

# Drywasher's Gazette

February 2025

Send Exchange Bulletins to:  
Valley Prospectors  
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Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com  
Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923  
Next Meeting – Feb 4, @ 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.

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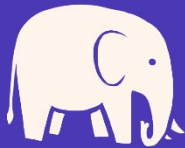
## Coolgardie Mining District History

About 15 miles northeast of Barstow, CA lies the Coolgardie Mining District. Drywashers and hand-powered "rockers" have rattled and blown dust around the area since early 1900 looking for gold. The placer deposits are unique in how they sit in a large broad valley surrounded by ore bearing granitic deposits in mountain ranges to the east and northeast.

Photo 77. Dry Placer Mining, Coolgardie District. The photo was taken in San Bernardino County in the early 1900s. Photo courtesy of O. A. Russell, Yermo.

Calico silver (yes, that Calico ghost town) was what originally brought miners to the Barstow area in 1882, followed by a rush on borax deposits. The center of the Coolgardie district was a location known as Coolgardie Camp. It got its name from a famous Australian gold camp and represented the hopes of the original prospectors. Today the landscape is filled with tailing piles and abandoned mine shafts. Scarce water resources limited the development of larger operations. However, one team of well diggers was also known to have brought up nearly \$3,000 in gold during their endeavors to secure a water supply. Take care while exploring and may your gravels be rich.

## Upcoming Events in February



## White Elephant Raffle Feb 4, 2025

Share the love by donating unwanted prospecting items or "regift" that awkward Christmas Gift from Aunt Ethel to be raffled off at the next General Meeting Lady Luck.



## Coolgardie Oro Rico Club Outing on Feb 18

Meet at Starlight Donuts in Barstow, CA at 8am

\*Will Caravan in to Claim Together\*

## Valley Prospectors President's Message February 2025 PREZ SAYS

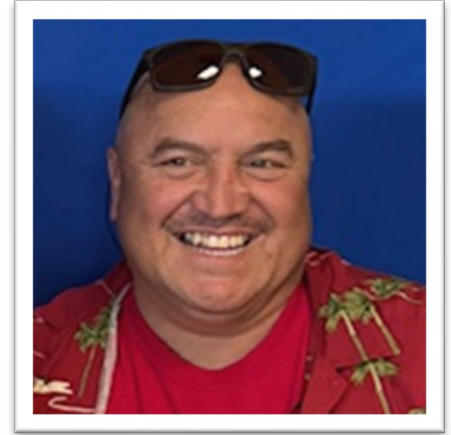
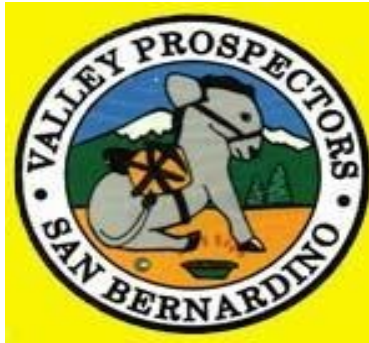
### Welcome to 2025 Valley Prospecting Club

Friends, as the new club president I would like to introduce myself moving forward.

Aloha, I am Albert Naki and I've been a member since 2014 and on the board since 2015 to the present. Remember to get outdoors and explore, every day is an adventure. May you find gold and treasure this year.

Let's explore 2025

Albert Naki  
President 2025



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## Membership Renewal is Due in January

Renewals are \$40 and need to be paid by January 31, 2025. It's easy to quickly pay online with options like Zelle available. Just use the club's e-mail address and don't forget to add your name and membership number in the notes. Renewals after this date will incur a \$20 fee

Zelle your \$40 payment to:  
[valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com)

You can also use the VP website online form to get an electronic invoice sent to your email. It's easy to pay with PayPal from there. For additional details, see the website - Membership Renewal – Valley Prospectors



## January General Meeting Minutes January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order. The meeting started at 6:02 p.m.

**Treasurer:** Lorraine Frost gave the treasurer's report.

**Audit Committee:** Treasurer Lorraine Frost asked for two members to audit the 2024 Valley Prospectors financial records.

**Wagonmaster Report:** Steve Schubert gave his report. The next outing will be The Old West Days on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The outing will be hosted by the San Bernardino County Victor Valley Museum and it will be held in Apple Valley, CA. The time of the show will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Steve Schubert needed 4 to 5 volunteers to run the Valley Prospectors Gold Panning Booth.

**C.F.M.S Report:** Bural LaRue spoke about the Antelope Valley helping with the 2025 C.F.M.S. Show. The dates will be May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The C.F.M.S. Show will be held in Lancaster, CA. and it will coincide with the Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club. The location of the C.F.M.S. Show is the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, Lancaster, CA. The hours of the show are from Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Outings Report:** January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be Summit Sunday. January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be a guided tour of the Rand Mining District and everyone will meet at the Randsburg Owl Café at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$20. After the tour the club members will go to the 2 Burros Claim. January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be the Victor Valley Museum Old West Days Outing.

