

Officers & Committees

P r e s i d e n t

Dale Russell
503-363-4795

Vice President

Don Hammer
541-924-0620

S e c r e t a r y

Juel Russell
juelanddale@hotmail.com

T r e a s u r e r

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**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

February 2004

Next meeting
Feb 19, 2004

Presidents Corner

Hi everyone. Well, from the looks of the calendar we are going to have a busy year.

We have the Sportsman Show Feb 5-8. Thanks to those who volunteered to help at the Northwest Mineral Prospectors' booth. On Feb 21st we have our first metal detecting outing so tune up and get batteries.

Enclosed in this issue is information on our March meeting with Dave McCracken. A few folks might want to bring a chair or two in case it should be standing room only.

We also need volunteers for the upcoming GPAA show March 13 and 14. See you at the meeting. Dale

Outings/Events

Past:

There were no Outings or Events in January.

Future:

Feb Dues are due for 2004. (\$15.00)

This year when you pay your dues you will get a wallet card with a calendar and all the years' events. If your dues are not in by end of Feb. this will be your last news letter.

Feb 19 Club meeting.

Feb 21 Metal Detecting (10.00 am) @ Gunthre Park, Dallas

Contact for outing: (Clarence Janzen – 503-508-3736)

Park is 4 miles South of Dallas on the Kings Valley Falls City Hwy. SR #213.

There will be a WVM sign out by the park.

March 13-14 GPAA Show @ Salem Fair Grounds

We need helpers both days. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting or call one of the Events Committee members to let them know you can help and when.

We have shifts set up for 9-2 & 2-5 or you can help all day if you want. There will be time to walk around and see all the other good stuff.

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming --

WOW -- What a Ride! "

Anonymous

Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2004
Juel Russell, Secretary

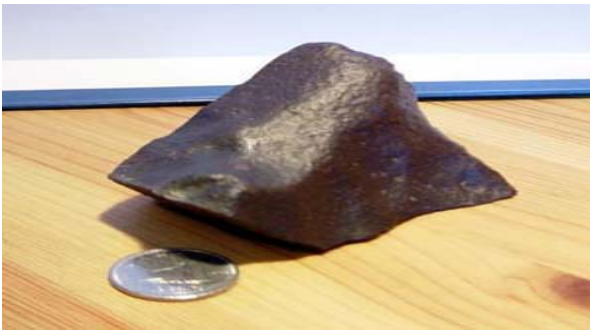
- Meeting attendance sign-up sheet was circulated. There were 46 people present.
 - Welcome to everyone in the new year. Officers were introduced.
 - Introduction of all in attendance.
 - December meeting minutes were accepted as written.
 - Treasurer's Report – beginning balance of \$3,599.80 and ending balance of \$3,162.23.
 - Northwest Mineral Prospectors needs volunteers to help at their booth during the Sportsman Show at the Expo Center Feb 4-8. People interested in volunteering were asked to sign up at the break.
 - A discussion was held on the GPAA show in March. Linn County Miners invited us again this year to share a booth. Renting a corner booth versus a regular booth was discussed. There is a \$50 difference in the two booths. A motion was made and carried to rent a corner booth. The events committee set a meeting for Feb 7 to make plans for the booth.
 - Year-end auditor's report- December has been reviewed and everything is ok.
 - The club calendars are here. Everyone who has paid dues for 2004 should get one.
 - Gary and Trudy S. have purchased many prizes for the year. They got most of them for free. Bertha donated some jewelry for prizes. A request was made for additional prizes for the treasure hunt.
 - Trudy thanked everyone who has donated paper and cartridges for the newsletters. Additional donations are welcomed.
 - Dale received an email from the Detroit ranger station asking if we would be interested in helping with river cleanup from May 15-23. Dale has requested additional information and will report it at the next meeting. Several people expressed interesting helping.
 - A reminder that small scale mining forms need to be filed by the end of the month. Dale had copies available at the break. He also offered forms for people to keep track of what they find and where.
 - Tom Q. announced there is an Oregon Scenic Waterway Meeting tomorrow, Jan 16 from 10-4. Guests are welcome to attend. He encouraged people to show up if available. He expressed concerns about 2014 and what it might bring. Someone asked what is happening with legislation. Tom will research and report at the next meeting. Tom also requested that others get involved at the Oregon legislature. He said we need bodies there to have an impact. It was suggested that we invite a legislator who might be interested in mining issues to a future meeting. Tom was encouraged to invite someone to our February meeting. Also there is a web page that lists hearing dates and times.
 - The question was raised whether or not we want to support another mining group that does lobby work now that OIM is suspended. Waldo Mining and Eastern Oregon Mining Associations need financial help. Are there people in our group interested in starting a local group? Tom said he has not seen the energy so far. It would take concerned people because he cannot do it alone.
 - Committees- is the list in the news letter correct? No one replied. If the list is not correct please let Trudy or Juel know.
 - Year round dredging at Quartzville. Dale and Don are looking into the possibility. We need clarification on what would happen if we rewrote our plan of operation. We need to set up a meeting with a biologist. The rangers speak highly of our group.
 - Marge made the motion that we give Wes free membership this year because of his loyalty in working the raffle table. The motion passed unanimously.
 - We need someone to be responsible to call and reserve Miners' Meadow for Sept 17-19 on Feb 2nd at 9 am. Bob will try to reserve it when he makes the reservations for June. The cost will be divided between all who camp. We will invite other clubs.
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- The Feb outing is Feb 21 metal detecting at Gunthre Park four miles south of Dallas. Clarence is the contact person.

