

Drywasher's Gazette

April 2025

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
Valley Prospectors
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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 – Apr 1, @ 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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Springtime Snow & Beautiful Weather Ahead for Springtime Prospecting in the San Bernardino Mountains



Photo Courtesy of Member Brian Teeling with a gorgeous view from the eastern Redlands area

The recent local storms left the local mountains crisp and white followed by bright springtime sunshine in early March. Weather predictions for the area.

Snowmelt can bring water to seasonal creeks and rivers like those found near the Hungry man and Jackass claims bringing opportunities to break out the sluice box.

This water can be very cold, and hypothermia can set in quickly.

Remember to pack in extra socks or rubber boots if you are working in it for more than a few minutes. Because the water temperature is significantly below body temperature, rapid heat loss can drop your core body temperature. Your hands can also be a source of heat loss from adjusting the sluice. Signs of hypothermia include shivering, confusion, slurred speech, and even unconsciousness. Prospectors working the Northern Claims often resort to wet suits to avoid effects of the cold waters. Hypothermia can set in fast. Prepare, be safe, and may you find color in your pans.

We Have Three Exciting Presentations for Upcoming General Meetings

By Lee Skillings

- APRIL 1st** We will have Erik Melchiorre, a Professor of Geology at the California State University San Bernardino and one of our members. He will be giving a presentation on the history of Gold. He will also have some books for sale.
- MAY 6th** At the Meeting, we will have Ron Kliewer of The Public Lands for the People (PLP) with updates on the organization's current activities.
- JUNE 3rd** We will welcome David Finner featuring Sunken Mysteries of the West which includes recovered treasure from the Gold Rush-era wreck of the Winfield Scott, the sunken Gold Rush city of Camanche, a sunken train in Idaho, and other stories.

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.

Submit your Claim Reports for Each Visit to a Club Claim

Reminder that you must fill out a claim report for each visit you make to the claims. This information is critical to maintaining our small miners status and to keep the claim status as active. Even if you do not find any gold on your trip, please fill out the form to ensure we have records necessary to the permitting process.

Forms can be filled out online at:

<https://valleyprospectors.org/claims/>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO ALL THE APRIL BABIES

*May your day be filled with laughter, cake,
and the occasional nap*

AS OF FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2025

GOLD IS

\$2,995.33 PER OUNCE.

\$96.28 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

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March General Meeting Minutes March 4th, 2025

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance led by Joe Chavez.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: President Albert Naki asked for the approval of the February 4th, 2025, Meeting Minutes as published in the February Drywasher's Gazette. Art Fairchild made the motion for February 4th, 2025, Meeting Minutes to be approved. Steve Schubert seconded the motion and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lorraine Frost gave the treasurer's report.

WAGONMASTER REPORT: Steve Schubert also spoke about the Ventura Gold Show that was held on March 1st and 2nd, 2025 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The Ventura Gem and Mineral Society hosted the show. VP sponsored a gold panning booth.

OUTING'S REPORT: Steve Schubert spoke about the upcoming Victorville Gem and Mineral Club outing that will be held out at Stoddard Wells. The dates of the outing will be March 7th through March 9th, 2025.

Steve Schubert said the next gold show will be the Torrance Show and they need volunteers to help with the gold panning booth. The dates of the gold show are March 22nd and March 23rd, 2025.

Lee Skillings spoke about doing an outing to the Red Mountain area. The outing will be held on April 5th, 2025.

Steve Schubert spoke about the First Class Miners Outing and the dates of the outing will April 25th through April 27th, 2025.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Lorraine Frost gave her report on membership. She said there are 227 members and there are 7 Lifetime Memberships. She said that 39 members needed to renew their memberships and there were 21 new members who joined for the 2025 year.

FINDS OF THE MONTH REPORT: Everett Miller spoke about the Finds of the Month.

EDITOR REPORT: Michelle O' Brien said March 10th, 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: No report was given.

RENDEZVOUS REPORT: No report was given.

REFRESHMENT REPORT: Mary Schubert thanked Rebecca Pierce for bringing refreshments to the meeting.

COURTESY REPORT: Mary Schubert said there was a new member and his name is Benjamin Cole.

PROGRAM REPORT: The March program was presented by Rebecca Pierce and the name of the program was Women in Prospecting and the Gold Rush. This program was presented in honor of Women's History Month.

Lorraine Frost also spoke about doing a presentation for the Girl Scouts of America and she shared her presentation.

President Albert Naki called for a break in the meeting and the time was 6:22 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve Schubert spoke about going to a man's yard and getting dirt for a future outing.

NEW BUSINESS

Lorraine Frost spoke about making a donation of \$1,000.00 to Public Lands for the People. She spoke about the book of raffle tickets and offered Valley Prospectors members to purchase the tickets and discussion followed on this topic.

Steve Schubert made the motion to donate the \$1,000.00 to Public Lands for the People. Joe Chavez seconded the motion and discussion followed on the motion. Steve Schubert amended the motion for the \$1,000.00 donation to Public Lands for the People come from the claims budget. Joe Chavez seconded the motion. The motion carried for the donation of \$1,000.00 to Public Lands for the People.

