

Drywasher's Gazette

May 2025

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
Valley Prospectors
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Web Site: www.valleyprospectors.org
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Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923
Next Meeting – May 6, @ 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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At Sunset It Slithers: Common Snakes of the San Bernadino Deserts

By M. O'Brien

In the rosy hue of sunset and through the dusk hours is a prime time for humans to encounter snakes. They also come out early in the morning seeking places to sun themselves to warm up after a cold night.

All snakes have the ability to strike with sharp fangs, but some have an oomph of venomous glands that make an encounter far more risky.

Not Poisonous		Poisonous	
Gopher Snakes 	Slender and full of variety, garter snakes are a gardener's best friend as they excel in all kinds of pest control.	Rattlesnakes The babies are far more deadly than an adult, but they will try to avoid humans if they can. Most bites occur when we reach into their homes or accidentally step on their hiding places. There are an incredible variety of rattlesnake sub-species.	
California King Snakes 	A beautiful banded species that often shares the same preferred habitat as rattlesnakes. They can have black or brown bands here.	Mojave Rattlesnake aka Mojave Green One of the most deadly snakes in North America. 	
Garter Snake 	The most common snake in the region with its beautiful striped pattern. It is an expert rodent hunter. Some varieties can have spots or red stripes.	Southern Pacific Rattlesnake 	This snake is a multi-tasker of habitats and can be found all over the SoCal area. The striking contrast of its pattern helps to identify them from a safe distance.
Ring-necked Snakes 	Cracks and crevices of the desert are the favorite haunts of this pretty little snake. Our county gets its own subspecies for the region aptly named the San Bernardino Ring-necked Snake	Western Diamondback Rattlesnake 	This is the snake that fills the public's imagination when rattlesnakes come up. Mojave and Diamond backs often get confused. The key differences are in the black and white tail banding at the end and that a Mojave will not have a greenish that often occurs with other rattlers.

Pictures from: <https://www.californiaherps.com/snakes/snakespics.html> and National Park Service

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 miner's 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 for the permitting process.

Forms can be filled out online at:

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



AS OF MONDAY, APRIL 21ST

GOLD IS

\$3,424.66 PER OUNCE.

\$110.11 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

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April General Meeting Minutes April 1st, 2025

Acting president Lee Skillings called the meeting to order. Meeting began at 6:12 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance: Everett Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Acting president Lee Skillings asked for the approval of the February 4th, 2025 Meeting Minutes as published in the February Drywasher's Gazette. Steve Schubert made the motion for the February 4th, 2025 Meeting Minutes to be approved. Garry Devlin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

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

C.F.M.S. Report: Bural LaRue thanked everybody who helped at the Ventura Gem and Mineral Show that was held on March 1st and 2nd, 2025.

Wagonmaster Report: Steve Schubert spoke about the upcoming outing that will be held at Ord Mountain. The First Class Miners Club will be hosting this outing. The dates of the outing will be April 25th, through April 27th, 2025.

Outing's Report: Lee Skillings spoke about doing an outing to the Golden Valley Wilderness located in the Red Mountain area. The outing will be held on April 5th, 2025. They will meet at the Historic Owl Café in Randsburg, CA. at 9:00 a.m.

Lady Luck Report: Bural LaRue gave the Lady Luck report.

Membership Report: Lorraine Frost gave her report on membership. She said there are 236 family memberships and there are 7 Lifetime Memberships. She said that 37 members needed to renew their membership by March 31st, 2025. There were 2 new members who joined in the last month.

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

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

Blood Bank Report: Lorraine Frost gave an update on the blood bank.

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

Claims Report: Lorraine Frost said Steve Schubert and Gene Lepper were going to transfer the Summit Claim back into the Valley Prospectors Claims. Valley Prospectors Club is allowed 10 claims under the small miner's waiver.

Lorraine Frost said the Shenandoah Claim wasn't going to be available because it was purchased by another person.

Rendezvous Report: No report was given.

Refreshment Report: Mary Schubert brought refreshments to the April meeting.

Courtesy Report: Mary Schubert said John Howell was in the hospital.

Program Report: Lorraine Frost introduced Dr. Erik Melchiorre for the April Program. The program that he presented is called Gold from Myth to Money and he's a Geology Professor at CSU, San Bernardino.

Acting president Lee Skillings called for a break in the meeting and the time was 6:30 p.m. and called for the meeting to resume at 6:47 p.m.

Door Prize Winner: Brian Teeling

Name Badge Winner: Bural LaRue

Treasure Finds of the Month Winners: 1st Place: Joe Dixon, 2nd Place: Joe Chavez, 3rd Place: Lee Skillings

Gold Finds of the Month Winners: 1st place: Joe Dixon, 2nd Place: Brian Teeling, 3rd Place: Ernie Tovar

Acting president Lee Skillings called for the meeting to be adjourned. Steve Schubert made the motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Andrea Frost seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Contact the Newsletter Crew: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

Please put "Newsletter" in the subject line.



