Drywasher's Gazette

September 2026

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
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Web Site: www.valleyprospectors.org
Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com
Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 1st – Details Inside

Mission and Code of Ethics

Valley Prospectors Inc. is a non-profit educational organization dedicated *To promote Gold Prospecting as a healthy family activity.*

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

General Membership Meeting is held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge in San Bernardino, CA.

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September
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✦Event Recap✦
50th Anniversary Membership Picnic at Big Bear Museum

Late July the Club came together to look back on the last 50 years of gold hunts and dust covered dry washers.









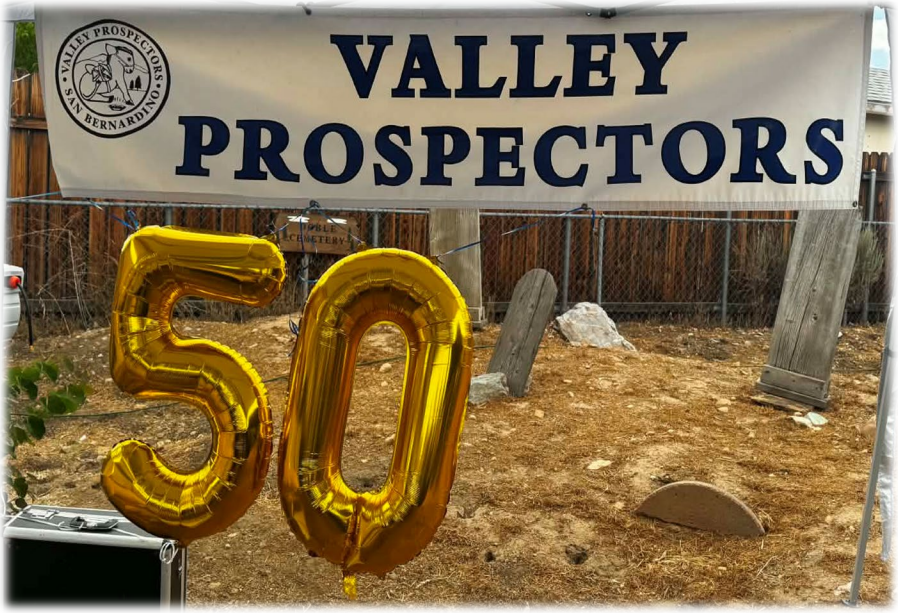




50th Anniversary Membership Picnic at Big Bear Museum Cont.



