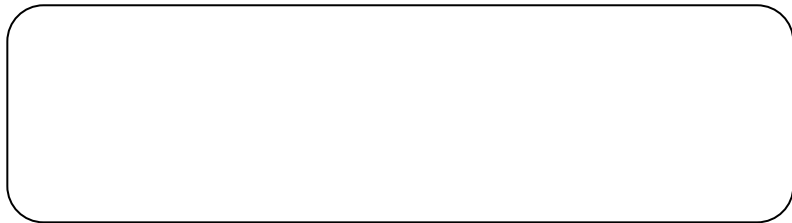


Drywasher's Gazette

July 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 – July 27, 2024, @ Miner's Folly Claim
Big Bear, 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

In this Randsburg Special Issue:

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View down main street. Source: www.vvdailypress.com



Miner at his dugout home – Randsburg, CA 1897
Source: www.Westernmininghistory.com

richness of their mine by driving a wagon full of iron-stained bull quartz (pure white with no defects or changes) to the local water source and let the other miners think the ore was poor low quality when they curiously peeked in the wagon. No secrets stay secret for long in small towns and quickly the news of the rich mine drew a slew of treasure seekers. Pioneer Camp, a tent city, grew close to the original mine, dubbed the Yellow Aster. The first official building was used as a post office and the second was Starkey's Saloon. Amenities were in great demand because over \$600,000 in gold had been found by October 1897 and the town had grown to over 2,500 souls with 300 buildings quickly constructed. This included a hotel with 100
cont. on page 5

The Living Ghost Town

A Randsburg, CA Special Edition

Dedicated to the Memory of Robert "Bob" Pruett Jr. (1939-2024)

Just off the 395 highway in a rugged area of the Mohave stands a small town that exists on the cusp of history. Many of the town's historical buildings built during mining boom phases still stand and the current residents have leaned into the town as a historical point of interest crossed with a testament to the human spirit of independence. The Club has had a long connection with Randsburg and still maintains a claim in the surrounding area.

In 2021, just 78 people are listed as living in the town. Most modern visitors use it as a launching point for off road adventures, but many thousands have called Randsburg, CA their home over the years.

Boom. Bust. Boom Again.

Gold was first confirmed in the area in 1893 by prospectors branching out from the nearby El Paso Mining District. The region's first prospectors formed a tent and dugout shelter camp called Summit Dry Diggings, with a mere 100 men dry washing for placer gold to get by. In 1895 three men traced the gold back to its source and founded the Yellow Aster Mine to the south on Rand Mountain. The men tried to hide the



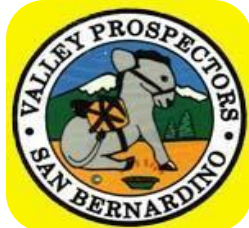
Dry washing for placer gold at the St. Elmo mine - Randsburg ca. 1897
Source: www.Westernmininghistory.com

Valley Prospectors President's Message July 2024 PREZ SAYS

Welcome to summer Valley members. Help is needed at our panning booth on July 6th & 7th in Wrightwood, CA. The next General Meeting will not be in a stuffy room. Our next General Meeting will be at our Big Bear claim, Miner's Folly, with a picnic, games, and prospecting for those who join in the fun. Save the date of July 27th, 2024. We will be having lunch as a group. Bring a side dish as the club will provide the main dish (hot dogs). This is a great opportunity to connect with new prospecting buddies and share stories. We will bring the games and some prospecting equipment. Check club calendar for more get togethers upcoming over the next three months.

May all of your pans have gold in them.

Steve Schubert
President 2024



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

Valley Prospectors June 4, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm at San Bernardino Elks Lodge #836.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Art.

Steve thanked volunteers for a great show in Ventura, CA. Roll call.

COURTESY: 16 present 1 online. Motion to approve May meeting minutes: approved.

TREASURES REPORT: Gold nugget profits split between Valley, Ventura Gem, and CFMS.

LADY LUCK: prizes and gold. MEMBERSHIP: 2 new members.

Next outing June 15th Cajon Summit at 8am.

FINDS OF THE MONTH: 2 gold 3 treasure.

GOLD SALES: more small gold needed.

Program by Steve on sluice boxes.

NEXT MEETING: July 27th at Big Bear picnic bring a side dish. No regular meeting in July and August. Smokey Bear birthday at Big Bear August 10th.

