

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.

In This Issue

- Message from DGD President Ralph Montañño regarding April elections ([p.2](#))
- Description of DGD Officer Positions & Duties ([pp.2-3](#))
- DGD Board Appointed Positions & Nomination Process ([p.3](#))
- DGD Officers and Board Members 2024-2026 ([p.4](#))
- Meeting and Event Summary/March Overnight Outing Information ([p.5](#))
- 2025 Outing Schedule ([p.6](#))
- Meet Ed Madson - DGD Board Member ([p.7](#))
- 2024 DGD Christmas Party ([pp.8-9](#))
- Christmas Party Raffle Winners ([p.10](#))
- Outing Director's Report for December 2024 and January 2025 ([p.11](#))
- December 2024 / January 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes ([p.12](#))
- December 2024 / January 2025 Business Meeting Minutes ([pp.13-14](#))
- Welcome New Club Members / 2025 Gold Nugget Raffle ([p.14](#))
- MASH Report / Club Store / Market Place ([p.15](#))
- Interesting Facts about Gold / Paydirt for Sale / Gold Price Trend ([p.16](#))
- Mining History of the Tucson Mountains ([p.17](#))
- Supergiant Gold Deposit Discovered ([p.18](#))
- December 2024 / January 2025 Special Events Calendar ([p.19](#))
- Editor's Notes / Disclaimer ([p.20](#))

From the Desk of Ralph Montaña

President, Desert Gold Diggers Inc.

Happy New Year Desert Gold Diggers! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and had a chance to get out and do some prospecting for that beautiful, elusive yellow stuff.

There are many things the Board of Directors and I would like to accomplish in 2025. My top priority is finding DGD members to fill the vacant Vice President, Claims Director, and Website Liaison positions at our annual Officer and Board position elections at the monthly members meeting on **April 1, 2025**.



These three positions are crucial to the success of our club, and this is a great opportunity for club members, especially our new members, to get involved and have a voice in the direction of the club. All that is required is giving up a little time on a couple evenings each month to handle club business. Our volunteers make Desert Gold Diggers a fun and successful club, and I ask that you consider volunteering for one of the vacant officer or board appointed positions to help make the club even better!

The next section contains a description of the Officer positions and positions appointed by the Board of Directors. I encourage everyone to please consider volunteering for any position—particularly our three vacant positions. Consider taking a leadership role in Desert Gold Diggers—get involved and help make a difference!

— Ralph

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. Presides 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. *(Currently vacant)*
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.
-

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. *(Currently vacant)*
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. *(Currently vacant)*

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 2024 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: 2024

PRESIDENT

Ralph Montaña
dgdpresident8@gmail.com
(520) 990-0945

VICE PRESIDENT

VACANT

SECRETARY

Darrell Marihugh
darrell.marihugh@yahoo.com
(520) 245-6775

TREASURER

Erick Ramirez
eram007@hotmail.com
(520) 908-9214

OUTINGS DIRECTOR

Dan Walker
diggerdan@juno.com
(520) 544-2184

HISTORIAN

Mary Garcia
marycgarcia54@gmail.com
(520) 449-6944

CLAIMS DIRECTOR

VACANT

PR DIRECTOR

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

GOLD MASTER

Joe Marihugh
j.marihugh@yahoo.com
(520) 369-0112

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Becky Marihugh
dgdmembership@gmail.com

GAZETTE EDITOR

Ray Darragh
DGDGazette51@gmail.com
(480) 652-0648

DGD CLUB STORE

Kim Ransom
kransom6a@gmail.com
(520) 333-8651

WEBSITE LIASON

VACANT

DESERT GOLD DIGGERS BOARD MEMBERS

ONE-YEAR BOARD MEMBERS (2024)

*Dan Walker (Board Chairman), Grady Dees, David Fuller, Ed Madson, Bob Melzer,
Carl Wruck*

TWO-YEAR BOARD MEMBERS (2024-2025)

Hank Bassaraba, Ray Darragh, Becky Marihugh, Joe Marihugh

THREE YEAR BOARD MEMBERS (2024-2026)

Howard Cooper, Kim Ransom

Meeting & Event Summary (February-April 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

