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Joe & Shirley Garcia
Don Hammer
Wes Jeffers
Janie Miller
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Programs

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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

April 2006

President's Report

We have Rickreall Rock and Gem Show coming up on Easter and the Beverly Beach outing the week after that. Come join us at Beverly Beach. It's that time of year to start thinking about getting the equipment out and dusted of for the season. I heard today that the snow pack is 135% of normal so we should have a lot of water to wash some gold down.

Don Hammer

DAD'S CREEK CLEANUP

Paul Messersmith

The lower Dad's Creek claim (WVM#3) now has three or four new trails on the west bank (steeper side of the creek) and a wide path cleared along a significant part of the upper Dad's Creek claim (WVM#2). Let's give a special thanks to the following members for a great job (and we hope we didn't miss anyone):

Gordon "Skip" Davis	Don and Ruth Hammer
Boyd Jackson	Paul Messersmith
Andy Miller	Gerry Garner
Darryl Miller	Dave Bosanco
Bud Klagge & Family	Pete Taylor
Howard Conner	Wes Jeffers
Bob Noble	

Trip Report From Dad's Creek

There were about 12 attendees at the Dad's Creek Cleanup. Most were new members. We cut four trails down to the creek on WVM 3. After the work there was some nice gold found by Boyd, it looked like he had 5 or 6 nice pickers. There is good gold there so get down there and find it.

Don Hammer

Outings/Events

Rickerall Rock and Gem Show April 14-16

Club meeting April 20 7:00pm

Beverly Beach April 22-23

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 March 16, 2006

Ken Haines, Secretary

Willamette Valley Miners Vice President, Louie Frick, presided over the March general Meeting in the absence of President Don Hammer. The gathering of approximately 50 members and 7 guests began at its regularly scheduled time of 7:00 p.m., on the third Thursday of the month. The meeting was held at the usual Salem location, the Marion County Fire Hall, 300 Cordon Road N. E., in the large downstairs meeting room in the rear of the station.

Vice President Louie announced that long time member and past President Dale Russell had passed away.

Dale will be greatly missed by our membership and those in the mining community. His service is Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Salem Mennonite Church, 1045 Candlewood Drive N.E., in Salem.

Our heart felt condolences go out to wife, Juel, and the rest of Dale's family.

Paul Messersmith has begun collecting donations for a memorial fund for Dale's family. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact Paul at 541 926 8153 or see him at the April 20th meeting. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Minutes from the February 2006 meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurer, Andy Miller gave the monthly Treasurers Report, which was also unanimously approved by the membership. Andy is presently updating the membership list, in light of the many new members who recently have joined the club. The GPAA show alone, signed up 12 new families.

For those members who still need to renew their 2006 memberships, please get your \$15.00 annual renewal fees to Andy Miller at or before our next meeting on April 20th. If you have changed your phone number, mailing address, or email address, please let Andy know, so that you will continue to receive your newsletters and other important club information, thanks. To contact Treasurer Andy, you may call 503 585 8013 or email him at andyfamiller@hotmail.com.

Club memberships are still one of the best bargains in today's world. After all, where else can you sign up the entire family for only \$15.00 per year? Membership privileges include; your club claims packet, containing maps and directions to the clubs gold claims at Shady Cove on the Little North Fork of The Santiam, Dry Gulch in the Quartzville mining district, Vincent Creek in Eastern Oregon gold country, and both Dads' Creek claims near Cow Creek off Interstate-5, headed south out of Roseburg. Members can join in on monthly club scheduled outings including prospecting trips, metal detecting outings, campouts and the annual Miner's Rendezvous at Miners Meadow in the Quartzville mining district.

Another activity includes miners' representation at the State Capital to help preserve the rights of all miners, which are continually assailed by environmental and private interest groups. Those interested in preserving mining as we know it may contact our own Government Affairs Representative Tom Quintal, at 503 371 9747 or email: tjdq@open.org, or his associate Paul Messersmith at 541 926 8153 or email: messersp@comcast.net.

Monthly meeting times are also good opportunities to visit with other members and discover who else has similar interests to yours; prospecting, mining, dredging, detecting, rock hounding, exploring or just camping. Take advantage of the knowledge available from club members, and ask to tag along. At almost every meeting, there are opportunities to join little expeditions that take place on weekends and during the week too.

