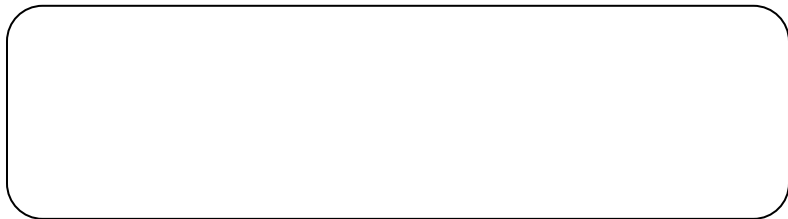


***DRYWASHER'S* GAZETTE**

November 2020

**Send Exchange Bulletins to:
Lorraine Frost PO Box 293990
Phelan, CA 92329-3990
valleyprospectors49@gmail.com**



Web Site: www.valleyprospectors.org

Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com

Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923

Next General Meeting: January 28, 2021, 7 PM – 9 PM (Tentative)

Mission and Code of Ethics

Valley Prospectors Inc. is a non-profit educational organization dedicated

“To Promote Gold Prospecting as a healthy family activity.”

You’re invited to be our guest at the General membership meetings that are

held on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm

in the Knights of Columbus Hall at:

1729 E. Baseline Street, San Bernardino, Ca. A map is on our website.

The Board of Directors meeting will be at 6 pm before the General Meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall in San Bernardino.



“A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION”

Remember that all prospectors may be judged by the example “You set.” Leave flora and fauna as you found it. “Do Not Destroy Any property, public or private!” “Obey all laws”. Please do not litter,

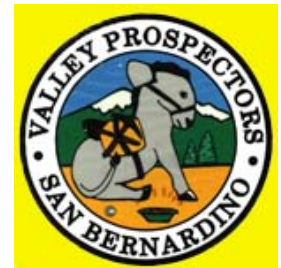
Each member of Valley Prospectors should strive to set a good example for others.

Officers for 2020

Executive Officers			Chairpersons		
President	Lorraine Frost	760-868-6564	Apparel	Trish Dudley	480-490-0975
Vice President	Steve Schubert	951-943-0535	Blood Bank	Lorraine Frost	760-868-6564
Secretary	Judy Lepper	951-674-3207	Budget	Lorraine Frost	760-868-6564
Treasurer	Vacant		CFMS	Bural LaRue	909-874-5664
			Courtesy	Susan Birrell Diane Railsback	760-954-1915
Board of Directors			Editor	Lorraine Frost	760-868-6564
John Bonson	909-794-4401		Asst. Editor	Vacant	
Dan Cornia	909-797-6111		Finds/Month	Garry Devlin Sherry Livingston	951-768-0880
Garry Devlin	951-768-0880		Lady Luck	Albert Naki	909-733-6473
Bob Dudley	480-225-5013		50/50	Sherri Livingston	909-875-2090
Trish Dudley	480-490-0975		Gold Sales	Art Fairchild	951-897-5433
Gene Lepper	951-674-3207		Historian	Corenna Ross	530-274-1838
Sherri Livingston	909-875-2090		Librarian	Vacant	
Jill Molson	909-887-8024		Membership	Andrea Frost	760-868-6564
Mike Muir	909-882-9052		Name Tags	Andrea Frost	760-868-6564
Albert Naki	909-733-6473		Programs	Steve Schubert	951-943-0535
Katherine Naki	909-733-6441		Refreshments	Michelle O'Brien	
Bruce Sherman	951-780-7715		Outings/Retired during the week	Don Osborne	951-817-0524 714-287-0782
Alternates			Claims	Bob Dudley	480-225-5013
Stu Luce	909-560-0474		Show & School Rep.	Steve Schubert	951-943-0535
John Howell	951-247-1037		Wagon Master	Mike Dunkerley	760-608-3228
Tommy Purscelly	909-820-1898				

