



# THE ASSAY

## SOUTHWESTERN PROSPECTORS & MINERS ASSOCIATION

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of Each Month at 6:30 PM  
North Clairemont Community Center, Building #2, Room #2  
44211 Bannock Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117

Website: [www.spma-gold.org](http://www.spma-gold.org)

## President's December Message



Welcome prospectors and miners. I'm your SPMA President  
Brian Turner

Hello Members,

Mining Trips: December's mining outing will be at the Araz 1 and Araz 2 claims. Here are the details for the December's Araz prospecting expedition. We will meet at the Chevron gas station on Sidewinder Road and Interstate 8 at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021, or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 18, 2021. When we arrive, you will be directed to the best spots for mining gold. Last years October's outing a two gram nugget was found with a metal detector.

January's outing will be the Cargo claim. Here are details on the Cargo outing. We are to meet on Ogilby Road on the intersection of Ogilby Rd and American Girl Mine Road, at 9:00am on Friday, January 14, 2022 or 9:00am Saturday January 15, 2022.

From there you will be guided to the claim. When we arrive, we will tour the claim. We can rockhound after we get to the claim. Bring a drywasher.

February's prospecting expedition will be at the Potholes claims on Presidents day weekend. We will meet at the Imperial Date Garden on 1517 York Road at 9:00 a.m. Friday, February 18, 2022, or 9:00 a.m. Saturday February 19, 2022. From there we will go to the claims. Bring a drywasher and a metal detector.

The November outing had 14 members attend. Most of the members wanted to be with family. Next year the November's outing will be on a different weekend. Most people got gold, some of us explored the area.

### **Beach Gold Prospecting:**

There are small gold deposits that can be mined from the beaches all along the Pacific Ocean, but historically there were certain areas that were

## December 2021

### Upcoming Events

**Board of Directors Meeting**, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building in Balboa Park

**Araz Claims Outing** December 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Party** December 21st at the North Clairemont Community Center

### Inside this issue:

Meeting Speaker  
Christmas Party  
Field trips  
Ways & Means  
Metal Detecting  
Volunteers Needed  
Calendars



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# Santa says you've been very BAD this year!

That's because you didn't R.S.V.P. for the SPMA Christmas Party.  
So, now you're officially on Santa's Naughty List.

The party is just a week away and only a few people have emailed.  
If you wish to attend, please email Greg Terrones **TODAY!**  
at [gregnterrones@cox.net](mailto:gregnterrones@cox.net) He needs a head count  
to order supplies for the event. Please include:

Your Name                      Number in your group                      Your Potluck Dish

If you would like to volunteer to help decorate the hall that would be  
much appreciated. Please email Greg about that as well.  
Please plan to bring a side dish or a dessert.  
The SPMA will supply turkey, ham, punch, coffee or whatever.

Date : Tuesday, 12/21/21      \*      Time : 6:45PM - 8:00PM

Location: Same place as our Monthly General Meetings

The Christmas Party is always great fun. We hope to see you there.



# President's Message Continued...

much more productive than others. A few notably rich locations include Gold Beach in Southern Oregon and the exceptionally rich beach placers at Nome, Alaska. Gold was also mined at many beaches throughout Washington. Very small amounts of gold can be prospected from just about anywhere in the state, but certain areas are much richer than others. Some historic mining took place along the beaches during the early days, but very few of these mines lasted for very long. The quantities of gold did not pay to work in most cases. Interestingly, in some places there is platinum as well as gold. Both of these valuable metals can be recovered from the beach sands.

Small amounts of gold can be found just about anywhere. The beaches near Anacortes and anywhere around the Puget Sound for that matter will produce a bit of color. Similar to the fine gold deposits along the coast, there are small particles of gold and platinum throughout the Puget Sound area. Do not expect to strike it rich mining here, as you likely won't recover any appreciable quantities.

Very fine gold particles can be found all along the beaches in Challam County. Both gold and platinum particles can be found in beach sands throughout the county at the current high tide line, as well as in Pleistocene deposits sitting well above the current tide line. Although the beaches have been explored extensively over the years, most placers are consistently low-grade. The gold can be found just about anywhere, but finding paying concentrations is difficult. Gold is found concentrated in the black sand layers as well as down in bedrock cracks along rockier stretches of beach.

Other historic workings can be found near Johnson Point and Sand Point. Other workings are found near the mouth of the Ozette River, along Shi Shi Beach north of the Point of Arches, and the Yellow Banks south of Sand Point. Due to the spotty distribution of gold and platinum in these beach placers, literally anywhere has potential for some gold. Move around and explore different areas to seek out the better paying beach sands.

Fine gold can be found in Jefferson County at Ruby Beach, as well as anywhere along the shoreline. Placer gold deposits can be found all throughout the beach sands in Grays Harbor County. Very small quantities of platinum have also been recovered here. There have been sporadic mining operations scattered all throughout Grays Harbor from Point Brown to Cow Point. Look for black sand concentrations in the sands throughout the harbor. Other good areas can be found to the north around Oyhut and Moclips. Anywhere along the beach has potential for fine gold.

