

WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

January 2004

Next meeting
January 15, 2004

Presidents Corner

Hello everyone. Wow, another year already gone by and another great one ahead. I would like to thank everyone involved with the Christmas party. The food was great and the gift exchange was fun with plenty of friendly thievery amongst friends. Don topped the day off with a lively game of Bingo. I think it was the best party yet.

This last year had a few bumps and a move to a new meeting place. The website is back up and running at www.wvminers.com.

Everyone that helped with and participated in our outings should give themselves a pat on the back. That's what makes a club fun and what it is all about.

Projects for the coming year:

I plan on getting some high water video and going back to the same areas for a presentation on good stream reading. Additionally, I will be getting more information on natural gemstones; so folks don't throw out these small treasures. Also, Don started a project for year round dredging at WVM #1, which we are going to continue. Don has also arranged for Dave McCracken to come to the March meeting. We need to know how many people plan to attend so we can determine if our room is large enough. We need to know in January so please call or email Don or me.

Happy New Year! Dale

Dale Russell

President Willamette Valley Miners

Outings/Events

Past:

There was a lot of good food at the Christmas Party so if anyone went home hungry it was their own fault. Everyone seemed to have a good time and the gift exchange was a lot of fun. Some got to go home with what they wanted and some got what they wanted stolen but everyone got something. We did miss old friends that did not show up and we hope they will come to some of the other things we have planned for the year.

Future:

Jan The new officers take over at the Jan meeting.

Jan: Dues are due for 2004. This year when you pay your dues, you will get a wallet card with all the years' events and a calendar.

Jan: There are no outings scheduled for this month.

Feb 7 & 8 Sportsman show at Expo Center, Portland. If anyone would like to help out at the booth contact Sue Buchholz.

The new Events calendar for 2004 is in this news letter. We have some new and lots of old events you might not want to miss. There are also contact people and their phone number, for each event on the calendar so if you have any questions you can call them. If any of you have more ideas we can fit in to the calendar, let someone from the outings or events committee know. We are always looking for new ideas.

Officers & Committees

President

Dale Russell
503-363-4795

Vice President

Don Hammer
541-924-0620

Secretary

Juel Russell
juelanddale@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Trudy Schrader
503-859-3132

Government Affairs

Tom Quintal
503-371-9747

Claims Committee

Larry Coon
Joe Garcia
Don Hammer
Rick Nelson
Don Smith
Todd Stutzman
Will Winslow

Events Committee

Mary Atkinson
Joe & Shirley Garcia
Don Hammer
Clarence Janzen
Wes Jeffers
Dale Russell
Gary & Trudy Schrader
Gary Wolf

Outings Committee

Joe & Shirley Garcia
Don Hammer
Wes Jeffers
Rick Nielson
Dale Russell
Gary Schrader
Diane Smith
Cliff Winston

Program Committee

Wes Jeffers
Diane Smith

Web Site Committee

Don Hammer
Wayne Nisbet
Dale Russell
James Scales
Diane Smith
Cliff Winston

News Letter Editor

Mary Atkinson
alderslope@proaxis.com

Trudy Schrader
gldlooker@msn.com

Items for news letter in
by 1st of Month

Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2003
Mary Atkinson, Secretary

- Meeting attendance and committee sign-up sheets were circulated.
- November meeting minutes were accepted as written.
- Change in Club by-laws – motion carried unanimously. See newsletter for the current Club Constitution.
- Treasurer's Report – begin with \$3,669.16 and end with \$3,599.80
- Year-end auditors' report – Diane S., Marge M. and Trudy S. met and will finalize the report when we get our next bank statement.
- GPAA Gold Show on March 13 & 14 – Clarence J. reports that the booth cost is \$175, which is up \$25 from last year. Motion passed to share a booth with Linn County and split the cost.
- Metal detecting outing on Feb. 21st. We have permission to detect at Guthrie Park, which was an old school 5 miles south of Dallas and is privately owned. Contact Clarence J. for more information.
- Next year's calendar will be posted on the internet soon.
- Calendar will also go in next newsletter.
- Meeting room – we will be staying in the same room.
- March 18 meeting our guest speaker will be Dave McCracken, a well-known gold prospector and author. We may try and get the bigger meeting room next door and trade places with the hunters group.
- Meeting adjourned and we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas meal and slide show of the past years events. Thanks to all those who helped set up for the Christmas party and for putting the slide presentation together.

RAFFLES

The club has 3 raffles to help raise funds.

1. The Table Raffle is held monthly and consists of members bringing in items to donate. These items can be related to mining, camping or anything else. Items include magazines, gold pans, homemade mining tools, books, video, caps, nick-knacks, etc. Tickets are sold for \$1 each. Please remember to bring an item each month. These funds help pay for our mailings.
2. The Small Item Raffle has historically been a silver round but has also included a small nugget. The cost is \$1 per ticket or 7 tickets for \$5. This drawing is held once we have made 15% profit on the item.
3. The Large Item Raffle is currently a highbanker/dredge combo produced by member Louie Frick. Tickets are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. The drawing is held once we have made 15% profit on the item.

