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Louie Frick  
Don Hammer  
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Wes Jeffers  
Stephen Landis  
Janie Miller

### Programs

Howard Conner

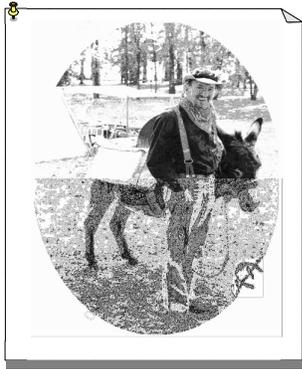
### Website

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



# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

March 2008

### Next Meeting

March 20, 2008  
7:00 pm

## President's Report

### President's Report

This is your Club (collectively our Club) and only as good as we make it. I've recently had another concerned member email me with comments of "we need to be more friendly", especially with new members. So maybe we all could make an effort to socialize out of the "same ole clique? Unfortunately we have little time to get all the various agendas of business of the Club addressed in the short two hour monthly meeting. Outings are a terrific time "to get to know and learn from" other members.

A possibility of interest may be coming soon! Rick of the Government Affairs stated that there might be a chance for a visit of some representatives/ senators for a question, answer, comment time at a Club meeting. These are strictly mining topics so be collecting your thoughts and writing down your questions. Sounds like a good time to get those legitimate questions out there. The date of such a meeting will be posted in the newsletter.

Thank you to Bob Howell for stepping up and taking Claims Chairperson. I'm sure that Paul Messersmith will be helpful.

Thanks also to Howard Conner for taking the Programs Chairperson spot. If you have ideas for topics please contact him. Tom Q. purposed one idea of a show and tell time each meeting (Howard to coordinate).

A REMINDER: Remember the contact people are to get information (what, where, when, why, map, contact phone #, etc) of outings to the editor on or before the 25th of the month to advertise the upcoming events. It needs to be in the newsletter 2 months ahead (each month) -- so plan ahead!!

WVM is purchasing \$500. worth of tickets from EOMA for a raffle they are having (legal fund). And individual members are invited to get tickets too. The legal costs of fighting for our mining rights in Oregon goes on and on. If we don't speak up, our rights will surely be gone! If our Club wins their raffle we can in turn raffle the item on to a lucky individual.

ATTENTION: There is such a thing called Travel Management Plans (from the government, of course). The public is on the verge of losing access to their own public land. (ATV, motorcycle, recreational vehicle, etc will be affected) Have your voice heard -- get on a list and give public comments or at least be counted (in mass we do matter). We ALL need to be involved to protect our rights. Speak up by contacting: Recreational Planner

Ryan Brown

email: [rbrown@fs.fed.us](mailto:rbrown@fs.fed.us)

541-782-5211

Be sure to watch for and attend upcoming events. SPRING is just around the corner !! Gold price is UP !! Gold fever can't be far behind.....

Louie Frick, President of WVM

## Outings/Events

**GPAA Show: March 29-30<sup>th</sup> State Fairgrounds in Salem.** We're looking for volunteers to help set up Friday morning the 28<sup>th</sup> and help take down Sunday afternoon. Also volunteers are needed to give out information at our booth. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with and meet new acquaintances that share the same interests. **Contact:** Wes Jeffers or Darrell Turner 503-393-2607

**Beverly Beach:** April 11<sup>th</sup> Wes Jeffers: Our own beach gold resident expert Wes is ready to share with you the secrets of finding and recovering reasonable quantities of Beach Gold. He brings us to a very scenic, private like location that also yields what some say are the best shell fossils on the coast. Suggestion: bring rubber boots. Meet at Beverly Beach at 10:30, Low Tide is around noon....this should work out well! Wes Jeffers : 971-563-5080

## Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2008

President Louie Frick of the Willamette Valley Miners, called to order the February, 2008 general meeting at the regularly scheduled time of 7:00PM. Meetings are held at the Marion County Fire Station, 300 Cordon Road NE, in Salem Oregon. In attendance were 37 members and 5 guests.