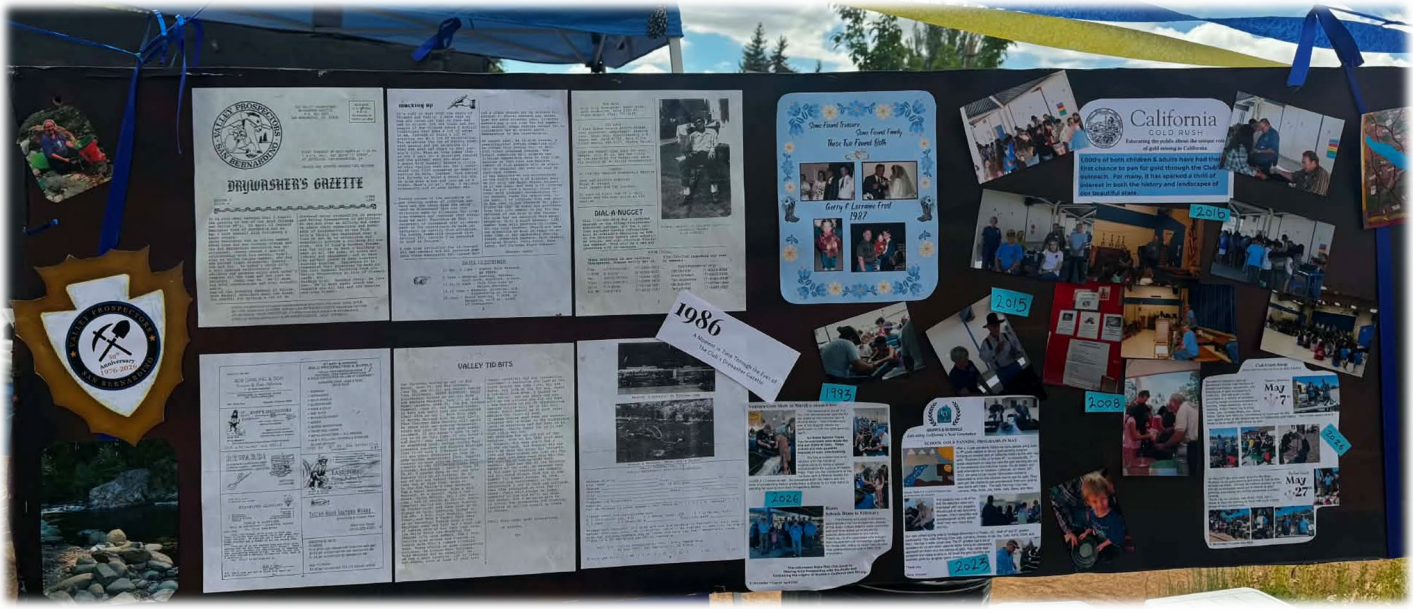














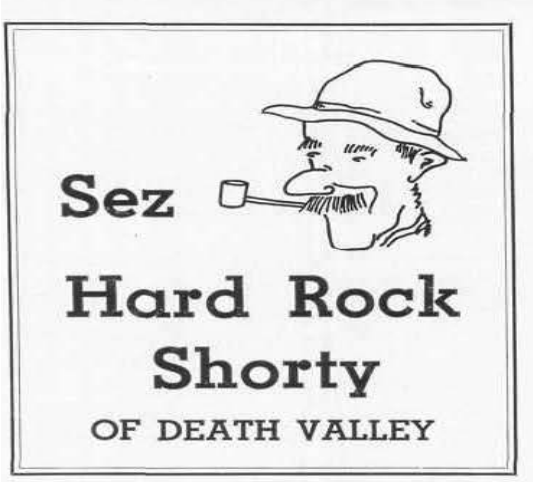




FOUNDED 1976
VALLEY PROSPECTORS
SAN BERNARDINO

July General Meeting Minutes
July 7th, 2026

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order. The meeting started at 6:05 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lorraine Frost.
Approval of Minutes: President Albert Naki asked for the approval of the June 2nd, 2026, general meeting minutes. Steve Schubert made the motion to accept the June 2nd, 2026, general meeting minutes as published in the Drywasher's Gazette. Andrea Frost seconded the motion and the motion carried.
Treasurer's Report: Lorraine Frost gave the treasurer's report.
Wagonmaster Report: Lee Skillings spoke about the last outing that was held at the Randsburg claims. He said it was a great outing, and everybody had a good time.
Lee Skillimgs also spoke about the Summit Outing and there were approximately seven to eight people who attended.
Outing Report: Steve Schubert spoke about the next outing, and it is going to be the Wrightwood Mountaineer Days. Valley Prospectors will have a gold panning booth. The date of the outing will be July 11th, 2026.
Claims Committee Report: Lorraine Frost will hold a claims committee via Zoom meeting on July 20th, 2026. She's going to talk to the committee on how to file the club claims.
Lady Luck Report: Bural LaRue gave the Lady Luck report.
Membership Report: Lorraine Frost gave her report. There are currently 264 family memberships and 7 Lifetime Memberships and 1 Honorary Membership.
Finds of the Month Report: Everett Miller spoke about the Finds of the Month.
Refreshments Report: President Albert Naki thanked Lorraine Frost for bringing refreshments to the meeting.
50th Anniversary Party: Lorraine Frost gave the report. The club will hold its 50th Anniversary Party at the Big Bear Historical Museum.
Special Raffle: Steve Schubert said there was going to be a special raffle for the Valley Prospectors 50th Anniversary Party. The club is going to sell raffle tickets for a gold nugget that will be raffled off at the outing.
Courtesy Report: Cecilia Lash said there were five new guests at the meeting and three online guests.
Club Apparel: Mary Schubert gave her report.
Guests: President Albert Naki recognized the guests who were attending the meeting.
President Albert Naki called for the break in the meeting and the time was 6:46 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:13 p.m.
CFMS Report: Bural LaRue said the next C.F.M.S. Show is going to be held in Reno, Nevada. The dates of the show are September 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2026.
Old Business: No old business to report.
New Business: Andrea Frost spoke about the old Valley Prospectors website and how the certification had expired. She spoke about the new Valley Prospectors website and gave a demonstration about the new website, and she even spoke about the new club apparel feature. Andrea Frost submitted a bill and contract for services rendered in creating the new Valley Prospectors website. Lorraine Frost made a suggestion to change the budget to reflect the new charges for the chapter with the Valley Prospectors Board of Directors. There was a motion to change the budget from $75.00 to $2,000.00. There was an amendment to pay Andrea Frost $1,000.00 for services rendered in setting up the new website. Discussion followed. Lorraine Frost made the motion, and David Tamulevich seconded the motion. Motion carries.
Name Badge Winner: Jesse Duniven, **Door Prize Winner:** Mary Schubert
Finds of the Month Winners: Gold: 1st: Brian Teeling, 2nd: Fred Borad, 3rd: Albert Naki
Treasure: 1st: Fred Borad, 2nd: Joe Chavez, 3rd: Brian Teeling
President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be adjourned. Andrea Frost made the motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Calvin Shipley seconded the motion and the motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Sez

