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 Diggers has 20 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 Montaño

President, Desert Gold Diggers Inc.

Hello to all Desert Gold Diggers out there, with a special welcome to our new members. I hope everyone is doing good and surviving the recent heavy monsoons. With a little luck, all that water will be moving that shiny yellow stuff down the mountain sides and into our claims.



Ralph Montaño, Desert Gold Diggers President

Just a reminder that the overnight outing is October 9-11 and I hope the weather will cooperate with us like last year—it rained hard all around us but we only got a couple raindrops at camp and on our claims. One way or another, the show will go on and we anticipate another great outing. For those who have not attended an overnight outing, all the pertinent information about the outing is contained below.

I hope to see a lot of members having fun at the outing and happy hunting finding that beautiful yellow stuff!

—Ralph

October Overnight Outing Information

The Desert Gold Diggers fall overnight outing is **October 9-11** (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 9).
- Metal detector hunt (Saturday, October 10) at 8:00 AM. The detector hunt will consist of 50 buried targets for prizes of gold nuggets, Goldbacks, $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.

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 2026)

Membership Meetings

1st Tuesday of every month at 6:15 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:

06: Membership Meeting; 6:15 PM

09-11: (Friday-Sunday) Overnight Outing: HOPE Claims; 8:00 AM.

20: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

November:

04: Membership Meeting; 6:15 PM

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

17: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

December:

01: Membership Meeting (**Christmas party**); 6:00 PM

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

15: Business Meeting; 6:30 PM

October Outing: Gardner Canyon Camp Location



Outing Director's Report: August 9 (Wishful Claims)

Our Sunday, August 9 outing started with members meeting at 7 AM at the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge on Arivaca Road. There were 25 members present at sign-in.



Members proceeded to the Wishful 4 claim where we had the metal detect area set up and ready to hunt for 24 targets (nickels) for prizes of gold nuggets, Goldbacks, $2 bills, and $1 coins. It was a successful hunt and all targets were found. **Gold nugget winners included Hank Bassaraba and Steve Barthelmy, with Ralph Montaño winning a Goldback.**

Members then headed up to Wishful 1 and set up recirculation sluices with one member using a drywasher. We were scraping the bedrock and finding some nice color.

Members started leaving between 1 PM-2 PM when it got hot. The outing was a success and hope to see you all at next month's outing on Saturday, September 5, at the new AU1 claim.

Keep finding the yellow stuff.

—Darrell Marihugh

Outing Director's Report: September 5 (AU1 Claim)

Members met at 7 AM Saturday morning at OxBow Bend and Arivaca Road and then caravanned to the metal detect hunt area.



I hid 24 targets for prizes of gold nuggets, Goldbacks, $2 bills and $1 coins. One target was not found. **Gold nugget winners included David Doyle and Danny Abrams; Brent Gutierrez won a Goldback; Doreen, Brad, and James Barthelmy won $2 bills.**

Members then proceeded to the AU1 claim and started prospecting. Some members were metal detecting while others used recirculation set ups to process dirt. The members sluicing dirt were finding small pieces of gold in different areas along the whole claim, however, more extensive testing is needed. It was a nice day out and most members packed up and left between 1-2 PM.

The next outing is our overnight outing October 9-11 at the Hope and Placer Pond claims. We will use the same campsite we have used the last several years on Fish Canyon Road. We will have a 50 target detect hunt Saturday morning, followed by lunch later that morning, with prospecting around the claims in between the fun. Come on out and dig some dirt, have some fun, and make some memories.

