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Claims

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Howard Conner
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Events & Outings

See Calendar

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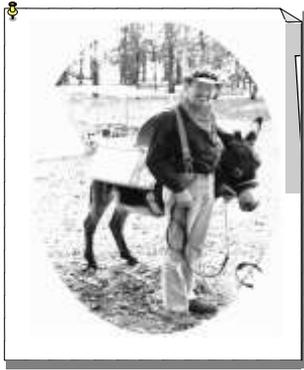
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**Please have all items for
the newsletter to me by
the 25th of the month**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

November 2012

Meeting

November 15, 2012
7:00 pm @

November 15th Monthly Meetings – Elections

December 1st – Christmas Party

**January 19 – Tour Cottage Grove Museum/Bohemia
Mining Museum**

President's Report

I can't believe that it is November already. Nominations are needed and voting is done at this meeting for new officers. I have some e-mails that were sent to me that I feel is important so I have decided to not spend a lot of space on the president's report. Instead read up and heed the message.

May even a spec of gold in your pan bring you smiles.
Jeff Farrand

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2012

The Willamette Valley Miners monthly meeting was called to order by Pres. Jeff Farrand. We were led in the pledge of allegiance by Howard Conner. As per sign in sheet, we had 48 members attending with no guest or new members. We now have a total membership of 379.

The treasurer's report given by Larry Coon was approved. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

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

Reports from:

CLAIMS- Larry C. reports we had a good group show up on Oct. 14 to clean WVM #1 claim. Jeff also tried to GPS there and at Cedar Bend. We need to reaffirm locations and signage of all our claims after the problems of late on Corpus Christi claim. For now he advises that Cedar Bend is ok to work between our posted signs. Larry also reports he's still working on paperwork for our newest claim, the Golden Dollar.

NEWSLETTER- no report, but a reminder that "filler articles" are always needed. Thanks.

WEBSITE- Boyd P. and Trudy S. have been working on this. The new site (reach at www.wvminers.com) is installed and running with a few bugs being dealt with. Visit the site; member passwords are obtained from the Treasurer. In the near future at a club meeting we may have a learning session on this site usage. Trudy advises we have pictures on our site and need more too.

PAST OUTINGS-

Oct. 6-7 was the Beverly Beach outing led by Wes and Tammy. They report about 30 people came and had some fun with beach mining even though water from the creek was scarce -- plenty in the ocean though.

GOV'T AFFAIRS-

1. Glenn Z. reports there was no 404 Assumption meeting this past month and he has had an e-mail stating there will probably not be a Bill presented to the next legislature. And when the legislature does convene, he will need members to help attend meetings and maybe testify.

2. He is still filing the 501c4 tax papers for the Association.

3. The EOMA is starting another 1/2 lb. Gold Drawing to help raise much needed funds for the ongoing litigations on behalf of our mining rights in the state of Oregon. You may contribute/or buy tickets at EOMA Gold Drawing, PO Box 932. Baker City, OR 97814. Motion was made by Howard Conner and second from Joyce Wrightman for WVM to spend (at the officers' discretion) up to \$2000, to purchase raffle tickets in this EOMA drawing. Approved.

RAFFLE TABLE- Gary S. again thanks all who are donating to the meeting night raffle table. It's a huge help. And thanks to all who purchase the tickets! Tonight we will be able to draw the BIG nugget at the end of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Question was asked about what happened to the WVM (logo) tee shirt, hat, etc. project? Answer was yes the items can still be purchased at T Patch on Lancaster Dr. in Salem, but with further research, it was discovered that their phone rings but will not accept voice messages so a quick trip to Salem and I found an empty building and no sign of where or if they moved. I assume they are a casualty of the economy and our club loses out. If anyone knows different, let me know. Thanks, Joan

2. The WVM association membership application has a new sentence added: "A member may be removed from the membership by a vote of members at a normally held meeting if member is to be found violating the rules and guidelines."

NEW BUSINESS: Nominations for election of WVM officers were opened by Pres. Jeff. And nominations will remain open until/and through our Nov. 15th meeting; you still have time to Volunteer!! Pres.- Eben Ray, Vice Pres.- Mike Hunter (and current Vice Pres. Alan Mitchell has opted to serve another term too), Treasurer- Jim Perkey (with Jeff as his back up if elected), Secretary- George Crutcher. NOTE-- Eben is already on the campaign trail with his speech on "we all must respond and participate when he e-mails/contacts you with issues of mining rights. This means using your e-mail voice/letter writings skills to speak up to government. More to come!"

