

## Officers

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Committees

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Website

Newsletter Editor

Gaylyn Cross  
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# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

December 2006

## WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

**When:** Saturday, December 9, 2006

**Time:** 12:00 – 4:00

**Where:** Marion Co. Fire Station (Room next to our regular meeting room)

**What to bring:** Dessert or salad and a vegetable dish and any other goodies you'd like to share. Exchange gift (\$10.00 or so) if you plan to participate in gift exchange/swap.

**The club will provide roast turkey, baked ham, beverages and place settings.**

#### **Activities and Conversation:**

After dinner and conversation we'll have our annual gift exchange/swap (three possession limit). Then it's on to BINGO with the club providing the prizes. We will have the raffle table open for members to purchase tickets for the GPS and software unit currently being raffled.

**NOTE:** You will need to bring a gift in order to participate in the exchange/swap. We will issue a ticket to those who bring an exchange gift.

#### **Christmas Party Planning Committee:**

Lance Luke

Ellen Compton

Paul Messersmith

Janie Miller

Steve Landis

Howard Conner

Gordon (Skip) Davis

Jim Hubbard

## President's Report

The year is up and I want to thank everyone who has help to make this a good year for the club. Louie, Ken and Andy for all of their hard work. Gaylyn, thanks for taking over the newsletter and keeping it going. I want to give a special thanks to Howard Conner for all of his help with the planning of the Miners Rendezvous and his caring for the library, hopefully he will do that again next year. Also thanks to the ever-present Wes Jeffers for showing up at each meeting and taking care of the raffle table. And thanks to everyone that I did not mention, it has been a good year and hopefully Louie will have as good as one next year.

Don Hammer  
President WVM

### Meeting Minutes November 16, 2006 Ken Haines, Secretary

The November general meeting of the Willamette Valley Miners was called to order at 7:00p.m. by club president, Don Hammer.

Attending were 37 club members and 2 guests.

The monthly meeting took place at its regularly scheduled time of 7:00p.m. on the third Thursday, in the usual location, the Marion County Fire Hall, 300 Cordon Road N .E., Salem, Oregon.

This meeting was the last business meeting of the year, as the December gathering, will be the annual Christmas potluck scheduled for Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. To accommodate the larger group, we will have the Christmas-get-together in the meeting room next door to our normal downstairs room. All members and their families are welcome, just bring along something to add to the potluck meal.

There will be the usual gift exchange and trade-up, if you choose to participate. Suggested gift values are up to \$10.00 or wrap up your white elephant. We also suggest that you mark the outside of your gift as an adult or children's gift, as we normally have several children attend with their families. Don Hammer will also be calling the after dinner bingo game for anyone interested.

The members volunteering for the Christmas party committee were:  
Paul Messersmith, Howard Connor, Gordon Davis, Lance Luke, Janie Miller, Stephen Landis, Jim Hubbard, and Ellen Compton. Thanks to these folks for all their extra efforts.

After the minutes to the previous meeting were accepted as written in the newsletter, Treasurer Andy Miller, gave the monthly Treasurer' report, which was also accepted by the members. Andy also noted that since the club voted to increase the annual club dues to \$20.00 per year, any of the old membership applications are not valid. Get rid of the old applications, he said, and see him for the new applications, showing the 2007 dues as being \$20.00 per family.

Andy Miller also brought the constitutional amendment to the floor for a vote, after posting his proposed change 2 months ago in a general business meeting. Andy shared that the Willamette Valley Miners now have over 230 members, and the amendment to Article III, Section II, would require that legal business, urgent matters, and expenditures have a minimum of 10% of the club membership, consisting of at least 2 club officers before conducting said business. A club officer must call for the special meeting and contact the members and officers needed. The amendment passed after discussion.

Don Hammer said that the Willamette Valley Miners website has now been moved to Peak Internet, in Corvallis. Peak provides a variety of internet services including hosting web sites. As time permits, Don is working to get the site back in shape and usable. A motion to spend an additional amount up to \$300.00 to have the technicians at Peak fix all of our web site woes was postponed until after the claims court battle is settled.

