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

Programs

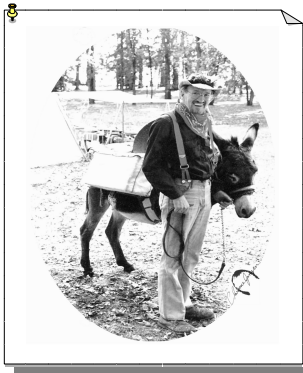
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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

May 2005

Next meeting

May, 19 2005
7:00 pm

President's Report

Ah – the sound of snuffer bottles sucking up stuff, gravel sloshing around in a classifier, water splashing over rocks n' stuff in the high-banker hopper. Gold Season must be just around the corner!

Congratulations members on another well attended meeting and another welcome to all the newcomers. I enjoyed Tom Bohmker's presentation and he is now a member. Tom will be a very valuable resource person to have around – I just hope his busy schedule permits him to make some of the outings.

Beverly Beach has gold! At least a dozen of us used our beach sand sluices to recover some of the very fine gold that's available in the black sand accumulations. Wes will give a more thorough report at the May meeting.

The WVM#1 (Dry Gulch) claim is now accessible. Please read the piece in this newsletter for the details.

I'll be in Pennsylvania from May 8 through to May 17 visiting relatives. I'm sure I'll hit the ground running upon my return.

Paul

Outings/Events

May 27,28,29,30 –Vincent Creek - Don Hammer – 541-924-0620
WVM 1 - Steve Landis – 503-999-8876

June 4 – Shady Cove – Gary Schrader – 503-859-3132

(Change date on your calendars)

June 16th - June 19th - is right date for The annual Quartzville Miners Rendezvous at Miners Meadow (Sharps Creek will also have to be changed as they fall on the same date. Date will be decided at meeting.)

Guest Speaker

Art Arroyo has agreed to be our May WVM speaker. He will answer questions on the new revised 3809 mining regulations, give reasons why you would need a Notice of Intent or a Plan of Operation if you have a gold claim and other requirements needed to cut down trees, acquire authority to gate the access to a claim or build a road for better access to a gold claim etc.

We need someone to pick up key to the meeting room before 5:00 PM on day of meetings. Tom will be mining for the next few months and can't do it.

Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2005

Ken Haines, Secretary

Club president, Paul Messersmith, brought the April general meeting of the Willamette Valley Miners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2005.

Minutes to the previous general meeting for March 2005 were approved before a full house of approximately 66 people at our monthly meeting place, Marion County Fire Hall, 300 Cordon Road NE in Salem, Oregon.

The President thanked those who were able to help at the annual Rickreall Rock and Gem show, held at the Polk County Fairgrounds April 15th, 16th and 17th. This yearly event is a major club fund raiser, which enables us to fund the monthly newsletter, sent to each member household. Our annual family memberships also are maintained at a low and affordable level thanks to the fundraising at this event. Besides the fundraising, the Rock and Gem show bring in school children of all ages each year on Friday. The next generation learn about the rocks, gems, and geology of the world around them. These young minds are our investment in the future. Our club runs a booth that has water filled panning tubs, and those members fortunate enough to be able to attend, had the pleasure of teaching those young folks how to actually pan for gold. All those who tried, kept and took home the few flakes of gold they found in their pans. There were lots of smiling faces, both children and adults at the miner's booth. Remember to mark your calendars for next April's Rock and Gem Show and reward yourself.

Diane Smith read the financial report as the attendance sheets were passed around. The club now has a paid membership base of 144. Of the approximately 66 in attendance, 53 were club members and 13 were guests. The Willamette Valley Miners membership extends a warm welcome to its guests and the many new members.

President Paul introduced the Executive Committee members to those at the meeting. He also noted that 5 club members still have name badges, which he is holding, that have been made and not picked up yet. Remember with paid up dues for 2005, each member household is entitled to a club gold claims packet with all the information on where the claims are located. New members feel free to speak up, many of the membership are looking for

prospecting partners and are happy to team up for panning, sluicing, high banking, dredging, metal detecting and rock hounding.

Paul gave the club an update on the access to our WVM #I claim near Quartzville. The road had been blocked temporarily by the heavy equipment used by the owners of a 400 acre claim leading to our claim. The owners of that 400 acre claim also own a portion of the road leading to the club's WVM #I claim. Paul has met with the owner and authorities at the site and access should again be open. Expect to be asked to show WVM Club Membership Card when passing through the 400 acre mining claim on the way to WVM #I. Be courteous and be aware of large heavy equipment being used to mine. Most of all be careful, operators of large heavy equipment may not see you. Be safe.

