



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 2024



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

This month's outing will be at the five Potholes claims. We will have a turkey and ham potluck dinner on the weekend before Thanksgiving, on the claim where the old white home used to be. Think about what you can bring to the potluck. There be a portal potty and a fund raiser raffle. There are five claims in this area.

We will meet at the Cloud Museum on S24 at 9:00 a.m. Friday, November 22, 2024, or 9:00 a.m. Saturday November 23, 2024. From there we will go to the claims. Bring a drywasher and a metal detector. Large nuggets are still found there. Dinner will be served at 12:00p. m. CA time or 1:00p.m. Arizona time. Plates and silverware will be provided.

December's prospecting trip will be at the Cargo Six claim. We are to meet on Ogilby Road at the intersection of Ogilby Rd and Sidewinder Road at 9:00am on Friday, December 20, 2024 or 9:00am Saturday, December 21, 2024. 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 claim 15 years ago, I can show where my best spots were. Last year, nuggets close to an ounce were found.

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 24, 2024, or at 9:00am Saturday, January 25, 2024. From there you will be guided to the 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.

SPMA President,
Brian Turner

November 2024 Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting, Nov. 4th at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building, Balboa Park. (1nd Monday of the month)

November Outing
The Potholes Claims

General Meeting
November 19th 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**

**\$2,630 / oz
Nov. 11, 2024**

November Potholes Potluck Menu Suggestions:

Turkey and ham will be provided by SPMA. Please bring a dish to feed six or more. We suggest members bring one of the following side dishes: Potatoes, vegetables, casseroles, or a delicious dessert.

SAN DIEGO ROCK SHOW

Lakeside Rock Show - presented by the El Cajon Valley Gem Club. Will be held November 23rd and 24th from 9 AM to 5 PM at the Lakeside Rodeo Grounds Lakeside, Calif. FREE ADMISSION! There will be both retail booths and many local rockhounds selling minerals and used equipment. Come out and see. It's FREE!

The PLP says their Fall Fest Was A BIG SUCCESS!

Public Lands for the People (PLP) says they had a great turnout at this year's Fall Fest Fundraiser. To learn more about Public Lands for People, and see a list of Raffle Winners, please visit their website. <https://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org/>

Election of SPMA Board Officers

The SPMA will hold an election on November 25th 2024. Any active member can run for an office. You can submit your name to be placed on the ballot to joe4409@aol.com. A member can nominate another member for the ballot (with the member's permission). The Deadline to submit names is November 19th 2024 (either by EMAIL or at the monthly meeting.)

Offices up for election are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Jr. Director. Terms are one year except for the Junior Director, which is 2 years. A ballot will be EMAIL to all active SPMA members on November 25th. Simply return the filled out ballot for counting. Thank you.

Joseph Johaneck & Brian Turner

News from the Potholes!



Hi All,

October's gone and most of the extreme heat with it. The last week was a bit breezy but it was great for drywashing. It's been nice to see more of our regular snowbird members start to arrive. Detecting has yielded a few small pickers. Several have been from spots thought to be fairly worked over. Drywashing hasn't been too productive yet for most. It was fun seeing the large group at Araz. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again at the Potholes Thanksgiving field trip. As always contact me if you have any issues or renewals I can help with.

Stay safe,

Ron Doiron

Star Gazing Video from NASA / JPL



If clicking the image fails use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9CUpa0CkiU>