Remember that the Willamette Valley Miners have put together a very comprehensive library over the years. Books, VCR Tapes, Maps, Magazines, How to Manuals, and almost anything that you could imagine, are available at each monthly meeting for members to check out. Howard Connor is the club's current Librarian. He has the library available to members at each monthly meeting. If you have questions concerning the items in the library you may contact Howard at 503 399 0292 or his email genesis.hec@juno.com.

A Motion was carried for the club to cover the \$139.00 worth of training materials to be used at the May 6th, 2006 class, instructed by Paul Messersmith, on map reading, locating and filing mining claims, using the information available on the Bureau of Land Management's LR 2000 computer system. The class is limited to only 12 club members at this time and will consist of approximately 5 information packed hours. You may contact Paul at the April meeting to reserve your spot or contact him at 541 926 8153 or email: messersp@comcast.net.

Anyone interested in learning the basics of GPS are welcome to attend classes at the Salem Sportsmen's Warehouse. Classes are limited to 10 people at each class. You must contact the Sportsmen's Warehouse directly. Classes are held from 7 – 8 p.m. on these dates: April 12, 2006, May 17, 2006, June 14, 2006, and July 12, 2006. You must bring your own GPS to the class.

Thank you volunteers from the Willamette Valley Miners and the Linn County Miners clubs for making our time spent at the Salem GPAA Gold Show a success.

Those attending the annual Gold Prospectors Association of America, (GPAA), show at the Salem Fairgrounds over the March 11th & 12th weekend were treated to all the latest in gizmos and gadgets for anyone with an interest in prospecting, mining, detecting or rock hounding. From 'how to' books and treasure maps to pin pointers, gold dredges and gold nuggets, it was all there. Metal detectors were stacked up like cord wood, miners moss carped the tables, blue bowls and classifiers outlined vendors claims, while the sloshing of water and whirring sound of the gold wheels and separators beckoned the weekend prospectors like a siren.

Saturday and Sunday, March 25th & 26th, is the club outing to the WVM #2 and WVM #3 gold claims on Dad's Creek. These are the organization's most recently acquired gold claims. Bring your gold pans, shovels and machetes. This is a spring clean-up at the claims, which is meant to open some trails from the road to access portions of the creek and make it a little easier for members to explore year around. Enjoy this opportunity for a spring camping trip with other club members, and remember to bring your gold pan. Howard Connor is the contact for this outing, 503 399 0292 or his email genesis.hec@juno.com.

Coming up soon is the annual Rickreall Rock & Gem Show at the Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall. Our club hosts an informational booth along with a gold panning workshop for anyone that wants to learn the technique for panning gold. This

is always a great time meeting people and helping to teach them how to pan. Friday is kid's day, with schools from all over the Willamette Valley bringing in children to see the rock and mineral displays. Because of all the kids on Friday, we could use all hands on deck to handle as many as might want to pan for gold. Everyone that pans pays a dollar or two for a zip lock bag containing quartz sands and a small gold nugget. The small fee for each gold bag helps the club meet our expenses throughout the year. Come and enjoy the experience and the show. Dates and times are: Thursday April 13th, our set-up crew will set-up from about 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed immediately by a potluck supper for those helping during that time. Friday and Saturday, April 14th & 15th, the hours are from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday April 16th times are 10 a.m. until closing and tear-down at 4:30 p.m. Contact Ken Haines at 541 791 9986 or email kenh@peak.org if you can help.

He Government Affairs report was given by our representative on the hill, Tom Quintal. He gave a brief informative report on the presentation given by the miner's delegation, during their meeting with the EPA and DEQ. Tom thanked Jeff Boatwright, Guy Michael, Tom Kircher, Paul Messersmith and others who did research, prepared presentations and spoke during the meeting held on March 9, 2006. The meeting lasted most of the day and included a meaningful power point presentation outlining the purposes and advantages of small scale gold mining in Oregon, in contrast to the picture painted by the environmental special interest groups. Also attending the meeting were Gordon Anderson and Senator Gordon Smith. Although, Tom seemed pleased by the miner's presentations and the impressive attendance, he cautioned that our legal battles are far from over. As Miners, we all have to contend with the misinformation accepted and distributed by our government agencies. Case in point, Tom shared his finding. Written into one of the EPA's Placer Mining fact sheets was in summary, that placer mining completely destroys stream beds. While on the other hand municipalities and industry pony up the permit dollars to avoid litigation and in essence pay to pollute our waterways with their discharges. We miners can expect to see the price of our government issued dredge and high banking permits increase over time, as it appears the EPA and DEQ, are motivated and quite possibly driven by the permitting fees. Our stock in trade is fast changing from gold to green backs and lawyers.

