



# 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](http://www.spma-gold.org)

## SPMA President's Message For October 2024



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

This month's outing will be at the two Araz claims. We will meet at the Chevron gas station on Sidewinder Road and Interstate 8 at 9:00 a.m. on Friday October 25, 2024, or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 26, 2024. 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. High temperature should be in the eighties.

November's outing will be at the Potholes. We will have a turkey and ham potluck dinner the weekend before Thanksgiving. We'll gather where the old white home used to be. Please bring a potluck dish of 8-10 servings.

A Porta-potty will be provided and a fund-raising raffle will be held. There are five claims at the Potholes. 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.

December's prospecting trip will be to the Cargo Six claims. We'll meet at the intersection of Ogilby Road 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. Last year nuggets close to an ounce were found.

January's outing will be to the Quartzite claims. February's will be the potholes claims. Last month's Starlight outing had fifteen attendees and everyone got gold.

SPMA President,  
Brian Turner

### October 2024 Upcoming Events

**Board of Directors Meeting**, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building, Balboa Park. (1<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month)

**October Outing**  
The two Araz Claims

**General Meeting**  
October 15<sup>th</sup> at the North Clairemont Community Center (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. each month)

**Inside this issue:**  
President's Article  
Field trips  
Stargazing Video  
Ways & Means  
Metal Detecting  
Volunteers Needed  
Calendars  
Tide Chart

GOLD  
PRICE

\$2,663 / oz  
Oct. 6, 2024

# News from the Potholes!



Hi All,

Another month down. The heat has been relentless. We had one week in the low 90's. The rest of the month has been 105° to 113°. Long term Forcast shows the same range till almost mid October. Some local members have been out early mornings and managed a few small pickers; mostly by detecting. I've set up camp in my regular spot on Coyote Ridge. My girls are looking forward to barking at you all again this year.

Not many of our LTVA members have arrived yet. If you are an LTVA camper I encourage you to go on the BLM Yuma area website and review the new plan for the Imperial Dam Permit areas. There is an over 300% proposed fee increase. Fees are justified by comparisons of income increases over several years in areas where permit purchasers are from (Canadian guests were not included) and the cost of local campgrounds and resorts with full RV hookups.

I encourage all SPMA members to read and comment on this ASAP. This has the potential to significantly reduce our membership over the next few years. Looking forward to seeing you all as the weather cools.

Stay safe,

Ron Doiron

## 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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup>. Simply return the filled out ballot for counting. Thank you.**

**Joseph Johanek  
Brian Turner**

# Raffle Winners From September

## Gold Winners

14.3 Grn Nugget Greg Yeager                      13.2 Grn Nugget Mark Dickey  
12.8 Grn Nugget Jean Barrows                      5.4 Grn Gold Picker Kris Jones  
4.9 Grn Gold Picker Mark Dickey                      4.4 Grn Gold Picker Brian Winter  
4.0 Grn Gold Picker Kim Graham

## Silver Winners

1 oz. Silver Bar David Partin                      2023 US Silver Dollar Mark Dickey  
Mini Concentrating Sluice Chuck Torok

## In Memory of Ruth Cunningham Ashcraft



**Ruth Cunningham Ashcraft** died on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. She died of an advanced case of COPD, a lung disease. Ruth was a long time SPMA member. During the 1990's and 2000's she was at many field trips and help start the tradition of the Potlucks at the Potholes Claim each November. On these field trips, there were always big bon fires, fireworks and music. Ruth held many offices in our Association including serving as President for 4 years. There has been no announcement of the funeral plans as of this publication.

Joseph Johanek

# Mitch & Bruce Teach Kids Gold Panning in Poway



*SPMA Members Mitch and Bruce volunteered to teach Gold Panning to fourth graders at the Pioneer Days Festival at Old Poway Park on October 3rd & 4th. From the pictures, it's really hard to tell who had the most fun. Thanks!*

# What's Happening with Rising Gold Prices?



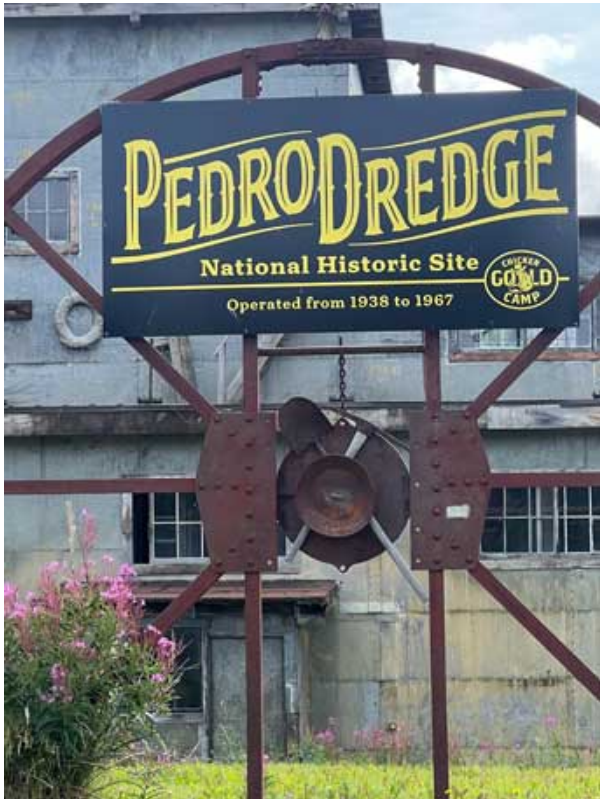
Click the picture or this link: <https://apnews.com/article/gold-prices-today-record-high-8c06632a309a3a84442360921d6e2a86>