Raffle Winners For October

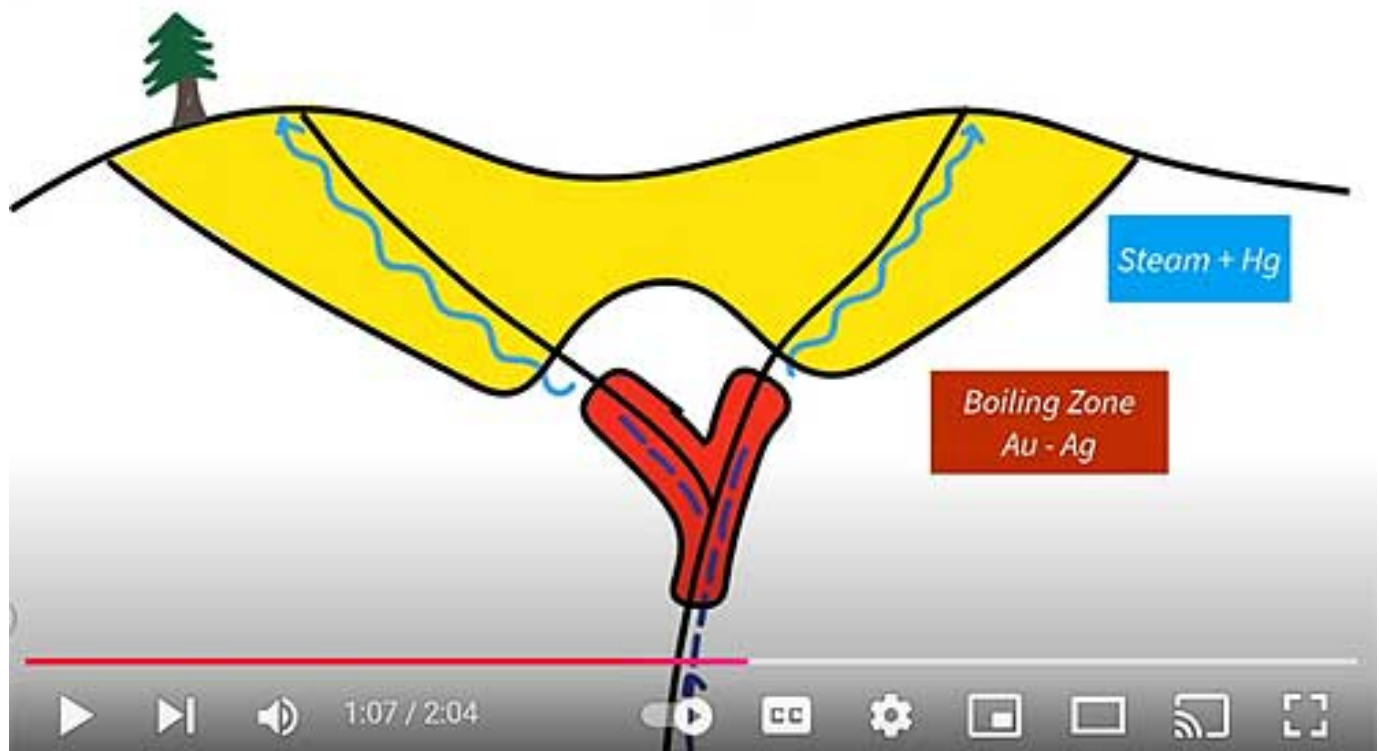
Gold Winners

15.1 Grn Nugget	Robert Sepulveda	14.5 Grn Nugget	David Scarsella
13.4 Grn Nugget	Chuck Torok	5.0 Grn Picker	Mark Dickey
4.8 Grn Picker	Mauricio Barillas	3.9 Grn Gold	Mark Dickey

Silver Winners

2023 US Silver Dollar	Mark Dickey	1 oz Silver Bar	Mark Dickey
\$20 Pay Dirt Gold Bag		Chuck Torok	

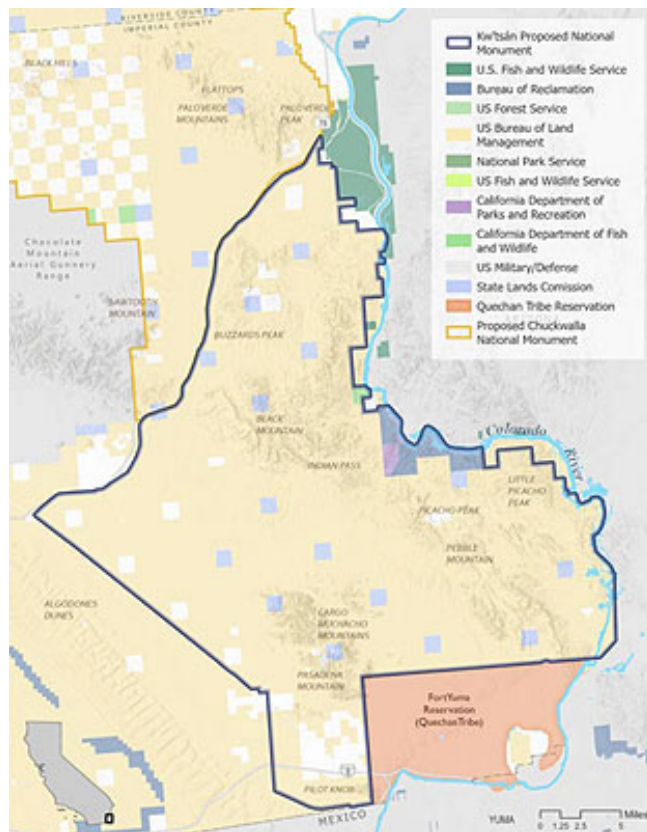
How Big Mining Companies Are Finding Gold Today



