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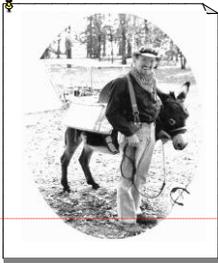
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**Please have all items for
the newsletter to me by
the 25th of the month**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

May 2011

Meeting

May 19, 2011
7:00 pm

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Vice President's Report

There was a little more than usual turn-out for the meeting. In the last month, the club had the Gold Show and the Gem show which were both good successes. I would like to extend my thanks to all the members who set up, tended the booths, and did tear down. Somehow I got caught up with other things and missed Jim Perky's workshop but it sounded like it was a great success also. Tom Quintal has sadly announced that he is going to retire from Government Affairs. He has been hard at it for many years with not much help. This position is a much needed position, especially now, but it really takes a number of people to work together. Thank you so much Tom for all your hard work and years of service to the club.

Sincerely

Jeff Farrand

May Meeting Program

Part II - "Emergency & Disaster Preparedness" Will include personal and family survival kit lists, types of emergencies to plan for and wrapping our collective heads around mutual survival despite media disinformation. Real knowledge is real power in a real threat!

Presenter: Howard Conner

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

April 21, 2011

The Willamette Valley Miner monthly meeting was called to order by Vice President Jeff Farrand. The pledge of allegiance was led by Trevor S. There were 5 new members introduced and greeted.

The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

The financial report by Larry C. was approved.

Reports from committees:

CLAIMS- Larry has been working with ODFW about WVM #1 (Dry Gulch). They are issuing permission for year-round mining to the Club, BUT they want to send a letter/permit to each member as part of the deal. That means they then have all of our addresses and will probably use them as a tracking device. It was stated this would not be an ideal situation. Tom Q. will help Larry talk with them to clarify this problem.

Past OUTINGS: April 1-3 was the GPAA Gold Show in Salem and Wes J. reported it was a successful and well attended event. The Club signed 51 new members and 18 renewals. One complaint by Joan F. (and repeated by many) was the way drawings were held by GPAA. It would seem more emphasis could be made as to what group is raffling the prize and the reason - such as the EOMA/Waldo. Such an important draw concerning legal funds monies being raised to fight for Oregon mining rights and affecting us all could be made a "big deal" (for all miners and GPAA this could be important!). We (WVM) actually won a mining trip in the drawing - what a surprise to a lot of people. (New Business will report what happens to this win) Also from the Show - they want WVM to join GPAA as a chapter. Info will be sent us and in the near future we will need to discuss this.

April 15-17 was the Rickreall Rock and Gem Show. Jim P. reported it was a fair showing, and over all it went well but the attendance was down. Trudy S. explained about the Rickreall Show for new members and guests.

Upcoming OUTINGS: May 1 is a basic mining workshop/potluck at the Jim and Patty P. farm.

May 28-30 is Vincent Creek with Eben leading. Good gold to be found! Remember to display your Club sign on your dash at this claim.

June 16-20 is Miners Meadow at Quartzville. Plan now for a really good outing! Also note the June Club meeting will be around the campfire on Friday evening.

GOV'T AFFAIRS: Tom Q. reports a couple legislature bills (765 and 3469) have been pulled - a small encouragement for miners. He mentioned a recent newspaper article of Dave Rutan from the Chetco River and his mining business and the law suit from DEQ, etc. Tom then warned there are growing Washington, California, and Oregon problems with mining. The government (and greenies) wants us out and calls us only recreational and will control us with rules, permits and fees. The 1872 (1902 and 1866) mining law still holds true but they will over ride it if you let them. He is finding it impossible to get help on all these concerns and is stepping down from "affairs" as of tonite and as the legislature adjourns soon. He is asking some other member to take over the job, please. Motion was made by Gary S. to issue Tom a lifetime membership to WVM for all his years of service. Seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS: * **WEBSITE** - Don H. still needs help updating the site and is looking for volunteers. Anybody? A reminder that the site is a good tool for checking maps before starting out to the claims as good weather and season is coming. * Darrell T. lost his hand truck at the GPAA Show. Does anyone know the whereabouts? It was suggested he check with GPAA's worker Fred S.

