



www.spma-gold.org

MARCH 2020

THE ASSAY

THE SOUTHWESTERN PROSPECTORS AND MINERS ASSOCIATION

- Founded 1934 -

Meeting held the Third Tuesday of Each Month @ 6:30 PM
Clairemont Friendship Senior Center
4425 Bannock Ave. San Diego 92117

President's Message

Welcome to the Assay,

Mining Excursions: The details for the Twenty Palms gold prospecting outing are as follows: We will meet at the intersection of Hwy. 62 and Gold Crown Road at 9:00 a.m. Friday, March 27, 2020, or 9:00 a.m. Saturday, March 28, 2020. From there you will be guided to the claim. There is room at the claim to park motor homes and campers.

Here are the details for the April outing near Quartzite. We will meet at the McDonalds on West Main Street at 9:00 a.m. Friday, April 24, 2020, or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 25, 2020. From there you will be guided to the claim. When we arrive, we will tour the claims.

Here are the details for the Red Mountain outing in May. We will meet at the intersection of Hwy 395 and Osdick Road at 9:00 a.m. Friday, May 22, 2020, or on 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 23, 2020. From there we will tour the claim.

Suction Dredging: Miners in Oregon have petitioned the US Supreme Court to review a lower court decision in Eastern Oregon Mining Association v. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The main contention is that Oregon DEQ has been forcing suction gold dredgers and other in-stream miners to obtain a Section 402 EPA permit under the Clean Water Act when the Clean Water Act clearly states that there must be the addition of pollutant to trigger the need for such a permit. The Oregon State Supreme Court let the 402 permit requirement stand, and the miners appealed to the US Supreme Court.

The appeal is being handled by the Pacific Legal Foundation. This property rights group does not take on cases unless there is a very strong chance of prevailing in court. US Supreme Court has specifically requested a response from the Oregon DEQ; the agency has been ordered to respond. The agency had previously waived its right to file a response to the miner's petition. This is good news; this means the US Supreme Court is seriously considering accepting this case.

The largest gold nugget ever found was the Welcome Stranger, the granddaddy of all true gold nuggets, was found by English prospectors John Deason and Richard Oates in February 1869 at Moliagul in Victoria, Australia. Weighing in at a jaw-dropping 3,524 ounces (294 pounds), the monster nugget was broken up into three pieces that were later melted down. It would be worth at least \$5.5 million if still intact today.

March's Gold Question: What are the most common impurities in unrefined gold? The most common impurities in gold are silver followed by iron, copper and lead. Silver is the most difficult to remove from gold.

April's Gold Question: What countries have the largest gold reserves?

Good Luck,
Brian Turner SPMA President=

Upcoming Events

March 9th:
6:30pm
Board of Directors
meeting Gem and
Mineral Building in
Balboa Park.

March 27th-28th:
29 palms

March 17th:
6:30 pm
General Membership
meeting at
4425 Bannock Ave
San Diego, Ca. 92117

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Spot Gold Price
\$1,598.10
Silver
\$16.78
3-2-20

Monthly Meetings

March- TBA

Field Trips & Events

March- 29 Palms March 27-28

April- Quartzite April 24-25

May- Red Mountain May 22-23

Refreshments chairman effective **January 2021**. Position will be vacant beginning **January 2021**
I will serve out this year. Time for someone new to step up and volunteer.

Thank you

Joan Rufener

Volunteers needed

Volunteers needed to fill vacant seats on the Board for SPMA

We need a recording *Secretary* who can take notes at the Board Meeting and file needed tax forms and Non Profit documents each year .

Also needed is a *Treasurer* for SPMA to control the spending of Association bank Accts. And keep accounting records for the Association.

***Membership chairman* to keep up to date membership records and collect member's money for renewal of membership.**

San Diego County Fair

**San Diego County Fair is open June 5th thur July 5th.
Tuesday -Sunday each week. Please try too make time to help us
at the Fair . We will have a sign up sheet at the meetings.**

Membership

New memberships are \$55, and Renewal memberships are \$45.

Please make checks, or money orders payable to SPMA Membership

Mail to: SPMA Membership PO Box-904, La Mesa, Ca 91944-0904 or bring a check, money order, or cash to the Meeting and see the Membership coordinator for assistance.

