

Drywasher's Gazette

December 2025

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
Valley Prospectors
PO Box 2923
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valleyprospectors49@gmail.com



Web Site: www.valleyprospectors.org
Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com
Next Meeting – Saturday December 13th @ Holiday Party!

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 in San Bernardino, CA.

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Ord Mountain Rendezvous 2025 Recap

Good Company, A Little Exploration, & Enduring Tradition

Under a beautiful blue sky, our local Southern Californian small miners clubs gathered together to connect over a love of the land and adventure at the end of October at the Ord Mountain dry camping area.



2025 Winners of the Annual First Class Miners Gold Panning Contest

Competition is always fierce on this one, but every generation of miner gives it a shot. The miner must pan a full pan of dirt to find the three gold nuggets and place them in their hand before they call, "time!" Check out the picture of the elusive nuggets below.

Spectators watch on

1st Place Yvone Mack 14.18 seconds!

2nd Place Jon Kishi 18.40 seconds

3rd Place Greg Herring 19.26 seconds



Ord Mountain Rendezvous 2025 Recap Cont.

2025 Jim Straight Memorial Metal Detecting Hunt by Valley Prospectors

All levels of detectorists descended on a sandy desert field filled with coins and targets to test their skill and luck. Those lucky enough to find this year's targets won a prize off the Garrett prize table. Lot of goodies awaited the participants. No matter how big your haul, everyone had a chance to win one of the three big prizes through a raffle. A beautiful Garrett metal detector and two gorgeous nuggets were won by the lucky participants.



Chili Cook-Off, Bingo, Lady Luck, S'mores and All the Good Stuff

The day was also filled with a top notch grilled lunch, chili cook off and potluck. A few more intrepid miners explored the landscape, including the mysterious "X" on the nearby hillside. Sadly, no long lost gold mine was located near it. Ord Mountain's sunsets are a treasure every year and Saturdays was the perfect backdrop for a little bingo. S'mores were on the menu Friday night, with a little experimentation with marshmallow fluff covered strawberries toasted in the fire. See you next year. Special Thanks to President Albert Naki and Brian Teeling for all the photos!



November General Meeting Minutes November 4th, 2025

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order. The meeting started at 6:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Schubert.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes: President Albert Naki asked for the approval of the September 2nd, 2025, Meeting Minutes as published in the September/ October Drywasher's Gazette. Steve Schubert made the motion to approve the Meeting Minutes. Calvin Shipley seconded the motion and the motion carried.

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

Wagonmaster Report: Lorraine Frost spoke about the Valley Prospector's Rendezvous Outing that was held on October 24th through October 26th, 2025. The outing was held in the Ord Mountains.

Outing Report: Steve Schubert spoke about the upcoming outings that will be coming up in 2026.

Lady Luck Report: Steve Schubert gave his report.

Membership Report: Lorraine Frost gave her report. There are currently 264 Family Memberships and 7 Lifetime Memberships and 1 Honorary Membership.

2026 Membership Renewal Time

Renewals are \$40 and need to be paid by
January 31, 2026.

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 send payments 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 pay with PayPal from there.

For additional details, see the website - Membership
Renewal – Valley Prospectors

**Don't Forget – Early Bird Renewals
are Always Welcome**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REMINDER 2026 DUES

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31, 2026



Finds of the Month Report: Everett Miller gave his report.

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

Rendezvous Report: Lorraine Frost gave her report, and she thanked everyone for participating in the outing. Lorraine Frost showed a video of the Rendezvous Outing.

Refreshments Report: Mary Schubert thanked everyone who brought refreshments to the meeting tonight.

Courtesy Report: Mary Schubert said that Judy Lepper had surgery on her shoulder. She also said that John Howell was sick. Horst's brother also recently passed.

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November General Meeting Minutes Cont. from pg 4

Christmas Party: Mary Schubert spoke about the club's upcoming Christmas Party that is going to be held at Pinon Hills Community Center on December 13th, 2025. The time of the Christmas Party is going to be from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. She reminded everyone to RSVP for the Christmas Party. There'll be sign-up sheets passed around during the meeting for people to sign up and let the people planning the party know who are bringing refreshments to the Christmas Party.

Membership Appreciation Lunch: Lorraine Frost spoke about next year's membership appreciation lunch. She's going to ask the Big Bear Museum to see if the club can use their facilities for next year's 50th anniversary of Valley Prospectors. The club purchased a business membership in the Big Bear Museum. Lorraine Frost said she was able to get in touch with the man who owns the chuckwagon and was able to get a menu for the lunch. She said the menu was going to be Tri-Tip Sandwich, Salad, Baked Beans, Bread Pudding. The date of the outing will be July 19th, 2026.

