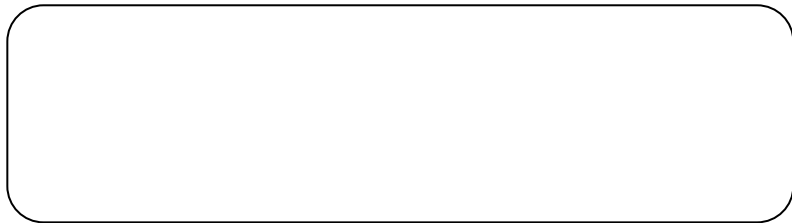


# Drywasher's Gazette

December 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 – Dec. 7, @ Pinon Hills Community Center  
10433 Mountain Road, Pinon Hills, CA 92372

## 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.

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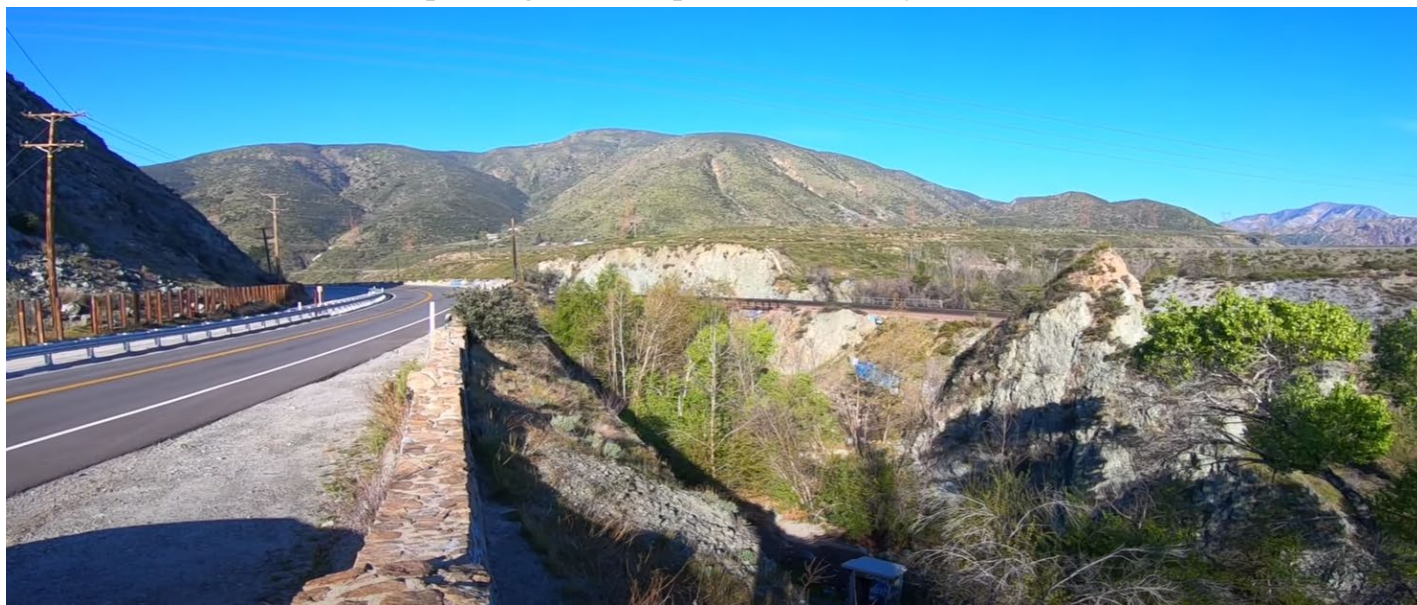
December  
2024

# Drywasher's Gazette



## Gold in the Blue Cut and Beyond

*Exploring Gold Deposits in the Cajon Pass*



*Photo: The Blue Cut is to the right of the road in this picture downhill from old Route 66.*

*Photo Credit to the Desert Gazette*

Along the historic route 66 in Cajon Pass is a narrow canyon known as Blue Cut. Local prospectors hotly debate how prevalent gold is available in the cut today, but there is no denying that nuggets and fine gold have been found there over the years. The seasonal creek is a steep hike down from the road leading to a peaceful and green area in a narrow gorge. This area is part of the Cajon Canyon and has been worked for gold since the early days of settlement in the region. The cut was formed by the Cajon Creek running through it and it has been a landmark for generations. Water levels in this creek varies from season to season with flash flooding possible. This ensures that fresh pickings are available in the cut as the creek is fed by many gold bearing tributaries and runs over sections of bedrock trapping the eroding pay dirt from higher elevations.

