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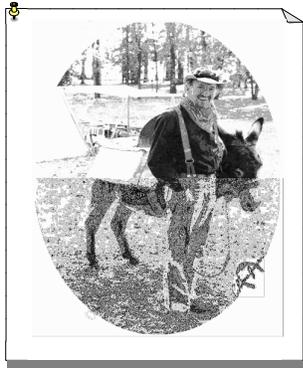
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**Please have all items for  
the news letter to me by  
the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month**



# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

August 2008

## President's Report

### Next Meeting

August 21 2008  
7:00 pm

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had a few more new members at this month's meeting. It's always good to see this. Summer is in full swing now and I hope you're all enjoying the outings and finding lots of GOLD!

We are all hoping that Marshall gets to feeling better. Thanks to Lloyd Bridgmon for filling in for him until Marshall gets back on his feet.

Also thanks to Lloyd, we now have a heavy duty padlock for our new Club trailer. And a gratitude of thanks to Boyd Puckett for the patch that was put on the front corner of the trailer.(also the tail light repair) Looks very good. Gary S. said that he might have a jack and lug wrench for it. Howard C. said that he would transfer the contents into the new trailer and fit shelves or what is needed inside. If there is anyone out there that may be able to come up with lettering/sign of Willamette Valley Miners for the trailer, it would be great. Show us your "talent". I will get the new spare tire. All-in-all it seems the new trailer is "on a roll".

Vincent Creek claim paperwork is still being dealt with -- concerning Forest Noland and our claim. Some new signs are needed for this claim. As to the issues with Forest Service and the permits/gate pass, it would be a whole lot easier for FS to be able to keep track of who goes on our claim if everyone had their membership card on them and even enlarged and on their vehicle dash when on this claim or any other of our claims. This would show you are a member and have a right to be on the claim. The FS will be looking for this. Thanks to Tom Q. who has been discussing this with the FS and that they have agreed to this method for keeping track of persons on the claim. Note -- And please close the gate behind you!

Programs: Paul M. ended his three-part sessions with the forms(paperwork) needed to have and keep a valid claim, Very interesting and informative for those who have or are thinking about having a claim.

Every meeting we're having lots of different information discussed. If you're not attending, consider coming and learning, learning, learning. Many members are willing to share their "gold mining" experiences and knowledge.

Louis Frick - President, WVM

### Also in this Issue

- Ways to mine more gold with less gasoline
- New Pocket discovery near Cave Junction Area

### In next month's issue

- Brian's Applegate Mining trip
- Moe and Joe's recent "Sleeper Creek" discovery in Northern California now claimed and in production.

## Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2008

Jeff Farrand Secretary

President Louie Frick of the Willamette Valley Miners, called to order the June 2008 General meeting at the regularly scheduled time of 7:00 PM. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Marion County Fire Station, 300 Cordon Road NE, in Salem, Oregon. In attendance were 56 members and 4 guests.

Louie Frick asked the new members and guest to stand and introduce themselves and the members greeted them.

The meeting minutes read by Jeff Farrand was approved as read with corrections. Claudia Wise is still active with the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Treasures Report given by Lloyd Bridgman was also approved.

The repairs to the new trailer have been made and the tail lights repaired. Thank you to Boyd Puckett for his help. Setting up of the trailer and getting items transferred over from the old trailer is being worked on. If there is a member who does vinyl lettering, the club would like to put its logo on the trailer. There was a motion to purchase a spare tire for the trailer, the motion was approved.

The Forest Service at the Vincent Creek area realizes that it cannot enforce the requirement for us to have a permit to excess our claim, but would like it if you could place your club card or a blown up copy on the dash so they can identify you as a member. We are asking all members to do this anyway. All members should have their club card with them while on any Willamette Valley Miners claim. Also keep in mind that if you take your ATV or other motor vehicle beyond the claims boundaries you may be in violation of the Forest Services regulations.

Paul Messersmith informed the club that Sally Davenport was at the Vincent Creek Claim and was approached by a Forest Noland. He claims that a

portion of our claim actually belongs to him. Paul is in contact with him and is working on the issue.

The court hearing with DEQ and EOMA is scheduled for September around the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Howell has informed the club that all the claims are up to date.

Tim Cramur, who holds a third interest in the Briggs Creek claim, that we were offered a third interest in, was present at our meeting. This claim is called the Corpus Cristi 2. It is a 6 hour drive to get to the area and a two mile hike up to the claim. The trail is in bad shape with overburden and trees down but it is a beautiful area. There was no word on how much gold or size of gold comes out of the creek. Paperwork is still being worked on for this claim.