February:

04: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

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

18: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

March:

04: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

18: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

21-23: Overnight Outing: NORTH
ARIVACA CLAIMS; 8:00 AM; Las
Guijas Road camp site

April:

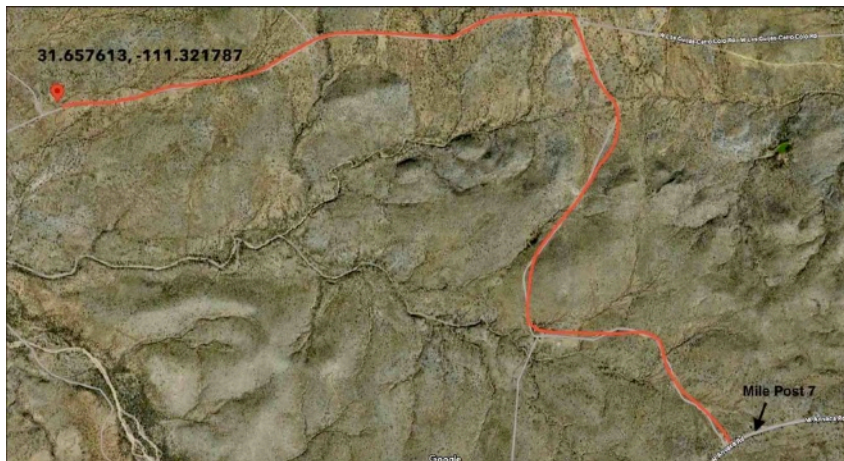
01: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

Officer and Board Elections

06: (Sunday) Outing: BRUISER
CLAIMS; Circle in Oracle

15: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

March Overnight Outing: March 21-23 (Friday-Sunday)



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. Specific information will be provided before the outing.

Desert Gold Diggers 2025 Outing Schedule

DATE	CLAIMS	TIME	MEETING LOCATION
JAN 11 (SAT)	WISHFUL	8:00 AM	Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge (Arivaca Rd)
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 Rd. 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 (Arivaca Rd)
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 Rd. Mile Post 7
DEC 7 (SUN)	PLACER POND	8:00 AM	Greaterville Road & HWY 83
JAN 10 (SAT) 2026	WISHFUL	8:00 AM	Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge (Arivaca Rd)

NOTE: Although no changes are anticipated, members will be notified in advance of any changes in date, time, or location.

Meet Ed Madson - DGD Board Member

My name is Ed Madson. I was born in Cleveland, Ohio, raised in East Cleveland, and went to Ohio State University. Later, I got a mining degree from Colorado School of Mines and then spent 13 years overseas in the oil business. I moved to Tucson in 1982.

When I was 14, my father took the family on a trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. This is where I first panned for gold. When I attended Ohio State University, I learned that there was glaciatered gold in Ohio and Indiana, so I traveled there and found some flakes of gold and I was hooked! After I graduated from Colorado School of Mines, I changed careers and ended up overseas and had the opportunity to go prospecting in Ethiopia and Scotland.



Ed Madson, DGD Member since 1991

When the price of oil collapsed in 1982, I moved to Arizona. I joined the Road Runner Prospecting Club in Phoenix and found a girl who would go dredging with me and my 3-inch dredge. Guess what— I married her!

In Tucson, I was a member of the GPAA and went with those who split off to become the Desert Gold Diggers. The first nugget I found was in Greaterville and was about 6 grams. The largest nugget I have ever found—THE FIND OF A LIFETIME— was from Yavapai County and weighed a little over a troy pound, more than 13 ounces!

I have been prospecting and found gold in Northern California, Northern Nevada, New Mexico, Alaska and Colorado. Back when there was water, I dredged in Arivaca, Greaterville, Morenci, Pinto Creek and Prescott. It seems like I always found gold back then. When my boys were younger, we made an annual trip to Northern California and always found some gold. Those trips finding gold are something they will always remember.

Metal detecting is what I do now; however, I'm just not successful every trip. Lately, I've been metal detecting mine dumps with some success.

My advice for our new club members is to always detect quartz rocks. They may be gold bearing. I found a 46 lb. rock that has multiple spots of gold on the surface. Who knows how much it actually contains!

