

# Drywasher's Gazette

July 2025

Send Exchange Bulletins to:  
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Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com  
Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923  
Next Meeting – Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup>, @ Miner's Folly Claim  
Near Big Bear Lake, 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, except in July.

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## Culinary Crossroads of the California Gold Rush

*By M. O'Brien*

During California's Gold Rush (1848-1855), approximately 300,000 people from all over the world flocked to the region, each bringing their own culinary traditions. This cultural melting pot gave rise to a fascinating blend of international foods that helped shape California's diverse food culture.



Modern Version of a Hangtown Fry  
Source: <http://www.redshallotkitchen.com/2013/03/hangtown-fry.html>

In 1848 the U.S. census only recorded three individuals of Chinese descent in California territories. By 1849 that number grew to 300 and by 1852 over 30,000 Chinese men, women, and children were recorded. This group often opened small food stalls in the gold camps and worked as cooks in many of the restaurants in the boom towns. The iconic dish known as Chop Suey, a hearty stir-fry dish made with meat, vegetables, and a savory sauce is rumored to be the invention of a Chinese food stall owner cobbling together a quick meal for a hungry miner just as they were about to close with an odd assortment of leftovers. Many Americans do not realize that this staple dish of American Chinese restaurants was born on the California Gold Fields.

Chinese 49ers have also been linked to the ominously named Hangtown Fry, an odd omelet-like creation of eggs, bacon and fried oysters. Hangtown is now known as Placerville, CA and was a nexus of the Gold Rush. The legend around the recipe says a lucky gold miner laden with his recent find demanded a dish with the most expensive ingredients a hotel kitchen had on hand. Eggs were hard to transport and could cost up to \$250 in modern dollars. Tinned oysters and bacon were other luxury items in the inflated food market of the time. The kitchen cook whipped up the dish and the Hangtown Fry was born. The idea a Chinese cook may be responsible comes from the dish's similarity to the traditional dish called Egg Foo Young which is a savory pan fried omelet with a near pancake like texture filled with ingredients.

Mexican influences were also strong from the Alta California days onward, with the inclusion of aromatic spices and chili powder to add flavor. Tortillas, easy to make and portable, were also popular alternatives to biscuits that required time and equipment to bake. The influx of diverse populations during the Gold Rush not only fueled the economy but also created a vibrant food scene where international dishes adapted and blended. This early fusion set the stage for California's reputation today as a global food hub, where culinary traditions from around the world continue to thrive.

Greek stew, aka Stifado, sourdough bread, Dutch Pea Soup, Italian Cioppino, a seafood stew popular in San Francisco, and fresh Salmon purchased from local indigenous peoples provided welcome changes to the bland diet of hard tack and dried meats most miners had in their carry sacks. Campfires of the Gold Rush became a literal epicurean melting pot of cultures and innovation as miners shared tastes of their hometowns with each other.



Greek Stifado Stew Source:  
<https://www.dimitrasdishes.com/stifado-greek-beef-stew-with-shallots/>

## Club Member Appreciation Picnic at Miner's Folly Bring a Picnic Side Dish & Stay for the Grill.

Relax and enjoy some delicious food while and connecting with fellow club members in a beautiful outdoor setting on our Miner's Folly Claim near Big Bear Lake. Whether you're a new member or a long-time participant, this potluck picnic promises good company. We will also have an auction of prospecting and camping gear from the Club's Archives.

*Join the*  
**CELEBRATION!**  
*We'll Be Grilling*  
**Burgers & Links**

*Games, Auction,  
Lady Luck & Door Prizes*

*Meet Us at Miner's Folly Claim*

*Sat July 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11am*

**See you there!!**

Please bring your own chairs and a potluck side dish to share. Many of us will be camping overnight and exploring the claims up in the old Belleville mining region around Holcomb Valley. Directions on how to get to the claim can be found on the Club's website <https://valleyprospectors.org/> under the Members Only section. You will need your access password that was sent to you with your new member or membership renewal e-mail to access the directions. There is a developed campground off the claim nearby with pit toilets. On the claim it is only dry camping with no restroom facilities. Pay attention to claim markers to make sure you are on Valley's claim if you decide to do a little prospecting. If you have any questions, please email [valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com).



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## June General Meeting Minutes

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order. The meeting began at 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Garry Devlin.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of Minutes: President Albert Naki asked for the approval of the May 6th, 2025, Meeting Minutes as published in the June Drywasher's Gazette. Garry Devlin moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from May 6th, 2025. Sherry Lemenson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Wagonmaster Report:** Lorraine Frost spoke about the Big Bear Museum panning demonstrations. There were approximately eighty schoolchildren and their chaperones. There were nine club members who helped with the panning demonstrations. Lorraine thanked everyone who helped with the panning demonstrations.

