

# DESERT GOLD DIGGERS GAZETTE

The official publication of Desert Gold Diggers Inc., Tucson, AZ

The Desert Gold Diggers is a non-profit prospecting club based in Tucson, Arizona, devoted to all aspects of small scale mining including panning, sluicing, dry washing, and metal detecting. In addition to promoting small scale prospecting, the club exchanges ideas and information on the various aspects of prospecting & mining. Visit our webpage at <https://desertgolddiggers.com> for more club information.



Desert Gold Doggers has 19 claims in southeastern Arizona. The claims are located in several gold producing areas including the Greaterville, Arivaca, Oro Blanco (Ruby), Las Guijas, Old Hat (Oracle) and Banner (Pinal County) mining districts. The club is constantly evaluating and pursuing additional claims.

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## From the Desk of Ralph Montaña

*President, Desert Gold Diggers Inc.*

Happy New Year Desert Gold Diggers! As we begin 2024, I would like to mention a very important event in April—the election of club officers. Every year our members are asked to step forward and run for the positions responsible for conducting club business. The elections for the 2024 DGD Officer and Board positions will be conducted at the monthly membership meeting on **April 2, 2024**.



Several people holding these positions are stepping down due to other obligations and this is a great chance for new people to get involved. Desert Gold Diggers is YOUR club and participating as an officer is the best way to have a voice in the direction of the club. I encourage everyone to get involved by giving up a little time and a couple evenings each month because the club cannot run without your help and guidance.

The next section contains a description of each Officer position and the positions appointed by the Board of Directors. I encourage everyone to please consider taking a leadership role in Desert Gold Diggers. **Please get involved and help make a difference!**

— Ralph

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## Desert Gold Diggers Officer Positions & Duties

1. **President:** the principle executive officer of the club responsible for presiding over the membership meetings, signing contracts, deeds, or other instruments authorized by the Board of Directors, and presiding over the meeting of the Board of Directors in the absence of the Board Chairperson.
2. **Vice President:** arranges for the program or speaker at the monthly membership meetings and steps in for the President when the President is unable or unwilling to do his/her duties.
3. **Secretary:** records the minutes at the membership and business meetings, prepares and sends notices under the bylaws and keeps the Corporate Seal for sealing official documents as directed by the Bylaws or Board of Directors.
4. **Treasurer:** responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation. He/she handles the banking duties for the club and presents financial reports to the Board of Directors and may perform other duties from time to time as assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

## Desert Gold Diggers Officer Positions/Duties *(continued)*

5. **Board Members:** there are three classes of board members which include 1, 2, and 3-year positions. Board members are responsible for deciding the direction of the club and meet the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings seldom last over an hour.
  6. **Outing Coordinator:** arranges and directs the monthly outings and prepares the schedule of outings to be published in the bi-monthly Gazette.
  7. **Historian:** responsible for keeping the club records, including minutes, financial reports and copies of the Gazette. He/she also holds the clubs video library.
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## Desert Gold Diggers Board Appointed Positions

1. **Claims Director:** coordinates and leads the search for potential areas in which to stake placer claims for the club. He/she is also responsible for filing claim paperwork and updating the claims packets to the members.
2. **Newsletter Editor:** produces and distributes the bi-monthly Gazette.
3. **Public Relations Director:** a Goodwill Ambassador that disperses information about the club to the public.
4. **Membership Director:** responsible for maintaining and updating the list of club members, taking the applications and payment of new members, and handling the renewal of memberships.
5. **Website Liaison:** acts as an interface between The Board of Directors and the web creator to submit information for publication to the website.

**NOTE:** All Officer and Board positions are open for nominations. This will be a “self-nomination” process. If you are interested in actively participating as a Desert Gold Diggers Officer or Board member, please nominate yourself (not someone else) on the forms that will be provided at the February and March monthly membership meetings.

