

Drywasher's Gazette

June 2025

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
Valley Prospectors
PO Box 2923
San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923
valleyprospectors49@gmail.com



Web Site: www.valleyprospectors.org
Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com
Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923
Next Meeting – June 3, @ 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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Murder, Mining, & Mysteries of Lytle Creek, CA

By M. O'Brien

In December 1873, a well-respected 42-year-old miner from France was guiding his horse drawn buggy from the town of then Cucamonga (later ranch Cucamonga) just before sunset to his home and gold mine in the Lytle Creek area. The mine was well known to produce rich clean out regularly. One report said he made



Hydraulic mining water cannon using high pressurized streams of water to process mass material that is then sent through sluices. Photo from UC California Archives

\$50,000 in 1800's money over just one year hydraulically mining the ancient alluvial deposits. Based on footprints in the dirt and evidence at the scene it was speculated that at least two men on horseback lay in wait to ambush Mr. Abadie. The first gunshot was to the chest and a second execution shot to the temple. Slumping forward in his seat injured or possibly dead already. The buggy horses were startled and took off to flee taking the wagon and victim away at a chaotic pace. After settling down, the horses continued their journey home out of possible habit. Arriving late

that evening near a neighbor's home the wagon still had Mr. Abadie's body slumped in the driver's seat despite the wagon's brake having been engaged. His gold watch and loaded shotgun were left untouched by the assailants who did not pursue the wagon after the attack. Why he was attacked and by who is a far more complicated story.

Mr. Fabian Abadie was laid to rest in a small cemetery in the area that is today off N. Arrowhead Ave, just south of the 210 freeway in San Bernardino, CA. The tale of his murder starts with a dispute over the ownership of the Yellow Jacket Mine and disputed water rights in Lytle Creek. A judicial nominee hopeful, Col. W. Gatewood and Captain W.A. Winder of San Diego sued Mr. Abadie, owner of Lytle Creek Hydraulic Mines, for a 1/16th interest he claimed stemmed from a previous claim sold to Mr. Abadie. They lost their suit in June of 1873. The Court affirming Abadie's mineral and water rights. In addition to the failed plaintiffs, other local farmers were also upset at the ruling because Mr. Abadie refused to share access or sell permission to use the water rights associated with the mine. A mere five months later he lay dead after receiving death threats. Even more telling was that he had been in town that very day of his death to meet a prospective buyer for his mine from San Francisco. A chance of fate delayed the buyer's arrival so Mr. Abadie chose to head home for the evening to wait until the next day for his guest. His dream of selling the mine and returning to his birthplace in France went unfulfilled with his death.

A reward of \$500 was offered for the arrest of his murderer, but there was no solid leads or evidence. Years later two men jailed for other crimes in San Quentin prison, near San Francisco, confessed to being hired by an early local suspect a few years later.

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Thank You

Courtesy - Thank You to Stacy Dixon for bringing refreshments for the May meeting. Albert has volunteered to bring goodies for the June Meeting. Thank you to all the volunteers – Mary Schubert

School Gold Panning Demo – Thank you to Lorraine, Lee, Ernie, Calvin, Mary and Steve for doing the Newberry Springs School gold panning and demonstration of equipment used in gold mining. The kids were awesome, and we learned how biscuits and butter are made out in the field.

Big Bear Museum Event – On Wednesday May 28 there will be 80+ students along with parents and chaperones looking to pan for gold and examine the equipment used in gold prospecting. We are going to need extra help during this event. Set up is at 9 am and we start at 10 am. Please volunteer by calling Steve at 951-943-0535 and leave a message. Steve will get back to you. Thanks again for all your help. - Steve



AS OF MONDAY, MAY 14TH

GOLD IS

\$3,172.22 PER OUNCE.

\$103.71 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

**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.

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May General Meeting Minutes May 6th, 2025

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order. Meeting began at 6:06 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance: Joe Chavez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes: President Albert Naki asked for the approval of the April 1st, 2025 Meeting Minutes as published in the May Drywasher's Gazette. Judy Lepper moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 1st, 2025. Steve Schubert seconded the motion and the motion carried.

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

Wagonmaster Report: Steve Schubert thanked everyone who helped out with the Gold Panning Demonstration at Newberry Springs School outing and the outing was held on May 6th, 2025.

