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Howard Conner

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Louie Frick

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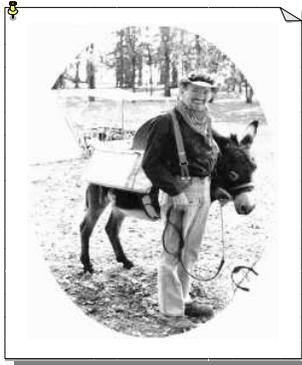
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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

February 2007

Presidents Report

Our first meeting was productive with much open discussion. A couple of issues will probably need some more discussion, but workable.

Northern California court case (49ers), a win – the case was dropped. No proof of harm to fish could be proven. Score one win for the miners! We of the mining community must be constantly aware of the bureaucrats and their constant changing regulations. We need to each one do whatever we can to help in the fight for our rights, if it be contributing financially or donating time for fund raising for our cause.

The tour of Rice North West Museum of Rocks & Minerals was a good turnout. There were about twenty folks got to see the wonders, and were in awe of the many rocks and crystals and some that didn't even look like rocks. Down stairs in the back room was the Columbia Willamette Faceters Guild class, this was very interesting to watch. (How a gem is faceted).

Claims – Thanks to Paul, Larry, Skip and Howard for Dads Creek claims, and the added claims that were found on the LR 2000.

Event change – Rickreall Rock and Gem Show and Beverly Beach dates will be switched, Rickreall – April 27 – 29 and Beverly Beach – April 14 – 15.

Upcoming Event – Feb. 24, Metal Detecting At Bush Park. Meet in parking lot near the soap box derby track. Wes mentioned that these events started at 10:00am. Have a small digging tool and remember to fill your holes.

Program: Jeff Murray will be at our next meeting and give a presentation of the boulders known as (Erratics) deposited throughout the Willamette Valley. Some of the boulder sized Erratics are from as far away as Canada that litter the Willamette Valley caused by numerous Missoula Floods thousands of years ago. Jeff has explored many of the Erratic sites and has maps showing some of the locations in the Willamette Valley. He also has a collection of the smaller sizes. The more we become involved, the better our club will become.

The more we join together, the more we learn and the more we are able to give that benefit to others.

Louie Frick
President WVM
mining@teleport.com
Louie Frick

Outings

February 15 Club Meeting

February 24 Metal Detecting Bush Park

Newsletter

Anything you want added to the newsletter let me know Email gcross004@webster.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

January 18, 2007

Jeff Farrand, Secretary

President Louie Frick of the Willamette Valley Miners, called to order the January, 2007 general meeting at the regularly scheduled time of 7:00 pm. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Marion County Fire Station, 300 Cordon Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon. In attendance were approximately 44 members and 3 guest.

Louie thanked the officers and committee members from the 2006 year and expressed his hope for more good accomplishments this year.

Meeting minutes from the November meeting were approved as written in the December newsletter as there was no meeting in the month of December.

Treasurer, Marshal Phares gave the treasurer's report which was also approved as read. Marshal reported that the Willamette Valley Miners had approximately 211 members at the end of 2006. Louie reminded the group that the 2007 membership dues are due. Please renew your Willamette Valley Miners family membership at the next meeting. Marshal Phares will be available to accept your renewals. Remember that the annual fee is now \$20.00 per year which allows your family to receive the clubs monthly newsletters, enjoy the monthly outings and to use the clubs gold claims. All members will have access to the Willamette Valley Miners website. The website is currently being worked on and hopefully will be operational soon. Those who have not renewed their membership for 2007 will no longer receive a newsletter after March 1, 2007.

Louie has expressed concern about membership participation at outings, club meetings and help within the committees. Outings are a great way to grow as a club to watch, talk, and learn, to meet other members and to clean and maintain the claims.

Meetings are a great way to get information on current events that may effect the way we can operate while mining and also to guide the club in a positive direction.

