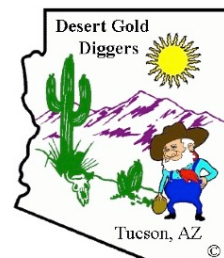


DESERT GOLD DIGGERS GAZETTE

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.

Greeting Desert Gold Diggers! I hope everyone has been staying active and getting out to prospect on our claims.

Desert Gold Diggers has been very busy the last six months working with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to ensure our club is meeting all applicable rules and regulations. This requires submitting an annual Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Forest Service to identify the activities our club will be performing on Forest Service land. The Forest Service just issued an NOI acknowledgement letter for the Bruiser claims and we hope to receive acknowledge letters for the Placer Pond, Wishful, and Hope claims by the end of the year. Additional information about this process is provided in this newsletter (p.13) as well as the Operating Instructions for DGD Claims (p.14). All club members need to follow the Operating Instructions when prospecting on our claims. In the meantime, be safe out there, enjoy yourself, and keep finding that beautiful yellow shiny stuff!



Ralph Montaña, Desert Gold Diggers President

— Ralph

October Overnight Outing Information

The Desert Gold Diggers fall overnight outing is October 10-12 (Friday-Sunday) at the campsite located on E. Fish Canyon Road. A map is provided on the following page and there is plenty of room for tents, trailers, and RVs. Please check the local weather forecast prior to the event and plan accordingly for weather conditions.

Events at the outing will include:

- Crockpot cook-off and an outdoor movie (Friday evening, October 10).
- Metal detector hunt (Saturday morning, October 11) at 8:00 AM. The detector hunt will consist of 50 buried targets for prizes of gold nuggets, \$2 bills, and dollar coins.
- Hamburgers, hot dogs, and sides for lunch; cost is \$6 a plate (Saturday, October 10).
- Nugget and gift cards raffle after lunch (Saturday, October 10).

Coffee and breakfast snacks will be provided on Saturday morning. The club store will be open for business, so don't miss the opportunity to pick up a DGD shirt, hat, window decal, or a number of other available items.

Directions fo Campsite: (1) From Tucson proceed on I-10 east and take Exit 281; (2) Drive south approximately 20.5 miles on Highway 83; (3) Turn right (west) onto E. Gardner Canyon Road; (4) Drive approximately 0.8 mile then turn right onto the E. Fish Canyon Road; (5) Proceed on E. Fish Canyon Road (Forest Service Rd #163) approximately 2.6 miles to the campsite; (6) Campsite coordinates are 31.745224, -110.717546. DGD signs will be posted to show the way!

This outing is a great opportunity to meet and get to know the other members of our club. Hope to see you there!

Meeting & Event Summary (October - December 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

October:

07: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

10-12: (Friday-Sunday) Overnight
Outing: HOPE Claims; 8:00 AM.

21: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

November:

04: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

08: (Saturday) Outing: PILGRIMS
PRIDE Claims; 8:00 AM; Arivaca
Road, Mile Post 7

18: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

December:

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

07: (Sunday) Outing: PLACER
POND Claims; 8:00 AM;
Greaterville Road & Highway 83

16: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

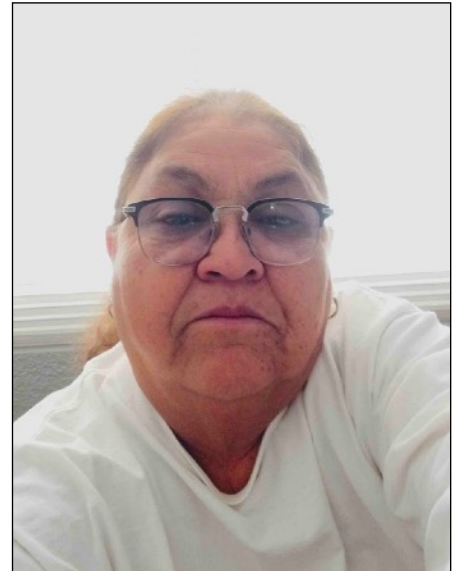
October Outing: Gardner Canyon Camp Location



Meet Mary Garcia - DGD Historian and Board Member

Hello! My name is Mary Carmen Garcia and I have been the DGD Club Historian since 2018. As club Historian, I am the custodian of the corporate records. I am responsible for maintaining and upgrading the records from the previous year, and make available any and all existing records to the Board of Directors, Officers, and club members when deemed necessary.

