



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

January 2010

Meeting

January 21, 2009
7:00 pm

Officers

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Claims

Howard Conner
Gordon Davis
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Events & Outings

Programs

Howard Conner

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Don Hammer
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Please have all items for the newsletter to me by the 25th of the month

President's Report

Well hello every one we had a good Christmas party if you missed it, well you missed out. The food was great like always and more then we could consume. Everyone appeared to have fun and the visiting was quite jovial. All the present giving and snatching was very well done and almost everyone got what they wanted, even Jeff. I came away with the juniper beer and will soon open it and enjoy. Trudy had tape measure on hand to measure our gifts so we would be sure of their size.

Bingo had Gold involved so someone came away richer in the great mineral we love. The table center pieces where beautiful and some of the lucky members won them and took them home. Thank you to Howard's friend for all the hard work.

As I sit here looking at the Christmas tree I can't help but look back at the past year. It was a great season of prospecting for me and the new friendships that started are the greatest treasure. And as the next year goes I hope these friendships will grow. The gold, it's in the buckets and hopefully will get panned out this winter.

Well 2009 is over! Now what? 2010 will bring us new challenges I'm sure. Later in the newsletter there is a victory that Tom tells us about. However it is not over and maybe this year we can become **PROACTIVE** not just reactive. Many citizens are just happy (I use this loosely) to react with verbal complaining and zero action. Will this work to change anything? A person can let their voice be heard as easy as writing a letter or even an E-mail. But also they can get involved with Tom and ask him what they can do. You tell us what you need to get involved and we will try and help you achieve that. I'm going to give you my E-mail. It's just for you members, don't give it out and please don't spam me a bunch of junk. No jokes and no old stuff you found on the Internet, thank you. ebenray44@yahoo.com I don't read my E-mail everyday and when I'm out prospecting I'm away from the computer so patience please.

It's going to be a great coming year, Happy New Year to all.

Eben Ray,
President

Special Note: Next Meeting - Special speaker who was at ground zero on 9-11. BE THERE

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

Meeting Minutes November 19, 2009

No meeting in December.

Treasurer's Report

The year has gone by so fast its hard to believe. I will say that it is time to renew our memberships and to look forward to the spring when all things are new. We have put an application in the newsletter for you, so it will be easier for a lot of you to get one. Please if you have a copier you can print one out and give it to a friend. With all the problems the miners are having it would be better if we all stick together. You can also get an application from the net on our web site www.wvminers.com. The dues are still the same.

I would like to thank all of you for joining last year as we had 319 of us in the club. I just wish in some way you could all come to the meetings so we would have more pull when it comes to the laws of our state. We need more help in all of the offices of the club.

We will need some help at the gold show the end of March and at Rickreall rock and gem show in April. The gold show is meeting people and telling them about our club and Rickreall is showing people how to pan, so if you want to learn please show up. And yes I am asking people to help. We have lots of things to do to get ready for both shows, So if you can do any of the things listed please volunteer.

I look forward to serving you again this year, thank you. Lloyd

Outings/Events

Our January outing is on the 16th to Rice Museum in Hillsboro. The Museum opens at 1 pm so we need to meet in the parking lot of Harbor Freight, 4675 Portland Rd. N.E. (just off 1-5) Salem at 11:45. We will caravan (and or carpool) from there.

Leaving Salem we drive north on 1- 5, turn off 1 - 5 at exit 292 on to Hwy 217, follow on this to Hwy26 (Sunset Hwy near St Vincent Hospital) go west to exit 61, right on Helvetia and a quick left on Groveland (a frontage road west) go about one mile to address (26385) down the driveway and you will see the buildings and the parking areas.

Bring a friend to share a fascinating time. Rock and minerals and petrified wood like you've never seen, from the NW and around the world. Admission to the museum is - adult \$7, \$6 for seniors, students \$5, under 5 yrs. free. The tour takes 1-2 hrs (more time if you want).

