

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.

Hello Desert Gold Diggers! We're finally getting a reprieve from the summer heat and I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy this cooler weather and get out to our claims to find that beautiful yellow stuff.

We are currently working to obtain new claims in 2026. We are finding gold on our existing claims, but want to provide our members with more locations to find gold. I will keep everyone posted on our progress.

The board recently approved the 2026 outing schedule. The specific dates for the overnight outings in March and October 2026 have not yet been determined, but I will notify everyone when those dates are finalized.



Ralph Montaña, Desert Gold Diggers President

Be safe, enjoy the holidays, and have fun out there looking for that shiny yellow stuff!

— Ralph

2026 Desert Gold Diggers Outing Schedule

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

* Specific dates for the March & October overnight outings will be announced prior to the outings

Meeting & Event Summary (DEC 2025 - FEB 2026)

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 2025:

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

07: Sunday Outing: PLACER
POND Claims; 8:00 AM;
Greaterville Rd & HWY 83

17: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

January 2026:

06: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

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

20: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

February 2026:

03: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

08: Sunday Outing: PLACER
POND Claims; 8:00 AM;
Greaterville Rd & HWY 83

17: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

Welcome NEW Club Members!

James Barthelmy (Tucson)
Steven Cowling (Tucson)
David Dixon (Green Valley, AZ)
David & Sondra Farias (Gilbert, AZ)
Jim Flamini (Tucson)
David & Anita Gillespie (Green Valley, AZ)
Trinity and Beth Jacobs (Tucson)
Lucas Janssen (Glendale, AZ)
Gary & Jennifer Jones (Caballo, NM)
Brandon Lane (Junction City, OR)
Earl Lear (Tucson)



Douglas Miller (Kearny, AZ)
Joe and Sheri Rust (Oracle, AZ)
Brandon Scales (Tucson)
Brian Scales (Tucson)
Lucas Scott (Vail, AZ)
Steve Sharp (Oracle, AZ)

Annual Christmas Party - December 2, 2025



The Desert Gold Diggers annual Christmas Party will be **Tuesday, December 2**, at the Ellie Towne Community Center (the party will replace the monthly membership meeting).

Desert Gold Diggers will provide ham, green beans, scalloped apples, baked yams w/ apples, and mashed potatoes, coffee, soda, and water. To supplement what DGD is providing, 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.

There will be no hat/shirt/badge raffle at this meeting; however, club members may purchase tickets before dinner for 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. Equipment Raffle: a Garrett PI (Pulse Induction) metal detector, a sluice box, and other prospecting equipment.
3. Paydirt and gold specimen raffle: Three bags of gold-bearing black sand concentrates and a gold specimen.

Desert Gold Diggers is extremely proud to be supporting the 2025 Toys for Tots program. The United States Marines will be providing a collection box at the Ellie Center for members that would like to donate toys to make this Christmas a little brighter for children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts.

The Marines prefer new, unwrapped toys; however they will also accept books, homemade toys, cash, checks, and gift cards which they use to purchase gifts for children. Please show your holiday spirit and join in to help make this Christmas special for the less fortunate children in our community.

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

Meet DGD Club President - Ralph Montaña

Greetings! For those of you that have not met me, my name is Ralph Montaña and I've had the honor of being the President of Desert Gold Diggers for the past four years. As far as my background, it's hard to know where to start since that was a long time ago!

The story I tell people is this—I was conceived and raised in the Altar Valley. I deny I was born in La California! For those who have never heard of Altar Valley (Three Points), it is a beautiful area approximately 52 miles long and 20 miles wide, bound on the South by the United States/Mexico border and Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, on the North by State Route 86 (the Ajo Highway), on the West by the Baboquivari and Coyote Mountains.

When I was young, I lived and worked a couple of ranches in Altar Valley. The last one being the Buenos Aires Ranch (founded in 1854) when it was a REAL ranch. That's where I started my trucking career. At 18 years old, I was placed in a bull hauler, received 15 minutes of instruction, and was then sent on my way down the highway—and that's no joke!



Ready to Hunt Elk



Panning on Bruiser 3

Over the years I've worked construction—I'm really a jack of all trades, and a master of none. I've been driving the last 25 years. During that time I spent 16 years in the United States Marine Corps/Reserve and joined on the Marine Corps birthday, and was activated for Desert Storm.

I lived in the White Mountains for a few years and worked in logging, drove a twin stick truck which I absolutely loved, and owned a riding stable in Pinetop, AZ. I have to admit that this old desert rat really enjoys the forest up there—especially during hunting season.

