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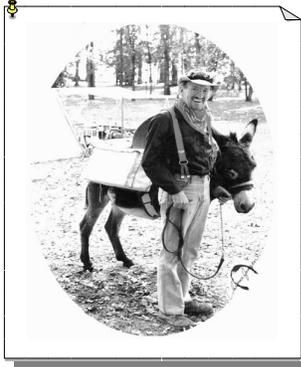
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**Please have all items for
the news letter to me by
the 25th of the month**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

Jan 2008

Trip

Sign up for the Rice
Museum tour

President's Report Outings/Events

Christmas party/potluck was an excellent one. About 50 people made the evening fun and entertaining with good food, interesting conversation and joking around. The gift exchange was fun but seemed a little slow at times until a small vial of the "real stuff" appeared: **Gold**. Then the stealing started to get ramped. (ALL IN FUN, no sluice robbing, claim jumping stage robbing bandit was actually put in irons). Thanks to all who organized the party, and for those who came with food & fun.

Welcome to Richard Morganstern, the clubs new Government Affairs Person for the Willamette Valley Miners.

Just a note - Need to keep our newsletter ads for - things related to mining.
Membership dues are due.

WVM needs a member to step up and work the Claims committee, we need to keep our claims up to date.

The club outing for January is to visit and tour this fascinating display near Hillsboro. Think a rock is just a rock? You'll see beautiful & fascinating ones like never before from around the world and locally. Also see fossils, petrified wood, meteorites, a florescent minerals show, man made crystals and more.

The Rice Museum is nationally recognized. It is the finest rocks and minerals museum in the Pacific N.W. and one of the best in the nation.

On Jan. 19, we will meet at what is now Harbor Freight (4675 Portland Rd. Salem) just off of I-5 at 11:45am. Or you can journey on your own, need to be at the museum at 1:00pm.

To get to the museum; travel 1-5 north toward Portland to Hwy 217, follow this to Hwy 26 (near St. Vincent Hospital) turn west (left) toward the coast. Travel to exit 61 and turn right at the stop light onto Helvetia Rd., proceed only 100 feet, turn left on Groveland Drive (a frontage road) and travel 1.3 miles. You have arrived, turn into and down the driveway and find a place to park.

General admission: \$7

Seniors \$6

Contact person; Louie & Joan Frick mining@teleport.com 541-327-1270

Anything you want in the newsletter send to - cascademountainsgold@gmail.com- or send articles to Tom Bohmker, PO Box 33, Independence OR, 97351.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 17 2008 7:00 PM (map enclosed)

If you have changed your email/phone number or address please let us know by sending a note to the club mail box.

Letter from the New Editor:

A new series of articles in each news letter is **Planning for gold adventures!** The idea is that this material will take into consideration the various seasons, weather conditions and types of gold mining and treasure hunting and help us plan accordingly. Also, a review of books, references, videos and websites will be shared that help improve our understanding of this fascinating subject. If you have some gold stories that need to be shared...please contact me. Tom Bohmker research had identified a good spot to work and there was plenty of food, gas and working capital, and three out of four individuals made the mental and physical effort. It was only one out of the four individuals that hardly got out of the truck which brought us down. The lesson here is to pick your partners carefully! If possible test them out before big plans are made.



Fluke Gold Finds...It does happen every season in the west. I've been present first hand to witness some of these and all of us have heard documented reports and stories. The basic story is that some novice tenderfoot or tourist pulls a rock up out of some gravel bar or hill side and finds a big nugget or a high grade piece of gold ore. Sometimes the finders were visitors who had just bought their first pan, read the instruction manual and proceeded to the nearest water under a public access bridge or the novice that just bought a detector and tried it out behind their mother in laws house. The point here is that this kind of discoveries are so called "dumb luck" or "fluke finds" and not easily repeated. Many who have made a fluke discovery only find "zip" after that once in a lifetime discovery. The flip side of the coin is the group of gold enthusiast that repeatedly season after season bring home impressive amounts of gold. Among my close friends is one who started with a 4" dredge in 1979 and worked six weeks to as much as 4 ½ months of each summer dredging for the next 20 years. Eventually he and his brother used an 8" unit on some projects generally in the Klamath Mountains in CA but on occasion working on the Applegate, Lower Trinity River and the Yuba River in the Mother Lode of CA. His worst summer....six weeks hard dredging that netted 18 oz (this is not really bad at all). However his recovery for his best season is over 150 ounces. His average is 60 to 100 ounces a year. He has mined more than his personal weight in gold! Once he showed me about 35 or 40 pounds of nuggets.... So how come he has mined out so much so steadily?...This miner consistently applied the "Gold Finding Triangle".

The "Gold Finding Triangle" is composed of three corners or phases that repeatedly successful gold digger, treasure hunter and prospector invariably practice: **Effort, Equipment, & Research.** If one of the corners: equipment for example is faulty or the wrong tool for job is at hand, any amount of effort, grubstake and research will likely be to little avail.

Effort : Of course a diligent physical effort must usually be made but the mental attitude is really more important. We may not all have the seemingly "bullet proof" bodies of youth anymore so we make up the difference with a "I am going to keep digging test holes and re-evaluating results until a thorough test for gold is made here as best as I am able to" attitude. Obviously nuggets just don't hop out of the creek on our command and land into one's pan!

Equipment: This includes planning with enough gas, groceries, sufficient monetary grubstake and of course the correct piece of equipment for the expected job at hand whether placer mining, lode mining or detecting. Often times certain spare parts and accessories like winches, bars, face masks, wet suits, make the whole difference between successful gold recovery and just having some adventure. Also it is important to know how to use the equipment to best advantage.

