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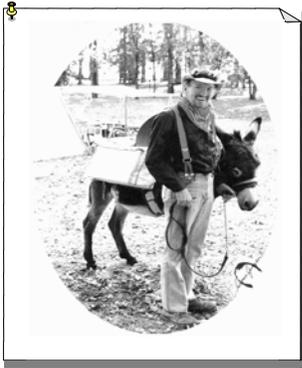
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**Please have all items for
the news letter to me by
the 25th of the month**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

March 2009

Meeting

March 19, 2009
7:00 pm

President's Report

The February meeting was well attended with 64 members and 4 guests in attendance. We, again, had a full agenda covering a number of topics. I believe the club members in attendance appreciated the thoughtfulness and high level of participation in the discussions. This is both healthy and necessary for continued success of our organization.

With days getting longer and nights getting warmer, the urge to move some dirt begins to stir in my bones. April will be the first club organized outing to do so but my advice is – get out there and dig some dirt! We're scheduled to have a busy spring with organized outings and especially work parties at the various claims to clear brush, make trails, hang more signs and do some serious sampling. I'll have a tentative, recommended schedule of claim work and suggested time frame that the club needs to consider for this work at the March meeting.

We are still in need of volunteers for the Rock and Gem show. The signup sheet will again be available at the March meeting. There will be one more opportunity to sign up at the April 16th meeting but it would be great if we can get the schedule filled as soon as possible. Thanks loads.

I've created the "Member's Corner" in the newsletter to give you an opportunity to place comments, ask questions, make suggestions, or report on your recent activities. Simply call or email me and I'll write up your information for inclusion in the newsletter.

Thanks for your participation and support for our club and its activities.

Paul Messersmith
President

Upcoming Events:

March 19 (Thursday) – regular monthly meeting
March 27-29 – GPAA Gold Show – Salem – State Fairgrounds Exhibition Building
April 4 – 5 Beverly Beach (beach sand sluicing)
April 16-19 – Richreall Rock and Gem Show

"March Meeting Program" "Dale Elder and Greg Brewer, training instructors with the Polk County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team, will present a one hour class on 'Wilderness Survival' during our March meeting. This is must have information for anyone who likes to explore remote areas of our great country, and "exploring season" is fast approaching. Don't be late!!

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

Treasurer's Corner

Membership Notice: If you do not receive a copy of the March newsletter, your membership has expired and it is time to renew. Send check for \$20.00 (\$21.00 to include the dashboard sign) to: Willamette Valley Miners P.O. Box 13044 Salem, OR 97309-1044.

Contact Lloyd Bridgmon if you have questions regarding your membership status.

Lloyd Bridgmon, Treasurer
503-749-1679 (lbridgmon@juno.com)

Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Messersmith at 7 P.M. on the 19th of February, 2009. The first order of business was the discussion of the new trailer & the outfitting of said trailer. The trailer is at Jim Perkey's home where he has an extensive wood working shop. Paul took a number of totes to Jim's home where the outfitting of the trailer has taken place. The trailer is now outfitted with all of the club's material & is ready to go. The contents have not been inventoried as yet. Howard Connor said he visited Jim & that he has done a magnificent job in putting our new trailer in order.

Louie Frick reported on the Rice Museum outing. The number of club members attending was very small. The museum has moved some exhibits around but they do have some new rocks & petrified pieces. It is still a great place to visit with many interesting things to see.

Paul has attempted to call Tracy Berry at KGW television in Portland regarding her interest in a panning demonstration but has had no luck even with an additional e-mail sent to her. At this point we have no idea what she may have in mind.

There was an article from the Statesman Journal given to Paul that mentioned an opportunity for clubs to announce their meeting times, dates & places in the paper. Paul called the paper 4 times leaving a message with no call returned. Paul attempted to reach the paper through their website with no luck in that area either.

About 2 years ago our club assumed the assets and membership of the old Linn County Mining Club. We received the Cedar Bend mining claim, their bags of salted gold (about 70 bags), and their bank account which amounted to around \$500.00. At that

time there were about a dozen active members in that club. As a gesture of thanks to them, we gave their remaining active members a Lifetime membership in our club. We recently found that we do not have all of their members on our active mailing list. Recently Paul did acquire an old list of their membership. Paul asked if any of the old active members were in attendance, and would they please contact Lloyd at the break & make sure that he has their current addresses, phone numbers, etc.

New Business:

Tom Quintal reported on government affairs. Tom has worked very hard in an effort to keep recording fees for claims at a minimum. There are about 4000 mining claims in the state of Oregon. Each one of the Oregon mining claims will stay at \$15.00 recording fee per year. This is all because of the time & efforts put forth by Tom.

