

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 to all Desert Gold Diggers, with a special welcome to all new club members. As of November, the Desert Gold Diggers has 325 members.

With the temperatures finally dropping, I hope to see more people attending the monthly outings looking for that yellow stuff— I think it's called GOLD! The outings are a great opportunity to get outdoors, socialize with others, and enjoy the beautiful country around the club claims.



Speaking of outings, the 2024 outing schedule is included below. I hope to see you all out there.

—Ralph

Desert Gold Diggers 2024 Outing Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLAIMS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MEETING LOCATION</u>
DEC 10 (SUN) ²⁰²³	SNOOZIN	8:00 AM	Arivaca Rd. MP 7
JAN 6 (SAT)	WISHFUL	8:00 AM	17180 W. Arivaca Rd.
MAR 22-24 *	N. ARIVACA	8:00 AM	Las Guijas Rd. Camp
APR 7 (SUN)	PLACER POND	8:00 AM	Greaterville Rd/HWY 83
MAY 11 (SAT)	SNOOZIN	8:00 AM	Arivaca Rd. MP7
JUN 9 (SUN)	HOPE	7:00 AM	Greaterville Rd/HWY 83
JUL 6 (SAT)	BRUISER	7:00 AM	Circle K in Oracle
AUG 11 (SUN)	WISHFUL	7:00 AM	17180 W. Arivaca Rd.
SEP 7 (SAT)	BRUISER	7:00 AM	Circle K in Oracle
OCT 4-6 *	HOPE	8:00 AM	Camp Site TBA
NOV 9 (SAT)	PILGRIMS PRIDE	8:00 AM	Arivaca Rd. MP 7
DEC 8 (SUN)	SNOOZIN	8:00 AM	Arivaca Rd. MP7
JAN 11 (SAT) ²⁰²⁵	WISHFUL	8:00 AM	17180 W. Arivaca Rd.

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

Meeting & Event Summary (Dec 2023—Feb 2024)

Membership Meetings

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

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

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

Guests are welcome to attend!

Business Meetings

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

IHOP
4187 N. Oracle Road
Tucson, AZ. 85705-2721

(Southwest corner of Oracle and
Limberlost Road)

Meetings *MAY* be conducted via ZOOM.
A message will be sent to members prior to meetings if ZOOM is scheduled.

Events Schedule

December:

05: Christmas Party; 6:00 PM

10: (Sunday) Outing: SNOOZIN CLAIMS; 8:00 AM; Arivaca Rd., Mile Post 7

19: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

January:

02: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

06: (Saturday) Outing: WISHFUL CLAIMS; 8:00 AM; 17180 W. Arivaca Rd. (the General Store)

16: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

February:

06: Membership Meeting; 6:00 PM

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

20: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM



It's that time of year! The annual Desert Gold Diggers **Christmas Party** will be on **Tuesday, December 5** at the Ellie Town Community Center. Party details on the next page.



Annual Christmas Party - December 5, 2023



The Desert Gold Diggers annual Christmas Party will be **Tuesday, December 5**, at the Ellie Towne Community Center (the party will replace the monthly membership meeting).

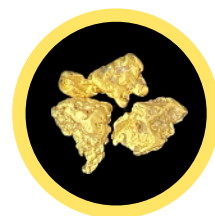
Desert Gold Diggers will provide ham, green beans, baked yams w/apples, and mashed potatoes, coffee, and water. Club members are asked to bring the following:

- If your last name begins with letters **A-M**, please bring a **dessert**.
- If your last name begins with letters **N-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, four lucky club members will be selected as the winners of the following four raffles:

1. Gold nugget raffle: 8.1 grams of gold nuggets.
2. 50/50 raffle: The winner keeps 50% of the cash collected from raffle tickers sold at the beginning of the meeting and DGD keeps the other 50%.
3. Hangover Bucket raffle: Nugget (the yellow tickets collected from previous monthly meetings).
4. Prospecting equipment raffle: Garrett A/T metal detector, sluice, and pumps.



Hope to see you there to mingle, jingle, and celebrate 2023 with fellow with Desert Gold Diggers.



Meet the DGD Secretary..... Darrell Marihugh

Hello Desert Gold Diggers—my name is Darrell Marihugh, I'm 34 years old, and have a twin brother (Joe Marihugh). I am a Tucson native and have a wife and three children. I do house painting and roofing for a living, with gold prospecting and fishing as my favorite hobbies.