This is as good a time as any to remind our miners group that our Willamette Valley Miners organization actively participates in the legal defense of miners' rights in all of Oregon, through our donations to the Eastern Oregon Miners legal defense fund. We invite you as individuals to participate, as you can, with your check book to help in the fight to preserve our miners' rights and access. Treasurer Andy Miller and Government Affairs Representative Tom Quintal are available at each Willamette Valley Miners meeting to answer your questions and bless your generous donations.

Tom has tirelessly attended to and defended our miners' business at the capital and legislature for many years now. As time has passed, the energy and time required to keep current on mining issues has increased proportionately. As Tom is trying to recapture a portion of his time spent in this arena, the issues and time required to deal with them, continue to grow at an ever faster pace. In order to handle the load, he has been relying increasingly upon both Howard Connor and Paul Messersmith for their research and time. Thanks to Tom, Howard, Paul and others for their time and effort. Keep up the good work.

Thank you Ellen Compton for the coffee and cookies provided at the break. During the break, members were busy at the raffle tables and guest speaker, Dave McCracken's, table featuring his latest book Gold Mining in the 21st Century. Everyone catching a glimpse of the gold nugget samples in Dave's display case began to exhibit the symptoms of gold fever.

Following the break, Vice President Louie, introduced the renowned author, public speaker and master gold dredger Dave McCracken. Mr. McCracken operates his New 49'ers Prospecting Club, which is appropriately based in Happy Camp, California. Membership in his New 49'ers Prospecting Club provides access to approximately 60 miles of some of the best mining properties in California. Club claims include properties on the Klamath, Salmon, and Scott Rivers and their tributaries', near Happy Camp.

McCracken's uncanny ability to search for and find "The High Grade" gold have brought him both fame and fortune in today's mining culture. However, along with his fame, he has had his metal tested along the way. He has had to take on the legal challenges, which seem to befall all miners in this day and age. He has used his own personal war chest and time to champion miner's rights in the Karuk Tribe vs. the US Forest Service court battle. And today he is again in the forefront, leading miners, by example against the assaults of the environmental special interest groups that seek to stop all mining and take away public access.

One of Dave's goals is to get a new generation of young people interested in prospecting and mining to preserve the heritage. And part of his approach is based on teaching them the basic principles he has learned through his many years searching for "The High Grade".

Dave McCracken is an outstanding individual and a treasure to our mining community. The Willamette Valley Miners welcome him back each year as he makes his west coast speaking tour. Dave can be reached at The New 49'ers, PO Box 47, 27 Davis Road, Happy Camp, CA 96039. Or by phone at 560 493 2012, fax 530 493 2095, or email new49ers@goldgold.com Raffle master, Wes Jeffers, conducted the clubs evening raffles. Meeting adjourned. Happy prospecting.

Rickerall Gem and Rock Show Information

Gathered from the last general meeting and gleaned from club emails, this is what looks to be a list of volunteers for the Rickreall Rock & Gem Show so far:

Thursday April 13, 2006 Set-up (open 9 am – 8 pm)

If you would like to help in the panning

Gordon Davis Ph: 503 623 7380 Email: none listed

booth or the club info table, please

Andy Miller Ph: 503 585 8013 Email:

andyfammiller@hotmail.com *contact me with the date & time you are*

Darryl Miller Ph: 503 585 8013 Email:

andyfammiller@hotmail.com *available: Ken Haines*

Howard Conner Ph: 503 399 0292 Email: genesis.hec@juno.com

541 791 9986 Help needed here Email: kenh@peak.org

Friday April 14, 2006

Morning shift 9:30 am – 1 pm

Ken Haines Ph: 541 791 9986 Email:

kenh@peak.org

Andy Miller Ph: 503 585 8013 Email:

andyfammiller@hotmail.com

Darryl Miller Ph: 503 585 8013 Email:
andyfammler@hotmail.com
Art Leppin Ph: 503 623 2444 Email: none
listed