HR 699 introduced in 2007 as HR 2262. They are calling it a Hard Rock Mining Bill. There's more in this than meets the eye. The government wants royalties for the minerals that are taken off the land. In California, a tribe, plus the greens are petitioning to stop all dredging in some of the streams. It was rejected first by California Fish & Wildlife and of course these folks just don't give up. They filed an injunctive relief based on California code of civil procedures in the Superior Court of Alameda County on behalf of 3 citizens. California Fish & Wildlife is proposing a study be done within the next couple of years but the groups mentioned above want the dredging stopped before any study can be done.

Steve Hicks vs. the U.S. Forest Service. He was cited by the Forest Service in Montana for charging a small fee to show people how to pan & sluice, etc. Mr. Hicks went to court and won! That's a win for us!

Library:

Our Library is hosted & taken care of by Howard Connor. He stated there are many interesting books & videos that can easily be checked out. Please, however, bring them back in a timely manner.

Tom also announced that we will have a great program at our March meeting. This entails Wilderness Survival. This will be provided by Polk County Search & Rescue. The program will be about an hour long & should be of interest to all of our members.

Paul announced that the sign-up sheets for the GPAA show & the Rickreall Rock & Gem show will

be passed around this evening. We can always use extra help for these shows.

It's getting to be about the time of the year to start organizing work parties for Dad's Creek, Old Farts Dream on Walker Creek & Brigg's Creek. We need to secure a number of Federal Mining Signs to post at Cedar Bend Placer. We need to mark that claim so as to discourage non-members from any activity on it. After all, it is owned by the Willamette Valley Miners Club.

In attendance were 64 members and 5 guests.

Upcoming Events:

March 27, 28 & 29 GPAA show at the Salem Fairgrounds

April 4th & 5th Beverly Beach Outing

April 16, 17, 18, & 19th Rickreall Rock & Gem show

With no more business old or new the meeting as adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Phares,
Secretary

Outings/Events **Beverly Beach:**

CAUTION: This mining activity takes place on the beach and all necessary precautions need to be followed to ensure your safety. Being aware of high and low tides is a must and always be on the lookout for sneaker waves.

This outing offers a unique opportunity to pan and sluice for fine, very fine and abundant beach sand gold.

Beverly Beach campground is located several miles north of Newport. Reservations are each member's responsibility. Some club members choose to make it a day trip while others camp for several days. Members meet in the parking lot at about 10:00 each morning to make the 3/10th mile trek 'up the beach' to a small creek (Johnson Creek) that flows under Highway 101. One can also choose to drive up the highway to the bridge over Johnson Creek to a fairly large pull-off area on the left. There's a trail down to the beach; however, this trail is rather steep in a couple places so caution should be exercised.

Club member Wes Jeffers (971-563-5080) has conducted extensive experiments and research on

ways to capture this very fine gold. His "beach sand sluice," which utilizes a combination of magnetic sign material and ribbed rubber matting, is very efficient and can be ordered directly from him. He usually has several units available at the outing. Other members have built their own versions while others use their regular river sluices. Regular sluices, however, load up fairly quickly, especially in the carpet area, with the heavy black sand and should be cleaned up frequently to prevent gold loss. Sluices are placed in various positions in the creek which flows directly into the ocean at this point. Low water late in the summer limits one's opportunity.

The movement and concentration of the dense, heavy black gold bearing sand shifts from season to season, year to year. Sometimes it's in thin layers and other times you will find extensive concentrations. It is recommended that you not try to carry loads home – it is really very heavy stuff! Experienced club members will offer several ways to finish pan and separate your concentrates.

NOTE: If you plan to do any metal detecting in the park or on the beach immediately adjacent to the park, you will be required to obtain a permit from the park ranger. These are available at no charge. You will be asked to cease your activity if you do not have a permit!

Tides for Beverly Beach Outing

The following is the tide sequence for Friday through Monday for the Beverly Beach outing:

Friday:	Low – 12:47 am	High – 6:52 am
Saturday:	Low – 2:18 am	High – 8:15 am
Sunday:	Low – 3:35 am	High – 9:33 am
Monday:	Low – 4:37 am	High – 10:40 am
Friday:	Low – 2:04 pm	High – 9:07 pm
Saturday:	Low – 3:11 pm	High – 10:03 pm
Sunday:	Low – 4:07 pm	High – 10:47 pm
Monday:	Low – 4:55 pm	High – 11:26 pm

Please read the "outings guide" information in this issue.

Gary's Raffle Corner:

Raffle tickets by mail – Big Raffle Item!

For those club members who live a considerable distance and for those who have difficulty making meetings, you can now purchase Big Raffle Item tickets by mail. The winner will be notified by phone

and/or mail if not present at the meeting when the drawing takes place. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Send your ticket request and check to:

Gary Schrader
P.O. Box 504
Lyons, OR 97358
Phone: 503-859-3132

Congratulations to Eben Ray on winning the 4' Fine Recovery sluice and accessories. The winner of the nugget draw was ...?

