

Officers

President

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

Vice President

Steve Landis
503-363-2232

Secretary

Jeff Farrand
503-371-3652

Treasurer

Marshal Phares

Government Affairs

Paul Messersmith
541-926-8153
messersp@comcast.net

Committees

Claims

Paul Messersmith
Larry Coon
Gordon Davis
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Events & Outings

Howard Conner
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Stephen Landis
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Don Hammer
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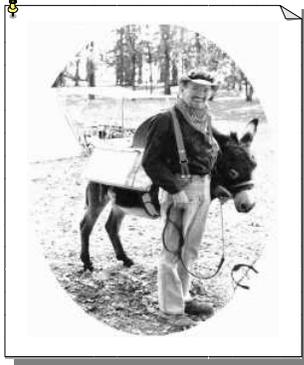
Don Hammer
Debbie Miley

Government Affairs

Paul Messersmith
541-926-8153
messersp@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Gaylyn Cross
gcross004@web-ster.com



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

January 2007

Presidents Report

Whew! The Holiday Season has come and gone and we survived? A new year to look forward to, and continued enthusiasm for small scale/ recreational gold mining and metal detecting. Have you signed up to help on committees for the club yet? Also for the New Year we have an increased membership dues to \$20 that will be due. Dads Cr. Claims: Good job Paul, you did well on the goings on of these claims. It appears that you have had some "students" (Skip, Howard and Andy), learning the ins and outs of the process and research. You also have our thanks for the assistance and for showing an interest. Just a reminder; of the January 20th outing to the Rice Museum. Hope we have a good turnout. It is a very interesting tour. Also we want to thank Mary Atkinson for taking care of the club trailer for all these years and that it is being moved to Skips barn for storage and some repairs. Lets all be an active, participating club member and make 2007 a fun year.

Louie Frick
President WVM

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.

Special People

Andy Miller

There is a few people that I think ought to be recognized for this past years participation. When I took over as treasure, one thing that I could count on is Gary and Trudy Scharder's guidance if I needed help. They always have the best interest of the club at heart and do a lot behind the scenes. Also, Paul Messersmith most of you know his accomplishments. But believe me there is a lot you don't see. He works real hard for the club. I am sure there are more but these folks really stand out in my mind. Thank you a lot. Andy Miller

Christmas/End of the Year Party

Sorry, if you missed that Xmas/end of the year party. Everyone there seemed to have a great time. Howard's turkey and Paul's hams were great and all the side dishes brought by the attendees made your mouth water. The gift exchange was a hoot, as always. Some of you must be real bargain hunters because there were some real nice gifts for \$10.00. A special thanks to Wild West Gold/Ken Hines for his gracious donation of two gold nuggets. They used as prizes during the bingo games. All I can say it is too bad that more of you could not make it, be sure to put it on your calendars for next year.

WVM Files New Claims

Early in December the WVM Claims Committee traveled to Roseburg to file on the additional 20 acres connected to our WVM#2 claim on Dad's Creek. While at the court house, they conducted additional research and found two more claims upstream from the WVM#2 that were "available" for claiming. The committee decided to file on those two 40 acre claims as well. The new 20 acre claim was named WVM#4 while the two upper claims were named WVM#5 and WVM#6. The WVM#5 claim takes in the small tributary stream of Dad's Creek while the WVM#6 claim takes in most of the headwaters of the main Dad's Creek drainage.

Upon filing on the three new claims, our club basically controls the upper reaches of Dad's Creek down stream to the Simpson Lumber Company boundary. The five claims on Dad's Creek now comprise a total of 160 acres. The Claims Committee will be producing maps and descriptions in the near future. They will also be visiting the area to post all

necessary paperwork and signs to clearly mark the boundaries of the claims.

The upper meadow on the WVM#4 claim is wonderful for camping. Some leveling may have to take place but a work party can take care of that. With three large excavated areas along the road, there is plenty of room for dozen's of campers and club outings.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Messersmith
WVM Claims Committee

Members Corner

Contributed Trudy Schrader

Stanton: Mount Lemmon fee a real lemon

BILLIE STANTON

Tucson Citizen

In the West of yesteryear, the wizened old prospector cocked his shotgun and warned, "Get off of my land." In today's west, citizens just want to get onto their land without paying admission.

That's the case of Christine M. Wallace, whose refusal to pay to hike on Mount Lemmon prompted a court decision that is reverberating nationwide.

In his September ruling, U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles R. Pyle of Tucson dealt victory the common folk, saying the government cannot charge for hiking, scenic driving, roadside picnicking or camping in undeveloped sites.

