

Drywasher's Gazette

March 2025

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
Valley Prospectors
PO Box 2923
San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923
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Web Site: www.valleyprospectors.org
Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com
Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923
Next Meeting – Mar 4, @ San Bernardino Elks Lodge 6 pm – 8 pm
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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Chuckwalla Monument Casual & Small Miners Update

Casual Use/Small Scale Mining claims that were absorbed by the new extensive Chuckwalla National Monument.

A representative of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has confirmed that the land of the newly designated Chuckwalla National Monument did not transfer the land to the National Park Service for management purposes. As a result, small-scale/casual use miners may continue following BLM regulations. National Park Service does not currently



distinguish between casual mining and large-scale commercial mining operations. This forces small miners to follow rules and reporting requirements designed for large scale mining operations, including extensive Plans of Operations including assessments. This can cost thousands of dollars even for a small claim with minimal use or disturbance. Note that this only applies to existing mineral rights issued in the park prior to the proclamation date establishing the monument.

The full text of the final proclamation can be found online here:

You can find specific proclamation language here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/17/2025-01441/establishment-of-the-chuckwalla-national-monument>

Important Announcement

Late Membership Renewal 2025

Last Chance Expires March 31, 2025

If you have not renewed your VP membership yet, you can still get up to date to access the claims.

The cost for Late Renewal is \$60 total (\$40 annual and \$20 late fee.)

Any members who have not renewed by March 31, 2025, will be removed from the membership roster.

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.

Zelle your \$60 payment to: ***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 – valleyprospectors.org

Visiting or Working on a Club Claim or on a Claim the Club has Permission to Work?

****Please Read the Following****

This Applies to ALL Club Members and Their Guests.

Hold Harmless Agreement: Valley Prospectors and its members are not responsible or are to be held liable for injury, illness or death occurring at any club claim, function, or outing by any member or guest. Each member and their guests are responsible for properly being informed of potential hazards or risks that may occur while engaged in any activities while on club claims. **"ENTER CLAIMS AT YOUR OWN RISK"**. By requesting to be a new member or by renewing my Valley Prospector's membership I have read and understood this agreement and agree to the above statements.



SHOWS & SCHOOLS

Thanks to all the members that showed up to help at the museum. We had a lot of people take information about our club. Our next show is at the Ventura County Fair Grounds ([VGMS Gem & Mineral Show | Ventura Gem & Mineral Society](#)). We always do well and sell gold and get interest in the club. The gem and mineral show is March 1st (10 am – 5 pm) and 2nd (10 am – 4 pm). Set up is Friday Feb. 28th. We will need help on Saturday, our best day. Come and help your club. We have plenty of gold thanks to our gold chair Art. Our next show will be Saturday March 22nd and 23rd at the Ken Miller Recreation Center 3341 Torrance Blvd Torrance Ca. Starts at 10 am. Come and help if you can. Thanks again to all who volunteer to help demonstrate gold panning. -Steve Schubert

AS OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

GOLD IS

\$2,899.52 PER OUNCE.

\$93.23 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

Minor Miner Humor

What's the Hottest Type of Rock?



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.

January General Meeting Minutes February 4th, 2025

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order. Meeting began at 6:08 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Steve Schubert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: President Albert Naki asked for the approval of the January 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes as published in the January Drywashers Gazette. Mary Schubert made the motion for January 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes to be approved. Lee Skillings seconded the motion and carried the motion.

President's Report: No report was given.

Vice-President's Report: No report was given.

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

Wagonmaster Report: Steve Schubert thanked everyone who volunteered at the San Bernardino County Victor Valley Museum. He said he had lots of volunteers at the outing. Steve Schubert also spoke about the Ventura Gold Show that will be held on March 1st and 2nd, 2025 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The Ventura Gem and Mineral Society will be hosting the show.

Outing's Report: The January 12, 2025, outing was Summit Sunday. The January 18th, 2025, outing was a guided tour of the Rand Mining District and everyone was to meet at the Randsburg Owl Café at 10:30 a.m. and the cost was \$20.00. After the tour the club members will go to the 2 Burros Claim. The January 25th, 2025 will be the Victor Valley Museum Old West Days Outing. The Quartzite, Arizona outing will be on February 7-8, 2025. The next outing will be February 15, 2025, at Coolgardie.

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

Membership Report: Lorraine Frost said there 203 members who renewed their Valley Prospectors Membership and 7 of these are Lifetime Memberships. January 31, 2025, is the deadline for membership renewals.

