



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 May 2024



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

May's outing will be a day trip to the Starlight Claim. Here are the details for the Starlight claim. We will meet at the Buckman Springs Safety Rest Area at 8:00a.m. Saturday, May 25, 2024. From there you will be guided to the Starlight claim. The gold is too fine for a metal detector, bring a drywasher or a wet gold processor. This claim will be dry. There is water we can use.

June's prospecting trip will be at the Big Bear claim. We will meet at Wyatt's Grill & Saloon at 42900 Big Bear Blvd, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 at 9:00a.m. on Friday, June 21, 2024 and 9:00a.m. Saturday, June 22, 2024. We will go to the Big Bear claim. Bring a drywasher and metal detector.

July'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.

The Red Mountain outing last month had sixteen attendees. This outing was a picker party. Everyone I saw got at least one picker. The weather was sunny with the temperature around 65 to 75 in the daytime with little wind.

At the May meeting, the program will be fixing tires and starting a car or truck with a dead battery in a remote location.

SPMA President,
Brian Turner

May 2024 Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting, May 13th at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building, Balboa Park. (2nd Monday of the month)

Starlight Outing
May 25th

General Meeting
May 21st at the North Clairemont Community Center (3rd Tues. each month)

Inside this issue:

President's Article
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Stargazing Video
Ways & Means
Metal Detecting
Volunteers Needed
Calendars
Tide Chart

**GOLD
PRICE**

\$2,362/oz
May 12, 2024

Raffle Winners From Last Month

Gold Winners

9.1 grn Nugget Mitch Birenbaum

5.0 grn Gold Picker Mitch Birenbaum

5.2 grn Gold Picker Tad Van Allen

4.6 grn Gold Picker Tim Brewer

5.1 grn Gold Picker John Giles

Silver Winners

US 2023 Silver Dollar Neil Alexander

1oz Silver Bar Brian Winter

Star Gazing Video From NASA / JPL



If clicking the image fails use this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxJdX9x6jyU>

Searching the Beaches...

By Frank M. Trutta

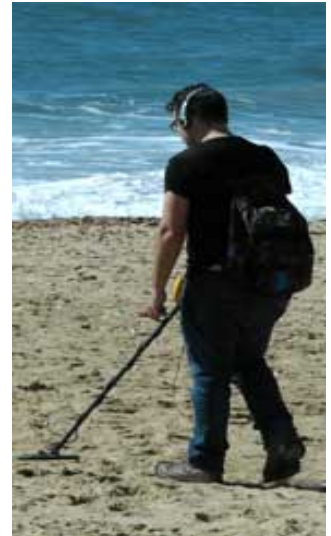
With the cool weather people have kind of stayed away from the beaches. I did have a chance to hit the beach a couple of weeks ago on a Sunday at Mission Beach and the beach actually filled up around 10:00 am. The majority of the people were on the dry sand. Others were walking around, but very few were in the water.

I detected for about three hours, gridding out the flat wet sand. I could tell a lot of sand moved onto the beach, as I did not hit the junk layer where all the tent stakes usually are found. They were deeper than my detector could sense. I did manage to find 18 coins and a sterling silver ring.

With the heavy traffic, dry sand detecting should be picking up.

Should you have any questions on detecting give me a call at Columbia Metal Detectors 760 291-7900.

Hunt smart!



Summer Heat Returning to the Potholes Claim



Hi all,

Nothing major to report this month. The weather's warming up as usual for this time of the year. There's been a few overcast days and some windy days. Overall it's been fairly warm by late morning. I haven't run into anybody else on the claims the last few times out. If you do venture out, stay hydrated and try to go with someone or let somebody know your tentative game plan and eta home. This will be my last Potholes area report until the August Assay. As always I'm around the area more often than not. Contact me if you need anything.

Stay safe,
Ron

Pyrite (Fools Gold) Could Contain Lithium



According to a recent article in Popular Mechanics, Pyrite may be a future source of lithium for batteries. Click the link to read all about it. <https://tinyurl.com/2p9z5up4>

Find out why Benitoite is a California State Gemstone?



Click the link or the picture to read the article. <https://tinyurl.com/kvxneac7>