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

**Membership Report:** Lorraine Frost gave her report. There are currently 241 Family Memberships and 7 Lifetime Memberships. There were three new members who joined last month.

**Editor Report:** Articles must be submitted to the newsletter by June 10, 2025, according to Michelle O'Brien. Members are requested to submit articles for the newsletter.

**Rendezvous Report:** Lorraine Frost said the bill for the porta potties had been paid. The club will split the cost of the porta potties with First Class Miners. The Rendezvous outing will be held on the last weekend of October.

**Refreshments Report:** President Albert Naki will be bringing the June refreshments.

**Courtesy Report:** Lorraine Frost said there were two members who had passed away and their names were Lee K. Greer and Midge Seapy. Bural LaRue was in the hospital.

**Other Reports Given:** Claims (L. Frost), Gold Sales (A. Fairchild), Finds of the Month Report (E. Miller), Lady Luck Report (B. LaRue), Treasurer's Report (L. Frost)

**Club Apparel:** Cecilia Lesh will handle the club apparel sales at the meetings. Lorraine Frost will continue to store the product.

**Guests:** President Albert Naki recognized the guests who were attending the meeting.

**Program Report:** David Finnern is featuring Sunken Mysteries of the West which includes treasure recovered 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.

*President Albert Naki called for a break 6:37 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 6:57 p.m.*

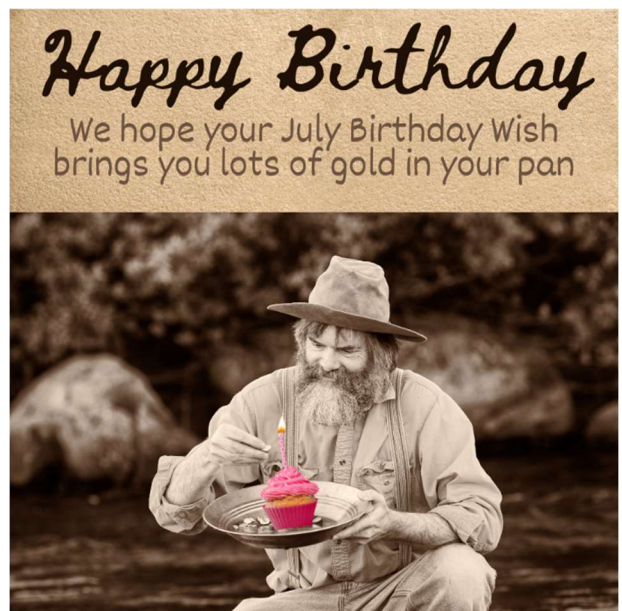
**CFMS Report:** Bural LaRue gave his report about the CFMS Show that was held in Lancaster. He said they even gave out awards while at the show. The Next CFMS Show will be held in Visalia, CA on Veteran's Day weekend.

### 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 are July 26th and July 27th, 2025. The picnic will be held at the Miners Folly Claim in Big Bear.

Lorraine Frost spoke about the Adventure Pass and club's claims and there was a discussion that followed this topic.



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## New Business:

Lorraine Frost suggested the club should purchase a \$125.00 business membership to Big Bear Valley Historical Society. We had a great time at the May 28th gold panning event for the 3rd graders and would like to support them as much as possible. They were very gracious hosts, and all the kids had a fantastic experience. Coreena Ross made the motion to approve the purchase of the of the \$125.00 business membership in the Big Bear Valley Historical Society. Joe Chavez seconded the motion.

*Cont. Next Page*

*General Meeting Minutes Cont.*

Discussion followed and the motion carried.

Lorraine Frost suggested the club should hold the 2026 membership appreciation picnic at the Big Bear Valley Historical Museum so that people who do not want to travel the dirt road would have an easy time attending the event. It is about 30 minutes from the claim. There is a great picnic area we could reserve for the event and the displays at the museum would be a worthwhile trip for the members. The cost would be \$5 per person, which I would suggest the club would cover that expense.

Everett Miller said there were questions about guests coming onto the club claims. There was a discussion that followed on the topic. Lorraine Frost said they would review the club constitution and clarify the topic of guests coming onto the claims.

Everett Miller said there needs to be better signage at the Summit Claims. Lorraine Frost said she is going to investigate the signage issues.

**Valley Prospectors 50th Anniversary Celebration:** Lorraine Frost spoke about the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the founding of Valley Prospectors. Lorraine spoke about having the celebration out at the Randsburg Claim in May of 2027. She also spoke about checking into getting the meal catered and she got his business card, and he is in Ridgecrest. The caterer does a chuckwagon meal. Garry Devlin made the motion for Lorraine to find out the cost of the chuckwagon meal. President Albert Naki seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Name Badge Winner: Coreena Ross

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

President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be adjourned.

