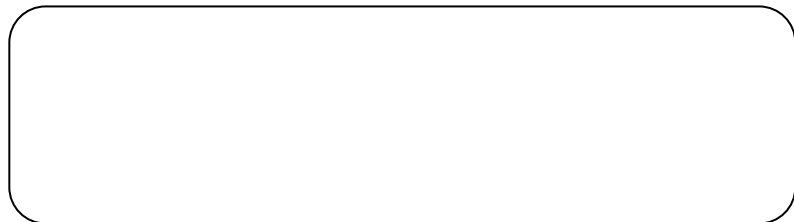


# Drywasher's Gazette

July 2026

Send Exchange Bulletins to:  
Valley Prospectors  
PO Box 2923  
San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923  
valleyprospectors49@gmail.com



Web Site: [www.valleyprospectors.org](http://www.valleyprospectors.org)  
Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com  
Next Meeting – Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> – Details Inside  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic – Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

## 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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July  
2026

# Drywasher's Gazette



VALLEY PROSPECTORS OF SAN BERNARDINO

1976 - 2026



Club  
Anniversary

*Celebrating 50 years of community,  
education, family, and adventure.*

## Come Celebrate Together!!!

Sunday July 19, 2026

The gathering will be from 10:00am to 3:00pm and food will be hot and ready around noon. Bring your own fave camp chair for that cozy feeling. We will have tables and shade available. Just let the gate attendant know that you are there for the Valley Prospectors Picnic and you will get into the museum for free. It is filled with great exhibits highlighting local history and the pioneering spirit that built the Big Bear area.

Parking is limited. Try to carpool if you can.

As always, setup help is appreciated. We will start working on the space around 9:00am.

## 50th Anniversary Picnic



**You must RSVP By June 30th!**  
to  
**valleyprospectors49@gmail.com**

\$15 per Club member  
\$25 per non-member  
(May be paid by Zelle or Cash)

Sunday  
July 19

**RSVP Today!**

Catered BBQ  
Raffles & Cake  
All at the  
Big Bear Museum

## Members Only Nugget Raffle



Winning Prospector  
will be picked at  
the Picnic  
Celebration in July!



\$5.00 ✨  
Per Ticket

Do Not Need to  
be Present to Win!

Entries can be bought in cash or by sending \$ to the Club's  
Zelle [valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com)  
Comment: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Nugget

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.

AS OF THURSDAY,  
JUNE 3, 2026

**GOLD IS**  
**\$4,437.93 PER OUNCE.**  
**\$142.69 PER GRAM.**

<https://pricgold.net/>

### Hold Harmless Agreement:

Valley Prospectors and its members are not responsible and are not 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.

# Drywasher's Gazette

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## June General Meeting Minutes June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order. The meeting started at 6:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Schubert. Approval of Minutes: President Albert Naki asked for the approval of the May 5th, 2026 general meeting minutes. Andrea Frost made the motion to accept the May 5th, 2026, general meeting minutes as published in the Drywasher's Gazette. Albert Naki seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lorraine Frost gave the treasurer's report.

**Wagonmaster Report:** The next outing will be at the Two Burros Claim in Randsburg, CA. The date of the outing on June 6th and 7th, 2026.

**Outing Report:** The outing was held at the Hungryman Claim on May 16th, 2026. There was some confusion since another club also was meeting at the same time and place. All went well.

**Lady Luck Report:** Bural LaRue gave the Lady Luck report.

**Membership Report:** Lorraine Frost gave her report. There are currently 252 family memberships including 7 Lifetime Memberships and 1 Honorary Membership.

**Editor Report:** Articles must be submitted to the newsletter by June 10th, 2026, according to Michelle O'Brien. Members are requested to submit articles and pictures for the newsletter.

**Refreshments Report:** President Albert Naki thanked everyone 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 on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm.

**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 event.

**Schools Report:** Steve Schubert gave the school's report. The school outings were Newberry Springs and the Big Bear Museum. Steve Schubert thanked the volunteers for helping out with the gold panning booth at the schools. Steve Schubert also recognized Calvin Shipley for helping out with the club activities.

**Club Apparel:** Mary Schubert gave her report. 25% Apparel in July!

**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 7:09 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:28 p.m.

**Program Report:** Lee Skillings said the program is a video about Brent Underwood and the old gold mining camp Cerro Gordo which he bought.

