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Don Hammer
Wes Jeffers
Gary Wolf
Diane & Don Smith
Will Winslow

Events & Outings

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

Programs

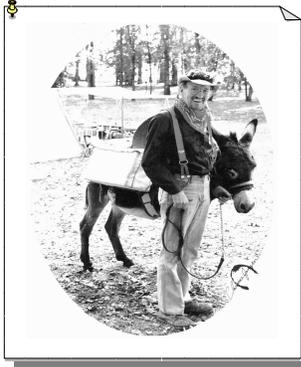
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Website

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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

August 2005

Next meeting

August 18, 2005
7:00 pm

President's Report

If you have a mining claim you need to get your waiver in to BLM this month, also it's a good idea to file at the court house & send that paper work along with the waiver. It's never good to wait until the last day.

We will not be having a speaker at the Aug meeting so I would like to take the time to address the committees again.

- We need to start on next years calendar so if you have an outing you would like the club to have, please feel free to suggest it at this meeting.
- Also we need new committee people so if you would be interested in joining let someone on the committee or the officers know.

Gary

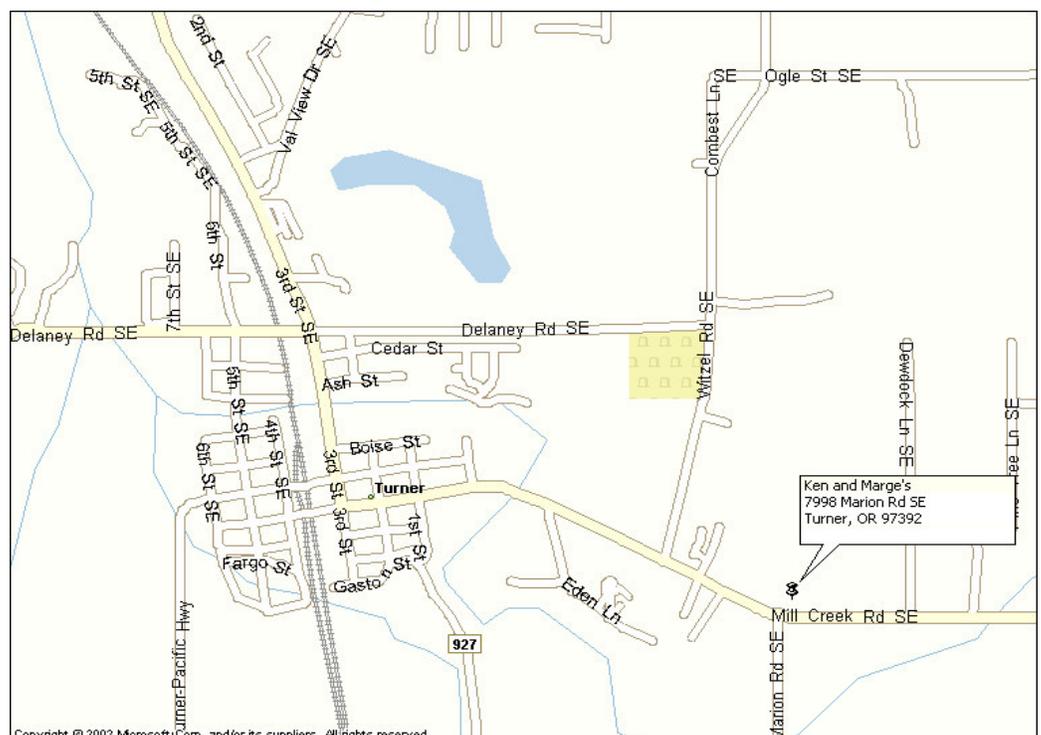
Outings/Events

Aug 20-21 Myrtle Creek – exit 112 off I5 - Don Hammer & Diane Smith

There is a private campground here. If you want to camp, you have to make your own reservations.

Aug 27 Metal Detecting Treasure Hunt – Gary Schrader

More important information on Hunt inside News Letter



Meeting Minutes July 21, 2005

Ken Haines, Secretary

Willamette Valley Miners President, Paul Messersmith, called to order the general meeting at 7:00 pm. The gathering was held, on the customary third Thursday of the month, in the south, first floor meeting room of the Marion county Fire Hall, located at 300 Cordon Road NE in Salem, Oregon.

