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Gordon Davis
Bob Howell
Paul Messersmith

Events & Outings

Programs

Howard Conner

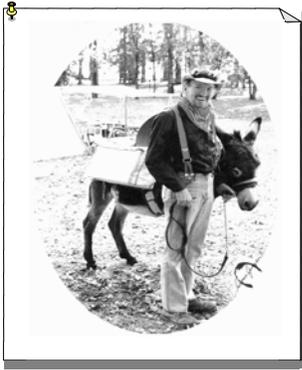
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**Please have all items for
the news letter to me by
the 25th of the month**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

August 2009

Meeting

August 20, 2009
7:00 pm

President's Report

Things in the meeting were a little different this month as the president is still under the weather and our vice president was tied up at work and unable to make the meeting, things had to fall in order. So I, the treasurer had to bring the meeting to order. I forgot a couple of thing that should have been acted on, but all in all it went ok.

We had a couple of new members that came to the meeting, and they introduced themselves. Tom Quintal had some news of what was going on up at one of our claims. The discussion got kind of long, but it was all worth finding out as some of us might encounter that in the future. If you know what to do and how to handle the problem then things will work out for all.

The reports on all of the outing went well and lots of miners found some good gold. Jeff Farrand brought his nugget that he and Howard Connor found on Dad's creek, (nice). There was a shovel and a small pick found after all had left Miner's Meadow, so the club decided to put them in the club trailer for loaners until some one claims them. We also have a mine tour coming up the last of Aug., check your event calendar, it will be in the Cottage Grove area of the Bohemia mining district.

Joe Greene and Claudia Wise brought some cards to send to the governor of California to ask him not to sign a bill that would stop dredging in California. Some of the bill was read that if passed it might get to Oregon and that would not be good.

We now, as a club, have 300 members and still counting.

By Lloyd Bridgmon
Treasurer

Meeting Minutes July 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order this evening by Treasurer Lloyd Bridgmon. Our President Paul Messersmith is still under the weather and Vice President Eban Ray was unable to make tonight's meeting.

The Baker City, Oregon Jubilee starts tomorrow. Louie Frick & his wife are over there for the event. He will have a booth at the Jubilee highlighting his equipment.

Tom Quintal was next in bringing us up to date on government affairs. Bill SB760 has passed in California. If signed by Governor Schwarzenegger it would place a moratorium on suction dredge gold mining in the state of California. If this measure is successful in California it could very well move up to other areas such as Oregon, Washington & Idaho.

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

Tom is urging our members to write or e-mail the governor & tell him why he shouldn't sign this measure. The issue behind this whole thing is to stop all suction dredging. They are using a California Fish & Wildlife study to stall any dredging until the study is complete. With California's large budget woes at this time for the State to do this now—it could take years to finish. In the meantime, there would be no suction dredging allowed. Orange cards were passed out for you folks to send your comments to California's governor. We need to do all we can to influence the governor to veto this piece of legislation.

Lloyd Bridgmon gave us the Treasurer's report. He is doing double duty this evening!

We now have about \$550.00 toward the high-banker. We will keep building on this until we have covered the cost of this very nice piece of equipment. By the way, we now have 295 members in this Club. This is a record!!! The motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as read & this was seconded.

Howard Connor gave us a report on the Dad's Creek outing. The outing at Dad's Creek was over the 4th of July. It was attended by Howard, Jeff Farrand & his family as well as Ruth & Don Hammer. Jeff Farrand came away with a beautiful nugget. Everyone went home with good gold. The prospecting was good but just sitting around getting to know each other made for a very enjoyable weekend.

Trudy Schrader gave us a report on Miner's Meadow which was held June 25th-28th. There was a very good group attending this outing. 54 members & 4 guests. The pot-luck was wonderful as always, Don Hammer did two turkeys. Gary & Trudy did doughnuts 2 different mornings. The duck races were very successful. We only lost 3 ducks this year. Everyone seemed to have a great weekend.

Next month the club is going to have the Bohemian mine tour. This is in the Bohemian Mine District.

This is down in the Cottage Grove area. Steve Landis will be with us next month to give directions. Steve will tell us where to meet & perhaps even provide a map.

There apparently was an issue at the cedar Bend claim site. To make a long story short time needs to

be spent up there putting up some signs that are lower down on the trees & not obstructed.

Next up was the subject of a new printer for the club. The club had its own printer but it has died. Debi Farrand has been doing some of the printing for the club at the office where she works. After some discussion, it was decided to have Debi continue to do what printing we need. It is a pretty good deal for only 3 cents a copy.

Wes Jeffers asked for volunteers to help him work the Clackamas County Fair again this year. The only stipulation is that the volunteers must dress in 1800 period clothing. Please contact Wes if you can help him out again this year. Wes told the club this evening that a nugget will be given to the best 1800 period costume.

