

Drywasher's Gazette

August 2024

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Next Meeting –Noon July 27, 2024, @ Miner's Folly Claim Big Bear, CA

Miner's Folly Member Appreciation Picnic starts at 10am

No August Meeting

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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Member Appreciation Picnic Coming Soon in July Miner's Folly Claim near Big Bear

July 27th, 2024 Events starting @ 10am and General Meeting @ Noon



The Last weekend of July is looking to be a fun-filled weekend as we are merging the Member Appreciation Picnic with festivities related to the 80th birthday of the icon of the National Forest system, Smokey the Bear! There will be birthday cake!

Starting at 10am we will be playing games including Smokey Ring Toss Game, an innovative Dowsing Contest, the ever-popular Rock Bingo, and a quirky take on a Panning Contest.

The Minor Miners will be recognized as well.



We will be doing a potluck lunch with Hot Dogs, Condiments, Birthday Cake, and water supplied by the Club. Members are kindly requested to bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you prefer, bring your own non-alcoholic beverages of choice. There are no tables or chairs on the claim so be sure to also bring your own place to sit. There are lots of trees for shade and many members are planning on camping Saturday night. Directions to the claim is in your membership packet.

Send an Email request for a

digital copy if you need one to valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

A Special Thank You to Lisa Cox for her generous donation of a Gold Bug metal detector for our Minor Miners to use and another Special Thank You to Mike and Mindy Ryan for their donation of Rocks, Minerals and Fossils for our Minor Miners.



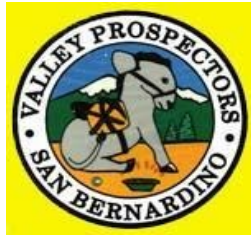
Valley Prospectors President's Message August 2024 PREZ SAYS

Welcome prospectors to the summer. We had some great outings. The first was Wrightwood, CA on July 6th and 7th. Valley had a great group with 14 members coming up to help with gold panning, gold equipment displays, and gold history in Southern California. A very wonderful thank you to Mary Schubert, Lee Skilling, Brian Teeling, Lorraine Frost, Andrea Frost, Calvin Shipley, Everett Miller, Bural LaRue, Stacy Dixon, Joe Dixon, Joe and Tammy Chavez, and Michelle O'Brien. We had a great show and got 2 new members and possibly more. Remember no meeting in August. I hope to see more members at the claims at Big Bear and up on the northern claim.

See you at the picnic & July meeting in Big Bear, July 27.

May all of your pans have gold in them,

Steve Schubert
President 2024



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 THURSDAY JULY 11, 2024

GOLD IS

\$2,408.55 PER OUNCE.

\$77.44 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*

Future Outing Information

By Susan Birrell



Benitoite Outing – Rare Uniquely California Sapphire type Gemstone Dig Saturday Sept 21, 2024

Final Head Count and Fees due by August 15th

Cost:

\$140 for folks 13 years or older

\$75 per Minor Miner

The dig begins at 9 am and ends at 3 pm.

The four main minerals that are specific to the site are Benitoite, Neptunite, Joaquinite, and Natrolite. The dig site has everything you need to find gems.

Please go to their website at <https://benitoitemining.com> and see what this outing is all about, but DON'T sign up with them. They are making special arrangements for us, and I have to register for all of us at one time.

Please call Susan if you have any questions about this outing. First come, first served. Please send a check, made out to "Valley Prospectors" and mail it to Susan



Birrell PO Box 2828 Big Bear City, CA 92314. Also include the name and ages (of minors) of who will be attending.

Images from International Gem Society and Geologyin.com

Shark Tooth & Fossilized Whale Bone Outing Saturday November 9th, 2024

This is the final year we will host a Shark Tooth/Whale Bone dig. We will be digging on Saturday, Nov. 9. Most of us will be camping in Bakersfield as we start really early in the morning! I'll let you know where we are staying when it is a "Go"!

If you plan to attend this please notify Susan as soon as possible.

The cost is \$40.00 per person no matter the age, but attendees must be at least 5 years old. No pets!

