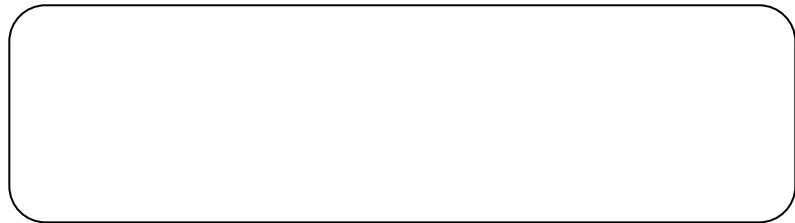


Drywasher's Gazette

June 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 – June 4, 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.

In this Issue:

Fool's Gold.....	2	
Big Bear Metal Detecting Hunt.....	2	Gold Rush Legacies.....6-7
Prez Says.....	3	Equipment for Sale..... 8
Meeting Minutes.....	4	VP Meeting Info (Zoom & In-Person)..8
Regional News.....	5	Calendar 8





Chunk of Pyrite Photo from
<https://www.britannica.com/science/pyrite>

Fool Me Once... Fool Me Twice... A Fresh Perspective on Fool's Gold

By M. O'Brien

Due to its pale yellow color, metallic luster, and shape, the substance pyrite has the well-earned moniker of "Fool's Gold." Found all over the world, this substance is an iron-sulfide mineral that easily oxidizes. Modern industries rely on pyrite for an easy source of sulfuric acid and it is used in the making of paper as a source of sulfur dioxide. The name pyrite is sourced from the Latin term for fire due to its ability to create a spark when struck. Despite all these uses, few would consider pyrite as precious as gold.

Researchers looking at pyrite on a macro scale found both nano particles of gold and an accumulation of gold particles between the crystalline structures hidden in deformation pockets, also called dislocations. Using a process of selective leeching, the team was able to extract all the gold without destroying the fundamental mineral structure of the pyrite. Dr. Denis Fougere stated that a fluid was used to dissolve the gold in a way that allowed dislocations act as fluid highways for the gold to exit. This leaves the potential for the pyrite to remain usable for other applications. The amount of gold retrieved is potentially feasible to justify extraction when the wide availability of the mineral is considered. In the end proving that Fool's Gold is worth a second look.

Big Bear Metal Detecting Hunt Recap

By Susan Birrell

Our hunt in Big Bear went really well. We found a French coin, a very old silver dime, TONS OF NAILS, a dead animal carcass, an old winter cap, and lots of other metal things. What a great group!

Valley Prospectors members donated \$65 to the Church Camp for allowing us to hunt there. Thank You Team!

Also, here is a Pic of Mindy with her gold nugget from the special drawing.

Lady Luck was certainly with us on that day.



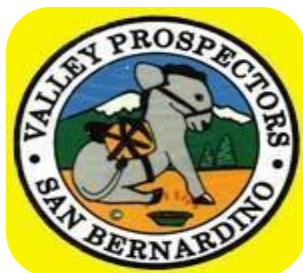
Valley Prospectors President's Message June 2024 PREZ SAYS

For Members that missed it, our general meeting was a great and exciting time. In 5 minutes, I had 9 people sign up to help at the school teaching 4th graders gold history and panning. Thank you for volunteering. Once again, our VP Susan did a fantastic program on rocks and mining in the Big Bear area. Then to top off the meeting she held the gold nugget drawing, Mindy Ryan won it. We wish all the members were there to enjoy a great time and wonderful Lady Luck prizes. I hope more members can make the June meeting. The finds of the month filled up one table for gold and treasure. We may need more pans to show more gold and treasure finds in June. Remember May 24th to the 26th is the CFMS/AFMS federation gem show at Ventura fairgrounds. Come up to see the show and help Valley at the gold panning booth.



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 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

Valley Prospectors May 5, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

AS OF MONDAY, MAY 15, 2024

GOLD IS

\$2,390.04 PER OUNCE.

\$76.84 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

Meeting called to order by President Steve Schubert @ 6:06 p.m. at San Bernardino Elks Lodge #836.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Horst.

President Schubert presented VP Gold Star awards to Ernie and Burl.

Roll call was conducted.

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

TREASURER: Treasurer Frost reported on current bank accounts. Account interest will be moved to the general fund when it reaches \$50.

MEMBERSHIP: L. Frost reports 1 new member, David F.