A marker was placed in 1994 at Blue Cut to commemorate the area's link to early mining efforts. This road system has a long history with the Holcomb mining areas, early settlements, the Mormon trail and as part of Indigenous trail systems. For many years the road was a privately owned toll road. **Cont. on Page 6**

**Valley Prospectors Holiday Party \*\*Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> 11am-3pm\*\***

**Do not forget to RSVP and pay your \$5 as soon as possible.**

Join us to get together and celebrate another year of chasing that beautiful California color. Main dish will be provided. Sides and desserts are Potluck. The results of the Board of Directors Voting will be announced and there are lots of wonderful items set to be raffled off. There will be a members only drawing and Lady Luck.

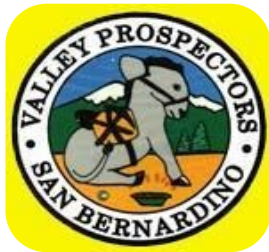
RSVP's can be sent to [valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com) and the \$5 can be paid by Zelle or in cash on the day of the event.

## Valley Prospectors Presidents Message December 2024 PREZ SAYS

Welcome to the Holidays Valley members. We had a very good year with lots of gold and great outings. A special thanks to all the volunteers at the schools, shows, and rendezvous. It takes all of us in the club to promote gold mining and treasure hunting. By volunteering at the gem shows and the school programs we show everyone that we are an educational club that promotes history of gold mining and rock hounding. We met a lot of wonderful people and made new friends and members. At the first of the new year, it will take all of us to make up a new schedule to continue our programs. I am proud of all the support I had this year and look forward to 2025.

Thank you to all and may all your pans have gold in them.

Steve Schubert  
President 2024



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*

## WE NEED YOU!!



## JOIN CLUB LEADERSHIP IN 2025

Give a little of your time to help us keep  
the claims available and connect with  
other prospectors. Participation is easy!

## Valley Prospectors November 5, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by VP Susan Birrell @ 6:03 p.m. at San Bernardino Elks Lodge #836.  
Pledge of Allegiance led by Lorraine.

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

**TREASURER:** Treasurer Frost reported on current bank accounts. Account interest will be moved to the general fund at the end of the year. She gave an accounting of the Ord Mt. event.

### COMMITTEES:

1. Courtesy—no guests.
  2. Christmas Holiday party—last chance to sign up. Posted in the newsletter.
  3. Apparel—Rosie reports a volunteer is needed to take the position.
  4. Editor—submits need to be in by the 10th of the month.
  5. Lady luck—Stacey requests suggestions for prizes for Holiday Party.
- ELECTIONS:** VP Birrell reviewed the proposed ballot and members volunteering to take positions: President Albert Naki, VP Lee Skillings, Treasurer Lorraine Frost. No volunteer for Secretary\*. Members at Large: S. Birrell, J. Bonson, J. Chavez, G. Devlin, J. Dixon, S. Dixon, E. Miller, K. Naki, M. O'Brien, D. Railsback, M. Ryan, M. Ryan, S. Schubert, C. Shipley, B. Teeling, Ernie Tovar.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Treasurer Frost and Coreena are working with BLM to get map details for the Shenandoah claim. Treasurer Frost requests formation of a claims committee.
2. Rosie commented on the exceptional success of the Ord Mt. event.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rosie inquired if the July Big Bear picnic could be moved to Ord Mt. Discussed.
  2. VP Birrell asked members for ideas for next year's outings.
  3. Dwyane Lowery passed away. Memorial on Sunday 10/10 at Hesperia Nazarene Church at 4:00 p.m.
- Break at 6:43 p.m. Resume at 6:53 p.m.

VP Birrell announced that with no volunteer for Secretary, that according to the bylaws the Board would begin the necessary paperwork to dissolve the club and distribute the bank accounts to other appropriate non-profits. Coreena Ross quickly volunteered to take the position.

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

Door prizes won by Joe D./Lorraine.

We have a full slate of officers presented to the membership.

Meeting adjourned by VP Birrell at 7:02 p.m.

Lady Luck was held.







## Upcoming CFMS Show Dates

### January 18-19, 2025 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem and Mineral Society  
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building  
246 Chestnut St., Exeter, CA 93211  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Contact:  
bandgbing@aol.com Website: <http://tulegem.com>

### February 15-16, 2025 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Society  
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds  
1201 West 10th Street, Antioch CA 94509  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

### March 1-3, 2025 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA93003  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org  
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

### March 7-9, 2025 - Stoddard Wells, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club  
I-15 toward Barstow. Exit #157, stay on Stoddard  
Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles to tailgate  
Contact: (831) 406-0214, president@vvgmc.org  
Website: <http://vvgms.org>