NEW BUSINESS: * **RAFFLE TABLE**- We won an EOMA/Waldo prize of a 3 day/1person mining trip (\$500 value). This will be raffled at \$1.00 tickets until a drawing at the Christmas party in Dec. Motion was made to keep the proceeds in the Club for now (we can donate for more EOMA/Waldo tickets later, if we want). Seconded and approved.

GPS (big ticket item) tickets are now being sold. This item has multi-purpose use as to vehicle, geocaching, walking, etc. Tickets will sell until cost is met.

John R. asked if the Club ever offers Club logo items for sale. He's thinking name tags, shirts, jackets, hats or other. Answer was yes and Trudy

will try to get info to Jeff and we can vote on trying the project again as in years past.

Meeting adjourned after Howard C. presented part 1 of an "Emergency and Disaster Preparedness" program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Frick, Secretary WVM

Outings/Events

Vincent Creek outing is approaching so get your equipment ready to find some gold in NE Oregon. This year it will be happening May 28-31. This is usually the same time as Sumptner is having their Big event. Eben Ray is the contact person and will have some info at the next couple of meetings. This outing is a good camping outing with lots of room for RV's of all types. Have warm clothing and possibly rain gear. I have had some very nice days at this outing in the past just wearing t-shirts and even went swimming due to Trevor. As far as equipment, the highbankers work well here and the smaller dredges. This is a great area for sluice boxes and other hand equipment as well. And metal detectors have been known to find artifacts here. While we are there we will do a little claim upkeep so bring along some tools for that type of work we won't take up a lot of your time just a small amount.

There is plenty of parking area for camping of all types. Once you're at the gate, look around before you drive a big rig in, most of the larger vehicles park outside the gate! This year I would like to attempt a potluck (weather permitting) while there so let me know what you think? If you're going to this outing try and let me know. ebenray44@yahoo.com (put " Vincent creek outing" in the Subject)

Maps are in your member packet and the directions are very accurate.

Thanks, Eben (503-508-1497)

Basic Mining Workshop - 55 people attended the basic mining workshop on Sunday may 1st, and the weather was perfect! Many thanks to all those who participated, and a very special thanks to those who contributed their expertise- Gary Schrader, Lloyd Bridgmon, Les & Trevor Scheffed, Louie Frick, Howard Conner, and double thanks to Patti . About 12 of our new members got into the spirit of learning, and it made the day very rewarding. Raisin

cookies were rare, but I finally found a Bonanza (good as gold-dig4). Jim Perkey

Oregon Miners Jubilee Start planning now to attend this event in Baker City, July 15-17.

You may also want to visit Sumpter while in the area and see some mining history.

Louie and Joan Frick from WVM will have a booth at the jubilee so stop and say HI.

A day trip or the whole weekend (make reservations now) support a fun opportunity to talk mining with fellow enthusiasts from around the state.

Any questions call Louie at [541-327-1210](tel:541-327-1210).

Raffle Corner

We have started to sell tickets for the Wines Camp Trip (3 days for 1 with a value of \$500.00) that we won at the first drawing of EOMA's 1/2 lb. of gold drawing. It was voted on to have the drawing for it at our Christmas Party. You can buy \$1.00 tickets through the mail by sending a check or cash to Gary Schrader, PO Box 504 Lyons Or 97358. Make sure you give me your name, address and phone # so we can let you know if you are the lucky winner.

We also will start selling tickets on our big raffle next meeting. It is a GPS unit worth \$299.99 that can be used on hikes, in car, on bike or boat and Geo Caching. It has a touch screen and talks to you! This is also \$1.00 a ticket and can be bought through the mail.

Wes won the nugget at the last meeting and he also won the gold display box made by Jim Perkey. Congrats Wes, I am envious but I'm sure you will make much better use of the box then I could have.