Thanks to Tom Quintal for heading up a program committee and thanks to Mike Niver, Dan Dougherty, John Stoonover and Fred Douthit for assisting in the effort to bring programs to the meetings in the effort to teach in all aspects of mining from maintaining the waterways to using mining equipment.

Paul Messersmith touched on the new WVM 4, 5 & 6 claims.

The committee is working on the maps for all the claims, a work party is planned to post signs. Claim name signs are on a 6"x2'6" piece of lumber painted white with black letters. Along with an ORS warning sign, a notice of location and a federal mining claim sign. These will be posted both at the top and bottom of each claim approximately 12' high.

Paul has asked if there is an interest in a workshop to instruct a maximum number of 10 members in the usage of the BLM LR2000 Mine Location System. This is a great class to learn about topo maps and how to locate claims. If you are interested, contact Paul at 541-926-8153 so he can approach the members for an approval of any funds needed. From experience, Paul does an excellent job.

There was a motion passed to investigate the possibility of placing \$2,500.00 of the club's funds into some CD's or Mutual Funds to earn interest. This will be looked into by the treasurer, Marshal Phares. He will inform the members of his findings at the February meeting.

There was another motion passed to implement a numbering system for each member. Each member would have a sticker with their number on it to place clearly in the windshield of their

vehicle; whether it is stuck to the window or hung from the rear view mirror. This will help members to identify other members while using the club's claims. All members should check for membership cards of others using the claims. If you find someone using the claims without a membership, get a license plate number or something and notify a club officer.

Committee Communications

As you know, WVM is required to submit annual "Paperwork" to BLM and to particular counties to maintain the mineral rights to our 9 claims. This paperwork consists of a Small Claim Waiver (BLM) and Proof of Labor (Notarized Affidavit of Assessment – particular county). To assist the Claims Committee in fulfilling these requirements, we are asking members to communicate their activities on the various claims to a claims committee member – activities which could include cleaning up trash, extracting valuable minerals, improving trails, building trails, etc. A list of claim committee members phone numbers and email addresses is listed below. It would also be beneficial to the entire club if members would communicate with Claims Committee members how you did and where you did it when working any of our claims. This helps in determining if the club wants to maintain the claim or allow it to go "closed" to save time and money on paperwork requirements as well as guide fellow club members as to the value of working a particular claim.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation in this effort. benefits from a collective effort.

Claims Committee Members:

Paul Messersmith	541-926-8153
messersp@comcast.net	
Howard Conner	503-399-0292
genesis.hec@juno.com	
Gordon (Skip) Davis	503-623-7380
skipzdigginz@yahoo.com	
Larry Coon	541-926-8154
ikc@peoplepc.com	

February's Outing

What: Metal Detecting

Where: Bush Pasture Park. It is between 12th St SE and Mission St in Salem.

When: February 24, 2007 at 9am. We will meet in the Parking lot at the end of the soap box derby track. We will detect until around noon. We can help Each other if you are new to detecting. Have a Small digging tool and remember to fill you holes. We will cancel if it is raining real hard. Hope to See you there.

Cliff's Corner

Cliff's Metal Detectors

*Sensitivity Training**

Contrary to popular belief, the sensitivity control on most modern metal detectors has nothing to do with transmit power. When a metal detector is turned on, the power (measured in milliwatts) is a fixed/constant output. Sensitivity controls only the 'receive' circuits of the detector. For example: if a certain metal detector can produce an audio response on a dime at, say 11" deep with the sensitivity at maximum setting, it now can be said that the same metal detectors electromagnetic energy will reach the dime with the sensitivity control setting on minimum, however, no audio response will occur because the receive circuits have been desensitized. Another analogy; most metal detectors can detect a man-hole cover or 55 gallon steel barrel at a range of 5 feet. This is proof that the electromagnetic energy travels to 5 feet. So why will a metal detector NOT report a dime at 5 feet when there is proof that the electromagnetic energy will acquire the dime? SENSITIVITY is the answer. To boost sensitivity to this tremendous level, the detector would be extremely unstable, with current technology.