The January 2008 meeting minutes were read by Jeff Farrand and approved. The Treasurers' Report was also approved as read by Marshall Phares.

Richard Morganstern with government affairs has indicated that there is an interest from some state representatives and senators to come to some club meetings to listen to our concerns and answer any questions we might have. The schedule for these meetings is still being worked out.

Bob Howell has volunteered to take over the claims committee and Howard Conner has taken over as the program director. The club thanks both for stepping forward.

Louie greeted our new members and guests and asked them to introduce themselves.

The annual audit for the 2007 treasurer's book has been completed and everything balanced out.

The gold that was to have been purchased by the club from Gary Schrader was of too large a grain. The ounce was purchased instead from Ken Haines for the same price of \$704.

We are sorry about the February newsletter. There are a number of new people involved with the newsletter so these glitches should work themselves out in time. We appreciate those who have taken on this responsibility and thank the members for their patience during this transitional time.

EOMA has started another raffle fundraiser which will be held on April 7, 2008. The raffle prize will be a 2 ½ inch dredge/high banker combo which has been generously donated by Louie Frick. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. Tickets can be purchased by mailing your request and money to EOMA, P.O. Box 932, Baker City, OR 97814. EOMA will then fill out the requested number of tickets for you. There was a motion to purchase \$500 worth of raffle tickets which was unanimously approved. If we were to win we would use it for a large item raffle at our meetings.

The "buddy list" was put out this month and will continue to be available at each meeting. We had only one member with an interest this month, but hope participation will increase as the season progresses.

For those who have not yet renewed their membership, the March newsletter will be their last issue. If you wish to renew, please send your \$20 membership fee to WVM, PO Box 13044, Salem, OR 97309-1044.

Club outings coming up will be the GPA Gold Show at the State Fair Grounds on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and the Beverly Beach outing on April 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Also in April is the Rickreal Rock and Gem Show on the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to work both of the shows. Contact Wes Jeffers (503-266-5270) about the GPA Show and Marshall Phares (503-749-1006) about the Rickreal Show, if you can help out.

There was a motion to sell our salted bags at the Rickreal Rock and Gem Show for \$2 per bag. The motion was approved. There was also a motion to purchase a statue of a miner for \$25 from Gary and Trudy Schrader. This item will be raffled off with tickets available only to new members who sign up at the Gold Show.

The new Albany chapter of GPAA Mid Valley Prospectors is relocating their meeting to the YMCA in Albany due to the necessity for more space because of large turn outs. Contact Wendy at 541-990-6214 for more information.

The Meeting was adjourned and handed over to the raffles.

## Metal Detecting Outing at Bush Park

The weather was great for our outing on Sat. 2/23/08. We had about 10 members come out and play with some coins found and of course some trash was found. Probes and small digging tool were the tools in use (no big holes made by our members) Some of the members got pointers on their detectors and also the value of having a pin pointer. All in all it was a good outing. Gary Schrader



## Also In This Issue

- **Gold Researching with “Standard Mining References**
- **News from the Washington Prospectors Show Feb. 23-24.**
- **Book Review Gold Prospecting: The Ultimate Adventure**
- **The cannon beach/shipwrecks/gold mining on the beach dreams connection**
- **Gold price stability**

### Letter from the Editor:

We have been discussing the series “**Planning for Gold Adventures**” and last month some reading suggestions for Winter time reading for Gold Hounds were made. These were generally “easy read” memoirs or of general mining historical interest. Another area of gold research that needs to be addressed is that of “standard mining references”.

