

Officers

President

Don Hammer
541-924-0620
hammerd@evanite.com

Vice President

Louie Frick
541-327-1210
mining@teleport.com

Secretary

Ken Haines
541-926-8776
kenh@peak.org

Treasurer

Andy Miller
503-585-8013
andyfamiller@hotmail.com

Government Affairs

Tom Quintal
503-371-9747
tjdq@open.org

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
Diane Smith
Gary Wolf
Cliff Winston

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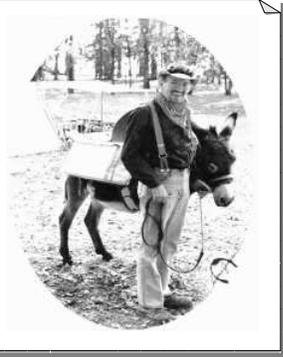
Diane Smith
Wes Jeffers

Website

Don Hammer
Cliff Winston
Paul Messersmith

Newsletter Editor

Gaylyn Cross
Gcross004@web-ster.com



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

October 2006

President's Report

The outing at Miners Meadow for September was canceled due to fire. Hopefully that won't happen very often. About half a dozen members attended the outing at Beverly Beach. It was a great day to be on the beach. The next two outings are a Metal Detecting outing to be determined and a picnic that still needs to be planned. The Christmas Party is also coming up in December and we need to start planning for that.

Another year is coming to an end and it is time to start considering nominations for next year's officers. We will be holding the nominations during the October meeting and the elections will be held during the November meeting. I will not be able to continue as president for next year due to commitments at work, and Ken Haines will not be able to continue as secretary because he has already served two terms. These two positions will need to be filled and I do not know if Louie and Andy will be willing to continue in their current offices. The officers position do not require that you have any expertise other than you have some time that you can give to the club. If you have any interest in one of the officer's positions please contact one of the current officers.

Outings/Events

Meeting October 19, 2006 7 PM

Picnic November 4, 2006

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

Sept 21, 2006

Ken Haines, Secretary

Treasurer, Andy Miller, called the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Willamette Valley Miners to order at 7:00 p.m. The general meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at the Marion County Fire Station, located at 300 Cordon Road N.E. in Salem, Oregon. The meeting room is located in the rear of the station, on the downstairs level, at the south end of the meeting rooms. In attendance were 39 club members and 3 guests.

The minutes to the previous general meeting were accepted as written in the newsletter.

Andy Miller welcomed those attending and introduced the visiting guests.

Paul Messersmith reported on government affairs issues regarding our miner's rights, which have kept him and other members busy at the State Capitol, since our last gathering. According to Paul, he and Andy Miller, from our miner's group, were the only attending representatives for miners at one of the legislative hearings. During a brief presentation Paul was allowed to give at the hearing, it became evident that our small scale mining is not understood by the D.E.Q. members involved in the decision making process. As Paul distributed pictures of high bankers and other small scale mining equipment, he asked the attending D.E.Q. representatives to identify what they were viewing. None of the D.E.Q. representatives reportedly were able to identify any of the basic simple mining equipment from enlarged printed photographs.

Apparently they are legislating to limit the ability to prospect and mine in Oregon because it 'Feels Good' in their circles. In disregard to the 1872 Mining Law and common sense solutions, these government groups appear to have the will to make the decisions that miners will have to live with, without themselves even understanding the basics from the miner's perspective. Hence, the need to continue and maintain a presence of miners at these public forums. Contact Paul Messersmith 541 926 8153, or Tom Quintal 503 371 9747, if you can help with your time, to maintain our club's government affairs participation.

Next on the government affairs list is the N.P.D.S. permit. (National Pollutant Discharge System) Sounds exciting, doesn't it? "Git er dun", as Larry The Cable Guy would say.

The Treasures report was given by Andy Miller and accepted as read.

Club member, Howard Conner, brought the group up to date on the Quartzville swindle.