I was born in Tucson in 1954 and have lived in downtown Tucson all my life. I went to Davis Elementary, John Spring Junior High, and then attended Tucson High School. At one point in my life, I decided to move in with a cousin so I could attend Sunnyside High School, but ended up going to Tucson High School.



Mary Garcia, DGD Historian

After high school I enrolled at Pima Community College and was studying pre-veterinary and decided to visit Ft. Collins to see if I could attend their university, but it was too far away and my parents were old fashioned, so my brother asked that I stay here and work for him in the beauty industry.

I enrolled at the U of A for a short period, but it got too hard with work and studying. I had lots of dreams and goals in my younger years, but like I said, my parents were old fashioned and I never took advantage of what I wanted to do in life, so I stayed in Tucson caring for my parents. My father was a rancher, so most of my childhood I helped work on our family ranch in Avra Valley. My brother drove a truck and I dropped the hay for the cattle, picked the eggs from the chickens, and milked the goats and cows. I had a great childhood.

Over the years I worked in several skilled trades. I am a journeyman carpenter, have worked on large construction projects, and worked for several years at a local sign company. I still attend Pima community College and am learning the skill of woodworking.

In 2016, I was having dinner at the Best Western Hotel Downtown when I noticed people in a classroom having a meeting. I recognized the group's flier as one I had been given in 1980 when I was working for Sundt Construction. So I decided to sit down and join the meeting and enjoyed myself so much that I joined Desert Gold Diggers and have been with the club ever since!

—Mary Garcia

Outing Director's Report: August 10 (Wishful Claims)

Our Sunday, August 12, 2025 outing started by meeting at the Buenos Aries Wildlife Refuge pull-off on the south side of Arivaca Road at 7 AM. There were 20 members that signed in and caravanned to the metal detect hunt site.

I hid 24 \$1Peso targets: three (3) for gold nuggets; three (3) for \$2 bills; and 18 for \$1 coins. All targets except one were found.



After the metal detector hunt, members headed out to the Wishful 1 claim to mental detect and prospect, using different recirculation setups and drywashers.

It had rained lightly overnight and it was overcast and the weather was very nice. Members were finding some nice color cleaning off some of the bedrock in different areas of the claim.

The next outing will be at Bruiser claims in Oracle on September 6. We will meet shortly before 7 AM in the dirt parking lot just west of Circle K.

Keep finding the yellow stuff.

—Darrell Marihugh

Outing Director's Report: September 6 (Bruiser Claims)

Our September 7th outing started when club members met at 7 AM at the dirt parking area across from the Circle K in Oracle. Copies of the Notice of Intent (NOI) acceptance letter from the Forest Service were distributed to all members that planned on prospecting on the Bruiser Claims.



It was a cool and overcast morning. We caravanned to the detector hunt site where I hid 24 nickel targets consisting of 18 targets for \$1 coins, three (3) for \$2 bills, and three (3) for gold nuggets.

The \$2 bill winners were John Babcock, Max Offermann, and Daniel Manning. Gold nugget winners included Cris Lespron, John Babcock, and David Doyle.

After the detector hunt, club members headed up to Bruiser 2 and 3 to begin prospecting. Members were finding nice color with a couple with nice chunky pieces. It remained overcast and was a very nice day and members began to leave around 2 PM. Some board members and president Ralph Montaña performed some road maintenance and picked up lots of trash and filled in holes.

It was a great day to be out prospecting. The next outing will be the October fall overnight outing October 10-12 in Gardner Canyon . Keep finding that shiny!