CLAIMS

The 2 Burro's Placer Claims 20 acres
Coolgardie Placer Claim Harvey's Oro Rico 120 acres
Gold Venture & Pickett #3 Placer Claims, 20 acres ea.
Hungry Man 1, 2, 3, 4 and Chunker Placer Claims 550 total acres
Indian Gulch and Indian Flat Placer Claim 60 acres
Jackass 1, Placer Claim 160 acres
Miner's Folly Placer Claim 60 acres
Moriah Placer Claim 15 acres
Pickett #2 Placer Claim 30 acres
(Cajon Pass) Summit Placer Claim 60 acres



Prez Says – Lorraine Frost – Oct 2020

It's time to vote for the 2021 Valley Prospector's Officers and Board of Directors. As I mentioned last month, you will receive a ballot asking you to approve the entire slate of candidates or not approve them. All current Officers and Board Members have agreed to continue into 2021 if the membership will approve this. Ballots need to be mailed to the PO Box, postmarked by Dec 6, 2020. I will need two people, not on the ballot, to count the returned ballots. Please email me at valleyprospectors49@gmail.com if you are willing to do this. Arrangements will be made to get the ballots to the two people for them to count.

In addition to the ballots, you will also be receiving your renewal notice. Renewal dues are \$40 and need to be paid by January 31, 2021. We know 2020 has been a struggle, but be assured that your club has been staying connected via the newsletter, Facebook, and outings (when possible). The club still needs to cover expenses for insurance, newsletter printing, web hosting, storage, advertisements, and the like. Luckily, some members have been able to visit the claims throughout the year. Thank goodness that prospecting is outdoors and social distancing is easy. Most of us already wear a mask when drywashing, so we are pros at it.

I am keeping close contact with Knights of Columbus to see when the hall may reopen. I hope that we can hold our January meeting in 2021 and beyond.

Still looking for those who want to star in a video. I'd like to record a panning demonstration, as well as, reviewing how a sluice box and high banker work. We could also tackle metal detecting. I think videos would be great educational tools for the club. I would also like to know if you would be interested in conducting a meeting via Zoom. Not sure how long these quarantines and restrictions are going to remain in California. I just miss seeing and talking about prospecting with all of you. If you have an email address, I'll send out a survey. Or, just give me a call and let me know your thoughts – 760-868-6564.

Praying all are well and 2021 will be a spectacular year for finding gold.

[What Is Placer Gold and Where Do I Find It?](#)

Written by David Hylsop, October 20, 2015 posted on [GoldRushNuggetBucket](#)

Placer Gold: The Stuff You Gold Pan For

To start off, there are two types of gold deposits: lode and placer. Typically, [lode deposits](#) are the traditional veins of ore that are embedded in rocks and minerals. To recover gold from lodes, miners have to blast, mill, or treat the rock with chemicals to recover the gold inside.

[The process for the creation of placer gold begins](#) when a lode deposit is eroded by weather and environment factors, leaving the "heavier" minerals, like gold, to be transported down a stream or river. Many of the other heavier minerals that erode are also transported with the gold, eventually becoming [black sand](#), which settles on the bottom of riverbeds and depressions. Where there are depressions in a riverbed full of black sand, there is a good chance gold may be there as well!

Have you visited a Valley Prospector Claim lately?

Be sure to submit your claim report. Our claim chair, Bob Dudley, uses this information to file our work assessment documents on an annual basis. You can submit the online form and it will be emailed directly to Bob so that Valley can record the claim work assessment. He will collect these throughout the year. Don't forget to report your Northern Claim visits too.

<https://www.valleyprospectors.org/claims/claim-report/>

Local Gold History

HOLCOMB VALLEY

Historical Landmark

How many of you know the history of Holcomb Valley? Here are some tidbits of information. The Valley Prospectors' claim, Miner's Folly resides in Holcomb Valley.

Description:

Southern California's largest gold rush followed the discovery of rich placer deposits by William F. Holcomb and Ben Choteau on May 4, 1860. Miners rushed to the valley and established boomtowns. Belleville, the largest, rivaled San Bernardino in population and almost became the county seat. Violence and hangings were common in this remote valley. Over time, major placer and quartz mining declined although some activity continues today. Belleville Holcomb Valley, on Rd No. 3N16, 4.3 mi NW of Big Bear City.