—Darrell Marihugh

Membership Meeting Minutes: August 4, 2026

- Ralph Montaño convened the meeting at 6:15 PM; opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; introduced new members and guests; asked who was celebrating August birthdays and anniversaries; asked if anyone needed to be included in the MASH report. Ralph referred to a member who needs a double lung transplant. If members would like to donate to her operation, a GoFundMe page is listed in the Gazette. A member reported that original DGD member, Lucy Borowski passed away in July.
- Ralph announced that the August 9 outing will be at the Wishful Claims. Members should meet at the Buenos Aires - Arivaca parking area (Oxbow Rd and Arivaca Rd) 15 minutes prior to 7 AM. The group will then drive to the nugget hunt area. After the hunt, members will proceed to the Claims to prospect. Ralph also announced that the September outing will be at the new AU1 claim. Ralph reported that he asked the Board to review the DGD claim rules at the next business meeting. He again reminded members to follow all Forest Service and BLM rules regarding prospecting, camping, and clean-up on DGD claims, particularly filling your prospect holes when you leave and obeying the 14-day camping limits. Ralph noted that the Club's yearly claim dues have been paid.
- Hank played a brief video on how to use the on-line Public Lands Survey System to locate open and closed mining claims. The video also explained the US Township, Range, & Section land survey system.
- Ralph reported that donated metal detecting equipment will be offered for sale by the Club. Proceeds from the sale will be used to offset costs for a common dig at a future outing. Ralph reported on the availability of new embroidered shirts/tee shirts and prospecting supplies at the Club Store. He announced the Big Nugget raffle will be held at tonight's meeting.

Raffle winners:

- Hat: Kathy Smith
- Shirt: Diana Butler
- Badge: Daniel Manning
- Maroon ticket: Robert Burgette; Bill Horky; Rick Harrison; Daniel Manning; Max Offerman; David Doyle; Jim B; Zack Borsa; and Bill Ward.
- Red ticket: Joe Marihugh; Shawn Mosely.
- Find of the month: Ray Darragh and Nick Martel
- **4.6 gram nugget: Jamie Farquar**



Jamie Farquar

- Ralph adjourned the membership meeting at 7:40 PM.

Membership Meeting Minutes: August 4, 2026 *(continued)*

- Ralph Montaño called for a special Board meeting after the membership meeting. David Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. The meeting was convened with a quorum of the Board members present. Ray informed members about a website inquiry. There was general discussion by the Board and Katherine moved that no further action be taken at this time. Nick 2nd, and motion was approved by unanimous consent. General discussion followed and Becky reported that members were having difficulty using the Club's pay-pal site. General discussion followed. Katherine moved that further discussion be tabled until the next Business meeting in two weeks. Nick 2nd, and the motion was approved by unanimous consent. Board meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Membership Meeting Minutes: September 1, 2026

- Ralph Montaño convened the meeting at 6:22 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance; asked if there were any guests (2), birthdays (4), and anniversaries (2). He asked if there was anyone to be included in the Mash report. A member reported that an original DGD member, Michelle Planner passed away.
- Darrell reported that the September 5 outing will be held Saturday at the new AU1 claim. Members are asked to meet at the Buenos Aires-Arivaca parking area (Oxbow Rd and Arivaca Rd) 15 minutes prior to the 7 AM departure time. The group will then drive to the nugget hunt area. After the hunt, members will proceed to the Claims to prospect. Ralph advised members to check weather reports and noted that the recent rains had flooded washes on the Arivaca highway. He reported that the October Overnight outing will be held on the 9-11th at the Hope & Placer Pond Claims. The Club camping location will be at the usual Kentucky Camp Road site. Signs will be posted from the Sonoita/Gardner Road turnoff to the site. There will be a Friday night potluck and movie. Saturday events include a metal detector hunt, Club Hamburger/ Hot Dog Lunch ($6.00) (members may provide sides/desserts), and Club Gold raffle. Club members may also bring items to sell if they wish. A member reported that rain damaged a portion of the Hope claims road. This will be checked out before the outing.
- Hank played a Chris Ralph video based on Maureen G. Johnson's 1960s book *Placer Gold Mining Locations in Arizona*. The book and video highlighted gold placer areas by Arizona Counties. The video noted historical placer areas were the DGD club has claims.
- Ralph reported that the Elle Towne Center will be used as a Mid-term Election site on November 3, 2026. He suggested and the membership agreed that the **November member's meeting be held on Wednesday the 4th.**