- The April 10-11 outing is at Beverly Beach. Contact person is Wes J. This year we need to watch the tide tables since we had trouble last year with high tides and logs. Panning and sluicing are allowed (no motors). You do not need a permit for metal detecting on the beach but you will need a permit if you detect in the park – see the local park ranger.
- Mary, Gary and Trudy are cleaning up our club maps. Everyone will get new copies this year.
- A head count was taken for the March meeting with Dave McCracken. The room capacity is 87. We will not move the meeting location. Don will be asked to find out if he needs special equipment for his presentation.
- The drawing for the dredge was held and Ken Haines won. Don H., who has the dredge, was not at the meeting so arrangements will be made to get the dredge to Ken.
- Do we want to continue with the raffle table? Do we want a new large raffle item? We could change to a 50/50 table for a while. The discussion will be revisited at the next meeting.
- The meeting was turned over to Wes for the raffle.

Do You Think You Found A Meteorite?*

Cliff Winston, dba Cliff's Discount Detectors

Do you think you found a meteorite? Here are a few things to help you out. This first example I got a few years ago due to it's thumbprints also know as regmaglypts. If you find a rock with what looks like thumbprints all over and is attracted to a magnet it may be worth getting it looked at by someone in the field.



Fusion crust is the burned part on the outside of a meteorite. It is caused by the heat of entry into our atmosphere. Over time they loose the nice black crust from the effect of weather. Here's a great example, Juancheng H5 meteorite



Another way is to file a corner of the stone off and check for "Chondrules" they are small crystalline spheres that range in size from a fraction of a millimeter to a few millimeters in diameter. Allende CV3 carbonaceous chondrites show chondrules very well.

Here a few more:

Begga LL3 11.1grams



Nadiabondi H5 70.8 grams

Suizhou L6 15.6 grams

Kem-Kem meteorite



Meteorites are the rarest collectible on earth! It's great holding something in your hand that's older than earth itself.

Here's a quick overview:

:Fresh meteorites will have a black surface.

:Weathered meteorites will appear brown or rusty.

:Meteorites usually have a smooth surface with rounded corners. They are never porous like lava.

:The surface of most meteorites if they have fallen recently will have a "fusion crust," caused by burning in the upper atmosphere.