I have been a member of Desert Gold Diggers for nine years, have served on the DGD Board of Directors for one year, and have been the DGD Secretary for two years. I was not an active member when I first joined the club, but after five years I started going to the meetings and meeting new members. I then got involved with the DGD Board and realized how much knowledge you can gain from going to the monthly meetings, monthly outings, and the monthly board meetings. I quickly learned that being actively involved really helps the Desert Gold Diggers.

I have many different types of prospecting equipment I use based on the season. I prefer dry washing in the summer because it's fast and easy. When the water is flowing in the spring, I like a stream sluice and trommel, and other times pack water and a mini high backer and a tub. I also use many types of equipment for concentrates—a blue bowl and Miller Table, but prefer the classic pan. It takes time to “read” a wash and find gold, but I enjoy teaching those that want to learn and ask for help. I have found over an ounce of



Darrell Marihugh, DGD Secretary

gold the last few years including some nuggets.

As the DGD Secretary, I am responsible for taking the minutes and notes at membership and business meetings. I also carry the seal of the corporation, applying it to any documents needed for official business.

I hope to see you at the monthly meetings and outings. If you ever want to go out prospecting, please ask me and we can set up a time to make it happen!

Your DGD Secretary—

Darrell Marihugh

Outing Director's Report (OCT 2023): Hope #1 & #2

Preparations for our annual overnight outing started on Wednesday, October 4 with Becky Marihugh reserving our camping area and Ralph Montano putting up signs on Thursday with other board members setting up tables and other needed equipment. Members started to arrive Friday setting up their camping and prospecting equipment. Friday Night was nice—the potluck dinner warmed the campers with five crock pot dishes. After dinner most of the campers retired to their camping areas while others stayed by the campfire.

Saturday morning I arrived around 7:00 AM and the temperature was cool. One of the members was cutting down grass for the metal detecting area. We hid 50 nickels worth three gold nuggets, three \$10 gift certificates, three \$2 bills, and 41 dollar coins or bills. All the nickels were found except one. After the metal detector hunt a few members went to the claims to prospect.



The sale of tickets for the \$1 outing raffle and \$6 lunch began after the metal detector hunt. The lunch began at noon, consisting of hamburgers and hot dogs with baked beans, potato chips, condiments, soft drinks and desserts. The raffle began after lunch for gold nuggets, gift certificates and members donated items. At last count we had 57 members in attendance.

This overnigher was a complete success with many thanks for the good weather and board members help. Thanks to all for their attendance and Happy Hunting till next month. —Dan

Outing Director's Report (NOV 2023): Pilgrim's Pride

We met at mile post 7 on Arivaca Road at 8:00 AM Saturday November 9. We had 21 members present and held our metal detector hunt prior to going to the claims.



There were 24 nickels planted: two (2) worth a gold nugget; one for silver nuggets; three (3) worth a \$2 bill; and 18 worth a dollar coin. There were 20 coins found leaving a \$2 dollar target and three (3) dollar coin targets to be found.

After the hunt we went to the Pilgrim's Pride claims and other adjacent claims to prospect and the area was totally dry. The gravels were best worked by dry washing, recirculating methods, and metal detecting. We fanned out over the claims and were able to get some nice gold and everybody seemed to be having a good time. The weather was cold when we started, but warmed up later in the day. Most members left around 12 PM and headed back to town.

The outing was a success and we look forward to our next outing to the Snoozin Claims on Sunday, December 10.

Thanks to all for their attendance. Happy Hunting till next month. Dan

October 6-8 Overnight Outing

As Dan Walker indicated in his October Outing Director's Report, the overnight outing was a complete success. The weather was beautiful and 60 members participated in the outing. Thank you to everyone that contributed their time and effort in helping load, deliver, setup equipment and supplies, prepare food, and provide the needed support to make this such an enjoyable event.



The Gardner Canyon Campsite



Metal Detector Hunt



Rose and Tom grilling burgers and hotdogs



Rose and Tom grilling burgers and hotdogs



Grady Dees processing "cons" with the Gold Wheel

October 6-8 Overnight Outing

The Desert Gold Diggers enjoyed an overnight outing that was a complete success. The weather was beautiful and 57 members participated in the outing. Thank you to everyone that contributed their time and effort in helping load, deliver, setup equipment and supplies, prepare food, and provide the needed support to make this such an enjoyable event.