**Lady Luck Report:** Steve Schubert said the February Lady Luck will be a White Elephant drawing.

**Membership Report:** Lorraine Frost said there were 256 members currently and 7 of these memberships are lifetime. She also spoke about the online membership renewal for new members.

**Finds of the Month Report:** Everett Miller spoke about the Finds of the Month Contest new rules. 1<sup>st</sup> place will get 4 tickets, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will get 3 tickets, 3<sup>rd</sup> place will get 2 tickets, and just for entering members will get 1 ticket in the end of year drawing.

**Gold Sales Report:** Art Fairchild spoke about purchasing Gold for the Gold Sales. There is a budget for the purchase of Gold Sales and discussion followed on this subject.

**Editor Report:** Michelle O'Brien said January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is the deadline for articles to be submitted into the newsletter.

**Christmas Party Report:** Lorraine Frost spoke about the December Christmas Party. Looking at alternative options.

**Blood Bank Report:** Lorraine Frost said there were no updates.

**Club Apparel Report:** The club is looking for a new apparel person.

**Rendezvous Report:** Lorraine Frost spoke about the upcoming Rendezvous Outing that will be held in October 24-26. She said First Class Miners and High Desert Diggers will be joining Valley Prospectors at the outing.

**Refreshment Report:** Mary Schubert spoke about people bringing refreshments to the monthly meetings.

**Courtesy Report:** Lorraine Frost said Gene Lepper fell and injured his wrist.

President Albert Naki called for a break in the meeting at 6:40 p.m. President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be resumed at 6:54 p.m.

**Old Business:** Lorraine Frost spoke about the status of the Shenandoah Claim. Bureau of Land Management confirmed the claim to be 90 acres. Discussion followed on this topic. The vote to purchase the claim was tabled. Members want to revisit the claim to test for gold.

*January General Meeting Minutes Cont.*

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## New Business

President Albert Naki spoke about next year's Christmas Party. There was a suggestion about doing a dessert bar for the party. The meeting room is available for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at the Elks Lodge. The time for the meeting would 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Discussion followed in regards to the December meeting.

**\*\*\*\*Membership is asked for feedback on the Christmas Party and feedback on changing to an evening desert bar style.\*\*\*\***

**New Mining Claims:** Mindy Ryan spoke about researching two new mining claims that are for sale and the claims are located in Arizona. Discussion followed on this topic.

- Lorraine Frost spoke about putting the \$100 initiation fee into the general funds. Steve Schubert made the motion to put the initiation fees into the general fund. Art Fairchild seconded. Motion carried.

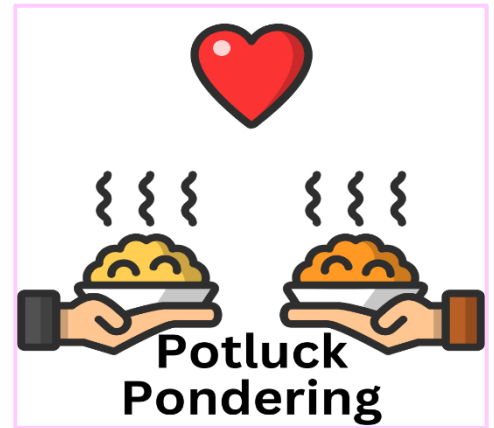
**Budget Report:** Lorraine Frost presented the Valley Prospectors yearly operating budget for 2025. Steve Schubert made the motion to approve the yearly operating budget for 2025. Calvin Shipley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Lady Luck:** A discussion about having Gold and Silver prizes for the Lady Luck Drawing. Discussion followed on this topic. Bural LaRue offered to chair Lady Luck in 2025.

**Door Prize Winner:** The winner of the door prize Mark Lash.

**Name Badge Winner:** The winner of the name badge prize was Lorraine Frost.

Lorraine Frost made the motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Steve Schubert seconded the motion. Motion carried for the meeting to be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.



## \*\*\*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.**

<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 **Want to Contact the Newsletter Crew or any other**

**Committee Member?** Check out the Directory on the Club website or e-mail

[valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com)

**Apparel Still Needs a Volunteer to Manage Club Clothing Sales.**



## *In Memorium*

December sadly saw the loss of three Club members who contributed greatly to building Valley Prospectors and ensuring the continued success of small miner prospecting in the region.