The special program for the evening was "Cascade Mountains Gold" presented by local author, prospector, and new club member, Tom (T.H.) Bohmker.

Mr. Bohmker gave a lively and entertaining brief history of Oregon's gold mining industry. His keen wit and personal experiences provided both insight and humor to the fascinating story of how Oregon was transformed from a sparsely populated land by the gold which was discovered during the gold rush. Tom Bohmker is a wealth of information on gold prospecting in Oregon and the areas which might be rewarding for you to search for the shiny yellow nuggets. Tom is now also a club member and his books are a must read for those with gold fever. His books can be purchased by contacting him at: Cascade Mountains Gold, PO Box 33, Independence, OR., 97351. Also by phone at 503 606 9895.

Books now in print:

The Elusive "Pocket Gold" Of South Western Oregon By: Tom (T.H.) Bohmker

Gold Panner's Guide To Recreational Mining At The Bohemia, South Umpqua & Cow Creek Area, Oregon By: Tom (T.H.) Bohmker

Tailings From The Golden West

By: Miles J. Mitchell

At the conclusion of the program, there was the customary break and raffle ticket sales for the monthly gold nugget raffle, along with raffle buying

opportunities for the metal detector, and nightly table raffle items.

Tom Quintal updated the group with current government affairs. DEQ is having meetings that will greatly impact mining in Oregon. Contact Tom if you are able to take some time and attend some of the upcoming meetings. As miners, we need to stand together and hold onto the mining rights that were granted in the 1872 Mining Law. Contact Tom if you can help, 503 371 9747.

Club claims WVM #2 and WVM #3 on Dad's Creek, near Cow Creek now have claim signs up and the club is working through some civil issues with previous owners who did a paper claim jump on our claims. Contact Paul Messersmith or Tom Quintal before visiting the claims. They have the history and legal stuff along with maps to make your trip a success.

The newsletter for March was copied at the printer because of continuing club copier problems. The executive committee is continuing to sort out that situation. Stay tuned.

The April 23rd club outing to Beverly Beach at the Oregon Coast features beach sluicing for gold in the black sands and garnet sands that accumulate on certain sections of Oregon beaches. Wes Jeffers heads up this interesting and unusual prospecting outing. Wes developed his own beach sluice and makes them available to those interested. You can contact Wes at 503 266 5270.

Paul Messersmith and Dale Russell are teaming up for the annual Spring Miner's Workshop on May 7, 2005. Attendance is limited for the first dozen or so because of space limitations. Contact Paul and RSVP if you are interested, 541 926 8153.

Mark your calendars for the club outings on May 27th – 30th. Club members are welcome to participate in the club prospecting and mining activities at either Vincent Creek Claim, over east, or the WVM #1 at Quartzville.

June will also have lots of opportunities for mining and prospecting: Shady Cove outing, Sharps Creek outing, followed by our annual Miners Rendezvous at Miners Meadow near Quartzville.

Last of all, Tom Quintal asked if anyone is interested in an additional Graves Creek outing, he is planning a few days of prospecting and would like some company. Contact him directly.

Meeting adjourned. Good Prospecting.

Government Affairs update

by Tom Quintal.

DEQ's 700J permit

We are still working with DEQ on the permit. The ODEQ Turbidity meeting on April 28th did not shed too much information as yet to confirm what ODEQ plans to do. There will be a May 6th meeting for the Miner's that want to attend, but won't be in time to notify anyone when the news letter is sent to WVM members.

WVM#1 (Dry Gulch) Update

On Tuesday, April 26th, I spent several hours with Robb Ginn (Forest Service Minerals Specialist – Sweet Home Range Station) and Dave Nonnemaker, the owner of the property over which we have to cross to get to our claim. Dave's major concern was and is that of safety – people walking up behind their big machinery and getting hurt. Accordingly, he is going to string an unlocked cable across the road just before the creek crossing area with warning signs indicating "heavy equipment in operation – use extreme caution." Dave would also like to be contacted by phone (leave a message) or by email to let him know you plan to visit the claim. His phone number is 541-367-0774; email is drnonne@msn.com. He'll make sure that there is no equipment in the road to block our access. He also plans to attend our next club meeting and show off some of the good stuff they're finding. Ken Haines and I fired up my 3" combo on WVM#1 on Friday and guess what – we found gold!