Gardner Canyon Campsite

Over 40 people participated in the metal detector hunt. Dan buried 50 targets and all but one was found. He hid 50 nickels worth three gold nuggets, three \$10 gift certificates, three \$2 bills, and 41 dollar coins or bills. All the nickels were found except one. After the metal detector hunt concluded, members drove to the Hope claims to prospect.



Metal Detector Hunt

There was a crockpot cook-off at 6:00 PM Friday evening, October 6. Members enjoyed a campfire after dinner before retiring for the evening. Coffee and breakfast snacks were provided beginning at 7:00 AM Saturday morning and lunch started at noon. Rose and Joe did a great job grilling hamburgers and hotdogs at lunchtime for all the hungry gold diggers. A nugget and gift card raffle was conducted after lunch.



Rose and Joe working the grille

October 6-8 Overnight Outing

After lunch on Saturday, many club members went back to the Hope Claims to prospect. The ground was dry, so people either metal detected or used dry washers. Those that stayed at camp had an opportunity to get information and some time to observe a couple unique pieces of gold processing equipment—an automatic gold panning machine and a reverse helix trommel.

Grady Dees ran material through his Pro Camel “gold wheel” to demonstrate how efficiently the device pans concentrates. The device utilizes a unique two-stage spiral wheel. When concentrates are added to the wheel, any gold settles to the bottom and 15 spiral riffles lead into an inset second stage of five additional serial riffles, which elevates the gold to a center hole in the hub where it passes through a hollow shaft and into a gold “catch cup.” The unit contains a variable wheel speed control and adjustable water flow to fine tune the gold wheel to the material being processed. The amount of “fines” the wheel collected was very impressive and it was fun to watch the wheel in operation.

Ralph Montaño’s Mountain Goat reverse helix trommel was also very impressive and utilizes the same principle as the trommels used by large mining companies. Concentrates added to the hopper are washed and the material flows down into the reverse helix barrel. Once inside the barrel, the material is continuously washed by a full length spray bar to keep it in a slurry. This allows the lighter material to wash out the back into the waste bucket while the heavier material stays in the grooves of the reverse helix screw and works its way up to the front and is collected in a gold catch cup. This is another tool that is very efficient and a great alternative to panning, and like the gold wheel, requires a constant supply of water to work properly.



Doug Hayden using a dry washer on the Hope Claim



Grady Dees processing “cons” on the Gold Wheel



Gold climbing up the spirals in the Gold Wheel



Ralph Montano's Mountain Goat reverse helix trommel

October 6-8 Overnight Outing



Kay Jenkins: Metal Detect
Nugget Winner



Max Offermann: Metal Detect
Nugget Winner



Karl Wruck: Metal Detect Nugget
Winner

Overnight Outing Raffle Prize Winners



Metal Detect Contest Gold Nugget Winners

Kay Jenkins

Max Offermann

Karl Wruck

Gift Certificate Winners

Hank Bassaraba (\$25)

Ed Madsen (\$25)

Ray Darragh (\$10)

Bob Burgette (\$10)

John Stutz (\$10)

Gary Puckett (\$10)

Sydney Kurp (\$10)

Joseph Beaver (\$10)

Gold Nugget Winners

Shawn Mosely

Rick Hamel

Ralph Montaño

Grady Dees

Kay Jenkins

"Door Prize" Winners

Rick Hamel

Brian Kline

Kay Jenkins

Chuck Johnson

Bob Burgette

Welcome NEW Club Members!

Desert Gold Diggers welcomes the following NEW members that joined our club September 1-November 15, 2023:

Jim & Jamie Brewer (Holdenville, OK)
Ray & Linda Carle (Green Valley, AZ)
Robert & Frederica Green (Green Valley, AZ)
Caleb Grimes (Marana, AZ)
David Laytin (Tucson, AZ)
Yaakov Laytin (Tucson, AZ)
Floyd & Lorian Miller (Tucson, AZ)
Christopher Molander (Sahuarita, AZ)
Eugene Mossberger (Goodyear, AZ)
William Parkerton (Tucson, AZ)



Note: The AUG/SEP issue of the Gazette included both new members AND members who renewed their membership in 2023. Apologies to **Marion & Judith Vittetoe** (Tucson, AZ) for not including their names as 2023 membership renewals in the last newsletter.

