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Gary Wolf  
Diane & Don Smith  
Will Winslow

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

### Programs

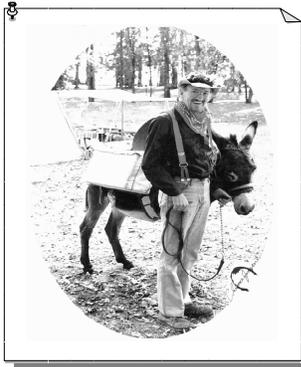
Diane Smith  
Wes Jeffers

### Website

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Cliff Winston  
Paul Messersmith

### Newsletter Editor

Mary Atkinson  
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# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

January 2006

## President's Report

### Next Meeting

January 19, 2006  
7:00 PM

Another Christmas Party under our belts.

A big thanks to Don, Howard and Gary for saving the day by finding tables and chairs for us. When we got there we had only one table in the room, which was not large enough to put all the food on let alone all of us to sit around. Also a big thank you to all that helped set up and break down.

There were about 56 people that brought and partook of all the good food. The club furnished 3 hams with very little left at the end of the party. Thanks to all of you who cooked the hams. For all of you that left after the eating was over, you missed a lot of fun. Wes did a great job with the gift exchange, which was full of stealing, joking around and laughter. Don raced us through the bingo games so we could get out of the room on time. Maybe next year everyone can stay for the merriment. It is a good way to get to know the other member and maybe find a new mining partner.

Judy S. had the quilt top done and on display. Cindy F. took it home to put the layers together and quilt it. We should be able to start selling raffle tickets on it in Jan. and pull the winning ticket at the GPAA show in March.

It is not too early to start thinking about prizes for next Christmas or the metal detecting outing. If you see things that are free after rebate pick them up for the club. (you send the rebate in and give the item to the club) Gary and I have been doing that for years, it saves the club money and we can have some nice prizes that way.

**\$15 dues are due for 2006**

### Outings/Events

**Jan 21 – Rice Museum – Portland ACTION REQUIRED (see inside)**

**Feb 25 – Metal Detecting @ Bush Park Salem**

**CORRECTION TO CALENDAR – Fred Fellabaum's phone number should be (541) 928-1313**

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

If you have a mailbox key to the club mailbox please turn it in to a club officer.

## Incoming Presidents Message

Another year is here, and here I am President again. I first wanted to thank all of last year's officers. Gary Schrader and Paul Messersmith who were the President and Vice-President. Secretary Ken Haines who has agreed to stay on for another year. Dianne Smith and Marge Manuma who both worked as Treasurers this year. And finally Tom Quintal who provides us with all of the current information from the political arena. I also want to say "thank you" to Louie Frick and Andy Miller for stepping up and becoming our new Vice-President and Treasurer. Also a special thanks to Mary Atkinson who has volunteered to publish our newsletter.

I am looking forward to the coming year; we have added some more camping outings at Miners Meadow and a camping outing at Schwartz Campground out of Cottage Grove, as well as our standard full schedule. We also have Dave McCracken tentatively scheduled for the March 16 meeting, so try to plan to get there for that one.

One final note, this club is the members club, not the officers, we always welcome ideas from the members on how the club can be better.

Don Hammer  
President Willamette Valley Miners

## Rice Museum Trip! Please Read! Action Required!

The club is planning a trip to Rice Museum. There are two different options: We can have a private tour before the normal opening time, if we have a minimum of 25 people attending or, if we do not have 25 people, we can show up during normal viewing hours (1:00 to 5:00 P.M.) and they will assign us a guide. If we can get 25 people, the plan would be to meet at the Harbor Freight parking lot (North Salem on Portland Road) around 9:45 to leave no later than 10:00 to be at Rice Museum at 11:00. Otherwise we will meet at Harbor Freight at 11:45, leave at 12:00 and plan to be there at 1:00. So that we can plan accordingly please contact one of the events committee members listed on the newsletter if you are interested in going. We will announce at the January club meeting what the final plan will be so if you

cannot attend the club meeting please contact an event committee member after the meeting to find out what was decided.

## Club Member Letter

Fairbanks, Alaska  
November 17, 2005

Willamette Valley Miners  
P.O. Box 13044  
Salem. OR 97309

Hello from your farthest miner north in Alaska!

I have been wanting to write a letter for a long time to tell you how much I appreciate receiving the newsletter every month. To the crew who put it out, you have come a long ways since the club has grown and do such a great professional job. I work for Holland America at Gold Dredge No 8 in Fox Alaska, which is ten miles from Fairbanks, and I also put out a monthly bulletin while our season is on from May to September and I know all the work that is involved in putting out ours every month, but it is rewarding.

