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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

September 2006

President's Report

Six families attended the Myrtle Creek outing and some good gold was found. It is also really enjoyable to dredge in warm water. Two families only attended the Schwartz Campground outing. This was a good chance to tryout the new claim, but the claim did not appear to yield much gold. The next outing is at Beverly Beach, get your beach sluices out. On October 7th will be the Outing Committee meeting which will be held at my home in Albany at 1 pm. This is the meeting that we plan the outings for the next year. If you are interested in attending you can call me at 541 934-0620 and I will give directions on how to get here. The fund raising possibility that was discussed last month, however we decided not to do it, however we may consider it next year if E.Z. Orchards wants us to do it next year. We also discussed running a panning both at the Clackamas County Fair, but we will look into that later on for next year.

Outings/Events

Quartzville Miners Meadows September 15-16
Meeting 7 pm Thursday September 21
Beverly Beach September 30
Events Committee Meeting October 7

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

August 17 2006

7pm Don Hammer brings meeting to order

Minutes from last meeting accepted as written with the exception of donated ticket for Volcano baseball game. Tickets donated by Don and Diane Smith and not Don Hammer, which will be corrected in September newsletter.

Treasurer's report read and accepted

Don discussed the last outings, highlighted all the events that occurred and who were some of the families that attended. He further encouraged the new member to come out and attend the outing to get to know other members, learn prospecting techniques, and get to look at various types of equipment.

Old business, on the offer Mr. Zelinski to give us a booth at his autumn fair. It was felt by all we could not support the fair's needs for three weekends in a row. We would not be able to get the participation needed to man the booth for that many days. It was decided to decline his proposal, seconded and vote to decline. Don will call Mr. Zelinski and explain; maybe something can be worked out for next year.

The outing at Miners Meadows was brought up. Don encouraged everyone to attend this one; it is the last major outing of the year. He will be cooking turkey. Again, it would be a great time for members to get a look at equipment, ask questions, and get to know people. It was mentioned that we may try to do something like the duck races, or metal detecting. It was also mentioned that the potluck dinners will be at 5pm. That way it does not interfere with prospecting times.

Wes brought to the floor that the Clackamas County Fair would like the club to participate in the fair. They are willing to give us a booth at the fair free. Booth participants would have to dress in prospecting attire and we would have to man the booth for the entire six days of the fair. The times were not clear but it seems that it would be from 10am until 6pm. The dates for next year are 15-19 August 2007. We would be required to sign a contract, details of which were not available. The decision was tabled until next meeting pending final decision.

Howard brought to the floor a proposal to buy some mining related raffle items to help bolster the table raffle. The donated items are great and everyone agrees that people should continue to bring them. But, sometimes it makes the raffle a little sparse. Having some additional items would help to boost the prizes when necessary. The raffle is our only continuing source of income and we need the greatest amount of participation at the meetings. It was proposed to allow fifty dollars for the raffle items, it was seconded and approved. Howard offered to purchase the items as he knows the manager at Harbor Freight Tools and can get a good deal.

745pm Don calls for a break

8:10pm Meeting recalled to order.

Don said he will put up the directions to the new claim "Old Farts" on the web cite.

Jeff Farrand was given the floor to explain his experience with finding the right pump for his dredge. It seems that he bought a combo dredge/high banker from one of the vendors at the Gold Show. He felt buying a package would get him the correct equipment combination. As it turned out the pump was too small to do the job correctly, he went back to the vendor, and complained. The vendor reluctantly agreed and offered at an additional cost to upgrade his pump. Jeff went at his expense to the store, was not treated with good customer service, and was sold a larger pump. The next time he went out, his equipment still did not work. Feeling frustrated he called some of the more experienced members and they helped understand his situation. It seems that the vendor sold him a pump designed for dewatering flooded areas (called a trash pump) not a pressure pump used in prospecting equipment. The vendor should have known the difference but was after cash not customer service. Jeff wanted to let members know that before you go out and purchase equipment be more informed, ask members, go to outings and look at equipment that members have, and ask around about which vendors treat their customers with respect.

Trudy Schrader brought to the floor a proposal about the club purchasing miner image pins from a vendor that they met while on vacation. The pins would have Willamette Valley Miners or WVM on them. There is a one time ninety dollar set up fee and each pin would

cost the club four dollars. The idea was discussed and other ideas were brought to the floor for club memorabilia. T-shirts and club name tags. Don said that he would try to find out about the shirts and nametags. Once all the information has been gathered, we can decide.

New members stood and introduced themselves.

Meeting adjourned

Club Monetary Income

For new members and as a reminder to the old members. Willamette Valley Miners is a non-profit organization. All club monies comes from membership dues, monies earned at the Salem Gold Show and Rickerall Rock Show, and though our raffles at monthly meetings. Member dues just pay for member's cards, newsletters and membership packages, there is none left from that to manage club business. The money earned at the shows does help a great deal toward our annual expenses but still comes up short. If it were not for our raffles at the meetings there would not be enough money to run club business. I realize that not everyone can attend every meeting but it would be nice to see a better attendance and support. It takes about \$3000 a year to break even. If you would like to see more claims, outing events, and the like then we all need to come to the meeting and support the raffles. So please anytime that you can make come out to meeting socialize and support the raffle. Keep digging it's down there Andy

CLIFFS' CORNER

*Soil Conditions/Sinking Targets**

You may wonder why other detectorists seem to have all the 'luck'. Or you may question why you have a streak of success at erratic, infrequent intervals. Having the best detector in the world, optimum control panel settings, proper coil control and a location where good targets are guaranteed is a major help, but is still no guarantee for success.