The Forest Service "needs to abide by the constraints of Congress and allow reasonable access to dispersed areas for low-impact activities," Pyle wrote.

The Forest Service appealed, naturally, making its arguments last week to U.S. District Judge John M. Roll, also of Tucson.

Wallace, a local legal secretary, could have taken the easy path and paid \$5 a day to visit Mount Lemmon.

But for her, it's a matter of principle - of whether "public lands" are to remain public.

And she has found support from the like-minded no-fees movement.

"It takes someone like Chris Wallace with the willingness to put herself on the line," noted Kitty Benzar, co-founder of the Western Slope No-Fees Coalition based in Durango, Colo.

Benzar had hiked the Grand Canyon "since I was knee-high" but quit in 1997 when the park started selling permits for back-country hiking.

"It's my land," she said. "They can't charge me admission; it's not their land. It's like charging me admission to step into my house."

Indeed, under the Antiquities Act signed by President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt in 1906, Benzar's land - and yours - comprises more than 240 million acres.

But amid a government push to charge fees, and to contract out land management to private recreation firms, these lands are becoming less and less public.

A federal "Fee Demo" program enacted in 1996 allowed the collection of fees; it was replaced last year by the Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

The new act specifies that fees can be collected only for use of sites that have been improved, such as visitor centers, campground, picnic tables and the like.

The Forest Service maintains that virtually all of Mount Lemmon is a High Impact Recreation Area.

Wallace was given several warnings, followed by citations, for parking alongside Mount Lemmon roads to hike.

She asked, "How can you really distinguish what somebody's activity is when you put a ticket on their car?"

And Pyle noted, "Congress explicitly prohibited the government from charging for 'roadside parking.' "

Ellen Hornstein, the assistant U.S. attorney who gave arguments to Roll by teleconference last week, declined to comment.

But Benzar, who drove here from Colorado for the hearing, said the government's arguments "are quite circular, actually. She (Hornstein) kept saying, 'It's not a fee for parking, but it's a fee we enforce by way of parking.' "

Wallace is being represented for free by Mary Ellen Barilotti of Hood River, Ore.

Barilotti has taken several similar cases since she retired from the Santa Barbara County Attorney's Office in California. But none has gone as far as the Wallace case.

Federal agencies "have created a lot of hard feelings from people who don't want to pay to take a walk," Barilotti said.

"Many of them don't even go to the forests anymore. "There are some legitimate charges - for camping facilities, picnic areas, places where there are amenities.

For people like Christine, it's not the money; it's the public policy."

Surely, the day federal policy prevents our poorest citizens from enjoying their public lands is a fine day to go to court.

I suggest federal officials take their fee stations off of our land.

From the Oregonian

Huge gold chunk in La Grande loaded with lore, rich in tall tales

Oregon history - The 33.3-ounce nugget may have been buried as stolen treasure or used to salt worthless mines

Wednesday, December 20, 2006

RICHARD COCKLE

The Oregonian

LA GRANDE -- When dealer Rick Gately recently bought a 2-pound gold nugget from a miner, he discovered the buyer must always beware -- even when what glitters really is gold.

The huge nugget turned out to have a long and shady past.

Gately first saw the chunk of ore when a middle-aged miner recently walked into his La Grande Gold and Silver store claiming to have just found it. It weighed a staggering 33.3 ounces and measured 7-by-6 inches, a massive nugget by modern standards.

To compare: Among the largest chunks of gold hereabouts is the 7-pound "Armstrong nugget," allegedly found near the ghost town of Susanville in 1913 by miner George Armstrong. It's on display at a U.S. Bank branch in downtown Baker City.

About 5.5 million ounces of gold have been extracted from Oregon's mountains and streams since the frontier era, according to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Half to two-thirds came out of Eastern Oregon.

Gately calculated the gold content of the new nugget at 13.3 ounces, giving it a value of more than \$8,000, with current gold prices hovering around \$613 an ounce.

Its owner spun him an intriguing tale about finding it in a tailings pile of gravel and rock in Baker County, where an electric gold dredge processed ore until the 1950s. More than 1,600 acres of tailings are a reminder of the days when electric gold dredges turned the landscape topsy-turvy near the town of Sumpter while extracting gold valued at more than \$10 million.

Gately agreed to buy the nugget, planning to make it a permanent display in his store.

The miner told him that the nugget was in a rotted wooden box when he found it, suggesting it may have been hidden in the tailings by someone long ago, Gately said. That led to speculation that the nugget had been stolen way back when and that perhaps a frontier-era thief met with foul play before he could return to get it.

The miner wouldn't be more specific about the box or where he found it, Gately said. He declined to name the man for client confidentiality reasons.

