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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

May 2006

President's Report

This month has been hectic for me so I don't have a lot to report on. Just a plug for the events coming up. We have both outings at WVM#1 at Quartzville and at the claims at Vincent Creek. Larry Coon is still working on details for the Vincent Creek outing. If there are any questions concerning that outing I can be contacted directly.

Vincent Creek Information

The Vincent Creek claim is behind a Forest Service gate and we are working on resolving the issue if we need a gate permit, or if we can move the gate. Another big issue with the local rangers is that they do not want us to use the pit toilets that are there on site. If you are going to be coming over and are not staying in a self contained camper, bring a porta-potty. If you do not have one let me know because I have one that I would let someone use. You need a gate permit you can get your copy off the members only part of the WVM website. You can call Don Hammer if you troubles getting the permit.

Outings/Events

Meeting May 18 7:00 P.M.

Vincent Creek May 26-30

Miners Meadow camping w/ potluck June 8-11

Scheduled events for this weekend

Duck Race

Geo Cash GPS

Metal detecting treasure hunt

If interested call Howard Conner 503-399-0292

Newsletter

Anything want added to the newsletter let me know Email gcross004@web-ster.com

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
April 20, 2006
Ken Haines, Secretary

Vice President Louis Frick called the meeting to order. March meeting minutes were approved as mailed in the April Newsletter. Andy Miller gave the financial report along with a report on the Rickreall Rock and Gem Show. He estimated 1800 school children passed through the exhibit with many of them trying their hand at panning. It was a very busy show with the addition of 9 new members and at least 4 renewals. Our treasury is in fine shape.

The signup sheet was passed around, new members identified themselves and an explanation of the raffle table was presented.

It was reported that a card and the receipts from the Dale Russell Memorial Fund were sent on to Juell, Dale's widow.

A discussion centered around the club's gold panning bags. With the price of gold continuing to go up, a motion was made and passed to increase the price of the gold panning bags to \$1.50 for children and child oriented events and \$2.00 for adults with the added flexibility to adjust the price either way should circumstances dictate.

Other items of business:

A percentage of the receipts from the "Miner's Quilt" raffle was dedicated to go to the EOMA Legal Fund. Andy will make that determination and forward the check.

The club needs to schedule a gold bagging party in the near future. There is a need to purchase 2 sizes of vials – Cliff Winston supplied them in the past.

The trailer containing our "show equipment" is in need of some TLC. A work party needs to be organized to take care of this task.

During the Rickreall Rock and Gem Show there were 3 or 4 requests from various quarters requesting the club to put on or some how demonstrate gold panning techniques or something akin thereto. Jefferson School, Camp Cascade, Kaiser Cub Scouts, and

Perrydale School Kindergarten were among the groups making requests. A somewhat lengthy discussion followed. However, no action was taken.

Tom Quintal reviewed DEQ's response to the March 9th meeting with District 10 – Seattle - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). The response centered around an assistant Attorney General's opinion regarding the 'legal' standing of DEQ to issue an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit for suction dredging. Miners are requesting a top down analysis of delegated authority through the State Open Records Law. EPA and DEQ assert that they have the authority to issue an NPDES permit for suction dredge mining activities while the mining community challenges both their AUTHORITY and applicability of such a restrictive permit. There was also some discussion regarding the restrictions that apply to the 600 permit – off stream (high banking). The permit (MAO – Mutual Agreement Order) is still available although the "current" permit has expired. No word is available as to when it will be 'rewritten.' Stay tuned.

Tom also mentioned that Waldo Mining seems to have won a recent legal decision; however, the Siskiyou Education Project has again come back against the Forest Service to appeal that decision. And the New 49ers in northern California have joined a suit against the Ca. Fish and Game Dept. for making unilateral decisions regarding dredging restrictions. Stay tuned!

Outings:

The Qville (Miner's Meadow) Outing in June (8, 9, 10, 11) will feature a metal detecting treasure hunt, a rubber ducky race, possibly a GPS scavenger hunt, a potluck, and Louie Frick will be 'down stream' on Sat. June 10 with some of his equipment to demonstrate. Oregon Prospector's Supply from Sweet Home will also be there. Remember the club pays for renting Miner's Meadow for this outing so come one – come all.

The Dad's Creek work party was also mentioned again. There's now pretty good access to both the upper (WVM#2) and lower (WVM#3) claims.

It was mentioned that the upper end of the road to WVM#1 – Dry Gulch (Qville) needs some work. A work party should probably be organized to fix the potholes and ditches.

Other Business:

There appears to be some interest in forming a GPS user’s group. It was suggested that a program be presented – perhaps by staff from GI Joe’s.

Paul M. reported on his black sand recovery project. It appears he has a ways to go yet.

Howard Conner brought several publications to the attention of the members. One was the GPAA Claims Guide and several video tapes. Members are free to check materials out from the library by simply filling in a sign-out sheet. There are some really good mining resources available to the members.