Break at 625pm. Members thanked for their help at the Ventura show: Steve and Mary Schubert, Lorraine Frost, Everett Miller, Bural Larue, Garry Devlin, Sherry Livingston, Ernie Tovar, and Joe Chavez.

FINDS: Gold -1st Joe Dixon 2nd Ernie Tovar. Treasure - 1st Lee Skilling, 2nd Joe Dixon, 3rd Rebecca Pierce.

Thank you to Rebecca for taking the meeting minutes and the 16 members that came to the meeting and 1 online, Coreena.

GENERAL MEETING REMINDER

You're invited to be our guest at the General membership meetings that will be held at our Miner's Folly claim near Big Bear, CA on July 27, 2024. Zoom may not be available due to cell service availability onsite.

Club Lunch and Side Dish Potluck! Games, Prospecting, and More....

AS OF MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2024

GOLD IS

\$2,305.97 PER OUNCE.

\$74.14 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>



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

Randsburg Special Edition Cont. from page 2

beds and a restaurant that could serve up to 400 meals a day. The current day General Store has been running continuously since 1896 with a 1904 soda fountain brought by around Cape Horn and mule wagon train at great expense. Despite the rapid development, the town held strongly to its frontier spirit. A strict "no lawyers" rule meant that claim disputes were decided by a group of respected and established local prospectors in a saloon.

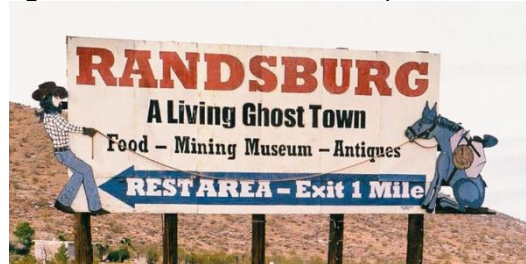
Other mining companies were added to the roster of profitable ventures, including the high producing Butte Lode Mining Company formed in 1899 and producing over 2 million dollars in gold and silver over its operational life.

A series of fires nearly leveled the town on several occasions. The lack of water meant that the most effective method of stopping a fire was often to use the readily available dynamite to explode buildings creating a fire break. Many stories of pots, pans, dishes and other household goods raining down during a fire were recorded. The intrepid locals would simply rebuild as soon as the embers cooled. By 1912 the gold fever had settled and Randsburg's growth slowed to a stop as latecomers found almost all the surrounding mineral rights claimed and partially developed.

In 1919 the California Rand Silver Mine at Red Mountain was founded solidifying the Rand Mining District's status as a producer of precious metals. By this point most production came out of industrialized mining operations and there was little need for inexperienced goldseekers. Many buildings sat abandoned to the elements. The most productive mining periods were 1896-1912, 1916-1921, and 1925-42.

A new boom era started at the most unlikely time as many down on their luck people turned to Randsburg area as a source of hope in the face of the Great Depression. The Calexico Chronicle reported that former lawyers, businessmen, and farmers all stood side by side picking up shovels in hope of a better future in 1933. The scarcity of water was also noted at the whopping price of 1 cent per gallon. Additional discoveries of precious metals needed for the war efforts in the forties kept mining going strong through 1942.

A strong theme of self-sufficiency and perseverance define the residents of Randsburg. Stories of vigilante justice flow side by side with acts of generosity and community. The town jail, thought to be built before 1915 still stands today and was last used in 1969 to contain two rowdy women who got into a gunfight outside the local bar according to local stories. No place in current day Randsburg captures the spirit of the town quite like the bar known as "The Joint." The building itself was built in the early 1900's as a "steam bakery" later turned into a café before becoming The Joint in 1955. A true hub for locals and visitors alike where a local doctor once consulted on local ailments, real estate deals were struck, and a brisk trade in found gold transacted. From 1968-2012 the current owner's grandmother, Olga bartended until she retired at the age of 98. "She never cursed, she never drank, she never smoked," says her grandson and now owner of The Joint. This little bar even got shout outs from space shuttle pilots who would exclaim, "See you at The Joint!" on their missions in their communications to NASA's mission control. This is likely because many of the pilots spent time at Edwards Air Force Base only 30 miles away from the town.



looking for the next bonanza, so maybe the next boom is around the corner. To be sure the hardy folk of Randsburg will be there to welcome them home.

FRESH GOLD STRIKES MADE IN CALIFORNIA

Randsburg, Ca., September 26.
—Announcements coming almost simultaneously of gold and silver strikes in seven mines of the Rand mining district caused a repetition of early California scenes here yesterday and today.