Lee Skillings made the motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Mark Lash seconded the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

## 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.



## Regional News

*From CFMS Newsletter May 2025*

### Upcoming Shows

June 29-29,2025 – Culver City, CA  
Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, 4117  
Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230  
Hours: Sat 10\*6, Sun 10-5  
Contact: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com  
Website: <https://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/>

August 1-3, 2025 – Nipomo, CA  
Orcutt Mineral Society  
Nipomo High School., 525 N. Thompson  
Ave., Nipomo CA 93444  
Hours: Fri/Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com,  
(805) 929-2783 [www.oms-inc.org](http://www.oms-inc.org)

September 13-14, 2025 – Reno, NV  
Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.  
Silver State Pavillion at the Grand Sierra  
Resort, 2500 E. Second St., Reno, NV  
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4  
Contact: (925) 785-4551, sabl@comcast.net  
Website: <http://renogms.org>

September 20-21, 2025 – Pasadena, CA  
Pasadena Lapidary Society  
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd.,  
Arcadia, CA  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: (626) 260-7239  
Website: [pasadenalapidary.org](http://pasadenalapidary.org)

September 20-21, 2025 – Monterey, CA  
Carmel Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Monterey  
Road, Monterey, CA  
Hours: Sat and Sun 10-5  
Contact: johnandjamiesmama@yahoo.com,  
(831) 679-2896  
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

*From AFMS Newsletter June 2025 Vol. 78, No. 5*

### 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.

AS OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>

GOLD IS

\$3.367.36 PER OUNCE.

\$108.26 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>

## Recipe for "Chop Suey"

Preparation: 1 hour 30 minutes

Source:

<http://www.twentymile.com/Cookbook/chopsuey.htm>

Serves 4 to 8 persons

Ingredients:

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 4 stalks of celery, diagonally sliced
- 8 button mushrooms, sliced
- 2 spinach leaves, raggedly torn
- 4 water chestnuts, sliced
- 1 -2 tablespoons soy sauce
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 yellow onion, sliced, in rings
- 1 Bell pepper, sliced, in rings
- 1 cup bean sprouts, rinsed, drained
- 1/2 cup Chinese pea pods (1/2 frozen 8-ounce box)
- 1 cup chicken or vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoon corn starch or other thickening agent
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided

1. Cut the chicken into small, bite-sized morsels. Slice onion thinly and separate. Remove seeds and membrane from pepper and slice to make thin rings. Slice celery diagonally to make thin crescents. Tear spinach leaves to make irregular pieces about an inch square.
2. Heat wok and add 2 tablespoons of oil. Stir fry the chicken until it is cooked through, about 3 minutes. Remove chicken from pan and set aside.
3. In same pan, add remaining 2 tablespoons of oil. Add celery and cook 1 minute. Add onion and green pepper and cook an additional 2 minutes. Add mushrooms and cook, stir-frying, for another 3 minutes. Add bean sprouts, spinach leaves, pea pods, water chestnuts and reserved chicken. Continue cooking and stirring another 1 minute. Season to taste.
4. Mix broth, soy sauce and cornstarch to make a slurry. Add to the mixture in the wok. Cook and stir for an additional minute or until sauce has thickened. Serve over rice.

## San Francisco Sourdough Facts

- Isidore Boudin, a French Baker who immigrated to San Francisco used a sourdough starter he received from a miner to make the now famous tangy sourdough bread in 1849. The same starter "mother dough" is still used at the Boudin bakery today.
- San Francisco Sourdough's unique taste is due in part to the mineral content of the local water and to a unique variety of local wild bacteria that influence the fermentation process.
- Some 49ers kept their sourdough starter mother dough alive by stashing it in their armpits for the trips back to their gold camps.





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## \*\*\*JULY GENERAL MEETING REMINDER\*\*\*

### July Meeting

Due to cell service at the Miner's Folly Claim, zoom access will not be available.

### August Meeting

No Meeting is scheduled for the month of August.

## Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
<b>JUL 12-13</b>	<b>Mountaineer Days - Wrightwood, CA</b>	<b>Need Volunteers for Gold Panning Booth</b>
<b>JUL 26-27</b>	Miners Folly – Member Appreciation	<b>Saturday – Picnic &amp; Meeting</b>
<b>AUG 16-24</b>	Picket III and Gold Venture – Union Flats Campground Outing	Yuba River * See Notice Below*
<b>SEPT 13-14</b>	Indian Gulch/Jackass	Camp at Miner's Folly
<b>OCT 24-26</b>	Ord Mountain Rendezvous	
<b>NOV 15</b>	Coolgardie Oro Rico Outing	
<b>DEC 13</b>	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**

## Updated Club Claims List

Check out [www.valleyprospectors.org](http://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)