It is cash only and I must have your non-refundable cash by our September meeting. You can bring it to the meeting or mail it to me. Susan Birrell

PO Box 2828 Big Bear City, CA 92314

First come, first served!

Please include your email address so I can send the hold harmless forms to you. I need the names of who will be attending. It will be capped at 20 and we sell out each year! First come, first served!!!

Images of Actual Earnst Quarries finds from Shark Tooth Hill found on Yelp and

www.fossilguy.com.





Reprinted from AFMS Newsletter, Vol 77, No 5

The MOHS Scale

Micaden Steele, Age 14, Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society, Texas
From Crack the News, March 2024

Have you ever wondered about the MOHS hardness scale?
Here are some facts about it!

From AFMS

AFMS Newsletter,
Vol 77, No 5

Local Gold Club Wins for Newsletter Article in the AFMS 2024 Contest!

Congratulations to the Hi Desert Gold Diggers for winning 7th place nationally for an article in their November Newsletter, the Grubb Stake, titled Desert False Bedrock by Donald Perez who is also the Editor.

Hi Desert Gold Diggers also achieved 9th place in the large bulletin category overall. Well Done!

- The MOHS scale is a system used to identify the hardness of rocks and minerals.
- There are many things that people use to help describe or discover a rock's identification, but the MOHS scale is a good, efficient one to identify types of minerals.
- The MOHS process suggests scratching two minerals together in order to find the hardness of the two minerals.
- Who? The person who invented the MOHS scale was Friedrich E. Mohs.
- When? The MOHS scale was created in the year 1812.
- How? Observing the mineral's surface when it is scratched by a substance of known or defined hardness.
- When? The scale was found in the early 1800s in one of Friedrich's books.
- What? The MOHS hardness scale means Scale of Mineral Hardness.

Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
Diamond	10	
Corundum	9	Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
Topaz	8	
Quartz	7	Steel Nail (6.5)
Orthoclase	6	
Apatite	5	Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
Fluorite	4	
Calcite	3	Copper Penny (3.5)
Gypsum	2	
Talc	1	Fingernail (2.5)

MOHS Hardness Scale. Credit: National Park Service, public domain

Beautiful Club & Member Gold Displays 2024 Wrightwood, CA



Both soft edged California gold from Northern and Southern claims and some stunning, close to source, Alaskan nuggets were stars of the show. Some of the nuggets were well over 10 grams or more! It was truly special seeing these treasures in person.

Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
JULY 26-28	Miner's Folly Outing with General Meeting at noon Sat Smokey Bear Birthday Party – Miner's Folly during Picnic	<i>Potluck Lunch – Club is providing hot dos, condiments, paper goods, and waters Potluck for side dishes and desserts Games and Festivities Start @ 10am</i>
JULY 31	VP Board Meeting Zoom 6:00 pm	
AUG 18-25	Yuba Club Outing – Yuba Claims	<i>Independent</i>
SEPT 15	Joint Outing with HDGD	<i>Meeting at the corner of Greenway/North Shore in Big Bear City 8:00am Susan</i>
SEPT 21	Benitoite Outing Coalinga	<i>\$140 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.**

Wrightwood Days Recap



Photos from Club Members

The Club brought the excitement of gold panning to the public with its booth at Wrightwood's annual small town festival taking place over the holiday weekend on July 6-7 in the heart of Wrightwood, CA. This was an excellent opportunity to show families how they could connect through the excitement of gold discovery and educate the public about the bounty of minerals and history of the San Bernardino Mountain range. Steve Schubert put together a wonderful display of dry washers spanning over 100 years of desert prospecting. The oldest dry washer had been first built before 1900 and showed the love of repairs and improvements recording its history. We had an absolutely stunning display of gold nuggets much to the amazement of the crowds. Crafts, unique foods, saloon girl dances, old west reenactors, and a local's led parade were all framed by a gorgeous blue sky and the far off ominous column of smoke from the nascent Vista Fire near Lytle Creek. The smoke was a good reminder of the power of nature demanding respect and vigilance. We look forward to seeing you all out there next year.