### April 12-13, 2025 - Mariposa CA

Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
5007 Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: mgmc@sti.net Website:  
<http://mariposagemclub.org>

### April 12-13, 2025 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society  
El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, CA  
Hours: Sat & Sun 10 AM -5 PM  
Contact: (530) 676-2472  
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

CFMS November 2024

## CFMS SHOWS OF THE FUTURE CFMS NEED YOU!

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom,  
Show Consultant–South

*We are still currently looking for Host Clubs/Societies for 2025, 2026, 2027 California Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual Show & Convention. Each year the CFMS Show & Convention travels around the state to different venues. Ideally the annual Show & Convention would be held one year in Southern California and the next in Northern California and so on. The Federation Show itself is not that different than hosting your own club show. In addition, you get to host the Cracker Barrel, Directors Meeting, Board Meeting, Competitive Exhibits and Awards Dinner. Hosting the CFMS State Show & Convention can be a very rewarding experience. It can help you grow your membership, earn extra income for your club and help build a returning vendor base for your own club's annual shows. Please contact me for further information on hosting a future CFMS Show & Convention at [slchaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:slchaisson@yahoo.com).*

**Cont. from Pg 2 Gold in the Blue Cut and Beyond**

At one-point, large Mormon and Chinese camps were in the northern areas of the canyon. Ruins and occasional tokens of these populations can still be found off the beaten paths. These communities had extensive industrial mining operations in the surrounding areas. Tailing piles and arrastra mounds can be found alongside some of the ruins.



Cajon creek itself is mostly fed out of the Crowder Canyon area and is rich with heavy black sands. This canyon can be seen to the northern eastern side of the 15 freeway just before the CHP inspection station and again as a span of the Interstate 15 crosses it near the Cajon Summit. Most gold is small often in grain or wire forms as you get closer to the headwaters. Broad speculation is that the gold source is off the nearby Cleghorn Ridge. If you can find it, a book titled *The Gold Hex* by Ken Marquis follows the author's prospecting journey in Crowder Canyon.

*Crowder Canyon Map re-published from Desert Gazette & mohavedesert.net*

Speculation and gossip hold that the best gold lies under 8-10 feet down in most areas making it difficult for the casual prospector. Online forums for local prospectors note that dealing with the high percentage of black sands can prove challenging.

Crowder Canyon was originally called Coyote Canyon after a horse thief named Chief Coyote who was killed there after stealing 400 cattle from a rancher in the southern mouth of Cajon Canyon in an area later known as Rancho Muscupiabe. Both the Old Spanish Trail and the Mormon Trail used this passage historically and it formed the backbone of early passages from the interior desert regions and San Bernardino areas.

As with many locations in the pass, this area is also home to a population of unhoused persons in addition to the natural cautions associated with prospecting. Take a prospecting buddy or two along to be safe. There are a few claims registered in the area as well. Be aware of your location and surroundings. Recent storms and the burned landscape may have opened up new paydirt for the adventurous miner.

By M. O'Brien

AS OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024

**GOLD IS**

**\$2,607.30 PER OUNCE.**

**\$83.83 PER GRAM.**

<https://pricegold.net/>

# Drywasher's Gazette

## Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
DEC 7	Annual Club Holiday Party	Potluck starts 11am-3pm Pinon Hills Community Center 10433 Mountain Road, Pinon Hills, CA 92372

*\*\* 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.

The next normal meeting will be held January 7, 2025.

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=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

### Club Claims List

Check out [www.valleyprospectors.org](http://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

## OF SAN BERNARDINO

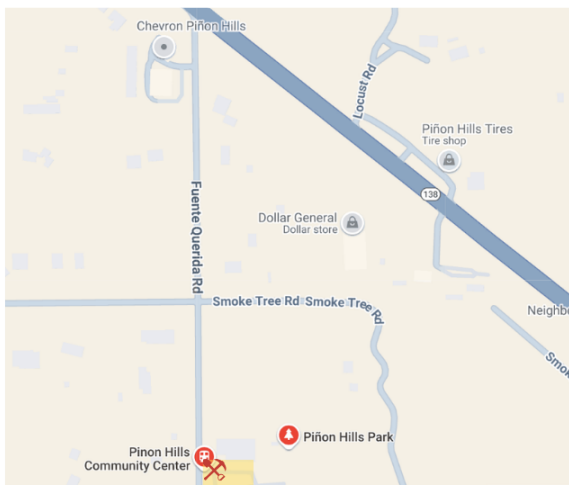


# Holiday Party

Potluck

Sign-up by e-mail

valleyprospectors49@gmail to Sign-up



11am-3pm  
Pinon Hills Community Center  
10433 Mountain Road  
Pinon Hills, CA 92372  
Saturday December 7th