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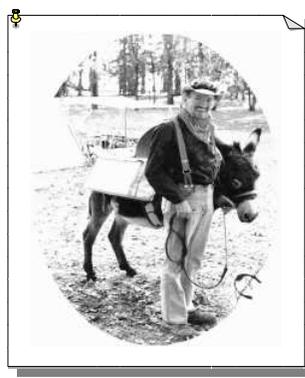
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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

May 2007

President's Report

Welcome to our new members and our associates from the Linn County Club that now are members of Willamette Valley Miners. Hopefully we can all learn from one another and become better miners and hopefully better advocates for the mining community.

The board meeting that was called by Paul Messersmith, with claim issues, was productive in finding resolve to those concerns.

Tom Quintals program last meeting was informative of reading water movements to locate gold and of panning techniques. Along with Paul's (handy pack bag of mining gear).

I would like to thank one of our members for his long time commitment and very informative information of the Politics in the mining industry - Tom Quintal. I know that I can say not only for myself, but for all our members - THANK YOU - for keeping us up with and trying to make a difference within the political arena. Tom now has someone to help with the mumbo-jumbo of political issues, Paul Messersmith, your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

I also would like to thank Andy Miller, on the research and findings of the scam involving SB 64 (bogus bill on metal detecting).

Rickreall Rock & Gem Show, we did well with new member sign up, even though there was a smaller crowd this year. I'm sure that the club extends its gratitude to those who helped with the chores before, during, and after the show.

Memorial Day, for those who might want to participate at Vincent Creek outing and help, (repair the areas of concern of the Malheur National Forest people).

Miners Meadow Rendezvous - June 22 - 25, we need to know how many are going to attend so we can get enough turkeys. (to cook)

Louie Frick, President-WVM

Outings and Events

May 17 Club Meeting 7 PM PROGRAM: 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 25-28 Vincent Creek or WVM #1

June 9 Shady Cove

Newsletter

Anything you 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

April 19, 2007

Jeff Farrand – Secretary

President Louie Frick of the Willamette Valley Miners, called to order the April, 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 63 members and 8 guests.

Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written in the March newsletter.

Treasurer Marshal Phares gave the treasurer's report which was also approved as read. Marshall informed the club that at the gold show we sold 89 bags of sand, made \$111 with the quarter drop and signed up 50 renewal and new members combined. As of the April 19th meeting, this brings member totals to just over 200. President Louie Frick greeted the new members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Paul Messersmith brought up an issue about the Vincent Creek Claim regarding a mineral specialist who photographed the claim for the forest service. In those pictures, it shows all the holes and bank damage done by miners. We, as members have signed notices of intent that we would fill in holes and not damage the banks and vegetation. One solution would be to form a work party to repair the damage. Paul is working to resolve this issue along with insuring access to the claim and the current times of operation.

The club was approached by Linn County Gold Mining Club president, Raymond Porter. He informed our members of their club's diminishing membership and the hard time they are having keeping their club going. He and a few of our members previously discussed the possibility of bringing them into our club along with their assets and claims. There was a motion for the Willamette Valley Miners to accept the membership and assets of the Linn County Gold Mining Club. This motion was approved. A second motion, to issue those active members from the Linn County Gold Mining Club a lifetime membership in the Willamette Valley Miner's Club, was made. This motion was also approved. After the motions were approved, Ray handed over all assets along with the claim documentation.

Tom Quintal and Paul Messersmith gave an informative presentation. Tom discussed some areas to look for gold in the river and on the banks and showed some of the basic panning equipment. Paul introduced his bottomless grub bag that he uses for basic sampling, testing and panning of the rivers. Next month's program will be Robb Gunn with the US Forest Service regarding rules and regulations. Please bring your questions. Finally, it was brought to our attention that there are several members who have put in a lot of extra time and effort. Please take the time to thank them for all they do.

Many volunteers are needed to keep our club running smoothly, any assistance is greatly appreciated. The internet site is operational but there is more work to be done. Trudy Schrader would like to know if there are any members with the knowledge to assist in this endeavor. Please contact her at 503-859-3132

Government Affairs Update:

HB 2085 the \$1.00 proposed NEW recording fee/TAX bill was referred to Ways and Means since it is a revenue measure. None of the five Ways and Means sub committees have decided to pick up this referral for a hearing as yet. Who knows it may die in Ways and Means like so many bills do when referred to this committee. All three revenue bills are not limited to the April 30th deadline since they are revenue measures and could still have a chance to be heard and voted on before the legislature adjourns June 30th.