Butte avenue, the principal street of Randsburg, was thronged with excited townspeople and visitors. Leases and properties changed hands at a lively pace. Since the announcement of the strikes a newspaper, a brokerage office and several small businesses has been established.

The mines in which paying ore was asserted to have been found are widely scattered over the Rand district, which was the scene of a gold rush about twenty-five years ago.



Thoughts from a Scrambling Rockhound

*Judi Allison
NFMS Secretary (& More!)
From AFMS Vol, 77 No 5
June 2024*

You take on a project.
You talk the club into it.
They say they'll support you
And they surely do it.
They help set up the place
Get it ready for show.
Add their wares to a case.
Precious items, they know.
They don't complain
About working all day.
Friends and a potluck
Will be their pay.
They come each day
To work and to play.
Who says there's more fun
Underneath the sun
Than to pass time on the
clock
With talk of a rock.

Your friend at the helm
Agreed to do this.
So not to overwhelm
And call it quits,
You take up the slack.
You have his back.
You probably knew
It was a lot to chew.
But the fun you have
And the time you take
Is worth the work.
When in the end
The people come
And enjoy it all.
Folks report
They had a ball!

From AFMS Vol 77, No 5 - June 2024

Expansion of 2 California Monuments Threat to the Hauser Geode Beds

Dear Fellow Rockhounds,

As this year unfolds, it is proving the point we've been stressing for quite some time, which is Rockhounds across the country need to become more involved in protecting their collecting areas. Also, we all need to do our part to help the clubs in other parts of the country where their collecting areas are being threatened.

Campaigns for the recently proposed Kw'its'an, Chuckwalla and Sáttítla national monuments in California and Bahsahwahbee in Nevada are increasing.

As of May 2, 2024, the current administration through Presidential Proclamation announced the expansion of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in California.

With what we know today, an advisory committee under chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, will be established on behalf of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The advisory committee shall be a representation of interested stakeholders, including State agencies and local governments; Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples with cultural, traditional, or ancestral ties to the area; recreational users; conservation organizations; wildlife, hunting, and fishing organizations; the scientific community; business owners; and the general public in the region. If you have collecting areas in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument expansion, you as Recreational Rockhounds will be able to have your voice heard.

However, with our current understanding in the expansion of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, Recreational Rockhounding will not be allowed, period.

In addition, the campaign for the proposed Chuckwalla monument will threaten our access to the Wiley Wells's geode beds, which include the famous Hauser Geode Beds. The Wiley Wells area has long been a favorite collecting area for Recreational Rockhounding since the 1930's.

For those of you who have clubs in these territories where monuments are being planned and expanded, and just as importantly if you are an individual who rockhounds in these areas, we all need your help, so we can help you. You are the boots on the ground because you know the collecting areas, your routes and what's collected there.

As we found with the Mojave Trails National Monument, it has been important to get your comments in at the beginning of the planning, because sometimes the BLM will not allow comments from the public who were not involved in the planning from the beginning. Please remember, our experience with the Mojave monument planning. The BLM stated they received by far, more comments from Rockhounds than any other organization. That is a huge success statement for Recreational Rockhounding to let in, and one to congratulate yourselves on. It took effort, and you did the work to create that. This tells you what Rockhounds can do when they put in the effort.

As we continue to experience the creation of more national monuments, and our collecting areas being closed, one of the continual
Cont. page 6

Regional News Cont. from page 6

problematic common denominators, is there aren't enough Rockhounds working with Public Lands managers to make them aware of our existence and recreational history on these lands. We have to keep introducing ourselves each step of process, with the documentation ALAA has been stressing for many years. No one is going to do this work for us, only you as Rockhounds can. That old saying, "out of sight, out of mind," is exactly what a part of this problem has been. If you do not participate, Recreational Rockhounding will not be recognized as a historical aspect of the land use, and no one will know about us. We will be forgotten.

Please attend the public meetings or virtual meetings the government provides. If you cannot attend the meetings, written comments are equally important.

Please don't give up because there are more of these monuments and changes in public land use threatening our collecting areas. Get involved, stay involved.

