



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 November 2023



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

November's mining outing will be at the Potholes claims. We will meet at Imperial Date Gardens - 1304 York Rd, in Winterhaven, CA 92283, at 9:00am on Friday November 17, 2023 or 9:00am on Saturday November 18, 2023. From there we will go to the five claims. These are dry claims. Bring a drywasher and metal detector. Last year a one ounce nugget was found.

December's outing will be at the two Araz claims. Here are the details for the December'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 December 22, 2023, or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 23, 2023. When we arrive, 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.

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.

Last month outing at the Cargo 6 claim had eleven attendees. Two small nuggets were found with a metal detector. Everybody with a drywasher got gold. The temperature was in the high eighties in late afternoon.

SPMA President,
Brian Turner

November 2023 Upcoming Events

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

Potholes Outing
November 17th

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

Inside this issue:

President's Article
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Calendars
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GOLD
PRICE

\$1,973 / oz
Nov. 7, 2023

News from the Potholes Claims



Hi all,

October at the Potholes has seen the Temps start to drop back down to tolerable levels. Animals are out more. Deer, bobcats and a couple rattlesnakes have been seen out on the claim.

Several of the regular snowbirds have returned and are actively prospecting. We have lots of interest in new membership. The road going up to the claim is getting worn down in the rough spots and easier to travel.

One item that came up at the September meeting was first timers to the claim having difficulty figuring out the right road in spots. Especially when coming in over Coyote Ridge road or at night. There are now some trail markers placed just past the side roads you DON'T take. They are three rocks on the bottom with a single medium Blue painted rock centered on top. They will always be on your right heading to the claim. There are four up right now. I will add a couple more in the near future.

Our local meetings are the first Saturday of the month, 9am up at the old house site. Hope to see you there...

Ron Doiron

October Meeting Raffle Winners

16.2 Grn Nugget	Calvin Hastings
15.8 Grn Nugget	Jose Alvarez
14.0 Grn Nugget	Art Biggs
1 Oz. Silver Bar	Julie Biggs
1 Oz. US Silver Dollar	Bill Piper
4.2 Grn Gold Picker	Robert Sepulveda
4.0 Grn Gold Picker	Art Biggs

Fishing the Canals of Imperial Valley



You probably need a California fishing license but local authorities can fill you in on that. Here's the link to watch the video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_87qBelljs



Here's what the night skies have in store. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZSC8EosER8>

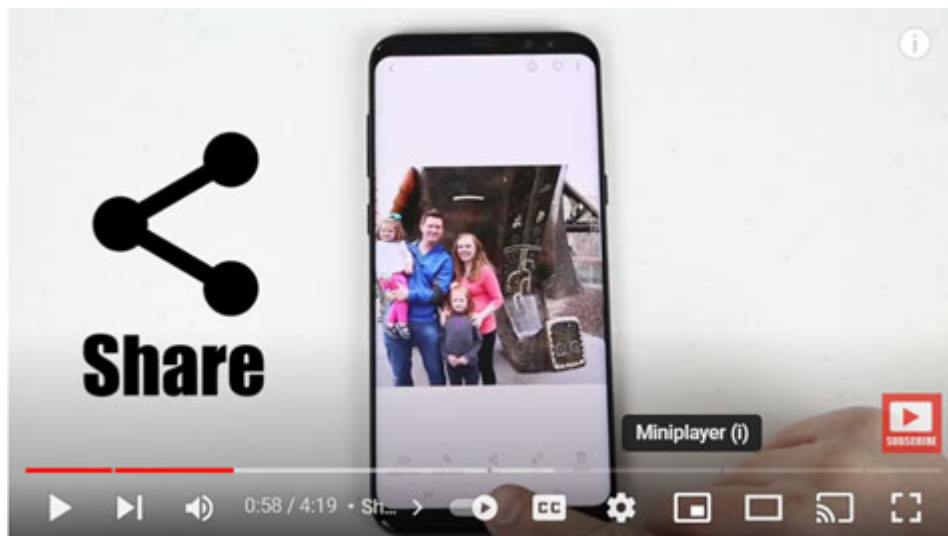


Please take some photos for the Assay!

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>

12 BEST FREE GPS APPS TO TRY



Click the image or go to <https://www.wellplannedjourney.com/best-hiking-apps/>

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 JohaneK	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 JohaneK	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
Gold Committee	Joe JohaneK	joe4409@aol.com	858-273-5987
Library	Joe JohaneK	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 JohaneK	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

November 17th – 19th

December 22nd – 23rd

January 19th – 20th

Potholes Claims, Imperial Valley

Araz Claims, Imperial Valley

Quartzite Claims, Quaratzite, AZ

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

November 2023

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 O	18 O
19	20	21 G	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 A		

December 2023

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	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: _____

**THE SOUTHWESTERN
PROSPECTORS AND MINERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 904 • LA MESA, CA 91944-0904

In order to insure that our claims are worked and so that we have records to prove it, we made up this form. If the BLM questions us as to the use of our claims or wants to close one of our areas to prospecting we want to be able to produce records that show that our claims are being used. Thanks for your help. The form should be mailed to the above address or turned in at a monthly meeting.

CLAIM USED _____

MEMBERS NAME _____

DATE USED _____

TOTAL PEOPLE AND TIME ON THE CLAIM _____

(number of people actually prospecting or mining & amount of time doing it)

TYPE OF WORK DONE _____

MEMBERS SIGNATURE _____

ACCESS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Claim Access | | Vehicle Access | Claim Markers |
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Easy | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> 2X4 | <input type="checkbox"/> In Place |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> 4X4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Down/Not readable |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Campers OK | <input type="checkbox"/> Could not locate |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Very Difficult | <input type="checkbox"/> Hike in only | |

CLAIMS GUIDE DIRECTIONS

Were directions accurate? Yes No

If not please give new directions: _____
(Map on back)

EQUIPMENT USED

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Type of equipment used | <input type="checkbox"/> Pan | <input type="checkbox"/> Dredge | <input type="checkbox"/> Highbanker | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Rockerbox | <input type="checkbox"/> Sluice | <input type="checkbox"/> Drywasher | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| Type of Gold found | <input type="checkbox"/> Nugget | <input type="checkbox"/> Flake | <input type="checkbox"/> Flour | |

Methods Used _____