Membership Meeting Minutes: September 1 *(continued)*

Raffle winners:

- Hat: David Fuller
- Shirt: Dennis Stahl
- Maroon ticket: Max Offerman, Alvin Brown, D. Dewitt, Ralph Montano, John Uhl, Keith Ehrhich (2) (Gold Back) Ted V.
- Red ticket: J. Christensen and Alvin Brown
- Find of the month: Daniel Manning and Hank Bassaraba

- The Membership meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Business Meeting Minutes: August 18, 2026

- Chairman David Fuller convened the meeting at 6:30 pm.
- Dave asked Ray Darragh to introduce his guest. Ray introduced Edythe Palting, a marketing and social media consultant. Edythe informed the Board about her expertise and services she could provide. Following her presentation Dave opened the meeting to questions. General discussion followed regarding a range of issues, including Club goals and operations, upgrading the DGD website, streamlining the on-line membership/payment process, recruitment of new members, website design and costs. Following dialogue and discussion Becky moved, Howard 2nd (several clarifications suggested by members were added) that Edythe be retained to prepare a proposal to create a new user friendly website to handle membership applications, renewals, and billing, the motion was approved by unanimous consent. Discussion followed regarding liaison between the Board and consultant. Ray will maintain contact in the short term.
- Secretary's Report: Bill read the July 21, 2026, Business meeting minutes. Dave moved the minutes be approved, Darrell 2nd, and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent. Bill read the minutes for the August 2, 2026, Special Board meeting. Dave moved, Kathy 2nd , and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- Gazette Editor's Report: No report
- Membership Director's Report: Becky stated there were 5 new members, 5 renewals, and 12 non-renewals. Total membership is 362.
- Treasurer Report: Becky read the Treasurers report for the July reporting period. A copy of this report is available upon request.
- Gold Master's Report: Joe reported on the Clubs gold inventory, costs, and income. A copy of this report is available upon request.
- Outing Director's Report: Darrell reported on the August 9 outing at the Wishful claims. 25 members signed in and proceeded to the metal detecting area and searched for 24 nickel targets. These were redeemed for prizes of gold, Goldbacks, $2.00 bills, and $1 dollar coins, all targets were found. Members had recirculating sluices and one member had a dry washer. Members were scraping bedrock and finding some nice color.

Business Meeting Minutes: August 18, 2026 *(continued)*

- The next outing will be held September 5 at the new AU1 claim. Members are to meet prior to 7 AM at the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge parking area north of Arivaca to ensure an on-time departure to the detect site.
- Claim Director's Report: Hank reported that the Clubs BLM claims and forest Service claims were paid. The AU1 claim has been mailed in.
- Historian's Report: Mary reported that she is continuing to work on getting speakers from Asarco, University of Arizona Geology Department, and Pima College Mining Bureau.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was general discussion about options for purchasing the new hats/ shirts. Becky moved, Louis 2nd, that up to 100 shirts/tees be purchased, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ralph moved, Louis 2nd that a member Achievement award be presented at a future meeting, which passed unanimously. Fall overnight outing tentatively set October 9-11, 2026.
- Bob moved that the meeting be adjourned, Louis 2nd and the motion was approved by unanimous consent at 8:20 pm.

Business Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2026

- Chairman David Fuller convened the meeting at 6:30 pm.
- Secretary's Report: Bill read the August 18, 2026, Business meeting minutes. Darrell moved the minutes be approved, Louis 2nd the motion, and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- Membership Director's Report: Becky provided the report for membership report for July. There were 6 new members, 1 returned, and 13 non-renewals for a total Club membership of 359. She reported that there was still issues with pay-pal.
- Gazette Editor's Report: Ray handed out a draft copy of the Gazette for the Board to review. There was general discussion and suggestions for inclusion in the draft.
- Webmaster Report: Ray reported that Edythe Palting (Marketing & Social media consultant) was continuing to work on a proposal for a new DGD website design, pursuant to the direction provided at the August 18 meeting. He reported that she would like to present her proposal to the Board at the October 20 Business meeting. The Board set the item for the October agenda. Ray will continue as the contact person with the Consultant.
- Treasurer Report: Becky read the Treasurers report for the August reporting period. General discussion followed. A copy of this report is available upon request.
- Gold Master's Report: - Joe reported on the Club's gold inventory, costs, and income for the August reporting period. General discussion followed. A copy of this report is available on request.

