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Events & Outings

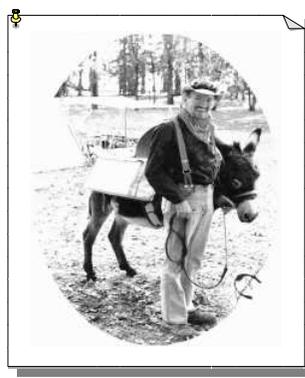
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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

August 2007

Outings and Events

Aug 11-12 Myrtle Creek—exit 112 - time TBD

Aug 16 Club Meeting 7 PM Program: Earl Orr of Linn County search and rescue {GPS equipment demonstration and use with maps etc}

Sept 14-17 Miners Meadow camping W/potluck - time TBD

I am very sorry that personal matters kept me from going to Miner's Meadow in June and that the GPS & Metal Detecting games were not held. However, the Duck Race, GPS & MD games will be held on Saturday Sept. 15th at Miner's Meadow. We have great prizes to give away and a whole bunch of fun. Again, please call me at 503-299-0292 or sign up during the August meeting if you want to eat turkey and do the game thing.
Howard Conner"

WVM Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2007 Meeting

Recorded by Ken Haines

Vice President, Steve Landis presided over the July 2007 meeting in the Marion County Fire Station, at 300 Cordon Road NE, in Salem, OR. The Miners met in the downstairs large meeting room in the rear of the station, at the south end of the meeting rooms. The regularly scheduled monthly meetings fall on the third Thursday of each month, and are scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm. Those attending numbered 51 club members and 2 guests. Meeting minutes from the previous meeting in June were accepted, as written in the newsletter. Treasurer, Marshal Phares, gave a detailed treasurers report, which was also approved as read. He also noted that the Willamette Valley Miners now has 240 members after 5 new sign-ups during the past month. John Schoonover led the evening program with his talk on Gold recovery methods from black sands. John shared how mercury has been used for many years to amalgamate fine gold. During the final separation process while panning, many times very fine gold or gold dust will be left in the bottom of the gold pan long with extremely fine black sand concentrates. Mercury is used to gather the fine gold, or amalgamate it, hitch means that the gold is picked up and suspended in the mercury bubble until released later through a process of retorting or straining. Amalgamation may save many hours in the process of gold separation; however, John reminded the group that mercury should be handled with care so as not to harm the miner or his surroundings. The following list contains highlights from the cautions, which John listed on his hand-out, for working with mercury:

- When working with mercury, always use latex gloves.
- Always store mercury in tightly closed containers, (not aluminum).
- Always put a layer of water on top of the mercury unless it is charged mercury.
- Never heat mercury or amalgam in an enclosed space.
- If you must heat mercury, do it in the outdoors or a well-ventilated space.
- Always stand upwind of hot mercury. Do not breathe the fumes.
- Do not let mercury contact aluminum, it will destroy it.
- Avoid spilling mercury; it is very difficult to clean up.
- Never try to distill (retort) mercury in a glass retort.

John also discussed how to clean mercury and black stained gold. For more details and a copy of John's handout, contact him at the next meeting. Next, Eric Wakkure of Sierra Manufacturing displayed and demonstrated the portable rock crushers he manufactures. His innovative portable crushers are rugged and well built and most of all, affordable. He explained that many times in hard rock mining areas, the gold values are locked up in solid rock and need to be released through crushing. After his hands-on demonstration, he answered questions from the miners about his various crushers and other products. For more information, Eric and his crushers are on the internet listed under his business name. The members applauded and thanked both John and Eric for their fine and informative presentations. During the evening break, Wes Jeffers, sold raffle tickets for the evening gold nugget give away and the table raffle items. As the meeting continued, Tom Quintal and Paul Messersmith, shared with the club what was happening in government affairs that would affect mining and miners in Oregon. . Howard Conner commended the work and time put in by Tom and Paul at the legislature and committee meetings to help protect the miners and their claims from the continued onslaught of green legislation emanating from Salem and beyond. Paul Messersmith also reported to the miners on what was happening with the club's gold claims and their status. A motion was passed on the floor to allow the clubs' 'No Name #2' claim at Shady cove, to lapse, due to its proximity to the park and the no motorized dredging restrictions now in place in the area.

Meeting Minutes

The club would like to see the claim taken over by a club member. If you are interested, contact Paul Messersmith for details at 541 926 8153. Club member Tim Niver would like to sell his recirculating fine gold recovery sluice, with the pump and battery. He has only used it twice, and it is in like new condition. \$250.00. Call Tim at 503 566 6878 or 503 569 7708. Club member Mike Maush shared with the group that he would be willing to co-op and share his 5" dredge with interested club members next season. For more information his phone number is 503 749 1502. There is a need for help with the club's monthly newsletter. If you would be interested in helping, please contact club president, Louie Frick at 541 327 1210

Trudy Schrader reported that approximately 58 people attended the club outing at Miners meadow. Good food and good company combined to make the outing a success. She also has some gear in the lost and found. If you are missing something from the outing, contact her at 503 859 3132. Paul Messersmith's high banking outing found some gold while other club members worked Quartzville Creek with dredges. Howard Conner said that he would head up the GPS activities at the next Miners Meadow outing, and Gary and Trudy Schrader said they will be donating some items for prizes too. Please let Howard know if you will be participating in the GPS geo-caching fun at the next Miners Meadow outing, so that he can adequately prepare. His phone number is 503-399-0292.