HB 2857 the \$3.00 proposed NEW recording fee/TAX bill is waiting to have a work session in the House Judicial committee.

Old SB 38 now starting all over on the House side of the legislature due to constitutional issues is now HB 3551 proposed new \$15.00 recording fee/TAX may start in the House Revenue committee for its first hearing. The miner's exclusion amendment we requested be placed in this bill for the annual affidavit assessments was added to this bill by the Low Income Housing sponsors. We were told by the Low Income Housing lobbyist they did not plan to remove or oppose our amendment. This amendment should stay with the bill unless the first hearing committee or another committee later wishes to remove the miners amendment. We need to watch this bill for all the hearings and work sessions on the House side. If HB 3551 starts with the House Revenue committee and they vote to pass this bill out of that committee being it is a revenue measure then it should be referred to one of the five Ways and Means sub committees. However the first House committee to hear this bill could make a recommendation and vote not to refer this revenue/TAX to Ways and Means due to the length of time left in this session. It would go right to the House floor for a vote, then over to the Senate for hearings. It most likely be heard in the Senate Revenue and Finance committee chaired by Senator Ryan Deckert. He is the Senator who tried to pull a fast one by starting a revenue measure on the wrong side of the legislature in violation of the Oregon constitution article IV section 18. "All revenue measures SHALL start on the House side," and legislative council almost let him get away with it if were not Senator Gary George sending a letter to Legislative council demanding this bill follow the laws in the Oregon Constitutional. So we still need to watch this one all the way through the 74th Legislature. I am thankful Paul Messersmith will be available to watch all three house bills since I am

unavailable for the first two weeks in June and the legislature ends June 30th.

From Wes' Raffle Corner:

Our BIG raffle is currently underway for a really nice "Pin Pointer" type metal detector.

A winner will no doubt be drawn during the May meeting. You do not have to be present to

Win. And remember you can support the club with the purchase of BIG raffle tickets by

Contacting any of the officers to purchase tickets if you are unable to attend the meetings.

Also, a 10 to 15 grain nugget is raffled off at each meeting as well as a number of items

From the Raffle Table.

The Raffle Table is supported by donations of our members. Supporting these raffles helps greatly in keeping our family membership dues low, the newsletter coming, as well as support the many other club activities throughout the year. If you are unable to attend club meetings, please feel free to make a donation to the club's general operating fund.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support and good luck in the raffles.

Wes Jeffers

Sour Dough Pete Outing – 5/25 – 5/28

For those of you planning on attending the Sour Dough Pete outing please be aware of the following:

As of this writing, we have still not received the Road Access Permit to travel the Forest Service road that leads to the Sour Dough Pete Claim. The paperwork has been sent to the District Ranger but no information has been received back

If and when you go to Sour Dough Pete, please make sure you have a copy of the Road Access Permit (when available) and make sure you have your current membership card with you. It would be a good idea to display it on your dash once you arrive.

Care should be taken to fill all holes when practicable, keep vegetation disturbance to a minimum, and be mindful of excavating out-of-water areas. A photographic survey is conducted by the Forest Service in the fall, generally after the mining season. We want to make sure we follow the Forest Service guidelines regarding our mining activities on this claim.

Please contact any member of the Claims Committee for updates on permit availability and any other information pertaining to this activity. Hopefully we will have all the answers by the May 17th Club meeting.

Submitted by Paul Messersmith, Claims Committee

Website

The claim maps are now on the WVM web site for members to print out. Just click on the Document button and go to maps.

Gold Show Report

The GPAA Gold Show is always a highly anticipated event each year, and this year was no exception. Not only were we treated to all the new, and old, ideas and equipment for the recreational miner but the old and new friends and club members make it a special time. Of course, it also tells that the spring and summer mining season is just about here.

Although I don't have all the true numbers at hand GPAA and the WVM had a very successful weekend. We heard that on Saturday (March 31) the show had over 1900 paid admissions. A record first day!! Last I heard almost 40 new WVM members signed up and there were many renewals of old members. Also, at least 5 nuggets were won in the quarter drop. A full accounting will be available at the April meeting.

On Friday (March 30) about 10 members worked hard to help set up all the booths and curtains and enjoyed a very good lunch provided by GPAA. It was a great time. Many WVM members manned our booth on both Saturday and Sunday, which made the time fun as well as very productive. Several members stayed after the show on Sunday to help take down everything and help pack it out.

All in all it was well worth the time and effort in fun, friendship, knowledge and, of course, a renewed infection with **GOLD FEVER**.

Congratulations and good gold hunting.

Howard Conner

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Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet at 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
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