There is a great article about Holcomb Valley at [Legends of America](#). Did you know that Bellville, named after Mrs. Jed Van Dusen's daughter, Belle, almost became the County Seat of San Bernardino County? Due to the influx of miners in 1860, almost 10,000 residents, Bellville was a contender for the County Seat. The City of San Bernardino beat out Bellville by just two votes. Legends of America claims that the Holcomb Valley Gold Rush was the largest in Southern California. I'm not sure how true that is. It seems quite a bit of gold was also found in Mojave (remember the Mojave Nugget) and San Gabriel. Can't find a definite assessment of the amounts in each area.

Both placer and quartz lode mining occurred in Holcomb Valley. Stamp mills were built to accommodate the crushing of the quartz rock material. Two 40-Stamp Mills were built for the Gold Mountain Mine which was situated northwest of Baldwin Lake. I remember dredging in Van Dusen Canyon in the '60s and '70s with

Dick Haskell. We used a small 1 ½" suction dredge he nicknamed Suction Sally. Not much water in the creeks or Baldwin Lake nowadays. Lots of history in our backyard.

Miner's Folly Claim, Holcomb Valley, Big Bear, CA

On Oct 28, 2020, Michelle O'Brien, my niece and Valley Prospectors member, and I had the fun task of teaching and showing her son, Evan, and 2 of his classmates (their Kindergarten Pod) all about gold in Holcomb Valley at the club's Miner's Folly claim. Luckily the weather had not turned too cold.



The three boys and their teacher, Ms. Bracker, were so excited. We had special buckets (Trick or Treat variety just in time for Halloween), fake dynamite, and trowels. We told the boys that gold washes down the creek from the rocky mountains and that we were looking for placer gold today (that's loose gold that has been released from the rocks). We showed them how to classify the dirt and then how to pan. We sprinkled special sand in each pan (those \$5 gold bags came in handy). Each one got a big surprise when we panned down to the black sands. Once they all found gold and collected it in their gold vials, they rushed back to the dry stream and started filling up their buckets again. Even their teacher had a chance to pan for gold. During the second panning session, my grand-nephew, Evan, asked where the special sand was. Can't put anything past these kids.



After a short hike to Jonathan Tibbetts Grasshopper Quarts Hill and a collection of rocks and pine cones, we headed back for a prospector lunch of dried apples, beans, and jerky. Along the way, the boys also feed the birds by sprinkling dried mealworms along the path and eating trail mix to keep up their strength. The adventure wrapped up with a road trip to see the small cabin on the Holcomb trail. The boys are still talking about their experience. We had so much fun. It was also a great learning experience. They learned about mining claims, claim posts, how heavy gold is, and how to keep our environment safe and clean.

Are you an aspiring writer?

The Gazette is always looking for great articles about mining and prospecting. If you write or know of articles that would interest the members, please send to valleyprospectors49@gmail.com Our members have inquiring minds and love to hear about the history of gold prospecting and mining.

Happy Thanksgiving to All

Wishing all of my Valley Prospectors Family members a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving. We are truly Blessed.



“Miners Sales”



Members: One ad, 3 times through the year for free. Commercial ads are \$5.00 per month

For Sale: 2021 Lucky Calendars – \$20 each, Garry Devlin is selling 2021 Lucky Calendars on behalf of the non-profit charitable organization – Native Sons of the Golden West. Funds raised help support the restoration of historical sites in California and the Cleft Palate Fund. Calendars are \$20 – you have a chance to win each day out of the year, 365 chances! Contact Garry Devlin at (951) 768-0880 to get yours now. One of our recent winners in 2020 was Lorraine Frost, \$500 for the special Admissions Day Draw on Sept 9th. Through the generosity of their cleft palate march, the Marini Family Trust, members, families, and many donors, NSGW has been able to donate from 1953 to 2018 a total of \$6,543,781 to 3 hospitals. (2)