Business Meeting Minutes: September 2026 *(continued)*

- Outing Director's Report: - Darrell reported on the September 5 outing at the new AU1 claim. 26 members signed in and searched for 24 targets for prizes of gold nuggets, Goldbacks, $2 bills, and $1 coins (one target was not found). Members then proceeded to the AU-1 claim where members metal detected and set up recirculating sluices to process dirt. Members were finding small pieces of gold along the whole claim, however, more extensive testing still needs to be done. The October 9-11 overnight outing will be at the Hope & Placer Pond claims. Members will camp at the Kentucky Camp Road site with a Friday night potluck and movie, a Saturday 50-target detecting hunt, lunch, and gold raffle.
- Claims Director's Report: Hank reported that updated coordinates for the AU-1 claim have been completed. He will contact BLM about having a DGD group dig in spring 2027 and will report back at the next meeting.
- Historian's Report: Mary reported that she is working on getting speakers from Asarco and the University of Arizona Geology Department for the November meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was continuing discussion about options for purchasing new hats/shirts for the club store.
- There was discussion regarding preparation for the October Outing.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ralph announced the Gregory School didn't request a presentation this year.
- The Ellie Towne Halloween trick or treat night will be held on October 23. He asked for volunteers to help with the Club's participation.
- There was general discussion regarding the continuing issues with membership PayPal payments.
- Bob moved that the meeting be adjourned, Louis 2nd and the motion was approved by unanimous consent at 8:20 pm.

Gold YTD Trend

Gold closed at **$4,285.67** an ounce on September 25, 2026, a YTD change of **-1.09%.**



Welcome NEW Club Members!

Daniel Abrams (Tucson)
Michael Branski (Stanfield)
Thomas & Lacey Davis (Coolidge, AZ)
David & Joyce Dutcher (Escondido, CA)
Jamie Farquar (Tucson)
Alex & Lexcis Pierce (Tucson)
Jesse & Felicia Putney (Oracle)
Allen & Dawn Reeder (Marana)
Allen F & Helen Reeder (Marana)
Mary Srour (Tucson)
Charles & Mercy Stahn (Catalina)
Brad & Andrea Walker (Tucson)

MASH Report

1. Lifetime member Lucy (Lucille) Borowski passed away on July 18, 2026. Lucy was one of the original members of Desert Gold Diggers and played an active role in the early years of our club. Lucy joined DGD in January 1988.
2. A formal club member, Michael Planner recently passed away.

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

Club Store

Don't miss the opportunity to shop at the Desert Gold Diggers Club Store at the monthly membership meetings. Our store includes, but is 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 including:
  - 15" Garrett Super Sluice pan: $15.00
  - Garrett Gold Guzzlers (larger snuffer bottles): $7.00
  - 5# Pocket clip magnet (for black sand removal): $10.00
  - Scoops-(Orange, Green and Blue): $14.00

The Club Store carries laminated color topo maps with the GPS coordinates and directions to the claims. The store received a new supply of baseball style caps and is in the process of re-stocking, so it may take some time to purchase new items and we appreciate everyone's patience.

Please support the Desert Gold Diggers with purchases from our club

Market Place.....



1. Desert Gold Diggers has two remaining pieces of sophisticated geological prospecting equipment that are still available to club members. If you are interested in learning more about this equipment, contact Ralph Montaño at the next membership meeting or at the overnight outing.