### Gold Researching with “Standard Mining References”

These are the publications usually made by the State Governments and at times various departments of the Federal Government and even by county governments, as well as museums, mining historians and historical societies that cover region, state, county, mining district and even individual mining companies or specific mines. Large research Libraries like at Oregon State University have at least a hundred thousand volumes that fit this description but it takes lots of time and parking lot expenses to dig everything out on a specific topic. Sometimes too much information may be available to be able to sift through to find the useful tidbits. Fortunately in Oregon we have one excellent book that is even still in print and affordable that provides the basic research and the useful information needed to help plan gold adventures.. It is the privately printed version of **Gold and Silver in Oregon Bullitin # 61** originally published by the state of Oregon, Department of Geology and now sold as **Gold Mining in Oregon**. It is as close to the Bible as anything printed for Oregon Gold miners. In its 352 pages there are charts of gold production, region by region maps showing hundreds of gold mine locations on 20 maps, local geology, and area mining history. Individual mines have at least 10 lines of information as well as older names of the property that may have been used historically. One thing to keep in mind, the value of gold production in this book was figured at \$20 per ounce before 1935 and \$35 per ounce from 1935 to the late 1960’s when this book was first written so values per ton must be multiplied by 30 to 40 times to bring to current levels.

So when someone says something like “My old buddy Joe’s friend invited us down to his claims on ‘Rocky Gulch’”. Do you think they could be any good for dredging with a little dredge

come summer time?”. The first thing I do is to find out approximately where the creek is and then locate the place on a state map. Usually the question asker knows approximately the area. From there it is a snap to recognize area of general mining district. In our example this gulch was near the town of Galice so one would go to page 200 for the chapter entitled “Galice Area” Often the creek being search may be spotted on the map for this area on page 201. Look for the nearby locations of lode mines and larger placer mines. Are some on this drainage or near by. I always like to read the history of the nearby mines and find out the type of mines. Were they low grade mines worked deeply or pocket gold mines that featured small irregular veins or mineralized spots which yielded small quantities of high grade ore? In this case the map shows Rocky Gulch draining a large area of “old channel gravels” that the text explains were mined via hydraulic mining and produced very handsomely. It is well known that the drainages downstream from old hydraulic mining reconstitute much of the gold lost by high water pressures of hydraulic mining. The map also shows two lode mines on Rock Gulch, the Oriole and the Black Bear. The text says they produced gold from high grade pockets of ore in a shear zone. This reads between the lines as “probably other pocket gold deposits in general area”. Based on what you read in this reference a vote “lets go there” is easy to make. **Note: In the Jan issue a account of dredging on Rocky Gulch appeared in this news letter.** This area was originally noticed when following the above cited research and followed up successfully on trips dredging, sluicing, and general prospecting.

Of course some areas that have good placer gold today never had any major lode gold mines developed on them. The gold mineralization was much too splattered around and not enough concentrated in one spot so as make a deposit that could be mined. Many areas in SW Oregon were considered “pocket country” with surface concentrations here and there of rich gold pockets that could be dug out in perhaps just a couple shovel scoops. By reading and studying the text and maps some useful background can be accumulated. Also inspection of the maps available in the map packet **Oregon Gold & Gems Maps** can show additional information. Of the dozens of large and small maps in this collection is one reproduction of an early 1900’s map that show hundreds of Quartz (Lode or hardrock) mines, placer mines and copper mines with the names current of the day. Some of these mining sites are not found in other literature. Also included is a large map of SW Oregon showing X marks for placer mines (mostly hydraulic pits or river mining sites). Areas of river bottom land that were dredged with bucket line units or dragline/wash plant units are colored in with small black circles. I have noted some of the X marks miles way away from commonly known areas for placer gold, hiked in and found relatively unknown hydraulic mines and creeks with good values. In a future article we’ll talk more about interpreting research material to our bet advantage.

