



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

SPMA President's Message For February 2024



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

February's outing will be at the Potholes claims on President Day weekend. We will meet at the Imperial Date Garden on 1304 York Road at 9:00 a.m. Friday, February 16, 2024, or 9:00 a.m. Saturday February 17, 2024. 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.

March's outing 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 22, 2024 or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday March 23, 2024. 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. If you want to learn more, look up the Dale Mining District

April's mining trip will be at the Red Mountain claim. Here are the details for the Red Mountain outing in April. We will meet at the intersection of Hwy 395 and Osdick Road at 9:00 a.m. Friday, April 19, 2024, or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 20, 2024. From there we will tour the claim. This is a dry claim, bring a drywasher and a metal detector.

Last months outing at the Quartzite claims had thirteen attendees. The weather was in the high sixties to low seventies. The only members to get gold used drywashers.

Brian Turner
SPMA President

February 2024 Upcoming Events

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

Potholes Outing
February 16th – 17th

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

Inside this issue:

President's Article
Field trips
Stargazing Video
Ways & Means
Metal Detecting
Volunteers Needed
Calendars
Membership Form

GOLD
PRICE

\$2,031 / oz
Feb. 18, 2024

News from the Potholes Claims



Hi all,

Another month has flown by. Despite the heavy rains members are still finding some gold. Judging from the landscape Home Depot had a good run on tarp sales. Members that have opted for rockhounding while the ground is wet are finding nice samples. One has a rocksaw mounted on his portable trailer and is cutting slabs for cabochons. Detecting finds are a little slower but will probably pick up when the washes dry out a bit.

Frequently asked questions I often hear are 1- Why don't I get the newsletter? 2- Did you ever get that large boulder out of the back wall of your spot? 3- Are your dogs really that unfriendly? Hopefully those that have asked the first question are reading this month's newsletter.

The large boulder finally came loose and with the help of Calvin and his winch it is out of the way. When my dogs are on their walking leashes several members pet and hand feed them treats. When they are tied up on their long leads up at the dig site or Rv they go into work mode and won't let those same members get too close.

I will not be on site for the February outing. I will be in San Diego for the commissioning of the Navy's new Expeditionary Sea Base USS John Canley. My son is an officer on the ship so I'm looking forward to going. As usual if you need something and don't catch me at my normal spot or the rv, text me at 619-701-4134.

Take care,
Ron Doiron





Want to learn more about the Imperial Valley? Check out their Desert Museum near Ocotillo. Click the picture or the link to watch the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Dr7XLnoAKI>



The night sky is big and bright in the desert. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDAKTLmt2hs>

SPMA Board of Directors Elections

SPMA will hold an election on February 25th 2024. Any active member can run for an office. You can submit your name to be placed on the ballot to joe4409@aol.com. A member can nominate another member for the ballot, with the member's permission. The deadline to submit names is February 14th. Offices up for election are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Jr. Director. Terms are one year except for Jr. Director which is a 2 year term. A ballot will be EMAIL to all active SPMA members. Just return your completed ballot for counting. Thank you.

Joseph JohaneK
Brian Turner

SPMA Members Running for Office

President Brian Turner

Vice-President Robert Sepulveda

Treasurer Neil Alexander

Secretary Vacant

Jr Director Ronald Doiron

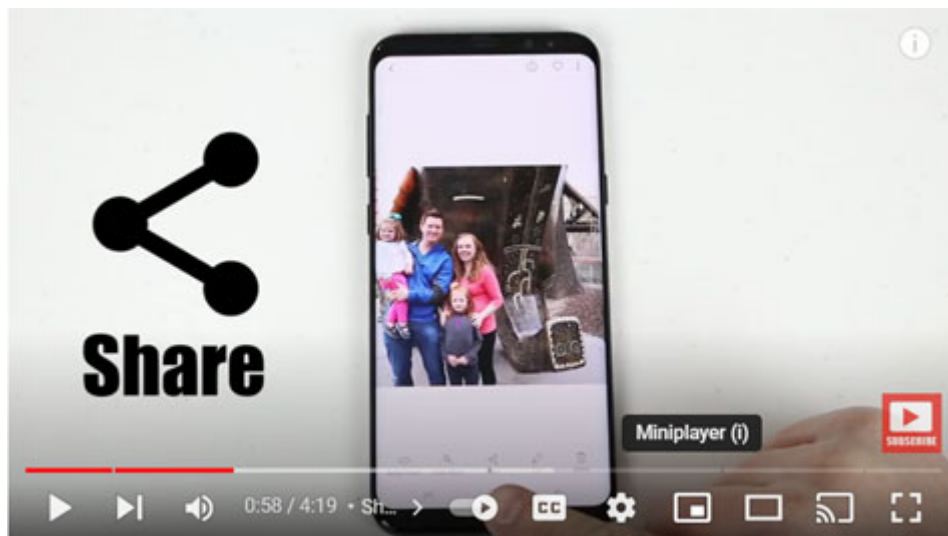


Please take some photos for the Assay!

Hi, I'm Tom Heffernan, the Assay Editor. Please remember to use your cell phones to snap a few pictures at SPMA events. Then just email them to me at Tomh.svm@gmail.com or text them to me at 619-756-9103.

The easiest way to send them is to **use the share feature on your phone**. On iPhones, the share icon looks like a square with an arrow pointing up. On Androids it's a less-than symbol with dots. Please watch the videos below.

How to SHARE photos from your phone



Here's how to do share photos using an Android phone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7sSFk0GNEE>



Here's how to share photos using an iPhone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKaYUbr3GWA>



A geology lesson from Jeff Williams. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLJ8pHMTCSM>

SPMA BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Brian Turner	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Vice President	Richard Martin	dickm21066@yahoo.com	619-792-5464
Treasurer	Neil Alexander	neilAlexander@scenetronics.com	619-994-3207
Secretary	Pat Regan	mompar@cox.net	
Senior Director	Calvin Hastings		
Past President	Joe JohaneK	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987

Committee Members & Volunteers

Membership	Calvin Hastings		
Refreshments	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Photographer	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Assay Editor	Tom Heffernan	tomh.svm@gmail.com	619-756-9103
Yuma Coordinator	Ron Doiron	rdoitron57@gmail.com	619-701-4134
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 JohaneK	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
Gold Committee	Joe JohaneK	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
Library	Joe JohaneK	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
Ways and Means	Brian Turner	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Trip Coordinator	Brian Turner	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Fair Committee	Joe JohaneK	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987

ASSAY Submission Deadlines: If you wish to submit an article, photos, for sale items, or any other announcement, please do so by **the last day of the previous month** for the new 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. 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

February	17th – 18th	Potholes Claim, Imperial Valley
March	22nd – 23rd	Twenty-nine Palms Claims
April	19th – 20th	Red Mountain Claim

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 **A** = Assay Articles

February 2024

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

March 2024

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



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: _____