2. If you have any items you would like to sell, the October 9-11 overnight outing is a great place to find a buyer, so bring any prospecting items that you are interested in selling.

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.

Gold Nugget Raffle



A nice **4.09 gram** nugget will be raffled at a future membership meeting.

Raffle tickets are $2.00 each and additional tickets may be purchased at the meeting.



Raffle Nugget

Some Gold Prospecting Humor

An old retired gold prospector protector decided to bring his best buddy home for dinner without informing his wife, unannounced at 6:00 PM.

The wife throws a fit and starts yelling and carrying on frantically while the buddy just sits down and listens. She yells, "My hair is not done, my makeup is not done and the house is a mess. I am in my pajamas and the dishes aren't done and I don't want to be bothered to do any cooking at this late hour. You didn't even bother to call me, so why in the blue blazes did you bring him home with you anyway?"

The old boy looked her in the eye and replied, "Well, he is thinking of getting married and I told him I would show him what it was like!"



Grady's Alaska Adventure

In August, I left the Tucson heat and vacationed in Alaska with family members for two weeks. We rented a motor home in Anchorage and began our adventure by touring the Kenai Peninsula, which extends about 150 miles southwest from the Chugach Mountains, south of Anchorage.



Grady's 25 Pound Halibut

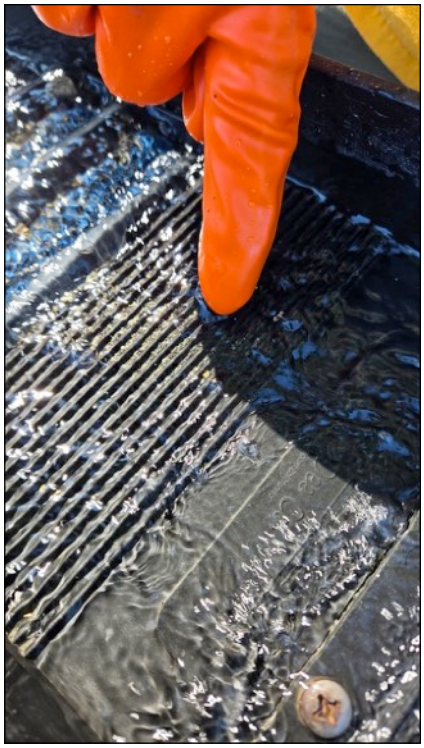
One of our first stops was in Homer, where we took a fishing charter to try our luck at catching halibut and rockfish. We had a successful day fishing and I caught the second largest halibut that day.

On our way back up the peninsula, I spent time panning at Prospector John's in Cooper's landing, which is about 100 miles south of Anchorage, at the outlet of Kenai Lake into the Kenai River. I also did some digging at the old Crow Creek Mine, which is a family owned historical and recreational gold mine. Nestled in a very beautiful mountain setting, Crow Creek Mine offers the oldest buildings in the Anchorage area dating back to 1898, as well as some of the most popular recreational gold mining in all of Alaska.



Panning at Prospector John's





Grady's Gold

Grady's Alaska Adventure

We then traveled back through Anchorage to Palmer, Glenview and on to Valdez where we took a cruise to the Mears Glacier and visited a salmon hatchery.



A Valdez Glacier



St. Elias Mountain

We really enjoyed Valdez, which was less crowded and busy than Kenai. The scenery in Alaska is just amazing and I am glad I had the opportunity to do some prospecting and bring back some halibut and Alaska gold.

—Submitted by DGD Board Member, Grady Dees

Gold Facts

1. Gold has medicinal purposes and is valuable in treating and possibly curing conditions such as cancer, HIV, and rheumatoid arthritis.
   - Cancer medication mostly has side effects, but scientists are devising an anticancer drug with gold particles instead of platinum to minimize the side effects.
   - For HIV, researchers tested a gold-based drug on monkeys infected with an HIV-like virus. The results showed that the auranofin was able to shrink the virus cells.
   - Liquid gold has proven to reduce joint swelling for those suffering from rheumatoid arthritis

2. If your jewelry itches, it's not pure gold.
   - Gold is not a reactive metal, which is why it never rusts.
   - If you're having sensitivities from your gold jewelry, it is likely that some other metal has been mixed with it.