Hard Rock Shorty

OF DEATH VALLEY

By LON GARRISON

"SHUCKS, I must be gettin' old," gloomed Hard Rock Shorty, as he asphyxiated a passing bug with a cloud of pipe smoke and then leaned back on the porch bench waiting for more victims.

"I was just thinkin' about it today, an' it's twenty-five year ago this July that old Bags Bagoon froze to death over on Freeze Up Gulch. Seems just like last week! Old Bags was an old-timer in the Panamints, but he'd been gettin' kind o' childish, dreamin' about Minnysota or some heathen place. Then one Fourth of July as he was hikin' into town, why a regular buster of a windstorm come up. Old Bags knowed enough to get out o' the wind an' cover up his head, but he hadn't rightly figgered on the Pilgrim with the load o' popcorn. This newcomer was headin' into the town of Inferno with this little dab o' corn figgerin' to sell it to us boys to while away the long winter evenin's with when this storm catched 'im.

"He clumb out under the wagon all right, but the sun was so hot she popped all the dang corn an' the wind blowed 'er away. Old Bags woke up an' found himself buried about seven foot deep in the stuff an' them dreams o' Minnysota blizzards got 'im. He froze to death! We like to never got 'im thawed out enough to bury proper."

YUMA, ARIZONA—

Norval Enger has been transferred from the Pine View dam project near Ogden to assume the post of division engineer for the Gila river project. He takes the place of Paul Jones, who was transferred to Glendive, Mont.

LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA—

Antelope Valley has just celebrated its seventh annual Alfalfa festival, acclaiming a $2,000,000 industry on the southern edge of the Mojave desert. The celebration marked the fifth and final alfalfa harvest of the season—a 16,600-acre crop.

November, 1937

A Blast From the Past

Hardrock Shorty and The Desert Magazine circa 1937

Special Thanks to Fred Borad for providing the article.

As of Monday, August 17, 2026

Gold is $4,422.99 per ounce.

$142.13 per gram.