# How to Polish Rocks Using a Dremel Tool



Click the picture or this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqqop2EaPco>

# Verne Whidden's Trip to Alaska



Over the summer, Verne Whidden fulfilled a dream by making a trip to Alaska. While up there he visited the Pedro Dredge Mining Museum and took these pictures. Enjoy!



## 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:brian@brianturner.com">brian@brianturner.com</a>	858-864-0465
Vice President	Robert Sepulveda	<a href="mailto:goodguys619@gmail.com">goodguys619@gmail.com</a>	619-519-4805
Treasurer	Neil Alexander	<a href="mailto:neilAlexander@scenetronics.com">neilAlexander@scenetronics.com</a>	619-994-3207
Secretary	Open		
Senior Director	Calvin Hastings	<a href="mailto:manta42mkii@outlook.com">manta42mkii@outlook.com</a>	951-231-4479
Junior Director	Ronald Doiron	<a href="mailto:rdoitron57@gmail.com">rdoitron57@gmail.com</a>	619-701-4134
Past President	Joe JohaneK	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987

## Committee Members & Volunteers

Membership	Calvin Hastings	<a href="mailto:manta42mkii@outlook.com">manta42mkii@outlook.com</a>	951-231-4479
Assay Editor	Tom Heffernan	<a href="mailto:tomh.svm@gmail.com">tomh.svm@gmail.com</a>	619-756-9103
Yuma Coordinator	Ron Doiron	<a href="mailto:rdoitron57@gmail.com">rdoitron57@gmail.com</a>	619-701-4134
Metal Detecting	Frank Trutta	<a href="mailto:scthfrank@yahoo.com">scthfrank@yahoo.com</a>	760-743-8516
Website Manager	Tom Heffernan	<a href="mailto:tomh.svm@gmail.com">tomh.svm@gmail.com</a>	619-756-9103
Mining Demos	Richard Seany	<a href="mailto:dustydick1@cox.net">dustydick1@cox.net</a>	619-460-2736
Claims Committee	Joe JohaneK	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987
Gold Committee	Joe JohaneK	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987
Library	Joe JohaneK	<a href="mailto:joe4409@aol.com">joe4409@aol.com</a>	858-273-5987
Ways and Means	Brian Turner	<a href="mailto:brian@brianturner.com">brian@brianturner.com</a>	858-864-0465
Trip Coordinator	Brian Turner	<a href="mailto:brian@brianturner.com">brian@brianturner.com</a>	858-864-0465

## Used Keene Drywasher For Sale



**Used Keene DW212V. Good condition.** Motorized with speed control / handcrank option with extra belt. In storage 4 years \$750 (casters not included) They drywasher is in the Yuma area right now, but Ron travels between Yuma and San Diego frequently for SPMA board meetings but he will not be able to attend the swap meet next month. Text or call **Ron at 619-701-4134.**

Here's link with a video demo on the page:

[https://www.keene.store/?Screen=PROD&Product\\_Code=DW212V](https://www.keene.store/?Screen=PROD&Product_Code=DW212V)

# 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>

## SAN DIEGO COINSHOOTERS



**WHAT?** SAN DIEGO'S ONLY SEEDDED HUNT! SILVER, COINS, TOKENS, CLAD, PRIZES & RINGS!

TOKENS ARE REDEEMED FOR PRIZES.

RAFFLES AND 50/50 DRAWINGS

REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE AT 0830 ON THE MORNING OF THE HUNT.

**WHERE?** MARINERS POINT, MISSION BAY

**WHEN?** OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

EVENT WILL KICK OFF PROMPTLY AT 0900.

HUNT WILL GO FROM 0900-1100

REGISTER EARLY WITH THE QR CODE OR AT

<http://sdcoinshooters.com/hunt>

**WHO?** EVERYONE INVITED! PLEASE RSVP ON EITHER OUR WEBSITE OR ON OUR FACEBOOK EVENTS PAGE.



**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 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

December 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

Araz Claims, Imperial Valley

Potholes Claim Pre-Thanksgiving Party

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

### October 2024

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

### November 2024

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



# **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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_