—Darrell Marihugh

Membership Meeting Minutes: August 5, 2025

- Ralph Montañño convened the meeting at 6:04 PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; he introduced new members and guests; asked who was celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in August; asked if anyone knew of anyone that needed to be included in the MASH report.
- Darrell announced the next outing is Sunday, August 10, at the Wishful claims south of Arivaca; members should meet at the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge trailhead parking lot east of Arivaca at 7 AM; detector hunt will be for pesos.
- Ralph introduced the quest speaker, William Oppenheimer, RG Geologist M3 Consulting & Management. He spoke about three prospecting approaches that resulted in the discovery of the four biggest bonanza mines since the 1970s in North and South America (Escondido, Chile - copper; Ekati, Canada - diamonds; Barrick & Sleeper, Nevada -gold). He also provided some interesting information regarding gold in the Greaterville area.
- Ralph briefed the club regarding recent positive discussions with the Forest Service about the club's claim renewals. He reported that the Forest Service will be issuing ID's for members to have while working on our club's National Forest claims. The club will report when the ID's will be distributed. Club members will still be required to carry DGD issued ID's when working on our claims. Forest Service staff will be periodically checking our claims during future monthly outings. Remember to bury your prospect holes when you leave. A reminder to NOT use vacuums to clean out your

prospect holes as discussed at past meetings.

- Applications for claim renewals with BLM are ongoing. Board Members are continuing to investigate opportunities and options for filing additional DGD claims.

Raffle winners:

- Hat: Cris Lespron
- Shirt: Bill Vasko
- Badge: Kristina Martel
- Yellow ticket: Joe Marihugh; Hank Bassaraba; Kathy Manning; Dan Scheper; Shawn Moseley; Ted Vasiliw; Bill Horky; Marion Vittetoe; Dave Riley; David Doyle
- Red ticket: Jim Larsen; Kathy Manning
- Find of the month: Melanie Martel
- 5-gram Nugget: Max Offermann



Max Offermann: 5-gram Gold Nugget Winner

- Ralph adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Membership Meeting Minutes: September 2, 2025

- Ralph Montañño convened the meeting at 5:58 with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members and guests; asked about any September birthdays/ anniversaries and provided the Mash report.
- Next outing is Saturday, September 6 at the Bruiser claims; members will meet at the Circle K and depart at 7:00 am to drive to the detector hunt area; the detector hunt will be for 24 targets; after the hunt, members will proceed to the claims. Ralph requested that members arrive 15 minutes before 7:00 to ensure that everyone can get directions to the outing.
- Ralph introduced Claims Director Hank Bassaraba who provided a detailed and informative presentation regarding the Club's Forest Service Notice of Intent (NOI) placer claim renewals. He noted that the NOI will now be reviewed annually. His presentation specifically focused on the Club's NOI Bruiser 2 & 3 claim submittal, which has been approved. He discussed required claim renewal information including: legal description, serial location number, coordinates, map, claim ingress & egress, and other site information including club outing information such as outing schedule, location, proposed activities, projected number of participants. Clean up measures were also presented to the Forest Service. While over 95% of the NOI requirements are unchanged Hank highlighted several new requirements.
- Hank reported that the Forest Service will be issuing NOI Approval Letters for members to have while working on the Club's National Forest claims. The Club will provide approval letters to members when they become available. Ralph indicated the plan is to e-mail club members the Forest Service Approval Letters so that members can make copies to carry with them. Paper copies will be mailed to members who do not have access to e-mail. Club Members will still be required to carry DGD issued ID's when working on our claims. Forest Service staff will also be periodically checking our claims during future monthly outings and may be at the Bruiser claim outing.
- Hank also reported that the Forest Service specifically noted that cutting down trees is not permitted (which is also a club rule). This requirement, in part, is to protect bird nesting habitat for a Federal endangered species, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Hank and Ralph concluded the presentation by noting the Forest Services concerns about preventing the spread of invasive plant species, and the protection of historic and archaeological remains. Hank indicated the Forest Service will review the Hope and other Club claims in sequence. A question and answer session followed. Ralph reiterated the importance of burying your prospect holes when you leave and to follow other club, Forest Service, and BLM rules.