In regards to the Wiley Wells Geode Beds, it would be a huge shame if we lost this collecting area. In the year 2000, ALAA together with the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies created and signed a MOU with the BLM on behalf of continued rockhounding in this area. This MOU is a Memorandum of Understanding, which constitutes an agreement between the United States Department of the Interior, BLM, CFMS and ALAA. It is an agreement to protect the area for continued collecting. It is an agreement among rockhounds we all will comply with the BLM's regulations (CFR Title 43 8365.1-5(b)(2)). Rockhounds and BLM were very happy with this agreement, and updated this MOU in 2016.

At this time, it is important for Rockhounds to contact their congressmen to let them know we've had a MOU with BLM for the geode beds located in Wiley Wells for the past 25 years. And, that we have been complying with the (CFR Title 43 8365.1-5(b) (2)) for personal collecting. And, we want that area to be kept open to us in compliance with the CFR Title 43 if the bill passes for the monument.

Below is a link to the BLM's regulations (CFR Title 43 8365.1-5(b)(2)). It explains in general that members of the public can collect reasonable amounts of nonrenewable resources on public lands. Rockhounding on Public Lands | Bureau of Land Management (blm.gov)

We are all in this together. Put your hearts to your pen and in your voice. It is an honor to help serve you as the American Lands Access President this year. But what I have known for many years, this is not a one person job, it takes everyone working together.

Sincerely, Jennifer Haley, ALAA President 2024
American Lands Access Association



Notice anything Special in this picture from a local SoCal Commissary 4th of July display?

Drywasher's Gazette

****FOR SALE****

Beck Drywasher \$250 & Spiral Wheel \$100

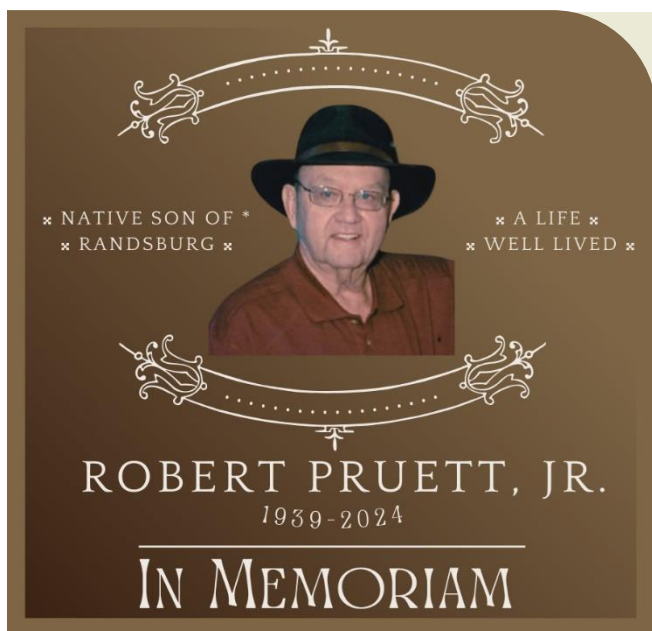
Please Call Donald at 661-526-3861

Leave a message. I will get back to you.

Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
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>
SEPT 15	Joint Outing with HDGD	<i>Meet at Starlight Donuts 8:00am Susan</i>
SEPT 21	Benitoite Outing Coalinga	<i>\$145 per person Susan-Must Sign up</i>
OCT 25-27	Ord Mountain Rendezvous	<i>Main Events on Saturday, Oct 26th</i>
NOV 9	Shark Tooth Outing - Bakersfield	<i>Must Sign up. Contact Susan B. for more details.</i>
NOV 16	Summit Saturday	<i>Meet at Cajon Monument @ 8:00am Steve S.</i>
DEC 7	Annual Club Holiday Party	<i>11 am to 3 pm. Setup from 9 am to 10 am. At the Pinon Hills Community Center</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.**



Bob attended Randsburg Elementary School, and Randsburg High School, graduating in 1957.

Bob's talents and skills are evident in almost every corner of the Randsburg area. He restored many buildings and houses in the Rand area and served as a volunteer fireman. He was active in the community as a church member, Rand Water Company board of directors, a member of The Rand Improvement Organization Ridgecrest Lions Club, the Masonic Lodge, and the Randsburg Players. A long time supporter of Valley Prospectors, allowing the Club to set up Gold Panning on his property during Old West Days.

He was a talented mechanic with a humorous wit, often participating in the Randsburg Morning Coffee Club. Somehow, he found time to raise cattle, run a flagstone quarry, and work for the U.S. Postal Service.

Partially summarized from his Obituary published in The Daily Independent on May 30, 2024