Now, for a few valuable tips/pointers: With the proper use of the sensitivity control, performance can be maximized. There are 2 different, very distinct 'set-up' configurations for the sensitivity control to optimize performance of any metal detector.

First, if the area to be detected has very few metal targets, a maximum sensitivity setting is preferred as long as the detector remains stable (ground minerals/conditions permitting). This higher setting provides a "maximum depth - maximum width" condition for greater area coverage. With a higher sensitivity setting, it can be said that a 8" diameter coil will actually electromagnetically/electronically become a larger coil - say 12" equivalent diameter. A metal object radically outward (not underneath the coil, but to the side of the coil) can be detected, hence greater area coverage. If ground minerals are too high, a high sensitivity setting will cause erratic/unstable operation and the detectors performance will be greatly hindered because of high feed-back interference. In this case, a lower sensitivity setting will actually provide greater depth, stability and performance.

The second set-up configuration is for high trash content areas - which are the most commonly detected areas where the most human travel/habitation exists. In this case a lower sensitivity setting that provides a "maximum depth - MINIMUM width" condition is desired. ELECTRONICALLY reducing the coils diameter with a lower sensitivity setting will allow the detector to distinctly separate AND see more targets individually for the operator to select from. Also, a smaller coil is beneficial. While overall detection depth is reduced, EFFECTIVE detection depth is increased. Greater results will ensue. Enhancing the detectors ability to see 'between' trash targets is always beneficial. A hardly known, but very common occurrence is having sensitivity set too high causing a deeper good target to be missed because of a adjacent shallower trash item interfering. Reducing the sensitivity results in a more 'focused' coil receive pattern causing the detector to 'not see' the adjacent trash item.

* Source:

<http://www.fisherlab.com/fisherbeta/intel/fishintel.pdf>

Members Corner

Submitted by Trudy Schrader



Waldo Mining District
P.O. Box 1574
Cave Junction, OR 97523

January 9, 2007

To: All Small-scale Mining & Prospecting Organizations

RE: REQUEST FOR PRIZE DONATION

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being sent to mining clubs & organizations throughout the Pacific NW and beyond in an attempt to inform them of the great danger Oregon suction dredge miners are currently facing, what is being done about it, by whom, and what your organization can do to help.

My name is Tom Kitchar, and I am the President of the *Waldo Mining District* (WMD), which is located in SW Oregon. I am writing you today on behalf of the *Eastern Oregon Mining Association* (EOMA), who is currently involved in litigation that *will affect all future suction dredge mining in Oregon, and quite probably other western states.*

As a club or organization that promotes suction dredge and/or other small-scale mining and prospecting, I feel that YOU need to be aware of how this litigation **WILL AFFECT YOUR ORGANIZATION!**

BACKGROUND:

On August 30, 2005, a coalition of environmental organizations (NEDC et al.) filed a "*Petition for Judicial Review*" in the Oregon Court of Appeals. The Petition challenges the new Oregon suction dredge mining permit (700-PM) issued by the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on July 5, 2005.

In their suit, the environmentalist's claim DEQ violated administrative procedures while drafting the new permit, and that the new permit is not restrictive enough. *It is believed by many in the Oregon suction dredge mining community that if Oregon Miners do not get involved in this litigation, they will ultimately get a more restrictive (and possibly prohibitive) permit.*

The Eastern Oregon Mining Association (EOMA), with the help and support of the Waldo Mining District (WMD), Willamette Valley Miners (WVM), the Resources Coalition (RC), and a growing list of other mining organizations, has taken the lead for the miners, and has retained the services of noted attorney James Buchal to help protect the rights of suction dredge miners in Oregon.

