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Don Hammer
Wes Jeffers
Janie Miller
Gary & Trudy Schrader
Diane Smith
Gary Wolf
Cliff Winston

Programs

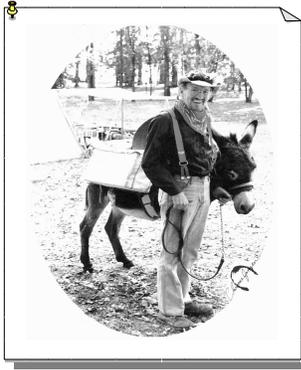
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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

April 2005

Next meeting

April 21, 2005
7:00 pm

President's Report

First off, I'd like to apologize to those members who experienced "standing room" only at the March meeting. Hopefully we'll have that corrected by the April meeting.

I thought March was going to be a full month, I didn't realize just how full! What with the GPAA Gold Show, meetings and presentation planning, and dealing with the lingering political issues – well, maybe things will settle down a little in April. I'm looking forward to the outing at Beverly Beach later this month. Unfortunately the weather got in the way of the WVM#1 cleanup day. I spoke to a couple brave souls who went. They reported that the Dry Gulch was not so dry! We had a couple new club members work our new claims on Dad's Creek (WVM#2 and WVM#3). Hopefully they will share their adventure during the meeting.

The White's metal detector is getting close to being raffled off so make sure you make the April meeting. We have a fine program planned also (see details in the newsletter.)

Let's go find some gold!

Outings/Events

April 23-24 – Beverly Beach - Wes Jeffers – 503-266-5270

May 7 – Basic Mining Workshop – Paul Messersmith - 541-926-8153
Map to workshop in news letter.

April Guest Speaker

Presenter: Mr. Tom Bohmker
Topic: Cascade Mountains Gold

Tom is a small mine consultant, publisher, and specimen gold collector. After college he worked as a miner, mill right, mining technician, mine operator and small mine consultant at gold, silver, mercury, and coal mines in 11 western states, Alaska, and Venezuela. He's authored four books on gold mining including the "Gold Panner's Guide" series, and has published several booklets and articles in trade magazines.

His presentation will include: Important historical events and gold discoveries in Oregon. Tom will cover Eastern Oregon and Southern Oregon to include Pocket Gold Hunting and Underground Mining. Hopefully Tom will bring some of his published materials to give us an opportunity to peruse them.

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2005

Ken Haines, Secretary

The March general meeting of the Willamette Valley Miners was brought to order by president, Paul Messersmith at 7:00 p.m. at the Marion county fire hall, 300 Cordon road NE in Salem, Oregon.

The minutes from the February general meeting were approved as read.

The president thanked those that were able to help at the Willamette Valley Miners booth during the GPAA Gold show. Thanks to special efforts by our members, and the new sign ups at the show, Willamette Valley Miners now has 123 paid members. Welcome, to our new members.

The sign up sheet for helpers at the upcoming Rickreall Gem Show was sent around. Please feel free to take this opportunity to meet miners, rock hounds and young people that share our interests.

Please check out the list of mining equipment that Dale Russell is offering for sale. Copies of the list will be available for review at the next meeting.

Cathy Summers from the Albany Research Center of the department of Energy, formerly the U S Bureau of Mines, gave all in attendance an overview of the work that is conducted today by that organization. Cathy is a geologist with hands on experience in many of the projects conducted both past and present at the research center. Thank you Cathy for the interesting program.

Paul Messersmith and Tom Quintal reported on the ongoing government affairs and miners rights issues that we have all been following. Get involved where you can to help preserve miners rights to access and prospect on government lands and now even our own placer claims.

All the signs are now posted on the WVM#2 and the WVM#3 claims on Dads creek.

The copier that is used for the newsletters is on the blink again and the group passed a motion for the executive committee to research and take care of the issue to preserve the monthly publication.

The web site was discussed again and is a work in progress, please have patience.

The monthly raffle for the gold nuggets, along with the other raffle items, was held just prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

See you at the next meeting.

Good Prospecting.

2005 GPAA Gold Show

Our club benefited greatly from this year's gold show. Overall I believe attendance was down for the whole show but our booth was busy from the opening bell. The coin drop was again a great hit and, of course, we made a few bucks. We raffled a \$5.00 US Mint gold coin which did pretty well also. The highlight, however, was that we took in about 35 new members. WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

I'd like to offer a special thank you to all those who volunteered from setup to takedown. That certainly contributed to the success and it made all of our jobs easier. GPAA donated some articles for our club's raffle so be on the lookout for those at the coming meetings. Now it's on to Rickreall!