If clicking the image doesn't work, try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNXH8kWww10>

A National Monument May Close SPMA Claims

Native American tribes in the Imperial Valley are pushing the federal government to turn 366 acres into a National Monument in celebration of their culture. The trouble with this plan is it could seriously restrict the public use of those acres. The map to the right shows that the Cargo Muchacho Mountains fall within the boundary of the proposed National Monument. The SPMA has several claims within the proposed boundary. In the news articles linked below, the tribal leaders make it plain that they are fighting against large mining operations strip mining the area and scaring their sacred ancestral sites. Small placer claim holders, like the SPMA, don't want to be kicked out in favor of large strip mining operators, but small miners could be denied access right along with the big boys.



Here is an excerpt from the KPBS report:

“In more recent decades though, the tribe has faced repeated challenges from gold mining companies, who have sought to set up drilling in eastern Imperial County. Major operations like the Picacho, Mesquite and American Girl mines have ranked among the highest-yielding gold mines in the country.

Quechan leaders have gone to court to fight back. In the early 2000s, the tribe blocked the Glamis project, which would have set up mining operations near the sacred site of Indian Pass and used cyanide-based chemicals to strip gold from massive piles of ore.

The tribe’s latest battle ended this past spring when Imperial County officials blocked a Canadian gold company from reopening operations on another old mining site.”

President Trump attempted to dismantle several National Monuments in favor of mining and future development. There is a good chance he may oppose this one. It's also possible that the Biden administration may approve it before President Biden leaves office.

Please review the links below to learn more about this latest controversial use of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to restrict land use.

Link to the [KPBS Article with video](https://tinyurl.com/3tvxae7): <https://tinyurl.com/3tvxae7>

Link to [BlueRibbon Coalition](https://tinyurl.com/yc6932y7) (Opposition) <https://tinyurl.com/yc6932y7>

Link to [NLG.org](https://tinyurl.com/4jsr5r6m) (Trump's record on National Monuments) <https://tinyurl.com/4jsr5r6m>



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	goodguys619@gmail.com	619-519-4805
Treasurer	Neil Alexander	neilAlexander@scenetronics.com	619-994-3207
Secretary	Open		
Senior Director	Calvin Hastings	manta42mkii@outlook.com	951-231-4479
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	manta42mkii@outlook.com	951-231-4479
Assay Editor	Tom Heffernan	tomh.svm@gmail.com	619-756-9103
Yuma Coordinator	Ron Doiron	rdoitron57@gmail.com	619-701-4134
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

MAILING LIST CHANGES – ATTENTION NON-MEMBERS

The SPMA ASSAY mailing list has been purged of all non-members email addresses. This was necessary because our mailing list had grown too large for the free mass-email service we use. To continue having the ASSAY automatically emailed to you each month you will have to sign up for an SPMA membership. As in the past, receiving the ASSAY is once again a perk of membership.

Non-members will still be able to read the ASSAY by clicking the link on the News-Info page of the SPMA website. We will also continue to post past issues of the ASSAY on the Library webpage.

Here are the direct links to those pages: <http://www.spma-gold.org/pages/news-info.html>
<http://www.spma-gold.org/pages/library.html>

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

October 25th – 26th

Araz Claims, Imperial Valley

November 22nd – 23rd

Potholes Claim Pre-Thanksgiving Party

December 20th – 21st

Cargo Six Claims, Imperial Valley

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 2024

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

December 2024

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



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: _____