Paul

Troy Weight

5,760 grains	=	1 pound
12 Troy ounces	=	1 pound
24 grains	=	1 pennyweight
15.4 grains	=	1 gram
1.55 grams	=	1 pennyweight
31 grams	=	1 ounce
20 pennyweight	=	1 ounce

Long-lost class ring found at Silver Falls

By Carol Posey Of the News-Times



Melinda Koerschgen, mother of 1991 Taft High graduate, Tim Koerschgen, who is presently serving in Iraq, meets Cliff Winston, who presented her with a class ring Tim lost 14 years ago. (Photo by Carol Posey)

As Captain Timothy Meir Koerschgen serves his second tour in Iraq, it's doubtful he has given even the slightest thought to his 1991 Taft High class ring, which he lost during his Senior Sneak in Silver Falls State Park near Salem, just four weeks after buying it.

However, when he hears the ring was recently found by a metal detector, after being buried these 14 years in a field in that park, it might be the kind of feel-good news from home that could lighten the heart of this soldier, at least for a few moments, as he works to do his part in bringing stability to Iraq. "Tim had worked hard that year for the money to buy his class ring. It's a beautiful ring with a large amethyst stone set in the middle, and he was pretty devastated when he lost it one month later," mom Melinda Koerschgen says, sitting at a table in front of Factory Brand Shoes in the Tanger Center, where she works. "He and his sister and friends even went back to Silver Falls a couple days later to search the area, but, of course, it was never found."

Melinda says no one had thought about the ring all these years - especially Tim, who was busy growing up, earning his psychology degree in 2000 from the University of Oregon, then becoming a career Army officer, husband to Jordan, father to Bethany, 8, T.C., 2, a new baby due this Father's Day, and now serving in a war.

A call from Taft High School last week brought the memory of the class ring to the forefront of the

Koerschgen family's minds, when Melinda heard the voice on the telephone say, "This is probably going to sound strange - because you have no children in high school - but a gentleman called and gave us the initials on a 1991 Taft High class ring he found, and asked if we could figure out who it might belong to."

"It turned out that Tim's initials were the only ones that matched in that year's class," Melinda says. "So, the school gave me the name of Cliff Winston in Salem, who is the dealer for White's Metal Detectors there, and I called him right away and told him the story about skip day."

Winston says after hearing the story behind the ring he found, and learning the owner was a soldier serving in Iraq, he could hardly wait to make the trip to Lincoln City last Monday to present her son's ring to Melinda.

"I've been to Silver Falls many times, just having fun with my metal detector," Winston says, during the happy reunion at the Tanger Center.

"Sometimes people call looking for a ring, but they're mostly gold bands with no marks. When that happens, I just put it in the newspaper and hope the owner reads the ad. This time, however, there were plenty of markings, once I cleaned the 14 years of encrusted dirt off."

After speaking to Melinda, Winston says they made arrangements for them to meet just before she got off work last Sunday, but when he arrived there, he found she had been sent home early.

"The folks there were very nice and offered to give Melinda the ring, but, I really wanted to give it to her in person," Winston says, beaming, "so, my wife and I came back today."

Tim's family in Georgia, and his family here in Oregon, are all thrilled about this unexpected surprise, Melinda says. That includes his father, Karl, who is presently working in construction in California, and Tim's sisters, Kandy and Heidi. A third sister, Gretchen, who died here in 2002, would have been particularly thrilled about all this, Melinda adds, as she and Tim were very close and roomed together during college.

"I'm happy. I'm shaky, and I cried when Cliff handed me Tim's ring," Melinda says. "I think it's because it's a part of him I can hold right now, while he's in Iraq."

Tips on Cleaning Your Finds

When you start finding those old silver coins, you probably wonder how to clean them. There are several methods that we use to clean our finds all the time, and we would like to share them with you in simple, easy to understand directions.

NOTE:

DO NOT CLEAN OLD COINS THAT YOU SUSPECT ARE VALUABLE!

It will cut their value in half! Ask a local coin dealer first.

Baking soda method

This is a very easy to do cleaning method. However, it doesn't work on everything, and it is mostly used to clean old silver coins that you find in the ground.

Just wet the coin and dip it in some baking soda and clean it with an old toothbrush. This will take the tarnish off, and make your coin shiny without scratching it.

Tumbling method

Use a rock tumbler if you want to clean lots of old coins at once! All those clad coins you've been finding! It will cost you around \$60.00 for a rock tumbler, or you might be able to find a cheaper one on Ebay.com (But try not to get the plastic ones, they make too much noise while tumbling.)

How to tumble old coins:

Next time you go to the beach gather some small pebbles and some sand. Put your coins in the tumbler, add the pebbles, and about 2 tablespoons of the sand to make the tumbler about 3/4 full. Fill with water (to a little below the top of the pebbles) and add a touch of liquid detergent. Put the lid on and shake it to distribute the coins and pebbles evenly.