As of meeting time, the organization had 162 members. There were 29 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The June 16, 2005 general meeting minutes were approved as written.

The financial report was shared with the group by Treasurer, Diane Smith.

As the attendance sheets were passed around, Paul Messersmith apologized to the entire group for a misunderstanding regarding his purchase of a wet suit from one of the members at the previous meeting. He then donated the wet suit to the club, as a fund raiser at the table raffle.

Tom Quintal, the Government Affairs Representative for the Willamette Valley Miners, reported that a recent court battle in California was decided in favor of The New 49er's Mining Club, and their strange coalition of concerned miners and the Forest Service. The court decision was a Motion for a Summary Judgment for the miners group against the Karuk Tribe of California, who brought its suit against the Forest Service in 2004 to require a Plan of Operation for all mining done in riparian designated areas of several river systems located in Northern California.

The win for the Northern California Miners and the Forest Service was just one of the battles confronting West Coast Miners.

According to *The Legislative and Regulatory Update, in the August 2005 issue of ICMJ'S Prospecting and Mining Journal, page 4*, the intent of the Karuk Tribe of California was obvious, from the subsequent briefs filed with the court. The Tribe intended to extend the Plan of Operation requirement for mining to all public forests lands in California, Oregon and Washington, which are covered in the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP).

Now the miners are confronted with the new suction dredge permit "NPDES General Permit 700-PM".

The new permit adopted by the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission on June 23rd, 2005, replaces the previous 700-J permit. This new permit is for recovering precious metals or minerals from stream-bottom sediments using small suction dredging equipment.

Now all dredgers are subject to the new user fees (tax). A fee of \$25 per year (\$100 five year optional payment). Applications are available at the DEQ Portland Office, call 1 503 229 6978.

The new permit requirements are for dredges that do not exceed 30 horsepower with an inside diameter suction hose not greater than 6 inches and with no larger than a 6 inch diameter nozzle.

Except that in waters designated as, Essential Salmon Habitat and Oregon Scenic Waterways, dredges are restricted to intake nozzles no larger than 4 inches inside diameter and no greater than 16 horsepower engines.

Owners of dredges with suction hoses having an inside diameter larger than six inches or greater than 30 horsepower engines, are required to apply for an individual permit.

This new permit is now in effect for summer 2005, and nullifies the previous permits. When issued, this new permit will remain in effect until January 1, 2007.

It is strongly recommended that you first read the requirements, rules and proposed penalties associated with this new permit prior to applying.

Here are the internet links to follow up:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us>
<http://www.oregonstatelands.us>
<http://www.statelandsonline.com>
<http://www.statelands.dsl.state.or.us>

Following the government affairs report, several members shared their experiences on the clubs outing at Dad's Creek. The clubs 2 new claims on Dad's creek are available to all club members to work and prospect. And...Yes there is GOLD on those claims.

The Myrtle Creek club outing scheduled for August 20th & 21st is still a go. More information will be available at the August 18th meeting. If you have

questions in the meantime, contact Gary Schrader 503 859 3132.

Other upcoming outings include: Work Party and outing at Dad's creek Sept 3rd, 4th & 5th, and the fall outing at Miners Meadow Sept 23rd, 24th & 25th. Details at the next meeting or contact Gary Schrader 503 859 3132.

Trudy Schrader gave a brief overview of the behind the scenes work being done each month to bring the members the newsletter. The monthly publication which is sent to all paid up members, helps to bind the independent miners into a focused group that can be an effective voice to protect our mining rights.

The annual family dues are still a bargain at just \$15 per year. Being a paid member also means that all of the club claims are available for you to prospect and mine. Detailed claim packets with maps are distributed to each paid member.

Before the break, Paul Messersmith, offered to personally help any club member that had an interest in learning how to use the BLM's LR2000 system to research and file a gold claim. This one on one learning opportunity is available by making an appointment with Paul, 541 926 8153.

Following the break, a brief committee structure discussion was mentioned and will be studied further in the weeks to come.

Remember, if you are interested in Willamette Valley Miners Club shirts or hats contact Shirley Garcia 503 588 0493.

Need a mining or prospecting buddy, attend a meeting and hook up with a miner. As an old miner once said, "Everybody needs a buddy sometime".

Please help to support your club, bring items for the table raffles. Thanks to Louie Frick, (Louie's Welding and Fine Recovery Portable Mining Equipment) for his generous donation of a large aluminum river sluice box for an upcoming raffle.

