Drywasher's Gazette

October 2026

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Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 6th – 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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Good Vibrations: A Survivor's Guide to Washboard Dirt Roads

Named after the old-fashioned metal laundry boards, a washboard road features a series of ups and downs that look like ripples on the surface of a lake. Once called "Rhythmic Corrugations" in the early days of the car, "washboard road" caught on as a more quippy tongue in cheek description that has stuck to this day.

Washboarding is not primarily caused by poor road maintenance or cheap gravel. Instead, it is a natural phenomenon created by the interaction of rolling wheels and loose dry soil. On a fresh dirt road, small imperfections cause a vehicle's wheels to bounce slightly. They lose contact with the dirt and when they come back down the loose dirt is pushed forward and backwards of the contact point of the moving wheel. This makes a small hill and valley. The next car now bounces over the new feature in a similar frequency further enhancing the pattern on the road. Over time, this repetitive bouncing creates perfectly spaced, rhythmic waves.

Speeding, dry sandy soil, and sudden acceleration or braking speed up the process. Heavily travelled dirt roads will almost always develop this pattern.

What to Do So Your Fillings and Your Prospecting Gear Don't Bounce Right Out!



Source: https://journals.aps.org/pre/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevE.87.012203

Navigating a washboard road can feel like steering a shopping cart down a flight of stairs. It also takes a toll on your vehicle's suspension, alignment, and tires. (As this author found out at the auto repair shop recently. The mechanic was impressed.)

Sweet Spot on the Speedometer - 20 and 25 mph is often called the "Sweet Spot" allowing the tires to float over the crests of the ripples rather than dropping into the troughs. Reducing the rattling and ensure you retain traction.

Lower Tire Pressure - Lowing your tire pressure can slightly help. Softer tires absorb more of the vibrations and provide a wider contact area for traction. Just remember to air back up once you hit the pavement!

Pay Attention: Avoid sudden braking or sharp turns. This can cause you to slide or fishtail straight into a bush or ditch.

Be safe out there. Road conditions can change suddenly, especially when the rainy season approaches and a strong El Nino predicted. (Mud and flash floods are a whole other topic for another newsletter) Secure your gear to prevent unexpected flying objects when you do hit one of those "invisible rocks" we all encounter on the back roads at some point.

Article by M. O'Brien



ORD MOUNTAIN RENDEZVOUS

October 23-25 *Main Events Saturday*

Rise & Shine
Biscuits & Gravy
Sat. Breakfast Hosted by
Hi-Desert Gold Diggers
Donations Appreciated

Chili Cook-Off!
Free to Enter
Submit your Chili Entry by 4pm

Community Potluck
Starts at 4:30pm

Saturday Hot Dog
Lunch $5.00
Hosted by
Valley Prospectors

Gold PANNING CONTEST

Sign Up at
Ord Mountain
Rendezvous
Check-in Table



$5.00 to Compete

Prizes, Honor, & Glory

Hosted by First Class Miners @ 1pm 10/24

Kids METAL DETECTING

Sign Up at
Check-in Table



Free to Join in the Fun!

Starts at 11:30 am

Jim Straight Memorial METAL DETECTING HUNT

Sign Up at
Check-in Table

$20 Entry

Grand Prize!!
Metal Detector



Starts at 9:30 am

Hosted by Valley Prospectors of
San Bernardino

September General Meeting Minutes - September 1st, 2026

President Albert Naki called the meeting to order. The meeting started at 6:10 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Chavez.

Approval of Minutes: President Albert Naki asked for the approval of the July 7th, 2026, general meeting minutes. Secretary Coreena Ross said there needed to be an amendment to the July 7th, 2026 that was published in the Drywasher's Gazette number should be 264 family memberships, not the 259 family memberships that was published. Lorraine Frost made the motion to accept the amendment as stated in the Drywasher's Gazette. Albert Naki seconded the motion and the motion carries. Albert Naki made the motion to accept the July 7th, 2026, general meeting minutes as amended. Lee Skillings seconded the motion and the motion carries.

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

Outing Report: The next outing will be held on September 12th and 13th, 2026 at Indian Gulch Claim. The club will camp on the Miner's Folly Claim. The club members will meet at the Miner's Folly Claim.

Claims Committee Report: Lorraine Frost spoke about the Kern County and the Northern California Claims. The claim paperwork has been filed for the year. Lorraine Frost also asked for everyone who uses the claims to fill out their claim reports. She uses them to show the BLM that we use the claims. Coreena Ross gave a report on the Northern California Claims. She said the claim marker had been reinstalled at the Pickett lll claim. She also filed the claim reports in Sierra County. She also shared who joined at the August Northern Claim outing . The members' names were Greg and Linh Di Prinzio from Idaho, Elaine Yeoman and family, Jason Sprouse, Coreena and Dale Ross, Mark Perryman and guest Nick Kebodeaux.