The subject of a new & larger meeting facility was brought up once again. It was mentioned to Lloyd tonight that the Senior Center in Keizer was a possibility. The club needs to check into that as a possibility.

Howard Connor mentioned that some very good materials were available to be checked out through our club library. Just a friendly reminder—return checked out items in a timely manner.

Our next meeting is Thursday, August 20.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen S. Phares, Secretary
Willamette Valley Miners club

From the office of the treasurer

We have started a buddy list in the club, and I see no reason for me to keep it to myself. So if anyone is looking for someone to go out mining with, this list might help.

Leon Haight - 4179 Riverdale, Salem 97302
Phone 503-399-9690

Karen Kenney - 3416 Desert Rd. Silverton
Phone 503-383-2431

Stacy Anderson 299 Santa Clara Av. Eugene 97404
Phone 541-729-4754

Ken Doran PO Box 64 Scotts Mills 97375
Phone 503-873-9611

I hope someone will look up these miners as we all want the best out of our friendships. Have fun and may the bottom of you pan turn yellow.

Member's Corner

Government affairs Report

Senate Bill 670 passed in the California Assembly today with 60 legislators in favor, and 18 republicans who either voted "No" or who chose not to vote. The bill only needed 54 "Yes" votes to pass.

Since the bill was amended in the Assembly, it will now go back to the Senate for another vote – which could happen as soon as Monday.

Then it will be forwarded to the governor. Because SB 670 is an "urgency bill", the governor will only have 12 days to do something with it. We don't have much time remaining.

I will follow tomorrow with an Action Alert. We will need as many people as possible to send opposition e-mails or faxes to the governor.

We are going to need a lot of participation to stop the momentum of this bad legislation!

Parts of

Hand Sniping For Gold Nuggets

from

http://nevada-outback-gems.com/basic_prospecting/sniping.htm

Folks new to this great pastime need to know that prospecting is, in a lot of ways, like a trade. There is a lot to learn and it takes time to learn what to do in different situations, how to read a river, what characteristics are important to see in the quartz on the surface of the desert floor, the color of the soil or a dozen other indicators that might point out the best places to start looking for gold. There are procedures to learn which are time-tested to yield good results. The more you know and the more experience you have, in general the more gold you will recover, and like a trade, it is a skill that takes time and effort to learn. So relax, because no one ever learns it all, and you won't gain the decades of experience the old-timers possess in just a few days or weeks.

The simple pan and the individual prospector go hand-in-hand -- it is tradition. The inexpensive pan has long been the standard piece of prospecting equipment carried by old timers since the first great

gold rushes in the United States. It's been used to look for hard rock gold and placers in mountain streams and in deserts far and wide. In the past, most pans were made of metal and on long exposure to water, they had a big tendency to rust. You can still buy metal pans, and I do own a couple of them myself, but the pans I use normally are all made of plastic. Plastic pans are cheap, durable and they don't rust. Unless you drop a big boulder on one, they will last for many years. For most new prospectors a plastic pan should be the first piece of prospecting equipment they purchase, and panning should be the first prospecting technique they learn to master. The basic idea of panning is that by shaking and moving the pan around, the gold which is so much heavier than the sand, will settle out downward to the bottom of the pan. Lighter sand and gravel can then be washed off the surface out of the pan. The process of shaking and washing off the lighter material continues until only a small concentrate of heavy materials remain.

The basic operation of a pan is actually fairly simple, but experience and skill are needed to process large amounts of material and achieve maximum recovery. Panning is best learned by watching an experienced panner work, but the general principles and steps are outlined below. When you have read this page and think you understand the panning process, do a little practice run and try it for yourself. For your first trial attempts, take a few pieces of small lead buckshot, mix it with some sand and gravel, follow the directions of this article and see if you can pan away the gravel and keep the lead shot in your pan. if you don't have buckshot, cut some lead (real lead metal not pencil lead) into small pieces less than 1/8 th of an inch in size.

For maximum recovery, the material to be panned should be as uniform in size as possible - it's a good idea to remove big pebbles and stones larger than about 1 inch from your pan before you even begin. Take care to wash these stones so that the sand and clay attached to them stays in your pan. Some studies have shown that the fines attached to the larger rocks actually contains a lot more fine gold than one would expect. Panning is best done in a tub or pool of still, clear water, a spot where you can get good balance or even sit on a rock. You don't want to lose your balance and slip and fall into the River along with the gold in your pan. the advantage of using a tub, especially if you are new

to panning, is that you always have the opportunity to re-pan the material in the tub.

