



# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

April 2010

**Meeting**  
April 15, 2010  
7:00 pm

## **President's Report**

Hello members:

March meeting was well attended and the discussion was to the point and quick. Thank you everyone for your participation. We have had some members out prospecting and finding gold. A nice nugget came off one of our claims last week. With that said we have some very active members working away. One nice nugget was passed around that was found on one of our claims the week before our meeting. Ya Gold!!!

Have you ever been confused about Permits? Me too! What do we do? Well attend the monthly meetings and you might just learn a thing or two about this and other subjects. There are **permit requirements for prospecting** in Oregon for dredging, high-banking, sluicing, and even panning on the beach (which needs 2 permits by the way). *OH*

The next few meetings will have some guest speakers, so attend and hear info from GPS use to metal detector use and maybe about meteorites. And don't forget the outings coming up, including one very educational basic mining workshop (potluck too).

Raffles, Oh boy we have some great stuff coming up there also. The big item might be drawn next meeting. See Gary's Raffle Corner for more information. While at the gold show, **Oregon Prospecting Tours** donated a 3 day trip to our group to raffle, and Jobe Wholesale donated a pan and 2 gold magnets for a raffle. We also have a raffle donation of a metal detector from one of our members.

Things are happening don't miss out. Attend the meetings.

Now get out and find some Gold.

Eben Ray  
President

**April Meeting** - Kevin Moynahan, assistant director for Division of State Lands and Eric D. Metz, PWS Operations Manager, will give WVM a permit overview presentation including the new Essential Salmon Habitat miles being added to Oregon streams.

We would like to see a good WVM member turn out at the April meeting to show DSL we are a good size mining association.

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

## **Officers**

### **President**

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### **Vice President**

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### **Treasurer**

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## **Government Affairs**

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## **Committees**

### **Claims**

Howard Conner  
Gordon Davis  
Bob Howell

## **Events & Outings**

## **Programs**

Howard Conner

## **Website**

Don Hammer  
Trudy Schrader  
Diane Smith

## **Newsletter Editor**

Debi Farrand  
503-371-3652  
[dfarrand@msn.com](mailto:dfarrand@msn.com)

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

## **Meeting Minutes March 18, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Eben Ray at 7:00 P.M. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of our February 18 meeting. The minutes were approved as read as they appeared in the Club's February newsletter.

Our Treasurer's report was the next order of business. Lloyd Bridgmon informed those in attendance that the monies of the Club, our savings account and our CD's have been placed in a money market account which was voted on and approved at our last meeting. We thank Lloyd for the work that he has done in making this a reality.

Government Affairs was the next order of business as reported to us by Tom Quintal. If there are questions regarding Tom's report please contact Tom as he is the expert for our Club in all matters regarding Government Affairs. He is very well informed & has a wealth of information that is well organized for our group. Tom can be reached by calling (503)371-9747. He can also be e-mailed at [quintalt@gmail.com](mailto:quintalt@gmail.com).

There were 35 members with us this evening as well as 4 guests.

Upcoming events:

**March 27 & 28** GPAA show (Oregon State Fairgrounds) Contact person Wes Jeffers

**April 3-4** Beverly Beach Outing  
Contact person Wes Jeffers

**April 16-18** Rickreall Rock & Gem Show  
Contact person Howard Conner/Jim Perkey

**May 1** Basic Mining Workshop/potluck  
Contact person Jim Perkey (503)390-7327

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Phares,  
Secretary  
Willamette Valley Miners Club



## **Treasurer's Report**

March is the deadline for no dues, no newsletter. Anyone that has not sent in his 2010 dues comes off the membership list and gets no newsletter.



## **Outings/Events**

**April 3-4** Beverly Beach. Fun on the coast and alot of fine gold and some fossil hunting along with agate and other beach stuff. Wes has this one and is always more then helpful.

Go south from Lincoln City to Beverly Beach campground. Then find a club member.

**April 16-18** Rickreall Rock and Gem show. This one is very fun and educational with gold panning for the kids. The gems are outstanding in the rest of the show and people there are willing to share all sorts of information.