:Indentations called "thumb prints" or "regmaglypts" are also common. Looks like they were made by someone pushing their thumbs into clay.

:The interior colors when filing off a corner will reveal tiny silver-metallic flecks.

:Magnets are almost always attracted to meteorites.

*Information gleaned from the internet

Some information on Oregon gold found at:

http://www.iowagold.net/iowagolddotnet/WHERE_TO_FIND_GOLD_USA_PAGES/oregon_gold.htm

For those of us with internet this is a interesting site to explore.

Oregon is a great place to look for gold. The Northeastern and Southwestern corners of the state are the best places to look. Oregon has produced almost 6,000,000 ounces of recorded gold findings.

MARION COUNTY OREGON

22 miles SE of Salem on the Little North Fork of the Santiam River placer gold can be found. This belt overlaps into Linn and Clackamas Counties. In T8S R4E & R5E There was roughly 1,000 ounces of gold produced from the Black Eagle, Capital, Crown and Silver King Group of Mines. The Little North Fork of the Santiam contains some very fine particles of gold.

Little North Fork of Santiam River

I have made several trips over the years and sometimes have found abundant colors. On one trip with my cousin from Salem, we got into a shallow bar over bedrock and got lots of decent sized flakes plus several little pieces that rolled rather than slid in the pan when you tilted it enough. Nearby, this cousin with his brother found 5 small nuggets under a large boulder on bedrock that they pried out of position. One was pea-sized. I saw it and it was a pretty piece. Overall, in my experience, gold is harder to find in this stream than in the Calapooya (my favorite river) or Quartzville Creek but just wanted you to know that better than fine flakes is available here.

LINN COUNTY OREGON

Quartzville Creek

In Quartzville Creek and its tributaries there is abundant place colors and flakes. The BLM operates "The Quartzville Recreation Corridor" and this is a great place to learn how to gold mine. They operate a 19 mile section of Quartzville Creek that is closed to mineral entry, but it is open to recreational mining using pans, sluices, dredges, etc.. Contact BLM for more information. There were also many area mines in the past that were minor lode producers.

Calapooya River

The Calapooya River is a popular river for dredging, panning and sniping gold. See Lane County, Blue River District for more information.

Blue River

Well east of Springfield on U.S. 126, this district overlaps into Linn County. The Total Production between 1887-1959 was 10,200 ounces of lode gold. The Lucky Boy Mine is 14 patented claims lapping into Linn County. See Linn County for more information.

How To Find Your Own Gold!



International gold prospector, treasure hunter and author, **Dave McCracken**, will be the guest speaker at the Willamette Valley Miners meeting on Thursday, March 18th at 7:00 PM. The event will be held at the Morningside Fire Dept. 300 Cordon Road NE, Salem, OR. The meeting is open to the public.

McCracken, best-selling author of “*Gold Mining in the 21st Century*” and numerous other books and how-to video productions, combines many years of successful gold prospecting experience from numerous places around the world to outline the most important fundamentals and tie them together with a prospecting system that will inspire you to go out and find your own gold.

He is a former Navy Seal who began small-scale gold mining at the bottom of California’s rivers in 1979, and has since traveled the world over looking for gold and treasure.

McCracken was the editor and publisher of “*Gold & Treasure Hunter Magazine*,” which was recognized as one of the most informative and interesting industry publications in the world on the subjects of small-scale gold mining and treasure hunting. He says that anyone can strike it rich in fun and adventure (and sometimes-even gold), if you just get off to the right start.

McCracken’s best personal day in gold mining was 2 pounds of gold, including a 15 1/2 –ounce gold nugget. He will bring some of his own treasures to display at the event.

Date: Thursday – March 18th, 2004

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Morningside Fire Department
300 Cordon Road N.E.
Salem, OR

Contact: Don Hammer (541) 924-0620

Event sponsored by **Willamette Valley Miners**