I've been a member of Desert Gold Diggers for over seven years and enjoy getting outdoors to prospect while enjoying the beautiful Arizona scenery and helping new members learn how and where to find that shiny yellow stuff.

—Ralph Montaña

October Overnight Outing

The Desert Gold Diggers fall outing at the Gardner Canyon campsite on October 10-12 was a great success. The weather was beautiful and 30 members participated in the outing. Board members arrived on Wednesday, October 8, to reserve the campsite and put up signs to provide direction to new members not familiar with the area.



Gardner Canyon Campsite

The majority of members arrived on Friday to set up their camping and prospecting equipment. The weather Friday night was mild and the potluck dinner had a large variety of delicious crock pot dishes. Afterwards, everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the movies Tombstone and Die Hard.



Enjoying the Night 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 60 targets with prizes including gold nuggets (5), two-dollar bills, one-dollar gold coins, and \$2 bills. After the detector hunt, many members went to the Hope claims to prospect and work up an appetite before lunchtime.



Metal Detector Hunt

Lunch was served at noon and consisted of hamburgers and hot dogs with potato chips and tossed salad. Becky Marihugh and Hank Bassaraba did a great job at the grille, and several desserts were available afterward for those gold diggers that yearned for something sweet.



October Overnight Outing *(continued)*

After lunch, there was a drawing for gold nuggets (11) , gift certificates, and several unique items donated by Joe Marihugh and Shawn Mosely (p.9). Several members went back to the claims after the raffle to prospect and to explore some of the areas adjacent to the claims. Joe and Becky Marihugh found both an abandoned mine and a covered vertical mine shaft that were located near the Hope claims.

It rained very hard for an hour Saturday evening and the remaining campers packed up and left for home on Sunday morning. Other than occasional rain on Wednesday and Saturday evening, the weather was very pleasant for camping and prospecting.



Abandoned Mine



THANK YOU to everyone that contributed by delivering and setting up equipment, preparing the food and amenities, and providing the support to make this such an enjoyable event. Without your support, these outings would not be possible.



October 2025 Overnight Outing Participants

Detector Hunt **Gold Nugget** Winners

Bob Burgette
Lou Sandbak

Max Offermann
Noah Lytle

Sean Mosely

Raffle Winners

Gift Cards

David Fuller
Brad Guinyoa

Joe Marihugh
Katherine Manning

Tom (guest)

Silver Feathers

Sean Mosely
Maureen Lee

Rick Harrison
David Doyle

Yellow Ticket Nugget Winners

Grady Dees (2)
Daniel Manning
Max Offermann

David Fuller
Darrell Marihugh
Tom (guest)

Joseph Vasko
Levi (guest)
David Fuller (1/4-grain gold)

Red Ticket Nugget Winners

Ken Herholz

Shawn Mosely

Equipment Winners

Rick Harrison (Bucket Vac)

Andrea Offermann (Spiral Wheel)

Gold Year-to-Date Price Trend



Outing Director's Report: October Overnight Outing

Preparations for our October annual overnight outing started on Wednesday October 8 with several board members reserving our camping area. Ralph arrived with supplies on Friday, October 10, and approximately 15 members showed up by Friday evening to set up their camping and prospecting equipment and to attend the crock pot cook-off. After dinner, most of the campers sat around the campfire, visited, and watched two outdoor movies—Tombstone and Die Hard.

On Saturday, October 11, 30 members gathered for the detector hunt. I hid 60 targets with prizes ranging from gold nuggets (5), \$2 bills, \$1 one gold coins, and gift cards. Joe Marihugh donated five sets of silver feathers and four containers of copper nuggets, and Shawn Mosley donated a 1/4-grain gold card that were awarded as additional prizes.

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 (11), gift certificates, and other prizes. Most members left by Saturday night with just a few members camping until Sunday. The weather remained nice with the rain holding off and keeping temperatures perfect.



THANK YOU to everyone who showed up and attended and helped out. The next outing will be Saturday, November 8, at the Pilgrims Pride claims in Arivaca. Until then, keep finding that shiny!

—Darrell Marihugh

Outing Director's Report: Pilgrim's Pride NOV 8

We met at 8am at the Mile Post 7 location on Arivaca Road and then caravanned to the detector hunt site. We had 34 members and guests detect for 24 targets with prizes of gold nuggets, \$2 bills and \$1 coins. The detector hunt was a success and all targets were found.



