

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.

Greetings Desert Gold Diggers! I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy this cooler weather and get out to our claims to find that beautiful yellow stuff.

As we look forward to 2025, there are two crucial board positions that are vacant and need to be filled as soon as possible—DGD Vice President and the Claims Director. Both board positions are extremely important and would provide individuals the opportunity to make a difference in our club. If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact me or any of the other board members if you'd like more information about the responsibilities of either position.



Ralph Montaña, Desert Gold Diggers President

One last thing regarding 2025—the board recently approved the 2025 outing schedule and moved around a couple of the outings to provide our members a little more variety, so please note the 2025 outing schedule posted below.

2025 Desert Gold Diggers Outing Schedule

DATE	CLAIMS	TIME	MEETING LOCATION
JAN 11 (SAT)	WISHFUL	8:00 AM	Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge
FEB 9 (SUN)	PLACER POND	8:00 AM	Greaterville Road & HWY 83
MAR 21-23 (FRI-SUN)	NORTH ARIVACA	8:00 AM	Las Guijas Road Camp Site
APR 6 (SUN)	BRUISER	8:00 AM	Circle K in Oracle (American Avenue)
MAY 10 (SAT)	SNOOZIN	8:00 AM	Arivaca Road. Mile Post 7
JUN 8 (SUN)	HOPE	7:00 AM	Gardner Canyon Road & HWY 83
JUL 5 (SAT)	BRUISER	7:00 AM	Circle K in Oracle (American Avenue)
AUG 10 (SUN)	WISHFUL	7:00 AM	Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge
SEP 6 (SAT)	BRUISER	7:00 AM	Circle K in Oracle (American Avenue)
OCT 10-12 (FRI-SUN)	HOPE	8:00 AM	Camp Site TBA
NOV 8 (SAT)	PILGRIM'S PRIDE	8:00 AM	Arivaca Road. Mile Post 7
DEC 7 (SUN)	PLACER POND	8:00 AM	Greaterville Road & HWY 83

Meeting & Event Summary (DEC 2024 - FEB 2025)

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
Limberlost Road)

Club members are welcome to attend
the monthly business meetings.

Events Schedule

December 2024:

03: Membership Meeting
(Christmas party); 6:00 PM

08: Sunday Outing: SNOOZIN
Claims; 8:00 AM; Arivaca Road,
Mile Post 7

17: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

January 2025:

07: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

11: Saturday Outing: WISHFUL
Claims; 8:00 AM; **Buenos Aires
Wildlife Refuge, Arivaca Road**

21: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

February 2025:

04: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

09: Sunday Outing: PILGRIM'S
PRIDE Claims; 8:00 AM; Arivaca
Road, Mile Post 7

18: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

New Meeting Location for Wishful Claim Outings

The meeting place for outings at the WISHFUL Claims has been changed from the Arivaca General Store to the **BUENOS AIRES WILDLIFE REFUGE**, which is 1/4 mile east of Arivaca. Turn south off Arivaca Road at GPS coordinates:

31.576052, -111.323393



Annual Christmas Party - December 3, 2023



The Desert Gold Diggers annual Christmas Party will be **Tuesday, December 3**, at the Ellie Towne Community Center (the party will replace the monthly membership meeting).

Desert Gold Diggers will provide ham, green beans, baked yams w/apples, and mashed potatoes, coffee, and water. Club members are asked to bring the following:

- If your last name begins with letters **A-L**, please bring a **dessert**.
- If your last name begins with letters **M-Z**, please bring a **side dish**.

The doors at Ellie will open at 5:00 PM to provide time to set up desserts, side dishes, and to socialize. The Christmas party will start promptly at 6:00 PM.

The DGD Club store will be open at the meeting, so don't miss the opportunity to pick up a shirt, hat, or one of many other items that will be on display.

There will be no hat/shirt/badge raffle at this meeting; however, club members will be selected as the winners of the following raffles:

1. 50/50 raffle: The winner keeps 50% of the cash collected from raffle tickets sold at the beginning of the meeting and DGD keeps the other 50%.
2. Hangover Bucket raffle: Nugget (the yellow tickets collected from previous monthly meetings).
3. Paydirt and blue bowl raffle: The paydirt bag will contain a guaranteed one gram of gold.

The blue bowl/paydirt and the 50/50 raffle tickets may be purchased before dinner.

Hope to see you there to celebrate another great year with Desert Gold Diggers.