How to Turn Gold Coins and Jewelry Into a Fair Price



It's one of the most common gold transactions in America, yet people rarely prepare for it. A family walks into a cash-for-gold storefront with a coffee can of inherited Krugerrands and a drawer of old jewelry. They accept the first offer, which can run 20 to 40 percent below the metal's actual melt value.

Most online sites target would-be buyers, not households trying to sell inherited gold on fair terms. This is the seller's playbook, for the moment you are the least equipped to negotiate.

How Much Should You Get for Selling Gold?

For recognized bullion coins such as Krugerrands, American Gold Eagles, or Canadian Maple Leafs, a reputable coin dealer typically pays within a few percent of the day's spot price. Gold jewelry sold as scrap brings somewhat less, since refining costs come out of the offer, but a fair price is still a clear majority of melt value. It is important to calculate melt value before anyone else puts your gold on a scale. The math takes five minutes and the steps to calculate this value are provided below. Offers far below melt are probably your signal to walk out of the coin dealer's shop.

First, Slow Down

Gold does not spoil. Any storefront "urgency" to sell is a sales tactic. Grief plus a counter and a scale is often the situation these businesses are built around. Secure the gold, take a breath. Give yourself a week to do the steps below. The difference might be worth a mint.

Calculate Melt Value Before Anyone Weighs Your Gold

Melt value is what the pure gold in an item is worth at today's price. You need three numbers: weight, purity, and the spot price.

- Weigh it. A kitchen scale that reads grams is fine.
- Find the purity. Look for the karat stamp: 24k is pure gold, 18k is 75 percent, 14k is 58.3 percent, 10k is 41.7 percent. Bullion coins state their gold content; a Krugerrand contains exactly one troy ounce of gold.
- Look up the spot price. Any major financial site lists the live price per troy ounce for free.

Then run the math: grams divided by 31.1 gives you troy ounces, times the purity, times the spot price.

Example: Take a 14k bracelet weighing 20 grams. Twenty divided by 31.1 is 0.643 troy ounces. Multiply that by 0.583 purity, and you arrive at 0.375 ounces of pure gold. At a spot price of $4,000, the melt value is about $1,500.

How to Turn Gold Coins and Jewelry? *(continued)*

Coins and Jewelry Are Priced on Different Logic

Bullion coins are pure commodity. Their weight and purity are guaranteed by government mints, so dealers resell them easily and might pay close to spot.

Jewelry is messier: purity varies, stones and clasps get deducted, and scrap gold must be refined before it is sellable metal again—buyers discount for that cost. But jewelry has a second path that coins do not. A signed designer piece or a well-made antique can be worth more sold as jewelry than melted. Have a beautiful piece that bears a maker's mark or a recognizable designer name? Price it both ways before letting anyone treat it as scrap.

Get two or three quotes, and tell each buyer you are getting others. Remember that saying no to a buyer is permissible. Reputable dealers quote without obligation and do not pressure you to sell on the spot.

The TWO Mistakes That Cost Families the Most

Mistake one: Melting before checking. Some coins and older pieces carry collector value far above their metal content. Pre-1933 US gold coins, unusual dates and mint marks, coins in graded holders or original packaging, and anything your relative stored separately or documented all deserve a look from a professional numismatist before any smelter is involved. An appraisal costs little and protects a value that is destroyed permanently the moment the piece is melted. And never clean coins; collectors pay for original surfaces, and scrubbing can erase hundreds of dollars in seconds.