The following page contains the names of the 2023 Officers and Board members. All club members are eligible to run for Officer and Board positions; however, anyone with a felony conviction cannot hold a position in which money is handled according to Arizona State law.

The election of Officers and Board members will be conducted at the April monthly meeting. To emphasize Ralph’s remarks—**“get involved and help make a difference.”**

## DESERT GOLD DIGGERS OFFICERS: 2023

### **PRESIDENT**

Ralph Montaño  
[dgdpresident8@gmail.com](mailto:dgdpresident8@gmail.com)  
(520) 990-0945

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Terry Becklund  
[mt.bowman@yahoo.com](mailto:mt.bowman@yahoo.com)  
(520) 403-1603

### **SECRETARY**

Darrell Marihugh  
[darrell.marihugh@yahoo.com](mailto:darrell.marihugh@yahoo.com)  
(520) 245-6775

### **TREASURER**

Erick Ramirez  
[eram007@hotmail.com](mailto:eram007@hotmail.com)  
(520) 908-9214

### **OUTINGS DIRECTOR**

Dan Walker  
[diggerdan@juno.com](mailto:diggerdan@juno.com)  
(520) 544-2184

### **HISTORIAN**

Mary Garcia  
[marycgarcia54@gmail.com](mailto:marycgarcia54@gmail.com)  
(520) 449-6944

### **CLAIMS DIRECTOR**

Dan Walker  
[digger.dan@juno.com](mailto:digger.dan@juno.com)  
(520) 544-2184

### **PR DIRECTOR**

Amber Clark  
[amclark4691@gmail.com](mailto:amclark4691@gmail.com)  
(520) 578-1203/203-4519

### **GOLD MASTER**

Bob Burgette/Joe Marihugh  
[1robu1@hotmail.com](mailto:1robu1@hotmail.com)  
(520) 235-7822

### **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

Becky Marihugh  
[dgdmembership@gmail.com](mailto:dgdmembership@gmail.com)

### **GAZETTE EDITOR**

Ray Darragh  
[DGDGazette51@gmail.com](mailto:DGDGazette51@gmail.com)  
(480) 652-0648

### **DGD CLUB STORE**

Kim Ransom  
[kransom6a@gmail.com](mailto:kransom6a@gmail.com)  
(520) 333-8651

### **WEBSITE LIASON**

Carl Wruck/Ray Darragh  
[carlwruck06@comcast.net](mailto:carlwruck06@comcast.net)  
(520) 891-7702

## DESERT GOLD DIGGERS BOARD MEMBERS

### **ONE YEAR BOARD MEMBERS (2023)**

**Dan Walker (Board Chairman)**, Ed Madson, David Salars, Bob Melzer, Sharron Lapp

### **TWO-YEAR BOARD MEMBERS (2023-2024)**

Joe Marihugh, Becky Marihugh, Hank Bassaraba, Ray Darragh

### **THREE YEAR BOARD MEMBERS (2023-2025)**

Howard Cooper, Louis Pill, JR Smith, Kim Ransom

## Meeting & Event Summary (February-April 2024)

### Membership Meetings

**1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM.**

Ellie Towne Community Center  
1660 West Ruthrauff Road  
Tucson, AZ 85705-1253

The monthly meetings are an opportunity for club members to socialize, listen to guest speakers, and participate in nugget raffles at the end of the meeting.

Guests are welcome to attend!

### Business Meetings

**3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM.**

IHOP  
4187 N. Oracle Road  
Tucson, AZ. 85705-2721  
(Southwest corner of Oracle and  
Lumberlost Road)

Access to monthly meetings using the ZOOM application will no longer be available until further notice.