Paul Messersmith has completed his presentation on the LR2000. This month he went over the forms that it takes to get a claim and then to maintain it, Thank You Paul. Wes Jeffers has only received 2 volunteers for the Clackamas County Fair. He may need to ask that other club he belongs to for help. If he gets more help from them and uses their gold, they get the profits. Our club received over \$1200.00 last year from this fair. If you can step forward, contact Wes at 971-563-5080.

The meeting was adjourned and handed over to the raffle table.

## Club Outings/Events



***Clackamas County Fair: August 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>***, We need some volunteers to handle our booth and demonstrate gold panning!  
Contact Wes Jeffers 917-563-5080

***Sunstone Hunting in Eastern Oregon: Aug. 29-Sep.1<sup>st</sup>***, With the proper guidance and direction these semi precious stones can be dug out...lots of excitement Contact: Don & Diane Smith. The August issue ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal has a cover article on these gemstones and pictures of these gemstones both

rough and cut which vary in color from amber to red with some multicolored stones. In recent years interest and sales of the stones has drawn international interest.

***Beverly Beach, Sept 19-21<sup>st</sup>***, It is easy to find small colors of gold, and sometimes appreciable amounts on this very pretty hidden little beach that also yields nice fossils (like the shell oil sign, just not that big)  
Contact: Wes Jeffers 971-563-5080.

### **Coming gold events this season**

**North West Miner's Rally**, Oroville, WA August 15-17<sup>th</sup>. Features gold mining and mining history seminars, open (permits provided) dredging/panning on 7 miles of Similkameen River. On Friday chartered buses (at no cost) will take visitors to near by Kettle Falls for an exclusive tour of the Kenross gold mine including their extraction plant.

## **Ways to mine more gold with less gasoline**

By Tom Bohmker

**Replacing the vehicle with a more economical rig:** Just a couple of years ago this might sound un-American and certainly unpopular. Many people enjoy the advantages of frequently traveling via a big rig: full sized pickup, SUV or motor home. However the pressure of gas prices has forced many gold miners to make a tough decision:

1. Stop mining (sounds terrible doesn't it)
2. Keep driving the gas guzzler hoping to strike it rich before the credit card limits and spend next winter explaining to significant others how we OD'd on plastic.
3. Downsizing vehicles.
4. Change the mining operations strategy

This dilemma is one relatively new to gold miners. In the gold rushes of the 19<sup>th</sup> century transportation was so difficult that a prospective Argonauts made a commitment of traveling for 1 to 6 months to the general vicinity (like from the Eastern US to the California gold fields, then hiked on foot generally for a week or two to a new diggings where there was room to stake a claim. The vast majority were single young men displaced by the War, tough agricultural times and had little family or community ties for the times. Many stayed for 1 to 5 years before sending for family or returning to their home. Western US History tells us that a large portion of the gold seekers never returned home and made a new life in the West.

That is all fine and dandy for them but unfortunately most of us have lives we don't or can't give up which are some distance from the gold fields. Thus the big difference between gold mining in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 21<sup>st</sup> Century is that we can have normal looking lives with a home and the common amenities (house, family, children, a normal job, social life and even be active in community activities) and still have this opportunity to sneak away and spend significant time searching for gold. My wife Rosie sometimes calls Gold Mining "Tom's other woman". We modern gold miners can have our cake and eat it. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century most seekers of gold had to give up those amenities but thanks to roads and vehicles that let us travel hundreds of miles in a couple of hours we can be commute miners. However in recent years the rising cost of transportation causes us to rethink. ***In this discussion Downsizing and changing gold mining trip strategy will be covered.*** Readers are invited to share their

opinions and observations in future articles. Many of the ideas have been successfully used at times and some or combinations may work for you.

This is not the first time that fuel prices doubled about the same time the gold prices shot up. In the late 1970's the cost of gas went from \$.50 a gallon to over a dollar as gold went from the \$170 to over \$700 per ounce before settling back down in the \$500 per ounce range. We tried a number of ways to get more gold with less gasoline. Then as is now for most of us the production cost per ounce of gold was topped by gasoline/ transportation costs which included vehicle repairs, depreciation and tires.