— Ed Madson

Desert Gold Diggers 2024 Christmas Party

The Desert Gold Diggers Christmas party on December 3 was a festive event. Eight-two (82) club members and guests participated in the festivities and enjoyed delicious baked ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, various types of salads, and a large assortment of colorful and delicious desserts provided by club members. Ralph Montañó, DGD President, opened the meeting and facilitated the raffles after dinner, with numerous raffle winners leaving with cash, gold nuggets, a nice piece of specimen gold, a blue bowl and bag of paydirt, foam kneeling pads, buckets, and an insulated water bottle.

Everyone had a wonderful time visiting and sharing stories—and with the amount of food provided, nobody left hungry!



Desert Gold Diggers 2024 Christmas Party *(continued)*



THANK YOU to the board and club members 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.

Christmas Party Raffle Winners

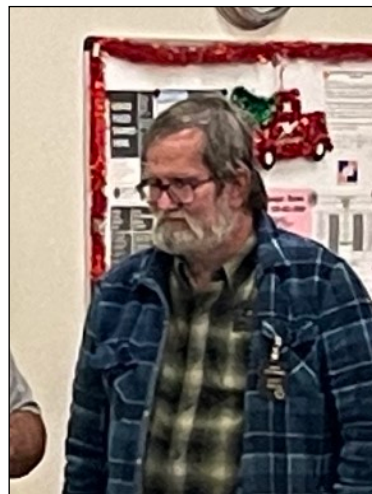
1. 50/50 Raffle: Kiralee Morales (\$219)
2. Hangover Raffle: Brad Guinyou (two Gold Nuggets)
3. Blue Bowl/Paydirt Raffle: Louis Groth
4. Specimen Gold: Scott Gibson
5. Foam Kneeling Pads: David Fuller and Skyler Arnie
6. Buckets: Christina Wrath; Dan Walker; Jon Hoehler; Kim Ransom; Allie Carter; and Marisa Guinyou
7. Insulated Water Bottle: Bill Vasko



Kiralee Morales



Brad Guinyou



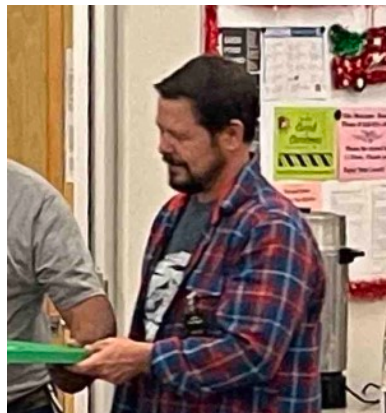
Scott Gibson



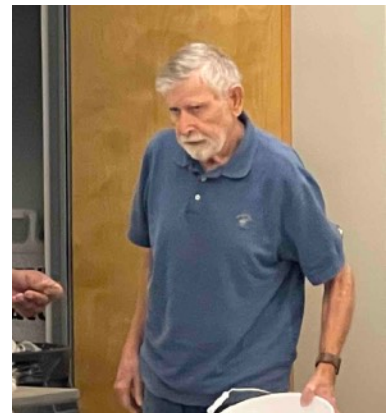
David Fuller



Jon Koehler



Skyler Arney



Dan Walker

Outing Director's Report (DEC 8 2024): Snoozin Claims

We met at mile post 7 on Arivaca Road at 8:00 AM Sunday, December 8. The morning started out a rather brisk 34 degrees and we had 23 members present and held our metal detector hunt prior to going to the claims.

There were 24 nickels planted for the detector hunt: two (2) worth a gold nugget; one for silver nuggets; three (3) worth a \$2 bill; and 18 worth a dollar coin. It was another successful hunt and all 24 targets were found.



Dan Walker led the pack out to the Snoozin claims. Most people dug in the main wash and found gold. The president, Ralph, broke off from the group and headed out west of the Wishful claims and prospected for new claim areas. Temperatures rose to a comfortable 70 degrees by lunchtime. It was a beautiful day to be out doing what we love!

Everyone was packed up and heading home by 3pm. Until next time, keep getting out and finding that gold—it is still out there! See you all at the next one.