### Events Schedule

#### **February:**

**06:** Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

**11:** (Sunday) Outing: PILGRIM'S PRIDE CLAIMS; 8:00 AM; Arivaca Rd., Mile Post 7

**20:** Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

#### **March:**

**05:** Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

**19:** Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

**22-24:** Overnight Outing: NORTH ARIVACA CLAIMS; 8:00 AM; Las Guijas Road camp site

#### **April:**

**02:** Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

#### **Officer and Board Elections**

**07:** (Sunday) Outing: PLACER POND CLAIMS; 8:00 AM; Gardner Canyon Road & Highway 83

**16:** Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

## March Overnight Outing (March 22-24)



The overnight outing will be at the Las Guijas camp site. The initial turnoff point is right after the Mile Post 7 marker on W. Arivaca Road (lower right side of map). DGD will provide signage to help direct everyone to the campsite on W. Las Guijas-Cerro Colorado Road.



## Updated Desert Gold Diggers 2024 Outing Schedule

DATE	CLAIMS	TIME	MEETING LOCATION
JAN 6 (SAT)	WISHFUL	8:00 AM	17180 W. Arivaca Rd. (General Store)
FEB 11 (SUN)	PILGRIM'S PRIDE	8:00 AM	Arivaca Rd. Mile Post 7
<b>MAR 22-24 (FRI-SUN) *</b>	NORTH ARIVACA	8:00 AM	Las Guijas Road Camp Site
APR 7 (SUN)	PLACER POND	8:00 AM	Greaterville Road & HWY 83
MAY 11 (SAT)	SNOOZIN	8:00 AM	Arivaca Rd. Mile Post 7
JUN 9 (SUN)	HOPE	7:00 AM	Gardner Canyon Road & HWY 83
JUL 6 (SAT)	BRUISER	7:00 AM	Circle K in Oracle (American Avenue)
AUG 11 (SUN)	WISHFUL	7:00 AM	17180 W. Arivaca Rd. (General Store)
SEP 7 (SAT)	BRUISER	7:00 AM	Circle K in Oracle (American Avenue)
OCT 4-6 (FRI-SUN)	HOPE	8:00 AM	Camp Site TBA
NOV 9 (SAT)	PILGRIM'S PRIDE	8:00 AM	Arivaca Rd. Mile Post 7
DEC 8 (SUN)	SNOOZIN	8:00 AM	Arivaca Rd. Mile Post 7
JAN 11 (SAT) 2025	WISHFUL	8:00 AM	17180 W. Arivaca Rd. (General Store)

\* **NOTE:** this outing schedule replaces the schedule contained in the October/ November 2023 issue of the Gazette. Although no further changes are anticipated, members will be notified in advance of any changes in date, time, or location. Please note **the March overnight outing is MAR 22-24**. Additional information will be provided to members via e-mail prior to the outing.

## Meet the DGD Outing Director..... Dan Walker

Hello, my name is Dan Walker and here is my prospecting story.

I started prospecting 37 years ago in Southern California on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River in Azusa Canyon. My wife and I were at home and I asked her if she wanted to go panning for gold. She agreed and that started my gold prospecting hobby.

I met a couple who were prospecting that day and we would prospect across the river from the Heaton Flats Campground on the weekends. The gold was recovered by sluicing gravels from the dry gravels we dug and later on we would dredge. The gold was mostly small pickers and nuggets up to a penny weight and a third.

I went to a gold show that year and bought a drywasher and Gold Bug metal detector that started my desert gold prospecting. My vacations were spent every year traveling up the California Gold Highway (Highway 49) where we spent two weeks camping at Rams Horn Campground and dredging for gold. Rams Horn Campground is South of Downieville California.

In 1993 my job and I were transferred to Tucson and that is when I joined the Desert Gold Diggers.

—Dan Walker



Dan Walker, DGD Outing Director

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## Gold Prices

Gold prices fluctuated significantly in 2023. Gold closed at \$2,029.50 an ounce on January 19, 2024. Many people accumulate gold nuggets and flakes; however, there are other ways to collect gold. Page 16 discusses different gold collecting opportunities.



## Outing Director's Report (DEC10 2023): Snoozin Claims

We met at mile post 7 on Arivaca Road at 8:00 AM Sunday, December 10. We had 18 members present and held our metal detector hunt prior to going to the claims.