In many ways sniping and prospecting with hand tool has almost become lost art with so much great equipment available, dredges, metal detectors, dry washers and the like. It just becomes too easy to get caught up in all a great opportunities that these equipment items offer to us. It's important to remember that simply breaking open small cracks and crevices and exposed bedrock can still yield some fairly nice nuggets. Crevicing and sniping can be done even in the desert simply by following exposed and shallow bedrock and blowing or brooming off the surface of the rock and collecting material. Any crevices in the bedrock exposed by doing this should be carefully cleaned out. Small nuggets can be exposed or materials from inside those cracks can be collected for later panning.

Outings/Events

Sept. 18 – 20 is the last Miner's Meadow outing for 2009.

This is a good opportunity for new members to get some hands on experience at gold panning, sluicing and the like from more experienced prospectors.

Saturday at noon is the potluck with great food, fun times and much socializing. Evening around the campfire is a good time for those long winded mining stories. And maybe some music????

Everyone who comes to camp splits the cost of the days they stay. It makes for a very cheap camping trip with the more that camp - the cheaper it gets.

See you there,
Louie & Joan Frick - 541-327-1210

Dump stations

Sweet Home

Address: 4691 Highway 20, Sweet Home, Oregon

Directions: Turn on 47th Ave (east side of RV place) and take the driveway to your right, in back of the shop. Dump station is right there. When done just keep going around the back of the RV place and you will come out on 20.

Season: Open 24 hours / 7 days a week; self-serve

User Fee: \$5.00

Knox Butte RV Park Albany



125 Expo Pkwy NE

Albany, OR

this one has all the hoses ready for you to hook up to your camper.

Gary's Raffle Corner:

Raffle tickets by mail – Big Raffle Item!

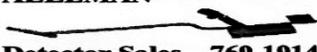
We are now selling raffle tickets for the new large item raffle. A land based 2" highbanker (powersluice)/dredge combo, complete with engine, pump (high pressure or trash type), dredge attachment, foot valve and hose, stiff highbanker hose attachment, 2" nozzle and hose, water line hoses and quick connects where appropriate – a complete system ready to setup and go! Pictures will be available at the monthly meetings.

We have \$600.00 sold on the large raffle item so far, that leaves us with \$800.00 more to go. Let's keep up the good work and reach our goal of getting the high banker/dredge combo to some lucky miner during this summer mining season.

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

Thanks for your support.

 <p>1045 Main Street Sweet Home, OR 97386</p> <p>Oregon Prospecting Supplies & Rita's Relics Dredges & Sluice Boxes: Dry Washers Power Sluices: Whites Metal Detectors: Keene Dealer: Gold Pans</p> <p>541-367-2237 Toll Free 866-367-4061 gold2@centurytel.net www.oregonprospecting.com</p>
<p>armadillo <i>Mining Shop</i></p>  <p>DREDGES • DIVE EQUIPMENT MINING SUPPLIES • DETECTORS THERE'S NO SALES TAX IN OREGON MAIL & PHONE ORDERS WELCOME 541/476-6316 2041 N.W. VINE • GRANTS PASS, OR 97526</p>
<p>ALLEMAN</p>  <p>Detector Sales 769-1914</p>
<p>Willamette Valley Rocks Lapidary Equipment & Supplies</p> <p>Bill Staggborg Owner Dealer: Covington Engineering & Ameritool-Inc. Rough Opal, Jasper & Agate Opal Jewelry & Finished Opal</p> <p>541-653-8750 www.willamettevalleyrocks.com stores.ebay.com/Willamette-Valley-Rocks 1400 Candlelight Dr. #227 - Eugene, OR 97402</p> <p><small>Discounts for club members</small></p>
 <p>METAL DETECTORS AUTHORIZED DEALER</p> <p>CLIFF WINSTON OWNER</p> <p>Cliff's Discount Detectors 4934 Center St. NE 503-581-3395 Ph Salem, OR 97301 cliff4934@msn.com</p>

Classifieds

Wild West Gold Sales

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

For Sale

3" Keene Dredge - 5hp Honda motor with 2"x1-1/2" pump - Jet suction & Suction nozzle with hoses - Gast model pcd-10 Air pump & tank - \$800 OBO will consider trade for small economy pickup
Also have a 5th hitch for a pickup and tailgate to fit 2005 Chevy Pickup for \$ 100

Call Les at 541-928-9967 or 541-619-4775

2 sluice boxes, like new \$45.00 each
several gold pans, \$5.00 each
Sieve pans to screen out rocks \$5.00 each
Mercury retort to separate gold \$50.00
Portable light plant \$200.00
Rubber wet suit 165-170 lb \$50.00
Lead weight belt \$25.00
Various tools for under water mining
5 gal water jug for camping out
anchor chains for surface dredge \$10.00
Gold scale, like new \$75.00
Respirator face-mask for hooka air compressor
Must see to appreciate.

Fred Schuck
541-928-1042
Albany OR

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

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

Wanted

Gold Screw

Dan @ 541-401-0922 (Sweet Home)

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