The gold is generally found in thin "paystreaks", sometimes right along the surface of the beach. Prospecting in beach sands is one area that you don't necessarily have to dig deep to find the gold, because the gold particles are so fine that they are easily moved by the tide action. Some of the new types of mining equipment that have been produced in the past few years have certainly renewed interest in prospecting for these fine beach deposits. Fine gold particles are notoriously difficult to capture; this was especially true for the first prospectors using the crude mining methods that were available during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

There is a wide variety of gear available to prospectors today that work very well at capturing the tiny particles of gold and platinum that are generally found in beach sands.

SPMA President  
Brian Turner

# Searching the Beaches...

By Frank M. Trutta

Hope everyone had a good Thanks Giving and took advantage of the Black Friday sale at the beach. No line, open 24 hours, 100% off, easy parking and easy return policy, what more could you want!

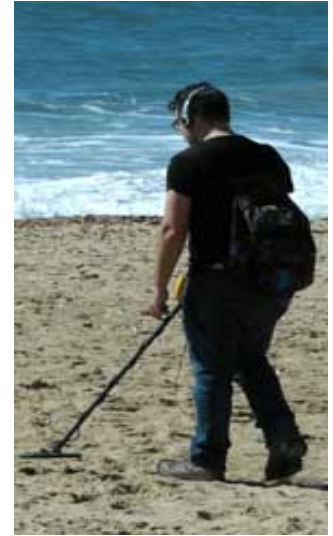
No planned beach hunt planned for December. Will get back on beach hunts starting in January.

Should you have any questions on metal detectors, call me at my shop, **Columbia Metal Detectors**, 760 743-8516 or on my cell 760 291-7900.

Hunt smart!

(Please see the last page of the Assay for a December Tide Chart.)

## METAL DETECTING



## Mining Equipment for Sale

A long time SPMA member, Ray Roark, moved to Kansas and wants to sell:

Used Keene 151 Drywasher with Honda engine  
Minelab Eureka Detector

Call Brian Winter (619) 787-8458 for prices.



### Please send me pictures for the Assay!

Hi, I'm Tom Heffernan, the Assay Editor. If you're at an event or outing please use your cell phone to take a group picture and text it to me at 619-756-9103. In the text message, please include some basic information, like what you're doing and the names of the people in the picture (if practical). Share pictures of gold sparkling in your pan or detecting finds. Remember to include your name so I can credit you for the photos. Thanks. Happy prospecting!

## Claims Committee News

Claims Committee Chair Joe Johannek has finalized our NEW claim up in the Big Bear. Joe expects to have the new claim map available for members soon.

## County Fair Committee News

SPMA has received word from the San Diego County Fair that they are planning to have a regular fair this year. Starts on June 8<sup>th</sup> thur July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Since our membership roster has dropped to 50% of normal I need to find out if there is ENOUGH volunteers to run our booth this year. I need 25-30 people to help out over the fair. I would like to have each person work at least 4 shifts of 6 hours ( necessary because of parking fees). Please EMAIL me if you can work the booth. Thanks, Joseph Johannek [Joe4409@aol.com](mailto:Joe4409@aol.com)

# Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to fill vacant seats on the SPMA Board and committees. Please consider serving in one of the following positions:

**Board Secretary:** Takes board meetings notes and maintains documents.

**Treasurer:** Attends board meetings, votes, and keeps financials records.

**Membership Chair:** Maintains membership lists and mails membership packets.

**Jr. Director of the Board:** Participates in board meeting and assists the board.

**Photographer(s):** Attends general meeting to take pictures of raffle winners and speakers for the Assay newsletter and website. Provides brief captions to identify the people in each picture. Also, takes pictures of members having fun at other functions like outings and picnics, etc.

**Food Concession Manager:** Operates the food and drink table at our meetings.

**Assay Editor:** Lays out the monthly newsletter in Word or a similar program. Gathers pictures and articles from other SPMA members. Must meet deadlines.

## SPMA BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Brian Turner	<a href="mailto:brian@brianturner.com">brian@brianturner.com</a>	858-864-0465
Vice President	Richard Martin	<a href="mailto:dickm21066@yahoo.com">dickm21066@yahoo.com</a>	619-792-5464
Secretary	Pat Regan	<a href="mailto:mompar@cox.net">mompar@cox.net</a>	
Jr. Director	Greg Terrones	<a href="mailto:gregnterrones@cox.net">gregnterrones@cox.net</a>	619-948-8613
Past President	Joe Johaneck	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987

## Committee Members & Volunteers

Membership	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Refreshments	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Photographer	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Assay Editor	Tom Heffernan	<a href="mailto:tomh.svm@gmail.com">tomh.svm@gmail.com</a>	619-756-9103
Yuma Coordinator	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Legislative Rep.	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Metal Detecting	Frank Trutta	<a href="mailto:scthfrank@yahoo.com">scthfrank@yahoo.com</a>	760-743-8516
Website Manager	Tom Heffernan	<a href="mailto:tomh.svm@gmail.com">tomh.svm@gmail.com</a>	619-756-9103
Mining Demos	Richard Seany	<a href="mailto:dustydick1@cox.net">dustydick1@cox.net</a>	619-460-2736
Claims Committee	Joe Johaneck	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987
Gold Committee	Joe Johaneck	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987
Library	Joe Johaneck	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987
Ways and Means	Greg Terrones	<a href="mailto:gregnterrones@cox.net">gregnterrones@cox.net</a>	619-948-8613
Trip Coordinator	Brian Turner	<a href="mailto:brian@brianturner.com">brian@brianturner.com</a>	858-864-0465
Fair Committee	Joe Johaneck	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987
Information Table	Pam Clements		619-208-8414

## MEETING PRESENTATION or GUEST SPEAKER

It's the Christmas Party... So just talk amongst yourselves.

