



# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

September 2010

## Meeting

September 16, 2010  
7:00 pm

## President's Report

Hello everyone hope you made it out and found some gold this summer. As the summer comes to a close it is time to dry out your equipment for winterizing, don't forget.

We have had some good finds by members this year and some of our claims have done well again. This is always good news and if you attend the meetings you will hear about these finds and get some good information from the members. Attending the meetings is the only place you can get this type of info it will not be published and I can't remember it all.

Next month we will be taking nominations for all the offices President, vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary. Also discussion on a new position of Membership chair. The new NPDES permits are out and the buzz is they may be contested and we may be asked to help so download the permit and study it and see what you think.

Up coming outings: October; Beverly beach, Metal detecting, Calendar of events meeting for 2011.

Be safe and find some gold.

Eben Ray

President

**Monte from Monte's Coins will be our guest speaker at the September meeting. He said he will talk on whatever we want, investing in gold, coins, silver or whatever. He is open to any of it.**

*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

Eben Ray  
503-508-1497  
[ebenray44@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenray44@yahoo.com)

### Vice President

Jeff Farrand  
503-371-3652  
[jafarrand@msn.com](mailto:jafarrand@msn.com)

### Secretary

Karen Phares  
503-749-1006  
[mlksphares@yahoo.com](mailto:mlksphares@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Lloyd Bridgmon  
503-749-1679  
[lbridgmon@yahoo.com](mailto:lbridgmon@yahoo.com)

## Government Affairs

Tom Quintal  
503-371-9747  
[quintalt@gmail.com](mailto:quintalt@gmail.com)

## 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 August 19, 2010**

No Minutes were submitted.

### **Vice President's Report**

I would like to thank those members who brought in their lead to put into a collection to calculate approximately how much lead and mercury is removed by our members. We would like to have some kind of number to put forward to those people that continue to say we do damage to the environment. Collecting it to visibly show is great because seeing is believing. This is difficult for many in the club as some have recycled uses for these items. I am happy to store any lead or mercury brought to the meetings and or outings that people wish to hand over for the sole purpose to show as a display of what is recovered from the rivers and for no other use other than that. I do ask that the mercury is in a sealed, unbreakable container to transport. For those who wish to keep these items, and for those who cannot make it to the meetings and outings, please e-mail me with your name and approximate amounts to keep as a tally. For those members that belong to multiple clubs, I would encourage you to ask those clubs to also do a tally in some form. Wouldn't it be interesting to find out statewide what is removed. Look at it this way, the environmentalist claim they have studies, let's provide them one of our own. My e-mail address is on the front page of the newsletter.

Jeff Farrand  
Vice President

### **Outings/Events**

The Committee Meeting to set Outing Scheduling for 2011 is set for October 30th. I am hosting it at my house and would like to invite all those who would like to help make decisions in these matters and to volunteer to help out with these outings. Every year it seems to be the same people doing this and it would be nice to see new faces, thoughts and assistance. My address is 2195 Ellen LN NW, Salem 97304. I am hoping to do a potluck around 10am but this time needs to be confirmed at the September meeting and will be put into the next newsletter along with directions. We have a number of chairs but if you have folding ones, please bring them. If you have any questions, please call me at 503-371-3652.

### **Members Corner**

#### **Pocket Gold – New Strikes...Rediscoveries.....**

By club member: Tom Bohmker copyright August 22, 2010

The Term "Pocket Gold" is often applied to near surface high grade discoveries of gold ore from lode deposits. Often these are located when exposed in soil surfaces or in shallow trenches or in underground workings. Sometimes in small diggings considered worked out nice gold specimens in the waste dumps of rocks are found by using the "eyeball method" or with a metal detector. At times high grade ore samples are identified by crushing and then panning a fragment of quartz from the piles of quartz left behind from old time operations. Certain pieces of otherwise identical looking samples are separated from the piles of waste rock by such a quick "pan test" (takes 30 seconds or less) when they show a string of colors. Further breaking down the particular piece of ore can reveal visible little globs of gold later to be sold as high priced specimens.

As this writer traveled the gold show circuit since this early spring I heard a number of stories about pocket gold because I publish a book on the subject that attracts this certain breed of prospector to my booth. At the gold show in Roseburg A middle aged man asked me "Someone said you could help

me put a reasonable price on some gold samples". He pulled out 4 or 5 samples of high grade the largest having what appeared to be a fragment of one side of a vug or cavity of quartz that was covered with a thin sheet of gold some 4 by 5 inches. A smaller specimen that was for sale I priced at \$200. Another customer at my booth was transfixed by the display and quickly pulled out two 100\$ bills and ran happily off waving his trophy. I did manage to buy one of the smallest ones for \$50.00 which I will display at future shows. Interestingly the fellow with the high grade was not hunting gold when the discovery was made. He had seen some quartz crystals that his friend found at some old diggings up on the mountain. This man followed his friend's directions and found the spot. Soon he picked up some nice quartz crystals and then uncovered more by splitting certain country rocks picked up on the diggings waste dump that showed a quartz vein going through it. After finding several vugs with nice crystal he popped apart this one that disappointingly had few quartz crystals but a thin layers of what he eventually figured out was leaf gold on the quartz vein. I encouraged him to return with a detector and check on if the site is on public property and could be claimed. It is not polite to ask exactly where such strikes are found...he did gave me the vague description "A ways out of Tiller, Oregon", an area known for pocket gold in various meta-sediments. *It amazes me some times on how non prospectors blunder on to such good finds making us experienced ones look a little poorer with our empty pokes.*

