

Officers

President

Gary Schrader
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Vice President

Secretary

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Treasurer

Government Affairs

Tom Quintal
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Committees

Claims

Larry Coon
Joe Garcia
Don Hammer
Wes Jeffers
Gary Wolf
Diane & Don Smith
Will Winslow

Events & Outings

Mary Atkinson
Fred & Cindy Fellabaum
Joe & Shirley Garcia
Don Hammer
Wes Jeffers
Janie Miller
Gary & Trudy Schrader
Diane Smith
Gary Wolf
Cliff Winston

Programs

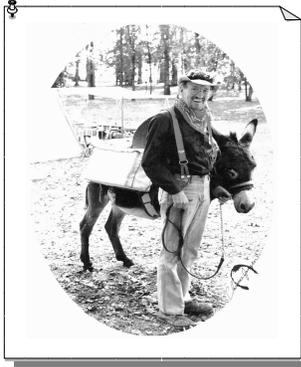
Diane Smith
Wes Jeffers

Website

Don Hammer
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Paul Messersmith

Newsletter Editor

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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

November 2005

President's Report

Next meeting

November 17, 2005
7:00 pm

November is here and it's time to elect new officers. We need three positions filled. Ken has said he will continue as Secretary for another year, that's good news, as he has done a great job. Tom Q. will serve one more year as Government Affairs, Thanks Tom, most people don't know how much time, energy and expense you have contributed but I know it has been considerable! I will consent to one more year as Vice President so that leaves **President, Treasurer and News Letter Editor** Positions open. Please Help!!!! Our club cannot continue with out these important positions filled!!!!

Thanks to all people that have participated in our outings & events this past year. Also the officers that had to vacate their positions, Diane & Marge both sold their homes while in office. Marge & Ken will not be in the area as they found a place near LaPine. Good luck over there! A special thanks to Paul for his early leadership. His efforts in no small way lead to our WVM 2&3 claim acquisition! His energy & expertise was much appreciated. Thanks again to Wes for his raffle operation & he always serves where ever he can. I don't mean to slight anyone by not mentioning their names so I will just say Thanks to the many members that put in there time and energy that helps make this a great club.

Outings/Events

Nov Meeting – Elect new officers

Dec 10 - Christmas Party 12:00 – 4:00

The club **Christmas Party** is coming up real fast. So far we have only 19 people sign up for the Pot Luck/Party. We need to know how many people are planning on coming so we know how big a ham and/or how many hams we need. Please let an Events/Outings committee member know if you are coming.

For the new people, we have a Christmas party Dec 10, 12:00 – 4:00. It is a potluck with the club buying the meat and punch. There is a gift exchange (\$5.00 +) for those who want to participate. Bingo, slide show of club outings for the year and other fun stuff. There is no club meeting in Dec., just the party

We need large coffee pot and large water cooler or something to put the punch in. Let us know if you can bring one or both. If you could mix up drink before you bring it that would help. We have no kitchen where we have the party.

If you have changed your email/phone number or address please let us know by sending a note to the club mail box.

Meeting Minutes

Oct 20, 2005

Ken Haines, Secretary

Gary Schrader, president for the Willamette Valley Miners, called the September meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately 35 members and 2 guests attending this general monthly meeting. Regular meetings are held each month at the Marion County Fire Station, 300 Cordon Road N.E., in Salem Oregon, on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The meeting room is in the rear of the station and downstairs.

The evenings business was first on the agenda. During the opening announcements, a reminder that the parking letter for anyone using the Shady Cove Claim is available. The document placed in the windshield, or on the dashboard, in plain view, is meant to allow members accessing the claim, to receive free parking in the parking area just across the bridge and to the left, beside the road. However, this is not a free parking pass for the campground. Tom Quintal, also made available, a trespassing and harassment page citing the legal consequences of menacing miners who are working on their claims. This document is meant to help miners who find themselves being harassed by anyone, while legally tending their claim.

It was announced that Dale Russell's father Walt passed away recently, our sympathies go out to Dale and his entire family. Dale is past president and has held most other officer positions in the organization over the years. The club will send a card to the Russell family.

A motion was passed to accept the previous months meeting minutes as written in the newsletter.

In the absence of Treasurer, Marge Manuma, Trudy Schrader gave the treasurers report. Marge and her husband have sold their home and are moving to central Oregon. Thanks Marge for your contributions to the organization, the club will miss you.