As reported in The Albany Democrat-Herald Newspaper on September 21, 2006. Daniel Ross Nonnemaker, a Longview, Washington man, was arrested earlier this year on charges of aggravated theft, first-degree theft and racketeering. He is lodged in the Linn County Jail. The indictment filed June 20, alleges he sold the timber he cut off John Howard's and Yvonne Hurst's Quartzville area forest property to which he had no ownership. He is also alleged to have been operating a scheme in which he got money from investors to develop mining and timber claims in the same area to which he also had no ownership. Howard and Hurst, who live in Germany and are represented by Corvallis attorneys Dan Armstrong and George Heilig, filed a lawsuit in early September against Nonnemaker for not less than \$300,000.00 worth of timber they claim he cut from their property in 2005 and 2006. No dates have been set yet in the civil case, however, Nonnemaker, has an October 2nd court date in the criminal case.

Area forest fires kept interested miners from getting to Miner's Meadow in the Quartzville Mining District this past month.

Our club's miners unanimously passed a resolution to send a \$100.00 donation to The Waldo Mining District's Legal Defense Fund, in remembrance of Lesa Barton, who recently passed away. Bob and Lesa Barton, long time previous owners of Armadillo Mining Supply in Grants Pass, Oregon, have long been avid supporters of miners throughout the Oregon and California Gold country. A condolence card was also signed and forwarded to Bob Barton for the tragic loss of his beloved wife. May she rest in peace.

Andy Miller announced that he will make a motion at the next general club meeting to amend the club constitution to require a minimum of 10% of the membership to approve expenditures.

Advertising the Beverly Beach scheduled club outing to find beach gold. Andy brought a sample bucket of black sand with fine gold and gave it to interested miners. Oregon beaches have an abundance of extra fine gold, mixed rather scantily with lots of black sand and traces of red garnet sand. Wes Jeffers, one of our club members, makes a functional beach sluice, which can be used to divide the golden treasure from the sand.

Wes also manned a club gold panning booth at the Clackamas County Fair, for 2-days, single handed. Nice Job Wes. Next year he would like some help to run the gold panning booth for the entire 6-day run at the fair.

The club uses bags of silica sand, salted with small gold nuggets at all our fund raising events throughout the year. The sale of the so called 'gold bags' are a part of the panning booth. Those wishing to learn the basic techniques of how to pan for gold, purchase a bag, and are guided through the experience. This is a great way to teach and pass on to the next generation how to prospect and look for gold and other earth minerals. The modest proceeds are used to maintain our miners club meeting space rent, newsletter and claims.

A motion was passed for the club to purchase another ounce of 16-20 mesh gold for the gold bag program.

Please attend the October and November general club meeting. The group would like maximum participation by the membership during the nomination and election of club officers for the coming year.

The membership also approved the motion to increase the annual Willamette Valley Miners membership dues to \$20.00 effective for 2007.

Evening Break.

After the break, it was brought to the attention of the members that a suit had been filed by the Buchholz's, former owners of the Willamette Valley Miners, Dad's Creek gold claims. The suit was filed in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Douglas, naming the Willamette Valley Miners as defendants. The suit alleges that the Willamette Valley Miners do not have superior interests in the claims, as the Buchholz's allege that they, the Buchholz's have. A motion was passed to use up to \$300.00, if needed, to respond to the court before October 21st, 2006. A group of members are working on the issue.

After some discussion the meeting was adjourned and the evening raffle commenced with Raffle Master Wes at the helm.

Good Prospecting

Missed Outing

On behalf of the board members and outings committee I would like to extend our apology to anyone that may have went up to Miners Meadow for the outing. We were notified at the last minute that the meadows was closed due to the fire and they were returning our monies. We tried to contact people but obviously did not do a good job. Rita, from Oregon Prospecting, informed me that there were several members that showed up not knowing the outing had been cancelled. This is a rare occasion that we need to

contact everyone on short notice and we will have to do better in the future. So again please excuse us and we are looking forward to seeing you at future outings. Sincerely Andy.

CLIFFS' CORNER

HOW DO I CLEAN MY FINDS, OR SHOULD I?*

Cliff d.b.a. Cliff's Metal Detectors

One of the main questions often asked by detectorists is should I clean my coin finds? The answers are yes and no, sound confusing, let me explain. Valuable finds whether coins or relics should not be cleaned unless done by a professional.