Club Apparel: Lorraine Frost gave her report. There are polo shirts that are for sale at the meeting and the cost is \$5.00. They're clearing out the club apparel so the club can buy new stock. There'll be new stock ordered for Valley Prospectors' 50th anniversary.

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

Valley Prospectors Club Nominations: Steve Schubert called for the Valley Prospectors Club Officers nominations to be opened. The nominations are:

President-Albert Naki	Members at Large: Joe Dixon, Stacey Dixon, Katherine Naki, Joe Chavez, Brian Teeling, David Tamulevich, Ernie Tovar, Eddie Mejia, Fred Borad, Michelle O'Brien, Garry Devlin, Susan Birrell, Diane Railsback, Steve Schubert, Josh Riehl, Calvin Shipley.
Vice-President- Lee Skillings	
Treasurer-Lorraine Frost	
Secretary-Coreena Ross	

Steve Schubert called for the Valley Prospector's Club Nominations to be closed. Lorraine explained the voting process.

President Albert Naki called for a break in the meeting and the time was 6:38 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 6:50 p.m.

Old Business: Lorraine Frost said she was able to get in touch with the man who owns the chuckwagon and was able to get a menu for the lunch. She said the menu was going to be Tri-Tip Sandwich, Salad, Baked Beans, Bread Pudding. The date of the outing will be July 19th, 2026.

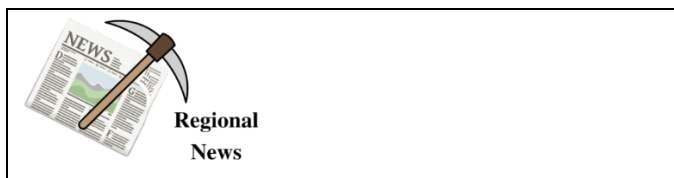
New Business: Lorraine Frost was able to secure the meeting room at Elks Lodge for ten months next year. Lorraine Frost said Valley Prospectors had been invited by The First Class Miners outing in August of 2026.

Name Badge Winner: Randy Carroll-Brad	Treasure Finds of the Month Winners: 1 st .Everett Miller, 2 nd .Albert Naki, 3 rd .Lee Skillings
Door Prize Winner: Mike O' Brien	Gold Finds of the Month Winners 1 st .Ernie Tovar, 2 nd .Albert Naki, 3 rd .Brian Teeling

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 and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.





From CFMS Newsletter, November 2025

SAFETY MATTERS—WHY ROCK SAFETY?

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair,

from AFMS September 2025 Why Rock Safety?

It's not a long story, but it does take some background. Safety concerns abound in most everything we do. Take breakfast for example - we want our foods to be safe. We are careful not to touch the hot cooking surfaces. We try to cook the foods the correct way. We use special caution when fishing the toast out of the uncooperative toaster. We carefully wash the eating utensils afterward. We may not think excessively about making sure breakfast is safe, but we do want it to be a safe and healthy activity.

All around us are activities that are in need of constant safety interaction. We get in an airplane, and we receive safety instruction. People who work in an automobile repair shop are reprimanded if their effort does not follow safety protocols. Where would we be if no drivers followed the safety rules of the road? Many people who are employed in grocery stores are schooled in how to safely lift heavy loads. Even working in an office has its safety concerns - using scissors, office machinery safe operation, being careful of pinch points, break room health safety, and so on. A great many of the products we purchase come with a set of operating instructions, and those invariably begin with a set of safety guidelines. Yes, the manufacturers of those products want you to be safe and have a great user experience with their product. Safety matters abound. People engage in an astoundingly diverse number of hobby interests and activities - every one of which has its own safety concerns. Being a race car driver, rock climber, quilter, bee keeper, oil painter, you name it, and there are, no doubt, safety concerns. Even stamp collectors have matters of safety in their activities. The rock, mineral, fossil, bead, lapidary and jewelry activities are no exception to having safety matters of concern to us.

In the rock and mineral hobby we engage in numerous and very different kinds of activities, each with its own safety concerns. Here is a short list of our major activities: driving to our events, collecting, working in rock quarries and mines, putting on shows, mineral cleaning, stone cutting, jewelry work, working with ultraviolet light, lapidary effort, rock trimming,

Safety cont.

...and lots and lots of lifting. All of these activities have a laundry list of safety concerns unique to the activity. Lest one be discouraged from participating in the mineral hobby due to too much concern with matters of safety, being safe can be as simple as:

- Try not to not work on something while one is tired-take a break if tired
- Pay attention to what one is doing
- Have sufficient lighting
- Ask for help if a project needs an extra set of hands or opinions
- Read the directions for proper use of machinery and chemistry
- Think before acting

*** That's **TPHART** for short! These and more are the essence of being safe in most any activity. Future safety articles are planned for fire safety, chemical safety, collecting safety, pet safety, show safety, meeting safety, mineral cleaning safety, vision safety, and more in our hobby related activities. Ours is a great hobby with a rich variety of activities. Encouraging people to be safe in all we do within those hobby activities is the goal of these safety matters articles. Please make matters of safety your concern as well.