Note – occasionally tickets are sold for other raffles that benefit various mining groups. Please support the club and other raffles, as this is an important way to raise money.

In order to draw for the highbanker/dredge combo at the Jan meeting, we need \$12.00 more in ticket sales.

Important information on new 3809 regulations.

If you can hang on to your old Notice of intent under the old 43cfr3809 regulations, do it. BLM knows it cannot arbitrarily shut you down under the old regulation, but they certainly think they can shut you down under the new regulations. We may all have to file Plans of Operation to continue to explore and develop our claims, but for now, if you can keep your old notice, you will be able to keep mining.

From the Eastern Oregon Mining Association news letter

Please look at the Committees and names in this news letter and let me know if you want to be on or off any of them. I know we have been asking at meetings but just in case we missed anyone this is last call. If I hear nothing it will stay as printed. Trudy

CONSTITUTION OF WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS CLUB

PURPOSE: To keep alive the spirit, and preserve the rights and privileges of all miners and prospectors, by encouraging small-scale mining and helping establish a positive image of today's mineral prospectors and miners.

Article I. **National Cooperation:** Members are encouraged to support and join other similar organizations.

Article II. **Membership & Dues:**

Section I. **Membership:** Membership is open to all.

Section II. **Dues:** Annual dues to be a donation for an individual or families, including children under 18 years living in the same household. Dues for Officers are waived for the year holding office.

Article III. **Regular Club Meetings:**

Section I. **Timing:** Regular club meetings shall be held.

Section II. **Transactions:** A quorum of seven members shall be required to hold a regular club meeting for transaction of legal, binding club business.

Special Meeting: Legal business, urgent matters require 7 members, consisting of at least 2 officers and 5 members. Officer calling the meeting has to contact as many officers and members needed for the meeting.

Section III. **Guests:** Guests are welcome at any regular club meeting. During outings guests must be invited by a paid member. Member shall be responsible for their guest.

Article IV. **Duties of club officers**

Section I. **President:** Facilitates meetings, coordinates information to members. co-sign checks as approved, assists political committee activities. Conducts meetings in an organized manner.

Vice - President: Shall perform the duties of the President, in his/her absence.

Secretary: Takes minutes of meetings, mails completed minutes and monthly meeting notice, assists with correspondence projects: copies, etc.. co-signs checks as approved.

Treasurer: Maintains financial records, Reports fiscal status every meeting, maintains records of dues, co-signs checks as approved.

Auditors: 2 auditors shall be selected from the club membership at large. The auditors shall audit, sign, and date the treasurers books before they are presented to the club at the first meeting of the annual year.

Board of Directors: Shall consist of the elected Officers and the immediate past officers.

Section II. **Elections:** Election of officers shall be held every year at the regular November meeting by active members.

Time to take office: All appointees, shall assume their duties in January.

Term Limits: Officers may hold a position for 2 terms. Then they must vacate that position for 1 year, however, they may accept another position during that time.

Vacancies: Vacancies occurring prior to the regular election shall be filled by election at the next regular club meeting following the vacancy The board of directors shall have the responsibility of declaring an office vacant when it is determined that the necessary duties of that office has not been, or can not be fulfilled.

Registered Agent: An active member shall be designated as the registered agent Responsibilities are to be primary contact of Incorporation paperwork. Annual corporate filing with the Corporation Division of the Secretary of State.

Article V. **Financial:**

Section 1. **Fiscal year vs. Annual Year:** The club fiscal year shall extend from December 1 thru November 30. The clubs annual year shall extend from January 1 thru December 31.

Section II. **Expenditure Signature Requirements:** All checks shall have 2 (two) signatures. No related officers can sign the same check. Payee shall not be a cosigner of any club check.

Section III. **Expenditure Signature Requirements** Approved signatures on club checks shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer.

Article VI. **Amendments:** This constitution may be amended at any legally constituted regular club meeting by a 2/3 vote of the members present, provided such amendment has been submitted to the membership in writing at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Article VII. **Non-Profit Article of Incorporation**

Section 1 **Dispersal of Club assets:** In the event of dissolution of the club, all assets will be dispersed to an established mining organization actively involved in promoting mining interests. The mining organization will be determined by a majority vote at the last regular club meeting.

Revised 12/03

The Northwest is—Placer Gold Country

Lost Treasure magazine 1987

The northwest part of the country, especially the mother-lode area of California, received devastating rains during the 1986 winter period. Heavy flow from the torrential rains plunged down every creek, stream, and river, carrying placer gold of every imaginable size with it. Dry stream beds, which seldom carry water, have received great amounts of surging, agitating water action that has uprooted long standing placer gravel beds.