**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:** No new business to report.

**Name Badge Winner:** Don Snyder

**Door Prize Winner:** Samantha Collins

President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be adjourned. Fred Borad made the motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Andrea Frost seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

# Drywasher's Gazette

## Club Events Recap

Photos and Narratives by Steve & Mary Schubert

We went to Newberry Springs Elementary School near Barstow to present the history, equipment, and techniques of gold prospecting in California. We had over 70 kids participate in a variety of activities including hands on demonstrations of panning, metal detecting, and dry washing. A BIG Thank You to Fred, Calvin, Lee, Lorraine, Brian, Joe, David, Diane, Steve, and Mary for volunteering to come out for this very special show & tell related stories of California's gold history. They loved seeing what it takes to be a modern gold miner as well.

Newberry Elementary  
**May**  
7<sup>th</sup>



On May 27<sup>th</sup> the Club went up to the Big Bear Museum to do gold panning and Show & Tell for the schools up there. We had 90 children broken up into groups so everyone would get a chance at gold panning and seeing the mining equipment in action. Special Thank You to Lorraine, Lee, Brian, Fred, Joe C., Steve & Mary for working so hard with such a large group of very excited kids.

Big Bear Schools  
**May**  
27<sup>th</sup>



**REGIONAL  
NEWS**

## Using "Rock Holidays" to Connect with Your Community

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS & CFMS PR Chair From AFMS Newsletter Vol. 79. No. 5, June 2026

During a Zoom roundtable, several of us noted how we've tapped into "rock holidays" in pursuing community involvement and public relations. For instance, our local children's librarian invited me to talk about rocks to kids on "International Rock Day" as part of their summer reading program, where I was also able to promote our club's youth program. My club was also invited to have a booth with hands-on displays of California minerals during "Earth Science Week" festivities at a local natural history museum. It was suggested that I publish a listing of these and other little-known rocky holidays that you and your club might use as launch pads for engaging with your community, so here goes!

**January.** There's an "Old Rock Day" at the beginning of the month while "National Black Diamond Month" runs all month long.

**February.** "National Wedding Ring" day falls on my birthday of February 3. It's suggested that married folks admire their rings, perhaps have them engraved with a special message, or design whole new rings and renew vows.

**March.** "National Jewel Day" falls on March 13 each year. You're encouraged to don your best or most favored jewels on that day. Hmm. Sounds suspicious. Was it perhaps initiated by muggers to concentrate potential victims on one convenient day of the year?

**April.** "Geologists Day" and "Earth Day" both occur this month. While Geologists Day doesn't seem to garner much attention, many community events occur during Earth Day, and your club may well find opportunity to have a booth space at such an event. For example, my club is always invited to an Ecofest run as a fundraiser by a local charter school.

**May.** "International Dinosaur Day" falls on the third Tuesday of this month while "Nickel Day" falls on May 16. Perhaps it celebrates the nickel content of the asteroid that did in the dinosaurs? In any event, dinos are perennially popular and a great draw for a kids' program.

**June.** Hmm. There's another Dino Day on June 1 (??), followed closely by National Caves & Karst Day on June 6, which was initiated by the International Show Caves Association. (Yes, there's an association for everything!)

**July.** Celebrate "International Drop a Rock" day on the 3rd by painting a fun and positive message on a rock and dropping it in your neighborhood (preferably not on your neighbor's foot), then celebrate "International Rock Day" on the 13th. Don't confuse it with "World Rock Day" which also falls on the 13th but celebrates the sort of rock that requires an electric guitar.

**August.** Come August 8, "Wear Your Mom's Jewelry Day" helps to "keep the chain of love alive." Then hide Mom's jewelry for others to find on "International Geocaching Day" on the third Saturday of the month. *Cont. next column...*

*August cont.* Okay, this next one's a stretch, but enjoy "World Rock Paper Scissors Day" on August 27, playing a game that supposedly originated in China's Han Dynasty. To learn more about it, go to the World Rock Paper Scissors Association in Ottawa, Canada. (As stated, yes, there's an association for everything!)

**September.** Come the first Sunday of the month, pamper your rock on "National Pet Rock Day," then get your pet a companion on September 16 during "Collect Rocks Day." Perhaps you club could sponsor a field trip or an Easter Egg hunt with plastic eggs filled with rocks and minerals?