Wes Jeffers, our raffle table director estimates that the metal detector and pin pointer will be raffled off at the May meeting. Although the winner does not need to be present, meeting attendance is extremely helpful for the overall health of the club. See you there and good luck.

A special thank you to all those who worked on the “Miner’s Quilt.” It was drawn for and given away at the Rock and Gem Show.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Messersmith, Substitute

Cliff’s Corner

Part 2

FACTS ABOUT SILVER*

SILVER CONTENT OF SILVER COINS		
COIN	YEAR	AMOUNT OF SILVER
DIME	1853-1964	.07234oz.

QUARTER	1853-1964	.18084 oz
HALF	1853-1964	.36169 oz
HALF	1965-1970	.14792oz
DOLLAR	1840-1935	.77344oz
Coins manufactured prior to 1853 contained slightly less than 90% silver		

TO DETERMINE THE SILVER VAULE OF A COIN, MULTIPLY THE AMOUNT OF SILVER BY THE CURRENT PRICE

1. SILVER'S CHEMICAL SYMBOL IS AG.

2. IT CAN BE HAMMERED OUT INTO SHEETS SO THIN THAT IT WOULD TAKE 100,000 OF THEM TO MAKE A STACH AN INCH HIGH. THESE SHEETS ARE SO THIN THAT LIGHT SHINES THROUGH THEM, SILVER CAN BE DRAWN INTO WIRES THAT ARE FINER THAN A HUMAN HAIR. IT IS THE BEST CONDUCTOR OF HEAT AND ELECTRICITY AMONG THE METALS.

3. THE ATOMIC WEIGHT OF SILVER IS 107.870, AND ITS ATOMIC NUMBER IS 47. SILVER MELTS AT A TEMPERATURE OF 1761 DEGREES F. OR 960 DEGREESS C. SILVER HAS A SPECIFIC GRAVITY OF 10.5. WHEN MELTED, SILVER CAN ABSORB AS MUCH AS 20 TIMES ITS OWN VOLUME OF OXYGEN

4. PURE SILVER IS TOO SOFT TO STAND UP UNDER CONSTANT WEAR; IT IS USUALLY MIXED WITH COPPER TO FORM AN ALLOY BEFORE IT IS MADE INTO COMMERCIAL ARTICLES

5. SILVER COINS IN THE U.S. USED TO BE MADE OF 90% SILVER AND 10% COPPER. BUT, IN 1965, CONGRESS PASSED A BILL TO ELIMINATE ALL SILVER FROM NEW DIMES AND QUARTERS, AND TO REDUCE THE SILVER IN NEW HALF DOLLARS FROM 90% TO 40%

6. UNTIL THE COINAGE ACT OF 1920, BRITISH COINS WERE 92 1/2 PERCENT SILVER AND 7 1/2 PERCENT COPPER. THE 1920 ACT REDUCED THE SILVER CONTENT TO 50 PER CENT. THE 1946 ACT ELIMINATED ALL SILVER IN BRITISH COINS. THEY ARE NOW MADE OF A COPPER NICKEL ALLOW

7. STERLING SILVER CONTAINS AS MUCH OR MORE SILVER AS BRITISH COINS DID. THE WORD STERLING HAS BEEN USED TO MEAN HIGH QUALITY SILVER SINCE THE 1200'S

8. SILVER ITEMS MARKED STERLING MEANS THEY CONTAIN AT LEAST 92.5% SILVER, SOME JEWELRY, ESPECIALLY SOME OF FOREIGN MAKE, MAY BE MARKED .925, INSTEAD OF THE WORD STERLING.

9. SILVER PLATE IS MADE BY COATING BASE METALS WITH PURE SILVER OR SILVER ALLOY BY ELECTROLYSIS. SILVER PLATE, BEING A LOT LESS EXPENSIVE THAN PURE SILVER, IS MORE WIDELY USED FOR TABLEWARE.

10. SILVER IS NOT CHANGED BY MOISTURE, DRYNESS, ALKALIES, OR VEGETABLE OILS, BUT SULFUR, WILL CAUSE SILVER TO TURN BLACK

Starter

2 Cups Flour

2T. Sugar

1T. Salt

Enough warm water to make a batter

1T. vinegar

Leave open on counter for 5-7 days

Sourdough Waffles

1/2-1 cup starter*

2 Cups milk

2 cups flour

1/3 cup oil

2 eggs

1 T baking soda

1 tsp salt

Add ingredients in order of recipe

Sour Dough Pancakes

2 Cups Starter

1/2 tsp. Salt

1 egg

1Tbl. Oil


1Tbl Water


1Tbl Baking soda

This recipe doesn't call for flour. The pancake will be lighter.

Fine Recovery *Louie's Welding*
Portable Mining Equipment 1307 Talbot Rd.S.E.
Jefferson, Or. 97352
CUSTOM MANUFACTURING Louie Frick
Owner
541-327-1210
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Willamette Valley Miners

Salem OR 97309-1044

**We Meet at 7:00 pm at
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