Paul Messersmith shared that the law suit brought against Willamette valley Miners by the Butchholtz's was proceeding. Our club's attorney, Mr. Buchal told Paul that the Butchholz's attorney wanted to make a deal. After consulting with our groups litigation committee, Paul reported to the membership that we had a strong defense and that the committee voted and he concurred that we would not yield in our defense of our claim.

Late Breaking News on the lawsuit, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Paul relayed the good news as follows:

Greetings,  
James Buchal called this PM and informed me that the Buchholz's have withdrawn their suit upon the recommendation of their lawyer. Their lawyer convinced them that they had no case in light of the communication between BLM and the Buchholz's.

Tom Quintal, our organization's Government Affairs Representative, shared information with the group in regards to the proposed taxation of mining equipment and he said that he is still waiting to see a delegation order for the new 700 permit. See Tom for the details.

After the mid session break, sign-ups for the 2007 committees were conducted. The following is a list from the sign-ups:

Claims Committee: Paul Messersmith, Larry Coon, Gordon Davis, Howard Conner

Events Committee: Howard Conner, Janie Miller, Stephen Landis, Bob Howell, Don Hammer, Wes Jeffers, Louie Frick.

Website Committee: Don Hammer, Debbie Miley

Programs Committee: none

Vice President Louie Frick, asked that each committee elect a leader to report at each meeting on committee achievements.

Tom Bohmeker announced that there is a possibility that a priceless geological and mining library may need a caretaker or group to look after it. He asked the group if he might bring information as it becomes available for further discussion, and the group gave an affirmative response, by passing a motion to look after the library if it becomes available as long as there are no monetary costs involved.

The 2007 Willamette Valley Miners Officers have now been voted in by the club:

President Louie Frick  
Vice President Steve Landis  
Secretary Jeff Farrand  
Treasurer Marshall Phara

Meeting adjourned, and Raffle Master Wes Jeffers held the evening raffles.

See you at the Christmas Party & Potluck.

Happy Prospecting

### **Change to Membership Packages:**

The club voted at the November meeting to change the constitution as per notice. All members should update their copies to reflect the change. Insert in Article III Section II Special meeting the following: “ Legal business, urgent matters require 10 percent of club membership consisting of at least 2 officers. Officer calling the meeting has to contact as many officers and members needed for the meeting. “

## **Government Affairs** **PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE!**

During the past 18+ months you’ve heard numerous reports concerning the pending threat small scale gold mining in Oregon is facing. This is not a “Johnny Cry Wolf” situation – it’s real. With the change in the political landscape at both the state and national level, this threat is certainly going to deepen. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Northwest Environmental Defense Council (NEDC) are certain to step up their efforts to negatively impact our activities. Just around the corner, DEQ and NEDC will begin to set new turbidity standards. Ten percent above background is staring us right in the face! The pending lawsuit against DEQ is being spearheaded by the Eastern Oregon Mining Association (EOMA) which is being assisted by a statewide team of miners. James Buchal has been hired by EOMA to represent our collective interests. As you know both the Waldo Mining District and WVM strongly support the leadership role EOMA has taken.

There’s no other way to state the fact that it is going to take financial resources to enjoin the battle – a battle that we absolutely must win. Accordingly, we have an obligation to assist in every way we can to support the battle.

Direct contributions to the effort can be made to:  
Eastern Oregon Mining Association (OEMA)  
Oregon Legal Fund  
P.O. Box 932  
Baker City, OR 97814

A new tax exempt foundation has been formed in order to make contributions tax deductible:

Easter Oregon Miners and Prospectors (OEMP)  
Oregon Legal Fund  
P.O. Box 66  
Baker City, OR 97814

Please help in any way you can to protect this piece of Oregon heritage.  
Paul Messersmith  
Government Affairs Representative Elect

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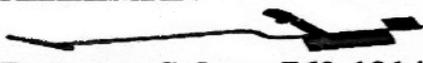


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# Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet at 7:00 pm at  
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