Just wanted to "touch bases" with everyone even though many do not even know me. Living in this far north is an adventure in itself especially our long winters, which we have been in since September. We now have only five hours of daylight and soon we will be down to two hours, but we perk up when we enter the solstice and know spring is coming! I love to prospect, and need to say that I have found "color" in every creek and stream I have dipped my pan in. I would sure like to have some pen pals; I do not do the Internet any more so consequently have lost a lot of the ones I used to write to. But it was an expensive convenience for me as I am on limited income, so if you want to write a "real" letter I will be honored to answer and tell you about my "paradise" here. Thank you also for printing my little story about Xmas in your last issue, I do a lot of writing here and am working on several articles at this time plus a series of books from the Far North. Wishing you all a great holiday filled with blessings for the New Year!

"YOURS FOR NUGGETS"

"Arctic Angel"

Yvonne Newman 1120 Lakeview Terrace Fairbanks,  
Alaska 99701

## Understanding VLF - Ground Balancing

### Cliff's Metal Detectors

Perhaps one of the most difficult and least understood aspects of metal detecting for the beginner is that of ground balancing. What is it, how is it done, and why (?) are the most often heard questions from those new to detecting.

First of all, mineral conditions within the soils where we detect for metal objects often contain certain minerals and/or salts....oxides and sulfides of certain types that have some degree of conductivity or magnetic properties that create a "target signal reaction" for the VLF induction balance type metal detector. While these minerals often produce a very low level of conductivity or magnetivity, when we are dealing with an "all-metal" metal detector especially, even these low-level reactions can create problems, since the detector is seeing the entire ground under the coil as one big target.

Now, there are basically two ways that a metal detector can be designed to deal with such mineralization problems. Both are effectively "low-level discrimination" processes.

First, there is the "discriminating" metal detector, those most often used to hunt for coins and other items, which give the operator the ability to discriminate out certain levels of metals that fall within a certain area of the conductivity scale. This is a "relative scale" based on an arbitrary valuation of "100" for annealed pure copper at a specific temperature. This is the "base" that is used to compare all other metals on the relative conductivity scale, with most metals falling below this valuation, and silver falling above this level at approximately 106.

So, when using a discriminating metal detector, it can clearly be seen that the best way to deal with low levels of ground mineralization is to simply "chop off" or discriminate out that lower area of the conductivity scale in which this mineralization exists. There is a little more to it than that, and this is a simplified example, but this is basically how certain discriminating metal detectors handle ground mineralization by design. And it's also important to remember that the more ground mineralization that exists, the more difficulty ANY detector will have in peering through such ground to find a metallic target. Mineralization simply reduces the effectiveness or depth ability of the detector when dealing with induction balance, because the transmitted and

received signals are a constant, keeping that ground mineralization saturated with an artificial electromagnetic field that creates what might be compared to a visual "fog" between the target and the detector itself.

Now, in dealing with "all-metal" type gold nugget detectors, obviously there is no "discrimination" circuit to help deal with the ground minerals, so a different approach must be taken. And while some discriminating detectors use some level of this approach also, most simply "cut off" lower level conductivity signals as explained earlier.

In ground balancing an all-metal type machine, we are simply expanding on this "balance" approach by "re-balancing" the TX and RX signals to "ignore" the signal from the ground mineralization as if there were no signal at all coming back into the machine. This is a sort of "clipping" or filtering process if you will, whereby the circuits of the detector send out a "known" signal that is compared with the "unknown" signal that the RX circuits receive back from the ground. The difference in the two is then effectively subtracted from the received signal so that the detector "thinks" it is again sending and receiving the same signal..... i.e. NO TARGET RESPONSE. On manual ground balance machines, this is done by the operator to his desired operational level, while automatic or "auto-tracking" detectors are designed to do this automatically within its circuitry. They are effectively doing exactly the same thing.

Now, from a practical standpoint, it is "usually" to your advantage to tune your detector to a slight degree of "positive" ground balance. That is, to the point where you get a slight increase in target response tone as you lower your coil toward the ground. This should ONLY be a slight response. The reason for this slight positive balancing is to prevent the detector from missing or giving too slight a response to already faint smaller and deeper targets. Anytime you have a negative ground balance, the audio circuits of the detector actually have to make up for the "dead zone" in the detection level before beginning to give a good target signal, besides having more of a problem with mineralization "falsing" due to the negative setting. This can be looked at in much the same way you might look at the audio threshold of a machine. But keep in mind that under "most" conditions, it will be to your advantage to use both a slightly positive ground balance AND a slightly positive audio threshold. It simply gives the detector a "head start" in producing the signal that tells you there is a target under the coil rather than

having to "fill the gap" before pulling out of negative territory.

Where practical manual ground balancing is concerned, it is a very simple process that for some reason beginners have the most trouble with when using a manual GB detector.