President Gary said that the money donated by members, which was originally intended to help defend miners rights in the legal challenge spearheaded by Jim Foley's National Land Rights League, will be held until further discussion by the contributors determines how it may be best put to use. Foley's organization pulled out of the fight

because of lack of support and funding by miners and mining groups.

Reminding that annual officer elections are coming right up, President Gary, announced that nominations are now open. The November meeting will be the time allocated for nominations to take place. Whether you are a long time member or a short time member, our club needs you. Please band together with us to make the Willamette Valley Miners a stronger organization and a voice for the rights of miners in Oregon. Together, we can make a difference.

Please contact Gary and Trudy Schrader at 503 859 3132 or Ken Haines at 541 791 9986 if you are willing to help serve for a season.

Those that have expressed interest so far are as follows:

President: Still available, with no nominations yet

Vice President: Still available, Gary Schrader, may accept as back-up as needed

Secretary: Still available, Ken Haines, will accept nomination and serve if elected

Treasurer: Still available, with no nominations yet
Government Affairs Rep: Tom Quintal will serve one more year, and could use addition help

Newsletter Editor: Still available, Trudy Schrader & Mary Atkinson will be asked to serve again, there is lots to do with the newsletter, lots of help is needed.

Club Library: Still available, Howard Conner has expressed interest

Committees giving reports were as follows:

Web Site committee reports Don Hammer continuing to work on the clubs website. Events and Outings Committee reported by Fred Fellabaum that the new calendars have been made ready and should be printed up soon. Also a reminder from the Events Committee about the annual all club Christmas party being held Saturday December 10th beginning at noon, in the meeting room just next door. The club hosted pot luck will be a great opportunity to get to know other members. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share and come and enjoy. The club will bring the Christmas ham. There will be a gift exchange, if you choose to participate, please bring a gift item valued at around \$5.

At the close of business, the meeting paused for the customary 10 minute break to afford those members wishing to purchase raffle tickets the opportunity to do so. The club raffles a gold nugget at each monthly meeting along with other raffle prizes to help defray

club costs for rent and newsletter publication and postage.

After the break, Sgt. Earl Orr, with the Linn County Mounted Posse Search and Rescue addressed the group with his informative presentation on “What is G.P.S., and how is it being used.” Sgt. Orr has been a member of the Search and Rescue for 7 years and has been using G.P.S. now for 12 years. As a hands on G.P.S. user, he took the group through the basics of how to begin using your new G.P.S., what a user might expect from a G.P.S. unit and how they tie in with topographical maps.

During his presentation, he showed the value of the modern G.P.S. units in search and rescue operations and how we as prospectors and explorers might benefit when it comes to locating claims and such. G.P.S. units are available at most sporting goods stores and the maps are available at the OSU bookstore in Corvallis, Oregon. At the conclusion to his presentation, there was a brief question and answer time.

Immediately following Sgt Orr, was some brief club discussion on the 1872 Mining Laws and then President Schrader adjourned the regular meeting and handed over the raffle to the King of Raffles, Wes Jeffers, who promptly raffled away a gold nugget to one lucky member.

Happy Prospecting.

Government Affairs From EOMA news letter

Some good guys work in Oregon f/vc

There is a Forest Service employee named Daryl Burlie (Hydrologist Technician) who works and patrols the Bohemia Mining District east of Cottage Grove, Oregon. I, Dave, had the pleasure of meeting this EDUCATED and INFORMED Ranger in person, who talked with me about various issues regarding closures of Land and Local gold claim owners.

Next year the entire Bohemia Mining Area will NOT be subject to In-Water Timing Guidelines due to the FACT that they (JEFF ZELLER, DARYL BURLIE) have been doing their homework and STUDIED the SHORT TERM Impact VS LONG TERM Impact related to Water Hydrology and Fish reproduction in direct relationship to DREDGING ACTIVITIES, plus the fact that the fish don't make it past the dam. They have THWARTED the efforts of

ODFW to close these areas, and to limit the in-Water Timings because they have proved that there is NO IMPACT FROM DREDGING.

Next year the area will be OPEN from Early March through December 31st. Can you imagine that!!!!.....A SPECIAL THANKS SHOULD BE REMEMBERED WHEN IN THESE AREAS FOR THESE GUYS!!

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 is room in the news letter.