**October.** Every year on the Wednesday of the second full week of October, the National Park Service and varied museums hold fossil-themed events across the country for "National Fossil Day," so have your club hold a public event, too, or see if you can join an event being planned by a nearby natural history museum. And then there's always Halloween on October 31, when you and fellow club members can dress up as your favorite rocks or give Charlie Brown a rock rather than candy when he knocks on your door with bag in hand.

**November.** Apparently, this whole month is "Real Jewelry Month," so no lab-grown diamonds allowed? If you want to stretch things a bit, "GIS Day" lands on the third Wednesday of November, and "Red Planet Day" lands on November 28, the day the U.S. launched Mariner 4 for the first successful flyby of our neighboring planet Mars.

**December.** December 6 is solemn in that "National Miner's Day" honors the 362 victims of the worst mine disaster in the U.S. in 1907. Feeling down about that, perhaps "National Wear Your Pearls Day" on December 15 will perk you up. It honors how a little bit of grit thrown at you in life might eventually turn you into a true gem.

To learn more about these little-known holidays, just use Google. Lots of info pops up, along with suggestions on how to celebrate each, complete with suggested activities. See how your club might turn some into events that draw in the community while raising your profile in ways fun and sometimes funny.



## 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.

#### Howdy Donkey, Why haven't I found any nuggets up at the Summit Claim?

*Small nuggets and pickers have been found at the Summit and nearby Hungryman Claim over the past decades, but the majority of the gold in*

*the area is fine gold which may be missed with metal detectors. Additionally metal detectors struggle with the large number of spent bullet cases found in the area. There is plenty fine gold to be had if you find the right placer layer when digging. There are two layers in the host dirt that are both ancient alluvial deposits.*

*The trick is that fault movements over the millennia have twisted and pushed these layers up and down making them harder to zero in on. Long story short. Test areas and keep good records of what layer yields best for you.*

#### Hi H. Donkey, How much should I spend on my first equipment? It all seems so expensive.

*Finding the tools and techniques that work for you and the area you are working in is a process. Dry washers and puffers are the primary processing tools for the southern claims. While a basic 2.5ft sluice will get you going up north. Dry washers range roughly **\$585** for entry-level units up to nearly **\$3,000** high-capacity set ups. Will you be using a gas blower or battery blower to power it? Take that into account when thinking about price. Try teaming up with a seasoned prospector so you can see how their machines run and how much it takes to set up and take down a unit. A basic sluice can be as little \$40 for a mini to over a thousand for recirculating set ups. Before you go crazy buying all the newest gadgets seen on prospecting YouTube channels remember that you will often have to carry all that gear into remote places! Look for used equipment to save on the basics. Start on eBay or Facebook marketplace. There are puffers out there that are over 50 years old and still work! It's all about how they are maintained, so make sure all the parts are included. Another option is to check out the items the club has as loaners that can be borrowed short term. There are drywashers and sluices available. Inquire by email at [valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com)*

*Lastly, never undercut your own creativity. Many prospectors with carpentry or metal working backgrounds enjoy building their own gear. It allows them to customize and save money. I've seen sluices made with Legos.*

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



Photo from Anonymous 19<sup>th</sup> century photographer showing a unique hand built sluice. From National Archives. Colorized

# Drywasher's Gazette

## Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
JUL 11	July 11 – Mountaineer Days – Wrightwood – Sat only 10 am – 7 pm	Setup at 7 am Saturday
JUL 17-19	Miners Folly Area Camping 50th Anniversary Membership Appreciation Picnic on the 19 <sup>th</sup>	Catered Picnic on Sunday, July 19 <sup>th</sup> Held at Big Bear Historical Museum – 10 am – 3 pm \$15 RSVP by June 30 <sup>th</sup>
AUG 7-9	Invite from FCM to Ranger Steve Outing at Big Bear Special Event - Metal Detecting Hunt on Saturday, Aug 8 <sup>th</sup> Fri-Sun	Camp Miners Folly
AUG 15-23	Pickett III and Gold Venture – Union Flats	Northern Claims Event independent Travel
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 TBD
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 newsletter 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](mailto: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=ZUlyUlplLk1ZOQ1R1aTJmVndJQ0tNdz09>

**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](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com)



**Show Your Club Spirit this Summer!!**

**All Apparel 25% off for June & July**