Mistake two: Ignoring the tax rules that favor you. Inherited assets receive a stepped-up basis: for tax purposes, your cost resets to the gold's fair market value on the date of death. If you sell soon after inheriting, any taxable gain is measured only from that date, which often means little or no capital-gains tax, even if your parent bought the gold decades ago for a fraction of today's price. Only appreciation after the date of death is taxable. Get a written date-of-death valuation and keep your sale receipts; together, they prove your basis and the amount of gain.

FAQs About Selling Inherited Gold

Do I Owe Taxes if I Sell Gold Right After Inheriting It?

Answer: Usually little or none. The stepped-up basis resets your cost to the gold's market value on the date of death, so a prompt sale produces almost no taxable gain regardless of what the original owner paid. You only owe capital gains tax on appreciation that happens after you inherit, and that is taxed at the collectibles rate of up to 28 percent if held over a year. Keep a written date-of-death valuation to document your basis.

How to Turn Gold Coins and Jewelry *(continued)*

How Do I Know if Inherited Coins Are Worth More Than Melt Value?

Look for signs of collector value: Again, US coins minted before 1933, unusual dates or mint marks, pieces in graded plastic holders from major services like PCGS or NGC, coins in original government packaging, and anything the previous owner stored or documented separately can indicate additional value. When in doubt, pay a professional numismatist for an appraisal before selling anything for melt.

What Percentage of the Spot Price Is a Fair Offer?

For widely recognized bullion coins, expect offers within a few percentage points of spot from a reputable dealer; anything less than roughly 5 percent below spot deserves a second quote. For scrap jewelry, offers discount for refining, but you should still receive a strong majority of the calculated melt value. Offers 20 percent or more below melt are the pattern consumer investigators flag repeatedly at cash-for-gold operations. Multiple quotes are your best protection.

Is It Better to Sell to a Local Dealer or Online?

Both can work well. A local coin dealer offers same-day payment, in-person evaluation, and the chance to compare quotes easily. Established online bullion dealers publish their buyback prices, which are often competitive, but you must ship the gold insured and wait for payment. Avoid mail-in cash-for-gold services, which are a different business entirely.

This information in this article was obtained from the internet at: https://www.theepochtimes.com/bright/selling-the-familys-gold-how-to-turn-inherited-coins-and-jewelry-into-a-fair-price-6068195? The opinions expressed are those of the authors and are meant for general informational purposes only and should not be construed or interpreted as a recommendation or solicitation.

The Tax Surprise: When Gold Profits are Taxed at 28%

If you bought gold during its 2023–2026 rally, you may be sitting on a large profit— and a tax rule you have never heard of. The IRS classifies physical gold, and even the popular bullion-backed gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs), as collectibles, a category shared with art, stamps, and antiques. Long-term gains on physical gold and bullion-backed ETFs are taxed as collectibles: at your ordinary income tax rate, capped at a maximum of 28 percent. That cap is the part many investors misunderstand and what a lot of media coverage gets wrong. If you are in the 12 percent bracket, you pay 12 percent, not 28 percent. The 28 percent figure only bites investors whose ordinary rate would otherwise be higher, and it compares unfavorably to the 15 or 20 percent long-term rates on gains on stocks.

The Tax Surprise *(continued)*

Investors should be aware of two important details about the 28% tax rate:

- It's a ceiling, not a flat rate. Long-term collectibles gains are taxed at whatever your ordinary rate is, up to 28 percent. Many retirees selling in a modest-income year owe far less than the headline rate.
- It only applies after one year. If you sell gold that was held for a year or less, the gain is short-term, taxed as plain ordinary income with no cap benefit at all. For someone in the 35 percent bracket, selling a month early costs more in tax than if they were to wait another month.