Research: It is so important to know where to go in relationship to the season, our goals, how much time we have and so forth. The most successful miners of gold are constantly

sifting for more information on history, activities of other miners in the area, environmental concerns and the like.

Quiz of the Month, Example of a failed effort at gold mining: *figure out what went wrong, which one of the "gold finding triangle" was weak.* One early spring I sold a new 5" dredge to a big barrel chested guy named Ralph, absolutely green at gold digging but was a gun dealer and big time game hunter from out of state. Our agreement was that he and his partner would pick up the dredge, my mining partner Dan and myself and we would help them set it up and work for a weekend in Southern Oregon and we'd all split the gold. My summer time hard digging mining partner Dan was in college and was invited along for a "free ride". Ralph said he'd buy the gas, groceries and transport whereas Dan and I knew exactly where to go, had test dredged the area a number of times and knew how to use the equipment. Also we had the wet suits, hookah set up, other mining paraphernalia, and we knew that the new dredge was the right size for the job. A win win situation? ***Unfortunately everyone came back frustrated, irritated and unhappy.*** Now hear rest of the story:

We went to Galice, OR and drove up Rocky Gulch and parked at the washed out bridge. The area is in a recreational mining area and open to all. As we started to unload the 5" dredge I noticed Ralph frowning at the 15' deep ravine with a narrow trail and steep cut out the bank and shaky plank type foot bridge at the bottom and more steps cut into the bank on the other side. I told him that the old logging road continued on the other side some ¼ mile of straight nearly level distance to another 20' bank above the spot we were to work. He didn't think he could make it down and up the other side. Obviously extra large men of 300 lbs + have it more difficult time climbing around than those of average build but I had mined much more difficult access locations with certain big men before who did just fine. "I thought we could just drive down to the river some place and throw in the dredge and get some good gold!" he commented. I tried to convince him that those easy areas usually are worked over and nearby on the Rogue River the water levels were high and fast from spring melt at the time. So it ended up with Ralph waiting in the truck while Dan, Ralph's partner and I packed the dredge up to the site, put it in and soon found bed rock at 18" deep. Before long we saw thick 2mm flakes and one mini nugget bigger than a BB get sucked into the nozzle and after a while I stopped and showed the partner how to clean up the sluice. Then a quick demonstration was given on panning. With some newly mined gold in a bottle I hiked back to show Ralph impatiently waiting in his truck figuring if I bounced some yellow under his nose the "fever" would take hold and he'd join us and learn the basic ropes of dredging. He did like the gold, but was disappointed when I told it probably weighed not quite a pennyweight (1/20 oz). Really, this is really not a bad recovery since we had started unloading the truck only 2 ½ hours before! He was expecting ½ oz or more I suppose. He opted to return immediately to Washington State, kept all the recovered gold and since he was driving out trip was already over. Dan and the partner were very unhappy when we had to pack the dredge out just after we had begun. It was a wasted weekend! Even Dan who is rarely phased by mining discouragements

commented "I wish I would have stayed home and studied my Micro-Biology". He was that frustrated.

Analysis of a Bummer mining trip: Most everything was right for success, the right equipment, the research had identified a good spot to work and there was plenty of food, gas and working capital, and three out of four individuals made the mental and physical effort. It was only one out of the four individuals that hardly got out of the truck which brought the gold adventure down. The lesson here is to pick your partners carefully! If possible test them out before big plans are made.

New Book Review:

Searching for the Golden Rainbow by Miles J. Mitchell, exploration geologist. An autobiography covering 8 decades by an expert in the field who found his first gold in the early 1930's. His stories of mining, small gold operations and growing up in the gold business is not only entertaining but most educational. 110 pages. \$14.95

Available from Cascade Mountains Gold

<p>Fine Recovery Portable Mining Equipment</p> <p>CUSTOM MANUFACTURING</p> <p>* e-mail: mining@teleport.com</p>	<p>Louie's Welding 1307 Talbot Rd.S.E. Jefferson, Or. 97352</p> <p>Louie Frick Owner 541-327-1210</p> 
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Discounts for club members

Classifieds

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Oak Wedges and Timbers, custom sawing at our Springfield, OR. Western Resource Trading Corporation Ph: 541-791-9986, email: wrtckenhaines@comcast.net

Wild West Gold Sales

I Buy & Sell Gold nuggets and Fines no amount is too small. email: wrtckenhaines@comcast.net Ph: 541-791-9986

For Sale

Desert Fox Gold Panning Wheel, two batteries & charger \$150.00, La Fawcett – Ph: 503-585-7688 Cell: 503-949-5483

For Sale

Coils for metal detectors: *Tesoro* (4 and 5 pin male); *Garret* (5 pin male) *Fisher* (5 pin male for gold Bug II and ?) I have several *Tesoro* and *Garret*, but only two *Fisher* coils. Some look new. Only \$35.00 each. Cliff's Metal Detectors, 4934 Center St. NE, Salem Ph: 503-581-3395

Mining equipment for sale

Large collection of hard rock mills, churn drills, compressors Generators, mining paraphernalia, ask for brochure: Miles Mitchell, PO box 220, Tiller, OR 97484

As you can see in the Officers and Committees column, we have openings for the Programs Committee people. This would be a good time to step up and get involved with the club.

Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044
Salem OR 97309-1044

We Meet at 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
300 Cordon Rd NE
Salem OR