COMMITTEES:

1. Courtesy—Mary and Rebecca report no guests tonight.
2. Events/Education—05/10 Heritage School Phelan; 05/24-26 Ventura AFMS/CFMS; 05/11 Big Bear metal detecting event 9:00 a.m. Boulder Bay Park; 07/6-7 Wrightwood Mountaineer Days with panning booth.
3. VP Birrell reports gold nugget drawing is tonight.
4. Finds of the month—6 gold entries, three treasure entries.
5. Editor—submits need to be in by the 10th of the month.
6. Gold sales—Art is seeking out gold supplies/sources. He will put together gold bags for President Steve for educational events.
7. Apparel—Rosie reports polo shirts on sale at a \$5 discount for \$16. 8. Badges—request as needed.

Break at 6:27 p.m./Resume at 6:42 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

Presentation: VP Birrell conducted a PowerPoint presentation on rocks/minerals and geology in San Bernardino County.

Finds of the month: Gold: 1st Joe D/2nd Ernie/3rd Brian. Treasure: 1st Rebecca/2nd Lorraine/3rd Brian.

Door prizes won by Art G./Susan. Gold nugget won by Mindy.

Meeting adjourned by President Schubert at 7:21 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



EXCITEMENT AWAITS: JOIN US AT THE 2024 AFMS-CFMS GEM SHOW AND CONVENTION!

Excerpt of Article By Diane Cook, 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show Chair CFMS EC 2nd VP

BEWARE WHAT YOU CLICK!!

Please be reminded that those emails you get from time to time that appear to come from your club president or other club official may not be legitimate. They typically begin with phrases like “do you have a moment”, a payment of some amount is urgently needed, etc., etc. Unfortunately, it is easy to fall into the trap and end up responding to one of these emails or worse yet, actually sending money. It was brought to my attention that some of these “phishing” emails reference the upcoming Convention and Show. As the AFMS Treasurer as well as the CFMS Executive Treasurer, I generally get anywhere from 2 to 6 of these a week. Usually they appear to come from the organization’s president. If in doubt about who sent the email, send an email to the real person and ask if they sent you a message requesting a particular action. If you click on the name of the sender, the email address of the real sender will be revealed. Most of the ones I’ve received are gmail addresses; others actually originated in other countries. Never once has the email address actually been one used by the person being impersonated. If a link or attachment accompanies the email, do NOT click on it. Doing so could introduce a harmful virus to your device that could disable your computer or even worse, steal personal information. What is the best way to avoid falling victim to these cyber-criminals? Learn what to look for and when a suspicious email comes your way, DELETE, DELETE, DELETE!!

The moment we've all been eagerly anticipating is finally upon us – the 2024 AFMS-CFMS Show and Convention is set to dazzle in Ventura, CA, from May 24th to May 26th! With an array of captivating exhibits, diverse vendors, and engaging events, this year's show promises to be a memorable experience for all.

Let's dive into the highlights:

Wednesday: The excitement kicks off with setup, and the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee convenes at 7 PM (location to be determined).

Thursday: Exhibitors and vendors gear up for the festivities with move-in and final setup. Don't miss the AFMS lunch on the fairgrounds (be sure to sign up using the Advanced Registration form with a \$25.00 charge).

Friday: Opening day of the show (10 AM - 5 PM) sets the stage for exploration and discovery. Join us in the evening for the Cracker Barrel starting at 7 PM – an informal gathering where you can mingle with fellow rockhounds from near and far. Be sure to participate in the silent auction and other entertaining activities!

Saturday, May 25th: The day begins with the California Federation's Director meeting, doors opening at 8 AM meeting starts at 9 AM. Show hours from 10 AM - 5 PM. After the meeting, immerse yourself in our speakers, vendors, and exhibits. In the evening, join us for the Awards Banquet, starting with happy hour at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM (advanced registration required with a \$65.00 charge). Prepare to celebrate the achievements of exhibitors, All American awardees, Golden Bear recipients, and more!