On December 9, 2005, a "*Motion to Intervene*" in the NEDC challenge, and a "*Petition for Judicial Review*" were filed on behalf of the EOMA in the Court of Appeals of the State of Oregon. Although the NEDC challenged EOMA's right to intervene and the right to issue their own challenge to the permit, the court has, upon appeals, granted EOMA the right to intervene in the NEDC challenge, and to issue a challenge to the permit of their own. The court has "*Consolidated*" both cases.

Although "*Opening Arguments*" by the NEDC et al. ("*NW Environmental Defense Center*", "*Siskiyou Project*", & "*Hells Canyon Preservation Society*") were due by mid-December, 2006, an indefinite "hold" has been put on these cases. It is now

expected that this case will begin sometime in the spring of 2007.

THE OUTCOME OF THIS LITIGATION WILL AFFECT ALL FUTURE SUCTION DREDGE MINING IN OREGON, AND PROBABLY OTHER WESTERN STATES. A DECISION IN THIS CASE IS EXPECTED AS EARLY AS SUMMER, 2007. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THE 700-PM PERMIT WILL BE REVOKED, AND A NEW PERMIT WILL BE NEEDED!

It is imperative that Oregon suction dredge miners be involved in the NEDC challenge and defends suction dredge mining. Failure to be involved will almost certainly lead to a much more restrictive, and quite possibly prohibitive, permit. A more restrictive Oregon permit may easily lead to more restrictive permits in other western states, as their respective permits come open for renewal. Any and all so-called "facts" submitted by the NEDC and/or DEQ will become part of the Official Record, unless rebutted by the Miners. **It is imperative that miners be involved and intervene.**

The EOMA challenge to the permit is based on (among other things):

1. The present (700-PM) permit is unnecessarily restrictive, and
2. DEQ has no verifiable/factual science to justify those restrictions, and
3. DEQ made improper and faulty conclusions based on the minimum science they did use, and
4. That the criterion used by DEQ to restrict the discharge of suction dredges was based on a now scrapped "proposed-draft" Water Quality Standard and,
5. That it's the WRONG PERMIT in the first place!

Although this challenge is brought by EOMA, many small-scale mining and prospecting organizations throughout Oregon and beyond are standing 110% behind EOMA, lending them technical, legal, research, financial, and moral support. This is a "team-effort", to save suction dredge mining. The outcome of this litigation will effect all future suction dredge operations in Oregon, and possibly beyond.

Many of us involved with EOMA in this litigation have been actively working on the Oregon Suction Dredge Permit since August, 2004. Thousands of man-hours have been spent by miners attempting to get the proper permit from DEQ to no avail. Unfortunately, the only avenue left open to Oregon's suction dredge miners to defend and preserve all of our rights to mine is in the courts... which means litigation, lawyers, and expensive legal fees.

Oregon miners are battling for their very existence. We need ammunition, in the form of *dollars*, to counter this threat by the environmentalists (whose long stated goal is the prohibition of all suction dredge mining), and the overly and unnecessarily restrictive, and unlawful, regulation by the DEQ.

This challenge, brought by the NEDC and other environmentalist organizations, is part of a multi-state effort by the environmentalist to highly restrict or out-and-out prohibit suction dredge mining & prospecting. Part of their "plan" is to regulate the discharge from suction dredges with the use of a "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System" (NPDES) permit, pursuant to Section 402 of the United States Clean Water

Act (CWA), under the jurisdiction of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (NOTE: NPDES permits are issued for the EPA in Oregon by the DEQ, and are typically used to permit such operations as municipal sewage treatment plant discharges and other heavy industrial discharges which "add pollutants" to "the waters of the United States")

In order to raise the necessary funding (estimated minimum: \$30,000+), EOMA, with the help and support of many Oregon and out-of-Oregon mining organizations, are planning to hold "The Mother of All Raffles", starting in early January, with the drawing to be held on July 22, 2007, at the "Miner's Jubilee" in Baker City, Oregon.

The "Grand Prize" in this Mother of All Raffles will be a New 2007 Polaris 4X4 ATV Quad Sportsman", provided by EOMA. Other prizes are being arranged.

