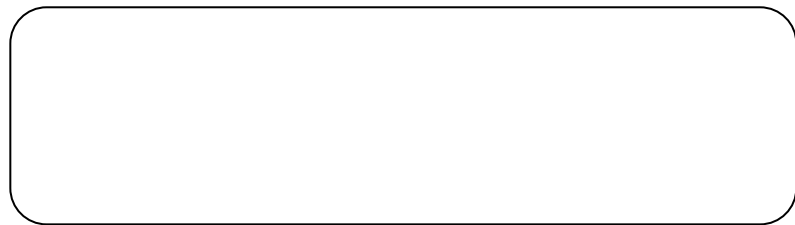


# Drywasher's Gazette

September 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 – Sept 3, @ 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:

Member Picnic Recap.....	2	Regional News.....	6
Smokey the Bear & Minor Miners.....	3	Finding Historical Nails.....	7
President's Message.....	4	Calendar.....	8
Meeting Minutes – July 2024.....	5	VP Meeting Info (Zoom & In-Person)	8





## Winners Abound at Miner's Folly Picnic

*Member Appreciation Picnic Recap July 27, 2024*



Brilliant blue skies and a soft breeze welcomed thirty-one Valley Prospector Members, children, and visitors to the Miner's Folly claim for a day of fun events and a lovely luncheon. A surprisingly difficult game of ring toss that was finally conquered by Yvonne Mack. Everyone tried their hand at dowsing to find water, silver, and gold targets with so many getting one right that a raffle had to be held to



determine the winner. Minor Miner Evan O'Brien's luck kicked in and he was awarded with a custom Smokey the Bear Dowsing Champion plaque. Panning was kicked off with the twist that the panners could choose either a cup or frisbee to pan with and they had to do it one handed to collect the targets. One intrepid guest beat out veteran panners to take the first prize home.

Dave Pervous came by later in the day to remind everyone what a great claim Miner's Folly can be a great claim to work by showing us the lovely bounty of his three days dry washing. He is an experienced prospector who knows how to extract all the color from the arrastre tailings that make up the majority of our claim area.

An arrastre was a giant stone attached to a wooden arm, moved by an animal or later, an engine, to crush the quartz ore blasted out of the surrounding mines. The gold is released from the host rock and could then be retrieved by early miners. This is why much of the gold we find is smaller and there is fine rock dust from the crushing process all over. Although Club lore has it that gold nuggets have been found by determined metal detectorists.



## Celebrating Smokey Bear's Birthday and Valley Prospector's Minor Miners



The Minor Miners got special swag bags filled with items for outdoor adventures including a scatological ID kit, portable binoculars, nature books, a real pearl! and all many other fun goodies.

VP Susan Birrell has been working hard to develop innovative opportunities for the Club's youngsters to explore and learn more about the joys of Rockhounding and Gold Prospecting. Riley even showed off her panning skills in the panning contest winning her head to head match!



Minor Miners from Left to Right: Evan, Ryleigh, and a Future Minor Miner



### Minor Minors is open to all Children and Grandchildren of Club Members

Keep an eye on the Calendar or reach out to VP Susan for more information

**Upcoming Events:**  
Benitoite and Shark Tooth Digs



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.

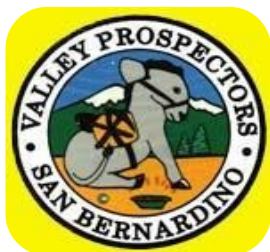
*Each member of Valley Prospectors should strive to set a good example for others*

## Valley Prospectors Presidents Message September 2024 PREZ SAYS

We had a very successful outing and picnic at Miners Folly in Big Bear. Thank you to ALL the volunteers that made it a great success. The gold equipment drawing was very welcome and exciting. Susan and Diane hosted the games and there were a lot of prizes for the members. Thanks for making the outing wonderful. We had a short meeting about the upcoming outing and more information on the Chuckwalla National Monument bill. There was a lot of gold equipment set up and a new model dry washer. Old and new members got to check out the operations. I hope all our members are doing well and are having a great time finding gold on VP claims. Hope to see you out digging and look forward to seeing you at the September 3rd general meeting.

May you always have gold in your pans.

Steve Schubert  
President 2024



AS OF FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2024

GOLD IS  
\$2,447.15 PER OUNCE.