Meet the DGD Membership Director - Becky Marihugh

How'd y'all! My name is Becky Marihugh and I am the Membership Director of the club. I process all membership applications and renewals. In addition to being on the DGD board, I am also the Event Coordinator which means I set up, shop for, cook, and plan the overnight outings and the Christmas party.

When I'm not busy processing paperwork, or planning outings, my husband, Joe Marihugh, and I like to get out and dig that shiny stuff! You can usually find us on the Bruiser or Wishful claims on the weekends we are free.

I got into prospecting about 10 years ago. Joe and I joined Desert Gold Diggers shortly thereafter to gain access to the claims. We became active with the internal workings of the club back in 2020 and haven't looked back since!



Becky Marihugh
DGD Membership Director



Becky Marihugh, Prospector!

Here's a fun fact about Joe and me. I planned our wedding and he planned our honeymoon. I'll give y'all one guess where/what we did for our honeymoon—if you guessed gold mining at Roaring Camp in California you'd be absolutely correct! We had never been there before and didn't realize exactly what we were getting ourselves into therefore we were definitely unprepared for the "rustic" camping! We had an absolute blast and we even found some small honeymoon nuggets!

We love to travel and look for gold in new places. I love the adventure and the sights when we are out exploring and prospecting.

Well, enough about me— get out there and find that gold!!! Wishing you all heavy pans.....

—Becky Marihugh

October 4-6 Overnight Outing

The Desert Gold Diggers fall outing at the Gardner Canyon campsite was a great success. The weather was beautiful and over 50 members participated in the outing. Joe and Becky Marihugh arrived on Wednesday, October 2, to reserve the campsite and put up signs Thursday morning to provide direction to new members not familiar with the area. The majority of members arrived on Friday to set up their camping and prospecting equipment. As Dan Walker mentions in his outing report on [page 9](#), Friday night was nice and the potluck dinner had a large variety of crock pot dishes including Texas chili, chicken and rice, pork chili, chicken tacos, spaghetti, Caesar salad, scalloped potatoes, dinner rolls, and garlic rolls. After dinner, campers sat around the campfire visiting and enjoying the cool evening air.



Coffee and breakfast snacks were available for members beginning at 7:00 AM Saturday morning. The detector hunt started at 8:00 AM and consisted of 50 buried nickel targets worth four gold nuggets, five \$10 gift certificates, three \$2 bills, and 38 \$1 coins. The hunt was a success and all the targets were recovered. After the detector hunt, many members went to the Hope claims to prospect and work up an appetite before lunchtime.



Detector Hunt

Lunch was served at noon and consisted of hamburgers and hot dogs with potato chips and tossed salad. Cookies were available afterward for those that yearned for something sweet. Becky Marihugh did a great job "manning" the grill and Hank Bassaraba and Bob Burgette assisted Becky to help expedite the process of feeding hungry gold diggers.



"Chef" Becky Marihugh

October 4-6 Overnight Outing

After lunch, there was a drawing for gold nuggets, gift certificates, and other prizes. Many members went back to the claims after the raffle and stayed over Saturday night and left for home on Sunday.



Cris Lespron



Grady Dees



Darrell Marihugh

Desert Gold Diggers would like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone that contributed by delivering and setting up equipment, preparing the food and amenities, and providing the needed support to make this such an enjoyable event. The overnight outings require a considerable amount of time, effort, and planning and without your support, these outings would not be possible.



Shawn Mosely's Gold



Desert Gold Diggers: 2024 Fall Outing

Detector Hunt **Gold Nugget** Winners



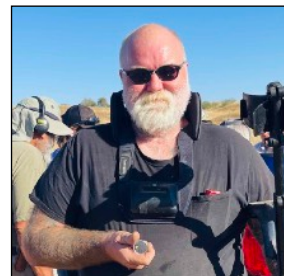
David Doyle



Becky Marihugh



Mary Harrison



Michael Pond

Raffle Winners

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!



Gift Certificate Winners

Joe Vasko
Joe Marihugh

Miley Coops
John Stutz

Doug Hayden

Yellow Ticket Nugget Winners

Ken Herholz
Bob Burgette (2)
David Doyle

Ray Darragh
Miley Coops
Hank Bassaraba

Katherine Manning
Jim Gacey

Red Ticket Nugget Winners

Hank Bassaraba

Gary Puckett

Club Store Gift Winners

Ken Herholz (2)

Bob Burgette

Outing Director's Report: October Overnight Outing

Preparations for our October annual overnight outing started on Wednesday October 3rd with Becky Marihugh reserving our camping area, Joe Marihugh putting up signs on Thursday, and other board members putting up tables and other needed equipment.