Steve Schubert spoke about the upcoming Big Bear Museum panning demonstration. There will be approximately 80 school children and parents that will be attending. He is looking for volunteers to help with the outing. The date will be May 28th, 2025.

Outing Report: Lee Skillings provided an overview of the First Class Miner's Outing, which took place from April 25th to April 27th, 2025. The outing was held at Ord Mountain. He said everybody had a great time.

Lee Skillings also spoke about the Hungryman Outing that was held on May 3rd, 2025.

The next outing will be the Randsburg Outing and the outing will be held on June 7th, and 8th, 2025.

Lady Luck Report: Steve Schubert covered for Bural this month and a gold nugget was the main prize.

Membership Report: Lorraine Frost gave her report. There are currently 236 members and 7 Lifetime Memberships. There were two new members who joined the club.

Finds of the Month Report: Joe and Stacey Dixon covered for Everett this month. Not too many entries.

Gold Sales: Art Fairchild gave his report.

Editor Report: Articles must be submitted to the newsletter by May 10, 2025, according to Michelle O'Brien. Michelle would also like for the members to submit articles for the newsletter.

Club Apparel Report: The club is looking for a new club apparel person, Cecelia Lash offered to assist.

Claims Report: Lorraine Frost said the Summit Claim will be transferred back into the Valley Prospectors ownership. She also said the September Meeting Program is going to be about filing the paperwork for the club claims.

Rendezvous Report: No report was given.

Refreshments Report: Mary Schubert thanked Stacy for bringing the May refreshments. President Albert Naki will be bringing the June refreshments.

Courtesy Report: Mary Schubert said there were six guests at the meeting tonight, one became a member.

Library Report: No report was given.

Program Report: Lorraine Frost announced that Ron Kliewer from The Public Lands for the People will be the speaker that night. He provided updates on the organization's current activities to safeguard our 1872 mining rights.

President Albert Naki called for a break in the meeting and the time was 6:33 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 6:50 p.m.

Program: Ron Kliewer of Public Lands for the People provided updates on the organization's activities.

Old Business:

Wrightwood Mountaineer Days: Lorraine Frost spoke about the upcoming Wrightwood Mountaineer Days. The dates of the outing are July 12th and 13th, 2025. Lorraine sought volunteers for the Gold panning booth.

Valley Prospectors Membership Appreciation Picnic: Lorraine Frost spoke about the Valley Prospectors Membership Appreciation Picnic. The dates of the picnic were changed to July 26th and July 27th, 2025 to allow for participation at Wrightwood Mountaineer Days. The picnic will be held at the Miners Folly Claim in Big Bear on Saturday.

New Business: None

Treasure Finds of the Month Winners:

1st Place: Albert Naki, 2nd Place: Calvin Shipley

Gold Finds of the Month Winners:

1st Place: Brian Teeling, 2nd Place: Stacy

President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be adjourned.

Lee Skillings made the motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Calvin Shipley seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



From AFMS Newsletter May 2025, Vol 78 No. 4

Dinosaur Highway Tracks Found at Quarry in England

Summarized by Michele Yamanaka,

Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society in The Strata Data, 4/2025

This story hit the news on January 2-3, 2025. It got the most notice in England, of course. It started with a worker digging up clay in a limestone quarry. He kept finding bumps under the clay. After finding these bumps repeatedly, he noticed that the exposed bumps looked like giant tracks. He reported this to the office and soon a team of more than 100 researchers from Oxford and Birmingham Universities were excavating the quarry.

What they found was a dinosaur highway with nearly 200 tracks dating back 166 million years. The tracks were made by several kinds of dinosaurs. Four sets of tracks were made by long-necked, herbivores known as sauropods and thought to be Cetiosaurus, which often was 60 feet in length. Another set indicated the Megalosaurus, a fierce 9-foot predator. This dinosaur left a distinctive triple-claw mark. The sets of tracks cross in one area, leading to the possibility of interaction between meat-eaters and plant-eaters.

