still need volunteers!!! Please reach out to Steve Schubert for more information.

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.

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

Please Note these details are New! The previously published access codes from 2023 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

AS OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

GOLD IS

\$1,992.68 PER OUNCE.

\$64.07 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>



March 9-10, 2024 – Turlock, CA
Mother Lode Mineral Society
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N.
Broadway, Turlock, CA
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact through website
Website:
<http://www.turlockgemshow.com>

CFMS News

*Upcoming Shows – March is a busy
Month for CFMS shows all over
California!*

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 have a booth!
Volunteers to run the gold panning are
needed.**

March 8-10, 2024 – Victorville, CA
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Stoddard Wells area
Hours: 9–5 daily
Contact: (760) 243-2339, president@vvgc.org
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

March 16-17, 2024 – San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Soc.
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344
Tully Road, San Jose, CA 95111
Hours: Sat and Sun 10-6
Contact: info@scvgms.org,
(408) 265-1422
Website: info@scvgms.org or
[facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmi
neralsociety](https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety)

March 16-17, 2024 – Lemoore, CA
Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society
Trinity Hall, 470 Chamoion St., Lemoore,
CA 93245
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact:
[https://www.facebook.com/events/999726
084444006/999726087777339/?active_ta
pe=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/999726084444006/999726087777339/?active_tab=about)

March 22-24, 2024 – Clovis, CA
Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
748 Rodeo Drive, Clovis, CA 93612
Hours: Fri and Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <https://fgms.rocks>

March 23-24, 2024 – Angeles Camp, CA
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society
2465 Gun Club Rd., Angeles Camp CA 95222
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4.
Contact: (209) 736-4892, dbrooks49@att.net
Website: [http://CalaverasGemandMineral.
Net](http://CalaverasGemandMineral.Net)

Southern Californian Gold Discovery

March 9, 1842

Before Sutter's Mill Came a Southern Californian Rush to Find All That Glitters



The Oak of the Golden Dream sits beside a quiet stream in what is now known as Placerita Canyon north of Los Angeles, CA. It will surprise all those who studied the California Gold Rush in 4th grade that gold was first discovered in Southern California. A golden treasure clinging to the roots of some wild onions dug up one March afternoon by Francisco Lopez, a local rancher. The year was 1842, six years before gold was found at Sutter's Mill.

With this unexpected discovery by Mr. Lopez, dreams of gold lured thousands of miners who have picked and panned through the San Gabriel Mountains north of Los Angeles, some continuing to the present day. Current restrictions forbid panners and prospectors to work the historical gold fields, but a state park has been created where you can walk a trail in the steps of those first prospectors. Over the years most evidence has been worn away of this forgotten gold rush. For those more adventurous souls who search a little farther afield in the quiet canyons or on treacherous granite ridges, one can still find reminders of a time when hardy souls extracted a living from these mountains.

Placerita Canyon State Park, three miles east of Newhall, is where it all got started. The Oak of the Golden Dream, a twisted old California Live Oak, still stands as sentinel at the west-end of the park, north of the highway. Some old machinery and a small museum mark the site where early prospectors took \$80,000 in gold out of this canyon. A small stream runs only a few months each year and was bone dry this past July, the fifth straight year of drought in the state.



Placerita Canyon miners had to work hard to route the minimal water resources for sluicing.



Lack of water was a major obstacle for the placer miners of the 19th century. The Mexicans who did most of the mining in Placerita and nearby canyons used dry panning to winnow out the gold, but the process was not efficient. Even so, the placer gold soon gave out. By 1870 the streambeds yielded little to prospectors and they sought easier working in the northern California fields.

Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
FEB 24	Minor Miners – San Bernardino County Museum – Minerals and more.	<i>Susan B. – Everyone is invited!! Non-Minor Miners will need to pay small admission fee</i>
FEB 28	Board Meeting	Zoom starts at 6pm
MAR 1-3	Ventura Gem and Mineral Show Ventura County Fair Grounds	<i>Contact Steve S. – https://vgms.org Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Volunteers Needed!!</i>
MAR 8-10	Victor Valley Gem Rockhound Tailgate – Stoddard Wells	<i>On your own https://vvgmc.org</i>
MAR 23	Hungryman Claim Outing	<i>Meet at Camp Cajon Monument at 8:00 am</i>
MAR 27	VP Board Meeting	Zoom starts at 6pm
APR 2	VP General Meeting	<i>San Bernardino Elks Lodge</i>
APR 13	Harveys Oro Rico Outing	<i>Meet at Starlight Donuts in Barstow at 8:00 am Wagonmaster: Brian T.</i>
	More Events Coming Soon.....	

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



Miner Minor Jokes By Evan O'Brien

Q: What is the Hottest type of Gem?

A: A Sapphire

Q: Why is Sand Always the Villian?

A: Because it Always Plays Dirty.

Q: What did the Miner Do When It Got Hot?

A: He went Gold Fanning.