



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

President's November Message



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

December's outing will be at the two Araz claims. We'll meet at the Chevron gas station on Sidewinder Road and Interstate 8 at 9:00 a.m. on Friday December 16, 2022, and at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 17th. Once at the claim, you will be directed to the best spots. At last year's outing six nuggets were found with a metal detector. Back in 2020, a two gram nugget was found with a metal detector. This is a dry claim so bring a metal detector and drywasher.

January's mining trip will be at the six Quartzite claims. We will meet at the McDonalds on West Main Street at 9:00am Friday, January 20, 2023, or at 9:00am Saturday, January 21, 2023. From there you will be guided to the claims. When we arrive, we will tour the six claims. Remember we'll be on Arizona time in Quartzite. Bring a metal

detector and drywasher. The last The last time small nuggets were found with a metal detector.

February's outing will be at the Potholes claims, on presidents day weekend. We will meet at the Imperial Date Garden on 1304 York Road at 9:00 a.m. Friday, February 17, 2023, or 9:00 a.m. Saturday February 18, 2023. From there we will go to the claims. Bring a drywasher and a metal detector. The Imperial Date Garden moved to a geodesic dome building.

Last month's Potholes outing had 21 attendees, we got five new members. Everyone got gold. I watched a member find his first nugget with his new Minelab metal detector. The weather was a comfortable 72 degrees and low of 45 degrees.

Our next meeting is the Christmas party. Please bring a dish to feed six to eight people. There will be a smoked turkey and ham provided by the club.

Happy Holidays!

December 2022 Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting, Dec. 12th
at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building, Balboa Park. (2nd Monday of the month)

Araz Claims
December 16th- 18th

General Meeting
December 20th at the North Clairemont Community Center (3rd Tues. each month)

Inside this issue:

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RECENT PICS!
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GOLD
PRICE

\$1790 /oz
Dec. 18, 2022

Five ways to find gold nuggets:

The allure of gold has attracted miners to some of the most remote corners of the world to search for the elusive metal. Our fascination with gold is as strong today as it has ever been in history. Successfully locating gold nuggets is no easy task. Most of the nuggets that were easy to locate were unearthed long ago. There are still places where a miner can go out and find gold nuggets. To successfully locate them, it is important to use the right tools.

1. Panning for Gold in a Creek or River. Everyone knows that gold nuggets can be found in creeks and rivers. The natural process of erosion and the high specific gravity of gold make it naturally accumulate in waterways. Digging in the gravels of creeks and rivers can produce gold nuggets. Seek out the inside bends where water slows down. This is where gold paystreaks will accumulate and you will have the highest likelihood of finding a nugget. Shovel some gravel into your gold pan and see what you find.

2. Using a Metal Detector near an Old Mine. There are thousands of old, abandoned gold mines scattered throughout the United States. Many of them are mostly lost and forgotten, but some of them still have gold that you can find! Now it is important to stay safe around old mines. **Some are very dangerous.** So, unless you have proper training it is best to stay away from the mine opening itself. Rather than entering the mine, you can search the surrounding area with a metal detector. Sometimes there are tailing piles near these old mines that still contain small nuggets that were missed by the old timers. You can sometimes find them using a high quality metal detector like the Fisher Gold Bug Pro.

3. Sniping for Gold in Bedrock Cracks. Sniping is one of the simplest and most effective ways to find gold nuggets today. It even works in areas that have been mined for centuries, because it requires more attention and effort than most other gold prospecting methods. Sniping for gold in bedrock is simply cleaning out the deep cracks underwater in a creek or river. Special tools are required to do it properly, because the key to successfully finding gold by sniping is to diligently clean out the cracks and get all of the rich material out of the bottom, which can be much harder than it might seem.

4. Drywashing for Gold Deposits in the Desert. In places where there is little or no water, traditional mining methods simply don't work. To find gold nuggets in these arid regions, you need a special piece of equipment called a drywasher. Drywashers use air pressure and vibration to help separate placer gold from dirt and gravel that is shoveled into it. Although they aren't as efficient as standard placer mining gear that uses water to naturally separate out the gold, they still do a good job of finding gold nuggets in the desert.

5. Suction Dredging in a River. One of the favorite tools for gold mining is the suction dredge. They use a small motor which creates a vacuum that literally sucks gravels from the bottom of the river. These gravels are pulled up into a floating sluice box, which then captures the gold nuggets and fine gold that the dredge picks up. Suction dredges work well because they can process lots of material compared to most other placer mining methods. There are a few challenges with them, including the need for adequate water to get them set up properly, and because of their size it can be tough to get them into the best locations.

Suction dredging is extremely effective. Unfortunately, many states are putting restrictions and bans in place due to the misguided belief that they are damaging to a watershed. When used properly, gold can be recovered with no negative effects to the natural environment. There are lots of different ways that you can find gold nuggets today. The key to success often has more to do with properly researching and understanding how to find gold than the actual method that you use.

SPMA President,
Brian Turner

Come have fun at the Christmas Party!