The Same "Gold" is Taxed Three Different Ways

What You Own	How the IRS Sees It	Maximum Long-Term Rate
Coins, bars, jewelry, bullion-backed ETFs	Collectible	28 Percent
Old mining stocks and mining funds	Ordinary Securities	15 or 20 percent
Future-based gold funds	Section 1256 contract, blended 60/40 treatment	Roughly 26.8 percent blended

The ETF row surprises the most people. Funds that hold physical bars in a vault are typically structured as grantor trusts, so the IRS looks straight through the fund wrapper to the metal inside. You never touched a coin, but you are taxed as if you had.
Mining stocks, by contrast, are shares of companies, taxed like any other stock. Gold in a traditional IRA or 401(k) is generally taxed as ordinary income when withdrawn, not at the collectibles rate. Roth treatment differs.

Cost Basis: Where Sellers Save or Lose Thousands

You are taxed on the gain, not the sale price, and the gain depends on your cost basis. Basis generally starts with what you actually paid for the gold, including any dealer premium and applicable acquisition costs, not merely the spot price. A seller who reports only the spot price on the purchase date overpays.

The classic problem arises from coins bought for cash years ago. If you cannot document what you paid, the IRS may treat your basis as zero and tax the entire sale price. Before selling, gather what you can:

- Dealer invoices and receipts, the gold standard of proof
- Credit card or bank statements showing the purchase
- Records of dates acquired, so you can reconstruct the price/premium from that day

Even partial reconstruction beats nothing, and a folder of paperwork assembled before the sale is worth thousands after it.

The Tax Surprise *(continued)*

FAQs About the Gold Collectibles Tax Rate

Does Everyone Pay 28 Percent on Gold Profits?

Answer: The 28 percent figure is a maximum, not a flat rate. Long-term gains on gold are taxed at your ordinary income rate, capped at 28 percent, so a seller in the 12 or 22 percent bracket pays that lower rate. The cap only matters for investors whose ordinary rate would exceed 28 percent. Short-term gains, on gold held for a year or less, get no cap at all and are taxed as regular income.

Are Gold ETFs Really Taxed as Collectibles?

Answer: The physically backed gold ETFs are taxed as collectibles. ETFs that hold bullion in vaults are generally structured as grantor trusts, so shareholders are treated as owning a slice of the metal itself, and long-term gains face the collectibles rate of up to 28 percent. Funds that hold mining stocks are taxed as ordinary equity funds at 15 or 20 percent. Check the fund's tax documentation before assuming, because the ticker alone does not tell you.

What If I Have No Receipts for Gold I Bought in Cash?

Answer: Act before you sell. Search for any payment records, dealer correspondence, or notes establishing when you bought your gold, then reconstruct the price and typical premium from that date. Documented partial basis is far better than none, because without any support, the IRS can treat your basis as zero and tax the full sale amount. For large holdings, a tax professional can help you build a defensible basis file.

Does the IRS Know When I Sell Gold?

Answer: Form 1099-B reporting depends on the transaction, the dealer's status as a broker, the form of the metal, and applicable quantity thresholds. Current IRS instructions provide exceptions for many precious-metals sales, including transactions below the minimum quantity required for a CFTC-approved regulated futures contract (CFTC stands for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission); related sales within 24 hours, however, may be aggregated. Regardless of whether a Form 1099-B is issued, you must report a taxable gain or loss.

This information in this article was obtained from the internet at: https://www.theepochtimes.com/bright/the-gold-tax-surprise-when-gold-profits-get-taxed-at-28-percent-6073647? The opinions expressed are those of the authors and are meant for general informational purposes only and should not be construed or interpreted as a recommendation or solicitation.

October 2026 Special Events

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

November 2026 Special Events

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

Editor's Notes



Ray Darragh, DGD Gazette Editor

I hope you are planning on attending the fall overnight outing October 9–11. 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. It's a great opportunity for new members to chat with experienced members and learn prospecting techniques and the best way to use equipment, as well as how and where to find gold on our claims. Our club members have a wealth of knowledge they are willing to share with new members.

I would like to thank Grady Dees for sharing the story and pictures (p.12) about his prospecting and fishing adventurers in Alaska. If you have a story you would like to share with other club members in the Gazette, please contact me at DGDGazette51@gmail.com.

"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.