Gary

Member's Corner

EOMA Drawing

Remember to buy your tickets for the 2nd EOMA drawing. Check their websites for the prize list and any updates at: www.walddominatingdistrict.org or www.eoma.org

Linda and Mike Backlund's claim invitation is still open to WVM members with the same limitations using a pan or hand sluice box for their mining claims. This is a similar note Linda Backlund wrote some time ago. We would welcome every WVM member to our claim. That would be great. You

can get to our claim using Sharps Cr. Road approximately twelve miles upstream from the BLM campground on your right. You will come up Sharps Cr. Rd. to an intersection and take a right across a small older bridge and that road will go by the Norseman claim on your left by way of Clark Creek. Follow Clark Creek, all the way to Martin Creek, and take Martin Creek road all the way past the Combination Claim, our claim is about 500 feet from the Combination claim, because our claim feeds into Martin Creek by way of the Combination claim. Our claim is the spur road off to your left. If WVM members are not familiar with Clark Cr. or Martin Cr. you may want to obtain a map of the area to find our claim. - Linda Backlund

WVM members will be required to have a current WVM membership card displayed in the windshield or the small current membership card on your person. Linda and Mike Backlund have folks monitoring their claims when they are not present. **As a reminder, current identification requirements are required to remove minerals from all WVM claims.**

With the price of gold escalating to new highs, WVM could encounter claim jumping on WVM claims. It is not advisable to have a confrontation with a person who may have a weapon on them, but WVM members can require current membership identification of anyone mining on WVM association claims. By offering to show your current WVM membership identification to someone mining on WVM claims, it could defuse any potential confrontation. If you are not able to obtain current WVM ID from folks mining on association claims you could tell them their vehicle license number and description of their vehicle will be recorded for mineral trespass and that might be enough to discourage their mineral trespass. It might be a good idea to clip the following statutes from this WVM newsletter to have with you if confronted with a claim jumper. Unauthorized removal of minerals from a federal mining claim is a Class (C) misdemeanor and you could have a person arrested if you could get a Sheriff or State patrolman to the claim site. Unfortunately most claims do not offer cell phone coverage. You have the right to ask a claim jumper for any concentrates they acquired from WVM claims. WVM does not recommend making a citizen's arrest unless you are prepared to undertake all the civil procedures that go with it. WVM will not be responsible for any

liability if you are bold enough to make a citizen's arrest. It would be advisable if you make a citizen's arrest to have more than one witness, take their picture or make a video recording or audio recording to help prevent false arrest charges from the person you attempt to arrest. Gold is not worth your life or the financial court battles that one might encounter.

Mineral Trespass is defined in ORS 517.128 through ORS 517.133

517.128 Restricting access to open mining area or mining claim prohibited. A person may not attempt to restrict access to any open mining area or valid mining claim or to harass or interfere in any way with a person engaged in lawful mining activities. [1999 c.354 §4]

Note: See note under 517.120.

517.130 Mineral trespass. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Bedrock sluice" means a wood or metal flume or trough that is permanently attached to the bedrock of the creek and is equipped with transverse riffles across the bottom of the unit and used to recover heavy mineral sands.

(b) "Deface" includes but is not limited to altering, pulling down, damaging or destroying.

(c) "Dredge" means a subsurface hose from 1.5 to 10 inches in diameter that is powered by an engine and is used to draw up auriferous material that is then separated in the sluice portion of the unit.

(d) "Flume" means a trough used to convey water.

(e) "Quartz mill" means a facility for processing ores or gravel.

(f) "Rocker box" means a unit constructed of a short trough attached to curved supports that allow the unit to be rocked from side to side.

(g) "Sluice box" means a portable unit constructed of a wood or metal flume or trough equipped with transverse riffles across the bottom of the unit and that is used to recover heavy mineral sands.

(2) A person commits the crime of mineral trespass if the person intentionally and without the permission of the claim holder:

(a) Enters a mining claim posted as required in ORS 517.010 or 517.044 and disturbs, removes or attempts to remove any mineral from the claim site;

(b) Tampers with or disturbs a flume, rocker box, bedrock sluice, sluice box, dredge, quartz mill

or other mining equipment at a posted mining claim; or

(c) Defaces a location stake, side post, corner post, landmark, monument or posted written notice within a posted mining claim.

(3) Mineral trespass is a Class C misdemeanor. [1999 c.354 §5]

Note: See note under 517.120.

517.133 Interfering with a mining operation.

(1) As used in this section, "lawful mining operation" means any small scale mining operation that is in full compliance with state and federal laws.

(2) A person commits the crime of interfering with a mining operation if the person intentionally:

(a) Interferes with a lawful mining operation; or
(b) Stops, or causes to be stopped, a lawful mining operation.