### Gold Price Stability

While gold has reach record high prices in US Dollars, is there a justified fear of price decline or worse yet collapse that is imminent? The short answer (lets face it we are all just guessing) is: **Basic indicators seem to point to continued higher gold & silver prices.**

Prices averaged in the mid \$300 per ounce through the 1990's but dropped to the higher \$200 by the year 2000. In 2001 the average price for the year was \$271 dollars. The price has quite steadily increased since then with a \$363 per oz average in \$2003 to an average of \$685 for the whole year of 2007. So far this year at this writing it is \$980 per ounce. Since the spike of higher gold prices of 1980 there have been a number of periods in which large sellers of gold such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or Russia would dump large quantities on the world market pushing prices much lower for months or years. Even the *plans* of a possible sale would drive prices down 20% or more.

If we view gold strictly as a commodity it should follow the rules of supply and demand. However it is in somewhat of a unique position as being "wealth" and not just representing value as most everything else. Interestingly despite record world production in 2007 prices are at record highs. World gold production is up...China the new super producer on the block last year had increased its production of gold to 270 tons, just a couple tons shy of the biggest gold producer in the world since 1905, South Africa. For many large producers higher prices have the initial effect of lowering overall production. Suddenly it becomes profitable to process lower grade ores and thus extending ore reserves. In South Africa many of the mines have had their electric power cut because of brown outs and production will continue to decline. Meanwhile India with it well off new middle class consumed a record 773 tons of gold last year, about 30% of the total mined of about 2,500 tons.

The most important point to take away from this discussion is that the recent announcement by the IMF to sell on the market some 400 tons didn't seem to knock the prices into retreat. The day they announced it the price fell a mere \$7.00 per ounce! In other words, suddenly another \$12 billion dollars worth of gold or about 18% additional of the expected years gold production gets dumped on the market and not much happens...**Our guess is that prices will stay up for a while!**

### **News From the Washington Gold Show**

Feb 23-24<sup>th</sup> , Monroe, WA

The Seattle show "Washington Prospectors Mining Association" was held near Seattle at Monroe at the State Fairgrounds in late March. As all gold shows there is a core of nice, hardworking people that really try hard to make the event fun, educational, and up beat. Visitors to my booth at that show kept telling me the excitement helps get them out of the "keep in out of the rain/cold blues" and into the summertime "lets get going on an exciting mining trip somewhere" mood. The show featured guest speakers on practical subjects like Dave McCracken (author of the best how to mine gold books) and Les Berg who gives practical advice on how to effectively use Detectors to find gold and coins. Pat Keene (of the dredge manufacturer family) and various representatives of the State government and coalitions also gave helpful lectures to small miners dealing with environmental compliance.

Some years ago I was invited to give a seminar on "pocket Gold" by the Liberty, Washington group of small miners. Liberty is one of the few mining areas to still have a core of very independent small time hard rock miners operating very old fashioned underground mines...lots of sweat and hard manual work. Since then many of the small time hard rock and placer miners hang out at my booth and share "show and tell" with one another. Jack has a small "pocket type" underground mine near Liberty. There is a long drift tunnel on a quartz vein which yields decent color here and there. He has a portable mill and runs buckets of ore from the vein as well as quartz picked up from the dump. Again as he did last year he flashed us with gold buttons (melted down fines from concentrating table). One weighed 1.8 oz on my scale. Also he reported developments at another of his nearby underground excavation we examined that time. This mine working featured a contact of shale like sedimentary rocks with an igneous dike of high iron content. When we tested there we saw no gold underground. However last winter the portal caved down with the wet weather. They cleaned it back up and discovered a little pocket gold in the sediments in a zone just above the old tunnel. This will probably touch off a new flurry of examination. Meanwhile not to be undone, a placer miner from Liberty and part of the informal group at my booth pulled out some coarse nuggets found on a bench placer using a high banker unit and a back hoe. The biggest nugget weighed 1.71 ounces. Everyone is optimistic this time of year as per the beginning of the football season.