Let it tumble for about an hour. Open it up and drain off the dirty water. Refill with clean water, add a touch of liquid detergent and tumble for another couple hours or overnight.

Open it up and pour into a strainer or screen that has holes large enough to let your pebbles and sand fall through, but not your coins. Rinse the coins well, and spread them out on newspaper or an old towel to dry. We tumble brass and copper things that have corrosion on them too, like buckles and buttons and keys, etc. Some people like to separate their copper coins from their silver coins when they tumble them. We have tried it both ways, and if you decide to tumble them together, don't let them tumble too

long, or your silver (or clad) coins will turn a permanent copper color.

Electrolysis method.

When we first tried to find information on how to build an electrolysis unit, we couldn't find much and it was confusing on how to do it.

After joining a club, one of the members showed us how it's done. We think this is the simplest, easiest method.

And to make it even simpler for you, we made a step by step tutorial with pictures. Most components you probably have around the house.

Ammonia method.

Fill a small jar with ammonia, add your gold or silver items, put on the lid and let sit for awhile. Open it up later and polish each piece with a soft cloth. This works best for gold. We have tried old silver coins that we found in the salt water, but afterwards you need to use the baking soda and a toothbrush also to get all the black off.

Jewelry Cleaners

There are plenty of cleaning methods and products out there for cleaning your silver and gold rings, some of them can cost you a pretty buck, and others are no more than a couple of dollars. Here is a few products that we use all the time that you may want to try for yourself.

NEVR-DULL is a cotton wadding polish that cleans and polishes all metals including: silver, gold, brass, copper, pewter, glass, steel, aluminum and chromium.

Removes rust and tar, leaves no deposits in the crevices of metal work.

Directions: Tear off a small portion of the wadding and rub the article to be cleaned until all dirt is removed. Then finish with with a dry, soft cloth to obtain a brilliant, lasting luster Nontoxic,

BLITZ Jewelry Care Cloths

This polishing cloth is the best way to brighten your silver or gold rings and chains. They already have the polish in the cloth! It is two pieces of soft cloth sewn together in the middle. One cloth has the cleaning agent and the other cloth is for buffing. We were recently introduced to these fantastic little cloths at our club meeting. The best news is that they are so affordable, costing only about \$2.99, and you can get them at Walmart.

Blue Magic Metal Polish

This is a product we use all the time to clean our gold rings and other jewelry. Safe and nonabrasive, removes oxidation and tarnish. Works on gold, silver, chrome, aluminum, copper, brass, stainless steel.

It kind of reminds me of toothpaste. Blue magic liquid metal polish works like magic on virtually every surface.

Directions:

Shake well. Apply small amount with soft cloth. Rub until a black film appears. Buff off with a clean soft cloth or buffer. Blue magic leaves a protective film.

Buffing Wheels

If the rings have a lot of scratches, you may want to invest in a buffing wheel to do a better job. There are many different wheels and polishing compounds to chose from. Medium soft wheels work good for me. I have a soft wheel as well but find it too flimsy and takes forever to get a nice luster.

I got one at Home Depot for about \$50.00. I have a grinding wheel on one side and a buffing wheel on the other. Very handy tool to have around the house anyway.

Club shirts and hats

Shirley will have samples of the club tee shirts and hats at this meeting. She will have prices and take orders for those that want to buy both or either one.

Table Raffle

Remember to bring a raffle item for the raffle table.

It can be something from home you do not have a use for or a item you find on sale. The money we make goes for the cost of the news letter and any copying we have to do. The raffles help us keep the dues as low as they are. We also have a gold nugget raffle and a large item (metal detector this time) raffle.

To Make a Dehumidifier

I found an easy, inexpensive way to make a dehumidifier. Get two 5 or 6-gallon buckets with lids from the local hardware store (or inquire at a restaurant, which may have empty lard buckets you can have for free). New or used, you want to clean them well. At the hardware store get a 50-pound

bag of rock salt and divide it between the two buckets. With the lids off, place the loaded buckets inside the motorhome, one in the front and one in the rear. When they are not in use, put the lids on tightly and store. When the rock salt becomes saturated with moisture, spread it out on a piece of plastic and dry it in the sun. Store it in the sealed buckets until the next use. It should last for years. I've used this method since 1987 and have never had a mildew problem.

Pete Van Hee
Ocala, FL

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

Back Lot Sale May 20th and 21st

Mining Equipment, hose, dredge frames, misc. Priced to sell.