A true friend is someone who thinks you are a good egg even though they know you are slightly cracked."

Government Affairs update

by Tom Quintal.

DEQ's 700J permit

We are still working with DEQ on the permit but have nothing new to report .

Also working on North Santiam claim/Forest Service problem.

Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is mystery.
Today is a gift.

Name Tags

I have name tags for the following people: Homer Tjaarda, John Schoonover, Tyra Sanders, Dave Sanders, and John Mack. Please pick them up from me at the April Meeting. Thanks – Paul

NorthWest Mineral Prospectors Club

<http://www.nwmpc.com/forum>

We have Three Forums that are used by members and guests, to talk about prospecting or what ever.

1. Metal Detecting Forum, people interested in metal detecting and treasure hunting.
 2. Rockhounding Forum, for Rock, Gems, Minerals, and Fossils Collecting.
 3. Items for Sale, Trade or Wanted.
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THANK YOU to Cindy F for all the sucker tubes she donated to the club. They will be a great help at the shows.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Quartzville Equipment and Metal Detector Demonstrations

Quartzville (about mile 19-20)

June 4th, 2005

Co-sponsored by:

Fine Recovery and Oregon Prospecting

Louie Frick will be demonstrating Fine Recovery equipment.

Steve Houston will be on hand for Metal detector demonstrations for White's, Fisher, Minelab or Tesoro. So bring your detector.

This is an informal, bring your own lunch gathering.

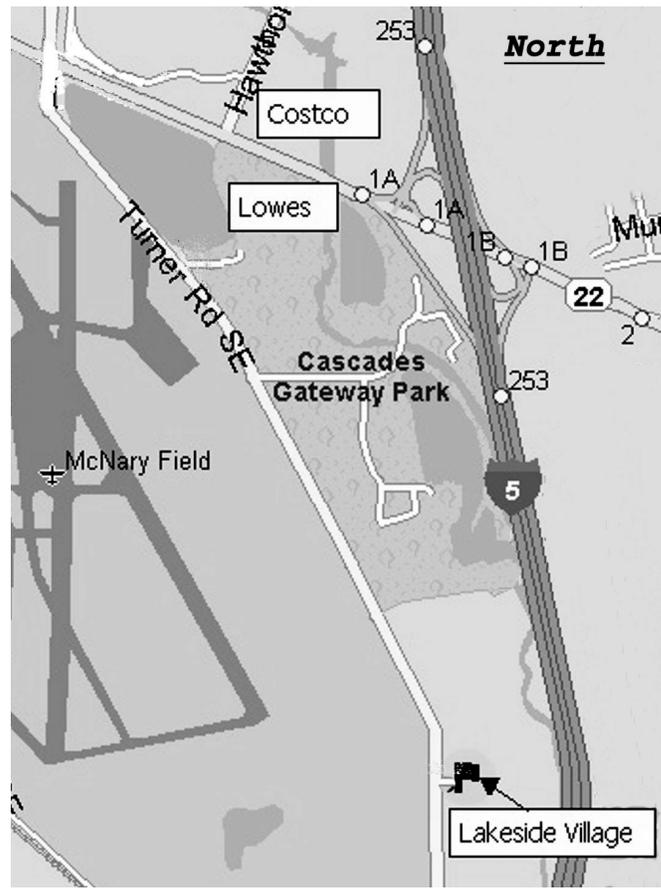
For those that attended last year we will set up at the same area. Camping room is available.

Contact Louie Frick or Rita @ Oregon Prospecting to get signed up.

Oregon Prospecting 541-367-2237

The May Workshop

The workshop will be held at Lakeside Village Recreation Building in the day room.



The work shop is a good chance for everyone to learn a little more about mining and get any of your questions answered.

Gold Panning & Prospecting Mistakes from **Gold Fever Prospecting** web site

Not Seasoning Your Gold Pan

The newer models of plastic gold pans will have a sheen on them from the manufacturing process. Water will tend to pool and bubble on top rather move freely over the surface. Rough up your gold pan thoroughly using gravel and rough sand to let your gold pan work at peak efficiency.