Contact person: Louie and Joan - 541-327-1210

You can also get more information at:

info@ricenwmuseum.org

Gary's Raffle Corner:

Remember we still need to sell tickets for the Dredge high Banker, remember, if you send me your money I will enter your tickets into the drawing. \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Member's Corner

Well here is the decision Oregon miners have been waiting for regarding the illegal 700pm suction dredge permit. As those who supported litigation against the ODEQ illegal NPDES 700pm permit since this permit was only for Lechate containment/sewerage treatment plants, industrial polluting factories who add NEW pollutants into the waters of the state. Miners do not add/introduce anything new that is not already in the streams. I personally never did purchase this permit thus obligating myself to the legal binding conditions and fines contained in the 700pm permit, since it was the wrong permit and in litigation waiting for a court decision.

All mining associations in Oregon will need to get involved and help with litigation cost to correct or refine the 700 NPDES court decision.

We need to contact N. Bend Prospectors, Bohemina miners, Southern Oregon miners, NWMPA in Portland/Washington and all the GPAA small mining associations for their support. This bulk of participation should not be put upon EOMA miners, Waldo miners or WVM mining associations. I am not sure if NWMPA participated in the last permit litigation cost or attended ODEQ public hearings or court hearings.

It is time for Oregon miners to be proactive in case we might need to fight a California SB 670 ban on suction dredging as this could happen in our Oregon legislature.

Tom Q, WVM

Claim Occupancy

I finally was able to obtain court cases with names of individuals cited for occupancy on their mining claims. The Tracy case is being appealed by Tracy to a higher court. The US Forest Service stalled Tracy's plan of operation for 5 years. He finally decided to mine his claim without a plan of operation, so it will be interesting if his appeal will show the lack of corporation miners are faced with by Forest Service and BLM agencies. Most all plans of operation are required to be approved or denied in 90 days from time they are submitted to one of the listed forest managers. I have seen little press explaining the delay Tracy encountered for his plan of operation.

The other seven miners charged in Federal Court are listed for illegal occupancy. Last week the miners court appearance was not what the court expected due to lack of proper citations by the US Forest Service, which lacked the specific claim locations where their alleged illegal occupancy took place. The judge offered to reduce their fines to \$250.00 if they would plead guilty and no jail time. The miners elected to plead not guilty. The judge did not require immediate jail time and let the miners go without posting a bond. This is really going to be interesting to see what citable statutes the Forest Service will offer to the court on January 6th. If they do not, I suppose the charges could be dropped. Some of these folks have attorneys, but not all do. The judge set another official trial date for February 23, 2010.

My concern for all mining associations in Oregon is, none of us were able to show up with miners being present in court to support these folks. I heard there was not much of a notice for the court hearing date, but we now have some dates to work with.

Take a look at where the summons for these folks are in Oregon. South, Willamette/Umpqua and East. They have blanked the state to make a statement to Oregon miners.

Are we going to be bullied without some show of support for Oregon miners and show this court miners are not afraid to stand with legitimate mining operators? It would be nice if a large group of miners would carpool to this Federal Court February 23, 2010 in Portland showing support. What say you? If the charges are

dropped by January 6, 2010 due to lack of proper citable offenses it will be a mute point. Miners need to pay close attention to this issue.

I do not know each individual miners case regarding occupancy, but I do know of some and they clearly have a right of occupancy regarding the 1872 mining law on their valid mining claims. I think most all legitimate miners do not condone squatting on the land or trashing the land. I will hope most all of the recent miners summoned to Federal Court in Portland will be able to use some of the following regulations and convince the court of their right to occupy their valid mining claim.

Title 30 USC contains the laws applicable to located mining claims, and nowhere does it contain a prohibition against occupying a residence on a claim. Title 30 states the Mining Law of 1872, and is applicable to mining claims; Section 22 of Title 30 grants to a locator of a mining site the right to occupy the land on which the site is located. Section 26 of Title 30 grants to the locator of the mining site the "exclusive possession and enjoyment" of all the surface land on which the mining claim sits. The Ninth Circuit of Appeals in the United States v. Shumway has declared that these sections of the Mining law create in the locator of the mine a real property interest to the exclusion of the Government's right to control outside eminent domain.