Membership Meeting Minutes: September 2 *(continued)*

Raffle winners:

- Hat: Andrea Offermann
- Shirt: Chris Cesperum
- Badge: David Fuller
- Yellow ticket: John Stutz; Dave Riley; Max Offermann; Mari Harrman; Sarah Manning; Matt

- Wolf; Ken Herholz; Daniel Manning
- Red ticket: Ted Vasiliw
- Gemstone: Deb Thewes
- Find of the Month: David Fuller
- Ralph adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Business Meeting Minutes: August 26, 2025

- Chairman David Fuller convened the meeting at 6:31 pm.
- Secretary's Report: Ray read the previous minutes. Joe moved to approve, seconded and approved.
- Gazette Editor's Report: - Ray requested stories for the next issue of the Gazette and suggested that stories about members recent trips to Colorado would be of interest to club members. He encouraged Board members to reach out to members who have interesting gold prospecting experiences. There was no Mash reports this month.
- Membership Director's Report: Becky reported the addition of 4 new members, 2 renewed members, and 16 with renewals pending for a total of 284 current members (-10 from last month). Becky reported on issues with PayPal hosting account and web domain status. A motion was made (Ray) and seconded (Joe) that a new hosting platform be considered. General discussion followed. The motion was held and the Board (by unanimous consent) accepted Anibal Morales's proposal to investigate options and report back at the next meeting. Anibal volunteered to become the Website Liaison and the

- Board approved by unanimous consent. Becky requested a motion to resupply the Membership supplies in the coming month. Motion was made, seconded and approved.
- Treasurer Report: Copies of the Treasurer's report will shared with members if requested.
 - Gold Master's Report: - Joe read that 18 small nuggets and 1/4 oz. nugget were awarded and one pay dirt bag was sold. Have a current inventory of 40 nuggets.
 - Outing Director's Report: Outing information provided on [page 5](#).
 - Claims Director's Report: Hank reported that the BLM & Forest Service (FS) Letters of Intent and claim payments of \$3,800 were submitted prior to the August deadline. FS approval has already been received for the Bruiser claims. FS review of the Hope claims and others will follow. The FS will prepare Approval letters, which the Club will distribute to members, to carry while prospecting on the subject claims. The Forest Service noted that cutting down trees is not permitted, which is also a club rule.

Business Meeting Minutes: August 26, 2025 *(continued)*

- Discussion regarding the Forest Services concerns about the problem of invasive plant species, and archaeological remains followed.
- Historian: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Purchase of 5-person first aid kit and 2 two-gallon water packs for fire suppression during outings.
- Further discussion about new claims search and putting some claims in board members' names.
- Further discussion about Pioneers Award presentation in fall.

New BUSINESS

- Becky requested that planning for the October Outing be added to next months agenda
- Continue follow up on Web Domain status & Anibal Morales' report.
- Discussed Gregory School's request for club participation at their Oregon Trail Day October 14.
- Board unanimously approved that Katherine Manning be appointed to a one year Board of Directors term.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:34

(Note: The August business meeting was conducted on August 26 since a quorum was not available on August 19)

Business Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2025

- Chairman David Fuller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- Secretary report: Bill read the August 26 minutes. Darrell moved to approve the minutes, Bob 2nd, the motion was approved by unanimous consent. Ralph was recognized by the Chairman. Ralph reported that Erik (Treasurer) and Valerie (Web developer) had resigned. After discussion Ralph requested that Becky and Anibal be appointed as Treasurer and Webmaster, respectively. Grady so moved and Dave 2nd the motion. Discussion followed and the motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- Gazette Editor's Report: Ray discussed the content of the next issue of the Gazette. He noted that stories about members recent trips to Colorado were included in the issue. Discussion concerning this months

Mash report and October outing information followed.

- Webmaster Report: Anibal (Website Liaison) provided a detailed report regarding options for web hosting companies, web developer options, domain registration and site access. He provided his recommendations and suggested further actions. Discussion followed and the item was continued to the next meeting by unanimous consent of the Board.
- Membership Director's Report: Becky reported the addition of 9 new members, 5 renewed members, for a total of 292 current members (+8 from last month). Becky reported that Membership materials/supplies have been ordered.
- Treasurer Report: Becky read the Treasurer's report. She also provided a Finance report for the month of August. General discussion followed.

Business Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2025

- Gold Master's Report: Joe read his report and indicated the Club has sufficient supplies to cover the October Membership meeting and fall overnight outing. He recommended that given gold's rising value, the club should increase its inventory. Discussion followed. Becky moved and Grady seconded that an ounce of gold be purchased at this time. The Board approved the motion by unanimous consent.
- Outing Director's Report: Darrell reported the September 6 outing was held at the Brusier claims. Club members met at 7 am in Oracle and the new NOI forms were handed out. Club members then headed to the nugget shoot. See Outing Directors full report (p.5) for further information.
- Claims Director's Report: Hank reported that the Forest Service initial review of the Hope claims has been received. He indicated that each claim will likely have environmental requirements specific to the conditions at that claim. Further contact with the Forest Service will

follow. No new information has been received from BLM.