Members started to arrive Friday to set up their camping and prospecting equipment. Friday Night was nice and the potluck dinner had a large variety of crock pot dishes including Texas chili, chicken and rice, pork chili, chicken tacos, spaghetti, Caesar salad, scalloped potatoes, dinner rolls, and garlic rolls. After dinner most of the campers sat around the campfire visiting and enjoying the cool evening air.

I arrived on Saturday morning around 6:30 AM the temperature was cool. The sign-in sheet was passed around for the nugget hunt which started at 8:00 AM. The 50 nickel targets were worth four gold nuggets, five \$10 gift certificates, three \$2 bills, and 38 \$1 coins. All targets were found.



Lunch was served at noon and consisted of hamburgers and hot dogs with potato chips and tossed salad. After lunch, there was a drawing for gold nuggets, gift certificates, and other prizes.

Thanks to the board members the outing was a complete success.

Keep finding the yellow stuff.

—Dan Walker

Outing Director's Report: Pilgrim's Pride NOV 9

We met at mile post 7 on Arivaca Road at 8:00 AM Saturday, November 9th. We had 16 members present. We held our metal detector hunt prior to going to the claims. Joe planted the targets, since Becky and Joe camped out overnight, he planted 24 nickels 3 worth a gold nugget, 3 worth a \$2 bill and 18 worth a dollar coin. All 24 targets were found.



After the hunt we went to the Pilgrims Pride claims and other adjacent claims to prospect. The area was totally dry and the gravels were best worked by dry washing, recirculating methods, and metal detecting.

We fanned out over the claims and were able to get some nice gold and everybody seemed to be having a good time. The weather was cool when we started, but warmed up later in the day and most members left around 3 PM and headed back to town.

The outing was a success and we look forward to our next outing at the Snoozin Claims on Sunday, December 8th . Thanks to all for their attendance and happy hunting until next month.

—Dan Walker

Membership Meeting Minutes: October 1, 2024

- Ralph Montañño convened the meeting at 6 PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members and guests; asked who was celebrating October birthdays and anniversaries; asked if anyone needed to be included in the MASH report.
- Ralph announced the next members meeting will be Wednesday, November 6 since November 5 is election day.
- MASH report: Dave Salars mother passed away.
- The overnight outing is October 4-6 at the Gardner Canyon campsite; detector hunt on Saturday at 8:00AM;

lunch at noon; raffle after lunch; and an outdoor movie Saturday night.

- The meeting spot for future Wishful claim outings will be at the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge (Arivaca Road and Oxbend Dr.).
- Ralph made a presentation on map reading.

Raffle winners:

- Hat: Dave Doyle
 - Shirt: Howard Cooper
 - Badge: David Fuller
 - Yellow ticket: KenHerholz; Michael Comstock; Ray Darragh; Anibal Morales.
 - Red ticket: Kim Ransom.
- Ralph adjourned meeting at 7:16 PM.

Membership Meeting Minutes: November 6, 2024

- Ralph Montañño convened the meeting at 6 PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members/guests; asked who was celebrating birthdays/anniversaries; asked if anyone needed to be included in the MASH report.
- Ralph announced we need a new Vice President (Terry is leaving); the VP is responsible for finding speakers and covering when the President is gone; we have paydirt bags for sale that can be purchased from the Goldmaster; we are selling \$2 raffle tickets for a blue bowl with a pay dirt bag with over 3/4 gram of gold to be raffled at the Christmas party.
- Christmas party is December 3; DGD will provide ham, green beans, and sweet potatoes; will potluck the desserts and side dishes; will have three raffles: 50/50 raffle, blue bowl/ paydirt raffle, and hangover raffle.

- DGD participated in the Gregory School Oregon Trail Adventure and the Halloween Spooktacular.
- Thank you to all that helped with the overnight outing.
- Next month's outing at Pilgrims Pride claim on Dec 7 at 8:00 AM; MP7.
- Beginning in January we will bring back the "find of the month" for gold found that month.
- Kim showed a Jeff Williams video on the tricks to finding gold.

Raffle winners:

- Hat: Jim Jackson
 - Shirt: Hank Bassaraba
 - Badge: Howard Cooper
 - Yellow ticket: Shawn Mosely; Ray Darragh; Matt Wolf; Mary Harrison.
 - Red ticket: Kat Manning.
- Ralph adjourned meeting at 7:16 PM.