(3) Interfering with a mining operation is a Class C misdemeanor. [1999 c.354 §6]

Tom Q, WVM

Going with the flow:

Changing strategies with weather changes:
by club member Tom Bohmker

As reported previously a common topic of conversation around my booth at the Gold shows is gold: where and how to find more of it. However this year many people were complaining "It is just raining (or snowing) too much and the rivers are too high". Of course it is a matter of record that March 2011 gave us record amounts of rain and low elevation snow with high river levels. However true, high water does open up panning and sluicing opportunities. How so? While the favorite gravels bars and exposed bed rock of a stream may be covered up with muddy fast boiling current there are small gulches, draws and normally dry water courses that may be carrying enough water not only to pan or sluice but dredge or operate a high banker. These seasonal creeks or "only water for a few days after heavy rains" (I wish I knew a better name for such places) often are largely ignored in the nice weather summer season. Of course dry washers could be used but some we've tested were too damp in summer or had dried mud and clay on much of the material that prevented effective release of the gold. Such places are best explored during the wet season. Recently, in the evenings after the Redding, CA gold show, I found myself

exploring the lower foot hills just a few miles west of Redding. Some years ago I made a survey trip through the area and way back in the 1970's had done some nice dredging in a recreational spot near French Gulch. I wanted to go back to the spot on French Gulch and check out the panning potential for a planned new book **Gold Panner's Guide to California's Klamath Mountains** in which a listing of places to pan with a mining claim or club membership would be featured.

Years before my old friend Cliff Walker had dredged up a 9 dwt (that is close to half an ounce) nugget and lots of small nuggets and tinkers with a 2 1/2" dredge in a wide smooth crevice all of 18" deep. On a weekend lark Jerry, Vern and I took our 3" dredges and puttered around. The shallow E Fork of Clear Creek was heavily worked but here and there we found little crevices and pack that yielded decent gold. While panning out some concentrates on the bank Vern noticed that some previous dredger had left some piles of 1/4" plus screenings at the water's edge. This sharp eyed young man eyeballed out and picked up a nice 1/2 inch or so square chunk of quartz ribboned with gold in the abandon pile of sized gravel. There was a lot of gold along this water course!

However on my recent trip such a location would have been way under the high water. I needed to look somewhere else not so close to the rampaging creek. I did drive out west of Redding along Clear Creek checking out recreational sites as I could. I found some large areas of old tailing from long ago operations leveled out more recently by the BLM but did not pan out any color. Finally on the forest map a chunk of BLM land was noticed positioned some 150' above the public road on a flat. As soon as I parked and started hiking up I could see piles of gravel and much unworked placer gravel material with the traditional red cap of latterite soil. Several small rills 1' or 2' wide were flowing down rather steeply off these hills and carried flood gold. I am sure I could have found pickers here with more time. At the top of the hill was the edge really of the flat that was covered with 5' or 10' thick of placer gravels with the brick red cap on it. Certain spots had be mostly hand worked. The rocks screened out and fine materials packed down to the rills which only flowed just after heavy rains. There was no sign of hydraulic mining or even extensive "long tom" mining up on the flat, too far from the water. One guesses that the gravel was

relatively low grade. If it had been especially rich the miners would have dug miles of ditch to divert some creek over to this locality and mine out the gold bearing pay dirt. However, this "passed over mostly" spot was now saved for today's miners on those really rainy days. Of course by this time it was actually a "rainy night", 9:00 PM and dark, this exploration was done using a miner's cap lamp. I was wet and cold and it was time to call it quits. Another time.

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Mining books, where to find gold, Falcon and Fisher Detectors
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Finally after 3 decades (on and off) of research, a new Mining Book

Gold Panner's Guide to the Oregon Cascades

By WVM member Tom Bohmker. Covers areas to pan w/o a claim from Portland to Cow Creek south of Roseburg.. How to pan mining stories, 87 pages 9 maps. \$17.50, \$2.00 postage.

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Only 3 Falcon Pin Point Detectors left at the old price. The price is going up and I can only get 3 more at the old price of \$219.95 each. The new price will be \$249.95 but the ability to pick out gold flakes the size of the period in this sentence will be the same. Tom @ Cascade Mountains Gold 503-606-9895

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Dan @ 541-401-0922 (Sweet Home)

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