The club decided that the next big raffle item will be a land based 2" highbanker (powersluice)/dredge combo, complete with engine, pump (high pressure or trash type), dredge attachment, foot valve and hose, stiff highbanker hose attachment, 2" nozzle and hose, water line hoses and quick connects where appropriate – a complete system ready to setup and go! Pictures will be available at the monthly meetings.

Hopefully ticket sales will be strong enough to raffle it off during the height of the mining season. Thanks for your support.

Member's Corner:

For those of you who wish to watch river levels in Oregon, the following web site will report on a number of gauging stations:

www.waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/rt

Of particular interest to club members are Q-ville Creek, Cow Creek, and the Umpqua.

We are working on placing members' names and phone numbers (and possibly e-mail addresses) in a special members only section on our web site. We'll keep you posted.

Selling Gold:

By Tom Bohmker

Overview: Of course I have always felt that the hardest thing in gold mining and the part that especially interested and excited me was "the looking for a good spot and digging" aspect. The selling part is of very little interest to me yet becomes important when there is a need to justify to the significant other by showing \$ for the time and money put forth. Your friends will "ahoo and wow" when a small partially filled bottle that your hard work won from Mother Nature's vaults is passed around, and then they will say something like "That is really cool ...so how much is that worth?"

However it doesn't take a candidate for the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury for them to do the math and figure out that \$97.37 worth of gold is not a great investment for a week of mining in southern Oregon when the fuel, wear and tear on truck and equipment, food and beer is figured in. Of course we understand it is the **Adventure and Excitement** that is worth tens of thousands of dollars a week! Generally the miner wants to keep all of that hard won treasure. We excuse this instinct of hoarding gold that goes back at 6,000 years of recorded history with statements such as "My dear, this gold is an investment of the most solid type. I am waiting until the price to peak at \$5,000 an ounce to sell." However there comes that certain point often encouraged by difficult financial times or rest of the family that the gold needs to be sold and value utilized for the family good regardless of waiting until the "right time".

Selling that gold...New and old ways were discussed in May issue followed by a story "**How not to sell your gold** in the June issue, 2008 of Willamette Valley Miners Newsletter. Enclosed is a good example of a recent successful cycle of buying and selling gold. A certain WVM club member is oft quoted "I discovered a quick, easy fast, easy and very dependable way of acquiring gold....don't mine it....buy it!"

Of course successful buying and selling for quick profit depends on a lot of variables: a series of good guess based on reasonable research, having the financial means to purchase and hold until the "right time in the market" and just lots of guts.

The Story: A close friend of mine always enjoyed mining and prospecting with me but has little time these days to do much. He has always followed very carefully the investment side of gold and reads the various newsletters and web sites of the "Midas Soothsayers". From time to time he would call up and say something like "the prices are headed down....the Russians are selling like mad....you better sell now or plan to wait (X number of months, years) before we'll head back up and test the ****\$ range". At other times over the last 35 years he would call and ask "do you have any extra money, gold is way down at the moment but is soon going to be rising, the market is very brisk in India right now! Buy some one ounce coins now". Almost always I could not heed his advice. Either I didn't need the money at the moment (on the sell, sell, sell advice) and was afraid if I sold some of my hard won

gold, the wife would find an important need to spend it on or I just didn't have the funds to tie up for an unknown time period with bullion purchases. However I have noticed his advice was dead on probably 70% of the time. Actually if I had played with 2 or 3 ounces this way I could have increased this weight by several fold over the years.

Recently he was asked for some advice from an older couple that trusted his input on a matter. Very unexpectedly this couple had received a large insurance settlement and were undecided what to do with it. Their financial needs were already met, they gifted some of this new source of money to relatives and the rest drew little interest in the bank. My friend suggested it was a good time to buy some gold for the short term. He was convinced it was going to up substantially in next month or two. He phoned a dealer in Portland and set the price, the couple mailed a bank check and week or so later @ a cost of \$60.00 the U.S. Mail delivered a certified package of a bullion bar to the couple who stored it over the weekend at the bottom of drawer of clean underwear until the safety deposit box was opened on Monday morning. Some 65 days later my friend called the couple and said sell today! He even was able to swing by, go with them to the safety deposit box at the bank and drop it off a local buyer who paid a little more than the dealer in Portland. They made a quick profit!

Gold purchased Nov. 20th 2008.....\$760.93 per ounce

Sold Jan. 25 2009 \$898.30 per ounce

Gross profit \$ 137.37 per ounce....not bad for 65 days, a gain of 18%.