**May 1** Basic Mining Workshop/potluck – come learn. If you know it all, come teach. Contact person – Jim Perkey – (503)390-7327

**May 28-31** Dads Creek Outing - Dads Creek outing is scheduled for May 28-31. This is scheduled at the same time as Vincent Creek. Dads Creek is for those who don't wish to travel as far. Dads Creek has multiple WVM claims on it. There are a number of areas along the claim to rough camp and is accessible with camper trailers around 28 feet + vehicle. WVM 3 is the first claim as you turn onto the road along Dads Creek. There are many places to prospect with bedrock shallow in some spots and deep in others. There is gold, one day you might not find any and the next you hit a good spot. Bedrock is the key for the better stuff, flood gold is on the top.

Exit 80 to Glendale, at stop sign set your mileage to "0", go straight to Glendale. After 2.6 miles, turn right and cross over Cow Creek River, (with-in a block) then turn left. This puts you on Ruben road. Go an additional 9 miles to road number 32-7-21 which is on the right. There are many sharp turns, small shoulders and sometimes gravel on this 9 miles of paved road. When you turn right on to the

service road it is clear you are in the right spot because there is a large area of rock taken from the hillside on the left. Find a spot in this area or travel further up to WVM 4 and 5. You will pass a cabin on your way up. The dogs will chase you for a minute, just slow down they won't get you. There are more areas along 4,5 and 6 to camp along. Contact person is Steve Landis (254)245-6776.

**May 28-31** Vincent creek outing usually warm and dry a nice quite outing. This claim, also known as Sour Dough Pete, is in north eastern Oregon near Austin Junction in Grant County. There is plenty of area near the claim for camping of any type from small tents to large motor homes. This is primitive camp so remember be ready to pack it out. This is a road closure area that we have special permits to enter and you will be checked. So take the road permit and your membership card and window card with you to display. There will be extra copies at the April and May meetings. Contact is Eben Ray 503-508-1497.



### **Gary's Raffle Corner:**

New update on the large raffle (Dredge/High banker), we need \$195.00 more and we can make someone very happy!!!

Gary Ashley has donated a mine lab detector to the club so we will make that our next large item! Thanks Gary!!

We will have to determine an amount to let it go for at the next meeting. (no extra after cost as it is a donation).

Art Leppin drew Claudia Wise's number for the nugget, Congrats!

Check your large item tickets (red tickets) 070861-866, your name is not on the draw tickets (come & see me before the draw)!!!

Gary



### **Member's Corner**

Thank you to those members who helped out at the Gold Show, it was somewhat busy and organized. After the Gold Show, I got a phone call from a member who was at WVM 3 at Dads Creek for a week. He had witnessed 4 others dredging on the claim and camping under the WVM sign. The camping is fine, but there is no dredging allowed at this time of year. He assumed that they were members but didn't verify this even after he had talked to them a number of times throughout the week. This person didn't get license plate numbers or pictures so someone could follow up on this. All that can be done is try to find someone to make the three hour drive down to look.

Last season it appeared that someone was on WVM 4 and hit it hard through the winter. These could be the same people. Whether they are members or not, if caught dredging by ODFW, it will be labeled as the Club's doing and hurt mining even further in general. If they are not members, they are taking our gold and we will have less to find. There are many other reasons, but the point is, the club is yours, protect it. If you confirm there are non-members on our claims, simply notify the sheriff and a club officer. If you are afraid in some way, indiscreetly take pictures of the area, what is going on and license plate numbers and contact a club officer so follow-ups can be done.

Jeff Farrand

### **The Forgotten Salmon Egg Bait Jar and other old concentrate stories**

By Tom Bohmker 4-5-10

A retired logger named LeRoy called me seeking information on joining a prospecting club I am a member of. This man told me he has always been interested in learning more about gold mining but admits that he is still just a novice. He related to me a recent "discovery" of gold in his old truck. Quite some time ago his rock hounding uncle had heard of LeRoy's "want to get into gold mining" interests and so gave him a salmon egg bait jar of sand concentrates explaining this was concentrate that had fine gold in it and it would take some effort to extract the gold out. A visual examination showed black sand and nothing gold like in side. He put it under the seat of his truck thinking he would bring it to a friend who could better advice him if indeed it was gold. Years went by...when he sold the truck

