

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

April 2007

## March President's Report

Does the saying "fair weather fisherman, raining cat and dogs" (well, perhaps Kitten and Puppies) or "just a miserable day, even for ducks" sound familiar? When all is said and done the few of us who showed up for the metal detector outing on Feb. 24 voted to fore go the Oregon rain and wait for a better day to expand our detecting knowledge. The web site is in the process of being worked on as we speak. It is good to see progress. Some members have been able to access it this week. We're looking forward to total access for all. Thanks to Tom Q. and committee for having Jeff Murray gives a very interesting talk on Erratic and (the Missoula Floods). The list of program ideas for upcoming meetings seems very interesting also - mark your calendars! Dues are due now. If you have not paid before now, you probably won't get this newsletter.....Coming up we're going to need volunteers to help work our booth at the GPAA show the last weekend of March. And also for the Rickreall Rock and Gem show in April. So be thinking of doing your share. We can all have fun!

TICKETS, TICKETS, TICKETS, Buy more EOMA raffle tickets.

## President's Report

Spring is here as of March 20<sup>th</sup> - no more wintertime blues. Do you have gold fever or detector fever yet? Remember the EOMA "Mother of All Raffles" is in progress - SELL, SELL, SELL more tickets. The drawing is July 22. If we, as small scale miners, want to continue what we love to do, we need to have our voices heard. We need to help raise monies for the legal fund for folks that can do this for us.

Be aware of backdoor legislation, your rights and privileges that are on the line - such as SB 38 discussed at the meeting. Write or e-mail your congressman or local representatives, it is a window of opportunity to express your concerns.

Rickreall Rock and Gem Show are coming up fast. We need volunteers to run our booth, panning demos and instruction, and promote WVM.

We've had some discussion of a sign up list for those who want to go on weekday outings for the club (instead of just weekend events). Let's have more discussion and ideas at the next meeting.

Committees, Committees - we need more communication and contact persons. I suppose that could also be termed ring leader, man at the wheel, foreman, straw boss, etc. - whatever just keep the members informed of events and who is the person in charge.

Louie Frick, President WVM

## Outings and Events

April 13-15 Rickerall Rock & Gem Show      April 19 Meeting 7:00 PM

April 28-29 Beverly Beach      May 5 Mining Workshop

## Newsletter

Anything you want added to the newsletter let me know Email [gcross004@web-ster.com](mailto: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.***

## Officers

### President

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Jeff Farrand  
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## Committees

### Claims

Paul Messersmith  
Larry Coon  
Gordon Davis  
Howard Conner

## Events & Outings

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Janie Miller  
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## Newsletter Editor

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## Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2007

Jeff Farrand – Secretary

President Louie Frick of the Willamette Valley Miners, called to order the March, 2007 general meeting at the regularly scheduled time of 7:00pm. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Marion County Fire Station, 300 Cordon Rd. NE, in Salem, OR. In attendance were 41 members and 4 guests.

Tom Quintal introduced Chief Roy Hari with the Marion County #1 Fire District. Roy highlighted some of the first aid information we may need while out on the claims and some of the supplies we, as members, should have on hand. There has been a change to April's program. Tom quintal will do his program and in May we hope to see Robb Ginn with the US Forest Service.

If you would like to receive information by e-mail regarding government affairs, please contact Tom Quintal ([tjdq@countrycablevision.net](mailto:tjdq@countrycablevision.net)) or Paul Messersmith ([messersp@comcast.net](mailto:messersp@comcast.net)) and you can be added to their list with this information. We hope you will contact your state and federal representatives. Your voice is needed. To find out who your representatives are, go on line and search for Oregon State Legislature and select "find my representative".

Please remember that the Beverly Beach outing and the Rickreal Rock and Gem show dates are backwards. Beverly Beach is now April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and the Gem show is April 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

There was a discussion on how to recognize members more easily by posting something in the windshield of their vehicles while they are on Willamette Valley Mining claims. It was brought up to have members enlarge their membership card by some means and place the enlarged copy on the dashboard of the vehicle. Even though a formal motion for approval was not executed, President Louie Frick later made an executive decision to enact this rule. If a member sees a vehicle at a claim site without this on the dashboard, try to get a name or at least a license number and report it to the president.

Don Hammer and Nick Phares have been working on the Willamette Valley Miners website and have made many improvements. It is still a work in progress and we, as members, would like to thank them for their continual efforts. Don did a walk through of our website at the meeting. There was a discussion to place the club newsletter on the website. Members can read and/or print the newsletter in its entirety. For those who wish to continue to receive the newsletter in the mail, please contact Marshall Phares at (503)749-1006 or [mlksphares@yahoo.com](mailto:mlksphares@yahoo.com). The need to put more information in the newsletters is one of the reasons for this change. It would also save money which could be used to send the larger newsletter to those who still need to receive the newsletter by mail.

