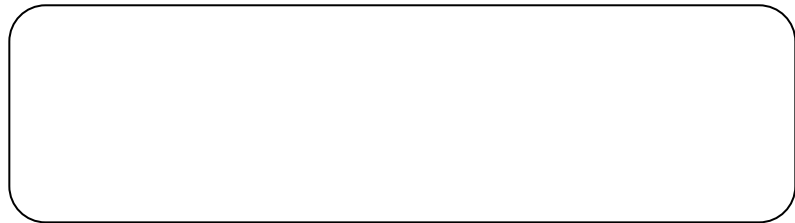


Drywasher's Gazette

April 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 – Apr 2, 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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Plastic Batea style gold pan still available today



Russian wood Lotuk hardened by subjecting it to fire



Photo from Science Photo Library of early Gold Rush style pans

Gold Pans Around the World

A Simple Solution Across History

By Michelle O'Brien

The history of mining parallels that of humankind. Evidence of the use of simple pan-like devices to sort dirt from precious metals and gems using gravity are documented in both Roman sites and in Mayan archaeology. The earliest form of the gold pan looks much like the conical "batea" still used in many Latin American countries by small miners and available from specialty mining supply shops. They have a 15-24 inch diameter with an average 7 inch deep point. They require a great deal of strength and skill to use efficiently. Early versions were made of wood and later metal. A similar shaped tool is used in Laos called the "dulang."

In Russia and Mongolia a popular type of handheld gravitational driven pan is called the "Lotuk" and it looks like a rectangular cousin of the Batea.

It is so popular that is often used as a symbol for those in the mineral related fields in that region today. It can easily be made from locally sourced timber.

The pans that are most familiar to the modern miner really began to take shape during the California Gold Rush. Hand forged metal "dishes" with a flattened bottom and raised lips were used as a multipurpose tool in the gold fields often doubling as a miner's plate for meals or cooking. Economical miners would also carve their own "gold dish" from wood and sand it down with river gravel. Over 30 patents have been granted for gold pan design since 1861

in North America. Most modern designs focus on the layout of riffle ridges in order to maximize catching the heaviest materials.

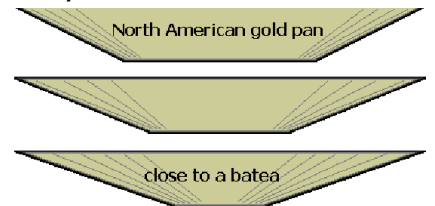


Figure 8. Trend from Kyrgyz pan through North American to batea.

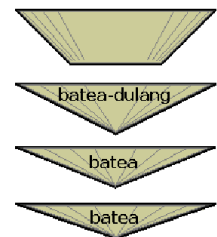


Figure 9. Trend from deep bowl through batea-dulang to batea.



Figure 10. Trend from dulang to batea..



Figures showing different historical pan shapes from Grayson 2006 "Gold recovery in gold pans - the term 'panning'"

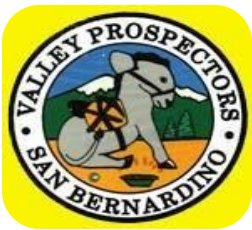
Valley Prospectors President's Message April 2024 PREZ SAYS

Welcome Valley members to April. May the sunshine on your drywasher. We will go to our first school on April 4th at 8 am to set up panning tubs for the 4th grade. The Reche Canyon school at 3101 Canyon Vista Dr., Colton CA 92324. We need your help to show how to pan and be gold miners. Call me or Lorraine to volunteer. Valley had a great time and sold a lot of gold at the Venture Gem show.

Members, we need small gold for our gold panning. Please bring your small gold to the April meeting. We will weigh it and pay you for it. Thanks.

A big Thank You to Lorraine, Steve, Mary, Bural, Everett, Rebecca, and Ernie for all their help at the Ventura Gem & Mineral Show. May all your pans have gold in the bottom.

Steve Schubert
President 2024



Valley Prospectors March 5, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Steve Schubert @ 6:03 p.m. at San Bernardino Elks Lodge #836.

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Steve Schubert.

MINUTES: as read in the newsletter. Motion to approve by Art/Sherry. Passed by consensus.

TREASURER: Treasurer Frost reported on current bank accounts. Proposed budget copies were handed out. Motion to accept by Art/Lee. Passed by consensus.

MEMBERSHIP: L. Frost reports 270 memberships/7 life and 42 renewals not made.

COMMITTEES:

1. Apparel—Rosie has polo shirts with a \$5 discount. Inventory is good.
2. Courtesy—Mary and Rebecca report no guests tonight.
3. Finds of the month—new awards for gold/treasure finds will be 1st place, 3 raffle tickets; 2nd place, 2 tickets; 3rd place, 1 ticket. A special drawing will be held at the end of the year for those winners.
4. Editor—submits need to be in by the 10th of the month.
5. Gold sales—Art reports inventory is low and is seeking out sources.
6. Programs—VP Birrell reports Minor Miner event at the Museum was good; 05/11 Big Bear detector event is a must-signup; 07/26-28 Miner's Folly picnic is potluck; 08/10 Miner's Folly Smokey Bear event bring a side dish.
7. Education—President Schubert reports upcoming panning demo at Reche Canyon Elementary, Colton 04/04 8:00 a.m. Volunteers needed.
8. Lady Luck—Stacey is waiting on gold bags.
9. Special Raffle—President Schubert reports AFMS/CFMS will allow us to place a gold nugget drawing on their table at the Ventura 05/24-26 gem show for a 50% profit split. VP Birrell reports an ongoing gold nugget drawing for the May meeting. Break at 6:23 p.m./Resume at 6:33 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 50/50 drawings are not allowed under the club's 501-C7 status and will be discontinued.