### **The cannon beach/shipwrecks/gold mining on the beach dreams connection**

There has been lots of attention to the cannons found on Oregon's north coast recently that are tentatively traced back to a shipwreck of a US Naval schooner that was beached some 150 years ago. Also down at Coos bay another sailing ship, an old lumber carrier suddenly showed up out of the sand after 60 years or so. Of course it is easy to become interested in old historical artifacts *but doesn't it get the blood boiling in your gold mining head?* It should. Remember why these artifacts are coming up after all these years? It was all those windy wild winter storms of December and January. Such conditions rip the upper layers of white sand off certain beaches depending on the wind, tide, sea, and so forth. As the milder normal weather conditions return of spring & summer, the waves push back more sand to cover these things up until they are gone from view until the next winter storm.

So right now is the right time to prospect for those old sometimes compacted like concrete layers of black sand, especially at low tide. A wiry older prospector used to show up at the GPAA Salem show every year with ounces of beach gold from the Whiskey Run/7 Devils beaches near Bandon. Interestingly his gold dust was larger than what I normally see on the beach with vials that contained .5mm to 1mm particles. He even had some "BB" sized nuggets from the beach! He would find the black sand streaks exposed by winter storms and wheel barrow across the sand the material to little creek where he sluiced it. He was

generally done with his beach mining by March and switched to the Six's River where he had found some nice nuggets! If you never have tried Beach Mining join Wes on our trip planned this month: See under outings.

• **Book Review Gold Prospecting: The Ultimate Adventure**

The Author R.V.Larson brought a copy for me to look at. When I glanced at the title I thought "Oh no, another 'how to pan gold book', my supply catalog lists nearly 20 such works". Fortunately before I said anything I opened it to a random page and read 1 paragraph...**And I was hooked!** It is a well written Memoir about a small time miner, a well traveled searcher for gold. I hit in a chapter where he and his partner sunk by hand tools a 80' deep shaft in E. WA trying to find the pay streak of buried placer gold. The accounts tell the process of looking, developing, arranging the ownership, dealing with government officials, claim jumpers and the discouragements when projects sometimes don't always come together. 240 p, \$14.95 (available from Cascade Mountain Gold).

<p><i>Fine Recovery</i> Portable Mining Equipment</p> <p>CUSTOM MANUFACTURING</p> <p>* e-mail; mining@teleport.com</p>	<p><i>Louie's Welding</i></p> <p>1307 Talbot Rd.S.E. Jefferson, Or. 97352</p> <p>Louie Frick Owner 541-327-1210</p> 
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	<p><b>METAL DETECTORS</b> AUTHORIZED DEALER</p> <p><b>CLIFF WINSTON</b> OWNER</p>
<p>Cliff's Discount Detectors 4934 Center St. NE Salem, OR 97301</p>	<p>503-581-3395 Ph cliff4934@msn.com</p>

<p><b>Oregon</b> Prospecting Supplies &amp; Rita's Relics</p> <p>Dredges &amp; Sluice Boxes: Dry Washers Power Sluices: Whites Metal Detectors: Keene Dealer: Gold Pans</p> <p>541-367-2237 gold2@centurytel.net</p>	<p>1045 Main Street Sweet Home, OR 97386</p> <p>Toll Free 866-367-4061 www.oregonprospecting.com</p>
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Tom Bohmker (503) 606-9895

**Classifieds**

**For Sale**

**Keene 4" Dredge**, 8 hp B&S, P275 pump, 2 man hooka pump, pontoons, tool box, extras, Machine little used and in excellent condition. In storage in Pt. Angeles, WA Richard Boyd (360) 683-0713

**Wild West Gold Sales**

I Buy & Sell Gold nuggets and Fines no amount is too small. email: [wrtckenhaines@comcast.net](mailto: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**

**4" Keene Dredge with extras & trailer** A pontoon model with a brand new 8hp Honda and pump. This comes complete with hookah regulator/harness, nozzle and sluice for a 2 1/2" dredge, lots of extras all mounted on a new metal framed trailer \$1900. (Call Tom @503-606-9895 and he'll relay your call to our member)

**As you can see in the Officers and Committees column, we have openings for 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