Soil stability is a easily overlooked, possibly never even realized, critical part of the equation to the successful detectorist. If you are detecting an area where fairly new coins such as zinc pennies are being recovered at deeper depths, say 8", this is a good indication of soil stability failure. The assumption that; "If I pass my coil over it, I'll get it" is incorrect. There are Egyptian pyramids, sunken cities and vanished towns deep inside the Earth never to be

seen again. Technology has come a long way with today's detectors, yet, as with everything, there are inherent design limitations. Understanding your capabilities and limitations equates to a happy marriage of success.

Specifically, there are two distinct methods to 'read' your soil conditions; visually and electronically. Either one of the methods should fulfill your ulterior motive of success.

Electronic analyzation of soil conditions is the easiest method and is performed with your detector. Using your detector, take a sample of the deeper targets to identify the era (age) of the items. If the deeper items are fairly new, assuming the soil is not fill-dirt or bulldozed, then move to a different area where the deeper targets show greater age with fairly repeatable consistency. Keep in mind that soil conditions can vary dramatically in short distances. Electronic analysis is, by far, the best method due to the requirement of positive verification through actual recovery. You needn't sample only the coins to 'date' a site. Trash, including iron nails, will identify the era of the property to be detected. For best results, it is recommended to sample all of the non-ferrous items such as foil, pull-tabs and coins. Priceless tip; Soda pull-tabs were introduced in 1962. If the era of the area being detected is older than 1962 and has seen no human activity/travel since 1962, recover ALL pull-tab readings and foil. Gold coins, bullets and jewelry almost always read 'foil' or 'pull-tab'.

The second method for soil analysis is performed visually. It is a art in itself, yet is a critically valuable tool when mastered. The worlds soil conditions provide infinite possibilities and dramatically varying scenarios, but the laws of physics remain constant.

For the areas on this Earth that present exposed rock/granite/coral or any other similar hard surface, it is obvious that items will not sink. This is not categorized as a "soil condition". For the areas of the Earth that do have soil, here are a few general tips to enhance your analysis: 1. Thick, carpet grass generally has a rapid sink rate due to soft, water saturated, organic soil with a high level of accumulated grass clippings. 2. Areas where grass is having difficulty growing or bald spots of dirt with no grass is a indication of fairly stable soil.

This soil is generally inorganic - unable to support life, therefore, it has low/no grass clipping accumulation and targets rarely sink. 3. Heavily watered lawns, swamps, and wetlands provide one of the worst sink rates where even new coins can be out of detectable range in just a few months. These "boggy" "soggy" highly organic conditions should be avoided. 4. Soft soil with rocky conditions provides interesting scenarios because targets will sink rapidly until/unless the item comes to rest on some form of a supporting medium, such as a stone. 5. Wooded areas provide a rapid sink rate due to tree foliage, however, a large root will subdue an item from sinking and possibly even push the item back to the surface. A wooded area that provides a 'carpet' of roots will also decelerate the sink

rate. 6. The softness of soil is not necessarily indicative of a rapid sink rate. Soft, loamy (gray/sandy) soil is fairly stable due to the fact that it is semi-inorganic in nature. 7. Areas of erosion always provide interesting detecting, especially the deep cuts. 8. Plowed fields can produce items of any age at any random, churned depth. 9. Country fields where the grass is never mowed, in general, is fairly stable soil. 10. Silver items that turn black with the copper items being heavily pitted is due to the acid/salt content of the soil and has no bearing on sink rate. 11. When a roadway or sidewalk is removed, it will present items that have been 'frozen' in place for as long as the concrete has been in existence. Items rarely sink or shift once concrete or asphalt is poured. 12. Soil that has been compacted by automobiles or foot travel, such as roadways, walk-ways and ball fields usually provides hard, stable soil. Items tend to sink very slowly under these conditions. The metal detectors capabilities are very important. The operators awareness, acuity and intelligence determines the "rate of success"!

Gold Stories

Send me your gold story and I'll put it in the newsletter. gcross004@web-ster.com Let's share our stories to help new members and give older members new ideas.

Newsletter

I'm looking for new ideas for the newsletter. Please send suggestions to my email. I'm looking forward to implementing your ideas. Watch OUR newsletter grow. But will only happen with your input.

<i>Fine Recovery</i>		<i>Louie's Welding</i>	
Portable Mining Equipment		1307 Talbot Rd.S.E. Jefferson, Or. 97352	
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	541-327-1210		
	* e-mail; mining@teleport.com		

Recipe Corner

Frito Boats

- 4 lunch bag size of Fritos
- Your favorite chili
- Cheese
- Onions
- Sour cream (opt)
- Heat chili. Cut open Frito bags along the sides
- Spoon chili over and Fritos and top with all your favorite condiments.

Please send recipes to my email lets share our favorite foods.

Tree Cutting

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Andy Perkins

541-746-4085

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Detector Sales 769-1914

Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet at 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
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