The easiest way to manually ground balance a machine is to simply pump the coil toward and away from the ground while listening for the response of the audio. If the audio signal increases as the coil approaches the ground, you are balanced too POSITIVE, and need to TURN DOWN the ground balance level. If the audio signal decreases as the coil approaches the ground, but increases as it moves upward and away from the ground, then you are balanced too NEGATIVE and you will need to TURN UP your ground balance level. Once you find the point where there is no response in the audio signal when either lowering or raising the coil, then you are technically at the "balance" point. It is at this point that your machine no longer "responds" to the mineralization in the ground as a target. Again, you will normally be better off adjusting to a very slight positive balance at this point so that you can HEAR what the ground beneath your coil is doing by periodically checking your balance point..... whether it is changing, staying the same, or becoming very inconsistent as you move from one area to another.

Another quick tip on ground balancing a manual VLF induction balance machine.....

While ground balancing your detector, try to do so as you pump the coil up and down and while moving the coil in a wide arc across the ground from left to right and visa versa. In this manner you will get more of an "average" for that particular spot rather than just at one point under the coil. And remember to be absolutely SURE that you are not trying to balance your machine over a metal target in the ground..... one of those simple "DUH" concepts that is often overlooked.

While it may appear complicated to the uninitiated, with time, practice, and UNDERSTANDING, ground balancing will become almost second-nature, and you will eventually find yourself doing it "on the fly" without ever missing a beat, and never giving it a second thought. Practice, patience, and persistence make it all come together.

Where "auto-tracking" machines are concerned, there are advantages and disadvantages to having the machine do your ground balancing for you. As a

quick and easy approach for the experienced, or a simple method for the beginner at detecting, they can be a time saving feature that will work very well in "most" conditions and under most situations. In some areas of extreme mineralization or certain types of hot rock infestation, auto-tracking circuits CAN do more harm than good, and contrary to some popular opinion, these types of machines can and will "track into" certain good targets, especially smaller and deeper targets, either causing the machine to ignore good targets altogether, or simply miss them due to surrounding or close proximity mineralization or hot rocks. Suffice it to say, they are not the "fix-all" of the all-metal detecting world, although improvements seem to be made with each new circuit design that is introduced into the market. As those designs improve, so obviously will their performance in the more difficult environments.

## **Time to Visit Dale**

Dale Russell is at home and his prognosis is not good. If people want to see him again, now is the time. I'm sure he'd appreciate a visit. You might give him a call prior to visiting 530-363-4795.

## **Theft**

Club member Wes Jeffers had his house burglarized before Christmas and all his mining and metal detecting equipment were stolen along with coins, gold, and gift cards. If any member comes across someone trying to dump stuff, please let Wes know.

## **Website Link**

This is a great site if you can get into it. I have had problems at different times.  
[www.geocommunicator.gov/index.html](http://www.geocommunicator.gov/index.html) There is link to it on the club website.

# **OREGON MINERS ALERT**

January, 2006

## **The future of suction dredge mining in Oregon is in extreme danger!**

On August 30, 2005, a coalition of environmentalist organizations filed a "*Petition for Judicial Review*" in the Court of Appeals of the State of Oregon. The Petition challenges the new Oregon suction dredge mining permit (700-PM) issued by the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on July 5, 2005.

In their suit, the environmentalist's claim improper conduct on the part of the DEQ while drafting the new permit, and that the new permit is not restrictive enough. It is believed by many in the Oregon suction dredge mining community that if Oregon Miners do not get involved in this litigation, they will ultimately get a more restrictive (and possibly prohibitive) permit.

The Eastern Oregon Mining Association (EOMA), with the help and support of the Waldo Mining District, Willamette Valley Miners, the Resources Coalition, and other mining organizations, has retained the services of noted attorney James Buchal to help protect the rights of suction dredge miners in Oregon.

On December 9, 2005, a "*Motion to Intervene*" and a "*Petition for Judicial Review*" were filed on behalf of the EOMA in the Court of Appeals of the State of Oregon.

The outcome of this litigation will affect all future suction dredging in Oregon, and possibly surrounding states.

### **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

We miners are battling for our very existence. We need ammunition, in the form of *fifty caliber dollars*, to counter this threat by the environmentalists (whose long stated goal is the prohibition of all suction dredge mining).

Please dig deep in your pocketbook and send your generous donations to:

**EOMA 700PM Legal Fund**

**PO Box 932**

**Baker City, OR 97814**

For more information contact Ed Hardt - President, or Chuck Chase – Executive Director, EOMA, P.O. Box 932, Baker City, OR. 97814. Copies of court filed documents can be viewed on the Waldo Mining District website at: [www.waldominingdistrict.org](http://www.waldominingdistrict.org)

EOMA is a 501c6 non-profit organization. 100% of all donations will be used for legal fees in connection with this litigation, or possible future litigation.