—Joe Marihugh (for Dan Walker)

Outing Director's Report (JAN 11 2025): Wishful Claims

We had a good turnout for the January outing. Everyone met at the new meeting place for the Wishful Claims—the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge—where it was a brisk 29 degrees. After everyone signed in, we left the meeting area at 8 AM and caravanned to the detector hunt site.



There were 26 members in attendance with several being new members, as well as others whom had never been to the Wishful claims.

Joe and Becky hid 24 nickel targets with three (3) worth gold nuggets, three (3) worth a \$2 bill, and 18 worth a dollar coin. It was a successful hunt because all the coins were found.

After the detector hunt, we headed onto the Wishful claims where members dug and processed the dirt using dry washers and recirculating systems.

The outing was a success with everyone finding some gold. It was great to see so many new members out hunting for gold!

—Joe Marihugh (for Dan Walker)

Membership Meeting Minutes: December 3, 2024

- People started arriving at 5 pm to set up food for the Christmas party.
- Ralph Montañó 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, December 8, at the Snoozin claims at 8AM.
- Thank you to everyone that brought dessert and side dishes, and everyone who helped set up and

serve food at the Christmas party on December 3.

Raffle winners:

- Specimen gold: Scott Gibson
- 50/50: Kiralee Morales (\$219)
- Blue bowl/Paydirt: Louis Groth
- Hangover: Brad Guinyou (2)
- Foam kneeling pads: David Fuller; Skyler Arnie
- Buckets: Christine Wrath; Dan Walker; Jon Koehler; Kim Ransom; Leah Carter; Marissa Guinyou

Membership Meeting Minutes: January 7, 2025

- Ralph Montañó convened the meeting at 6:00 PM; opened with Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members/guests; asked who had January birthdays and anniversaries; shared MASH information—Dan Walker recently had hip surgery.
- Ralph announced we are bringing back the “Find of the Month” every meeting; bring in what you dig up out of the ground, discuss where you found it, and you will have a chance to win a prize at the meeting.
- Next outing is Saturday, January 11, at the Wishful claims; meet at 8:00 AM at Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge.
- There was no speaker at the meeting, so Kim showed a Dan Hurd video on finding gold in rivers.
- Be good stewards on our claims and fill in the holes after you are done

digging to avoid problems with the BLM.

- Elections for DGD Officers and Board of Directors coming up in April, several positions are currently open; those interested in being actively involved in the club should consider those positions.

Raffle winners:

- Hat: Dave Riley
 - Badge: Lewis Pill
 - Shirt: Marion Vittetoe
 - Yellow Ticket: Michael Comstock; Dick Smith; Beth Sausen; Dave Riley, Keith Oliver.
 - Red Ticket: Ralph Martel
 - Find of the Month: Ken Herholz
- Ralph adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.

Business Meeting Minutes: December 17, 2024

- Ralph convened meeting at 6:00 PM.
- Read agenda; agenda approved.
- Darrell read previous minutes: minutes approved.
- Gazette: Ed Madsen's bio will be featured in the DEC/JAN issue.
- MASH Report: Erick Ramirez and Dan Walker have had health issues.
- Webmaster: updated outing schedule sent to Valerie; will send Christmas party pictures to Valerie.
- Membership report: 12 new members; 9 non-renewals; 310 current members.
- Reminder to turn in expense reports.
- Treasurer: Income \$3,604; expenses \$1,964.22; net income previous month \$1,639.78; need to add gold to asset list on financials.
- Gold Master: DGD has 78.54 grams valued at \$7,401.89; 105 small nuggets; three 1/4-ounce nuggets; 1.7 gram fine gold for paydirt bags; awarded five nuggets this month; sold \$250 in paydirt bags; profit of \$91.
- Outing Director: No report.

- Claims committee needs to get additional claims/test new areas.
- Historian: Mary is trying to find new speakers for members meetings.
- Public relations: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Need to price a booth at the upcoming fair
- Need verification of 501c3 rules.