President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be adjourned. Lee Skillings moved to adjourn. Andrea Frost seconded. Meeting ended at 7:26pm

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Petoskey Stones on Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Congratulations to Iris Wild, age 7, Grand Traverse Area

Rock and Mineral Club, Michigan!

[From Crack the News 12/2024. Editor's Note (Dennis Gertenbach): *Iris submitted this drawing to this year's National Fossil Day Art Contest held by the National Park*

Service, placing first in the 8 and under age group.] A Petoskey stone is a fossilized coral that lived in a warm sea before the dinosaurs lived. You can easily find them now because the glaciers picked them up from where they were buried and moved them around Northern Michigan. The dark spots were the coral's mouths, and the little lines around them were tentacles that caught food. The coral lived in a colony.

From AFMS Newsletter Volume 78, Number 2 — March 2025

Crack the News: The AFMS Newsletter for Kids & Teens

By Dennis Gertenbach, Editor, Crack the News
Check it out at

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

The latest edition of Crack the News, the AFMS newsletter written by kids and teens for kids and teens, is now available at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. In this edition, juniors from around the country wrote about wire wrapping, Petoskey stones, field trips to collect zeolites, thunder eggs, and trilobites, uraninite, obsidian, Sacabambaspis (a jawless fish from the Ordovician seas), and Cambrian trace fossils. It's wonderful to see the variety of rockhounding interests of the juniors in our clubs. Every junior who contributes to Crack the News receives a patch featuring George the Geode, the mascot of the newsletter. Be sure to send every junior in your club a copy to read.

And encourage the kids and teens in your club to send an article, poem, artwork, or photos for the next edition. Details about where to send your contribution is at

<https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>;

just scroll down to the section "Calling all junior journalists, writers, poets, photographers, and artists..."

Not only will your juniors receive a George the Geode patch, but they can share their knowledge and excitement about rocks, minerals, and fossils with kids and teens across the country.



Federal Cuts to National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Will Have Far Reaching Consequences

By Michelle O'Brien

With recent deep cuts to the National Forestry Service and BLM it is highly likely that claim holdings on land operated by BLM, San Bernardino National Forrest, Tahoe National Forrest, may be affected. Layoffs include trail and campground maintenance works, fire management support staff, search and rescue, and general office staffing. A hiring freeze was also put into place that would have severely inhibited the use of seasonal employees participating in "fuels management" related to prescribed burning critical to mitigating wildfire spread and potential. The Administration has since pulled back from the hiring freeze in an effort to mitigate the effects. Experts fear that there will be increased pressure on local County fire agencies for responding to federal land incidents like the recent fires near Highlands, CA. The cost of local San Bernardino County fire responses to federal land is estimated at \$14 million and is not reimbursed by the federal government.



Eric Anderson, a fired National Parks employee, pictured here on the front lines of the Line Fire in San Bernardino County, California, in September 2024.

Source: ABC News

claims reside. Reports have indicated that there will be reduced road and trail maintenance for existing routes that may impact access to claims. These crew members are also a critical component in identifying regions that need additional fire maintenance. The New York Times recently reported that nearly 4,000 campsites across California's 18 National Parks will be closed this summer due to lack of staff to maintain them.

This impacts campground maintenance and repairs. In one case the only ranger for a remote Wilderness region was terminated, leaving no point of contact for the region. With fewer staff, critical contracts for services like trash removal, restroom maintenance, and campground management may be delayed or canceled.

The cuts to office staff will potentially increase paperwork processing time. This undermines businesses that require permits to operate on our public lands, from outfitters and guides to oil and gas companies, and may impact processing times for mining related inquiries.

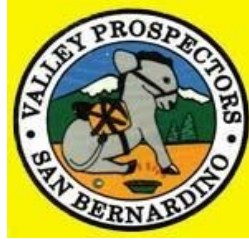
For the intrepid prospector this means an increased awareness of safety and planning for trails that may need additional clearing to make them passable. Plan for processing times for permits to take longer than in the past or to move to more automated online systems going forward.

Experts speculate that cost to California taxpayers will potentially double as County fire picks up more of the burden for fire management on federal land. There is speculation of additional restrictions on the use of combustion engine equipment in fire prone regions. This would include blowers and/or generators often used by many members. Check for restriction updates prior to any trip out to a claim.

The reduction of roughly 10% of the already understaffed National Forrest Agency employees and the reduction of seasonal hiring will disproportionately affect the "low use areas" where many of the

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 – *Volunteers*

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=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

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Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
MAR 22-23	Torrance Show	VP Attendance CANCELLED
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 12-13	Old West Days Wrightwood, CA	Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth
JUL 12-13	Miners Folly – Membership Appreciation Picnic	May be rescheduled - TBD
AUG 16-24	Picket III and Gold Venture – Union Flats Campground Outing	Yuba River * See Notice Below*
SEPT 13-14	Indian Gulch/Jackass	Camp at Miner's Folly
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)

Tahoe National Forrest – Union Flat Campground Notice – Water Availability –

No potable water available onsite. Please bring your own water and plan accordingly.

This will be in effect 4/13/25 through 11/15/25

Contact the Newsletter Crew: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

Please put "Newsletter" in the subject line.