Tom Q, WVM

The relationship of “Snake Oil Medicine shows” and a bottle of Briggs Creek Gold for curing summer time blues

By Tom Bohmker

Personally for me this past summer was most difficult and I was terribly bogged down with summer time blues. Recall how every few days the Economic News Reports revealed the startling climb of the gold price to eventually over \$1,000 an ounce. While this of course is a time of jubilation for life long gold buffs (my self and friends included) my personal circumstances were so very frustrating at the time and kept me distracted from being so excited about this good news. While I thought about my friends and mining club associates with various mining plans and expeditions I know that I personally was not going to do any yellow metal hunting for anytime soon. I thought about my friend Miles Mitchell who planned to open up some new surface veins in a shear zone at his lode mine south east of Graves Creek in southern Oregon and long time close friends “Moe and Joe” actively dredging in California on their rich new claim. Yes, I was miserably stuck in a hospital bed all summer. It was a struggle for a while at first for me to breath, thus having to use life support and later it was most difficult trying to reactivate my body which had been paralyzed up to my neck by a rare neurological condition (Guillian Barre Syndrome). However it was a great distraction from my personal suffering to hear some good mining stories. Moe phoned me and gave a detailed account of their suction dredging operation on their new claim, a sort of an overlooked tributary of the Trinity River, a “sleeper” creek. They were averaging 1 ½ oz a day and every day they would get ½ to a whole dozen nuggets raisin sized and up with many ¼ to ½ oz in weight. One great day they weighed out over 3 ounces of nuggets and flakes. Of course they were shut down from dredging in August with all 3,000 dredgers in California but they had already filled up their poke with about 90 ounces. They still finished their season on a golden high note.

When lying rather helplessly on my back for months I did do a lot of thinking about mining and it helped pass the time away. I tried to rehash in memory favorite mining trips. Numerous times I thought about the time with partner Dan when we were slowly uncovering bedrock on the Illinois River in Southern Oregon stacked with many 3 and

4 foot diameter boulders to a depth of 6 or 7 feet. Finally a thin, flat boulder some 3 feet across was found “cemented” with hard pack gravels to the bedrock. I dredged around it and we hoisted the big boulders out of the hole. It took the whole morning to uncover an area 5 by 7 feet or so on the bedrock. We cleaned up about 3 DWT of flakes and pickers from this activity, found mostly in the reddish yellow pack that was found within a couple feet of bedrock. We still had the cemented flat rock to move and dredge underneath. With the water clear I hammered the cemented gravel around the edge and I could see dozens of little flakes of gold 1 to 3 mm in size swirl into the nozzle. I tried driving a gad bar (similar to a carpenter cat paw nail puller) under the flat boulder to shake it loose...it seemed to be held tight with super glue. Again I circled the perimeter hammering the thin layer of cementing gravel. Interesting this packed gravel had a different color than the gold bearing reddish yellow pack layered above as this pack was much more of a blue gray color and as we had seen in other spots nearby the blue gray color signaled the richest layer. I finally used a 4 foot long steel bar forged to a point at one end and with a large door knob sized round ball at the other. With the biggest sledge hammer we had attempted to drive it underneath the boulder to dislodge it. For some 10 minutes I hammered and hammered finally a little cloud of gray material rose around the boulder signaling it had finally loosened up. I was able to lever it off it’s perch and the hole became immersed in a cloud of gray. It took a long minute or two for the water to clear and I was anxiously hoping to see some gold. As soon as the dredge started to suck away the thin layer of sand and gravel I could see hundreds of flakes of gold like stars shining on a mountain night. Most of the flakes were large enough to stay on #20 mesh screen or 2 to 3 mm in size and there were hundreds of them. I recall thinking, “If this keeps up we’ll get rich”. In just 5 minutes the hot spot was over. We cleaned up again and were thrilled with over 9 DWT (nearly ½ oz troy). It was a great thrill. Of course having new adventures is better, but “summer time reruns” of such memories really did help pass the time.

No doubt you have seen scenes on movies in which a “Snake Oil Medicine Show Salesman” makes a silver tongue pitch for the product claiming curing of all sorts of ailments, arthritis, rheumatism, hemorrhoids, removing warts: the fountain of youth effect. In the movie “Pete’s Dragon” a skeptical

audience is won over by the medicine show barker and people seem to be cured, at least by the power of suggestion. Older readers may recall many of the W.C. Fields movies of the 1930's and 40's in which he portrayed a similar medicine showman. One of his classic pitches for a restorative health tonic concluded with "The sun never sets on Purple Bart's Sarsaparilla...now who will be the first to buy a bottle?"