New BUSINESS

- A member is donating a dry washer and blower to the club; will be raffled at future meeting.
- March overnight outing will be March 21-23; information will be forwarded to members.
- Officer elections will be April 1 at the members meeting; will post information in the Gazette.
- Joe motioned to adjourn; Bob seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Business Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2025

- Ralph convened meeting: 6:30 PM.
- Agenda read/approved.
- Darrell read previous minutes; Howard motioned to approve, Bob seconded.
- Ray passed around draft of the DEC/JAN Gazette for comments; will include election information and outing schedule; two previous members passed away; Ed Madson's bio will be in the newsletter.
- Membership report: 10 new members; five non-renewals; 318 current members.

- Treasurer report: income \$2,397.29; expenses \$1,375.44; net income (previous month) \$1,021.85.
- Gold report: Sold four pay bags for \$110; distributed 16 nuggets this month; remaining gold is 72.1 grams valued at \$6,730.31; bought 24 grams at \$1,900 to add to inventory.
- Outing report: 26 members at January 11 outing; all target found in detector hunt; everyone found gold.
- Claims report: None.
- Historian report: Will follow up with information at next meeting.

Business Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2025 *(continued)*

OLD BUSINESS

- DGD booth at fair: Cost is \$1,000 for 11 days; booth must be manned at all times; will consider for next year.
- Porta-pots will be ordered for March overnight outing.
- Need someone to assume Claims Director position.
- Darrell is interested in the Outing Director position if Dan steps down; if so, will need a new Secretary.
- Need additional coins and \$2 bills for outings.

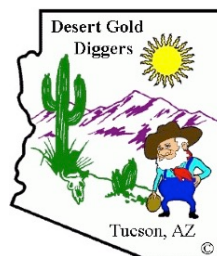
- Erick has volunteered to continue as Treasurer.

New BUSINESS

- Need to communicate to members that the find of the month is something that is actually found in the ground; need a new sign for meetings
- Discussed using silver for next month.
- Bob motioned to end meeting, Dave seconded; adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Welcome NEW Club Members!

Steven Barthelmy (Tucson)
Kenny & Maria Cade (Fort Rock, OR))
Johnathan & Leah Carter (Tucson)
Steve Enos (Tucson)
Conrad & Amanda Funke (Tucson)
Doran & Janet Gray (Tucson)
Bill Horky (Tucson)
Tim & Vince Kelly (Tucson)
Michael Larson (Bagley, MN)
Mike & Maureen Lee (Fairbanks, AK)
David & Sandra Mills (Florence, AZ)
Donald & Heather Redmon (Tucson)
Kevin, Sarni (Tucson)
Lee & Marlene Singletary (Tucson)



Gary Sturm (Edgewood, WA)
Rick & Patti Swanson (Tucson)
Gordon Thomas (Safford, AZ)
Dennis & Janet Tyus (Tucson)
Charles & Maria Valdez (Tucson)
Zach Zywiak (Tucson)

Gold Nugget Raffle Tickets



Raffle tickets are still 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 the members meeting on March 4, 2025.**



6.1 gram nugget

MASH Report

1. Erick Ramirez has experienced some health issues.
2. Dan Walker recently had hip surgery.
3. Louis Gasca passed away in October 2024.
4. Don Morin, former member (2019), passed away in November 2024.

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

Club Store

Be sure to stop by the Desert Gold Diggers Club Store at the monthly membership meetings. You can purchase Columbia long-sleeve shirts, DGD polo shirts and T-shirts, DGD hats and patches, license plates, DGD window transfer decals, bucket handle grip replacements, and 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. Laminated topo having 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

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.

FOR SALE: Minelab Equinox 800 detector (complete package). Purchased in 2020 and only used twice. Purchased for \$950 plus tax. Will sell for \$800 or best offer. If interested, contact Steve Piscitello at (208) 661-7523;

FOR SALE: Blue bowl 3-tier gold cube; minicab 12-inch evolution coil; an 8" x 6" Sadie coil; gold screamer; and pans and classifiers. Would like to sell as a package, but will consider selling items separately. Call John at (602) 741-7893 for information.



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.

Interesting Facts about Gold

In ancient Egypt, gold was considered the skin or flesh of the gods, particularly the Egyptian sun god Ra. Consequently, gold was unavailable to anyone but the pharaohs, and only later to priests and other members of the royal court. The chambers that held the king's sarcophagus was known as the "house of gold."



