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Programs

Howard Conner

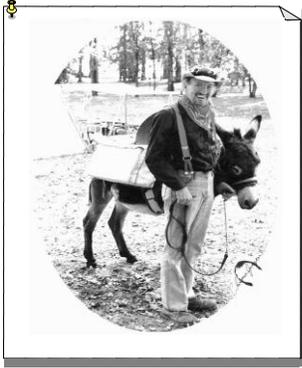
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Please have all items for the newsletter to me by the 25th of the month



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

June 2010

Meeting

June 17, 2010
7:00 pm

President's Report

We had a great turnout for our May meeting with a guest speaker from DSL to start us off. We had a chance to learn and hopefully the DSL representative learned a little? I hope everyone was able to get their comments mailed or e-mailed for the June DSL permit planning session. We are not heard if we do not speak either in person or by the written word. Remember that you're more apt to be taken serious if you are educated on the subject and factual in your commentary.

The season of prospecting and mining is upon us and I hope everyone has a fun and prosperous season. Remember your club ID card and window card when you head out to one of our claims. Read your info packet and the rules we try to prospect by. Take care of your claims, your world and it will take care of you. If you see someone abusing your claims get all their info (take a picture?) and report them.

Be safe and find some gold.

Eben Ray

President

Meeting Minutes May 20, 2010

The meeting started at 7:00 sharp with the introduction of Eric Metz from the Department of State Lands. Erik did a presentation of where DSL's jurisdiction is with regards to rivers along with definitions and permits. Many questions were asked and tension a little high. There was about 90 members and guests in attendance.

Afterwards the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. New members and guests were greeted. The meeting minutes where approved as written and the Treasurer's report approved as read.

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 Cont'd

The metal detector that was given to the club to raffle off is proving hard to get a new battery pack for. Tom Quintal will look into this.

Thank you Jim Perky and those members that assisted him for putting on a very well done work shop last month.

June 12th Louie Frick and Rita from Rita's Relics will be at Quartzville for their annual demonstrations. It starts at 10:00AM till dark at about mile post 20. Louie will have a dredge/highbanker combo and some sluice boxes. Rita will have some lessons on how metal detectors work.

The Miner's Meadow outing is the 24th to the 27th. There will be contests such as GPSing, metal detecting and duck racing. Prizes will be handed out. There was a motion to give Howard Conner \$100.00 to purchase prizes, motion was approved. Larry Coon had inherited from, Paul Messersmith, a former member that recently passed away, a gold kit used to prospect. Larry offered the kit to the club to raffle. Also the Gold trip given to the club at the Gold Show will be raffled off at June's meeting.

There was a motion to give Linda Backland \$500.00 for legal fees and an amendment to include an additional \$500.00 to Guy Michaels for his legal fund. Motion approved.

Lenard Allen won the meeting's raffled nugget.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Farrand,
Vice President
Willamette Valley Miners Club

Outings/Events

EVERYONE'S WELCOME ~~

On Saturday, June 12 at 10am Oregon Prospecting Supplies (Rita and Steve from Sweet Home) and Fine Recovery (Louie from Jefferson) will be having their annual demonstrations at Quartzville Creek at about milepost 20. This is quite a large roadside corner with lots of parking area and we will have our signs out in easy view.

Louie will be demo-ing his 2" combo highbanker/dredge and also showing pointers on how to sluice.

Rita and Steve will be talking on metal detectors. Be sure to bring your metal detectors (all brands) along with your questions and also get a little treasure hunting time and hands on help.

Rain or shine, bring your lawn chairs and lunch and have a good time. It's a FUN day.

LOUIE FRICK

Miner's Meadow Outing

The annual Miner's Meadow Outing will be held June 24 through June 27 this year at the Miner's Meadow Campground. This is a "must attend" event for all club members who want to learn more about gold exploration and recovery. There are many things to do including games, metal detecting, Geo Cache hunts and the famous "DUCK RACES"!! Great prizes await the lucky winners, great food awaits the hungry and a great time is there for all. The club provides the meat for Saturday's lunch and members bring all the rest for a "to-die-for" pot-luck lunch (actual choking on food not permitted).

Take exit 233, hwy 20 going east off I-5 through Lebanon and on through Sweet Home. Continue east on hwy 20, then turn left turn across Foster Lake on Quartzville Drive road. Signs read to Yellowbottom and Quartzville. Continue on to mile marker 26, then watch carefully on your right for WVM signs. Turn right off road then left into the camping area through chainlink gate. Permanent pit toilets will be on your right through the gate.

The campground is great for tents to motorhomes and 5th Wheels. No potable water or power is available so bring your own. GREAT FUN AND FELLOWSHIP IS YOURS - SO COME GET SOME!!!

Memorial Day Weekend Outings

Vincent creek was a little rainy and cool to cold. We had 3 singles, 1 couple, and 1 family. There were 4 combos working, 3 that highbanked and dredged, 1 that mostly dredged. 1 4-inch dredge that ran 4 days. There where several pickers found and of course fine gold, flake and some wire gold. Also I ran the sluice box that I won at a club meeting (donated by Louie) and found 2 pickers with it. There was gold found every day which is always

good, no one skunked. Oh I also found some petrified wood on the claim. We had time for some visiting, story telling and general conversation.

1 member dropped in late Sunday night and on Monday panned around for a few hours and shared a bit of warming fire and conversation then returned to Sumptner. There was a town wide event happening in Sumptner which happens every year at the same time as our outing. If you ever get a chance, you should attend. There are a lot of booths and flea market stuff and of course a ton of gold history. All in all I believe the outing was a success. Sorry no pictures, dead battery, so be sure to check your batteries before traveling so you will have your photo memories.