Business Meeting Minutes: October 15, 2024

- President Ralph Montañño called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- Meeting agenda read and approved.
- Darrell read previous business meeting minutes, Howard motioned to approve, seconded, and approved.
- Gazette: Inquired about a life-time member whose e-mails are returned; draft of the Gazette will be ready at the next meeting.
- Website Liaison: Will send outing pictures to Valerie; website is operating faster; Anibal Morales has offered to assist with website after the first of the year.
- Membership: Three new members with a new total of 311 members.
- Kim provided the Treasurer report: Income \$1,137.03; expenses \$3,777.57; net income -\$2,640.54.
- Goldmaster: DGD has 85.1 grams of gold valued at \$7,793; 23 nuggets given away this month; 8.92 grams valued at \$799.66.
- Outings: overnight outing was October 4-6 at the Hope claims; guests arrived on Thursday; potluck dinner was Friday; detector hunt, lunch, and raffle was on Saturday; thank you to all board and club members that assisted in making the outing a success.
- Claims Committee: No report.
- Historian: No report.

- Public Relations: David Salars mother passed away; Amber Clark had surgery; Ron DiCenzo passed away.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussed finding new claims.
- Bring back "find of the month".
- VP Terry Becklund is moving and stepping down from the VP position.
- DGD participating in the Halloween Spooktacular on October 25 at the Ellie Center; notify members.

New BUSINESS

- Webmaster contract renewal is in January.
- Discussed DGD involvement in the gem and mineral show.
- Discussed selling bags of DGD pay dirt and members meeting; motion approved and seconded.
- Christmas party on December 3; DGD to provide ham, green beans, sweet potatoes; sign up sheet for dessert and side dishes will be available at the next meeting.
- Will have three Christmas party raffles; 50/50 raffle, hangover bucket raffle; and blue bowl/paydirt raffle.

Bob motioned to end the meeting; the motioned was seconded and meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Business Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2024

- Chairman Dan Walker called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
- Meeting agenda read and approved.
- Previous business meeting minutes read and approved.
- Gazette: Need comments from Ralph, and the November business

meeting minutes; will provide 2025 outing schedule in the OCT/NOV issue of the Gazette.

- Website Liaison: No issues to report.
- Membership: Three new members; three previous members renewed; we have a total of 309 members.

Business Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2024 *(continued)*

- Kim provided the Treasurer report: Income \$3,585.29; expenses \$2,186.51; net income \$1,398.78.
- Goldmaster: bought 4½ grams of fine gold for paydirt bags at a cost of \$397.17; we have 81.23 grams of gold valued at \$7,606.93 and three (3) ¼ oz nuggets. Small nugget sales last meeting was \$469 and profit from sales was \$102; we gave away 11 nuggets this month between outings and the members meetings weighing 3.86 grams at a cost of \$366.96.
- Outing Director: 16 members showed up on Saturday, November 9, at the Pilgrims Pride claims; Joe hid targets and then we had the detector hunt; members went to both the Pilgrims Pride and Snoozin claims to prospect.
- Claims Director: No report. We still need a person to lead this group and are looking for a member to volunteer to assume this important position.
- We need to increase the number of claims for our club members; need to look into Bruiser, Wishful, and Wilcox for additional claims.
- Historian: No report.

- Public Relations: No report; however, we will reimburse Amber for cards she has bought.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussed having Valerie for Webmaster for another year and work with Anibal; Becky motioned to approve; seconded.
- Christmas party dinner on December 3; will buy for around 140 people; 4-5 hams and side dishes. Members signed up for desserts and side dishes, but did not indicate what specific item they would bring.
- We are too close to the Gem Show to try getting a booth; recommended we participate at Thurber Hall Pima County Fair in April; we could get some garnets and other nice stones and add some paydirt.

New BUSINESS

- Discussed changes to the 2025 outing schedule—Becky motioned to approve; seconded.
- Joe motioned to adjourn the meeting; David Fuller seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Gold Nugget Raffle



Raffle tickets for a **6.16 gram gold nugget** are available for purchase from the Goldmaster at the members meetings.

Tickets are \$2.00 each and may be purchased at the meetings on the first Tuesday of each month.

The raffle winner will be announced at a future membership in January or February 2025.



6.16 gram Nugget

MASH Report

1. Mike Slater has had medical issues and will not be renewing his membership
2. Dave Salars mother passed away in October.
3. Ron DiCenzo recently passed away.
4. Oleta Spencer's brother passed away.
5. Amber Clark is recovering from a recent surgery.
6. Darrell and Joe Marihugh's grandmother is recovering from a recent illness.
7. Marion Vittetoe recently had some health issues
8. Louis Gasca recently had some health issues.