- Historian's Report: Mary reported that she has been in contact with three potential speakers to arrange possible dates for them to give presentations to the Club.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ralph indicated that he would purchase the first aid kits and water suppression packs for the October outing.
- The Pioneers Award plaque was shown to the Board members.
- Ray discussed arrangements for the Club's presentation at the Gregory School's Oregon Trail Day event.

New BUSINESS

- There was extensive discussion regarding preparation for the October Outing.
- Ray asked that Darrell be appointed to a three year Board of Directors term, which the Board approved by unanimous consent.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 by unanimous consent.

Gold Sets New Record High



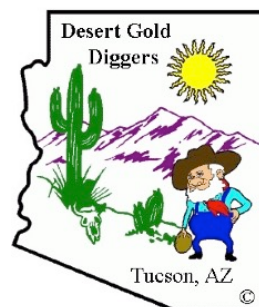
MASH Report

1. Kathy Smith recently had knee surgery
2. Mari Harrison recently had foot surgery

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

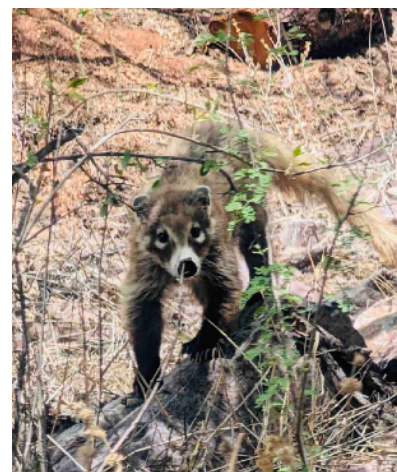
Welcome NEW Club Members!

Dale Arnold (Shelton, WA)
John Baumchen (Larkspur, CO)
Izack Boza (Tucson)
Thomas & Rochelle Earel (Oracle, AZ)
Michelle Greiwe (Tucson)
Matthew Lowery (Tucson)
Mark Lytle (Tucson)
David Pugh (Tucson)
James Pyritz (San Manuel, AZ)
Dave & Peggy Timo (Sierra Vista, AZ)
Chris Warren (Arivaca, AZ)



Coatimundi Sighting on Bruiser!

During the September 6 outing at the Bruiser Claims, Becky Marihugh spotted a coatimundi (also known as coati) roaming around the claim. Several club members were working on the claim below Bruiser 2 when Becky saw a long bushy tail go past about 20 feet away. She mentioned to her husband and to Cris Lespron that she just saw a “coati.” About a minute the coati came up over the hillside and was in full view. Becky stated “the coati went around us staying higher on the hillside, then he continued on up the wash towards the Bruiser claims. He came back about a hour later and that’s when he actually hung out letting David Fuller and I get as close as 5 ft.”



A Bruiser Coatimundi

In Arizona, coatimundis inhabit the Superstition Mountains east of Phoenix and the Huachuca Mountains southeast of Tucson. Coatimundis sleep in trees and prefer elevations of 4,500 to 7,500 feet, but they occasionally travel to lower deserts in winter.

If you keep your eyes open while on the Bruiser claims, you may just get a glimpse of Becky’s coatimundi!

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
- Bucket holder replacement handles
- 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

Market Place



FOR SALE: Three (3) Metal Detectors

1. Nokta Makro Gold Racer Metal Detector: \$350
2. MineLab Gold Monster 1000: \$600
3. MineLab GPX 6000: \$4000

If you are interested in any of these metal detectors, please contact David Fuller via TEXT at (208) 604-3991 or e-mail sparkinelectric@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Three (3) PVC Dredges

If you are interested in purchasing a home-made dredge to extract material out of an area covered in or filled with water, please contact Skyler Arnie at (520) 990-7601.