Please take safety matters to heart because your safety matters.

A Little Random Humor



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Claim Information *More details on the Club Website*

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.

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)

WE NEED YOU!!

**50TH
ANNIVERSARY
1976-2026**



VOLUNTEER IN 2026
Support Your Community
Contact valleyprospectors49@gmail.com
or let us know at the next meeting



**DECEMBER
BABIES**

ARE A REAL GIFT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM
ALL THE CLUB TO YOU

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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

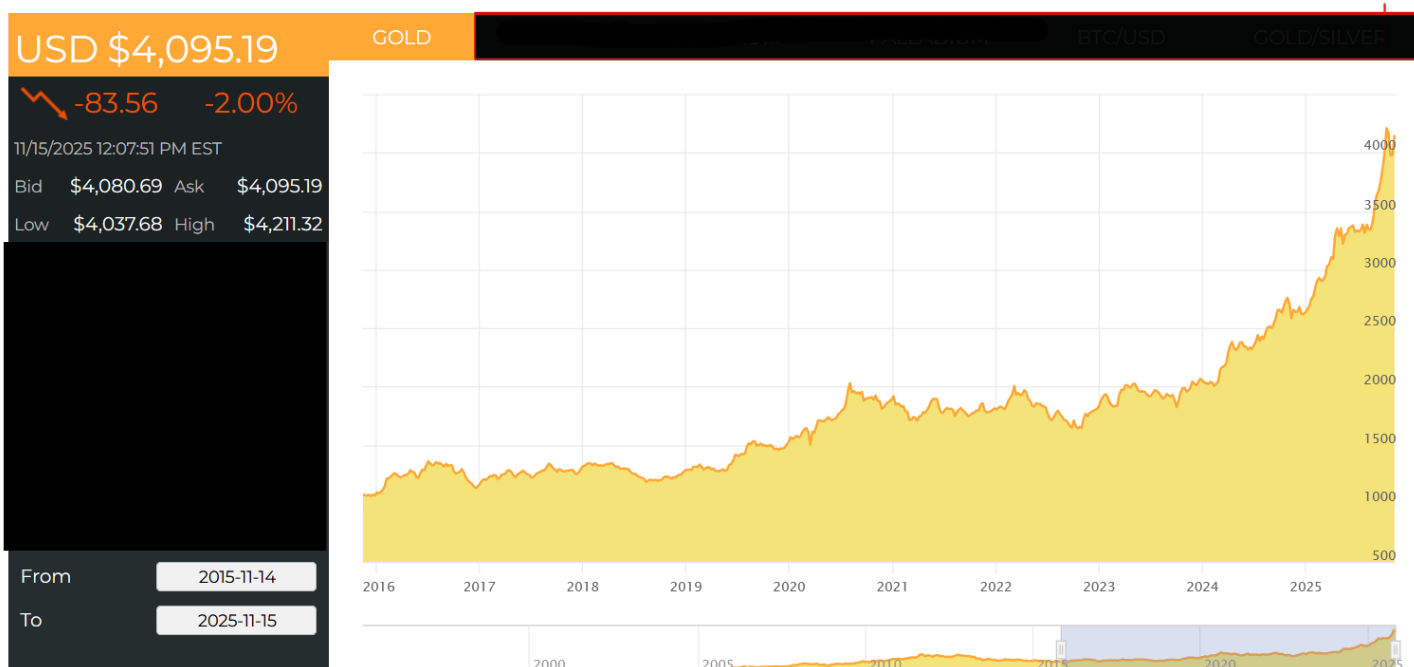
+16694449171,,83026668634#,,,,*661754# US+16699006833,,83026668634#,,,,*661754# US (San Jose)By Audio Only: • +1 669 444 9171 US

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

Last Event of 2025!

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
DEC 13	Holiday Party Potluck @ Pinon Hills Community Center 10433 Mountain Rd Pinon Hills, CA 92372	<i>\$5 covers entry and gets 2 raffle tickets</i> <i>RSVP to Mary Shubert or by email:</i> valleyprospectors49@gmail.com <i>Let her know what you are bringing for the feast.</i> <i>Pay in cash or Zelle (Put VP Holiday Party in notes)</i>

10 Year Gold Price Chart



Source: <https://www.jmbullion.com/charts/gold-price/10-year>