This month's meeting is the Christmas Party. It's **Tuesday December 20th** at our usual meeting place. As always, it's a potluck so please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. The SPMA will provide the roast turkey and ham. In order to cut down on duplication, here's a partial list of what some people will be bringing:

The Silbernagels, Banana Bread
Roy Feathers, Diet Soda and Diet Cherry Pie
Brian Turner, Fruit punch, turkey gravy, and beans.
Joel Stilwagen, Smoked Sausage
Rod & Pat Regan, Yams and Coleslaw
David Partin, Fruit
Calvin Hastings, Mashed Potatoes
Bill & Ginger Pieper, Mashed Potatoes
Amber Smith, Sausage Stuffing
Ron Smith, Smoked Turkey
Joseph Johaneck, Pasta Dish

Each side dish should serve 6-8 people



Star Gazing Video From NASA / JPL



SPMA Raffle Winners for November 2022

Two silver bars won by Chris Collins

Nugget winners:

Amber Smith 12.19 grains

Jim Jupena 12.8 grains

Amber Smith 14.19 grains

Tesoro Metal Detector Winner: Jose Alvarez

Searching the Beaches...

By Frank M. Trutta

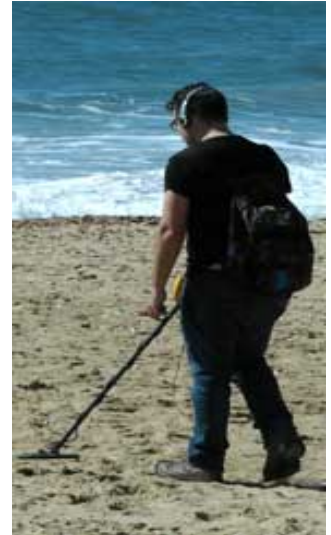
Escrow finally closed on my two buildings in Escondido in the middle of November. It was over six months of dealing with lawyers, CPAs, the courts and escrow. The worst part was moving and getting rid of some of the equipment and inventory we've accumulated in 40 years. My son Mark set up a shop to do printing at his home. I moved all of the metal detectors and equipment to my home and will be selling from there.

Finally, got a chance to get to the beach and do some detecting at Mission Beach. Pickings were slim as there is less traffic on the beach. I did manage to find a copper ring and about a dollar-and-a-half of change. My wife found about two dollars and Tom Alaniz got about a dollar-and-a-half.

Now is the time to watch the weather reports on the surf and high and low tides. Some of the lowest tides are coming up in the next few months and will be in daylight hours.

Please call if you have any questions on metal detecting. I will be running Columbia Metal Detectors out of my house for the time being. My cell is 760 291-7900 or 760 743-8516.

Hunt smart!



Columbia Metal Detectors Holiday Sale!

Garrett ACE 400 with pin pointer \$408.00

Minelab Equinox 600 \$599.00

Minelab Equinox 800 \$899.00

CTX 3030 \$2499.00 with 17" x 13" coil

**Many other items on sale - just call
10% off on all other detectors with current club card**

Columbia Metal Detectors 760 291-7900

SD FAIR 2023 UPDATE

We need 20-25 volunteers to fill all the shifts at our Gold Panning Booth. Each volunteer would work 5 shifts (6 hours) during the fair.

Last year We had a VERY HARD TIME finding SPMA members that would work at the fair.

So now is the time to step up and volunteer or we will be forced to stop doing the Fair after 39 years.

If you are interested in helping at the fair contact Joe Johaneck at joe4409@aol.com.



Please take some pictures for the Assay!

Hi, I'm Tom Heffernan, the Assay Editor. Please remember to use your cell phones to snap a few pictures at the **Christmas Party**. Then just text them to me at 619-756-9103. It couldn't be easier!

You can also share pictures of other events or of gold sparkling in your pan, or detecting finds. Remember to include your name so I can credit you for the photos. Thanks. Merry Christmas and Happy prospecting!

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.

Director of the Board: The board has two open seats. One senior, one junior.

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. Anyone can contribute photos to the Assay.

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	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Vice President	Richard Martin	dickm21066@yahoo.com	619-792-5464
Secretary	Pat Regan	mompar@cox.net	
Director	Greg Terrones	gregnterrones@cox.net	619-948-8613
Past President	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987

Committee Members & Volunteers

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

ASSAY Submission Deadlines: If you wish to submit an article, photos, for sale items, or any other announcement, please do so by **the last Sunday of the month** for the next month's issue. Please email your submissions to the [Assay Editor](#). Photos can be sent from your cell phone to my cell phone as a text message attachment. Instructions for this are outlined above. Send pictures of your prospecting adventures, metal detecting finds, or your gold pans sparkling with gold. Pictures of happy, smiling people having fun are much appreciated. All submissions are subject to approval.
Thank you for contributing to the Assay and the SPMA experience.

FIELD TRIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

December 16th – 18th Araz Claims
January 21st – 23rd Quartzsite Claims
February 17th – 19th Potholes Claims

Raffle drawings for nuggets and camping equipment are held at the our General Meeting to help offset costs. Participation in these fundraising raffles is greatly appreciated.