Oregon Prospecting

1045 Main Street Sweet Home.

541-367-2237

Strawberry Ice Pops

2 pints fresh, ripe strawberries, hulled.

½ cup frozen apple juice concentrate

8 wooden sticks

Mash strawberries coarsely, leaving some chunks. Stir in undiluted apple juice concentrate. Spoon into ice-pop molds or small cups and partially freeze; then push a wooden stick into each. Freeze for at least 6 hrs. Unmold and serve. Makes 8 ice pops.

Classifieds

For Sale

Proline 2.5" Hi-banker/Dredge Combo
5.5 HP Honda with Proline Pump. \$975.00
Percy Hadley 503-838-3327
E-mail deann@peak.org

For Sale

Mining Timbers and Wedges, douglas fir or
white oak sawn to your specifications.
contact Ken Haines
F & L Lumber - toll free 866-791-9986

For Sale

4" Keene dredge, pontoons, hoses, 8hp
pump - sold as is. \$200.00
Contact Dave Loop 541-928-5111
8:30-3:30 pm only.

Wanted

Canopy for 95 s10 Chev Pickup
also a receiver hitch for same.
Gary Schrader 503-859-3132
gldlooker@msn.com

For Sale

Gold Wheel (complete) \$180.00 OBO
Ray Tesch 503-788-8428

For Sale

Dry Washer w/vacuum, crevicing, bucket,
hose, tools - Mac Powered \$200.00
Joe Garcia - 503-588-0493

I buy

gold nuggets and fines no amount is too
small. email: kenh@peak.org
Ph: 541-791-9986 Fx: 541-791-9987

Gold and Silver Custom Electrd Plating

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automotive/recreational vehicle parts,
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Contact Ken: Ph 541-791-9986
Fx 541-791-9987 Email: gscep@peak.org

Anything you want in news letter please get to Trudy Schrader - gldlooker@msn.com - 503-859-3132

NO Later than the first of the month

<p>Louie's Welding</p> <p><i>FINE RECOVERY</i></p> <p>Portable Mining Equipment</p> <p>1307 Talbot Rd. S.E. Jefferson, Or. 97352</p> <p>Louie Frick Proprietor</p> <p>541-990-2621</p> <p>* e-mail: mining@teleport.com</p> 	<p>ALLEMAN</p>  <p>Detector Sales 769-1914</p>	<p>Oregon</p> <p>1045 Main Street Sweet Home, OR 97386</p> <p>Prospecting Supplies & Rita's Relics</p> <p>Dredges & Sluice Boxes: Dry Washers Power Sluices: Whites metal Detectors:</p> <p>Keene dealer: Gold Pans 541-367-2237 Toll Free 866 367-4061 gold2@centurytel.net www.oregonprospecting.com</p>
<p>armadillo</p> <p><i>Mining Shop</i></p> <p>DREDGES • DIVE EQUIPMENT MINING SUPPLIES • DETECTORS</p> <p>THERE'S NO SALES TAX IN OREGON MAIL & PHONE ORDERS WELCOME</p> <p>541/476-6316</p> <p>2041 N.W. VINE • GRANTS PASS, OR 97526</p> 	<p>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SALEM DISTRICT OFFICE</p> <p>ARTHUR ARROYO Realty Specialist</p> <p>SALEM DISTRICT OFFICE OFFICE: 503-375-5665 1717 FABRY ROAD S.E. FAX: 503-375-5622 SALEM, OREGON 97306 EMAIL: Art_Arroyo@blm.gov</p>	<p>Oregon</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY</p> <p>John Barnes Public Use Coordinator Northwest Oregon Area</p> <p>801 Gales Creek Road Forest Grove, Oregon 97116-1199 (503) 359-7427 Fax: (503) 357-4548 john.d.barnes@state.or.us</p>
<p>Whites</p> <p>METAL DETECTORS AUTHORIZED DEALER</p> <p>CLIFF WINSTON OWNER</p> <p>Cliff's Discount Detectors 4934 Center St. NE 503-581-3395 Ph Salem, OR 97301 cliff4934@msn.com</p>	<p>D & K Detector Sales</p>  <p>13809 S. E. Divison Portland, OR 97236</p> <p>1-800-542-GOLD</p>	<p>CAMP DAKOTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Tent camping*Church group / family camps*Tee Pec rentals*Private events <p>1843 Crooked Finger Rd. Scotts Mills, Oregon 97375 Phone/pager 503-873-7432 E-mail cmpdakota@yahoo.com</p>  <p>William Winslow</p>

Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044
Salem OR 97309-1044

We Meet at 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
300 Cordon Rd NE
Salem OR