The best part is that they bought a Kilo bar (32.15 ounces troy) so the total gross profit was \$4,416. My only regret is that I didn't buy one too (Do I have to explain that the mining business checking account was just enough to fuel up both tanks in the work truck about twice?) My friend said "My gut feeling is that gold prices are going to go down for a bit, perhaps staying below \$700 for a while". It turns out he was wrong....gold at this time is selling for around \$1000 an ounce. In retrospect things are much clearer, they should have held one more month and added another \$3200 on to the profit. You cannot hit the highs and lows every time. Gold buying and selling of bullion of course is not a foolproof investment but at least the bullion has a tangible value anywhere in our world.

Report from the WPMA Gold Show, Feb 21-22 Monroe WA.

By Tom Bohmker

Probably the overriding theme of this show was enjoying the fruit of various individual and mining groups working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in establishing new rules and operating procedures for the small time miner and dredger. **Basically the news is more good than undesirable from our perspective.** Since the early 1980's a pamphlet Gold & Fish has set the procedure, equipment limits and timing (calendar weeks or months) that miners could operate their equipment. The new rules go into force April 3rd and by then the new rules will hopefully be printed up and posted on the internet in an understandable way. Some of the dredging seasons have been cut shorter while some have been lengthened. If an operator doesn't think the time window will work for him an special JARPA form may be submitted to the WDFW and considered. The miner's group **Resources Coalition Newsletter** offers to help the individual work through the bureaucratic mumbo jumbo of permitting.

The Good News: somehow the WDFW was convinced not to regulate most aspects of basic prospecting which are considered pans, sluices, rockers, battery high bankers, gold wheels and detectors. Under the old regulations you were supposed to pack a tub down and pan above the creek level in the tub. Other regulations were very confusing about not taking water out of streams for any mining purposes with the possible conclusion you must pack water in and pack it back home. These new arrangement are much more workable for casual recreational panners and seasoned experts attempting to sample a new area.

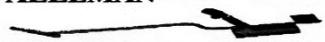
While Washington State is more noted for a moderate grade of placer deposits of flour to flake sized gold it was fun to talk to local mining experts such as Doug Lentz, Dennis Katz, & Bob (RC) Cunningham and see some of the good gold they have dug up. Doug had pictures of large quantities of gold sitting in his dredge in certain drainages in Washington State, some he detected and this miner could fill up your palm with his 3 dwt to 1/4 ounce nuggets to make the point.

A miner from Washington State who operates a small mechanical type placer mine near Elk Creek a few miles west of Baker City, OR also was there selling his gold. With just some part-time help from

his friends Ed Bechtel digs, hauls and tromeels about 45 yards of pay dirt a day recovering over an ounce per day. The Feb 2009 issue of Prospecting and Mining Journal featured a cover article on this small but efficient operation that recycles the rocks and gravel back into the excavation pit and replanting native vegetation. One lesson learned from talking with Ed is that working hard on keeping good relations with the regulators and Forest Service does pay off. Also he would let visitors to his booth hold his 2 ounce nugget, explain the operation with large photographs and most importantly how his operation has been a model of environmental stewardship.

After a long day of talk, talk, talk about gold and mining my old mining buddy John and I closed up our Cascade Mountains Gold booth and headed up the Skykomish River past Sultan to do some hands on panning. We found a number of spots on "open ground" that showed 1-3 colors and a few 1 or 2mm thin flakes per pan. Later we headed south and finally at 11 PM using a flashlight under a bridge near Snoqualmie Falls we found a spot that yielded 15 colors and 1 mm flakes a pan. After just 3 pans John pleaded with me to quit for the night. We'll try it there again next month at the GPAA gold show in Puyallup March 21-22.

<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> 1307 Talbot Rd.S.E. Jefferson, Or. 97352</p> <p>Louie Frick Owner 541-327-1210</p> 
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<p>Discounts for club members</p>

Classifieds

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

Garrett Scorpion Gold Stinger Metal Detector

Good as new. Good for coin-relic and gold hunting
\$325.00 Ph. 503-859-3132

Suction Nozzle

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

Mercury for Sale

Dan @ 541-401-0922 (Sweet Home)

"Keene" 5" dredge older model triple sluice, upgraded with 8hp Honda. New T80 compressor, reserve tank and air hose. High volume pump. Swivel Nozzle, quick release fittings, complete. Great condition. \$2800. OBO. Contact member Brian @ 541-929-3825

Wanted

Gold Screw

Dan @ 541-401-0922 (Sweet Home)

Wet Suit – Farmer John type – 6 mil. NEW – Medium size – fits 140 to 170 pounds – 5'4 – 5'9. Includes new weight belt. \$125 OBO.
Paul @541-926-8153

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