## **Tried and True Gas Saving Methods for Small Miners (will one or more work for you?)**

1. **Down sizing the vehicle:** The Ford Expedition and similar huge SUV are nice roomy thing but pretty thirsty for gas and fairly high maintenance. What about a 20 year old Toyota PU?
2. **Simple camp instead of 35' self contained travel trailer.** A \$25 pup tent, sleeping bag, foam mattress, rechargeable electric lantern, Portable LP stove, water jugs, a frying pan, can opener, Swiss army knife, spoon and fork, a case of Chili and a couple of beers was all we used one summer when we mined pounds of gold.
3. **Use older small station wagons to pull small utility trailer.** I was given dead 1970 era Datsun Pick ups. I junked the front half and in 5 hours welded up the rear frame and box into a nice light weight trailer.
4. **Use the full sized pickup to haul down the dredge and camping gear and towing a Mini Car (motorized roller skate).** Park the big truck and use the little gas zipper to commute home, to town for supplies, to distant places (curse the thought for that special repair part for the dredge). Some have carried small motor cycles for use as a commuter car home.
5. **The Buddy System:** You partner with an acquaintance and share expenses and rides....cost saving can easily be half or more. Often a team approach will get much more gold anyway with the help packing and setting up camp.
6. **The Grubstake Method:** This is a modification of the buddy system. Basically you find someone that wants to come along to learn how to mine, use the equipment (or perhaps something they just purchased) and they'll buy gas and groceries and maybe use their vehicle. Often they will ask for very little of the gold, they want knowledge and adventure.
7. **The Park your Partner Method:** This is a further development of the Buddy System (#5). You find some one who has lots of time available (retired, unemployed, someone who needs to take a summer off or such) and who doesn't have a place to go, camping gear and mining equipment. You set up your camp, pack in the dredge work your weekend and leave him in camp, watching the equipment, perhaps doing a little mining while you return home for the work week. Once the equipment is down commuting to the mining site may be done in a small roller skate sized vehicle or moped.
8. **The Park and Thumb Event:** Basically once camp is established the partner that commutes back home hitch hikes, bums rides at the gas station, or takes the bus. At times the vehicle was left with at the camp for that partner to fetch gas, groceries and run for repairs. Thus there was transportation to from the bus station or major highway to drop off the hitch hiker partner.

9. **Solo Mining:** This seems like the polar opposite of methods # 5-8 but has the advantage of really focusing on gold mining and with little distractions. The miner can set his schedule and go gung ho for the gold.
10. **Bring the family with you method:** Instead of going home to spend time with family have them come to the mining site for a few days or a week. My kids loved it and learned a real work ethic. Of course with some family members, this just doesn't work.
11. **Good Planning with alternate mining sites figured out in advance.** I have seen people drive to Idaho to a certain place they used to go to and mine but find it posted as claim. They turned around and drove all the way home. Have maps and ideas handy so gears can be changed in route.

#### Notes on above:

*Method #1:* I have a favorite picture of my wife driving a 1976 Toyota Corona Wagon up a steep rutted road out of Graves Creek near the town of Wolf Creek. It took two guys pushing to get started but she made it. In the back of this small station wagon and stacked 3' high on the roof was my complete 6" dredge and camping supplies for 3 adults and 2 little children. Yes it looked like a caravan in rural Pakistan!

*Method #6:* all the time friends and acquaintances ask me if they can tag along. I used to go out of the way to take everyone that asked. Back then I could dedicate a big chunk of the summer or even all of it to gold dredging or mining but now I have more limited time and family responsibilities. I want to concentrate on mining hopefully in company with someone who won't slow me down.

*Method # 7:* At times with certain partners this turned out to be a fiasco. On one trip I would leave gas, groceries, even beer and would return in a week to find them out of gas, hungry and discouraged...no gold. I moved them scores of miles to a new camp at a place I knew. Of course I re-supplied gas and groceries and a little cash. I would dredge with them 2 or 3 hours and find a decent pay streak and recover 1 dwt of gold or so. Next weekend I would return to find that they had not continued where I left off but soon he moved to a spot I had told him was low grade. Again, no appreciable amount of gold. Finally he hitch hiked home to Corvallis and insisted I drive back to Southern Oregon and bring back his camping gear right now!

On the other hand with a different partner Dan this arrangement worked extremely well. Dan keep the camp and mined during my week at home with the family and working the business. Several times he found new rich pay streaks that we worked together on my weeks mining together. We did pretty good, in 6 & ½ weeks of dredging we got 18 ½ ounces of gold. Fuel consumption for the summer was about 230 gallons of gasoline in the truck and 75 gallons in the dredge.

*Notes: on method #8:* After a tough 8 day stretch of heavy gold dredging I had my partner Dan drive me to the bus station in Grants Pass one Sunday afternoon in my Land Cruiser Station Wagon to return home to my family and run the business for a week. I bought a ticket to Corvallis and gave rest of our limited funds (\$15.00 or so to Dan). He had enough dredge gas, cans of chili and dried soup with Textured Vegetable Protein and 4 bottles of beer so as to keep dredging all week until the following Friday when I planned to return.