Not Knowing How Gold Accumulates - Learn to Concentrate Your Efforts

The best places to find gold exist where turbulence changes to slower-moving water flow. Check out slower water below rapids and waterfalls, deep pools, and the downstream side of boulders. Inside bends of meanders, upstream ends of sand or 'point' bars are good places to pan fine gold, which is renewed yearly during runoff. Bedrock crevices or pockets acting as natural riffles can collect gold. Scoop out and pan material from these spots.

Not digging deep enough

All too often I have seen people new to prospecting wasting their efforts by scooping up material from the surface of the river bank. Gold is heavy - it will sink to the lowest possible point over time. Most gold may be found on top of the bedrock of the river. Concentrate your efforts on working the material just above the hard pack or bedrock. Ignore the loose material on top - this is just "overburden" and likely contains little to no gold. Now, some gold may be found in the loose top material but it is surely far less than what can be found deeper. (Note: the reverse may be true just after flood season when the gold may be churned up and moved closer to the surface. Over time though this gold too will also sink lower.)

Consider the following: any gold found in the top layers of material will likely be fairly new gold - gold that has just been deposited. Now imagine hundreds perhaps thousands of years where Mother Nature has worked its magic through breaking down tons of rocks and minerals and depositing gold throughout the river bed. Over time, gold, being heavy, will sink through the lighter top material and concentrate near the bottom of the river bed - just on top of the bedrock. Get down to this bedrock and be rewarded.

If digging a hole down to bedrock is impractical due to depth or is just not your style, you can still be very productive. Try crevicing or sniping for gold. Look for cracks in the bedrock where gold may have become lodged. Use small hand tools such as garden trowels, flat head screw drivers, dental picks, and scrapers to remove material from these areas and pan this material out.

Not Respecting Mother Nature

Recreational gold panning is a privilege. One that is sadly becoming more and more rare thanks to the efforts of the "ecoterrorists". Keep some simple ideas in mind when prospecting and help keep these people of our backs.

Here are some tips from the USGS: "Be aware that some types of panning, sluicing, and suction dredging can adversely affect water quality, thereby impacting vegetation, fish, wildlife, and ultimately people.

During the process of separating soil from minerals, silt may be washed into streams, creating turbid water. Fish, fish eggs, and the aquatic insects have difficulty living in heavily silted water because of its reduced oxygen supply.

Avoid washing soil and vegetation into streams, and do not dig in stream banks. This increases silt in the stream and is also dangerous. Many banks are unstable and can slide without warning.

To reduce silt, dig only in active stream gravels.

Return rocks or boulders moved during your efforts to their original positions. Aquatic insects, an important food source for salmon, often make their homes under these rocks. A little care will help ensure a healthy water ecosystem for both miners and anglers."

GROUND BALANCE — WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?*

Cliff's Metal Detectors

If you were to ask 100 treasure hunters what ground balancing was and how it affected their detector's performance in the field, you'd probably get 99 different answers.

Most of us take the ability of a detector to ignore or compensate for ground mineralization for granted since even most low-end detectors incorporate some form of ground balance circuitry in their design. But, it was in the mid-1970s when the first detectors were released with ground balancing capabilities and it quickly revolutionized the industry. No longer were detectors limited to a few inches of detection depth when used in areas of even moderate ground mineralization and many "worked-out" areas produced coins, jewelry and

artifacts in greater numbers than when they had been hunted initially with earlier detectors. The new detectors utilized a lower frequency than others on the market and were identifiable by the designation “Very Low Frequency” or “VLF” for short. It did not take long for the older “BFO” (Beat Frequency Oscillator) and “TR” (Transmit-Receive) models to fall out of favor due to the significant improvement in detection depth afforded by the VLF detectors.

The one drawback that early VLF detectors had in the eyes of many detectorists was the need to manually adjust the ground balance circuitry each time one used the detector. This process, while relatively simple, was difficult for some to master and if not done properly, produced rather disappointing results.

As a result, some manufacturers came up with what was called “Automatic” ground balance which was nothing more than removing the adjustable knob for the ground balance control and setting the ground balance level internally at an optimum, pre-defined point. In most cases, this setting was sufficient to allow the detector to ignore most of the mineralization present and provide good overall detection depth. Simple to use, many detectorists preferred this system over the more “complicated” manual process used on other VLF-type detectors.

As time progressed, detector manufacturers incorporated some of the new computer technology into their detectors. Now rather than having to choose between manually adjusting the unit for the mineralization present in the area or settling for a predefined setting which may not be the optimal one for the area being searched, the detector could sense the mineralization and automatically make the necessary adjustment to achieve maximum detection depth.