Afternoon Shift 1pm – 6pm

No sign-ups yet *Help needed here*

Saturday April 15, 2006

Morning Shift 9:30 am – 1 pm

Andy Miller Ph: 503 585 8013 Email:
andyfammler@hotmail.com
Darryl Miller Ph: 503 585 8013 Email:
andyfammler@hotmail.com
Art Leppin Ph: 503 623 2444 Email: none
listed
Diane Smith Ph: 503 897 3164 Email:
dd4611@hotmail.com

Afternoon Shift 1 pm – 600 pm

No sign-ups yet *Help needed here*

Sunday April 16, 2006

Morning Shift 9:30 am – 1 pm

Art Leppin Ph: 503 623 2444 Email: none listed
Help needed here

Afternoon Shift & Tear-down 1 pm – 4 pm closing

Diane Smith Ph: 503 897 3164 Email: dd4611@hotmail.com
Gary & Trudy Schrader Ph: 503 859 3132 Email:
gldlooker@msn.com

Help needed here

I have also contacted Paul Messersmith and asked him to fill in for me at the next General Meeting, on Thursday April 20, 2006. He will take meeting notes and prepare them for the following newsletter. I will also send a gold nugget with him, for the evening raffle. He will get it to Wes. Thank you, Paul, in advance. I will be getting a Bionic Knee on April 20. Happy Prospecting
Ken Haines

Thursday we do not need anyone till evening unless you are going to put a display case together. Gary will not be there with the club stuff till around 4:00 PM. Thursday is just a set up day for the rock and gem people, the show does not start till Friday.

Also Thursday night they have a *potluck* supper so if you want to eat there bring something to share.
Trudy Schrader

Miner's Workshop

May 6, 2006

**Map Skills, Filing Mining Claims, and
BLM's LR2000 Online Claim Finder**

This workshop will go through the steps from initially selecting desired mining claim locations through to filing on a claim and the follow up assessment work. Participants are encouraged to bring maps of locations they'd like to investigate. The class will provide a set of maps for our initial instruction. If you bring maps, they must have township, range, and section numbers clearly identified. Using BLM's LR2000 system, we will individually investigate the availability of claims based in the maps you provide.

There will be a \$5.00 fee to cover part of the cost of consumable supplies. I will also need 3 or 4 card tables and folding chairs. Bring a sack lunch – coffee and water will be provided. There's a Subway nearby if you'd rather eat there.

The session begins at 10:00 am and will go to approximately 3:00 pm with a lunch break.

The workshop is being held in my home. The address and phone number is:

Paul Messersmith
1007 37th Avenue SW
Albany, OR 97321
541-926-8153

email: messersp@comcast.net

Please call to get directions – it's very easy to find coming from either North or South. At publication time we have 3 spots remaining for the workshop which is limited to 12 participants. I look forward to seeing you on May 6th.

SREP Loose in District Court

Waldo just got word that on 3/28/06, U.S. District Judge Hogan upheld Magistrate Cooney's Findings & Recommendations in the SREP vs SNF & WMD/Bartons vs SNF Consolidated Cases.

ALL of SREPS claims are dismissed. Waldo/Bartons are still "moot"... and the Forest Service can NOT demand a POO for activities that do not or are not likely to cause a significant surface disturbance.

EVEN THOUGH WE ARE MOOT... WE WON!

(NOTE: At this point, this case is officially over unless SREP or one of the other parties files an appeal to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals)

A copy of the Order Notice is below:

U.S. District Court District of Oregon Notice of Electronic Filing The following transaction was received from sln, entered on 3/29/2006 at 2:36 PM PST and filed on 3/29/2006

Case Name: Siskiyou Regional Education Project v. United States Forest Service et al

Case Number: [1:03-cv-3013](#)

Filer:

Document Number: [155](#)

Case Name: Waldo Mining District et al v. United States Forest Service et al

Case Number: [1:03-cv-1175](#)

Filer:

Document Number: [120](#)

Docket Text:

ORDER: Signed on 3/28/06 by Judge Michael R Hogan. Adopting Findings and Recommendation [145]. Denying Motion for Summary Judgment [96], Granting Motion for Summary Judgment [111], Denying as Moot Motion to Strike [115], Denying Motion for Summary Judgment [117]. The clerk is directed to enter a judgment dismissing this case. Associated Cases: 1:03-cv-03013-CO,1:03-cv-01175-CO (sln,)

I'm Sorry

I had so much information this month I wasn't able to get it all in .So next month I will be adding what I couldn't get in this month. This includes Cliff's Corner part two.

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