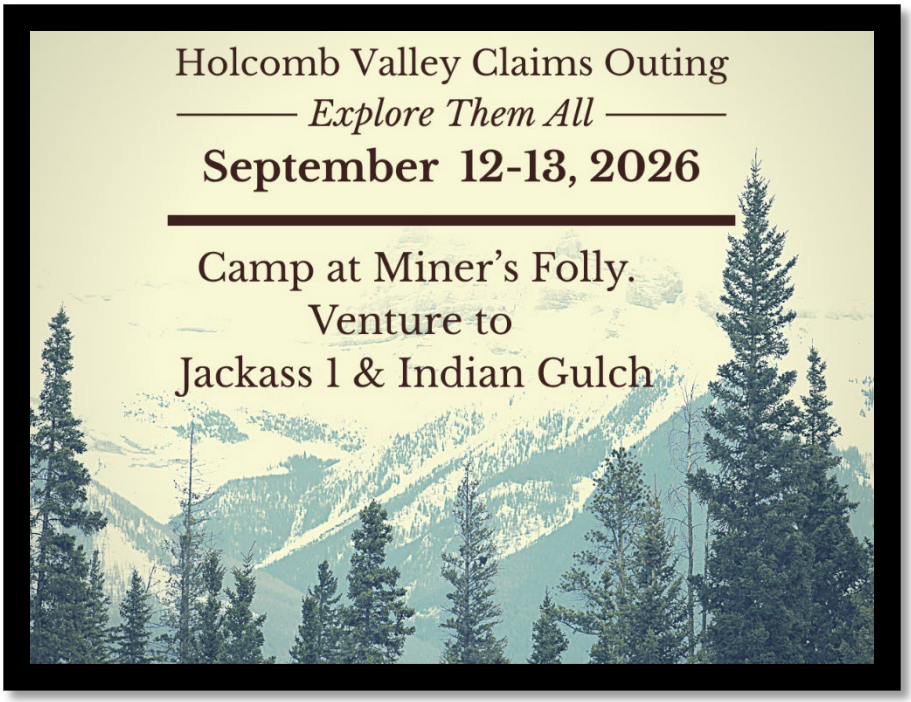
https://pricegold.net/

As of November, 1937.....

Gold is $34.79 per ounce.

$1.13 per gram.

Source: National Mining Association





Ask the Mascot….

H. Donkey Answers Your Beginner Prospecting Questions

The pack burro on the club logo is a symbol of the adventure and hard work of a small miner. This loyal companion has seen many claims over dozens of landscapes as he has faithfully accompanied intrepid prospectors over the years. During his travels, he has learned a few things he is willing to share.



Hello from a New Miner,
I am not finding much black sand at Miner's Folly. Am I in the wrong place?

Miner's Folly sits on a huge pile of tailings from the hard rock mining in that area. Mostly from the 1860's-1870's when the area, then called Belleville, was the third most populous town in Southern California. Miners would bring out any potentially gold bearing rocks from below ground and have them crushed up. Unlike a gold bearing stream where nearby heavy black sands would concentrate with the gold over time in the stream bed as water flowed, the pile is the leftovers from processing the crushed-up material. The great news is that the miners were looking for the easy big stuff. As a result, they missed a lot of fine gold and it's all throughout the mound.
Pay attention to the claim boundaries. We share the tailings mound and adjacent areas with several other claim owners. Don't forget to explore the southern side of the claim across the main road. The fence area to the west of the mound is a critical habitat and off limits to digging beyond the fencing.

If you have a question for H. Donkey, feel free to email them to MOBrien3232@gmail.com and put "VP H Donkey Question" in the subject line. *Article by M. O'Brien*





Calendar of Events

ATE	DESCRIPTION	*NOTES*
SEP 12-13	*Indian Gulch/Jackass 1 – Camp at Miners Folly – Sat-Sun*	*Meet at Miners Folly*
OCT 23-25	*VP Rendezvous 2026 – Ord Mtn*	*Campsite as usual*
NOV 14	*Coolgardie – Oro Rico*	*Meet at Starlight Donuts 8am*
DEC 5	*Holiday Party & Awards Event*	*Pinon Hills Community Center 10 am – 3 pm*

*** As always events are subject to last-minute change due to weather or availability. Please make sure to check the Facebook group for any last-minute updates. If you are not on Facebook, please e-mail or text another member who has access.*

Looking to Sell Off Unused Equipment?

Club Members can place free advertisement in this newslettter for up to two editions in a row to sell mining related items. E-mail a description, contact info, price, and pictures (optional) to valleyprospectors49@gmail.com.

*****GENERAL MEETING REMINDER*****

You're invited to be our guest at the General membership meetings that are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at 2055 Elks Dr, San Bernardino, CA. Can't make it in person? Join in via Zoom meeting.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83026668634?pwd=ZUlyUlpLK1ZOQ1R1aTJmVndJQ0tNdz09

Meeting ID: 830 2666 8634 Passcode: 661754 One Tap Mobile

+16694449171,,83026668634#,,,,*661754# US+16699006833,,83026668634#,,,,*661754# US (San Jose)By Audio Only: • +1 669 444 9171 US

Want to Contact the Newsletter Crew or any other Committee Member? Check out the Directory on the Club website or e-mail *valleyprospectors49@gmail.com*

Visiting or Working on a Club Claim or on a Claim the Club has Permission to Work?

****Please Read the Following** This Applies to ALL Club Members and Their Guests.**

Hold Harmless Agreement: Valley Prospectors and its members are not responsible or are to be held liable for injury, illness or death occurring at any club claim, function, or outing by any member or guest. Each member and their guests are responsible for properly being informed of potential hazards or risks that may occur while engaged in any activities while on club claims.

"ENTER CLAIMS AT YOUR OWN RISK"

By requesting to be a new member or by renewing your Valley Prospector's membership you agree to abide by these terms and conditions.