Eben

Dad's Creek Outing

It was a nice weekend with sunshine and warmth. There were about 15 members in all that showed up. 3 of us did some exploring up the creek and around the hills. Most members found gold. I did crevassing for about a full day and found some flakes a picker and a small nugget. I am still a firm believer that the better gold is at the bedrock as most visible crevasses have been gone through pretty good. There was plenty of water. Jim Perky and a member with the name Tom spent time playing a guitar, what a nice thing to listen to after a nice day of play. Before I left I told that creek that I will be back in July and it better watch out, my dredge will be out and I plan on getting to the bedrock and getting some good gold!

Jeff Farrand.

Gary's Raffle Corner:

We must apologize to Steve Davis who had made a generous donation to the club and was not recognized and publicly thanked for that generosity. At the GPAA show some equipment he had was sold and the proceeds given to WVM. Thanks Steve even if it is a few months late!!!

WVM

In May we started on a new large raffle. Oregon Gold Trips from Grants Pass donated 3 days at Wines Camp (value \$500.00) for us to raffle off and all the money goes to our club. We will be drawing for this great prize at the June meeting. We will pull the winning ticket regardless of how much we have made then. Tickets are \$5 each. Remember, if you

cannot get to a meeting you can get tickets by mail. Just send your name and the money to the club address or to me, Gary Schrader PO Box 504 Lyons OR 97358.

Gary

Member's Corner

This permit thing is in the air for some pieces of mining equipment and should be resolved when we see the new ODEQ suction dredge NPDES permit being finalized before June. Here are the current permit requirements for mining equipment.

ODEQ NPDES: permit required for gold suction dredging in Oregon. Annual cost \$25.00 ODEQ has temporarily stopped enforcing the Hand Sluice and Rocker Box permit requirement until this issue is resolved with the new NPDES permit coming out this June. Miners have strongly requested the hand equipment be exempt from permitting in the new NPDES permit. Check ODEQ to see if this permit can be applied for on their website.

ODEQ 600: permit to run a High-banker. FREE Check ODEQ to see if this permit can applied for on their website.

Limited License required to divert water: Oregon Water Resource Board is requiring folks running high-bankers to purchase a limited license to divert or pump water from the stream to run a high-banker or spray bar sluice classification piece of mining equipment. This is a stream site specific permit and cost \$250 dollars for a five year permit. If you move your pump up or down the stream a few feet they require another \$25.00 each time you move locations. As mentioned this is only good for the stream you license. Miners will need to protest this unworkable permit, because most miners are mobile with their stream use around Oregon.

GA/ FREE: permit from Division of State Lands require you to obtain a FREE General Authorization permit for Essential Salmon Habitat Streams in Oregon. This permit can be applied for on DSL website. Approximately 80% of all mining streams in Oregon are listed as ESH streams and you can mine up to 25 cubic yards in one year for that stream's total reach. Non ESH streams do not require a GA permit and you can mine up to 50 cubic yards per year per stream reach.

CAUTION: All the above permits carry enforcement issue from confiscation of equipment including citations and some are being enforced and others not. You take your chances if you refuse to acquire the permits. I would suggest at a minimum getting the FREE DSL General Authorization permit for ESH streams and the FREE ODEQ 600 off stream mining permit. We are still waiting to see what the mining associations will do with ODEQ NPDES suction dredge court decision. Last I heard, miners were going to take the old NPDES court decision and bring it before the Oregon Supreme Court for clarification and try to get away from the NPDES 402 permit. Gold suction dredging should be permitted under the US Army Corp. Nation Wide permit under 404 for Dredge and fill material.

FREE Metal detecting permits are obtained from Oregon State park rangers and they will let you know what areas are open. Not all Oregon State parks are open for metal detecting. You should first check the Ore. St. Park Web site for open parks or call the Oregon Parks office in Salem before you plan your outing.

FREE: We know have a FREE permit requirement for hand operated equipment to mine on all Oregon beaches. This permit is required for mining equipment like Hand sluices and rocker boxes. I do not think hand panning would be an issue. Obtain this permit for the site you plan to mine from local park ranger and I believe it might be available on line.

ABSOLUTELY NO POWER EQUIPMENT CAN BE USED TO MINE ON OREGON BEACHES. That includes motorized pumps for high-bankers and dredges etc. I would bet you could use a gold wheel without too much of a problem since it is battery operated and not too sound intrusive to the environment. All Oregon beaches are controlled by Oregon State Parks. I suppose you could be cited for not having one of the beach permits, but enforcement is pretty light. When large groups gather on the beach for club outings, I suppose it may attract enough attention to cause a park ranger to check you out for permits.

Tom Quintal
Government Affair Willamette Valley Miners
Phone 503 371 9747

Briggs Creek

I am listed as the contact for Briggs Cr. outing. I will not be able to participate in the Briggs Cr. outing due to my recent back surgery. I have received a few calls asking if I am the contact person as our outings calendar currently indicates. I believe this outing is scheduled on our WVM Calendar for either middle or late June. Currently, no one has volunteered to replace me as contact person so please contact Eben Ray.

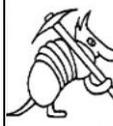
WVM's other owner/partner on Briggs Cr. claim is Tim Cremer and he will demand WVM identification from individuals or he will not allow anyone to mine or remove minerals from this claim. Tim Cremer told me he will be mining every day on Briggs Cr. starting June 15th for approximately six weeks.

Some might remember Tim Cremer threatened to take WVM to court over proof of labor issues his former partner Kathy Ebner claimed she never performed. WVM members will need to work with Tim Cremer to keep this dispute at bay. It has been approximately a little over two years since Tim C. threatened to pursue court action against WVM. I doubt he ever will, so we should try to work with him as best we can.

Thanks.

Tom Q, WVM

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Willamette Valley Miners

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