## War Chest Contributors

As seen on the previous page, funds are desperately needed to fight the Environmentalists effort to stop suction dredge mining. The Club has already donated some funds toward this effort and no doubt will be sending more. Last November, many members pledged IOU's and some have already made their contributions to the cause. The following Club members pledge are still outstanding:

Howard Conner \$25  
Larry Coon \$50  
Richard Dowty \$10  
Jerry Garner \$20  
Ken Haines \$20  
Herb Klocke \$20  
Stephen Landis \$10  
John Mack \$25  
Paul Messersmith \$50  
Tom Quintal \$50  
Todd Stutzman \$20

Of course, anyone else is encouraged to add what he or she can. Please make checks payable to the "EOMA 700PM Legal Fund" and mail them to our club address (or give to Club Treasurer Andy Miller) and we will send them in as a group so we can determine total contributions coming from WVM. Club address PO Box 13044 Salem, OR 97309-1044.

Thanks for everyone's help.

## Letter from EOMA

Based on the letter from Tom Kitchar, Waldo Mining District, (WMD), for help with the legal fees in the Miners' case against the environmental NGO's, (Non Governmental Organizations), Eastern Oregon Mining Association, (EOMA) would like to give all the miners a run down of the documents that have been filed.

EOMA, through attorney James Buchal Have filed on December 9, 2005 our own Petition to Review. We also cross-filed to Intervene in the NGO's present Review. EOMA states that the Miners' do not support the NGO's or DEQ, (Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality). Numerous studies have

failed to identify adverse effects from suction dredging, and that only miners who are required to obtain this permit are the real parties of interest, neither the NGO's or DEQ can say the same. The Miners' seek to respond to false claims of environmental damage and that DEQ issued this NPDES permit based on erroneous advise from the Attorney General's office to conclude that NPDES applies to suction dredging.

On December 22, 2005 the environmental NGO's filed an opposition to the Miners' motion to Intervene. They claim that no other party filed a timely review and that general permits are Orders, in which, the 60-day time frame to appeal strictly applies.

The Miners' reply, filed by December 29, 2005, that they are asking for review based on ORS 183.400, which allows for a review challenging the "Validity of a Rule" and that in this ORS the only requirement for timeliness is the 2 year requirement for procedural errors. The Miners' also note that as of 1/01/06 the legislature has passed a law that general permits will be reviewed as Orders and the 60 day appeal time will strictly apply. However, the Miners' did beat that time frame because we filed before that law came into effect. The Miners' replied that the NGO's did not dispute the fact that the Miners' have a powerful interest in this Review, nor do they give evidence of prejudice from the miners by allowing their intervention.

The NGO's have asked for an extension until February 17, 2006 to present their arguments. The Miners' fully expect to be there as well. As this case develops EOMA will send out further updates.

Ed Hardt, President of EOMA

## Club Library

Howard Conner has taken over the responsibility for the Club library. He plans to re-number publications and reorganize it BUT there are some items that have been checked out and not returned. Look around and see if you have a book or video that belongs to the Club and return them at a meeting or mail them back – No we don't charge late fees but would like to get things back so others can check them out and enjoy them. Thanks.

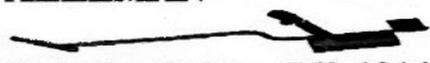
*Fine Recovery* **Louie's Welding**  
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 Scotts Mills, Oregon 97375  
 Phone/pager 503-873-7432  
 E-mail cmpdakota@yahoo.com  
  
 William Winslow

**D & K Detector Sales**  
  
 13809 S. E. Divison  
 Portland, OR 97236  
 1-800-542-GOLD

**Classifieds**

**For Sale**

Mining Timbers and Wedges, Douglas fir or white oak sawn to your specifications. Contact Ken Haines  
 RB Lumber - toll free 866-791-9986

**For Sale**

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

**I Buy**

Gold nuggets and fines no amount is too small.  
 Email: [kenh@peak.org](mailto:kenh@peak.org)  
 Ph: 541-791-9986 Fax: 541-791-9987z

**For Sale**

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

**Gold and Silver Custom Electrd Plating**

New plating or repair, home/office fixtures automotive/recreational vehicle parts, dinnerware, coinage, cutlery, collectables, jewelry, trophies and fire arms.  
 Contact Ken: Ph 541-791-9986  
 Fax 541-791-9987 Email: [gscep@peak.org](mailto:gscep@peak.org)

**Anything you want in the newsletter please get to newsletter editor**

**No Later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

**Note from the newsletter editor:** This is YOUR newsletter. If you have articles pertaining to prospecting, metal detecting, camping/RV tips, Dutch oven or potluck recipes, or other items you would like to see in the newsletter then submit them to me for consideration and I will include them as space allows. Mary [Alderslope@proaxis.com](mailto:Alderslope@proaxis.com)

# 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