Just a reminder, the Pin Pointer will be raffled at the August meeting according to Wes Jeffers. So...bring your money and buy some tickets to help support your organization, and maybe you'll win a Pin Pointer.

Got Gold?... Get some. Each meeting one lucky club member wins the Gold Nugget raffle. Try your luck.

Several suggestions and comments were brought up during the member's discussion and question and answer time.

Can the boundaries be marked better at the Dad's Creek Claims?

Can the newsletter group make an additional 6-newsletters, and bring them to each meeting for new members in attendance?

Can the large raffle items be listed in each newsletter?

Paul Messersmith shared how he painted his dredge/highbanker parts bright colors so when he lost them, he could find them again.

He also shared his secrets on how to flare the plastic dredge hoses by heating them, flaring them and then cooling them, ask Paul for exact details.

Howard said that he used high vacuum grease to accomplish the same thing, while Gary thought he remembered using that same grease to slide a Cadillac into a dog house. See Gary for more information.

The evening ended with the raffles and was adjourned.

Good Prospecting.

Government Affairs update

by Tom Quintal.

FOREST SERVICE WINS KARUK SUIT

FOREST SERVICE & MINERS: 1

ENVIRONMENTALISTS & INDIANS: 0

Back in October 2004, the Karuk Tribe filed suit in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California against the U.S. Forest Service (FS) claiming mismanagement of mining, in particular, the Forest Service's failure to require a Plan of Operations (POO) for mining (suction dredging, sluicing, etc.) in waterways and riparian reserves. In many ways, the Karuk suit was very similar to the on-going *Siskiyou Regional Education Project vs. Siskiyou National Forest* (SREP v SNF) suit here in SW Oregon. In fact, both the Karuks and SREP used the same environmental law firms, and both claim that a provision of the 1994 NW Forest Plan (NWFP), "*Minerals Management 1*"

(MM-1), calls for approved POOs for any and all mining activity within riparian reserves.

On July 1, 2005, Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California made what appears to be a very strong ruling in favor of miners rights!

You may have noticed the new name on the Presidents report.

After the last meeting, Paul resigned the Presidency and turned it over to Gary. We would like to thank Paul for all he did during his time with us and wish him the best.

We also lost our Treasurer, Diane. They have sold their house and she will be busy the next few months. Marge Manuma has agreed to take over for the rest of the year.

This is also a time when everyone should be thinking about new officers for next year. The elections are not that far away and I know we will need replacements for a few of the officers.

Metal Detecting Outing on the 27th

The outing will be held at the home of Ken Chamberlain/Marge Manuma's in Turner starting at 10 AM. Marge has suggested we make it a potluck, so bring something good to share with everyone. Please let us know if you are coming and if you are bringing kids that want to metal detect. We need to know how many prizes we need. Also Ken has fenced and put in animals in the area where we have hunted before so we have a smaller area to hunt in this year. Parking has changed because of the fence. If you park outside the fence do not park beyond the gate, but you can park from the gate to the road and there is some parking in side the fence. There well be WVM signs up and people to let you know where to park.

If you want to learn how to use your detector or just have a good time and a chance to use your detector and win a prize or two, this is the time and place to do it.

A few years ago the club held a writing contest, and I thought I would print the story's that were in the contest when there was room in the news letter.

Coyote Gold

By Gary L. Schrader

Sixty-year-old John had been driving truck in and around Portland, Oregon for over 35 years. Traffic and attitudes on the road had become an increasing headache for him; some he knew was of his own making. After the loss of his wife three years earlier, his life seemed empty and he was having difficulty coping. Thinking a change was in order, retirement was on his mind often. He would be able to draw a pension from the local union and in two years be eligible for social security. Maybe a simpler lifestyle was what he needed.

A near miss on I-205 was the push he needed. He quit his job and listed his house. Events flew by once he got the house on the market. Before he knew it there was an offer to buy. They would pay his asking price with closing in 30 days. In two weeks he had a huge garage sale to get rid of everything but the few things he thought he would need in his new life. A week of getting his affairs in order and packing and he only had to wait for closing. After signing the papers he felt an empty spot. Had he done the right thing? Well, it couldn't be undone now so all he could do was head east and not look back.