"These guys are very cloak and dagger about this type of thing," he said. "When I'd try to corner him on something, he'd say, 'That's all I'm saying.' "

Shortly after buying it, Gately sold the nugget to a collector friend with the proviso that he could display it in his store through the Christmas holidays.

But on Tuesday, Gately got some new information about the nugget when another miner walked into his store and recognized the nugget in the display case.

The new story, according to the second miner: The nugget actually came from a mine in Homer, Alaska, in the early 1900s, bought for \$1,250. Someone then brought it to Baker County to "salt" a mine near Sumpter. Salting worthless gold mines to excite potential investors was a hanging offense in those days but was common nevertheless.

Just how the scheme worked out -- and whether anybody was hanged -- have been lost to history. The nugget has changed hands several times, and now with gold prices up, the latest owner decided to sell it, Gately said.

"The guy I bought it from was kind of holding back on the story," he said. "He told me the truth, but he told it out of context."

The nugget's new owner said he probably will never know the true story. "The older guys who would know about this are all dead now," he said. He asked not to be named to protect his holdings.

The nugget's history raises the specter that other large nuggets on display as relics of Eastern Oregon's gold rush years actually might have come from Alaska or Australia to salt mines and bilk investors, Gately said.

But the new wrinkle actually could add to the latest nugget's value, he said. Before the new information came to light, Gately thought the nugget might command \$20,000 at auction as a curiosity in spite of the granite, copper and other low-value minerals mixed with the gold.

"Its value now, with its pedigree, is probably even greater," he said. "It's part of Oregon history now."

Richard Cockle: 541-963-8890;
rcockle@oregonwireless.net

Common Weights

480 grains = 1 Troy ounce

20 pennyweights = 1 Troy ounce

24 grains = 1 pennyweight

1 Troy pound = .8228571 Av. pounds

1 Av. pound = 1.215278 Troy pounds

1 Troy pound = 14.58333 Av. ounces

1 Troy ounce = 1.097143 Av. ounces

1 Av. ounce = .911456 Troy ounces

12 Troy ounces = 1 Troy pound

16 Av. ounces = 1 Av. pound

Quintal = 100 Kilograms (Metric unit of mass)

Helpful Hints

Contributed by Trudy Schrader

Magic Wand - Saves Time

After a days travel, my husband, very skillfully parked our 5th wheel, I put down the front jacks, he unhitched, leveled the trailer, and put down the rear jacks. As I put out the slides, he hollered stop. We were to close to the electric hook up. So we had to re-hitch and do everything over. That's when the Magic Wand hit me.

Our awning pull pole is now a Magic Wand. It has three uses - awning pull, of course; gauge for measuring how close to objects we can put the trailer without the slides crashing, or having to re-park the trailer; and for remembering exactly where the trailer level should be in order to re-hitch easily.

I have put tape marks on the pole for the distance each slide must have to open. With these marks we can measure if there is enough room between the slides and immovable objects before unhitching.

I also keep a rubber band on the pole and when we unhitch, I move the rubber band to the exact height on the pole the trailer must be for easy hitching. I use the front running light as the marker. That way I can stand in one spot - reach the jacks switch and hold the pole. I raise or lower the jacks to align with the rubber band. Like magic the truck and trailer are at the correct level.

541-746-4085

Andy Perkins

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Living in a motor home full-time, and making it your home, means having pictures, plants, knick-knacks, etc. out for your enjoyment.

To save these items from being broken, or having to store them each time you travel, use Museum Putty. It is soft, pliable putty that is used to secure items to shelves in museums. It is also marketed under the name of Earth Quake Putty. It can be purchased at many RV stores.

I tear off a small amount and roll it into a ball. I then place it on the counter or table where I want to put the item. I then put my item on top of the ball and gentle push it down. I can now leave it there with no fear of it moving or falling as I travel down the road. It can be easily removed without fear of damaging the counter or the item.

For items that I use daily, it is not practical to "stick them down" with the putty. I use the non-skid material, cut to fit my counter. I can leave toiletries and other items on the counters as I travel, without worrying about them moving around.

Albert Hall
Helena, MT
RVing since 1974

Shelf Lining

We carpeted our home and had lots of odd-shaped scraps that could have been thrown out. We had just purchased a new 5th wheel and I cut the new carpet to fit all the kitchen cabinets, the china-cabinet shelves and the pantry shelves. When you set anything on it, believe me, it doesn't move. Glasses wedge down in the pile of the carpet and the pretty stuff in your china cabinet stays put. Our carpet happened to be light beige so it blends in nicely with the oak wood. This is so much better than the rubber stuff that seems to move around and bunch up.

Carol Nigh
Moline, Kansas

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