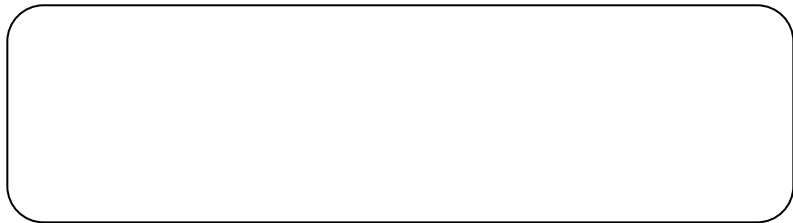


# Drywasher's Gazette

May 2024

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/Event – May 7, 2024 – Elks Lodge San Bernardino

\*\*Zoom Info Page 8\*\*

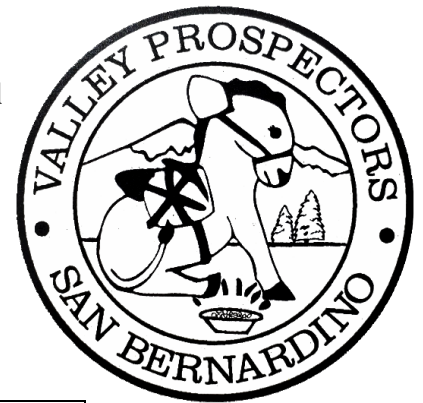
## Mission and Code of Ethics

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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## Reche Canyon Elementary Gets a Taste of Gold Fever

*Valley Prospectors Introduce the Next Generation of Californians to California's Gold Prospecting Heritage*



Everett and his granddaughter Rebecca show off a sluice box and other tools.

Education is a key component of the Club's Non-Profit Mission promoting prospecting as a family activity and sharing the unique history of the state with students. Fourth graders in California have a required unit on the Gold Rush and the Club has a unique opportunity to connect with history and bring it to life for them. Many students are so excited to realize that they live in gold country. The adventure and excitement of the 49's scouring the ground for a glint of color come to their own backyard.

Volunteers and small gold are always needed for these events. Please reach out to Steve Schubert for more information. Let's work together for future generations.

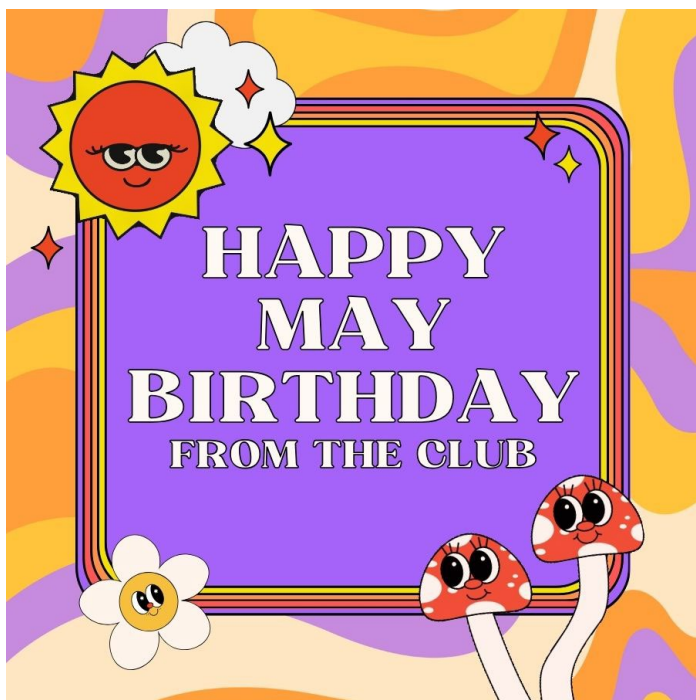


Students get hands on experience with a gold pan and the thrill of discovery (*minors faces hidden for privacy*)