As he headed down the road to his new life the route was familiar. He had hunted Eastern Oregon for several years and had come to enjoy the slower paced cattle country life. The dryer, colder climate would also be a welcome change after the years of rainy winters. He would miss the abundance of flowers in his old garden but it would be fun to find what would grow on this side of the Cascades.

John's first stop was La Grande. After picking up a paper, he read the real estate adds over a good meal. Finding nothing of interest he got a room and the following day called on a real estate agent. After explaining what he wanted, the agent had a couple of places for him to look at. Neither of which interested him, so he kept on looking.

Two weeks later he got a break. There was 80 acres for sale about 30 miles away. It was fenced, had a 2-room cabin and small barn. There was no power, no phone and no well. There was wood heat, propane lanterns and a spring that ran year 'round and was piped to an enclosed tank. The spring was a good one and was also the beginning of a small stream. There would be plenty of water for him plus some stock. It was also on a mail route, so the

county maintained the road year around. The price was not bad and he made an offer that the owner accepted. Since the place was empty he was able to move right in. Things were starting to look good, maybe he had made the right choice in moving out here.

After getting settled in, he thought it a good idea to call on the neighbors. Only three stops to make in five miles, talk about a change. The quiet was something he would have to get used to, but after the roar of traffic all those years, it was a pleasant change.

The first stop was a ranch (The Pine Tree) that ran cattle on some private land and leased most of the forest service land around his new place. Douglas Firr, the owner, warmly welcomed him. After a few cups of coffee and small talk, John was told that the man who had lived on the place he now owned had worked for them from time to time. Doug asked him if he felt up to filling that spot.

John explained that he wasn't much of a rider, but that he was looking for a horse, and with some practice he would like the job. Doug said he had a good, older mare that he would part with and an old saddle he would throw in if John wanted her. He would even drop her off on his next trip through. They made the deal and John went on to the other neighbors. Finding them gone, he continued on to the small town for some supplies.

The town was made up of a grocery store, café, gas station, school and a church. Seeing two pickups parked at the café, he decided to stop for pie, coffee and a little small talk. Like all small towns, the café was the heart of the town and the center of area information. After introducing himself as a retired trucker and the new owner of the old homestead, he learned that one of the men there was also his neighbor. Everyone was friendly and talkative. With most of the people around here making their living in some way connected with cattle or timber, truck driving was something they all knew about. He soon felt right at home and welcome with these country folk.

Things settled into a routine, and the riding job turned into a very enjoyable thing. You really get to know the country from the back of a horse. Deer, elk, coyote and even bear were a common sight. In the fall just before deer season the cattle had to be moved to lower pastures so there was two weeks of hard work and after that no more riding til spring.

He still had plenty to do before snowfall. His supply of winter wood had to be cut, so after getting a permit, he started hauling pickup loads home from Forest Service Land.

In his travels he saw lots of coyotes and thought he might like to trap next year. He would have to read up on the subject and talk to the ranchers to get permission to trap on their land. He also needed traps and supplies. Sounded like a good wintertime project when he had little else to do.

John's first winter was a mild one and he was able to be out a lot checking for tracks and learning about coyotes. He read all the books he could find on trapping and spent time at the café talking to the locals on the subject. By spring he had ordered the traps, lure and other necessities he would need so he would be ready in the fall to start running lines.

As spring started, Doug dropped by and said he was going to move the stock up in a few days so he better work the mare and himself a bit or he would be sore for a while. John found it was good to be riding again, nice to be away from the roads and enjoy the woods. This air seemed clearer and the smells fresher and cleaner. Spring flew into summer and John hadn't even thought about Portland. Life was what he wanted it to be.

One day while checking cattle for the Ranch, John saw a coyote disappear into some brush in front of a large rock outcropping. When he rode over to check it out, he found what he took to be a den in the rocks. The plans for his trap line were being mapped out in his head as he explored. So He filed the location in his mind to use when he ran his trap line in a few months. He would trap the higher public land first and then go to the lower ground later. There were lots of coyote signs all over the area.

On the days he didn't ride John would explore back roads and even a couple of ghost towns from the mining days. The area had lots of old gold mines and cabins all over it. Once in a while he could find a few artifacts, but most of the holes were unsafe and it was best to stay out of them. Still it was fun locating them even if he could not investigate the inside.

The time to move the stock lower was at hand and deer and elk season near. He would miss his rides again but this year he would still stay active. Getting ready to trap for the first time was exciting.

