



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

President's March Message



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

Hello Members,

Mining Trips: March's mining trip will be at Twenty-Nine 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 trip will be at the Cargo Six claim. This is a new SPMA Claim. We are to meet on Ogilby Road at the intersection of Ogilby Rd and Sidewinder Road at 9:00am on Friday, April 22, 2022 or 9:00am Saturday, April 23, 2022. From there you will be guided to the claim. When we arrive, we will tour the claim.

Bring a drywasher and metal detector. I used to work this

COVID MASK ADVISORY

The City of San Diego insists that everyone attending our SPMA meeting wear masks, even if vaccinated. This should be the last month.

claim about 10 years ago, so I can show you the best spots.

May's expedition will be at the Red Mountain claim. 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 20, 2022, or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 21, 2022. From there we will tour the claim. This is a dry claim, bring a drywasher.

February's mining trip had more than 36 attendees. The biggest nugget was 4.17 grams, and there where other nuggets found on this outing. Everyone who drywashed got gold. The four gram nugget was found with a metal detector. The weather was dry with a temperature 70 to 80 degrees.

Hope you can join us on one of these upcoming outings.

March 2022 Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting, March 14th at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building, Balboa Park. (2nd Monday of the month)

Twenty Nine Palms
March 18th - 20th

General Meeting
March 15th at the North Clairemont Community Center (3rd Tues. each month)

Inside this issue:

President's Article
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Metal Detecting
Volunteers Needed
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Tide Chart

GOLD
PRICE

\$1983 /oz
March 6, 2022

A couple of photos courtesy of **Joel Orona** from February's Potholes Claim Outing. Thanks Joel.



Brian Turner's March Gold Question

Where was the first gold coin made?

Coins were introduced as a method of payment around the 6th or 5th century BC. The invention of coins is still shrouded in mystery: According to Herodotus, coins were first minted by the Lydians, while Aristotle claims that the first coins were minted by Demodike of Kyrme, the wife of King Midas of Phrygia. Numismatists consider that the first coins were minted on the Greek island of Aegina, either by the local rulers or by King Pheidon of Argos.

Aegina, Samos, and Miletus all minted coins for the Egyptians, through the Greek trading post of Naucratis in the Nile Delta. It is certain that when Lydia was conquered by the Persians in 546 BC, coins were introduced to Persia. The Phoenicians did not mint any coins until the middle of the fifth century BC, which quickly spread to the Carthaginians who minted coins in Sicily. The Romans only started minting coins from 326 BC.

Coins were brought to India through the Achaemenid Empire, as well as the successor kingdoms of Alexander the Great. Especially the Indo-Greek kingdoms minted (often bilingual) coins in the 2nd century BCE. The most beautiful coins of the classical age are said to have been minted by Samudragupta (335-376 BC.), who portrayed himself as both conqueror and musician.

The first coins were made of electrum, an alloy of silver and gold. It appears that many early Lydian coins were minted by merchants as tokens to be used in trade transactions. The Lydian state also minted coins, most of the coins mentioning King Alyattes of Lydia. Some Lydian coins have a so-called legend, a sort of dedication. One famous example found in Caria reads "I am the badge of Phanes" - it is still unclear who Phanes was.

In China, gold coins were first standardized during the Qin dynasty (221-207 BC). After the fall of the Qin dynasty, the Han emperors added two other legal tenders: silver coins and "deerskin notes", a predecessor of paper currency which was a Chinese invention.

SPMA President,
Brian Turner

Searching the Beaches...

By Frank M. Trutta

The weather for our Mission Beach hunt was perfect, a little chill first thing and warmed up by the time we were done. Not too much was found. Not many people going in the water other than the surfers and not the crowds up on the dry sand. We love erosion and destruction of the beaches. The mild storms so far has not created any erosion.

My wife, Zee, was working the dry sand and came up with a tungsten carbide ring and almost \$2.00 in change. I worked the low tide area and my first target was a gold ear ring then came up with only about 10 coins, Michele Silva was there trying out her new Minelab CTX 3030 and Jeanette Davis was trying out her new Equinox 800. I think both of them found a few coins.

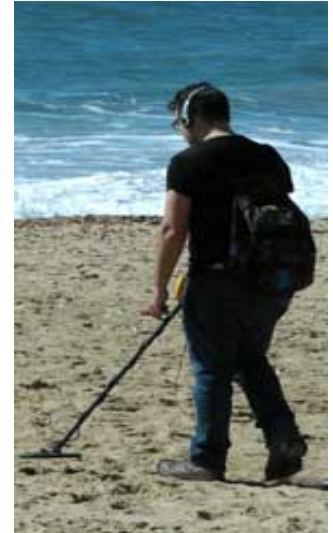
My next hunt will be at Pacific Beach on March 20th first thing in the morning and meet at 10:00 to check out our finds. Usually not much is found there but with the motels and hotels some nice items have been recovered.