The heavy water flow originated high on the sides of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Flowing downward, it joined the extensive rainfall that swept across the hills. Streams clogged and filled to over capacity. Water in hundreds of creeks backed up. The churning and revolving action produced by the water stirred, lifted and upheaved the river bottoms. This action disrupted the long established stream bed aggregate that held the placer gold in riffle places. The gravel bars, sand spits and heavy rocks were dislodged and sent, literally, floating downriver.

This tremendous water force was more powerful than the hydraulic water nozzles once used in the mother lode country years ago. Under these drastic weather conditions, the nearby igneous rocks, close to the adjacent waterways, were thoroughly exposed to intense washing activity and released crystals, grains and bean-size platinum nuggets.

Platinum was exposed by the pounding of the heavy rains and floated down the placer gravel aggregate accompanied by many different sizes of gold nuggets, in proportion to their gravity weight.

Platinum, that normal rains and washing didn't dislodge before, has now been moved by the grinding action that was necessary for replenishing the placer gravels.

Tertiary gravel beds were washed by churning action; the effect was like a giant gold pan in the hands of a giant panning for gold.

Forty-niners cleaned out every creek in the low hills of this region. Until now, they have never been replenished with placer gold. The heaps of sluiced aggregate created by the 49ers has moved on, and the land has reclaimed a new shape with new deposits of placer gold.

Tremendous nugget finds from the winter rains have been reported in the mother lode area. Today, the Sierra Nevada mountains certainly are the treasure hunters' golden dreams. With the snow run off destined to begin its annual clean up period, the additional laying of placer gold will create and double new discoveries for several seasons to come.

Today, with the help of metal detectors that offer a large variety of options, and the help of this unprecedented event, treasure hunters will have very little difficulty finding gold everywhere throughout the area.

While searching and panning for gold, be sure to save all the chips of jade that show up in the gold pan or sluice boxes. Later, you will find a ready market for them.

The 49ers used to throw the jade away or simply bypass it. The Chinese followed behind the 49ers and gleaned all the jade they could find. They sent it back to China, where many of them became wealthy.

The Chinese hid their jade collection because many of them were threatened, killed or chased off. This is the reason many of these caches were lost or forgotten. The ghost towns of the western United States and Canada hold many such caches waiting to be found.

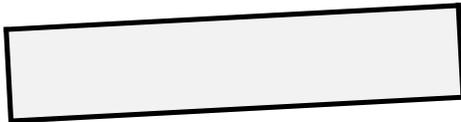
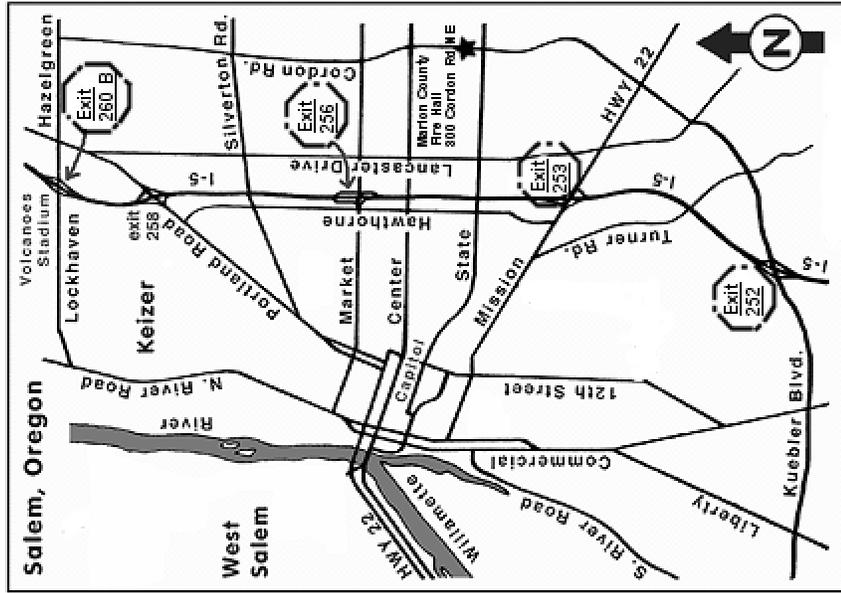
This year, individuals searching for gold have had all the erosion elements that have produced just the right conditions for placer gold availability.

Renewed, resupplied and redistributed placer gold increases the odds for everyone to achieve results with their metal detectors, surface dredges, gold pans, sluice boxes, and rockers.

The preceding information of winter runoff will never be outdated. We periodically have a winter with a lot of snow and heavy rains, which causes heavy runoff. This not only moves material, exposing accessible gold, but also gem stones.

At this year's coming workshop we will add information on natural Oregon gem stones, what they look like, and where to find them. --Dale

We Meet at
Marion County Fire Hall
300 Cordon Rd NE
Salem OR
the
Third Thursday of the month
Unless otherwise noted



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