Coming Home for Christmas

By
Yvonne Newman

It was definitely going to be a beautiful day! As I finished putting the last of the Christmas decorations on the little green tree I had just found a few days before, I couldn't help but feel a wee bit of nostalgia entering my trend of thought. Christmas is a special time of year for most everyone, and it can bring back memories both bad and good, but this one was going to be my very best ever...even better than the ones I had in childhood, even better than the ones as my children were growing up...this one was the one I had been waiting for all my adult life and more.

In raising my seven children, it had been most difficult. I was a young parent, and my husband was young, we were very inexperienced at most everything, but we tackled our responsibilities the best we knew how during those traumatic times. Things happen in life that we do not foresee or plan, and consequently a divorce came between us making it difficult for our children to accept plus for us ourselves to survive.

Time passed, soon they were grown, going out into life and pursuing their plans and dreams, but the family did not remain close. Each went their own way, some for the good, and unfortunately some for the bad. Usually one or the other knew where the other was, how they were doing, where they lived. Some were close to each other, and some never even spoke to each other, and some had forgotten all about me, maybe not in their minds, but not contacting me, writing, or keeping in touch..

Giving my best for so many years, overseeing my parents care until the end, I finally reached the point in my life where I felt my own biological time clock was ticking and I came north with dreams of a

lifestyle in the bush, sled dogs, and living happily ever after pursuing my hobby of gold prospecting. Yes, the creeks were good to me; soon I had my log cabin and stream nearby where I would go daily when the weather permitted to pan and sluice the creek, always looking for the illusive nuggets. My team of dogs were ever faithful as they would follow me each day as I worked. I worked the creek in all kinds of weather, some days it was so hot during the summer, and then the rain would come down in torrents. I felt a lot more comfortable with my dogs nearby as the bears were plentiful during this time as they migrated through this area in their search for berries and other food.

During these years I lived in the bush I had kept in touch with my oldest daughter who in return had kept me in touch with numerous grandchildren that came along, and finally the great-grandchildren who came along, some I had never seen. My rough walls I had covered with wall paper the best I could and they held many pictures of my family. When I was lonely I would take a minute to look at each one and wonder how they were and where they were, and if I would ever see them before I left this earth. My daily tasks were simple, with just myself and my dogs to care for. I had a good supply of wood I kept cut ahead for my little airtight heater that kept the cabin so nice and warm. Nights were spent reading, sewing, and doing my writing for the mini-series I had started of the far north. Two of my books had already been accepted for publication. Here in my cabin I had the peace of mind and solitude of this beautiful, majestic land of Alaska, which I have come to love..yes, this was a good life but lonesome at times.

Thanks to my oldest daughter, she had arranged for our whole family to be together this Christmas, some of my family had never been to Alaska. Some didn't even have the faintest idea where I lived, but my daughter worked very hard to put this all together. This was a once in a lifetime for getting them all together at one time.

I had been preparing for months, ever since I found out Mary had been working on this huge operation. It meant everyone who was working had to put in for this special time off from their immediate jobs, it meant all the kids who were in school from the different states would have to notify their teachers that they were going to be gone to ALASKA in the bush to see their GRANDMA, and GREAT-GRANDMA for the very first time!! So many

presents to buy, so many to make, so many goodies to cook up but I had done it!

As I finished dressing my tree, I couldn't help but think of some of the history it held from the boxes of decorations I had unpacked that had belonged to my family for so many years. They had been packed away for so long as I had never thought I would ever use them again. I had never had a Christmas tree after the last of my children had left home. There was just not much use to have one, when you are all alone, you kind of lose touch with the meaning of the holiday and secretly you just wish it would hurry and go by. There it was!! A REAL BEAUTY! What an occasion this would be! Did I have enough film? Everything had to be just perfect...where would I put them all to sleep? I had told Mary to tell everyone to bring sleeping bags, warm cloths, and just their selves. Would I look old to them? Would they like me? How would I know their names...all this and more was traveling through my mind as I waited for the helicopter to come in.

YES! Mary had arranged for a helicopter to fly them in. I had an old pick-up truck I would drive out to the main road over 20 miles away on good days. In winter I would leave the truck out there and use my snowmobile to get to the truck. If that failed I would always have my dogs I could hook up to get me out in case of an emergency. I also had snowshoes and knew how to use them. It was going to take a few trips to get them all in here, but I knew it could be done.