## Valley Prospectors Presidents Message May 2024 PREZ SAYS

Welcome to May Valley Members. We had a great meeting thanks to Susan. The gold trivia game was a lot of fun. Thanks to Lorraine Frost, Rebecca Pierce, Everett Miller, Joe Chavez, Lee Skilling, Albert Naki, Steve, and Mary Schubert for Volunteering to do the school gold panning and gold history program, it was fun and exciting for the 4th graders. Two of the girls only wanted to learn panning from Rebecca. They like panning and talking to female miners. So girls come and help at the next school on May 10th. Valley still needs small gold for the AFMS/CFMS Gem show at the end of May. Please bring your small gold to the May meeting. May all your pans have gold in them. VP members are invited to the First Class Miners Annual Coin hunt on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm out at Ord Mountain campsite. Details on Facebook Group.

Steve Schubert  
2024 President



AS OF MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

GOLD IS

\$2,382.72 PER OUNCE.

\$76.62 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

## Proposed Chuckwalla National Monument Update

From Greg Herring

All, I have some fantastic news here. The BLM's Desert Advisory Council (DAC) has voted to oppose the Monument. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, they sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, with the majority of the Council having signed it.

The DAC's involvement started after Greg spoke with them on the subject last year at one of their meetings in Ridgecrest. It pays to get out and talk to anyone you can.



## Valley Prospectors April 2, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Steve Schubert @ 6:05 p.m. at San Bernardino Elks Lodge #836. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Schubert.

**MINUTES:** as read in the newsletter. Motion to approve by Judy/Mark. Passed by consensus.

**TREASURER:** L. Frost reported account balances up to 3/31/2024. She displayed new business cards with QR code, and club logo stickers.

**MEMBERSHIP:** L. Frost reports 232 memberships/7 life and 40 renewals not made. Courtesy: Rebecca reports two guests and one new member.

**GOLD SALES:** Art requests anyone with small gold for sale to contact him. Library: Mark asks for a newsletter alert for any books checked out to be returned. Editors: submit by the 10th.

Claims: any work done, fill out a report.

Outings: Brian will be wagonmaster for Oro Rico 04/13 8:00 a.m. Starlight Donut-Barstow.

### **EVENTS:**

1. Reche Canyon School Colton 04/04 70 students.
2. AFMS/CFMS Ventura 05/24-26/2024 gold nugget raffle split 50/50 with CFMS

**PROGRAM:** VP S. Birrell conducted a fun-filled "mining trivia" game complete with Tootsie Roll treats. Prize winner got a steel rolled prospecting pan keyring. President Schubert presented thank you award ribbons to Everett and Rebecca.

### **FINDS OF THE MONTH:**

Gold: Joe D./Treasure: Albert.

Door prizes won by Everett/Stacey.

Meeting adjourned by President Schubert at 7:17 p.m. Lady Luck was held.



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*

## Club Claims List

Check out [www.valleyprospectors.org](http://www.valleyprospectors.org) for more information and maps to each claim under members-only page. 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.

## Trash Pick-Up Goes a Long Way

If everyone takes out a little, it makes a big difference. Let's be good stewards of our beautiful claims.

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



## *Oro Rico Claim Outing Wrap-Up* *April 13, 2024*

The day started out with blue skies and delicious donuts at Starlight Donuts in Barstow, CA. Wagonmaster Brian Teeling led the caravan out to the trio of claims. Fenced off mining shafts could be seen on the road in, as well as many other claim signs. VP Susan B. led a mini raffle before everyone set off to explore.



The claim itself was filled with unique wildflowers and tailing piles. While it is clear that this is a popular area for prospecting, it has great possibilities for detecting and dry washing. Recently on a nearby claim a kid using a metal detector for the first time found a pinky nail tip-sized nugget during a seeded coin hunt! The area is rife with decomposing granite and unique black rocks, some of which were magnetic and had a deep desert patina on them.