PRESENTATION: Greg Herring 1st Class Miner updated the club on the progress of the Chuckwalla National Monument expansion and the petition to propose changes.

Finds of the month: Gold: 1st Joe D/2nd Ernie.
Treasure: 1st Albert. Door prizes won by Steve/Susan. Meeting was adjourned by President Schubert at 7:11 p.m. Lady Luck was held.



Drywasher's Gazette

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 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024

GOLD IS

\$2,172.76 PER OUNCE.

\$6.83 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

Club Claims List

Check out www.valleyprospectors.org for more information and maps to each claim. 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



From AFMS – from Vol. 77, No. 2 March 2024

Safety and the Code

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair



Among the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies publications is a 44-page Safety Manual. This Manual, however, is not the only safety program offered. Monthly, in the AFMS Newsletter, one may find articles discussing additional matters of safety in our shared hobby interests.

While both of those sources of safety information are important threads in the fabric of the AFMS, there is another important document related to safety. That additional document is called the **AFMS Code of Ethics**. Yes, the *AFMS Code of Ethics* is also an important safety reference.

With respect to the AFMS Code of Ethics:

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

- What better way to be safe than to know where we are collecting and respecting that integrity.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

- Keeping informed of the laws and guidelines in our hobby is indeed part of being safe in all we do.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

- Again, knowing exactly ones location is also a matter of being safe – and respectful with what we do.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

- Certainly this is meant to keep everyone safe.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind – fences, signs, buildings.

- This, too, is a matter of being safe and respectful of another's property.

I will leave all gates as found.

- Matters of safety are for all, and certainly for the critters inhabiting the property.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

- There is a certain undeniable wisdom concerning this fire safety concern.

I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.

- Clearly a safety matter.

I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.

- Safety, safety, safety!

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

- Not just a matter of being respectful, but also to be safe for people, animals, and the environment.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

- While not specifically a matter of safety, this is a respectful and wise use of important hobby resources.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

- Ditto

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

- Litter is indeed a matter of safety – biological, broken glass, sharp metal and more.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

- One of the most important needs of our field trip leaders is with insuring the safety of everyone on the trip.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities any deposit of petrified wood, or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

- Safety, in this case, is in the preservation of resources.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

- Yes, to keep resources safe is important.

I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

- How we conduct ourselves, how we inspire and demonstrate safety, and how we try to do the right thing in being safe is who we are and how we preserve our great hobby.

Safety and staying safe are important parts of the fabric of the Federation. Please be safe because your safety is good for all of us.

Drywasher's Gazette

Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
MAR 23	Hungryman Claim Outing	<i>Meet at Camp Cajon Monument at 8:00 am</i>
MAR 27	VP Board Meeting	<i>Zoom starts at 6 pm</i>
APR 2	VP General Meeting	<i>San Bernardino Elks Lodge at 6 pm</i>
APR 13	Harvey's Oro Rico Outing, Coolgardie	<i>Meet at Starlight Donuts in Barstow at 8:00 am Wagonmaster: Brian T.</i>
MAY 1	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
MAY 7	VP General Meeting –	San Bernadino Elks Club
MAY 11	Metal Detecting Outing Big Bear	<i>Sign up with Susan B.</i>
MAY 12-JUN 15	Rockhounding Outing Across Country	<i>Sign up with Susan B.</i>
MAY 24-26	AFMS/CFMS Rock Show Ventura Fair Grounds	<i>Contact Steve – HELP NEEDED</i>
MAY 29	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
JUN 4	VP General Meeting –	San Bernadino Elks Club
JUN 15	Summit Saturday	<i>Meet at Cajon Monument @ 8:00am Steve S.</i>
JUN 26	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
JULY 27	VP General Meeting – Miner's Folly	<i>Lunch Provided – Contact Steve S. (Bring a Side Dish)</i>
JULY 26-28	Miner's Folly Outing	
JULY 31	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
AUG 10	Smokey Bear Birthday Party – Miner's Folly	<i>Lots of Events and Minor Miners Contact Susan</i>
AUG 18-25	Yuba Club Outing – Yuba Claims	<i>Independent</i>

*** 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 Puns

By Evan O'Brien

I hate people who trade with minerals

They take everything for granite...

My friend started a company that digs rocks and minerals...

He's just mining his own business.

My favorite mineral would have to be the diamond. They rock.

Ventura Gold Show March 2-3, 2024

Arguably one of the biggest shows where the club presents gold prospecting and the opportunity to pan for gold to the public.



Beautiful Display of Valley Prospector Gold at Ventura, CA