### **Robert "Bob" James Morey**

June 19, 1947 — December 24, 2024  
Elsinore, Utah

Bob and his family were founding members of the Valley Prospectors of San Bernardino Club. The owner and operator of a successful musical instrument repair business in his later years servicing many of the music programs in San Bernardino. He is survived by his wife Mickie, his son, James (Sheri) Morey and daughter Aleacia (Allen) Widdows.



### **Bruce and Nan Sherman**

Long time members Bruce and Nan Sherman were beloved Club members. Bruce was dedicated to the Southern California prospecting community, and we will miss the couple's energy and love of nature.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

#### **Northern Claim for Sale - Shenandoah**

90 acres - \$5,000

Bill & Neva Golsch are selling their claim -  
*call Neva's cell at 909-641-8951 for more details.*



## AFMS has a new website

<https://www.amfed.org/newsletter>

*Excerpt from*

CFMS NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

### A FIRST STEP OF CRAFTING A PLAN OF PUBLIC RELATIONS: WHAT'S YOUR WHEELHOUSE? Part 1

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations

What is your club's wheelhouse? Most clubs are generalized, with varied member interests: mineral collectors, field trippers, fossil collectors, lapidary artists and jewelry makers, etc. However, some clubs specialize.

For instance, within the California Federation, one focuses on opals while at least two focus on fossils and paleontology. Several focus on gold prospecting and metal detecting while one is composed entirely of faceting buffs. One is a Friends of Mineralogy chapter, and another is a juniors-only club. Even clubs that are generalized tend to have a focus.

...  
Devote a portion of a board meeting, or better yet, set aside at least fifteen minutes at a club meeting to discuss this. Announce the topic well in advance and ask that members come prepared to talk about their passions and interests and to provide suggestions about settings beyond the club where those interests might be shared—like any arts-and-crafts fairs or street festivals they regularly attend, science fairs and science nights within their kids' schools, and other community events, groups, and gatherings. Where would your club be a good fit and what might you offer to that event that's unique and would interest the general public?

Read in Full here:

<https://cfmsinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/CFMS-Newsletter.Jan-25.pdf>

## CFMS Show Schedule

### February 15-16, 2024 – 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>

### February 22-23, 2025 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society  
Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA  
Hours: 10-5  
Contact: (415) 254-1506  
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

### March 1-2, 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](mailto:info@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](mailto:president@vvgmc.org)  
Website: <http://WWW.vvgms.org>

### April 12-13, 2025 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Canejo Gem and Mineral Club  
Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: (805) 908-1428  
Website: <http://www.cgamc.org>

### May 10-11, 2025 – Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W. Ave H, Lancaster, CA  
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4  
Website: <http://avgem.weebly.com>

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## Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
<b>JAN 18</b>	Randsburg Guided Tour	<i>Meet at Randsburg Owl Café – guided tour – arrive at 10:30 am - \$20 per person – 2 Burros afterward</i>
<b>JAN 25</b>	Victor Valley Museum Gold Panning Booth 10am-3pm	<i>Need volunteers to work booth</i>
<b>FEB 7-9</b>	Quartzite Gold Show	<i>Quartzite, AZ</i>
<b>FEB 15</b>	Coolgardie Oro Rico	<i>Barstow, CA meet at Starlight Donuts to caravan out to claim 8 am</i>
<b>MAR 1-2</b>	Ventura Gem Show – Set up Feb 28	<i>Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth</i>
<b>MAR 7-9</b>	Victorville Gem & Mineral Club – Stoddard Wells Tailgate	
<b>MAR 22-23</b>	Torrance Show	<i>TBD - Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth</i>
<b>APR 25-27</b>	Ord Mountain	<i>Join FCM Outing</i>
<b>MAY 3</b>	Hungry Man Outing	<i>Meet at Old Camp Cajon Monument @ 8 am to caravan in</i>
<b>MAY 28</b>	School Program Big Bear Museum	<i>Need Volunteers</i>
<b>JUN 7-8</b>	Randsburg Outing	
<b>JUL 5-6</b>	Mountaineer Days Wrightwood, CA	<i>Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth</i>
<b>JUL 12-13</b>	Miners Folly – Membership Appreciation Picnic	<i>Jul 12<sup>th</sup> appreciation picnic</i>
<b>AUG 16-24</b>	Picket III and Gold Venture – Union Flats Campground Outing	<i>Yuba River</i>
<b>SEPT 13-14</b>	Indian Gulch/Jackass	<i>Camp at Miner's Folly</i>
<b>OCT 24-26</b>	Ord Mountain	<i>Rendezvous 2025</i>
<b>NOV 15</b>	Coolgardie Oro Rico Outing	

*\*\* 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.*

AS OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

GOLD IS

\$2,689.34 PER OUNCE.

\$86.46 PER GRAM.

<https://pricgold.net/>