## FIELD TRIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

December 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Outing to our Araz Claims  
December 21<sup>st</sup> – Christmas Party Potluck

## WAYS & MEANS OCTOBER RAFFLE REPORT

David Partin won the Door Prize (\$10 of tickets)  
The Silver Medallion was won by Joel Stilwagen

Nuggets won in the Raffle

8 grain Nugget	Erving Ortiz
9.1 grain Nugget	Erving Ortiz
11.7 grain Nugget	Kevin Kracha

































### December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 <b>B</b>	14	15	16	17 <b>O</b>	18 <b>O</b>
19 <b>O</b>	20	21 <b>G</b>	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <b>B</b>	11	12	13	14 <b>O</b>	15 <b>O</b>
16 <b>O</b>	17	18 <b>G</b>	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## San Diego, CA - Dec 2021

Date		High				Low						
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
1	Wed	6:22	6.5	7:09	4.6			1:06	-0.2	6:32	4:43	
2	Thu	6:57	7.0	8:03	4.6	12:34	1.1	1:52	-1.0	6:32	4:43	
3	Fri	7:34	7.4	8:56	4.5	1:13	1.3	2:38	-1.5	6:33	4:43	
4	Sat	8:15	7.6	9:50	4.3	1:54	1.6	3:25	-1.8	6:34	4:43	
5	Sun	8:58	7.6	10:47	4.2	2:37	1.9	4:16	-1.7	6:35	4:43	
6	Mon	9:44	7.3	11:49	4.1	3:23	2.2	5:09	-1.5	6:36	4:43	
7	Tue	10:35	6.7			4:16	2.5	6:05	-1.1	6:36	4:43	
8	Wed	12:58	4.0	11:33A	6.0	5:22	2.8	7:05	-0.6	6:37	4:44	
9	Thu	2:11	4.2	12:41	5.3	6:49	3.0	8:08	-0.1	6:38	4:44	
10	Fri	3:20	4.4	2:04	4.6	8:33	2.8	9:08	0.3	6:39	4:44	
11	Sat	4:14	4.8	3:33	4.2	10:11	2.3	10:03	0.7	6:39	4:44	
12	Sun	4:57	5.2	4:55	3.9	11:24	1.7	10:50	1.1	6:40	4:44	
13	Mon	5:32	5.5	6:03	3.9	12:17P	1.0	11:31	1.4	6:41	4:45	
14	Tue	6:03	5.8	6:59	3.8			12:59	0.5	6:41	4:45	
15	Wed	6:31	6.0	7:45	3.8	12:06	1.7	1:34	0.0	6:42	4:45	
16	Thu	6:59	6.2	8:26	3.8	12:39	1.9	2:06	-0.3	6:43	4:46	
17	Fri	7:27	6.3	9:03	3.8	1:10	2.1	2:38	-0.5	6:43	4:46	
18	Sat	7:55	6.4	9:38	3.8	1:40	2.2	3:09	-0.6	6:44	4:46	
19	Sun	8:25	6.3	10:15	3.8	2:10	2.4	3:42	-0.6	6:44	4:47	
20	Mon	8:55	6.3	10:54	3.7	2:41	2.5	4:16	-0.6	6:45	4:47	
21	Tue	9:27	6.1	11:37	3.7	3:12	2.6	4:53	-0.5	6:45	4:48	
22	Wed	10:01	5.9			3:46	2.7	5:32	-0.3	6:46	4:48	
23	Thu	12:25	3.7	10:38A	5.5	4:28	2.9	6:14	-0.1	6:46	4:49	
24	Fri	1:17	3.7	11:22A	5.1	5:27	3.0	6:58	0.2	6:47	4:49	
25	Sat	2:09	4.0	12:21	4.5	6:55	3.0	7:46	0.5	6:47	4:50	
26	Sun	2:59	4.3	1:45	4.0	8:36	2.7	8:37	0.8	6:47	4:51	
27	Mon	3:43	4.8	3:24	3.6	10:05	2.1	9:29	1.1	6:48	4:51	
28	Tue	4:26	5.3	4:55	3.5	11:14	1.2	10:23	1.4	6:48	4:52	
29	Wed	5:08	5.9	6:11	3.7	12:10P	0.2	11:15	1.6	6:48	4:53	
30	Thu	5:50	6.5	7:14	3.9			1:00	-0.7	6:49	4:53	
31	Fri	6:34	7.1	8:14	4.0	12:05	1.7	1:47	-1.4	6:49	4:54	