



# 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 September 2024



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

This month's outing will be at the Starlight claim. Here are the details for the Starlight prospecting outing. We will meet at the Buckman Springs Safety Rest Area at 8:00a.m. Saturday, September 28, 2024. From there you will be guided to the Starlight claim. Most of gold the is too fine for a metal detector, on the last outing a metal detector size picker was found with a drywasher. If you like to use water there is water to use.

October's mining trip will be at the two Araz claims. Here are the details for the October'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 October 25, 2024, or at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 26,

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.

November's mining trip will be to the Potholes claims. 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. We will hold a pre-Thanksgiving turkey and ham potluck on this outing. Bring a drywasher and a metal detector to search for nuggets.

The annual miners swap was a big success last month. About forty five people showed up and at least eight members sold equipment to other members. At this month meeting we will demonstrate a wet mining process.

SPMA President,  
Brian Turner

### September 2024 Upcoming Events

**Board of Directors Meeting**, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, At the Gem and Mineral Building, Balboa Park. (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month)

**September Outing**  
Starlight Sept. 28th

**General Meeting**  
Sept. 17<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

\$2,526 / oz  
Sept. 4, 2024

# News from the Potholes!



Hi All,

I hope everyone is doing well. It was a long hot summer in the Yuma area. There weren't any heavy rain storms like last year. Good news for the roads on the way to and around the claims. But it also means not a lot of dirt moved around in the washes and benches to help with detecting.

We had several new members join from the Yuma area. I have also run into a few members in the early mornings out sampling and detecting looking for the winter hotspot.

Hopefully I'll end up at the same campsite again for the LTVA season. I will be able to do renewals and new memberships on site again. Starting Oct 4, I will be up at the Old House Site on the first Saturday each month at 9am Yuma time. Otherwise the best way to contact me is by text @ 619-701-4134. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Stay safe,  
Ron Doiron

## Raffle Winners From July's Meeting

### Gold Winners

15.4 Grn Nugget	Tim Graham	13.7 Grn Nugget	Barillas Mauricio
6.7 Grn Nugget	Dave Partin	4.7 Grn Gold Picker	Barillas Mauricio
4.9 Grn Gold Picker	Chuck Gehart	4.0 Grn Gold Picker	Barillas Mauricio

### Silver Winners

Silver US Dollar	Ivan Katsarov	Silver 1 oz Bar	Kevin Gehart
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# Imperial County Then and Now



A brief video history of gold mining in Imperial Valley. Click on the picture or the link below.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkL6Stzlg8c>



Exploring an historic wagon trail. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-KF4VEwREM>

# Claims Committee News Announcement

This is the time of the year when we must report the use of our mining claims to the BLM. If you have worked one of our claims, and have not sent in a work sheet yet, PLEASE send one via EMAIL right away. Please remember to include the name of the claim, the date, and how many hours of work you put in. We especially need to hear from members who have worked the following claims: SPMA Gold Claim #1, Betty B, Hol-E-Cactus, and Long Valley.

Thanks,  
Joseph Johaneck, Joe4409@aol.com

## PLP Fall Festival – Support the cause!

Come out and share in the festivities! Add to your mining education at Fallfest, including Hardrock drilling by John Norman, fine gold recovery class by Mike Pung, metal detecting class, and detecting hunts for kids and adults, panning contest, common dig and more. We'll have expert speakers to help you increase your prospecting knowledge and sharpen your skills. There will once again be major prizes given away after the Saturday night festivities, such as the BBQ/potluck, old time fiddle music by Fiddlin' Farley and Brad the famous fire and knife juggler who is sure to wow the crowd again. Bring your detector, drywasher and friends! You can prospect on dozens of acres in great gold country and keep all the placer gold you find! TONS more FALLFEST details on the PLP website:

<https://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org/fallfest-2024/>

During the 4-day event starting Thursday October 3rd through Sunday October 6th there will be various activities including common digs, metal detecting hunts, panning contest, historical tour of the Rand Mining District by Dan Stanton and more.

PLP will have our famous paydirt bags available and our incredibly popular RECLAMATION DREDGING T-Shirts for sale at half price only at Fallfest! It's okay to feel good about the fact that small scale miners are repurposing their dredges to clean up our waterways. There have been reports of a lot of trash and heavy metals that have been removed from waterways. Great job folks! Come to the FallFest and learn more about the future of dredging in California.





## 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
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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
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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)

**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

September 28<sup>th</sup>

October 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

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

Starlight Claim, 1-day outing

Araz Claims, Imperial Valley

Potholes Claim Pre-Thanksgiving Party

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

### September 2024

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

### October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 <b>B</b>	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		



# **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: \_\_\_\_\_