\$78.68 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

## Valley Prospectors July 27, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

An informal meeting called to order by President Steve Schubert @ approximately 11:30 a.m. at the Miner's Folly Claim.

President Schubert introduced Greg H. from 1st Class Miners. He reported on a general public meeting about Chuckwalla National Monument progress.

President Schubert noted three upcoming dates:

1. Yuba River event 8/25 camping is full. Spots are open at Wild Plum campground.
2. Next general meeting is in September 3rd. There is no August meeting.
3. Ord Mountain Rendezvous is 10/26.

VP Birrell conducted three games and handed out prizes:

1. Dowsing—Evan won the game.
2. Panning—A guest won the contest.
3. Ring toss—Yvonne won the game.

The club gave all members a gold funnel and a gold vial as well as every member receiving a drawing prize. In honor of Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday we had many Smokey Bear prizes and Birthday cake.

President Schubert closed the meeting.

Raffles were held.

## More Pictures from the Member's Appreciation Picnic

*There were so many great pictures that we had to add a Round 2 of all the fun. Dowsing, ring toss, good company, fabulous food, pristine mountain air, and after-hours S'mores rounded out the day!*





AFMS June 2024 Vol. 77, No. 5

## Keeping Kids Connected to Safety

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Kids are different from adults. To young kids everything is new, exciting, curious, to be explored, tasted, touched, tried. With luck, they will keep those traits and be well served by them as they mature. One of the things kids do not have in abundance is patience. How might a kid wait around while there is a huge world out there to explore?

When it comes to safety, there are several issues that relate specifically to kids. Kids are generally not ones to listen attentively to a long boring safety lecture either at a club meeting or at a mine or quarry collecting site. So, how are kids to be safe if the safety lectures are not reaching them? Parents do their very best to keep their kids safe, but it is difficult to watch them every second of every hour.

One of the ways kids learn on their headlong race to adulthood is to watch the world around them. They watch other kids, they watch strangers, they watch their parents, they watch everything, every one, all the time. Now, if what kids see are other kids, strangers, their parents and everyone wearing their safety goggles, wearing safety gloves, not tossing rocks downhill toward other collectors, and in general being safe and respectful, kids will take note of this. Kids need to learn, want to learn, struggle and strive to learn to be the adults they are destined to become. To help them on toward their goal, we all need to set examples of how to be safe.

Here is an example to which many can relate – before taking off, the airline cabin crew gives a brief safety lecture. In the lecture mention is made that, in case of loss of cabin pressure passengers are to put the oxygen masks on themselves first, before putting the masks on their kids. In order to protect our kids why aren't we told to put the masks on the kids first? One answer is, if kids see their parents putting their masks first, then kids will know it is safe and necessary for them as well to put on a mask. Kids learn from the real world examples displayed by all the adults around them.

Don't have kids of your own, or your kids all grown up and moved away? Kids will still look at you as an adult and a role model of what to do to be an adult. As adults, aware of this or not, kids are watching everything we do. We need to be setting the best of examples of what it means to be an adult. And, one of the examples we need to be setting is with the need to be safe. If we keep ourselves safe, kids will see this and respond with modeling our behavior, it is what they do.

All that said, kids travel their own path to adulthood. They sometimes need to break things to see what happens. They need to test limits. They need to be curious. They need to make mistakes to learn. So parents still need to maintain vigilance with keeping everyone safe. We all need to be watchful and help kids learn the correct ways to be safe. We can do this. After all, everyone's, that's kids and adults alike, safety matters.

## CFMS August 2024, Vol. LXI #7 Newsletter Distribution Reminder

By Pat LaRue, Editor

As previously announced, this is a reminder that physical copies of the CFMS Newsletter will no longer be mailed after this one. Going forward the newsletter will be emailed to those persons on the mailing list for whom I have a valid email address. Many of you are already receiving an emailed (digital) newsletter as part of Marcia's electronic communications mailings because you are the Federation Director for your society/club. I am in the process of compiling email addresses that were provided on the Officer Change Forms submitted earlier in the year. Many of you already prefer to read the newsletter on the website and no longer receive the physical copy at your request. Heads up to paid subscribers—due to the cost of first class postage, the subscription cost will increase to \$10 per year when your renewal date comes up. The subscription expiration date is shown on the mailing label as follows: xx/xx. If you are unsure if I have your email address, please send it to me as soon as possible so it will be included on the mailing list. Marcia and I will attempt to coordinate the mailings to keep duplication of mailing to a minimum.