Tribute to Jerry and Marilyn Gerhardt

(Submitted by Becky Marihugh, Desert Gold Diggers Membership Director)

On Monday, October 16, 2023, club member Dave Fuller and I took Jerry Gerhardt and his wife Tarayza out to the former Stevens Shadows claims. Jerry's parents (Jerry "Twister" and Marilyn Gerhardt) were former members of the club and had won the "find of the year" award for 2007. Sadly, Twister passed away in June of 2021 and Marilyn passed just this year in March.

It was Marilyn's wish for Twister and herself to be cremated and their ashes to be spread on the Shadows claims. Dave and I helped fulfill this last wish. We took Jerry and Taz out to what I call the "community dig area" of what was once claim #3. They found a huge saguaro and we left them alone to say their goodbyes.

Does anyone remember Twister and Marilyn? Jerry believes his dad got the nickname Twister from someone in the club.

Market Place.....



Grady Dees is selling a high-banker and the following prospecting equipment:

1. High-banker consists of 43"L X 9"W sluice box, fixed V-matting in top section, removable riffles and matting in two lower sections (originally was a folding sluice – now riveted – could be disassembled for backpacking).
2. Royal Mfg. backpacker stand for sluice – all four legs are adjustable.
3. Royal Mfg. High-banker hopper kit with grizzly bars & punch-plate screens. Spray bars unglued for adjustment.
4. Johnson Pump SPXFLOW 2200 GPH 12V pump – fully submersible with 8 ft. flex hose.



All equipment documentation and receipts included. Paid over \$600, but will sell for \$400 OBO. If interested, please contact Grady Dees at (520) 979-1732 or e-mail at grayday@comcast.net



Lost & Found

LOST: Shawn Mosely lost a Milwaukee 11-in-1 screwdriver at the top of the Bruiser 3 claim earlier this year. Shawn was very fond of this screwdriver and requests if anyone finds it while prospecting on Bruiser 3, please contact him at (520) 406-1271.



FOUND: A club member found an old custom pick on one of the DGD claims. The pick is handmade with a "rebar" handle. If you lost this pick, please send a message to DGDGazette51@gmail.com



2024 Gold Nugget Raffle



Tickets are now available for a NEW RAFFLE for a **6.1 gram** gold nugget.

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



6.1 gram nugget

Club Store

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

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

We carry 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

MASH Report

Dan Walker (Outings Director) will be having cataract (lens replacement) surgery in December.

Terry Becklund (Vice President) had a minor procedure performed minor in November and is home doing well.

Note: If any member has any personal or health-related information they would like to have included in the Gazette MASH report, please send applicable information to DGDGazette51@gmail.com

Membership Meeting Minutes: October 3, 2023

- Ralph Montañño convened the meeting at 6:00 PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members/guests; asked about October birthdays and anniversaries; shared MASH information.
 - Dan Walker reported that the October overnight outing (October 6-8) will be at the Wishful claims in the Greaterville area; there will be a metal detector hunt followed by food and raffles.
 - Lunch at the outing will be \$6 and will consist of burgers, hot dogs, condiments, and sides.
 - There will be a special outing in December for a group of approximately 30 Trail Life members; the group is interested in seeing/participating in utilizing different prospecting techniques; members that would like to assist should contact Ralph or a board member.
 - The October guest speaker was Dan Moore from the BLM Tucson Field Office: he mentioned there had been no major changes in regulations since 2001.
 - Dan stated that there were specific regulation pertaining to mining claims and that power equipment of any kind should not be used on mining claims; a Mining Notice for Exploration must be filed with the BLM and approved to use power equipment on a claim; Dan stated that our claims required the “sweat from your brow” to move dirt and no power equipment should be used.
 - There is no prohibition against selling what you find on “casual claim”; Dan stated that 50/50 lands are private lands acquired by the Forest Service with 50% owned by the “feds” and the other 50% held by private owners (mineral claims); since the Greaterville area consists of 50/50 claims, that is why you cannot file claims in that area.
 - A member asked Dan if the BLM could close one of our claims based on recent activity in Colorado— the BLM can close a claim BUT they must have a very good reason for taking that action.
- Raffle winners:**
- Hat: Jordan Christiansen
 - Badge: Earl Colvins
 - Shirt: Norm Cooper
 - Yellow Ticket: Larry Brown; Bob Burgette; Adolfo Cordero; Mike
 - Red Ticket: Hank Bassaraba; Larry Brown
- Ralph adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM

Membership Meeting Minutes: November 7, 2023

- Ralph Montañó convened the meeting at 6:00 PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members/guests; congratulated those with November birthdays and anniversaries; shared MASH information (Marion's pacemaker).
- Dan Walker: next outing will be at the Pilgrim's Pride claims; meet at Mile Post 7 at 8:00 AM; it is dry enough to drywash.
- Ralph announced that members are only allowed to camp 14 days in a row on BLM/Forest Service land; must for no less than 14 days at a distance of 25 miles before returning again.
- Someone left equipment at a claim; be careful so it does not get stolen; permissible to leave equipment if you are camping on the claim.
- Report any signs or corner posts that are missing so they can be replaced.
- Guest speaker was Michael Robinson who showed different types of dry mining equipment. He carries some very interesting equipment and may be contacted at (432) 559-7421 or www.dryminingequipment.net.

- Next membership meeting is December 5 and will be the annual Christmas party; will have four different raffles.
- DGD will provide ham, green beans, and members were asked to sign-up to being deserts and side dishes. People with last names ending in the letters A-M bring desserts, and N-Z bring side dishes.

Raffle Winners:

- Hat: Terry Becklund
 - Badge: Katherine Manning
 - Shirt: Norm
 - Yellow Ticket: Kay Jenkins; Dave Riley; Shawn Mosely; Joe Marihugh
 - Red Ticket: Gloria Jackson; Jeremy
 - Dream mat: Mike Robinson (guest speaker)
- Ralph adjourned the meeting at



Zoom Meeting Option: January 2 Membership Meeting

The zoom link to enter the meeting is :

<https://zoom.us/j/99549264713?pwd=bTNvSzk2cVpoVjZUdmzRWWpGUlczd09>

Access Code: **266446**

Contact Kim for any questions at her email: kransom6a@gmail.com

Business Meeting Minutes: October 17, 2023

- Dan Walker (Board Chairman) convened the meeting at 6:30 PM.
- Darrell Marihugh (Secretary) read previous meeting minutes; Becky Marihugh motioned to approve and Dan Walker seconded - approved.
- Ray Darragh (Gazette Editor) received a request to put the MASH Report back into the Gazette; will also add the Market Place; have received positive feedback on new newsletter format.
- Webmaster: No report.
- Becky Marihugh (Membership Director) reported DGD had seven new members and 14 non-renewals and four (4) renewals for a total of 310 members, which is six less than last month
- On Monday (October 16) Becky Marihugh and Dave Fuller assisted Jerry Gerhardt and his wife Tarayza in spreading Jerry's parents ashes (see story on page 11).
- Everyone has submitted expense reports timely
- Darrell Marihugh read the Treasurer's report: total income for September was \$1,918.
- The Goldmaster (Bob Burgette) has reported we have enough nuggets through November; Kim Ransom is looking for another source to purchase nuggets.
- Outing Director (Dan Walker) stated the fall overnight outing (October 6-8) was a success; large turnout; 50 targets buried for the detector hunt;

large turnout; Ralph put out signage on Thursday; board members set up tables and other needed equipment. Members started to arrive Friday to set up their camping and prospecting equipment. The weather was very nice for the event.

- Historian: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Trail Life kids outing will be on Saturday, December 10, the day before the DGD outing; the location will be an area right before the Hope claims start; need volunteers to assist.
- Terry Becklund (VP) arranged to have Mike Robinson (Dry Mining Equipment LLC) speak at the November members meeting.

New BUSINESS

- Need new chairs for the outings— 10 chairs are cracked.
- The December membership meeting will be the annual Christmas party; will have food and four raffles.
- Ham and sides will be served at the Christmas party; sign-up sheets will be provided at the next monthly meeting for desserts and side dishes.
- Becky will update the 2024 outing schedule.
- Bob Melzer motioned to end the meeting; Joe Marihugh seconded the motion; motion was approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Business Meeting Minutes: November 21, 2023