As I stoked my fire, and checked on my hot water on my little stove, I thought this would be a good time to settle down and have a cup of tea. She had told me they would be here on Christmas Eve, and here it was Christmas Eve. It was dark like always, and we had had snow the day before, but flying weather was perfect, clear, cool and just one beautiful evening. It was so hard to believe my dream was really coming true, and the suspense was just awful for me not knowing when for sure they would be here.

Off in the distance I could hear the sound of a motor, was this it for sure? I donned my fur parka, bunny boots, almost shaking with anticipation as I opened my door to my cozy little log cabin and looked out on the field from my porch. YES! It was the helicopter, and it had landed, and people were getting out! I ran with all my might in those clumsy bunny boots with my dogs trailing along behind. They didn't see many visitors either and they were always faithful being there to protect me. There MARY was! And she had two of my newest great grand=children with her I had

never seen. She gave me a big hug and said, “Mom, I have a whole bunch of your offspring waiting to get here, he will have to make quite a few trips, but they are ALL here, there are 55 of us, counting wives and husbands of all of them!”

As I wiped my eyes from the tears that hadn't fallen for so many years, I knew I had one of the finest daughters any mother could ever have to put this all together for me. I could never have done it. As they made repeated trips I kept holding the last one of my beautiful great-grandkids and then another load would come! Soon everyone had made it and the pilot came into my cabin with my whole family and joined in with some of our festivities! He later said he was proud to be a part of such a great reunion then telling us goodbye with a date for a pick-up for all of them when they were ready to fly out.

Need I say, we were stacked up like stove wood in that little ole log cabin, when we went to sleep, but there was never a happier family in this whole wide world on that Christmas in the bush of Alaska! Guess what! I knew we would never let this many years go by again before we got in touch, and I knew they would be back to see me one day also. I thank my Lord every day for my many blessings!

End of the dredging season chores

With the close of Dredging Season (Sept. 15th) most of us will not have a chance to use our equipment until next year. To help ensure that your equipment will operate with the least trouble next year, it is recommended that you take a little time now, to preserve your engines over the winter.

1. Change the oil
2. Drain the fuel as much as possible, and then fill the tank with a mixture of fresh gasoline and a fuel stabilizer such as “Stabil” (available at auto parts stores). Run the engine for 5-10 minutes so that the stabilized gas gets into the carburetor. (NOTE: if you want to run the engine with pump attached, keep the pump seals wet by running a garden hose into the pump).
3. Remove the spark-plug and add about 1 tablespoon of motor oil into the cylinder. Tip the engine so that the cylinder is straight up & down, and slowly (with engine switch “off”); turn the engine over a few times, so that the oil coats the rings and cylinder completely.

Put the spark plug back in, and if possible, replace with a new one next season.

4. One last item that I think most of us forget to do: clean or replace the air filter. Even though dredging isn't anywhere near as dusty as mowing, the air filter do eventually get dirty, which eventually can act just like having the “choke” on..
5. Store the engine's in a safe dry area... and you should be ready for next year.

Omelets in a Bag

Mill City Independent Press

(Gary said this works great)

Good for when all your family is together and no one has to wait for their special omelet.

Have a guest write their name on a quart-size freezer bag with a permanent marker.

Crack two eggs (large or extra-large) into the bag (not more than two) shake to combine them.

Put out a variety of ingredients such as: cheeses, ham, onion, green pepper, tomato, hash browns, salsa, etc.

Each guest can add prepared ingredients of choice to their bag and shake. Make sure to get the air out of the bag and zip it up.

Place the bags into rolling, boiling water for exactly 13 minutes. You can usually cook 6-8 omelets in a large pot. For more, make another pot of boiling water.

When time is up take bag and open over plate. Omelet will roll out easily. Be prepared for everyone to be amazed.

Nice to serve with fresh fruit and coffee cake; everyone gets involved in the process and a great conversation piece.

Club members are going to make a quilt to raffle off at the GPAA show so if you have any clip art of mining or miners please send them to me at gldlooker@msn.com or if they are not on the computer mail them to me at:

Trudy Schrader
PO Box 504
Lyons OR 97358



Room for one more story

MINERS, A STRANGE GROUP OF PEOPLE...

Miners are a strange group of people. Maybe I should single out the male miners, as I am a member of that group and have some experience. We dig and wash dirt and rock; we vacuum up all sorts of things from the bottom of streams, hoping to find gold. We will sometimes drive hundreds of miles and spend hundreds of dollars just to try our luck in another stream.