## Iron Relics of the Gold Fields

By M. O'Brien



Anyone who spends enough time in historically active gold mining areas will inevitably come across remnants of the daily lives of miners. Shards of pottery, skeletons of big equipment, bullets, and other assorted detritus were left behind. When you encounter a buried iron nail, the shape can tell you what era it helped hold together.

Machine cut nails were in production from the 1790's onward and are often found alongside hand forged (wrought) nails used for wood finishing and for when industrial produced nails were scarce. Nails produced by early machines have tapers to the point on only two sides of the

shank where hand wrought nails feature tapering sides on all four surfaces of the nail body to the sharp point. Nails with rectangular heads and shanks can be found in sluice boxes up at our Yuba River claims dug up from their Gold Rush resting spots or moved by the river's momentum although they are often embedded in a tomb of rust. These concretions are formed when the byproducts of iron corrosion mix with surrounding sand and pebbles forming a hard shell around the original artifact. The tell-tale rectangular or square head are the first clues that you are holding a piece of history.

Some modern miners used clues like historical nails to help locate old gold workings in order to give the

location a second look using more efficient tools available to today's small prospectors. You might be surprised what the Gold Rush prospectors missed in their rush.

### Shank cross sections



square  
pre-1800



rectangular  
ca. 1800-1880s



round  
modern



### References and Photo Sources:

<https://www.reallorrepo.com/article/Nails-as-clues-to-age>; <https://www.sawkill.nyc/1505/>; <https://www.oldhousefix.com/history-of-american-nails/>

## Club Claims List

Check out [www.valleyprospectors.org](http://www.valleyprospectors.org) for more information and maps to each of the 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

# Drywasher's Gazette

## Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
<b>AUG 18-25</b>	Yuba Club Outing – Yuba Claims	<i>Independent</i>
<b>SEPT 15</b>	Joint Outing with HDGD	<i>Meeting at the corner of Greenway/North Shore in Big Bear City 8:00am Susan</i>
<b>SEPT 21</b>	Benitoite Outing Coalinga	<i>\$140 per person Susan-Must Sign up ASAP</i>
<b>OCT 25-27</b>	Ord Mountain Rendezvous	<i>Main Events on Saturday, Oct 26th</i>
<b>NOV 9</b>	Shark Tooth Outing - Bakersfield	<i>Must Sign up. Contact Susan B. for more details.</i>
<b>NOV 16</b>	Summit Saturday	<i>Meet at Cajon Monument @ 8:00am Steve S.</i>
<b>DEC 7</b>	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.**

### \*\*\*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>

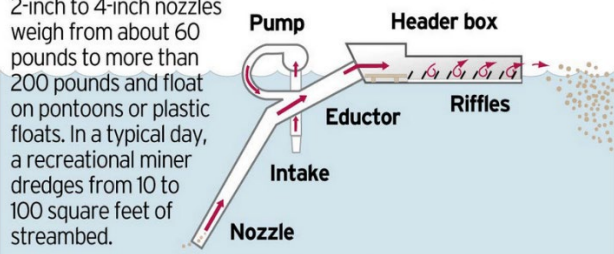
**Meeting ID: 830 2666 8634    Passcode: 661754**

**One Tap Mobile +16694449171,,83026668634#,,,,\*661754#**

**US+16699006833,,83026668634#,,,,\*661754# US (San Jose)By Audio Only: • +1 669 444 9171 US**

### Suction dredging for gold

Small-scale suction dredges, usually operated by one or two people, suck water, sand, gravel and gold through a nozzle via a gas-powered water pump. The mix runs through a header box and over riffles where gold is trapped. The remaining material goes out the end of the dredge and back into the stream. Dredges with 2-inch to 4-inch nozzles weigh from about 60 pounds to more than 200 pounds and float on pontoons or plastic floats. In a typical day, a recreational miner dredges from 10 to 100 square feet of streambed.



Sources: U.S. Forest Service; California Department of Fish and Game; manufacturer websites.

DAN AGUAYO/THE OREGONIAN

### ADVERTISEMENT

**California may no longer allow dredging like in the past, but other states do –**

Here is your chance to pick up a dredge.

Bill Golsch is selling his dredges - call him at 951-674-3207 for more details.

3" dredge w/floats and hoses and motor \$ 1800.00 OBO

4" dredge w/floats and hoses and motor \$ 2300.00 OBO