Sunday, May 26th: Start your day with the Editors Breakfast at 8:30 AM, held at 4 Points Sheraton (advanced registration required with a \$30.00 charge). Enjoy awards and the exchange of information before exploring the show from 10 AM - 4 PM. For the full show schedule and further details, visit www.2024cfms-afms.com

Unusual Legacies of the Californian Gold Rush

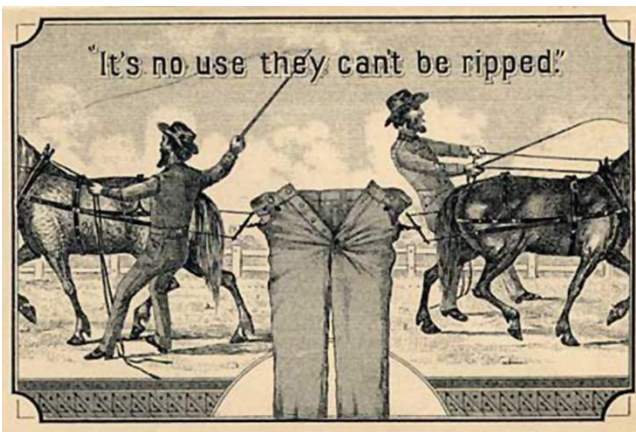
By M. O'Brien

Gold nuggets shining from under the river's currents form much of our image of the Gold Rush era along with mobs of prospectors with gold fever shining in their eyes swarming the untouched Californian landscape. This watershed moment surprisingly led to several more unusual legacies of cities built on ghost ships, financial calamities, and future global fashion icons.

Many prospectors ventured to California by boat through the San Francisco Bay harbor. Without any cargo, passengers, and in some cases, crew, for a return journey many vessels sat abandoned all over the harbor area. Entrepreneurial locals began to sell the timber or repurpose the structures into saloons, brothels, hotels, and warehouses. Derelicts were used as landfill to create new real estate for the rapidly growing city. The area now known as the Embarcadero and Financial District sit on land that was once the harbor's edge. Up to forty ships still lay buried under the city's foundations. In the late 1970's, the ship formerly known as the Niantic was excavated from the corner of Clay and Sansome Street near the Transamerica Pyramid. The former whaling ship was abandoned and found new life as a saloon, hotel, and storage before it was destroyed in an 1851 fire. Many artifacts were still entombed in the burnt-out tomb and can be seen on display in a local museum.



Excavation of the Niantic under San Francisco
Photo from the Smithsonian Collection



Original "Two Horse" brand advertisement via Levi Straus & Co.

The hordes of prospectors heading to the gold fields all needed one thing, reliable pants. Conditions on the claims meant that durable clothing was a must have as much as the gold pan and shovel. In 1853, Levi Strauss opened a dry goods store in San Francisco to supply the hopeful miners. A Nevada tailor and immigrant named Jacob Davis often bought bolts of durable denim and canvas from Strauss's shop. Based on experience serving prospecting needs, Davis began to reinforce stress zones of the pants with copper rivets to reduce the need to repair or patch. In 1872 the two men joined forces to patent the design and manufacture the first "waist overalls" later commonly known as "jeans" for sale. Levi Straus & Co. consider May 20, 1873, the date the patent was entered, as the "birthday" of their history making pants. However, the world would have to wait until 1901 for the addition of a back pocket to the pattern. The durability of the rivet reinforced pants led to widespread popularity. Eventually, they would become emblematic of the American West experience and still remain a popular practical and fashion choice all over the world.

Cont. next page

Drywasher's Gazette

Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
MAY 24-26	AFMS/CFMS Rock Show Ventura Fair Grounds	Contact Steve – HELP NEEDED
MAY 29	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
JUN 4	VP General Meeting –	San Bernadino Elks Club
JUN 15	Summit Saturday	Meet at Cajon Monument @ 8:00am Steve S.
JUN 26	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
JULY 6-7	Wrightwood Mountaineer Days	VP Panning Booth – 10 am to 5 pm each day
JULY 27	VP General Meeting – Miner's Folly	Lunch Provided – Contact Steve S. (Bring a Side Dish)
JULY 26-28	Miner's Folly Outing	Big Bear Holcomb Valley
JULY 31	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
AUG 10	Smokey Bear Birthday Party – Miner's Folly	Lots of Events and Minor Miners Contact Susan
AUG 18-25	Yuba Club Outing – Yuba Claims	Independent

*** 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.

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

*****NEW ZOOM ACCESS CODES FOR All 2024 Meetings*****

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83026668634?pwd=ZUlyUlpLK1Z0Q1R1aTJmVndJQ0tNdz09>

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

****FOR SALE****

Beck Drywasher \$250 & Spiral Wheel \$100

Please Call Donald at 661-526-3861

Leave a message. I will get back to you.