



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 July 2024



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

This month's mining trip will be at John Bull Flat in the Big Bear area. We will meet at Wyatt's Grill & Saloon at 42900 Big Bear Blvd, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 at 9:00a.m. on Friday, July 19, 2024 and 9:00a.m. Saturday, July 20, 2024. From there we will go to the new prospecting area. Bring a drywasher and metal detector. There is much less metal trash for metal detectors.

There will not be a prospecting trip in August. The August general meeting will be our annual parking lot swap meet.

September's mining day trip will be at the Starlight Claim. Here are the details for the Starlight prospecting outing. We will meet at the Buckman Springs Safety Rest Area at 8:00a.m. Saturday,

September 28, 2024. From there you will be guided to the Starlight claim. The gold is too fine for a metal detector, bring a drywasher. This claim will be dry. There is water we can use.

October's outing will be at the two Araz claims. Here are the details for the October'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 October 25, 2024, or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 26, 2024.

When we arrive, we will tour the claim and you will be directed to the best spots for mining gold.

In 2021 six nuggets were found at the Nugget Patch with a metal detector. In 2020 a two gram nugget was found with a metal detector. This is a dry claim. Bring a metal detector and drywasher.

SPMA President,
Brian Turner

July 2024 Upcoming Events

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

Big Bear Outing
July 19th

General Meeting
July 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
Tide Chart

**GOLD
PRICE**

\$2,427 / oz
July 15, 2024

Annual SPMA Swap Meet Next Month!

On August 20th our Annual Swap Meet will be held in the main parking lot of the Park & Recreation Hall Building.

The Swap Meet will start at 6:00 PM and run until dark.

You are welcome to sell any item that is related to Gold Prospecting, Metal Detecting, or Rock-hounding.

This is a good time to clean out your garage and sell your seldom used items. It's also a great way to pick up good equipment at a bargain price. We invite members of other San Diego area clubs to join in by selling or by shopping.

The main Park/Recreation Hall building is located at 4421 Bannock Street, San Diego, California. If you have any questions, please call Joseph Johanek at 858-273-5987

Raffle Winners From June's Meeting

Gold Winners

13.9 Grn Gold Nugget	Chuck Turok	7.6Grn Gold Nugget	Jerry Kaplan
5.4 Grn Gold picker	Milton Bonilla	5.2 Grn Gold picker	Chuck Turok
5.2 Grn Gold picker	Kim Graham	Viking Car Jumper/Charger	Joel Stilwagen

Silver Winners

2023 US Silver Dollar	Grat Crabtree	1 oz. Silver Bar	Mitch Birenbaum
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June Big Bear Outing Pictures

By Mitch Birenbaum



Robert, Steve, Bruce and I worked the claim on Saturday. Bruce worked his metal detector and the rest did dry washing. It was a beautiful day in the mountains, low eighties and a few clouds came by occasionally and a breeze blessed us every once in a while. Mitch.



Eureka! I've found it!

More than gold at the Potholes Claim



One of our SPMA members, Larry Odom, was prospecting on our Potholes claims when he spotted a pink colored rock. He took it home and found out it's a mineral called Thulite. He cut it, shaped it, and polished it to make a heart shaped pendant for his granddaughter. The picture on the left shows the rough sample he spotted after cutting. Excellent work Larry.

SPMA Claim Committee News...

As of August 31, 2024 the Slim Pickens Claim will no longer be part of the SPMA Claim inventory and it will become a private mining claim again. Joe Johaneck, Claim Committee Chair.



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. Use Google for more info.

SPMA BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Brian Turner	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Vice President	Robert Sepulveda		
Treasurer	Neil Alexander	neilAlexander@scenetronics.com	619-994-3207
Secretary	Open		
Senior Director	Calvin Hastings		
Junior Director	Ronald Doiron	rdoitron57@gmail.com	619-701-4134
Past President	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987

Committee Members & Volunteers

Membership	Calvin Hastings		
Assay Editor	Tom Heffernan	tomh.svm@gmail.com	619-756-9103
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Mining Demos	Richard Seany	dustydick1@cox.net	619-460-2736
Claims Committee	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
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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

Used Keene Drywasher For Sale



Used Keene DW212V. Good condition.

Motorized with speed control/handcrank option with extra belt. In storage 4 years \$750 (casters not included) They drywasher is in the Yuma area right now, but Ron travels between Yuma and San Diego frequently for SPMA board meetings but he will not be able to attend the swap meet next month. Text or call **Ron at 619-701-4134**. Here's link with a video demo on the page:

https://www.keene.store/?Screen=PROD&Product_Code=DW212V

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

July 19th – 21st
 August 20th
 September 28th

Bull Flat Claim, Big Bear
Swap Meet at the Rec Center
Starlight Claim, 1-day outing

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

July 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 O	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 A			

August 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	17
18	19	20 G	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: _____