he cleaned out under the seat and found the forgotten jar of concentrates. He put it under the seat of the new truck and promptly forgot it as he was immersed in his logging. The "new" truck is twenty years old but last summer with gold prices at over a \$1,000 he finally dug it out after parts of 3 decades riding around under the seat and brought it to someone with a gold wheel concentrator. In just minutes the wheel separated out the black sand and other residue leaving a brown fine powder. Sometimes when fine particles of gold is stored with concentrates it becomes coated with iron manganese stains leaving it a darker, rusty red or even black colored. Also sometimes if the gold was coated with mercury and burned off with nitric acid the gold may be more of a brown color. Grinding with smooth agates or steel balls in a rock tumbler or chemical cleaners can restore the color or melting it into a dore bar. Needless to say our new miner was pleased to weigh out 3 ounces of raw gold dust. Not bad for a novice!

Meanwhile, a few days before I had the first opportunity of the spring to do a little panning checking out the Recreation Mining Corridor on the Molalla River near Woodburn, OR, and was reminded of my own stashes of black sand concentrate. To start this prospecting trip I had gone to get my "Rush Pack" and a little sluice out of storage. Of course the "Rush Pack" is an old pack dedicated just to prospecting with all the goodies needed such as a couple of pans, a screen, folding shovel, rock hammer, crevice cleaner, face mask, Le Trap bottle, tweezers, gold specimen bottles with labels, ore sample bags, a cottage cheese container for concentrate, water bottle and some emergency supplies such as band aides, compass, space blanket and snake bite kit. This way if the sudden opportunity arises to chase yellow all the tools are ready to go in a moments notice. However I noticed there was a hand full of concentrate in the cottage cheese container...where was this from and did it have any gold? Also it was noticed that a number of other gold pans were piled up at the shop containing black sand concentrate. Some of these I recalled were from testing a year ago under bridges and along some major roads in Washington near Sultan and on Raging River near Snoqualmie. I had taken out the larger 1mm small flakes but left the flour gold and now was curious. At this point I panned some down and was rewarded with a lot of small gold. Within a couple of minutes I had about 2 grains of gold, perhaps

\$4.00 worth at current prices. Then a pinch was panned (using the water facet at the farm) from the cottage cheese container...it was quite hot with 1-3 mm flakes and some that were thick... Perhaps this was from that survey trip we made a couple years ago to Idaho and panned at 40 or so locations. Soon I located a number of pans and jars of black sand that still contains considerable gold. Often times in my mining travels I would pick out the larger flakes, skim off what I could easily get of the small gold with a Le Trap bottle and leave the rest of the flour gold in the concentrate so as to keep digging for more nuggets (hopefully).

In times past I would wait until I was broke or trying to grubstake a new mining venture and would finally process all the saved black sand. Usually this activity would yield ¼ to ½ oz of gold per 5 gallon bucket of black sand. Back then I tumbled it with steel ball mill balls in a rock tumbler and amalgamated the gold with mercury and then reclaimed the mercury on a gold wheel. We generally filtered out the gold amalgam with a chamois and burned the mercury off with nitric acid. Often we would melt the gold in a crucible and end up with a nice button. However this process is very tricky and has a potential for health issues and nasty spills and requires a lot of equipment and expensive chemicals. Thus it seems today it is best not use the "M" word (Mercury) at all as the silvery metal gets some people so excited and upset. Scientists tell us the bulk of mercury pollution comes from burning coal but perhaps we can do our part to help keep the peace. Now a "Blue Bowl" will be used after screening down to - #20 and # 40 mesh which is faster and much easier with no chemicals and disposal problems.

With the high gold prices it is worth the time to make the final extraction of gold from the concentrates. How much concentrate do you have around? Let us have an informal contest and show off our "gold from the old concentrate laying around" at the next meeting.

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**Editor's note: Please let me know if you have already sold your items so they can be removed.**

**Wanted**

**Gold Screw**

Dan @ 541-401-0922 (Sweet Home)



**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  
Salem, OR**