Should you have any questions give me a call at my shop. Columbia Metal Detectors, 760 743-8516 or on my cell phone 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!

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 8th thru July 4th. 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



SPMA members working the San Diego County Fair in 2018

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	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Vice President	Richard Martin	dickm21066@yahoo.com	619-792-5464
Secretary	Pat Regan	mompar@cox.net	
Jr. Director	Greg Terrones	gregnterrones@cox.net	619-948-8613
Past President	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987

Committee Members & Volunteers

Membership	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Refreshments	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Photographer	Open –	Volunteer needed	
Assay Editor	Tom Heffernan	tomh.svm@gmail.com	619-756-9103
Yuma Coordinator	Open –	Volunteer needed	
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	Greg Terrones	gregnterrones@cox.net	619-948-8613
Trip Coordinator	Brian Turner	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Fair Committee	Joe Johaneck	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
Information Table	Pam Clements		619-208-8414

ASSAY Submission Deadlines: If you wish to submit an article, photos, for sale items, 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.
Thank you for contributing to the Assay and the SPMA experience.

FIELD TRIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

March 18th – 20th Outing to the Twenty-nine Palms Claim
April 22nd – 24th Outing to the Cargo Six Claim
May 20th – 22nd Outing to the Red Mountain Claim

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

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




March 2022

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

April 2022

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

San Diego, CA - Mar 2022

Date		High				Low						
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
1	Tue	7:56	6.7	9:04	4.9	1:48	1.2	2:45	-1.6	6:14	5:47	
2	Wed	8:38	6.6	9:34	5.1	2:31	0.8	3:18	-1.3	6:13	5:48	
3	Thu	9:19	6.2	10:04	5.3	3:13	0.6	3:49	-0.9	6:12	5:48	
4	Fri	9:58	5.6	10:33	5.3	3:54	0.5	4:18	-0.3	6:11	5:49	
5	Sat	10:38	4.9	11:03	5.2	4:37	0.5	4:45	0.4	6:09	5:50	
6	Sun	11:20	4.1	11:33	5.0	5:22	0.7	5:09	1.0	6:08	5:51	
7	Mon			12:10	3.4	6:13	0.9	5:28	1.7	6:07	5:51	
8	Tue	12:06	4.8	1:29	2.7	7:20	1.1	5:31	2.3	6:06	5:52	
9	Wed	12:48	4.5			9:00	1.2			6:04	5:53	
10	Thu	1:59	4.3			10:55	0.9			6:03	5:54	
11	Fri	3:39	4.3	7:31	3.5	11:58	0.5	11:06	3.0	6:02	5:54	
12	Sat	4:58	4.6	7:37	3.7			12:37	0.1	6:01	5:55	
13	Sun	6:52	5.0	8:47	3.9	12:00	2.6	2:07	-0.2	6:59	6:56	
14	Mon	7:33	5.4	9:01	4.2	1:37	2.2	2:33	-0.5	6:58	6:57	
15	Tue	8:10	5.7	9:19	4.5	2:10	1.7	2:59	-0.7	6:57	6:57	
16	Wed	8:45	5.9	9:40	4.8	2:43	1.2	3:24	-0.8	6:55	6:58	
17	Thu	9:20	6.0	10:03	5.1	3:17	0.8	3:50	-0.7	6:54	6:59	
18	Fri	9:56	5.8	10:28	5.4	3:52	0.4	4:15	-0.4	6:53	7:00	
19	Sat	10:34	5.4	10:56	5.6	4:31	0.1	4:41	0.0	6:51	7:00	
20	Sun	11:16	4.8	11:25	5.7	5:13	0.0	5:08	0.5	6:50	7:01	
21	Mon			12:04	4.1	6:01	0.0	5:34	1.1	6:49	7:02	
22	Tue	12:00	5.7	1:07	3.4	6:59	0.1	6:00	1.7	6:48	7:02	
23	Wed	12:42	5.6	2:44	2.8	8:15	0.2	6:28	2.3	6:46	7:03	
24	Thu	1:41	5.3			9:52	0.2			6:45	7:04	
25	Fri	3:12	5.1	7:14	3.4	11:28	-0.1	10:38	3.0	6:44	7:05	
26	Sat	4:53	5.1	7:41	3.9			12:37	-0.5	6:42	7:05	
27	Sun	6:13	5.4	8:08	4.4	12:16	2.5	1:26	-0.9	6:41	7:06	
28	Mon	7:13	5.8	8:35	4.8	1:16	1.9	2:06	-1.0	6:40	7:07	
29	Tue	8:03	5.9	9:01	5.2	2:03	1.2	2:41	-1.0	6:38	7:07	
30	Wed	8:47	5.9	9:28	5.5	2:45	0.6	3:13	-0.8	6:37	7:08	
31	Thu	9:27	5.7	9:54	5.7	3:24	0.2	3:42	-0.4	6:36	7:09	