There were 24 nickels planted: two (2) worth a gold nugget; one for silver nuggets; three (3) worth a \$2 bill; and 18 worth a dollar coin. There were 22 coins found leaving a \$2 dollar target and a dollar coin target to be found. The hunt was fun, but more challenging due to the large number of non-ferrous targets in the area.

After the hunt we went to the Snoozin claims and other adjacent claims to prospect using recirculating mini-highbankers, drywashers, and metal detecting. The area was relatively dry and the temperature was cold (37 degrees) but warmed up to the low 70s later in the afternoon. The members were able to find gold and everyone seemed to be having a good time.



The outing was a success and we look forward to our next outing at the Wishful claims on Saturday, January 6, at 8:00.

Thanks to all for their attendance. Joe Marihugh (for Dan Walker)

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## Outing Director's Report (JAN 6 2024): Wishful Claims

Our January 6 outing started when we met at the Arivaca Mercantile Store at 8:00 AM. We had 11 members in attendance and the morning temperature was 20 degrees Fahrenheit.



We did not have a metal detector hunt because of the low attendance. There was no water on the claims so prospecting was done with recirculating systems. There was a big problem on the Wishful #1 claim —some people had dug two huge holes without filling them before they left. I heard that the holes were dug by people that were not club members.

Little gold was found, but the weather warmed up as the day went by. The next outing will be Feb 11 (SUN) on the Pilgrim's Pride Claims. The meeting time/place will be at 8:00 AM on Arivaca Road, Mile Post 7.

Keep finding the yellow stuff. Dan



## Desert Gold Diggers 2023 Christmas Party 12/5/23

The 2023 Desert Gold Diggers Christmas party was a festive event! Ninety (90) club members and guests attended and feasted on baked ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, various types of salads, and a large assortment of colorful and delicious desserts provided by club members. Terry Becklund, DGD Vice-President, did a very nice job facilitating the event and everyone had a great time sharing stories. Nobody left hungry!



Christmas Dinner Participants



Dinner Items



Dessert Table

## Christmas Party *(continued from previous page)*



Club Members enjoying the festivities

## Christmas Party Raffle Winners



The winners of four separate raffles were announced after dinner and the following prizes were awarded:

1. 50/50 Raffle: Kay Jenkins (\$348.50)
2. Hangover Ticket Raffle:
  - Max Offerman (Gold Nugget)
  - Joe Vasko (Gold Nugget)
3. Equipment Raffle:
  - Bill Richie (Garrett metal detector/headphones/pin-pointer)
  - Ralph Montaño (Highbanker)
  - Norm Sternberg (Clean-up sluice)
4. Gold Nuggets (8.1 grams): Max Offermann



Bill Richie



Max Offermann



### **THANK YOU**

to everyone who planned and organized the Christmas party; decorated the venue; prepared the main dishes; brought side dishes and desserts; and helped clean up after the party ended. Your participation made the party a great success and your assistance was truly appreciated.



## Trail Life USA Outing

On Saturday, December 9, a group of Desert Gold Diggers devoted a day working with scouts from Trail Life Troop AZ-0747 outside the Wishful Claims. Trail Life USA is a faith-based non-aligned Scouting organization providing youth mentorship and character development to more than 52,000 boys in the United States.

Forty-seven (47) people attended the outing that consisted of Trail Life Scouts and family members, with the youngest attendees ranging in age from 18 months to 17 years old. Ralph Montañó, Cris Lespron, Darrell Marihugh, Becky Marihugh, and Joe Marihugh set up recirculating systems and panning stations for the scouts.

Ralph performed a quick panning demonstration and then the scouts eagerly dispersed to start prospecting for gold. The DGD team directed the young prospectors to areas they thought contained gold-bearing dirt and then showed them how to process the



Trail Life USA Scouts and Family Members

material, clean out the sluices, and how to pan out the concentrates.