The dredges are constructed of 2" schedule 40 PVC and 36" in length. Skyler is asking \$30 each to recover the material expenses. The one he made for himself works good and he has retrieved gold with his dredge.



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.

Filing a Notice of Intent with the Forest Service

During the last week of April 2025, DGD President Ralph Montaña, Claims Director Hank Bassaraba, and board member Grady Dees met with Dan Moore of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Manuel Silva of the Forest Service (FS) in Tucson. The purpose of the two meetings was to inquire what Desert Gold Diggers needed to do, if anything, to ensure that all DGD claims are in compliance with all rules and/or regulations since our claims are on both BLM and FS land.

In the Forest Service meeting with Manuel Silva, the Forest Service informed DGD that a Notice of Intent must be filed annually for each of our claims on Forest Service land, which includes the Bruiser, Hope, Placer Pond, and Wishful claims.

So why is a Notice of Intent required by the Forest Service? Per the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR 228.4(a), states that a notice of intent to operate is required from any person proposing to conduct operations which might cause significant disturbance of surface resources. Such notice of intent to operate shall be submitted to the District Ranger having jurisdiction over the area in which the operations will be conducted. Each notice of intent to operate shall provide information sufficient to identify the following:

- (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the operator
- (2) the area involved
- (3) the nature of the proposed operations
- (4) the route of access to the area of operations, and
- (5) the method of transport.

On August 27, the Forest Service notified DGD that the activities proposed in the NOI for the Bruiser Claims would not likely cause a significant disturbance of surface resources, therefore, a Plan of Operations was not needed at this time. Desert Gold Diggers expects to receive NOI approval/acceptance letters for the Hope, Placer Pond, and Wishful claims by the end of the calendar year.

As of September 1, 2025, we are pending responses from the Bureau of Land Management regarding Pilgrim's Pride #1 and #2 claims along with Snoozin claims #1 thru #5 with the Location Notice For Placer Ming Claim Form-MCF102, revised Oct. 2018.

Thanks to Hank Bassaraba and Grady Dees for working through this process with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Additional information regarding the applicable CFRs may be found at:
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-36/chapter-II/part-228>
https://www.fs.usda.gov/geology/includes/minerals/noi_instructions.pdf

Operating Instructions for DGD Claims

All Club members who prospect on the DGD claims owned and/or controlled by the Desert Gold Diggers, Inc. Club, must comply with all of the provisions contained within this document. Failure to follow these instructions could result in the removal of the violating member from all Club functions and possible legal actions by the appropriate government agency. (The following instructions were revised September 18, 2025)

Instructions for all Members:

Disclaimer: Prospecting and prospecting locations can be dangerous with numerous natural and artificial hazards. Desert Gold Digger members and/or guests agree to release the Desert Gold Diggers, Inc., their officers or assignees and or private property owner(s) from any liability incurred during prospecting ventures.

GUESTS are allowed to accompany a member **ONE TIME** during A SANCTIONED Club outing on a claim. Those guests wishing to go again must join the Club. Members are responsible to ensure all guests abide by the DGD club rules and Operating Instructions.

You are required to have the following with you when you go prospecting on any of the DGD claims: **Name badge, current membership ID card, the current DGD Club Operating Instructions and current Notice of Intent (NOI) for the applicable claim. PLEASE WEAR OR DISPLAY YOUR DGD NAME BADGE AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON THE CLAIMS.** The Forest Service has specifically asked that the name badge be on display. The Forest Service has also asked that we make contact with other users of the DGD Claims.

If you see someone digging on a DGD claim that you don't recognize, please ask to see their name badge and current membership ID card. If they are not a member, politely ask them if they would like to become a member. If so, direct them to the current Membership Director, Club President, and/or the website for club application information. **REGARDLESS OF THEIR INTEREST, they should stop digging.** As a non-member they have not signed the DGD Club waiver/disclaimer. If they refuse to stop digging, **DO NOT** argue with them. We would appreciate your contacting the Chief Claim Steward or the Claims Director with all the pertinent information (date, time, license number, etc.).

DO NOT be offended if a BLM, Forest Service Ranger, other government official, or DGD Club Member asks for your identification. If being cited or citation is being threatened, get the badge number and name of the Official along with the regulation number being violated. Please give the information to the Claims Director for further review.