He waited till cooler weather before he went after a deer. All his scouting served him well and he had no trouble finding a nice fat buck. He decided not to hunt elk this year, as the buck would keep him in meat all winter and he was not a person to waste things.

Frosty mornings and then a snowfall made it time to set traps. The fur would be prime higher up. First he set a trap at the den he had seen earlier, and then on toward an old cabin where he had noticed a lot of sign around. Two traps set there, then to a long ridge that seemed to be a travel way. One scent post and two dirt hole sets, then back home. That night he was like a kid on Christmas Eve. It was hard to sleep, so very early the next morning he was off to check his short coyote line. As he approached the den set, there sat his first catch, a big male. He dispatched it and reset the trap. Then off to check the other sets. All were empty. Day two and a female at the den set. He pulled the trap and started on. Something made him stop and go back to check the den.

As he investigated, he realized that the den opened up after only a couple of feet. As he looked farther in he saw this was an old mine that the mouth had caved in to leave only a small opening. He was able to slip in and with the flashlight he had with him, checked out the shaft. It looked solid so he moved further in. The mine was dry and looked safe. About 80 feet from the mouth, part of the wall had collapsed, and as the flashlight beam fell on the pile of rubble, it glittered. On closer inspection the beam revealed a wide vein or pocket of white quartz laced with wire gold!!!!!! It looked rich even to an old truck driver. The miners who had drove this shaft had missed by only three feet. He picked up a few samples and slipped out to finish his trap line. This find was something to sleep on! He got two more coyotes on the ridge and headed home. After much thought, John decided to say nothing about the mine. He would continue to keep his every day routine of trapping and visit the mine off-and-on at random. Sometimes he would spend all day at the mine and then not return for a week.

After five years of part-time mining, he had amassed a large pile of ore and with things being simple on his place; there was no need to sell any. John had plenty of money from his pension and Social Security to live on. The trapping also brought in a little extra, so he dug a bunker like a root cellar to put his stash in. He didn't even bother to put a

padlock on it, knowing none of his neighbors would ever look in it with out the invitation to do so.

One day, after not seeing him for some time, Doug stopped over and found him in his bed. He had died in his sleep. The authorities were summoned, and in their search for clues to find heirs, they came across the rich ore. Doug's eyes about popped out when he saw that pile of riches, but he couldn't shed any light on where John may have found it. How much was left to be mined could only be guessed at. Was it a pocket or a vein? John wasn't a miner, so there might be plenty more, but where?

During the search for heirs, the officials found that John had a son, John Jr., a career man in the armed forces. After he was contacted, John Jr., who had just retired, moved into the cabin. He was a loner and lived the life of a recluse, dedicating all his time to searching the surrounding countryside for the elusive mine. John Sr. had left no clues to where he had found his gold and at last report, John Jr was still looking.

All the names, places & events are fictitious. However they are all within the realm of possibility.

For Sale

60 acre Cow Creek gold claim with good road access to water. \$750.00
Tom Quintal 503- 371-9747

For Sale

1980 Ford Branco, V-8, Automatic, 4WD, power steering/brakes, air conditioning, 118,000 miles. WAM winch on front, black & red, removable top. Single owner (adult). \$2,100 or best offer.
503-364-0581.

For Sale

Coleman downflow/upflow electric furnace, EB Series. Came from a triple wide 2000 manufactured home. 240 volts, 60 hz, single phase, AC or heatpump ready. Perfect working condition. Good for shop, manufactured home, etc. \$400 or make offer. Ken Graves 503-371-0449



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

203 Kawasaki 360 - Prairie Selectable -
4x4 auto - Red - Like new Utility ATV.
Used 40 hrs \$4100.00
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

For Sale

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

For Sale

Dry Washer w/vaccum, crevising,
bucket, hose, tools - Mac Powered
\$175.00
Joe Garcia - 503-588-0493

Gold and Silver Custom Electrd Plating

New plating or repair, home/office fixtures
automotive/recreational vehicle parts,
dinnerware, coinage, cutlery, colleatables,
jewelry, trophies and fire arms.
Contact Ken: Ph 541-791-9986
Fx 541-791-9987 Email: gscpe@peak.org

Anything you want in news letter please get to Trudy Schradler - gllooker@msn.com - 503-859-3132
NO Later than the first of the month

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