The Trail Life Scouts and the parents teamed up and processed material until after lunch. Everybody was finding gold and having a great time. The Trail Life Troopmaster, Chuck Trujillo, stated that the boys in the troop were enthralled with prospecting and none asked to play on their cell phones (which he said was a first), and none of them wanted to leave! Sounds like the scouts had a case of gold fever.....



A future Desert Gold Digger!



Trail Life Scouts panning concentrates and finding gold



Thank you to Ralph, Cris, Darrell, Becky, and Joe for devoting their time and effort to assist Trail Life Troop AZ-0747 in learning about gold prospecting and generating interest in our club. As a result of the outing, we have several new DGD members.

## Welcome NEW Club Members!

Desert Gold Diggers welcomes the following new members:

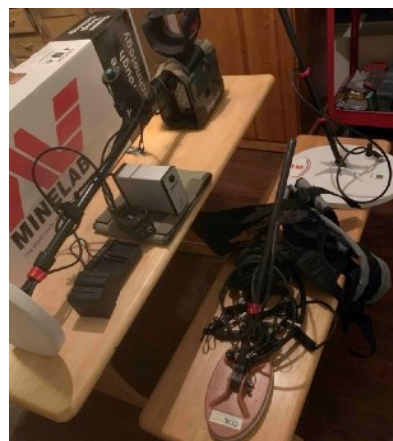
Travis & Mary Anne Belich (Chandler, AZ)  
John Castillo (Tucson, AZ)  
Michael & Carol Comstock (Tucson, AZ)  
Jerry Griwzow (Pick City, ND)  
Ric Hamel (St. David, AZ)  
Jason MacLeod (Marana, AZ)  
Anibal & Kiraless Morales (Sahuarita, AZ)  
Edmund & Karen Pflieger (Tucson, AZ)  
Mike & Susan Phelps (Benson, AZ)  
Valerie Saenz Pope (Tucson, AZ)  
Margo & Chuck Samu (Tucson, AZ)  
Michael & Lynn Stone (Tucson, AZ)  
Charles & Patricia Wilson (Port Angles, WA)



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## Market Place.....

Bob Clark would like to sell his Minelab GPX 4500 metal detector. The detector has seen very little use, is about 3 years old, and has 4 coils and 3 batteries. Bob is asking \$2000 for this metal detector and may be contacted at (520) 203-4519. If interested, please give Bob a call.



Minelab GPX 4500

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## ZOOM Video-Conferencing Notice

We have recently experienced some issues using the Zoom application for video-conferencing at the business and membership meetings. Unfortunately, access to future monthly business meetings and membership meetings via ZOOM will not available until further notice.

## 2024 Gold Nugget Raffle



Raffle tickets are now available for a **6.1 gram** gold nugget.

The raffle tickets are \$2.00 each and may be purchased at the membership meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The lucky winner will be selected at a future 2024 membership meeting.



6.1 gram nugget

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## Club Store

Be sure to stop by the Desert Gold Diggers Club Store at the monthly membership meetings. Some of the other items you will find at our store include, but are not limited to:

- Columbia long-sleeve shirts with the Desert Gold Diggers logo
- DGD Polo shirts and T-shirts
- Hats and Visors
- Patches and DGD License Plates
- DGD window transfer decals
- Numerous prospecting items

The Club Store carries DVDs that contain the color “topo” maps, GPS coordinates, directions to the claims, and other useful information. You can print out what you need, when you need it. Laminated topo that have color maps on one side and the GPS coordinates and directions on the other side are also available.

Please support the Desert Gold Diggers with purchases from our club

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## MASH Report

1. Richard L. Caum, 66, passed away unexpectedly on December 25, 2023. Richard lived in Vail and joined Desert Gold Diggers in November, 2022.
2. Chuck Keyes brother recently passed away.
3. Bob Ecker recently passed away.
4. Dave Riley recently had triple bypass surgery.
5. Ken Herholz is currently undergoing medical treatment.
6. Dan Walker had cataract surgery on both eyes.