Labor Day found me over at Sumpter, OR where "Eddie", a very experienced prospector wandered into my booth. Soon he had pulled out some absolutely gorgeous specimens of wire gold he had recently detected in a mine waste dump near Canyon City, OR. The piece I purchased was much smaller than the larger fist sized ones: it is about 2" in size and shows a field of 1/4" long wires of gold on it, arranged like jack straws. The weight of the gold was not a lot but the specimen value was way up there!

I also heard from my friend "K." up at Liberty, WA. He managed to fix his little mill set up at the portal of his tunnel at his little mine and milled some ore. The grade is picking up at he gets nearer to an intersection of this vein with another followed on the surface and hopefully a major pocket. When

I was last there some years back the ore was pannable but with only small colors from veinlets just 1/4" to 1" wide. Now he is getting little chunks 1 to 2mm in size visible in the vein which is getting thicker and came home with over 2 ounces from just over two tons of ore. He'll be at in again this late summer into fall.

At the Salem show I visited with "D" from Southern Oregon. He has a number of pocket diggings near Ruch on the Applegate River but recently found a new one. For decades he had known where a prospectors cabin was on the upper section of a drainage near Ruch. He always wondered "There must be a reason to have built this cabin here, it is really out of the way". This spring he started searching for a diggings nearby the cabin by circling bigger and bigger circles looking for old holes, overgrown trenches, old mine dumps etc. Nothing significant showed up. A trail from the cabin had been widened out by a drilling company in the 1980's which had drilled core drills on some mine survey that reportedly found zip gold mineralization. He went to the end of the access trail to a "pad" where some drilling had taken place a mile or so from the cabin and started circling that location. Right away he found the old dump on a hill side and a open adit that followed a shear zone with quartz veins. Easily in the old underground workings he found some decent gold by pan testing the quartz and staked a claim.

About two months ago a customer from Payette Idaho was shown a white quartz specimen with about 17 ounces of gold from the Oregon side of Hell's Canyon (northeast of Homestead OR). The finder, an acquaintance of my customer, found it using a detector on a steep mountain side and apparently is a new discovery. According to my source, this individual has taken out about 160 ounces. Hopefully I will get some photos and additional information on this new find.

Readers of this news letter may recall from last fall an article describing a piece of high grade and nuggets found in this area by a hunter that brought his finds to my "Cascade Mountains Gold" booth at the Salem Show the previous year.

Club Member Brian Malloy last summer was dredging in the Northern California on a tributary of the Klamath near Hilt when he started following an overgrown ditch that had at one time transported water from one gulch to another for mining

purposes. During this time he came across an site of lode gold mining of yesteryear but now little visited. Recently he returned and determined that there are many surface prospect holes and trenches and several caved adits. The abundant piles of narrow gage track hinted that little recent prospecting or visiting by anyone had been done here. In a short time of detecting he found a very well preserved carbide lamp circa 1930's, 3 hand jacks (drill steels) and a "miner's spoon". This is a hand forged tool made from 1/4" diameter round stock that has a special shaped spoon to be inserted into a drill hole to help remove rock particles and dust prior to inserting dynamite sticks and blasting. He has filed claim on the location and plans another trip late summer to survey the claim by pan testing and careful detector use.

Recently I returned from another attempt to locate the "Lost Spitting Hippy Digs" in the Trinity Alps of Northern California. This long winded story is 30 years old since the Hippy showed me a pack sack full of high grade he had picked up on hill side on eye balling float quartz. "When I spit on the rock and could see the gold I put it in my sack" was his rather unique prospecting method at this extremely isolated site. Details of this unfolding story in another issue!

Come by next spring to my booth at the Salem Gold Show and I will share some of these specimens, (including one of the "Spiting Hippy" high grade) artifacts and photos. In the meantime ... keep digging!

**The newsletter has looked empty the last couple of months and Tom B. has provided us with some info to help out with this month but we are always looking for things to put in. If you have anything to provide such as stories dealing with your gold experiences, clean family jokes, recipes for outdoor cooking, keeping equipment going or tricks of the trade. This is your newsletter, please help to make it better. Send it to [jafarrand@msn.com](mailto:jafarrand@msn.com)**

**Jeff Farrand**

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# Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044  
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We Meet Third Thursday of  
the month, 7:00 pm at  
Marion County Fire Hall  
300 Cordon Rd NE  
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