**Remember even if you do not find any Gold, please fill out the Claims Form!**  
**Link to Claims Reporting Form:** <https://www.valleyprospectors.org/claims/claim-report/>





## Regional News

### AFMS Newsletter

*Vol 77 No. 3 April 2024*

#### Calling all Exhibitors!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, 2024 Competitive Exhibits Registrar

Strut Your Stuff at the CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention Adults! We invite folks 18 years and older to gather your best fossils, your best minerals, your best meteorites, bead work, silver or lapidary work and share it with the world at the 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention taking place May 24-26 in Ventura, California. In the process, you just might earn a national trophy if entering a display into competition. But it's not all about competing! It's about sharing, so we also seek noncompetitive exhibits. Here's issuing a challenge to one and all: gather your best stuff, then pull together a fine display to share with fellow enthusiasts and the general public. Kids! You, too, are encouraged to enter either a competitive or noncompetitive display. Not only do you stand to earn a national trophy, there are special awards for kids only, like the AFMS Lillian Turner Award for the kid's display earning the most points in competition and the CFMS Show Chair's Award for the kids exhibit (competitive or noncompetitive) appealing most to the Chair of this year's show. The winner of that one gets a hundred dollar bill right out of my own wallet! (Here's a hint for success: this year's Show Chair loves the color pink. Have any pink calcite or rhodonite to display??) To enter, whether competitive or noncompetitive, the deadline is May 1. Exhibitor application forms may be accessed at <https://www.2024cfms-afms.com/files.php>. Set-up takes place the day before the Show (until 8:00 PM, Thursday, May 23.) Please share this info with the members of your Federation and your local society and encourage fellow members to jump on in. The water here in Pierpont Bay is fine!

### CFMS News

*From the April 2024 CFMS Newsletter*

#### ROCKHOUND SOAP BOX

##### *Rockhounding on Public Lands*

By John Martin, PLAC Chair [john.martin@amlands.org](mailto:john.martin@amlands.org)

On February 29, 2024 an email was sent out from the BLM District in El Centro, CA with a new Website for Recreational Rockhounding on Public Lands. The website includes definitions, FAQ, A Guide to Collecting on Public Lands and Collecting areas in many states.

Take a look at the New BLM Website "Rockhounding on Public Lands" that has just been posted the website contains very good information and the Rockhounding Community needs to engage in a way to take action as to increase the awareness of Recreational Rockhounding on Public Lands!

When you visit the website, Link Below:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/rockhounding>

Checkout the Rockhounding on Public Lands on the right side of the page.

Look at all the states listed there and see if Rockhounding as a recreational activity is listed. If it is, then things are close to being alright. If it is not listed, you need to contact the BLM in your area (State) and ask that it be included. Work with the Land Managers to help insure that the Recreational Rockhound does not go the way of the Passenger Pigeon.

As many Recreational Rockhounds as possible need to do this and make their voices heard by the Land Managers. Recreational Rockhounding needs to be listed as a recognized Recreational Activity in as much detail as reasonable.

This needs to be done on an individual, Club/Society, Regional Federation and National (AFMS) levels. Make the voice of the Recreational Rockhound be heard!

## Gold Around the World

### Record Breaking Nugget Went Up for Auction in the UK

By M. O'Brien

A whopper of a nugget weighing in at 64.8 grams was found in Britain last year in an area not known to be naturally gold-bearing. A detectorist looking for historical artifacts stumbled onto what is now being called "Hiro's Nugget" in Much Wenlock, Shropshire during a planned group outing. He was late and had to use a detector that was near failing. A bad day turned into nearly \$5,000 dollars in gold at today's rates per gram. As one of the largest gold nuggets ever found in England, it is valued at between £30,000 and £40,000 (roughly \$37,743 to \$50,335) as a specimen.