Sincere condolences to the Caum, Keyes, and the Ecker families.

If you have an illness, injury or death in the family please contact Amber Clark at [amclark4691@gmail.com](mailto:amclark4691@gmail.com)



## Membership Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2023

- People started arriving at 5 pm to set up food for the Christmas party.
- Terry Becklund (VP) convened the meeting at 6PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced guests & new members; recognized birthdays/anniversaries; discussed MASH information.
- Next outing is Sunday, DEC 10 at the Snoozin claims at 8AM.
- Trail Life Scout outing on DEC 9, 8AM, meeting at the Arivaca store.
- Started serving food by 6:30 PM and held raffles afterwards.
- Ninety (90) members and guests present.

### Raffle winners:

- 50/50: Kay Jenkins (\$358.50)
- Hangover: Joe Vasko; Max Offermann
- Equipment: Bill Richie; Ralph Montaño; Norm Sternberg
- Gold nugget: Max Offermann

- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

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## Membership Meeting Minutes: January 2, 2023

- Ralph Montaño convened the meeting at 6:00 PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members/guests; asked about January birthdays and anniversaries; shared MASH information-Richard Caum passed away on Christmas Day.
- Dan Walker reported that the January outing (Saturday, January 6) will be at the Wishful claims; meet at 8:00 AM at Arivaca general store; detector hunt and then head to the claims.
- Ralph announced that the gold-colored box by the entrance door was for members to nominate club members that deserve recognition for devoting extra time and effort into club activities; winner will be announced at March outing.
- Ralph asked for volunteers to start a committee to look for some new claims.
- Elections coming up in April, Officer and Board positions available; those interested in being actively involved in the club should consider these positions.
- Guest speaker: Chris Osterman; owns a silver company; has found large amounts of silver in Mexico; showed samples of the silver he has found; helped recover a 400 pound boulder—the biggest piece of native silver found in the world.

### Raffle winners:

- Badge: Kathy Smith
- Shirt: Ric Hamel
- Yellow Ticket: Max Offermann; Jeremy Werner; Eugene Tucksen
- Red Ticket: Larry Bibow

- Ralph adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM

## Business Meeting Minutes: December 19, 2023

- Ralph started the meeting at 6:35 PM.
- Darrell read previous minutes; Joe motioned and minutes approved.
- Terry Becklund did a great job hosting the Christmas party; Becky Marihugh did a great job cooking.
- Ray needs Trail Life Scout pictures for Gazette; members enjoy seeing bios of board members.
- Reminders for outings/events will be sent out the Friday before the event to provide earlier notice.
- Webmaster: No report.
- Website fee is due FEB 1; 1-year contract is \$600; need photos on website; will finalize required actions next business meeting.
- Membership report: Eight new members; 11 non-renewals; 314 members; decrease of 11 members.
- Expense reports submitted.
- Treasurer: Income \$2,259.56; expenses \$1,573.73; net income previous month \$685.83.
- Gold Master: No report.
- Outing Director: 18 members at the December 10 outing; detector hunt and then to the Snoozin claims; everyone was finding color.
- Claims report: None.
- Historian: Mary getting files together to enter for the year.

- Public relations: No report.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Need to contact the raffle winner of the sluice (Norm Sternberg).

### New BUSINESS

- Ed Madson found a guest speaker for the January meeting.
- Outing dates for 2024 look good.
- Apply and reserve hall rental for next 3 months; fee non refundable if no notice 10 days in advance.
- Marry has 15 chairs to loan the club.
- Ray asked if people might be interested in a raffle for a 1-ounce gold coin; board decided to just concentrate on nuggets.
- Becky motioned that board members get recognitions for all the work that is accomplished; will consider this for next year.
- Will have a box and forms for nominations at monthly meeting to recognize club members.
- Discussed bringing back the "Finders of the Year" award.
- Election in April; all Board members should attend JAN business meeting.
- Need to consider candidates for the Gold Master and Treasurer positions.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

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## Business Meeting Minutes: January 16, 2024

- Dan convened the meeting: 6:30 PM.
- Darrell read previous minutes; Becky motion to approve, Lewis seconded.
- Ray requested info required for Gazette be sent as soon as possible; need to know the Board and Officer positions included in the April elections; Dan Walker's bio will be in the next newsletter.