This is where we are today in terms of ground balance circuitry in detectors currently on the market. When you decide to buy a new detector, you need to determine which of the three types of ground balance circuitry the detector you are looking at has and which of the three has the capabilities you are looking at for the price you want to spend.

Automatic ground balance — This term is often misused in that it leads people to think that the

detector is actually making some type of internal adjustment to compensate for the ground mineralization. Usually this term means that the ground balance control has been set to a point the factory feels will work the best in most areas. While this may work well under most conditions, if the mineralization in the area you plan on using the detector is significantly different than what the factory setting was designed for, the performance of the detector will suffer. The settings vary from manufacturer-to- manufacturer, so don’t dismiss a detector just because it has a preset ground balance setting. I have found that in a given area, one brand with preset ground balance may work quite well while another could barely detect a coin just under the surface. Check with local treasure hunters or dealers to find out what particular make and model has been proven to work in your area.

Manual ground balance — There are still a number of detectors that feature this form of ground balance control. While it does require practice to become proficient, when done properly it not only ensures that you are getting the best performance out of your detector but for certain applications, is almost a necessity. For example, if you are planning on using your detector for electronic prospecting (an area well-suited for today’s metal detectors), being able to manually ground balance is needed in order to locate pockets of black sand which often contain placer gold. A detector with preset ground balance could not be used for this application.

Computerized ground balance — This form of ground balance circuitry is only found on a few of the “high-end” models currently on the market. Incorporating actual computer circuitry, the detector senses the ground mineralization present and automatically compensates for it as the coil is swept from side to side. Since it is continually determining the actual mineralization level, you can be assured of having the precise amount of ground balance needed to allow the detector to ignore the mineralization and get the maximum detection depth possible for the given conditions. If you are hunting in areas of adverse mineralization or where ground conditions change in a short distance, this feature will quickly pay for itself in finds that would otherwise have been missed if one of the other forms of ground balance circuitry was used.

NOTE: If you are not sure if the detector(s) you are looking at has preset or true automatic ground balance, call the manufacturer or your local dealer and ask them.

Hopefully this has clarified the issue of ground balancing and will help you in making your next detector purchase. Before you make your final selection, determine what you will be using the detector for and then see which type of ground balance circuitry will fit your needs as well as your budget.

*From page 56 of the July 1998 issue of *Lost Treasure* magazine.

Garage Sale Fund Raiser

To help pay for Dale Russell's cancer treatment
Saturday May 14th - 8am to 3 pm

It will be set up so that if anyone wants to sell something they can donate 10% to the fund (if a costly item up to \$25) or they may donate the whole item. If they donate the whole item it will be marked as such. People can drop off items for the sale on Friday May 13th

Call Trudy Watson (Dale's sister) to make sure I am there. 503-581-9876

The address where items can be dropped off, and where the sale will be held is 1680 Lancaster Dr SE (across from the entrance to Home Depot)

The funds will then be use for the Russell Medical Treatment Fund.

The Following Items for Sale

Contact Dale Russell 503-363-4795

Weekdays 5:30pm – 9pm

Weekends 9am – 9pm

1. 1 piece wet suit fits 180-220 lbs for \$20
2. 2 piece wet suit fits large 180-200 lbs for \$30
3. 4" stainless suction nozzle w/under water dredge for \$50
4. 3" suction nozzle w/barracuda tip for \$30
5. 25' x 2" pressure hose PVC for \$10
6. 2 25' Keene air lines \$10 each OBO
7. Diving regulator used once since rebuild for \$35 (was \$145 new)
8. Heavy Duty 20,000 lbs nylon strap 20' long x 4" wide for \$15
9. Collection of "Treasure" magazines 1967-present for \$40
10. One ton Ore Car from CA Motherlode for \$1,200 firm (made in a blacksmith's shop in 1880s in Marigoosa, CA)
11. Monitor/water cannon, cast iron for \$5,000 firm (made in San Francisco in 1888- super rare- museum piece)
12. Antique Jet pump, size 14" impeller flat belt drive, useable, approx "1920" from CA motherlode \$250 firm
13. 3 out-of-print mining books, rare for \$45 each firm (if not sold these are going on ebay for minimum \$45 bid)
14. Also some odds and ends. Come and see and make an offer.
15. 3 stage beach sluice \$35
16. 5 hp Craftsman air compressor 240 volt, 30891 tank \$125