Membership Report: Lorraine Frost gave her report. There are currently 267 family memberships and 7 Lifetime Memberships and 1 Honorary Membership.

Finds of the Month Report: Everett Miller spoke about the Finds of the Month.

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

Gold Sales Report: Art Fairchild gave his report. **Refreshments Report:** President Albert Naki thanked Deborah and Fred Borad for bringing the refreshments to the meeting.

50th Anniversary Party: Lorraine Frost gave the report. The gold nugget was won by Yvonne Mack. President Albert Naki spoke about the gold nugget that will be raffled off at the club's Christmas Party.

Club Apparel: Mary Schubert gave her report. **Lady Luck Report:** gave the report.

Guests: President Albert Naki recognized the guests and the online guests who were attending the meeting. President Albert Naki called for the break in the meeting and the time was 6:59 p.m. resumed at 7:24 p.m.

Program Report: Fred Borad introduced Colleen Adai Fleidner as the guest speaker. The name of her book is True Tales of Old California. She spoke about Bernarr Macfadden. Bernarr Macfadden was a published author, but he was known for burying cash in ammo boxes.

CFMS Report: 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: President Albert Naki spoke about filling out the online claims reports.

Lorraine Frost spoke about the new club's website. Andrea Frost would like to charge Valley Prospectors $50.00 a month to maintain the club website. Steve Schubert made the motion to pay Andrea Frost $50.00 a month. Joe Chavez seconded the motion and the motion carries.

Ernie Tovar wanted to put claim markers on the Jackass Claim. President Albert Naki is going to check into this item. The Rendezvous Outing is going to be held at the same place. The dates of the Rendezvous Outing will be October 23rd through the 25th at the Ord Mountains.

President Albert Naki called for the meeting to be adjourned. Art Fairchild made the motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Calvin Shipley seconded the motion and the motion carries. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



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.

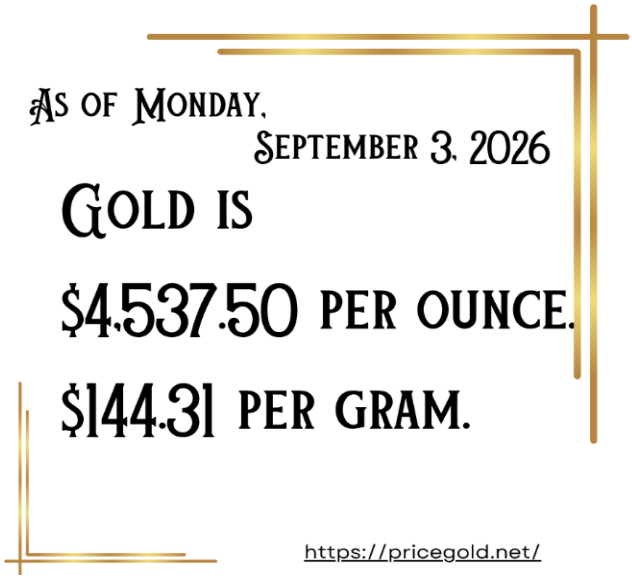


Howdy from A Novice,
I keep hearing the term "Georgia Swirl" in relationship to panning out gold. What is it?

While many a late night campfire argument has been had about the "right way" to move your gold pan for efficient gold recovery, know that there are as many techniques as there are prospectors in this world and what is right for you many not work for another. That said, at the end of panning carefully and gently swirl the water in your pan to wash a layer of black sand away from the accumulated gold with each pass. The key is to stop swirling as gold becomes visible. From there you may want to use a sucker bottle or gently tap the pan to help the gold settle together at the very bottom of the pan. With float gold or small thin flaky gold this method can easily wash away the gold before you even see it, so a back and forth method is often used in areas sporting that type of gold.
Now it's name is the interesting part. Did you know that the California Gold Rush in 1849 was not the first Gold Rush in America? In 1829 a deer hunter near the area now known as Lumpkin County discovered gold and a rush was on to claim the rich diggings. The influx of thousands of mining hopefuls was called "The Great Intrusion" by locals and the pressure it on the native peoples was a major factor in the Cherokee being led on the Trail of Tears to relocate. The swirl was popularized in the gold camps and traveled with them to California 20 years later when our Gold Rush started.

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*
OCT 23-25	*VP Rendezvous 2026 – Ord Mtn*	*Campsite Ord Mountain – See flyer on Club website for more details- Saturday Events*
NOV 14	*Coolgardie – Oro Rico*	*Meet at Starlight Donuts 8am*
DEC 5	*Holiday Party & Awards Event* *Potluck – bring your favorite dish* *Ham, Brisket, and Tri-tip provided*	*Pinon Hills Community Center* *10 am – 3 pm $5 RSVP, Bring unwrapped Toy for Spark of Love donation*

*** 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.