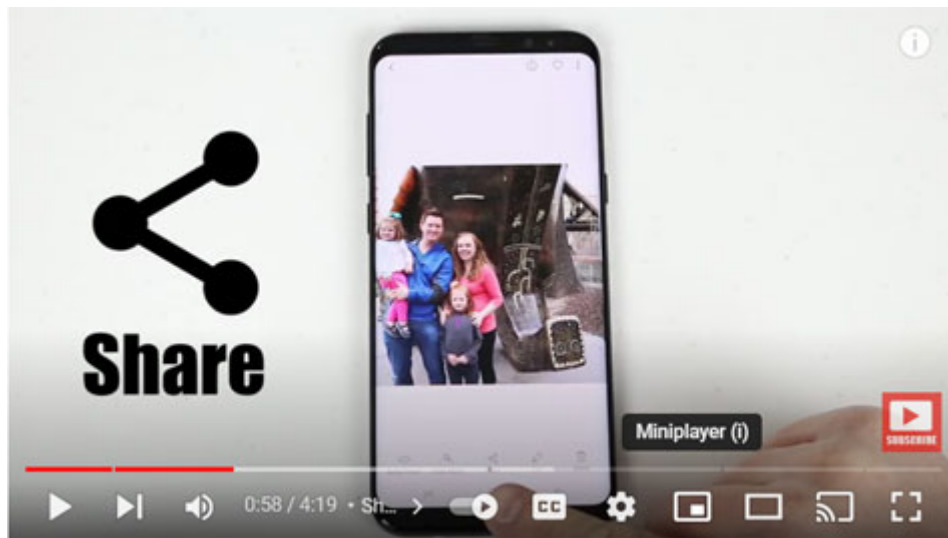


Please take some photos for the Assay!

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>

SPMA BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Brian Turner	brian@brianturner.com	858-864-0465
Vice President	Robert Sepulveda	goodguys619@gmail.com	619-519-4805
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

Kayak for Sale – Wilderness Pamlico T160 Tandem



15'6" long, seats 2 adults and a child. \$400. For more info, call or text Tom at 619-756-9103

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

May 25th (1 day)

June 21st – 23rd

July 19th – 21st

Starlight Claim, East County

Big Bear Mountain Claim

Bull Flat Claim, Big Bear

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

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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 O
26	27	28	29	30	31 A	

June 2023

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

San Diego, CA - May 2024

Date	High				Low							
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon	
1	Wed	2:58	4.7	6:08	3.9	10:59	-0.1	10:57	2.8	5:59	7:32	
2	Thu	4:37	4.7	6:35	4.5	11:51	-0.2			5:58	7:32	
3	Fri	5:53	4.8	7:04	5.1	12:09	2.0	12:34	-0.2	5:57	7:33	
4	Sat	6:55	4.9	7:35	5.7	1:05	1.1	1:13	0.0	5:56	7:34	
5	Sun	7:52	4.9	8:08	6.3	1:56	0.2	1:49	0.2	5:55	7:34	
6	Mon	8:46	4.8	8:41	6.7	2:43	-0.6	2:25	0.6	5:54	7:35	
7	Tue	9:37	4.6	9:16	6.9	3:29	-1.1	3:00	1.0	5:53	7:36	
8	Wed	10:29	4.3	9:52	6.9	4:15	-1.4	3:35	1.4	5:53	7:37	
9	Thu	11:23	3.9	10:30	6.6	5:02	-1.4	4:11	1.8	5:52	7:37	
10	Fri	12:23P	3.6	11:10	6.2	5:51	-1.1	4:48	2.3	5:51	7:38	
11	Sat	1:32P	3.4	11:56	5.7	6:44	-0.7	5:29	2.7	5:50	7:39	
12	Sun			2:56	3.3	7:42	-0.3	6:26	3.0	5:50	7:40	
13	Mon	12:50	5.1	4:36	3.5	8:47	0.1	7:59	3.2	5:49	7:40	
14	Tue	2:00	4.5	5:37	3.8	9:57	0.4	10:06	3.1	5:48	7:41	
15	Wed	3:27	4.1	6:10	4.1	10:58	0.5	11:38	2.6	5:47	7:42	
16	Thu	4:51	4.0	6:35	4.4	11:43	0.7			5:47	7:42	
17	Fri	5:57	3.9	6:57	4.8	12:33	2.1	12:18	0.9	5:46	7:43	
18	Sat	6:51	3.9	7:19	5.1	1:14	1.5	12:48	1.1	5:46	7:44	
19	Sun	7:39	3.9	7:41	5.5	1:51	0.9	1:15	1.3	5:45	7:45	
20	Mon	8:23	3.9	8:05	5.8	2:26	0.4	1:42	1.5	5:44	7:45	
21	Tue	9:05	3.8	8:30	6.0	3:00	-0.1	2:09	1.7	5:44	7:46	
22	Wed	9:46	3.8	8:57	6.2	3:34	-0.4	2:37	1.9	5:43	7:47	
23	Thu	10:28	3.7	9:26	6.3	4:11	-0.7	3:05	2.1	5:43	7:47	
24	Fri	11:14	3.6	9:58	6.3	4:50	-0.8	3:35	2.3	5:42	7:48	
25	Sat	12:06P	3.5	10:35	6.2	5:33	-0.8	4:07	2.5	5:42	7:49	
26	Sun	1:04P	3.4	11:18	6.0	6:20	-0.7	4:45	2.7	5:42	7:49	
27	Mon			2:08	3.4	7:12	-0.6	5:40	2.9	5:41	7:50	
28	Tue	12:11	5.7	3:15	3.6	8:07	-0.4	7:07	3.1	5:41	7:50	
29	Wed	1:18	5.2	4:14	4.0	9:06	-0.2	8:58	2.9	5:40	7:51	
30	Thu	2:39	4.7	5:01	4.5	10:03	0.1	10:41	2.4	5:40	7:52	
31	Fri	4:10	4.3	5:41	5.1	10:56	0.3	11:58	1.6	5:40	7:52	