Calendar Letters **B** = Board Meeting, **G** = General Meeting, **O** = Outing, and **S** = Assay Submissions

December 2022

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

January 2023

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



SOUTHWESTERN PROSPECTORS AND MINERS ASSOCIATION

PRINT & MAIL MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEW MEMBERS: ONE-YEAR PER FAMILY \$55.00

RENEWING MEMBERS: ONE-YEAR PER FAMILY \$45.00

Renewals must be received within 60 days of expiration date.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Spouses Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

New Member \$55.00 Payment \$ _____ Cash

Renewal \$45 Rec'd by _____ Check # _____

Please make your check payable to the S.P.M.A. and mail it to:

P.O. BOX 904, La Mesa, CA 91944-0904

Please sign up for emails and our **ASSAY Newsletter** at www.spma-gold.org

REQUIRED ACCIDENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT

I HEREBY ASSUME, FOR MYSELF AND MY FAMILY, ALL OF THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN ANY/ALL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE S.P.M.A, including, by way of example and not limitation, any risks that may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities being released, from dangerous or defective equipment or property owned, maintained, or controlled by them, or because of their possible liability without fault. I hereby consent to receive medical treatment, which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident, and/or illness during this activity. I further acknowledge that the collection of precious minerals is not guaranteed by the S.P.M.A. I further understand that all activities are at my own risk.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

San Diego, CA - Dec 2022

Date		High				Low				☀️		🌙
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
1	Thu	4:33	5.0	4:01	4.5	10:32	2.2	10:32	0.5	6:31	4:43	🌓
2	Fri	5:13	5.5	5:14	4.4	11:37	1.4	11:16	0.8	6:32	4:43	🌓
3	Sat	5:48	5.9	6:18	4.3	12:29P	0.7	11:55	1.2	6:33	4:43	🌔
4	Sun	6:21	6.3	7:12	4.2			1:14	0.1	6:34	4:43	🌔
5	Mon	6:52	6.5	8:01	4.1	12:30	1.5	1:53	-0.3	6:35	4:43	🌔
6	Tue	7:22	6.6	8:44	4.0	1:02	1.8	2:29	-0.6	6:35	4:43	🌔
7	Wed	7:51	6.6	9:25	3.9	1:33	2.1	3:04	-0.7	6:36	4:43	🌔
8	Thu	8:20	6.5	10:06	3.8	2:03	2.3	3:39	-0.6	6:37	4:44	🌔
9	Fri	8:50	6.3	10:50	3.7	2:33	2.5	4:14	-0.5	6:38	4:44	🌔
10	Sat	9:20	6.1	11:37	3.6	3:02	2.7	4:52	-0.3	6:38	4:44	🌔
11	Sun	9:52	5.8			3:33	2.8	5:33	0.0	6:39	4:44	🌔
12	Mon	12:30	3.5	10:27A	5.4	4:10	3.0	6:16	0.2	6:40	4:44	🌔
13	Tue	1:28	3.6	11:08A	5.0	5:02	3.2	7:02	0.5	6:40	4:45	🌔
14	Wed	2:31	3.7	12:02	4.5	6:28	3.3	7:52	0.8	6:41	4:45	🌔
15	Thu	3:25	4.0	1:19	4.0	8:20	3.2	8:43	1.0	6:42	4:45	🌔
16	Fri	4:03	4.4	2:56	3.7	9:59	2.7	9:32	1.2	6:42	4:46	🌓
17	Sat	4:35	4.8	4:24	3.6	11:04	2.0	10:16	1.4	6:43	4:46	🌓
18	Sun	5:05	5.3	5:35	3.6	11:54	1.2	10:58	1.6	6:44	4:46	🌓
19	Mon	5:37	5.8	6:37	3.7	12:39P	0.3	11:39	1.7	6:44	4:47	🌓
20	Tue	6:12	6.4	7:32	3.9			1:22	-0.4	6:45	4:47	🌓
21	Wed	6:50	6.8	8:22	4.0	12:21	1.9	2:06	-1.1	6:45	4:48	🌓
22	Thu	7:30	7.2	9:11	4.1	1:05	2.0	2:50	-1.5	6:46	4:48	🌓
23	Fri	8:13	7.4	10:00	4.1	1:51	2.0	3:36	-1.7	6:46	4:49	🌑
24	Sat	8:59	7.4	10:51	4.1	2:38	2.1	4:23	-1.7	6:47	4:49	🌑
25	Sun	9:47	7.1	11:45	4.1	3:28	2.2	5:12	-1.5	6:47	4:50	🌑
26	Mon	10:39	6.6			4:25	2.3	6:02	-1.1	6:47	4:50	🌑
27	Tue	12:40	4.2	11:37A	5.9	5:32	2.4	6:53	-0.5	6:48	4:51	🌑
28	Wed	1:38	4.4	12:43	5.1	6:52	2.4	7:46	0.0	6:48	4:52	🌑
29	Thu	2:38	4.7	2:01	4.3	8:29	2.3	8:41	0.6	6:48	4:52	🌓
30	Fri	3:35	5.0	3:36	3.7	10:09	1.8	9:37	1.2	6:49	4:53	🌓
31	Sat	4:26	5.4	5:07	3.4	11:27	1.1	10:22	1.7	6:49	4:54	🌓