Our sincere condolences to the Salars, Spencer, and DiCenzo families.

If you have an illness, injury or death in the family please contact Amber Clark at amclark4691@gmail.com

Club Store

Don't miss the opportunity to shop at the Desert Gold Diggers Club Store at the monthly membership meetings. There are many unique items available at our store which 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 other 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 store

Market Place



FOR SALE: Membership to the **Lost Dutchman's Mining Association**. Price is negotiable. If you are interested, please contact Dan Walker at digger.dan@juno.net or call (520) 544-2184.

If you're searching for something specific you'd like to buy or sell, or have lost/found something while on our claims, please contact DGDGazette51@gmail.com and your information will be included in this section of the Gazette.

Welcome NEW Club Members!

Steve Frederick (Sahuarita, AZ)
Michael and Teresa Metz (Tucson, AZ)
Mike and Stephanie Schecter (Tucson, AZ)
Peg and Jeff Thompson (Tucson AZ)
Dennis and Janette Tieman (Gilbert, AZ)
Matt and Paula Wolf (Tucson, AZ)



An Interesting Fact about Gold

Did you know that a gold ring loses 6 mg from its surface every year? Although usually a symbol of endless love, gold rings actually lose 0.12 mg of its surface with each week of wearing it. Metal abrasion and friction causes a ring to “shed” and leave tiny particles on everything you touch.



Gold Price Fluctuations Explained

On Wednesday, October 30, gold hit an all time high of **\$2,805 per ounce**. However, after ripping higher for much of 2024, the price of gold has suddenly become not so golden since the presidential election on November 5. What is going on? Part of the decline has coincided with the strengthening of the U.S. dollar against other major currencies and fewer interest rate cuts would mean Treasury bonds pay more in interest than previously expected—that in turn could hurt gold’s price. Gold, which pays its owners zero dividends or income, can look less attractive when bonds are paying more. Regardless, gold still has its reputation for offering a safer place for investors when things are shaky around the world. According to money managers at Robeco, which handles investments for big institutional investors, “Gold continues to be the safe haven asset class of choice for both investors and central banks.”



The Gregory School “Oregon Trail Adventure” Revisited

In September 2023, Desert Gold Diggers participated in the Oregon Trail Adventure sponsored by the Gregory School. This is an annual event at the school and is designed to educate the students about the things pioneers experienced as they crossed the prairie while heading west in the 1800s. The Gregory School faculty and students enjoyed the DGD panning demonstration so much in 2023, that the school requested that Desert Gold Diggers return again this year.

On Tuesday, October, 5, DGD members Ralph Montaña, Becky Marihugh, Joe Marihugh, David Fuller, Grady Dees, and Ray Darragh worked with 18 fifth-graders to share information on gold prospecting and to help each of the students pan for gold.

Ralph Montano began the presentation by sharing some interesting gold history with the students, discussing the different types of prospecting equipment used by the pioneers back in the late 1800s, and then demonstrating how to pan for gold. David Fuller then demonstrated the operation of a mechanical dry washer, explaining how prospectors find gold in the desert when conditions are dry and there is no water.

The students were eager to start panning for gold and proceeded to the panning stations set up by DGD earlier that morning. Each student had their own panning station and selected a zip-lock bag containing dirt and black sand mixed with a small amount of gold.

The students anxiously emptied the zip-lock bags and began panning the pay dirt with the assistance of the DGD members. It did not take long before one excited student saw gold in his pan and shouted “I’m going to be rich!”

It was fun answering all the students’ questions and watching them as they cleaned up their gold—everyone was extremely careful to ensure they collected every single speck of gold in their pan!

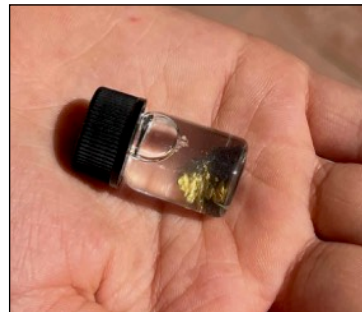
The event was fun and educational and every student left with a small vial of gold as a reminder of their own Oregon Trail Adventure. The faculty expressed their appreciation and mentioned that they would like to see Desert Gold Diggers return again next year.