- Chairman Dan Walker convened the meeting at 6:30 PM; read and approved the agenda.
- Secretary Darrell Marihugh read previous minutes; minutes were approved.
- Gazette editor Ray Darragh requested that everyone that still needs to submit information for the Gazette do so prior to Saturday so the Gazette can be completed/distributed this next week; asked for input for the MASH report; requested board approval to include a liability disclaimer at the end of each issue of the Gazette—Kim motioned, Becky seconded, and the request was approved.
- Webmaster: Not present.
- Membership director Becky Marihugh: Four (4) new members, six (6) renewals, for a total of 325 members.
- Board members were reminded to turn in expense reports.
- Treasurer's report: DGD had a net income of \$605.09 in October.
- Gold master report: DGD received \$1,700 worth of gold, including a 1/4 ounce nugget.
- Outing director Dan Walker reported on the November 11 outing at the Pilgrim's Pride claims: 21 members were present; the metal detector hunt consisted of 24 targets; prizes included two nuggets and some silver; members then went to the

claims to dry wash and recirculate and gold was found; the December outing will be on Sunday, December 10, at the Snoozin claims.

- Historian: Not present
- MASH report: None

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no discussion on any old business

NEW BUSINESS

- Annual Christmas party: DGD will provide ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, water, and coffee; board members can start setting up at 4:30 PM; doors at the Ellie Towne Community Center will open at 5:00 PM; the party will start at 6:00 PM.
- Raffles at the party will consist of: 1/4 ounce (8 grams) nugget; 50/50 raffle; hangover bucket; and prospecting equipment.
- Trail Life kids outing will be Saturday, December 9; Darrell, Joe, Becky, Ray, and Ralph have volunteered but would like a few more to assist.
- Joe Marihugh will oversee the December 10 outing at the Snoozin claims for Dan.
- The 2024 outing schedule has been completed.
- Dan motioned to end the meeting and Lewis seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

An Unexpected Treasure

(Submitted by Ray Darragh, Desert Gold Diggers Gazette Editor)

I've been a member of Desert Gold Diggers for two years and have enjoyed every aspect of gold prospecting. One of my very first purchases was a metal detector, and like every other person in our club I dreamed of heading out into the desert and finding a BIG, shiny, gold nugget. After two fun-filled years of detecting, I have not yet found a nugget, but have found some very unique things. For example, several weeks ago a good friend and I were in the Gold Butte area of northern Nevada searching for gold. We'd read reports that people had found gold around the abandoned Gold Butte Mine, so we decided to spend a day swinging our metal detectors to see if we could find a nugget.

After a couple hours of detecting, my friend located a non-ferrous target and started to dig hoping that it may be his lucky day. The target turned out to be an old weathered nickel, but as he was digging up the nickel he uncovered an interesting looking rock. After digging around the rock for several minutes, he called me over to check it out. We determined it was no ordinary rock, but a piece of petrified wood. As we continued to dig, we discovered this petrified wood was nothing like the small pieces we'd found in the area on past visits.

Several hours of digging resulted in uncovering a unique treasure—my friend had found an in-tact specimen of petrified wood that was 14 inches in diameter and 65 inches in length. We estimated the weight at 1500-1600 pounds and after discussing several options, we decided to leave it right there. It had been in the ground for over 100 million years and we thought that is where it should stay. We carefully covered the petrified wood with dirt and compacted the ground trying to leave the area just like we found it.

Knowing that we would not find anything more rewarding that day, we decided to head home. On our way back, we both laughed that we never thought we could find petrified wood using a metal detector!



Dennis Dierks and his petrified 14" x 65"
"Prehistoric Railroad Tie"

NOTE: Desert Gold Diggers welcomes input from members. If you have an interesting story about something unique you found or experienced while prospecting and would like to share it with club members, please submit your story and pictures to DGDGazette51@gmail.com. The DGD board will review submittals and those approved by the board will be included in the Gazette.

December 2023 Special Events

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

January 2024 Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 Member's Meeting 6:00 PM	3	4	5	6 OUTING: WISHFUL Claims
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. DAY	16 Business Meeting 6:30 PM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Editor's Note

Members have asked if they could contribute prospecting stories to the Gazette— and the answer is **YES**. I included the “*An Unexpected Treasure*” story on page 18 to encourage members to submit their own stories about the unique things discovered while prospecting. If you’ve had a unique experience or found something unusual while prospecting and would like to share your experience with our 325 club members, please submit your story and pictures to **DGDGazette51@gmail.com**. The DGD Board will review submittals and those approved by the Board will be included in the Gazette.



Ray Darragh, DGD Gazette Editor

2023 has been a great year for the Desert Gold Diggers and I hope to see you at the

“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.