Regional News

From CFMS Newsletter May 2025

SHARING INNOVATIONS FROM CFMS By Diane Cook, 1st VP

During my report to the AFMS, I highlighted a recent success story from my home club, the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society—our adoption of a new nonprofit fundraising tool called Zeffy. Zeffy is a 100% free fundraising platform designed specifically for nonprofits. It accepts multiple payment methods without charging any transaction fees, a huge benefit for budget-conscious organizations. Since implementing it, our club has already saved over \$924 in fees. The platform is user-friendly, offers robust features for event registrations and donations, and is backed by excellent customer support.

Looking Toward the Future Finally, I want to emphasize how crucial it is for us to engage younger generations—Millennials, Gen Z, and beyond—in our shared passion for gems, minerals, fossils, and Earth sciences. These future leaders and enthusiasts will carry the torch for our Federations. By adapting our outreach, education, and programming, we can inspire them to get involved and keep our legacy alive for generations to come. Together, through innovation and inclusivity, we can ensure a vibrant future for our hobby, our science, and our community.

From CFMS Newsletter May 2025

Upcoming Shows

May 2-3, 2025 – Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Yucaipa Blvd and Adams St., Yucaipa

Hours: Fri 5-10, Sat noon-9

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com

Website: <http://yvgms.org>

May 10-11, 2025 – Lancaster, CA

(also CFMS Convention)

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>

May 15-17, 2025 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum,

2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083

Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

Contact: info@vistarocks.org

Website: <https://vistarocks.org/events/>

May 17, 2025 – Grass Valley, CA

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society

Tailgate at the Banner Grange parking lot,

(12629 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95945) just 1 mile past the Nevada

County Fairgrounds

Hours: 8 – 3

Contact: oominerals@gmail.com

May 30-June 1, 2025 – Reno, NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Reno Town Mall, 4001 S. Virginia St.,

Reno, NV 89502

Hours: Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3

Contact: theresalanghans@yahoo.com

Website: <http://renogms.org>

June 7-8, 2025 – Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem and mineral Club

The California Center for the Arts, The

Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.,

Escondido, CA 92035

Hours: Sat, 10-5, Sun 10-4

Contact: (425) 281-6218,

tonifloyd41615@gmail.com

Website: <http://palomargem.org>

San Bernardino Snake Facts and Tips



Snake Venom Comes in Two Main Types.

Hemotoxin – Targets the circulatory system by destroying red blood cells and the veins that carry them throughout the body

Neurotoxins – These effect the ability of the brain to send/receive information or process it. Most often the victim becomes paralyzed or confused.

The rattles on a Rattlesnake are made of the same material as human hair called Keratin. The snake adds a new ring of rattles each time it sheds its skin. This means you can guess a snakes age by counting them. Use binoculars because these guys prefer their privacy. They prefer to hunt at night and can go for two weeks without eating. They are patient hunters



Snake Protection

While the best protection from a snake bite is to stay out of their spaces and avoid them, there are specialized wraps called snake gaiters that add extra protection from fangs penetrating the calf. They are worn over your boots, but can get hot quickly. Cowboy boots can be some protection as well.

Rattlesnake anti-venom is produced by injecting a horse or sheep with small doses of the snake venom. Their bodies produce an effective neutralizing antibody. Early settlers in the West noticed that a horse could survive a rattlesnake bite. This information combined with a French scientist's work on cobra venom in 1894 led to the first treatments for a bite. Prior to that the only solution was a quick amputation or to pray that a small amount of venom entered the body and you survived.



A single vial can cost up to \$20,000 and a bite victim often needs multiple vials, starting at 4-6 within the first hour of treatment and then continuing as needed.

Native Americans had a variety of herbal remedies and shamanistic practices for the treatment of snakebite prior to colonization from the West. They more heavily relied upon their knowledge of their environment and the observations of the reptiles' behaviors. They also used applications of tobacco juice smeared on legs to repel the snakes. The local Chumash tribe saw the snake a sacred and specialized shamans would use herbal concoctions to drug a snake for use in various rituals.

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 – *Vacant*

Shows & Schools – Steve Schubert

Wagon Master – *Varies by outing*

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)

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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

Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
APR 25-27	Ord Mountain FCM Outing	
MAY 3	Hungry Man Outing	
MAY 6	General Meeting Presentation	Ron Kliewer of The Public Lands for the People (PLP) with updates on the organization's current activities.
MAY 28	School Program Big Bear Museum	
JUN 3	General Meeting Presentation	David Finnern 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.
JUN 7-8	Randsburg Outing	
JUL 12-13	Old West Days Wrightwood, CA	<i>Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth</i>
JUL 26-27	<i>Miners Folly – Membership Appreciation Picnic</i>	<i>To be confirmed - Picnic on Saturday, Jul 26th</i>
AUG 16-24	<i>Picket III and Gold Venture – Union Flats Campground Outing</i>	<i>Yuba River * See Notice Below*</i>
SEPT 13-14	<i>Indian Gulch/Jackass</i>	<i>Camp at Miner's Folly</i>
OCT 24-26	<i>Ord Mountain Rendezvous</i>	
NOV 15	Coolgardie Oro Rico Outling	

*** 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.*

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