### WVM PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2007

**(MARCH):** Chief Roy Hari of Marion County Fire district 1 {First aid program and tour of station ambulance medic unit}

**(APRIL):** Robb Ginn U.S. Forest Service {Rules and regulations.} Robb Ginn minerals manager will cover regulations for allowable surface disturbances before a Notice of Intent or Plan of Operation is required and any new updated regulations.

**(MAY):** Tom Quintal WVM member {How to locate placer gold deposits in a stream to include panning techniques, gold dredging and high-banking}

**(JUNE):** Louie Frick WVM president {Gold equipment display and demonstration how to set up equipment in the field}

**(JULY):** John Schoonover WVM member {Gold recovery from black sand} also

Eric Wakkure of Sierra manufacturing {Display various sizes of portable rock crushing equipment and hard rock mining principles.

**(AUGUST):** Earl Orr of Linn County search and rescue {GPS equipment demonstration and use with maps etc}

**(SEPTEMBER):** Don Smith WVM member {Jewelry making, polished stones and ring casting}

Ed Pritz WVM member {Display stone faceting machine and demonstration of machine use}

**(OCTOBER):** John Alleman WVM member {How to set up a metal detector, proper use of tools and metal detecting etiquette}

**(NOVEMBER):** Tom Bohmker WVM member and author of books showing {Site specific locations of gold deposits in Oregon and surrounding states}

**(DECEMBER)** {NO PROGRAM DUE TO CHRISTMAS PARTY}

### Upcoming Events, Dates and Highlights

#### Rickreall Rock and Gem Show – April 27-29:

The Rock and Gem show is a three day event (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) that requires a substantial volunteer effort. Friday is the most demanding day with elementary students from the surrounding schools passing through the exhibit. Our club sets up 3 or 4 panning tubs and sells baggies of gold for the students to pan. Along with being a lot of fun with the kids it's also a really good revenue source for the club. Saturday and Sunday are not quit as demanding but we still need a goodly number of volunteers to fill in. President Louie will have volunteer signup sheets at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### April's WVM Meeting Program:

April's meeting program will feature a mini-workshop conducted by Tom Quintal and Paul Messersmith. An overview of mining techniques and practices as well as a broad array of simple equipment and gadgets will be displayed and discussed. This is an excellent opportunity for especially newer members to prospecting to carry away some ideas of "what, where, and how." Q & A session will follow.

#### April's Outing:

April 14 -15 brings the Beverly Beach (North of Newport) Club Outing. This outing features beach sand prospecting and sluicing. Wes Jeffers and others have fabricated a special type of sluice that captures the very fine gold found on the beach in the black sand – found especially near the small creek that flows into the ocean about ¼ mile up the beach from the park. A small (3 foot) regular sluice is also effective. The challenge comes in separating and panning the gold from the black sand. Metal detecting is also available but you will have to obtain a detecting permit from the park ranger to use your device on the beach "within the boundaries" of the park.

### May's Workshop:

Finding, filing, and maintaining mining claims, working with BLM's LR2000 on-line Claim Finder system, and general map reading and intelligence are the topics covered in this workshop. Participation is limited to 10 participants and there's a \$10.00 fee to cover the cost of the worksheets and handouts. Paul M. conducts this workshop in his home in Albany. It runs from 10:00 to about 3:00 with a lunch break – the exact Saturday date is yet to be determined. An initial signup sheet was available at the February meeting with nearly the maximum number of folks showing a preliminary interest. We'll finalize the class roster at the April meeting. If the interest is high enough, we can schedule a second workshop for sometime around mid-summer.

### Government Affairs Update:

Petitions were circulated at the GPAA gold show in Salem which supported amendments to HB2085, HB2857 and SB38 to exempt increases in fees for filing "proof of labor" documents with the Count Clerk. Tom Q., Gary S., Tom Kitcher (Waldo Mining Group), and Paul M. attended two Senate Revenue Committee hearings – testifying at the first – to bird-dog these amendments. It would appear, at least at the time of this writing, which the amendments have met with general acceptance among the committee members. Those that we submitted are being revised by the Legislative Council to eliminate any potential conflicts with other ORS's. The petitions are being scanned and emailed to key people around the state to be forwarded to their respective senators and representatives.

Hopefully by the April meeting we will have more definitive information available to report to the membership. Metal detecting permits and requirements is another area that is being investigated by the committee. Tom Q. and Gary S. have had numerous meetings and delays over the past four years with the Parks and Recreation Department with no resolution of the issues forthcoming. Tom, Gary, Cliff Winston (Cliff's Metal Detectors), and Paul M. met with Parks personnel recently to get the talks started again. As it stands right now, if you are detecting in state parks or on beaches abutting a state park, you must have a permit that is issued free of charge. There are many issues surrounding this seemingly simple task and requirement. The committee will elaborate more at the April meeting.

We did manage to arrange for a meeting with a number of "Parks' Managers" and our committee for sometime in May. Hopefully we can begin to get closure on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Messersmith, Government Affairs

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# Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet at 7:00 pm at  
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