Afterwards some members headed to the Snoozin claims with President Ralph Montañño. Grady Dees and I, along with several other members, went to the Pilgrims Pride claims and used dry washers and recirculating setups. I spent some time metal detecting and discovered a very nice specimen on the claim (p.14) while other members were finding gold while processing their material.

I loaded up and drove over to the Snoozin claims and found Joe and Becky Marihugh, David Fuller, and other members running their recirculation equipment and finding gold.

Members started leaving around 3-4 PM. The weather was perfect and the outing was a success. Next outing is Sunday, December 7, at the Placer Pond claims in Greaterville.

—Darrell Marihugh

Members Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2025

- 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 who needed to be included in the MASH report.
- Outing Director Darrell Marihugh discussed the fall outing, October 10-12 at the Hope claims. Members should meet at the usual club camping spot along Kentucky Camp Road. Chili cook-off and movie (Tombstone) on Friday night. The detector hunt will be start at 8:00 AM Saturday. After the hunt, members may proceed to the claims or explore the area. The cookout will start around noon on Saturday. The raffle for gold nuggets, gift cards, and prospecting equipment will follow. Ralph provided directions to the Club camping spot near Kentucky Camp.
- Claims Director Hank Bassaraba provided a report regarding the approval of the Forest Service Notice of Intent (NOI) application for the Hope claims. Hank reported that in addition to the basic Forest Service requirements, specific items relating to the Hope claims include: (1) cutting down trees is not permitted to protect bird nesting habitat for Federal endangered species, (2) if frogs or egg masses are present within water sources, avoid disturbing that section of the water body and draw water from a different location whenever feasible, (3) if equipment makes contact with water, disinfect equipment with a mild bleach solution between different water sources to prevent the spread of amphibian pathogens, and (4) minimize trampling stream banks and riparian vegetation.
- Hank concluded the presentation by noting the Forest Services previous concerns about protecting historic and archaeological sites. Hank indicated the Forest Service will provide additional information about the protection of two historic sites specific to the Hope Claims. The Forest Service will be issuing NOI Approval Letters for members to have while working on the Club's National Forest claims and club members will be required to also carry DGD issued ID's when working our claims. Ralph reiterated the importance of burying your prospect holes when you leave and to follow club, Forest Service, and BLM rules and to be positive and respectful when interacting with Forest Service or BLM staff.
- Ralph presented the Pioneer Award to **David Salars** for his long term service to Desert Gold Diggers as the past president, board member, and volunteering for other numerous positions in the club since 1993.



David Salars - 2025 Pioneer Award
Recipient

Members Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2025 *(continued)*

- A brief video on Five Good Gold Metal detectors by Chris Ralph was presented.

Raffle winners:

- Hat: Kathy Smith
 - Shirt: Howard Cooper
 - Badge: Joe Vasko
 - Yellow ticket: Jim Larsen; Dennis Stahl, Max Offermann; Dick Bibbens; Bill Horky; Marion Vittetoe; Kevin Rogers
 - Red ticket: Kat Manning
 - Find of the Month: Becky Marihugh
- Ralph adjourned meeting at 7:19 PM.

Note: After the meeting, Ralph requested a special business meeting convened by board chairperson David Fuller with a quorum present. It was moved to consider hiring a new web hosting company prior to the November expiration of the current contract. Discussion followed and David moved that Anibal contract with a new vendor on a month to month trial basis, and report progress at the October 21 business meeting. Kathy 2nd, and the Board approved by unanimous consent. Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Members Meeting Minutes: November 4, 2025

- Ralph Montañó convened the meeting at 6 PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members/guests; asked who was celebrating November birthdays and anniversaries; and provided the MASH report.
- Outing Director Darrell Marihugh discussed the November 8 outing to be held at the Pilgrim Pride claims. Members are to meet at mile post 7 on the Arivaca Road at 8 AM Saturday. Ralph requested that members arrive 15 minutes early so that everyone attending can then drive to the detector hunt area. After the hunt members may proceed to the claims or explore the area.
- Darrell and Ralph thanked members for attending the Fall Overnight camp out and Ralph briefed members on the December Dinner including the 50-50 raffle, raffles for a Garrett Metal Detector and several other items. The Dinner will include ham, potatoes and green beans. Members are

- encouraged to bring sides or desserts of their choice.
- Ralph introduced guest speaker Bart Hogan, from the Tucson Rough Riders Club. The Rough Riders are a non-profit off-roading club. They work with the US Forest Service, BLM, and AZ Game & Fish by driving roads/trails and reporting on conditions, washouts, fire damage, environmental issues. They help maintain roads, pick-up trash, and work with other groups, such as, the Friends of Redington Pass on keeping roads/trails open. They also conduct Trail Runs to raise money for Veterans Groups and the Ronald McDonald House.
- Bart provided a very informative report regarding the club events, roads that are popular drives, vehicles and equipment needed, and the 5-point rating system the Club uses to assess the difficulty of driving a specific road.

