



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 January 2024



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

January's mining trip will be at the eight Quartzite claims. We will meet at the McDonalds on West Main Street at 9:00am Friday, January 19, 2024, or at 9:00am Saturday, January 20, 2024. From there you will be guided to the claims. When we arrive, we will tour the six claims. Remember we are on Arizona time in Quartzite. Bring a metal detector and drywasher. The two new claims have the best gold. One member got two grams of gold with a drywasher. There are a lot of rock shows in Quartzite this weekend. Check out the shows while in town.

February's outing will be to the Potholes claims over Presidents Day weekend. We'll 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.

Look for their distinctive geodesic dome building. From there we'll go to the claims. Bring a drywasher and a metal detector.

March's outing will be at TwentyNine Palms claim. We'll 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. 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.

The December Araz outing canceled because of rain.

SPMA President,
Brian Turner

January 2024 Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting, Jan. 8th
at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building, Balboa Park. (2nd Monday of the month)

Quartzite Outing
January 19th – 20th

General Meeting
January 16th 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
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GOLD
PRICE

\$2,037 / oz
Jan. 11, 2024

News from the Potholes Claims



Hi all,

I hope everyone had a good holiday season. The month of December seemed to go by quickly. There were several new member sign ups and renewals for the month. This was also the second month in a row where a new member found a nugget within a few days of joining.

On a different note, a few members went on a local detecting outing off claim where a 1/4 oz "button" nugget was found. Not only was this a great find but they are usually historical in nature. "Button" nuggets are man made. It is highly likely at some point in time a prospector lost it while traveling. His bad day years ago made for someone's good day now.

The recent rains dumped a lot of water in the Yuma area. If a spot could hold standing water it did. So, there's not a lot of productive dry ground right now. Hopefully the sun will shine and the area will dry out soon. Detecting is still a good option. 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

Chow line at the Christmas Party



How to make a beach sand scoop



Need a sand scoop, but don't want to spend a lot of money? Here's how to make your own. Click the picture or the link to watch the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tnkUCITwMU>



Here's what the night skies have in store. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-TOoGTvFL8>

Memorial Service, Friday January 19th

William Laffoon Memorial Services and Burial

Friday January 19th, 2024 at 9:30 A.M.
Singing Hills Golf Resort (Sycuan Casino)
3007 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, CA

Lunch Buffet at 11:00 AM (Please RSVP by Jan. 8th)
Call 619-587-0425

Internment of Bill's ashes at Singing Hills Cemetery at 1 PM
2800 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, CA

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

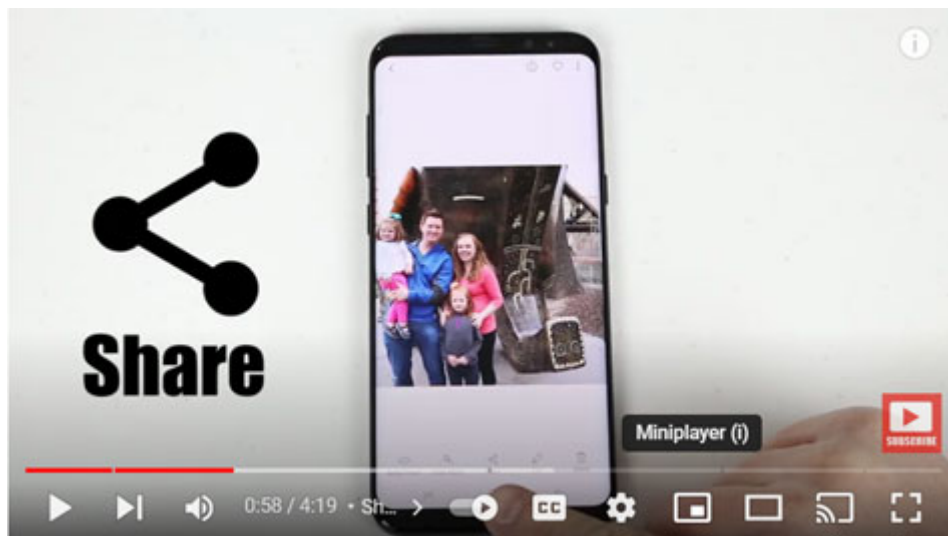


Please take some photos for the Assay!

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>

Pre-Owned Metal Detector for Sale

White's E-Series Metal Detector for sale.

It comes with a White's brand black bag for the detector and the head phones, etc. It also comes with batteries and 3 heads: 4x6, 6x9, and 8x14 inch. It's in excellent condition. New it would cost \$1200. I am asking \$800 or make an offer. Email: diamonds4women@yahoo.com Or call John at 951-679-3451.

Rock Hound Yard Sale... January 13th

The San Diego Gem & Mineral Society is holding a yard sale for a couple of their avid collectors. Please click this link to see their full color flyer.

<https://sdmg.org/pdf/flyer-rockhound-yard-sale-20240113.pdf>

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 Johaneck	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 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	Brian Turner	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Trip Coordinator	Brian Turner	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Fair Committee	Joe Johaneck	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

January	19 th – 20 th	Quartzite Claims, Quaratzite, AZ
February	17 th – 18 th	Potholes Claim, Imperial Valley
March	22 nd – 23 rd	Twenty-nine Palms 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 **A** = Assay Articles

January 2024

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

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		



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: _____