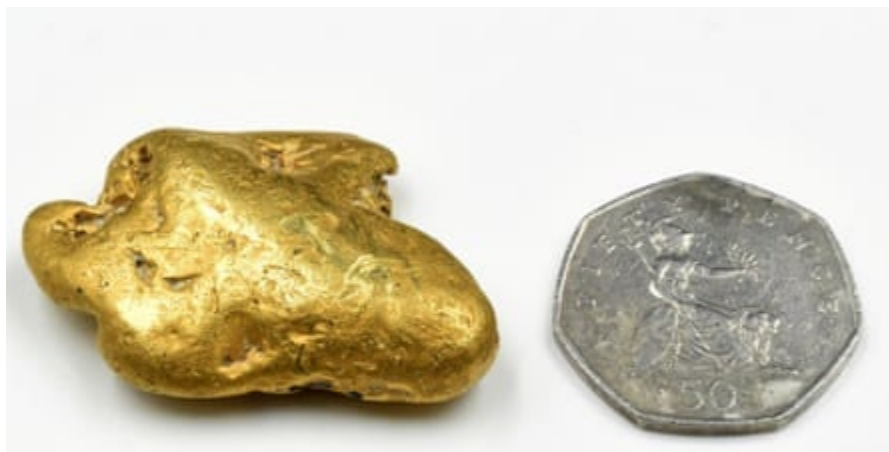


Photo of the well worn Hiro's Nugget next to a 50 cent piece from the United Kingdom. Photo from The Guardian newspaper by Mullock Jones/SWNS

The big mystery is how and why it was in that location in the first place. The only clues are the remnants of nearby railway tracks built with Welsh stone. Scotland has evidence of gold mining and trade back into the Bronze Age and the Welsh countryside is well known for producing high quality gold. Large nuggets continue to be found even in modern times. A 97.12 gram nugget washed up on the coastline in 2016 and a 121.3 gram nugget, dubbed the "Reunion Nugget," was found in 2019. The theory is that

the nugget hitched a ride in the railroad's stone only to be revealed by time and weathering almost many decades later.

The nugget failed to sell at auction, but it will certainly be the highlight of a collection in the future with an interesting tale to tell. For certain there is a pub with an old detectorist with a whale of a tale of giant gold glinting in the rain soaked meadows of the Shropshire countryside.

## A Minor Bit of Minor Miner Humor

By Evan O'Brien

Be Boulder in bringing laughter and rock them with a few new puns and jokes around the campfire.

<b>Q: What did the Volcano say at dinner?</b> <b>A: Pass the Basalt.</b>	<b>Some jokes just fluorite over my head.</b>	<b>Q: What did the stone jail say to the prisoner?</b> <b>A: The Quartz will probably find him guilty.</b>
<b>There are a few gems in all these rock puns.</b>	<b>Q: Why are geologists always crying?</b> <b>A: They are very sedimental.</b>	<b>A geologist's favorite drink is whiskey on the rocks.</b>

# Drywasher's Gazette

## Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
<b>MAY 1</b>	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
<b>MAY 7</b>	VP General Meeting –	San Bernadino Elks Club
<b>MAY 11</b>	Metal Detecting Outing Big Bear	<i>Sign up with Susan B.</i>
<b>MAY 12-JUN 15</b>	Rockhounding Outing Across Country	<i>Sign up with Susan B.</i>
<b>MAY 24-26</b>	AFMS/CFMS Rock Show Ventura Fair Grounds	<i>Contact Steve – HELP NEEDED</i>
<b>MAY 29</b>	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
<b>JUN 4</b>	VP General Meeting –	San Bernadino Elks Club
<b>JUN 15</b>	Summit Saturday	<i>Meet at Cajon Monument @ 8:00am Steve S.</i>
<b>JUN 26</b>	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
<b>JULY 27</b>	VP General Meeting – Miner's Folly	<i>Lunch Provided – Contact Steve S. (Bring a Side Dish)</i>
<b>JULY 26-28</b>	Miner's Folly Outing	
<b>JULY 31</b>	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
<b>AUG 10</b>	Smokey Bear Birthday Party – Miner's Folly	<i>Lots of Events and Minor Miners Contact Susan</i>
<b>AUG 18-25</b>	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.*

### \*\*\*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.

*Board of Directors meet at 5:15 pm before the General Meeting at the Elks Lodge. – Join in for Tasty Tuesday in their dining room.*

**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**