Cleaning a rare coin or relic by yourself could significantly reduce the value of your find. The first step in deciding is to find out what your find is worth. If a coin is a rare date, look in some of the coin reference books. The Red Book or Blue Book are good examples of coin books most detectorists should have on hand, another recommendation would be a copy of the Photo grade book or one similar that explains how to grade your find. If you are mainly a relic hunter then you might want to get some books on collectibles i.e. a Civil War relic guide or military collectibles type guide b

You have determined that your find is not valuable so how do you go about cleaning it? There are numerous methods available to you.

1. Soak the coins in Olive Oil then brush with a soft brush, this method can take quite a while depending on how bad your coin is, sometimes using this method you will have to repeat the process over several weeks, this method will not work well with heavily encrusted coins. I have personally found it useful to carry a small type tube jar filled part way with Olive Oil while out detecting. If I find a coin that is heavily encrusted I drop it in the jar, this keeps the coin moist and makes it easier to clean later.

2. Ultrasonic cleaner, this type is often used by jewelers to clean rings and other jewelry; they will also work well for cleaning some of your coins. I have not seen any plans for building your own, so you may have to purchase one from some scientific catalog or jewelers catalog. This method is used on a very small amount of coins at one time.

3. Nic-A-Lene, this product line has several coin cleaning solutions in different size bottles, usually sold at coin stores, you can find them online at <http://www.tomstreaures.com/cleaning.html>

4. Electrolysis, this method is effective for cleaning encrusted objects, it is limited to one object at a time, care must be taken and the process should be monitored at all times. There are commercial models of electrolysis

machines available or you can find plans to build you own at <http://www.tomstreasures.com/magazine.html>

5. Rock Tumbler, this by far is the most popular way of cleaning coins in quantity and with the least amount of labor. There are several models of rock tumblers on the market. You can buy a single or double barrel model depending on what your coin cleaning requirements are. There are as many methods of cleaning in a tumbler, as there are people out there metal detecting. Here are some common methods used.

a. You can purchase commercial kits for cleaning coins which are composed of red and blue stones and cleaning powder, the red stones are for cleaning copper and the blue stones for silver and clad. You can find these at most metal detector dealers either locally or online.

b. You can go to any department store and purchase some aquarium gravel, (this gravel is actually made from fiberglass) you then add the gravel to the tumbler with some water and a teaspoon of soap and tumble till your coins are clean.

c. Some other compounds you might try are powdered walnut shells or peanut shells; use this powder dry, this is also an excellent method for cleaning brass.

If you have any questions on coin cleaning visit some of the forums on many of the metal detecting websites. There are probably as many methods of cleaning coins as there are detectorists, each person has developed his own method of cleaning that seems to work best for him, most if not all are willing to share their formulas.

* From page 62 of the March 2000 issue of *Lost Treasure* magazine.

Campfire

This area is going to be for member communication.

We are new member's of Willamette Miner's and wanted to know if we can put an ad in the newsletter that if there's any Member's in the Douglas County area that would like to get together and go panning or just get together for a cup of coffee and talk about panning they could contact Rick at 541-679-4425

Recipe Corner

Beef Stew

- 1 tablespoon butter divided
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 ½ lb boneless beef chuck cubed
- 2 tablespoon all purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 Cup dry red wine or tomato juice
- 1 ½ Cups reduced-sodium beef broth
- 1 Cup frozen pearl onions
- 3 medium carrots cut into 1 inch pieces
- 3 medium parsnips cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 large garlic clove minced
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- ½ cup frozen peas
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Heat half butter and half of the oil in a large pot over medium heat until hot and butter is melted. Add beef in batches cook until brown on all sides. Add remaining butter and oil in between batches. Place in bowl and set aside. Stir in flour salt and pepper.

Remove drippings Add wine bring to boil. Boil 1 minute. Add broth bring to boil stir in beef and any juice in the bowl add in the other ingredients minus peas and parsley. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low cover and simmer 1 hour.

Remove cover and simmer 30 minutes add peas during last 5 minutes Remove bay leaf sprinkle with parsley.

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Andy Perkins

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Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044
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We Meet at 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
300 Cordon Rd NE
Salem OR