- Ray will assume the Webmaster liaison position.
- Membership report: Two new members; 19 non renewals; 303 current members.
- Expense reports submitted.
- Treasurer report: income \$1,524.83; expenses \$2,592.75; net income previous month **-\$1,067.92.**

## Business Meeting Minutes: January 16, 2024 *(continued)*

- Outing Director: Outing was January 6 at the Wishful claims; met at the Arivaca store at 8:00 AM; very cold and only 11 members participated so there was detector hunt; went to claims and found little gold.
- Next outing February 11 at Pilgrims Pride, 8:00 AM at Mile Post 7.
- Claims report: None; need to elect a new Claims Director in April.
- Historian: No report.
- Public relations: No report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Website provider costs \$600 for the year; Ray volunteered to be the Webmaster; Dave motioned to keep the provider one more year, Sharon seconded and the motion passed; Becky motioned to appoint Ray as Webmaster; seconded and passed.
- Bob Burgette stepping down as Gold Master; Joe Marihugh volunteered; need updated spreadsheet to track gold; Sharon motioned, Bob seconded and motion passed.
- Kim Ransom: new rule on non-profits to list members with positions

requiring a background check (President, Gold Master, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer).

- Kim: will discontinue ZOOM; Hank is a great help with the Club Store.
- Need to find a new Treasurer. Need nominations for April 2 meeting.
- Next meeting we will be taking any nominations for Treasurer, 1-year and 3-year board members.

### **New BUSINESS**

- March 22-24 overnight outing at the same campsite as last year.
- Dave will order porta-potties.
- Will have a movie (Paint Your Wagon)
- Hamburgers/hot dog lunch; Becky will get the food.
- Joe will reserve campsite March 20.
- Raffle after lunch.
- Equipment will be set up at the campsite and people will help new members at the claims.
- Kim recommended having Club Store at next Christmas party; will need additional tables.
- Bob motioned to end meeting, Louis seconded; adjourned at 7:24 PM.

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## The Best Gold Coins for Investment Purposes

Many Desert Gold Diggers have been prospecting for years and adding to their collection of nuggets and gold flakes; however, there are other ways to collect gold. Gold has been a popular way for investors to protect their wealth for hundreds of years and “bullion” is one of the most popular ways to invest in gold. Gold and silver bullion is officially recognized as being 99.5% and 99.9% pure in the form of bars, ingots or coins.

Gold coins, in particular, may be a fun and attractive investment based on aesthetic, historical, and monetary value. However, knowing where to start can seem overwhelming and with so many gold coins to choose from, which ones should you focus on? The following gold coins regularly make reputable “best of” lists for their purity, reputation, and overall growth potential:

## The Best Gold Coins for Investment Purposes (continued)

### **American Gold Eagle Coins:**

American Gold Eagle coins are one of the most popular gold coins on the market. These coins are produced by the United States Mint and are made of 22-karat gold. You can buy American Gold Eagle coins in weights of 1 oz, 1/2 oz, 1/4 oz and 1/10 oz. These gold coins are highly sought-after by investors due to their high purity and ease of liquidity.



### **American Gold Buffalo Coins:**

The American Gold Buffalo coin is another popular option and produced by the United States Mint. It's modeled after the famous 1913 Buffalo Nickel and these coins are a higher purity than American Gold Eagle coins at 24 karats. You can buy American Gold Buffalo coins in 1 oz, 1/2 oz, 1/4 oz and 1/10 oz weights.