Last August I had my very own "medicine show" visit from a group of mining friends intent on trying to cure me from my ailments when I was still rather helplessly stuck in bed, barely able to raise my arms. These practitioners of relief from the blues were led by Tom Quintal and included Louie Frick, Howard Conner & Jim Perky. These friends were from the local club "Willamette Valley Miners" and were compassionate, sincere and encouraging to me to speed me along in the recovery process. Jim Perky related his account of a trip to his friend's claim up near Barkersville in British Columbia. This friend just found an overlooked pay streak on a bench gravel deposit and found many ounces in a day with a small wash plant. Then Tom Quintal shared some interesting news of his mining trip down to the Mining Club's newly acquired claims on Briggs Creek in Southern Oregon. This place is reached by a long steep trail that wears one out just getting there. I recalled how the previous owner of the claims had showed me some nice gold mined back in the 1980's and I was planning to dredge there last summer with my sons. However. Everything in life for me went on hold when illness struck, even gold mining. In addition it is interesting to note that another mining club I am a member of in Roseburg, Oregon, the "Douglas County Prospectors Association", heard of my disability, sent a card signed by many members and gave my wife a sizable financial gift that she used for gas and meals for her and other relatives that frequently made the long trip to the hospital in Portland to visit me. This too was a very kind and appreciated assistance.

At about this point in their bedside visit with me, Tom Quintal reached for his own special brand of "Snake Oil Medicine" to attempt to cure me where the doctors so far had made just a little progress. Every day for months the doctor had come in and poked and held my feet hoping to see some nerve reaction or movement. Basically nothing in the feet had changed...they seemed to be immobile.

However my mining friend Tom Quintal and his assistant "Professors of Universal Healing" wanted to try to revive my limp lower body. Although Tom was not wearing a dark cape and stove pipe hat, he did ceremoniously wave his bottle of newly mined Briggs Creek Gold under my nose. Wow did it look good! With difficulty I was able with my still very stiff fingers hold the bottle and examine the heavy flakes and small nuggets and hear them rattle in the bottle. I seemed to feel a wave of energy flow from the hands, into my abdomen then towards the feet. Gold Fever again was evident in my weak and wasted body. I was really excited and felt much better. Note: It is not claimed that these four fine miners instantly and miraculously cured me to a degree such that I jumped up on my feet, put on my rush pack, and with snow shoes strapped on started off for Alaska but honestly the medical records show the next week I was able to walk a little with help from the physical therapists and later the following month I was able to stand alone!

Of course the best news for me is that I finally was released after 4 ½ month in hospitals and a nursing home at the end of September. Since then I have continued to recover quite well and I am able to walk (slowly and cautiously). Hopefully in Jan 2010 the doctor will release me to return to work. Perhaps the lesson learned here is that friendship, attention and a little stimulus from a small bottle of gold can go a long way in helping us get through the ups and downs of life and deal with the summer time blues.

Thank you everyone!

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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

Farmer John wet suit should fit anyone 5'8 to 6' with a men's size waist 31" and smaller. Comes with boots. \$125.00 Jeff @ 503-371-3652

Wanted

Gold Screw
 Dan @ 541-401-0922 (Sweet Home)

Willamette Valley Miners

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE CLEARLY PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please check: New Member Membership Renewal

Please accept my application for membership in the Willamette Valley Miners Club. I understand that the association is a non-profit organization of members with a common interest in small scale mining and Mineral prospecting. I have read and understand the agreement below.

**Annual Family membership dues - \$20.00.
Membership card for dash - \$1.00
Membership year begins in January**

As a member of the Willamette Valley Miners I hereby agree to abide by the rules and guidelines established by the club. I acknowledge that small scale prospecting may involve inherent dangers and I hereby release the Willamette Valley Miners Club, its officers, and claim holders from any and all actions, causes of actions, claims, damages, or injuries that may occur on any and all claims controlled by the Willamette Valley Miners Club, or other clubs who we share claims with. I further agree to hold the Willamette Valley Miners Club, its officers, and claim holders harmless from the results of any accident or incident that may occur while I am on said lands controlled by the Willamette Valley Miners Club or claims shared with others clubs

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Must be signed by spouse for family membership)

Amount enclosed _____

Please send application and remittance to:

Willamette Valley Miners
PO Box 13044
Salem Or. 97309

Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044
Salem OR 97309-1044

We Meet Third Thursday of
the month, 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
300 Cordon Rd NE
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