Please observe all of the National Forest Service and BLM rules and regulation regarding trash and fire restrictions. Be a responsible member by maintaining trash control on and off the DGD Claims.

Operating Instructions for DGD Claims *(continued)*

Member violations of our Operating Instructions on National Forest land could be cause for the cancellation of our claims, thereby ending our prospecting. Please observe all federal and state regulations relating to prospecting on National Forest or BLM land.

Rules for ALL DGD Claims:

- Reclamation will be ongoing in the course of this operation. Excavations will be no greater than a 3' x 3' x 3' hole and will be filled in before a member moves to another area and before a member leaves the claim area. All back filling will return the wash or embankment to its natural elliptical shape. It is understood that, although an individual may be planning a return trip to the claim area sometime in the immediate future, no excavations will be left open and unattended even for the matter of hours or a few days.
- Any activities on a Forest Service claim beyond that described on the Operating Instructions will require a Notice of Intent (NOI) be filed with the appropriate District Ranger. Please read the operating Instructions so that you are familiar with the types of activities you can perform on a claim i.e. dry washing, panning, using re-circulating sluices etc.
- The operation will be limited to the use of recreational prospecting equipment. NO explosives or mechanized earth moving equipment will be used.
- All water from high bankers must be discharged onto the bank to reduce turbidity in the stream.
- Overburden must be removed from the embankments to eliminate any safety hazard in lieu of undercutting. Bank must be returned to natural contour prior to leaving claim.
- You cannot go out to a claim and dig up buckets of dirt to take home. You should complete the act of producing concentrates at the claim so that **the only thing you take away is the concentrates** and all other dirt is placed back in the hole.
- All combustion engines will be equipped with an approved spark arrestor prior to operation on any DGD claims. Fuels and lubricants will not be disposed of within the DGD claim site or on government land. They will be taken to an approved disposal site.
- When fueling, combustion engines must be placed in plastic containers of at least 10 mil gauge to prevent leakage and spillage contaminating the ground. If a spillage should occur, the contaminated soil should be dug up and resulting hole backfilled. The contaminated soil must then be taken to an approved disposal site.

General Information

- Reference maps are photo copies of U.S. Geological Survey Maps (topo maps). Some of the copies may use a combination of two or more topo maps that were put together to depict the general area. It is suggested that you become oriented to map reading and obtain specific topo maps of the DGD Claims you wish to prospect. Laminated maps depicting groups of DGD Claims may be available from the DGD Club store.

Operating Instructions for DGD Claims *(continued)*

General Information *(continued)*

- Major starting points and directions are given. Because of the limited page space all road information may not be portrayed.
 - All DGD Claims, i.e., corner stakes, location notices and signs, will be identified. In some cases these posts are destroyed or removed by non-members. Please advise the specific Claim Steward, the Chief Claim Steward or any of the DGD Club Officers of missing posts or signs. A list of these people can be found in the DGD GAZETTE or on line at: www.dersertgolddiggers.com.
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Forest Service NOTICE OF INTENT Requirements

The following are the latest **Forest Service NOI requirements for DGD claims in the Coronado National Forest**. It is understood and agreed by all members that the Notice of Intent (NOI) requirements are considered to be part of the General Information and Operating Instructions for DGD claims as described on pages 14-16.

The Forest Service has made the following requirements that pertain to each claim, but could also apply to other claims as well:

Bruiser 2 and 3:

- No tree removal on these claims since they are near Yellow-billed Cuckoo habitat (an endangered species). Minimal branch trimming is allowed for claim maintenance.
- To prevent/minimize the spread of invasive plants, members are responsible to ensure clothing, equipment and vehicles are clean, free of seeds, soil, plant material or other debris prior to arriving at the claim.
- Placer mining activities are to be conducted within the current and historical stream beds.
- If any discoveries of historical artifacts or archaeological remains are found, cease activity and advise any of the DGD Club Officers or Claims Director and they will notify the Coronado National Forest Archeologist.

Hope 1-4:

- Hope claims 1 and 4 are in a National Register Historic District (Kentucky Camp and Greaterville Mining Districts), so members are to stay within the flood plain and off of the terrace to help protect those features.
- If equipment makes contact with water, disinfect equipment with mild bleach solution (e.g., diluted quaternary ammonium) between different water sources to prevent spread of amphibian pathogens (chytrid, ranavirus).
- Minimize trampling of stream banks and riparian vegetation.