It was a long 6 hour + bus trip and I was very tired, hungry and broke, and felt very grubby with worn, dirty clothes on. However, I found enough change in my pack to buy an ice cream cone in Eugene. It

tasted really good. Also despite the itinerant gold miner looks...I had in my pocket over an ounce of newly mined flake gold and nearly an ounce of small nugget gold.

Notes on Method #9: The downside to working alone is that it relies on the individual to keep motivation up and solve the various technical and culinary challenges. Many times when the mining was not going very well (not enough gold, broken equipment) a good team will rise to the challenge and eventually bear success.

Some of these options are not "user friendly" as they cram people, partners, (gulp, even wives or mother in laws) into smaller spaces than we are used to. Remember the goal is gold, not an ascetically beautiful road trip to the wine country...it could be more like those beater buses crossing Saudi Arabia on the dusty road to Mecca...

**Something I don't want hear to hear** this next winter at a club meeting or at the Spring mining shows something like this:

*"Yea, I didn't get out last summer...I had time off, I got the new pressure hose for the dredge and my buddy said I could work on his claims on the east fork, big rocks but ever so often you find a good spot but with the high price of gas...I couldn't figure out a way..."*

## New Pocket Gold Discovery Near Cave Junction, OR

By Tom Bohmker

***Editor's Note:*** *Southern Oregon is famous for it's Pocket gold deposits which are on or near surface enrichments of lode gold. Many of these finds were quickly worked out and few ever developed into any kind of conventional lode mine with sizable tonnages of ore and ore processing mills. Most pocket deposits were shallow holes worked with hand tools, a little dynamite and the gold separated from the gangue(country rock) in mortar and pestle. Details of Pocket mining prospecting and case by case discussion can be found in the book The Elusive Pocket Gold of SW Oregon available from Cascade Mountains Gold.*

Some months ago I received some E Mails from a mining acquaintance who reported on a rich recent pocket find in the Hungry Hill Area. A trace on the surface was followed down and quantities of gold were recovered. A recent photo sent to me shows the digging at 4 feet down and a large mass high grade some 4 inches across. Another photo shows approximately 20 or 30 ounces of gold that had just been crushed out of the host rock. Initially reports claimed 20 lbs of gold had been recovered total from this pit. A recent photo shows the excavation nearly 8 feet deep and the yield is said now to be much more. If these figures are accurate this could be one of the largest pockets in recent decades.

Geology of Pocket Deposits in the Hungry Hill Area. This area is on the contact of Meta-volcanic rocks such as greenstone and certain meta-sedimentary rock units with the large serpentine belt that stretches N by NE from the Oregon /California border to an area near Canyonville, OR. Most of the gold deposits are in the rock units bordering the serpentine. There are a few larger quartz veins exposed on the surface for fractions of a mile and have been worked hundreds of feet deep. However many pocket deposits are in broken up tiny veinlets of quartz which may only be followed down a few feet before pinching out and losing value. Others may show little quartz but contain gold values in shear zones of localized faulting. Where such gold bearing lodes are on the surface there can be additional

concentration of gold values by eroding away of the lighter ingredients of the host rock or from the formation of laterite type soils. The pocket belt is especially strong from the head waters of Canyon Creek just a couple miles west of Cave Junction. From here the belt heads N by NE to Hungry Hill then the Pocket Knoll and across the Illinois River to the drainages of Briggs Creek. The creeks and gulches that drain this area are famous for rich placer gold deposits. **Note:** The WVM claims on Lower Briggs Creek is also in this drainage. Interestingly only a few of these lode deposits ever developed into large underground mines as the Peck Mine and the Eureka Mine on Soldier Creek a tributary of Briggs Creek. Most of these diggings were shallow surface pits quickly worked out and abandoned. On hill sides such as Hungry Hill the slopes still show the out lines of hundreds of shallow pits.

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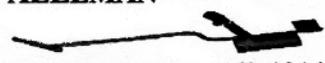


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**Lost and Found Dept**

Lost- a dry suit hood left behind at the recent Miner's Meadow Outing. If you know whereabouts contact 541-401-3718

**Suction Nozzle for Sale**

Recently I organized my mining storage and found a used but little worn Keene 2 1/2 suction nozzle. This is great for working shallow water, connects to 1 1/2" fire hose. \$49.00

Tom at 503-606-9895

**Wanted: Stories and technical accounts for this newsletter.** Contact the editor.

# Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet at 7:00 pm at  
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