Members Meeting Minutes: November 4, 2025 *(continued)*

- Bart also compared the clubs rating system to the Utah 12 point road difficulty rating system. He concluded by providing information regarding the clubs membership costs and benefits.
 - If DGD members are interested in the Rough Riders Club, please check out their website, contact club members or check out the Arizona Off-Road Association for additional information.
- Raffle winners:**
- Hat: Daniel Manning
 - Shirt: Chuck Nagy
 - Badge: Dennis Stahl
 - Yellow ticket: Kevin Rogers; Grady Dees, Darrell Marihugh, John Clayton, Dale Arnold, Dan Scheper, and Ralph Montaño (who graciously gave his nugget to Guest Speaker Bart Hogan)
 - Red ticket: Joe Marihugh.
 - Find of the Month: Daniel Manning
 - Hangover Drawing: Grady Dees; Kevin Rogers.
- Ralph adjourned meeting at 7:21 PM.
-

Business Meeting Minutes: October 21, 2025

- Chairman David Fuller convened the meeting at 6:30 PM.
- Secretary's Report: Bill read the September 16 minutes. Bob moved to approve, Darrell 2nd, motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- Gazette Editor's Report: Ray discussed the content of the next issue of the Gazette. Discussion concerning the November 4 members meeting and the October Outing followed.
- Webmaster Report: Anibal reported that the new Web hosting company was in place and the test period was going well. He requested a motion to approve the selection of the company and to continue to evaluate them on a monthly basis. Joe moved, Grady 2nd the motion, Board approved by unanimous consent. Board members thanked Anibal for his work in overseeing the evaluation and selection of the new Web Hosting company.
- Membership Director's Report: Becky provided an updated membership report that included 5 new and 3 renewed members, for a total of 306 current members. Becky reported on the Membership materials/supplies that were purchased.
- Treasurer Report: Becky read the Treasurer's report. She also provided a Finance report for the month of September. General discussion followed.
- Gold Master's Report: Joe provided a detailed report regarding the Club's supply of gold after the October Membership meeting and fall outing. A discussion regarding gold's rising value and the club's long term supply followed.
- Outing Director's Report: Darrell reported on the October 10-12 fall outing which was held at the Gardner Canyon/Kentucky Camp/Hope Claims area. While attendance was down because of rain forecasts, the weather was perfect. See Outing Directors full report ([p.9](#)) for further information.

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

- Claims Director's Report: Hank reported that the Forest Service review of the Hope claims has been completed. The environmental requirements specific to the Hope claims were as reported at the Membership meeting. Forest Service review of the Placer Pond and Wishful Claims will follow, subject to the Government shutdown. No new information has been received from BLM.
- Historian's Report: - Mary reported that she has been trying to get speakers from the U of A Geology Department and Pima College. Discussion followed regarding other potential speakers.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ralph discussed arrangements for the Club's presentation at the Gregory School's Oregon Trail Day event. Becky and Joe spoke about

the Club participation at the Ellie Towne Halloween Night trick or treat event. General discussion followed.

New BUSINESS

- There was further discussion regarding the gold price and purchase of additional gold for the club. David moved and numerous members 2nd that the Gold Master purchase 2 ounces of gold if the price drops below \$4,000, which the Board approved by unanimous consent.
- There was general discussion regarding the Club's Christmas Dinner on December 2.
- Anibal encouraged members to send in photos of Club events to the website.
- Bedrock Bob volunteered to try to get speakers from the Green Valley area for the members meeting.
- Bob moved, Darrell 2nd the meeting be adjourned and approved by unanimous consent at 7:28 PM.