Ralph Montaña demonstrating proper panning technique



David Fuller Operating a Dry Washer



Everyone Found Gold

Halloween “Spooktacular”



Desert Gold Diggers participated in the Halloween “Spooktacular” on Friday, October 25, 2004. The event was held at the Ellie Community Center (ECC) and was sponsored by Pima County Parks and Recreation. The community center was chosen to provide a safe, family friendly environment for children to “trick or treat.”

Ralph Montañó, Becky Marihugh, and Joe Marihugh represented Desert Gold Diggers and dressed as miners in gold prospecting attire.



Becky, Joe, and Ralph



Ralph's Lost Prospecting Partner?



Joe and Becky / DGD Gold Mine

Approximately 200 children enjoyed the Halloween Spooktacular. The gold mine display that Joe Marihugh built was a big hit with the young trick or treaters.



Halloween “Paydirt”

The Canyon of Gold - Cañada del Oro

The search for gold in the Santa Catalina Mountains, north of Tucson, has generated stories of hidden riches embedded in the mountains, early Spanish mines, a lost city and a lost mission possibly near what was called the Cañon de Oro. The Spanish name—Cañon de Oro—means the “Canyon of Gold.” At different times, the creek was also called Canyon del Oro and Gold Canyon Creek.

This golden gulch sparked the Tucson gold rush in the mid-1850s and has been a consistent source of gold and mineral ore. As stories of gold discoveries started to spread, the Arizona gold rush period between 1860 and 1870 saw the population of the greater Tucson area increase more than three times from 915 residents in 1860 to 3,224 in 1870. The Tucson population more than doubled to 7,007 by 1880 and increased to 7,531 by 1900.

The land around the Cañada del Oro (CDO) was homesteaded by Mexican rancher Francisco Romero in the mid-1850s, followed by other settlers, including Pedro Charouleau and Mariano G. Samaniego. After rare summer and winter storms, the runoff flows out of the Santa Catalina Mountains from the North, runs past historic properties at the delta and turns to the South past ancient Indian ruins in the Catalina State Park. After the Cañada del Oro drains out the Santa Catalina Mountains, it empties into the Tucson Valley, eventually joining the Santa Cruz River near Tucson and Marana at the I-10 Interstate.

When it flowed regularly, it was a reliable source of life for both animals and humans and sightings of free flowing gold and other mineral veins stimulated most of the early American mining activity in this area. Mountain runoff still helps supply drinking water for northwest Tucson residents today.

The Cañada del Oro has long history of Indian aggressions and gold discoveries. This was the first area of the Santa Catalina Mountains reported to contain valuable minerals. Even before American settlers began to arrive in Southern Arizona in the mid-1850s, they read newspaper stories about the Canyon of Gold near Tucson. As the Mexicans and Spanish explorers before them, prospectors found free flowing gold along the river and embedded in quartz veins. The hostile Apache Indians would repel many of those efforts to prospect for gold or to even pass through the area. Yet, tales about a sealed off lost gold mine, an abandoned mission with a hidden cache of buried treasure, and naturally occurring gold deposits, still drove the bravest into the hills.

According to the legends, that mine, and the mission, may still be somewhere near the Cañada del Oro.

The preceding information was obtained from the following internet source:

<https://www.emol.org/treasurescatalinas/tucsongolldrush.html>

Additional information regarding the Cañada del Oro can be found in the book
“Treasures of the Santa Catalina Mountains: Unraveling the Legends and History of the Santa
Catalina Mountains” by Robert E. Zucker

December 2024 Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Christmas Party 6:00 PM	4	5	6	7
8 SNOOZIN Claims 8:00 AM	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Business Meeting 6:30 PM	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025 Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 NEW YEARS DAY	2	3	4
5	6	7 Members Meeting 6:00 PM	8	9	10	11 WISHFUL Claims 8:00 AM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.	21 Business Meeting 6:30 PM	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Editor's Notes

It is hard to believe another year has almost passed. It seems like the older you get, the more quickly time passes by—at least it does for me. 2024 was a great year for Desert Gold Diggers and we look forward to an even better year in 2025. With everything that is happening, it will be interesting to see how long it takes for gold to reach \$3,000 an ounce.

With the Christmas holidays right around the corner, I am hoping that club members make time to attend the annual DGD Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 3. Last year was the first time I attended the Christmas party and I am glad I did—there was a great turnout, everyone had a good time, and nobody left hungry! I hope to see you at this years party.

Desert Gold Diggers would like to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a safe, happy, and joyous holiday season.



Ray Darragh, DGD Gazette
Editor

“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.