Between A.D. 307 and 324, the worth of one pound of gold in Rome rose from 100,000 denarii (a Roman coin) to 300,000 denarii (a 200% increase). By the middle of the fourth century, a pound of gold was worth 2,120,000,000 denarii—an early example of runaway inflation, which was partly responsible for the collapse of the Roman Empire.



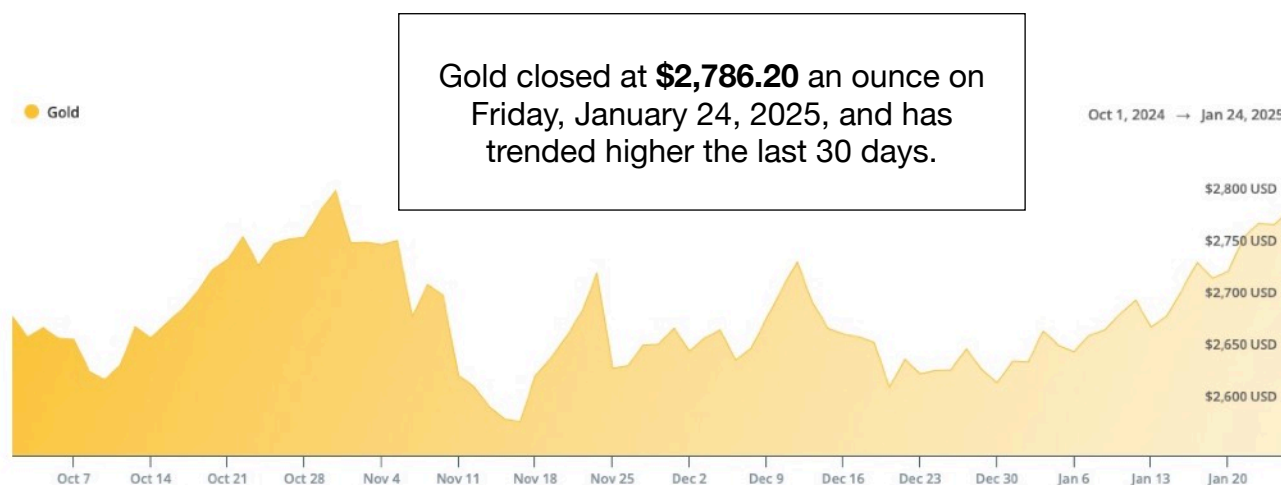
Paydirt for Sale

Paydirt is now available at the monthly members meetings! If you are interested in purchasing a bag of paydirt with guaranteed gold, please check with the DGD Goldmaster, Joe Marihugh, before the monthly members meetings. Paydirt bags are available at the raffle table and sell for \$20 and \$50 each.



Gold Price Trend: October 1, 2024 - January 24, 2025

The price of gold the past 90 days have been very volatile, ranging from a high of \$2,805 an ounce on October 30, 2024, to a low of \$2,582.80 on November 15, 2024. The November election, economic uncertainty, and geopolitical activity are the main factors that continue to affect price volatility.



Mining History of the Tucson Mountains

The Tucson Mountains are a range of mountains 25 miles long and 10 miles wide, with Tucson located at the east base of the central part of the range. The Tucson Mountains have over 200 prospector pits, abandoned mines, and numerous mining camps scattered throughout its range. Many of the trails in the Saguaro National Park and Tucson Mountain Park were once mining roads. Five of the more prominent mines are accessible from marked trails and often visited by hikers. Some of these, such as the Old Yuma Mine, have storied histories that include kidnapping and embezzlement.

The Old Yuma Mine was the most successful mine in the Tucson Mountains. The original claim dates back to 1872, and it was the last mine in the area to close in 1947. Copper, silver, gold, and other commodities were mined from this location. During War World I, Molybdenum (used for hardening steel) was mined, and the owners added a mill and smelter, which ran until 1920. Attempts to reopen the mine in the 1980s failed because of legal battles, and Saguaro National Park acquired the property in 2001.

