



# 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 February Message



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

Hello Members,

**Mining Trips:** February's outing 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.

March's mining trip will be at TwentyNine Palms claim. We meet at the intersection of Highway 62 and Gold Crown Road at 9:00 a.m. Friday, March 18, 2022 or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday March 19, 2022. From there you will be guided to the claim. The best gold will be on the banks of the riverbed. Bring a drywasher or metal detector.

April's prospecting adventure will be a new claim. More details will be given in the next Assay.

### COVID MASK ADVISORY

The City of San Diego has advised us that ALL persons attending SPMA meetings must wear masks, even if they are vaccinated. This is for the next 2 months.

May's expedition will be at the Red Mountain claim. We will meet at the intersection of Hwy 395 and Osdick Road at 9:00 a.m. Friday, May 20, 2022, or on 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 21, 2022. From there we will tour the claim. This is a dry claim, bring a drywasher.

Twenty-seven members attended January's outing to the Cargo claim. The weather was sunny and in the seventies. Some members found gold and others enjoyed rock hounding or hiking. We may go back there next year. It is a fun place to explore.

Up Coming Events: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Pomona GPAA gold show has been rescheduled from February 18 to July 23-24. Please check with the GPAA for more details.

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## February 2022

### Upcoming Events

**Board of Directors Meeting,** February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building in Balboa Park

**Potholes Outing**  
February 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

**General Meeting**  
February 15th at the North Clairemont Community Center

### Inside this issue:

Meeting Speaker  
Outing Pictures  
Gold Article  
Field trips  
Ways & Means  
Metal Detecting  
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Calendars

GOLD  
PRICE

\$1856 /oz  
Feb 15, 2022

A couple of nice photos by **Robert Sepulveda** from January's Cargo Claim Outing.



## Brian Turner's February Gold Question

### Gold Question: How is gold used in the James Webb Space Telescope?

The telescope's mirrors have been coated with a microscopically thin layer of gold, selected for its ability to properly reflect infrared light from the mirrors into the observatory's science instruments. The coating allows the Webb telescope's "infrared eyes" to observe extremely faint objects in infrared light. Webb's mission is to observe the most distant objects in the universe.

Finishing all mirror coatings on schedule is another major success story for the Webb telescope mirrors," said Lee Feinberg, NASA Optical Telescope Element manager for the Webb telescope at the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. "These coatings easily meet their specifications, ensuring even more scientific discovery potential for the Webb telescope."

The Webb telescope has 21 mirrors, with 18 mirror segments working together as one large 21.3-foot (6.5-meter) primary mirror. The mirror segments are made of beryllium, which was selected for its stiffness, light weight and stability at cryogenic temperatures. Bare beryllium is not very reflective of near-infrared light, so each mirror is coated with about 0.12 ounce of gold. The last full size (4.9-foot /1.5-meter) hexagonal beryllium primary mirror segment that will fly aboard the observatory recently was coated, completing this stage of mirror production.

The Webb telescope is the world's next-generation space observatory and successor to the Hubble Space Telescope. The most powerful space telescope ever built, the Webb telescope will provide images of the first galaxies ever formed, and explore planets around distant stars. It is a joint project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.

Mirror manufacturing began eight years ago with blanks made out of beryllium, an extremely hard metal that holds its shape in the extreme cold of space where the telescope will orbit. Mirror coating began in June 2010. Several of the smaller mirrors in the telescope, the tertiary mirror and the fine steering mirror, were coated in 2010. The secondary mirror was finished in 2013. To learn about the James Webb Space Telescope go to <https://www.jwst.nasa.gov>.

SPMA President,  
Brian Turner

# Searching the Beaches...

By Frank M. Trutta

So far this year we have not had any storms that created any big waves to strip the sand off of the beaches. We have big high and low tides but these have had a west swell, but these do not seem to strip the sand. We need a sweeping wave rather than a straight on one. Winter is not over yet and we can still hope for erosion and destruction of the beaches.

Our Mission Beach hunt last month was slim. Jerry Kaplan and Bruce Maden made it out. Bruce was working the flats and came out with 12 coins. My wife, Zee, was mostly working the dry sand and did get \$2.84. I also worked the flats, testing where the coins were. It took me an hour and a half to find a patch and in about 30 minutes I found 18 coins but no jewelry.

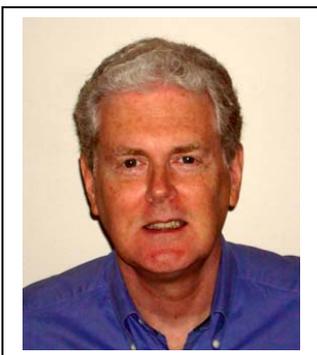
I think we will go back to Mission Beach on Sunday February 20th parking south of the roller coaster and meeting at 10 to check out our finds. There will be a small low tide but parking will be easy.

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 this month's Tide Chart.)

## METAL DETECTING



## Please send in 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!

# Assay Submissions Deadline

If you wish to submit an article, photo, for sale item, obituary, 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 by the editor and the board. Thank you for contributing to the Assay and the SPMA experience.

## Claim Jumping is a Crime!

Under the California Penal Code, Section 487d- Grand Theft; gold dust, amalgam, or quicksilver: Every person who feloniously steals, takes, and carries away, or attempts to take, steal, and carry from any mining claim, tunnel, sluice, undercurrent, riffle box, or sulfurate machine, another's gold dust, amalgam, or quicksilver is guilty of grand theft and is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170. This why if you let your membership expire and continue to prospect on our claims there could be legal consequences. Please keep your membership up to date.

## 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 Johaneck [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

To Be Announced.

## FIELD TRIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

February 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>      Outing to our Potholes Claim  
March 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>      Outing to Twenty-nine Palms Claim  
April Outing...      To Be Announce... New Claim  
May 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>      Outing to Red Mountain Claim

No raffle was held at the January Meeting  
because our Raffle Chairman was sick.  
Best wishes to Greg Terrones for a full recovery.  
We do expect to hold a raffle at the February meeting.

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

### February 2022

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

### March 2022

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