The outing at Dad's Creek had 9 groups of member miners working all different parts of the claims, according to Paul. He also noted that #5 and #6 need some brushing out, for better access.

Upcoming club events and outings include the Myrtle Creek outing, August 11th and 12th. Contact Howard Conner at 503 399 0292.

The Clackamas County Fair in Canby, OR. is August 14th through the 19th. Wes Jeffers is heading up our clubs gold panning booth and will be needing lots of help. Please contact Wes to schedule a time to help. 503 266 5270.

With Wes at the county fair, there is nobody to run the raffles at our August club meeting. Call Wes if you can stand in for him at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and the evening raffles followed. Happy Prospecting

Claims Committee Report

There's an error in the directions to Old Fart's Dream on Walker Creek. The claim immediately downstream is the "Four Aces", not the "Four Acres." Please make the corrections in your packets. I cleared all the overhanging branches along the road clear to the top of the claim. Even though there are wide spots in the road, there is no good place to turn around a camper. Backing up to the wide spots is an option. Also, Lloyd and I visited the claim several weeks and appears that there might be some good stuff in the numerous low gravel benches along the entire stretch of the claim. Cedar Bend Placer on Quartzville Creek has been successfully Quit Claim Deeded over to WVM from the former Linn County Miners Club. The map and directions should be appearing in this issue of the Newsletter. Several people were working it on the recent outing but I have not received any reports.

WVM#2 and WVM#4 on Dad's Creek have been combined into WVM#4 – making it a full 40 acre claim. Paperwork readjustments are also progressing on the other Dad's Creek Claims. The ORMC numbers will be changing. As soon as all that is finalized, a new map for the claims will be issued. Several members were working the claims

Claims Committee Report – August 2007

The Dad's Creek Outing on July 6-8 was well attended – 10 parties and/or individuals were camped at various locations along the creek. I don't believe anyone was highly successful but we all did get to know the claims a little better.

A very special thanks goes out to the following individuals for their hard work in clearing the brush from about 2/3's of the length of the East Fork on WVM#5:

Tim Niver
Matt Niver (Tim's nephew)
Rick Cockrell (Winston)
Paul Messersmith

Please note, however, that the main fork of Dad's Creek on WVM#5 and WVM#6 are overgrown and contain fallen debris to the point that it's nearly impossible to adequately prospect and mine either of those stretches of the claims. I strongly recommend that a work party be formed, before the fall rains, to clear both stretches and clear and mark several trails so that serious exploration can take place next spring. A two day weekend work party would allow adequate time to complete the task.

On a similar note, clearing work and trail building needs to be done on Old Fart's Dream – Walker Creek (Sharp's Creek tributary) as well. The club really needs folks to step up to the plate to take care of these important tasks and duties. With the number of claims we have, perhaps we need to form a "Maintenance Committee" to participate and oversee this area of operation for the benefit of all club members.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Messersmith, Chairman Claims Committee

Claim Map

Please put the insert for Cedar bend in your claims packet.

From Wes' Raffle Corner

The Club's next 'big' raffle item is a Deluxe Prospecting Kit (contents listed below). Since key members will be working the booth at the Clackamas County Fair during the August meeting time, tickets for the kit will not be available until the September meeting.

Deluxe Prospecting Kit Contents

- 1 3" "Fine Recovery" Sluice w/Rock Pan
- 1 Duffle Bag
- 1 Small Spade
- 1 Large Scoop
- 2 "Gold Catcher" Gold Pans
- 1 Small Shovel
- 1 Geology/Rock Pick
- 1 Crevice Brush
- 1 Black Sand Magnet
- 1 10X Magnifying Glass (Loupe)
- 1 Fine Nose Tweezers
- 2 Small Snuffer Bottles
- 2 1 oz. Vials
- 1 10" Black Finishing Pan
- 1 Small Funnel
- 1 Crevice Tool
- 1 #8 Keene Classifier (Sieve)

- 1 5 Gallon Steel Bucket
 - 1 Large Plastic Black Sand Jar
 - 1 Pair Large Blue Fox Gloves
 - 1 Large Funnel
 - 1 Bag of Super Duper Concentrate
- Willamette Valley Miners member Tom Quintal won the Oregon Gold Beaver Replica Coin at the miners Jubilee held at Baker Oregon July 22nd for the Mother of All Raffle sponsored by Eastern Oregon mining Association. Willamette Valley Miners did not win a prize at this raffle.

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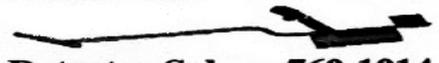
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Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet at 7:00 pm at
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