The mine is better known for its museum-quality, orange-red wulfenite crystals and an exciting kidnapping that occurred in the early 1930s. In 1932 Cliff Adkins kidnapped Tucson banker Gordon Sawyer for a \$60,000 ransom. The local deputies were able to track the abductor and rescue Mr. Sawyer from an abandoned well at a local ranch. However, Adkins escaped and hid at the Old Yuma Mine, forcing the owner, "One-Eyed" Joe Baker, to feed him. Mine caretakers reported Atkins to

authorities, and the Tucson Police and Border Patrol eventually apprehended the kidnapper.

Old Yuma Mine information:

Commodities: Copper, Silver, Gold, Molybdenum, Lead, Zinc

Number of Shafts: 1

Depth of Shafts: 300 feet

Production Period: 1872, 1916 – 1947

Production: 5,700 tons

Latitude & Longitude:
32.31472, -111.12111

If you want to walk to the Old Yuma Mine, start at the Picture Rocks Wash Trailhead located on W. Picture Rocks Rd. Hike 1.4 miles south to the intersection of Ringtail Trail. Move off trail to the southeast for .5 mile to the mine. Round trip 3.8 miles.

WARNING! Abandoned mine sites are a GREAT safety hazard. Dangers include old explosives, hazardous chemicals, bats, bees, snakes, spiders, bobcats, mountain lions, and other predators. Falls and cave-ins are common. Entry into these mines is prohibited and strongly discouraged.



Supergiant Gold Deposit Discovered

A deposit of high-quality gold ore containing around 1,000 metric tons (1,100 US tons) of the precious metal has been discovered in central China, according to Chinese state media.

Valued at approximately 600 billion yuan, or US \$83 billion, the discovery could be considered the largest and most lucrative reservoir of gold ever uncovered, surpassing the 900 metric tons estimated to lie within the mother of all gold reserves, South Deep mine in South Africa.

The Geological Bureau of Hunan Province announced the detection of 40 gold veins within a depth of 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) in the northeast Hunan County of Pingjiang.



Pingjiang, Hunan Province, China

Core samples showed visible gold and suggest every metric ton of ore could contain as much as 138 grams (nearly 5

ounces) of gold — an extraordinary level of quality considering ore excavated from underground mines is considered high grade if it contains more than 8 grams per metric ton. Additional core samples taken around the periphery of the Hunan site hint that the deposit may extend even further than initial predictions, making the reservoir beneath its soil a true dragon's haul.

China already dominates the world's gold market with reserves considered to be in excess of 2,000 tons earlier in 2024, its mining industry contributing around 10 percent of the global output.

Announcements of the findings have contributed to a further increase in the already skyrocketing gold price as demands for the resource continue to rise amid global uncertainty. This discovery is expected to boost China's already significant influence in the global gold market. The country holds more than 2,000 metric tons of reserves and contributes about 10% of the world's gold production.

Forged in the furnaces of embracing stars long before Earth was formed, our planet's glittering veins are a finite resource that take eons to precipitate into an easily mineable form. Just how many bonanzas of the valuable ore remain yet to be discovered around the world is unclear, with experts divided on whether we've reached peak gold.

This information was obtained from internet sources including:
<https://www.sciencealert.com/worlds-largest-gold-deposit-found-worth-over-us80-billion>;
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/largest-gold-deposit-discovered-in-china-and-its-worth-over-80-billion/ar-AA1vgx4f#image=1>

February 2025 Special Events

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

March 2025 Special Events

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

Editor's Note

I hope you enjoyed Ed Madson's biography on page 7. Ed is just one of our members that has found really nice gold over the years and it is enjoyable to hear stories of exceptional finds like Ed's troy pound nugget. Those nuggets are still out there, it's just a matter of doing your research and having the perseverance (and a lot of luck) to find them.

I would also like to encourage those interested in making Desert Gold Diggers an even better club to volunteer for Officer or Board of Director positions at our April 1 members meeting. The DGD Officers and Board members do an incredible job ensuring that monthly meetings, weekend and overnight outings, and various community activities are well-planned and successful.



Ray Darragh, DGD Gazette
Editor

If you want to get more involved in club activities, this is your chance!

"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.