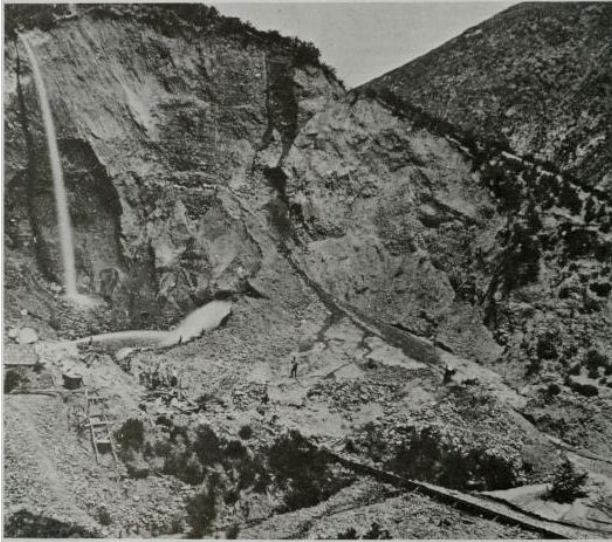
About 30 years ago, 40 sets of dinosaur tracks were located in a different limestone quarry. But that was before the time of digital cameras and drones and limited evidence remains from that place which is mostly inaccessible now. This current find is amply documented with over 20,000 digital images, and drones were used to create 3D models. "The preservation is so detailed that we can see how the mud was formed as the dinosaur's feet squelched in and out," said Duncan Murdock, an earth scientist at the Oxford Museum." 1

In addition to the great many digital photos, at least 5 videos of the find are available. Here are some of them:

BBC News- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zeh5OvhxJ28>
Global News - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9Dve7D6mhgFrance24English->
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpfWRUV35us>

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.



*Texas Hill by Lytle Creek 1890's Source:
<https://lus.sbcounty.gov/mining-home/mining-photo-gallery/>*

Thomas Hawker, suspected of involvement at the start, due to a grudge over water rights and suspicious behavior right after the murder, was further implicated by their confession. The convicts produced new evidence including a letter addressed to Hawker referencing the murder and urging him to run indicating that law enforcement saw Hawker as a suspect. Another letter written by Hawker was intercepted by a recipient in Santa Cruz urging them to stop one of the accusers from testifying against Hawker in court. Hawker had purchased land in the area, but did not secure the water rights to farm the area from Abadie making the land worth far less than hoped. The supposed accomplices made a jail break while being transferred back to San Bernardino for the hearing but were captured shortly after a short man hunt.

In a dramatic twist, the two men then went before the Judge in San Bernardino and swore that the confessions and the letters were all fabricated in order to facilitate their escape attempt during transport from San Quentin to San

Bernardino to stand trial. This included using accomplices to mail the fake letters. With these revelations authorities felt there was not enough solid evidence to bring the crime to jury trial and it was voluntarily dismissed with no further prosecution. Mr. Hawker was cleared of the new accusations and lived a peaceful life in the area farming. He is buried in the San Bernardino Pioneer Cemetery. Whether the story of a complex web of letters and confession details gleaned from newspaper articles are real or just a pair of opportunists or a hint of truth muddled by regret and retractions is an enduring mystery.

The deep cuts made to the landscape by hydraulic mining are starkly visible in this 1890's picture of an operation called Texas Hill in the Lytle Creek. It can still be seen in Google Maps aerial shots of the same area seen below. Many farmers and cattle ranchers also sought out the area for agriculture. One of the largest farming and ranch operations in the 1890's was called Glenn Ranch which was later made notorious for a family feud and gun fight that led to two more infamous murders. That, however, is another tall tale for around the camp



Texas Hill by Lytle Creek 2025 Satellite View by Google Maps

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

Contact the Newsletter Crew:
valleyprospectors49@gmail.com
***Please put "Newsletter"**
in the subject line.*

Committee Chairpersons

Apparel – Cecilia Lash

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*

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
VP SUMMIT PLACER – 60 acres

Private Claims Granting Member Access

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 - UPDATED

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
MAY 28	School Program Big Bear Museum	<i>Volunteers needed: contact Steve Schubert</i>
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	Mountaineer Days - Wrightwood, CA	Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth
JUL 26-27	Miners Folly	Saturday - Membership Appreciation Picnic
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	
DEC 13	Holiday Party	Pinon Hill Community Center 11-3 pm

*** 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