EOMA needs and requests the help and support of all mining organizations in Oregon and beyond. In an attempt to unite all the mining orgs., and to get them behind this effort, the Waldo Mining District has made a challenge to all the other mining organizations: **Waldo Mining District has donated one (1) ounce of placer gold to be used as a prize in the up-coming Mother of All Raffles.**

We are asking each mining organization to spread the word, at your meetings and in your newsletters, asking your members to please chip in a little gold to be used as prizes in this Mother of All Raffles. Pledges for gold donations are currently being accepted, and the gold will need to be delivered by July 1, 2007.

Any organization that donates at least one (1) ounce of gold will be listed as a "Supporting Organization" in advertising for the raffle. We sincerely hope to develop a list of all mining orgs!

Within a few short weeks, we will be sending you more information on the litigation, and the raffle. It is our sincere hope that your organization will get behind these efforts to save suction dredge mining in Oregon!

100% of all monies raised by the raffle will be used to pay raffle expenses (i.e.; advertising fees, postage, prize acquisition, etc. (no salaries or labor expenses), with the remaining funds going directly into the EOMA Permit Legal Fund. 100% of all monies in the EOMA Permit Legal Fund will be used to pay attorney and court fees in connection with this litigation, and any remaining funds (if any), will be used in future litigation.

CONTACTS & INFORMATION:

For further information please feel free to contact either myself, Tom Kitchar, through the WMD, or phone (541) 660-7096 (cell), email: mythicalmining@cavenet.com Or, Chuck Chase, Executive Director, EOMA, P.O.B. 932, Baker City, OR 97814, or phone (541) 523-3285, email: chase3285@msn.com Copies of court filed documents can be viewed on the Waldo Mining District website at: www.waldominingdistrict.org

CASH DONATIONS: Can be made directly to:

**EOMA 700PM Legal Fund
PO Box 932
Baker City, OR 97814**

EOMA is a 501c6 non-profit organization. Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation may do so to *Eastern Oregon Miners & Prospectors* (EOMP), P.O.B. 66, Baker City, OR 97814. (EOMP is a 501c3 non-profit organization).

PRIZE DONATIONS:

Anyone wishing to donate a prize for the upcoming raffle is requested to contact myself (Tom Kitchar), or Chuck Chase for more information, for confirmation, and to arrange prize delivery.

Thank you...

On behalf of EOMA, and all Oregon Miners;
Tom Kitchar – President
Waldo Mining District
P.O. Box 1574
Cave Junction, OR 97523
(541) 660-7096 (cell)
mythicalmining@cavenet.com

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has!"* Margaret Mead

Raffle reminder

Submitted by Trudy Schrader

I would like to remind everyone coming to the meetings that we need things for the raffle table. If everyone that came to the meetings could bring a \$1.00 + item or if you have something usable that you do not use, bring it. (just not junk) it would sure help pay for the newsletters and maybe a little extra for all the club does for the members.

For your \$20.00 membership fee you are getting use of 9 mining claims the club pays for, 3 camping outings the club is paying for, with one that the club supply's the meat, dishes and prizes for the games, a Christmas Party that the club brings the meat, coffee/drinks, dishes, prizes for games and other things. The club pay's for a meeting room, membership cards, member's packets, pocket calendar cards, mailing of the afore mentioned if the member can not make it to a meeting to pick them up. The club pays for a website and now we need to fix it so someone will have to get paid for that. The club is also sending money to help fight bad mining legislation that the conservationists are trying to get passed, which would limit and in some cases stop our mining.

This is why WVM needs to run the raffle's, to help pay for the benefits of belonging to your club.

Upcoming Program

Program for March, Chief Roy Hari, will tell us about first aid and emergency equipment. This should be of interest to all.

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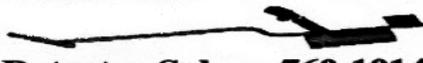
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Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet at 7:00 pm at
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