Mining with the Marihughs—Colorado Style!

Howdy everybody and welcome to the first installment of Mining with the Marihugh's. Today's story is about the time Joe and I went to Colorado in search of that gold!

Board member Ed Madson goes to Colorado every year and recently mentioned we should come too, so this year we did! We left early on a Sunday morning at the end of August with David and Kayelynnne Fuller and stopped for lunch in Albuquerque, NM at the 66 Diner on Central Ave. It was definitely worth the stop! Delicious food and GREAT malt shakes!



Joe and Becky Marihugh

We had rented a cabin in Twin Lakes, CO, and arrived there shortly after 8 PM. The cabin wascozy. We then contacted Ed to let him know we made it safely and made plans to meet up with him in the morning.



Cozy Cabin ???

We met Ed in Granite, CO and he took us to the Cache Creek panning area. We talked about the history of the area, how they discovered gold there in 1859 and worked the ground heavily for the next 50 years. The gold was deposited by glacier melt runoff.



David and Kayelynnne Fuller

After hiking around Cache Creek for a while, we loaded up and headed up to Leadville. Ed took us on a tour around Leadville, stopping to show us sights such as the opera house (did you know Ed's wife once played the piano there?), the Legendary Silver Dollar Saloon, and the main strip. We saw it all! Ed then took us just a few miles out of town to Breece Hill and the Little Johnny mine. We saw the Fannie Rawlins and the Big 4 mines as well. It was really cool to take it all in. You can really feel the history of the place, the shafts and workings that are well over 100 years old. We checked out the Ibex ore house which was built in the 50's. It was massive! We walked around and explored for a few hours before having lunch on the back of the truck and planned out the rest of our day. Kayelynnne and I were itching to go shopping and explore the main strip in Leadville!

We planned on meeting Ed for dinner at the Silver Dollar Saloon but unfortunately, they do not serve food on Mondays and Tuesdays. We did get to walk around and check it out and learned it was built in 1879! Can you imagine working a long week in the mines and coming down to the saloon to blow off steam and have a whiskey or two? We headed over to the Tennessee Pass Café for dinner and the food was outstanding!

Mining with the Marihughs—Colorado Style! *(continued)*



The Famous Silver Dollar Saloon

The next morning we decided to try our hand at panning over at Cache Creek. We tested around and panned all day we even ran into a fellow DGD member Grady Dees! He and his wife Becky decided to check out Colorado too! David and Kayelynne definitely did better than us, but we all walked away with gold—no skunks here! There was this beautiful stellar jay that took a liking to us and followed us around all day.



Stellar Jay

That evening we met Ed in Leadville at Casa Blanca for dinner. The food was great, but lets face it folks, we live in Tucson AZ—the city with the best Mexican food this side of the border!



IBEX Ore House

To conclude our adventure, we decided to take the scenic route home in which we headed over 37 miles of Hell known as Wolf Creek Pass! (Another check off the bucket list!). We stopped for lunch at Anthony's in Gallup NM then we loaded up and were trucking on home. The drive through Snowflake and Show Low was beautiful. All in all, it was a great trip with great people and I can't wait for our next adventure.



Little Johnny Mine

Until then I wish you all heavy pans...

Story and pictures submitted by Becky Marihugh

October 2025 Special Events

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

November 2025 Special Events

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

Editor's Notes

The fall overnight outing is October 10–12, and even if you don't have a tent, trailer, or motorhome, please join us at least one of those days to enjoy the outdoors, prospect, and enjoy the company of other club members.

As Ralph mentioned in his opening message, the Forest Service may be visiting us during our monthly outings, so please sure you have a copy of the applicable NOI on your person and ensure you are following the DGD operating instructions and Forest Service NOI requirements on pages 14-16.



Ray Darragh, DGD Gazette Editor

Thanks to Becky Marihugh for submitting the great story about prospecting in Colorado. If you have a story you'd like to share with club members in the Gazette, please contact me at DGDGazette51@gmail.com.

Be safe, have fun, and we'll see you at the next members meeting!

"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.