### **South African Gold Krugerrand Coins:**

The South African Gold Krugerrand is one of the most trusted gold bullion coins made of 22-karat gold. This lower purity makes them more durable than 24-karat coins, and a great option for those wanting increased longevity of their investment. You can buy South African Gold Krugerrand coins in weights ranging from 1/50 oz to 2 oz.



### **Canadian Gold Maple Leaf Coins:**

The Canadian Gold Maple Leaf is a 24-karat gold coin produced by the Royal Canadian Mint and is among the world's purest and most popular gold bullion coins. You can buy Canadian Gold Maple Leaf coins in a wide variety of weights, from 1/25 oz all the way up to 1 ounce, giving investors with different budgets plenty of options to choose from.



### **Chinese Gold Panda Coins:**

The Chinese Gold Panda is a 24-karat gold coin produced by the People's Bank of China. It's a favorite among collectors because its design has differed every year since the coin was first produced in 1983. You can buy Chinese Gold Panda coins in the widest variety of weights on this list anywhere from 1/20 oz all the way up to 1 kilogram.



The bottom line is that Investing in gold coins can be an effective way to protect your portfolio from losses and hedge against inflation. Each of the coins mentioned above are great options to consider for investors looking to add precious metal to their portfolio and perhaps also enjoy the satisfaction of building a collection. Just like prospecting for gold, coin collecting can be worthwhile and a lot of fun. Just like any other investment decision, it's important to do your own research, consider your investment goals and risk tolerance, and speak with a financial advisor for customized guidance based on your individual financial situation.

*(CITATION: This information was taken from the internet; excerpts of story APMEX.com on May 17, 2022; and by Kelly Ernst, July 14, 2023).*

## February 2024 Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Member's Meeting 6:00 PM	7	8	9	10
11 PILGRIMS PRIDE Claims 8:00 AM	12	13	14 VALENTINES DAY	15	16	17
18	19 PRESIDENTS DAY	20 Business Meeting 6:30 PM	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

## March 2024 Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 Member's Meeting 6:00 PM	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 ST. PATRICKS DAY	18	19 Business Meeting 6:30 PM	20	21	22 NORTH ARIVACA Claims	23 NORTH ARIVACA Claims: 8 AM
24 NORTH ARIVACA Claims	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 EASTER						



## Editor's Note

I've been a member of Desert Gold Diggers for two years and have learned a considerable amount about gold prospecting by attending the monthly outings, membership meetings, and business meetings. The business meetings have been especially insightful and the DGD Officers and Board members do an incredible job ensuring that meetings, outings, and various community activities are well-planned and successful.



Ray Darragh, DGD Gazette Editor

I strongly encourage anyone that desires to actively participate in determining the direction of Desert Gold Diggers to “throw their hat in the ring” and nominate themselves for the April elections. More election information will be provided to club members in the next couple months, and Ralph is absolutely correct—please get involved and help make a difference!

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***“May you always find yellow in the bottom of your pan”***



The Desert Gold Diggers Gazette is published as a service to the members of Desert Gold Diggers Inc. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the management and its members and neither the Desert Gold Diggers, its Board, nor the editor of this publication assume any liability for damages resulting from the use of Gazette information and club maps. There are risks associated with prospecting and the Desert Gold Diggers membership application states:

*“I acknowledge that prospecting and prospecting locations can be dangerous with numerous natural and artificial hazards. By signing up, as a member of the Desert Gold Diggers Inc., I, my spouse, my family, and/or my guests agree to release the Desert Gold Diggers Inc., their officers or assignees, and/or property owner(s) from any liability incurred during prospecting operations/outings. I further agree to have any guests accompanying me to one of the clubs claims on a private outing, to sign a club waiver prior to the outing.”*

The Desert Gold Diggers Board encourages submissions of articles from club members about prospecting or mining, as well as opinion pieces or the sale of items. All submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Board prior to inclusion in the Gazette.