Finds of the Month Report: Everett Miller spoke about the Finds of the Month.

Gold Sales Report: Art Fairchild spoke about purchasing Gold for Gold Sales.

Editor Report: Michelle O' Brien said February 10, 2025, is the deadline for articles to be submitted to the newsletter.

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

Claims Report: Lorraine Frost spoke about the Union Flat Claim. She said that Steve Dowling is waiting for the forest service to issue the camping passes for the claim. Lorraine Frost gave an update on Shenandoah Claim. Yvonne Mack asked about the Shenandoah Claim and Lorraine Frost said the club is reviewing the claim. Lorraine Frost spoke about the Bureau of Land Management and she gave an outline on how the claims are handled through their agency and she would like to hold a class on how to file claims and create a new Claims Committee group for the club.

Refreshment Report: Mary Schubert thanked the club members for bringing refreshments to the meeting.

Courtesy Report: Mary Schubert gave her report.

Library Report: A member has a library book checked out and Lorraine Frost will look into finding the book. President Albert Naki called for a break in the meeting and the time was 6:47 p.m. President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be resumed and it resumed at 7:05 p.m.

New Mining Claims Report: Mindy Ryan spoke about reviewing a new claim for the club. She said that they're not going to recommend having the club purchase the claim.

Christmas Party: Mary Schubert spoke about next year's Christmas Party and discussion followed. Lorraine Frost made the motion to have the Christmas Party at the Pinon Hills Community Center. Steve Schubert seconded the motion and the motion carried. The date of the Christmas Party is Saturday, December 13, 2025, and it will be a potluck. Mary Schubert said that Steve and she would furnish the ham for dinner. The Christmas Party will be a potluck and the time of the party will be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Special Programs: Eric Melchiorre is going to do a program in April. Steve Schubert spoke about doing a drywashing day at a person's house. Steve and Mary Schubert will host the barbecue. Steve Schubert said he's going to check with this person about doing a drywashing day and he will finalize the date. President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be adjourned. Lorraine Frost seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.





CFMS Newsletter February 2025

The California Golden Bear

Weight: 1 oz. 19.2 grains

Maximum Height: 2 1/4 inches Maximum

Width: 1 5/16 inches

THE STORY

This outstanding and unusually formed crystallized gold nugget is the property of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS). The history of the nugget is rather obscure. The story has it that it was picked up (date about 1857) in a sluice box at the Georgia Hills Mine in Jim, California, by a fourteen-year-old girl.

Upon her death at the age of 75, a son or brother pledged the nugget for a loan from an engineer from the Division of Mines. The nugget was foreclosed by the engineer. He wanted to recover his money and offered it to C. D. Woodhouse, who regularly visited the Division of Mines. Mr. Woodhouse purchased the nugget for \$300.00 in 1937. It was shown to the CFMS and a decision was made to purchase it in June of 1938. The CFMS made its final payment in 1940. Mr. Woodhouse's attempt to obtain further information on the nugget was unsuccessful. The purchase price was \$300.00, but its value as a unique specimen, like anything that cannot be duplicated or replaced, can be considered in the realm of "priceless." Physically, the Golden Bear is a magnificent specimen and is readily recognized by its characteristic shape. It is on exhibit at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, but each year it is put on display at the annual convention show.

Small replicas of the Golden Bear Nugget are used as CFMS pins and lapel buttons. The replica with the gavel is used as a pin for the past Presidents of the individual Member Societies and Clubs as well as CFMS past presidents. The pins currently in use are vermeil (sterling silver plated with 14K gold).



shutterstock.com · 1649022418

The Golden Bear Nugget on display

CFMS Show Schedule

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

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://WWW.vvgms.org>

April 12-13, 2025 – Thousand Oaks, CA

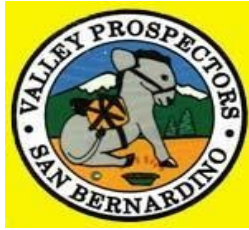
Canejo Gem and Mineral Club
Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (805) 908-1428
Website: <http://www.cgamc.org>

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>

Valley Prospector Executive Board Member List

President, Albert Naki
Vice President, Lee Skillings
Secretary, Coreena Ross
Treasurer, Lorraine Frost