Most of us are also collectors and amateur inventors. We never saw a piece of mining equipment we didn't think we could improve upon. I know if ten of us were to bring our sluice boxes to a stream, there would be ten different variations; some small and some large. There would be different riffles or carpet. Each may set up at different slants to feed them slower or faster. Which one is best? The answer is the one that works the best for you. Are you finding color? Are you trapping the fines? What part of the sluice is trapping the gold? You have to find the answer for yourself. That's part of the fun...or is it work?

The sluice is basic in many operations, highbanking and dredging. Unless you have a tromel, which is a good method, but not as popular as a sluice with riffles. It would help to feed your sluice at the rate that allows the riffles to stay clear below each slat. You may have to adjust more or less water pressure or more or less slope to the unit as to the rate you can feed it. If your sluice is on a dredge, you should have someone tending for you.

This was not meant to be an instruction article, but as a miner I have to put down what I may have learned. Some think it's common knowledge, but not all would agree. We are male miners.

Equipment costs a lot of money, so when we want something, it is the most natural thing to study it and say, "I can make that myself". I can too! "Let's see, a dredge, one motor, one pump, one sluice box, couple of floats, some hose and presto! The finest dredge ever built!"

Most of these work, but are not too economical – the reason we started to build it in the first place! A used pump, the lawnmower motor, my converted six foot sluice box, some truck tubes and a trip to the irrigation supply store for the hose, time and work, "fun", \$485. Then we look in the paper and the add reads: "3" Keene gold dredge. Good condition. \$300". DAMN!!!!!! Time to start building a highbanker. You hardly ever see them in the paper. Dredging in cold water requires special equipment. Wetsuits (¼ inch works pretty well), booties, gloves

and hood. If you don't use the hood in cold (icy cold) water, your sinuses may "*gib you some problubs breaving for a couble of days*". Wetsuits are hard to buy if you've never had one on, you don't know your size. When you get them wet, they are like a second skin. When you are ready to get out of your suit, it would be good to have help. I find it next to impossible to do it alone. My first try brought near panic. My arms behind me, the sleeves only half-way off, what a struggle – and that was the jacket! The farmer-johns were nearly as bad. A guy at the dive shop said try ^{panty}hose. I hate to admit it, but it works. Talcum powder does too. The guy I dredge with, likes the baby smell better than the cross dressing. To each his own I guess. How embarrassing!

Some things miners need are 4x4 trucks, campers/motor homes, tire chains, camping gear, picks, shovels, trowels, pans, sucker bottles, crevicing tools, hammers, cable, come-a-longs, rock nets, poop tubes, wetsuits, weight belts, snorkels, masks, flippers, air supply, rocker boxes, ~~dynamite~~ (scratch that!), sluice boxes, dredge(s), highbankers, and the list goes on and on and on and on...

One wise fellow I know said he had come up with the cheapest and easiest way to get the most gold. BUY IT!!! He was probably right, but I have to study it and maybe I could build some! I'm still a male miner.

Treasure hunting goes hand-in-hand with gold mining. The metal detector is a great addition to any miner's equipment. I got my first one for a Christmas gift for my wife.....and myself. We went to the coast and I tried it out. It worked great – I found rusty nails, pull-tabs and bottlecaps. No coins that day. But heck, practice makes perfect! I tried it in some of the local parks when I was laid off and had time. I did alright too. Found quite a few pennies, a couple nickels, maybe a dime or two, and one small silver and turquoise ring. I had to buy new batteries – too bad I didn't find some quarters, I mighta broke even. Guess I just need more practice! Work has been too darn good these last three years and I haven't had time to practice more than once or twice. But in the meantime, I found a second detector at a garage sale. I finally was able to talk my wife into going with me. We went to a schoolyard near us. No one around, so we started to search. Kids came out of the woodwork. They wanted to help...with the finds. Time to get out of there! I still have those two detectors in the closet and maybe work will slow down, or I will retire and practice, practice, practice. There must be lots of treasure being lost every day. by Gary Schrader

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Contact Ken: Ph 541-791-9986

Fax 541-791-9987 Email: gscep@peak.org

Anything you want in the newsletter please get to

Trudy Schrader - 503-859-3132

gldlooker@msn.com,

No Later than the 1st of the month.

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