Business Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2025

- Chairman David Fuller convened the meeting at 6:30 PM.
- Secretary's Report: Bill read the October 21 minutes. Howard moved to approve the minutes, Louis 2nd and the motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- Gazette Editor's Report: Ray handed out a draft of the Gazette and discussed the content and other items needed to finalize this edition. General discussion followed.
- Webmaster Report: - Anibal reported the new Web hosting company operation was going well. Anibal responded to questions and discussion followed. Anibal

suggested that we continue to evaluate the company on a monthly basis. He felt that possible upgrades should be discussed after next month's evaluation.

- Membership Director's Report: Becky provided an updated membership report that included 11 new, 4 renewed and 10 non-renewals, for a total of 308 current members.
- Treasurer Report: - Becky read the Treasurer's report and also provided a Finance report for the month of October. (Note: DGD members that would like to review club financial reports are welcome to request that information)

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

- Gold Master's Report: Joe provided a detailed report regarding the club's supply of gold and purchases.
- Outing Director's Report: Details on [page 9](#).
- Claims Director's Report: Hank reported that Forest Service review of the Placer Pond claims is complete. The environmental requirements are similar to those for the Hope claims.
- Historian's Report: - No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Nothing to report.

New BUSINESS

- Security for the Club's storage facility has been updated and strengthened.
- There was general discussion regarding the Christmas Dinner. Ray moved that a Toys-for-Tots box be set up for donations at the dinner. Bob

2nd and the Board approved by unanimous consent.

- Howard moved that Becky be provided a \$150 gift in recognition for her work purchasing and preparing all the food for the Christmas Dinner. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
- Bedrock Bob moved that additional appliances be purchased, as needed, for the dinner. Howard 2nd and the motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- Bedrock Bob reported that a Club claim sign had been removed from a DGD claim. General discussion followed.
- Bob moved and Louis 2nd that the meeting be adjourned, which was approved by unanimous consent at 7:19 PM.

Gold Nugget Find of the Month

Darrell Marihugh located a nice, chunky 5.6 gram gold nugget with his metal detector while prospecting the Pilgrims Pride claims at the November 8 outing. Darrell said the nugget was only a couple inches below the surface next to an area that had previously been worked. The nugget in the picture is resting on a penny to contrast its size. Nice find, Darrell!



5.6 g Nugget

Gold Nugget Raffle



Raffle tickets are now available for a beautiful **6.78 gram gold nugget!**

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

The raffle winner will be announced at a future membership in early 2026.



6.78 gram nugget

MASH Report

1. Bedrock Bob's wife has stage 4 breast cancer.
2. Philip Lipton passed away in October. Our sincere condolences to the Lipton family.

Contact Amber Clark (amclark4691@gmail.com) to report an illness, injury, or death in the family.

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

**GREAT
DEALS**

FOR SALE: Two Metal Detectors

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

If you are interested in either 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

The Gregory School “Oregon Trail Adventure”

On Tuesday, October, 14, DGD members Ralph Montañó, Becky Marihugh, Joe Marihugh, Darrell Marihugh, David Fuller, Grady Dees, and Hank Bassaraba worked with 20 fifth-graders at the Gregory School (Tucson) to share information on gold prospecting and to show students how to pan for gold. Desert Gold Diggers was asked to participate as part of the school’s annual Oregon Trail Adventure. This is an annual Gregory School event designed to educate students about the things pioneers experienced as they crossed the prairie while heading west in the 1800s.



Ralph Montañó
demonstrating panning
techniques

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, and then demonstrating how to pan for gold. Each student had their own panning station and was provided a zip-lock bag containing black sand mixed with a small amount of gold.

The event was fun, 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 asked that Desert Gold Diggers return again in 2026.

Gold Achieves Record Market Valuation

Did you know that gold is now the world’s first global asset to have a \$30 trillion market valuation? The yellow metal has enjoyed a meteoric ascent this year, adding approximately \$11 trillion in valuation. Gold prices have soared more than 60 percent to an all time high of \$4,300 per ounce on the COMEX division of the New York MercantileExchange.

In 2025, gold has outperformed every other asset class, including cryptocurrencies. Gold is also worth more than some of the riches companies combined, including Nvidia (\$4.3 trillion), Microsoft (\$3.8 trillion), and Alphabet (\$3 trillion).

The gold market can be volatile—gold prices suffered their sharpest single-session selloff by declining more than 5 percent on October 21; however, despite the sellout, prices are still up by more than 56 percent this year. Looking ahead, 12-month forecasts suggest gold prices will stay firmly above \$4000 with some analysts suggest gold will be between \$4,800 and \$5,200 per ounce next year.