Valley Prospector Members-at-Large

- Susan Birrell
- Joe Chavez
- Garry Devlin
- Everett Miller
- Katherine Naki
- Michelle O'Brien
- Diane Railsback
- Mike Ryan
- Mindy Ryan
- Steve Schubert
- Brian Teeling
- Ernie Tovar

Alternate VP Members-at-Large

- Calvin Shipley
- John Bonson

Committee Chairpersons

Apparel – *Vacant*

Blood Bank – Lorraine Frost

Budget – Lorraine Frost

CFMS – Bural LaRue

Claims – Lorraine Frost

Courtesy – Mary Schubert, Rebecca Pierce

Newsletter Editor – Michelle O'Brien

Finds/Month – Everett Miller

Gold Sales – Art Fairchild

Lady Luck – Bural LaRue

Librarian – Mark Lash

Membership – Andrea Frost

Name Tags – Andrea Frost

Northern Claims Liaison – Steve Dowling

Programs – Lee Skillings

Refreshments – Mary Schubert

Shows & Schools – Steve Schubert

Wagon Master – *Varies by outing*

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=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 **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

The National Parks are offering free admissions on the following holiday dates to Parks that require admission fees:

April 19: First day of National Park Week
June 19: Juneteenth National Independence Day
August 4: Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act
September 27: National Public Lands Day
November 11: Veterans Day



Veterans and Senior National Park Passes

Senior Lifetime Passes

\$80 Lifetime Passes covers US citizens and permanent residents ages 62 and older can purchase an annual America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for \$20.00, or a lifetime version for \$80.00. Applicants must provide documentation of age and residency or citizenship.

The Senior Pass may provide a 50 percent discount on some amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services.

The Senior Pass generally does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessioners.

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm#senior-passes>

Veteran Passes

Pass is free for veterans and Gold Star families with a \$10 shipping charge.

Covers entrance fees at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites and covers Standard Amenity Fees at Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation sites, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites.

<https://store.usgs.gov/MilitaryPass>

Adventure Parking Passes:

These passes cover day use fees in the National Forest parks and must be displayed when parked in the San Bernardino and Los Angeles National Forest lands,

Day Use passes are \$5. Annual passes are \$30.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5208699>

California Burn Permit:

Be sure to apply for your annual burn permit for your upcoming camping trips.

<https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>



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Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
MAR 1-2	Ventura Gem Show – Set up Feb 28	<i>Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth</i>
MAR 7-9	Victorville Gem & Mineral Club – Stoddard Wells Tailgate	
MAR 22-23	Torrance Show	<i>Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth</i>
APR 25-27	Ord Mountain FCM Outing	
MAY 3	Hungry Man Outing	
MAY 28	School Program Big Bear Museum	
JUN 7-8	Randsburg Outing	
JUL 5-6	Old West Days Wrightwood, CA	<i>Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth</i>
JUL 12-13	Miners Folly – Membership Appreciation Picnic	
AUG 16-24	Pickett III and Gold Venture – Union Flats Campground Outing	<i>Yuba River</i>
SEPT 13-14	Indian Gulch/Jackass	<i>Camp at Miner's Folly</i>
OCT 24-26	Ord Mountain Rendezvous	
NOV 15	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.*

Updated Club Claims List

Check out www.valleyprospectors.org for more information and maps to each of the claims. After each trip to a claim, fill out a claim report on the Club website.

Seriously, turn in your claim reports after every claim trip even if you did not recover gold. These records prove that the claim is active and is critical to maintaining claim ownership. Link on the Club website.

Club Owned Claims

JACKASS #1 PLACER – 160 acres
 INDIAN GULCH PLACER – 60 acres
 MINERS FOLLY PLACER – 60 acres
 PICKETT #2 PLACER – 30 acres
 PICKETT #3 PLACER – 20 acres
 GOLD VENTURE PLACER – 20 acres
 MORIAH PLACER – 15 acres
 THE 2 BURROS PLACER – 20 acres
 HARVEYS ORO RICO – 120 acres

Private Claims Granting Member Access

VP Summit Placer – 60 acres (Schubert & Lepper)
 Hungry Man – 110 acres (Livingston & Devlin)
 Hungry Man 2 – 120 acres (Livingston & Devlin)
 Hungry Man 3 – 120 acres (Livingston & Devlin)
 Hungry Man 4 – 120 acres (Livingston & Devlin)
 Chunker – 80 acres (Livingston & Devlin)

Contact the Newsletter Crew: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

Please put "Newsletter" in the subject line.