Ways and Means Drawing

Door Prize
(\$10.00 worth of red tickets)
Don Leavitt

Silver Round
Anton Silbernagel

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Dave Partin | 7.0 __Grains |
| 2. Kevin Kratcha | 9.41 __Grains |
| 3. Randy Kirby | 10.8 __Grains |
| 4. Dave Partin | 11.8 __Grains |

* MEMBERS *

Because of purchasing costs, if gold remains at \$1500.00 @ ozt, or more, beginning in February tickets for the gold nugget drawing will be sold in the increments shown below.

This increase is due to the cost of gold to your S.P.M.A.

Below \$1500.00, (tickets at \$1.00 ea., current) | **Above \$1500.00**, (tickets at 2 for \$3.00)

6 tickets _____ \$5.00		9 tickets _____ \$7.00
12 tickets _____ \$10.00		18 tickets _____ \$14.00
25 tickets _____ \$20.00		30 tickets _____ \$25.00

Assistant needed for Ways and Means activities at general meetings, if interested please contact Ways and Means person.

Suggestions are welcome for items placed on the Drawing table.

Volunteer needed for position of SPMA Photographer.

If you have questions,
please inquire of a board member.

Searching the beaches . . .

by Frank M. Trutta

The storms have not materialized this year as in the past leaving all the sand on the beach leaving them all nice and even. This is bad news for us. We would prefer northern swells to sweep the sand off of the beach leaving cuts and erosion. With spring coming soon I do not see any news reports predicting any storms for our winter season.

A few of my customers have reported some jewelry recovered. They have been using multi-frequency Minelab machines such as The Excalibur, Safari and CTX 3030 and going dead slow on their sweeps giving the machine time to think.

The faster you sweep your coil the less depth you will get on these type of machines.

Should you have any questions call me at my shop, Columbia Metal Detectors, at 760 743-8516 or on my cell 760 291-7900.

Hunt Smart!



The Assay

Please have Ads, Articles and Photos submitted by
the 1st Monday following General Meeting to:
info.liprintshop@gmail.com





Your Officers

<i>President</i>	Brian Turner	brian@brianfturner.com	858-864-0465
<i>Vice President</i>	Richard Martin	dickm21066@yahoo.com	619-792-5464
<i>Secretary</i>	Pat Regan		
<i>Treasurer</i>	Joe Johaneck (Temp.)		
<i>Sr. Director</i>	RJ Wingo	rjwingo@cox.com	619-461-9066
<i>Jr. Director</i>	Greg Terrones	gregnterrones@cox.net	619-948-8613
<i>Past President</i>	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987



Your Committee Members

<i>Membership</i>	Open		
<i>Photographer</i>	Open		
<i>Assay Editor</i>	Kent Matthews	info.liprintshop@gmail.com	619-449-5116
<i>Mining Demos</i>	Richard Seany	dustydick1@cox.net	619-460-2736
<i>Claims Committee</i>	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
<i>Gold Committee</i>	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
<i>Metal Detecting</i>	Frank Trutta	scthfrank@yahoo.com	760-743-8516
<i>Legislative Rep.</i>	Open		
<i>Library</i>	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
<i>Ways and Means</i>	Greg Terrones	gregnterrones@cox.net	619-948-8613
<i>Refreshments</i>	Joan Rufener	rufenerjm@cox.net	619-302-2824
<i>Trip Coordinator</i>	Brian Turner	brian@brianfturner.com	858-864-0465
<i>Fair Committee</i>	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
<i>Website manager</i>	Tom Heffeman	tomh.svm@gmail.com	619-697-8187
<i>SPMA website</i>		www.spma-gold.org	
<i>Yuma Group</i>	Open		
<i>News & Info</i>	Pam Clements		619-208-8414
<i>Yahoo Forum</i>	Blakely Sanford	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spma2 http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spma_members_only	760-633-1787

Southwestern Prospectors & Miners Association

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

(619) 685-4488

www.spma-gold.org

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spma2>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spma_Members_Only



*The large bolded **B** or **G** days are meeting nights.*

Board Meeting is the second Monday of each month, *Spanish Village Balboa Park*
General Meeting is the third Tuesday of the month. *Clairemont Friendship Senior Center*

The * days are the SPMA scheduled Outings.
 March 27th and 28th will be at the 29 palms claims.
 April 24th and 25th will be at the Quartzite claims.

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 B	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 G	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 *	28 *
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 B	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 G	22	23	24 *	25 *
26	27	28	29	30	1	2