Conversely, some analysts suggest that after the sharp rally in 2025, the market will probably have to consolidate and there will be some better entry opportunities. Regardless, most agree in the longer term, there is further upside potential for gold due to tight supply and increased investor interest.

(This article was written by Andrew Moran, Epoch Times, October 21, 2025)

Spooky Halloween Fun

The 2025 Pima County Halloween Spooktacular was celebrated on Friday, October 31.

This is the second year that Desert Gold Diggers has participated in the event, which was held at the Ellie Community Center (ECC).

The spooktacular is sponsored annually by Pima County Parks and Recreation. The community center was selected because it is a great location that provides a safe, family friendly environment for children to trick-or-treat.

Ralph Montañño and Darrell Marihugh represented Desert Gold Diggers and dressed as miners in gold prospecting attire. The gold mine display that the Marihughs built was a big hit again this year, especially for the young trick or treaters.

Approximately 200 children and many adults enjoyed a spooktacular evening and joined in on carnival games, spooky crafts, a kid-friendly spooky walkthrough, and a trick-or-treat trail through the facility. The event was very successful and Desert Gold Diggers looks forward to supporting the community again by participating in 2026.



Darrell Marihugh at the Gold Mine Entrance



Trick or Treaters enjoying Halloween "Paydirt"

The New Gold Monster 2000

The Minelab Gold Monster 2000 metal detector was introduced in May 2025. Minelab claims that the Gold Monster 2000 is the first simultaneous multi-frequency (SMF) metal detector made specifically for gold nugget prospecting!



Key features of the Gold Monster 2000 include:

1. Multi-Au Technology – Hybrid Simultaneous Multi-Frequency, with VLF sensitivity and Pulse Induction ground-handling performance. This advanced signal processing improves responsiveness to small or difficult targets by maintaining signal clarity and reducing ground noise in mineralized soils.
2. Echo Wave Audio – Highly sensitive detection audio is layered with target discrimination tones to clearly differentiate valuable targets from surrounding clutter, including ferrous junk, hot rocks and background noise, while preserving sensitivity, clarity and depth. Receive accurate target identification even in mineralized soil.
3. Real-Time Visual Guidance – Gold Chance Indicator and ample Target ID range (0–99) combine for smarter decision making
4. Easy-Trak and Quick-Trak – Automatic and manual ground balance.
5. 10 Sensitivity Levels/2 Auto Modes – Manual control or fully automated operation.
6. 3 Detection Modes – Maximum sensitivity in mineralized, conductive, and mild soils.
7. Wide Frequency Range (12 to 76 kHz) – Detects small gold near the surface and larger targets at depth, without switching machines.
8. High Contrast LCD Display - Optimized for day and night detection
9. Built-In Speaker and 3.5 mm Headphone Jack - External speaker for quiet environments, headphones for noisy locations.
10. GM05 5" Round Double-D Search Coil - Excellent sensitivity to the smallest gold, fits where larger coils can't go.
11. Lightweight Telescopic Shaft – Collapsible carbon-fiber and fiberglass construction for rugged terrain.
12. 2700 mAh Removable Lithium-Ion Battery - Rechargeable and easily swapped out with included back-up battery.
13. Included in the box: GM05 5" DD waterproof coil with skid plate, telescopic shaft, control pod, armrest, 2 rechargeable Li-ion batteries, wired earbuds, AC and car chargers, and a Getting Started Guide.
14. Full range of accessory options including larger 6x10 search coil, optional headphones, etc.

The machine is projected to be available for purchase by October 2025 for \$1999 and additional information can be found at <https://usa.minelab.com/gold-monster-2000>.

Note: Desert Gold Diggers does not promote one equipment brand/manufacturer over another and this article is only intended as information for club members.

December 2025 Special Events

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

January 2026 Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 NEW YEARS DAY	2	3
4	5	Members Meeting 6:00 PM	7	8	9	WISHFUL Claims 8:00 AM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 19	Business Meeting 6:30 PM	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Editor's Notes

The holidays are right around the corner and 2025 is almost behind us. Gold experienced some remarkable gains this year, considering that gold was only \$2,700 an ounce this time last year. It will be interesting to see what happens in 2026.

The annual DGD Christmas party will be celebrated at the next members meeting on Tuesday, December 2. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the holidays and visit with other club members that you may not see at the monthly meetings. If this years party is anything like past parties, we should have another great turnout and nobody wants to miss out on Becky's famous banana pudding!



Ray Darragh, DGD Gazette
Editor

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

"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.