PROGRAMS- Tonight we listened to a very informative Monte from Monte's Coins and More shop in Stayton. You really missed out if you were not in attendance. Programs at the meeting night add a lot of interest to our time together. Because of the Holidays and busy times there is no program for Nov. or Dec. -- hopefully in January we will start off with a great new topic. Do you have ideas? Contact Howard Conner [503-399-0292](tel:503-399-0292) or at connerh@centurylink.net

GOOD TO THE ORDER-

1. Chuck Choate asked if we remembered a while back about his reporting on "road closures in our forests"? He displayed the Oregon Big Game Regulations book and wondered if we all have gotten the map advertised there. This is happening NOW (not just in the future). Be informed!

2. Darrell Turner issued another plea for "more participation" from members in WVM. Let's make this a better Association!

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by: Joan Frick, secretary WVM

Events & Outings

The November 15th - monthly meeting

brings WVM Officer Election time. We have some interesting nominations. Are you doing your part to be a productive member of the WVM association? Nominations are still open -- you still have time !!

December 1st - The Christmas Party. It is held in our regular meeting room. It starts opens 10-11am to decorate and organize. Potluck starts at noon -ish (Club provides the meat and table service and water, coffee, hot choc, tea or you bring own non alcoholic bev. and you bring the rest of the food - be creative!), followed by a Wild and Crazy Gift Exchange (bring something under \$10. or white elephant item), and (hopefully) fast paced Bingo with great prizes. Expect an afternoon of lots of fun and socializing -- it's a great time of "foolishness and more fun".

Looking forward to the new year 2013 -- **January 19** will be a tour of the Cottage Grove Museum/Bohemia Mining Museum 737 E. Main in Cottage Grove. Alan Mitchell will lead on this and more TBA.

Raffle Corner

Congratulations to Phil W. who won the large nugget raffle and Brian R who won the regular monthly nugget. Thanks to all who donated to the table Raffle! It is good to see a full table of raffle items.

Beth Woods and Bettie James (charter members) have donated some books, mining articles and other things related to mining to the club. Some of the

books will be in our Library and some on the raffle table. The miner hood ornament they donated will be raffled at our next meeting. Thank you again Beth and Bettie.

Member's Corner

The EOMA suction Dredge Case
By Guy Michael, October 24, 2012

In a couple of days we should receive the results of our latest battle whether our second amended complaint gets accepted by the Judge. As a result of DEQ stepping outside a previous order to allow the miners to complete to trial whether the environmental organization has standing, DEQ decided to settle with NEDC. EOMA's complaint is that the settlement agreement ignores the legislative mandate for public involvement as the settlement agreement sets up a structure for reviewing the next permit, which gives to NEDC representatives a stakeholder status. The funny part is that the miners' represented by EOMA was not allowed to participate in the agreement to protect their interests under the mining laws. Even though the settlement agreement is directed at the miners because they engage in the activity the permit review is about.

On the second front, we decided to approach the problems from the legislature, as well as this court case. Two miners, Tom Kitchar, President Waldo Mining District and I have submitted two Bills which are currently being rewritten for statute quality. Tom and I just completed our first edit of one of the Bills. We are asking the legislature to require state agencies to consult with the "affected parties". In our notes we explained that this means that any future rules or if permitting is by order that the party which engage in the activity of recreational or small scale mining must be consulted 30 days before notice of any new rule or changes to any orders by state agencies. Otherwise, the proposed rules and orders become void.

Our second Bill asks the legislature to not allow any budget money to be spent by the Department of Environmental Quality for new suction dredge permitting until the miners get to make their case before the Oregon Supreme Court. The last time we

had our case before the high court; DEQ completed the new permit and got the Court to accept the fact that the old 2005 permit was no longer any good therefore the miners are moot. This was in spite of the fact that the legislature recently passed a Bill that allowed a case against state agency to continue if they could show issues in the case that this would be repeated and essentially bypass judicial review.

This is the very reason EOMA had to file in this case again and because the new permit was issued as an order, EOMA had to file in the Circuit Court. ("Rules" start in the Court of Appeals for judicial review). This made EOMA's starting position further from the Supreme Court with the same issues in this case as was in the 2005 permit case and really less time to complete the court processes before DEQ issues a renewed or new permit. So, our second Bill is really asking the legislature to rein in DEQ and give us a chance to have our issues heard by the high court once and for all. Otherwise, not only us, but the State of Oregon will be spending tons of money over what we believe to be illegal permitting.

Good news from Jerry Hobbs.

All 6 DFG cases have been Coordinated and sent to San Bernaradino Superior Court. We are no Longer in Oakland, Hoorah!

The taking case remains subject to a stay pending further action by the Court, but in the meantime, Judge Alvarez has ruled that the case will be heard in San Bernardino County, and the Judicial Council has confirmed his action. The next action will be a status conference on November 16th, at 1:00 pm on the second floor at 303W. 3rd St San Bernardino Ca. We are working closely with Public Lands for the People to seek to lift the stay to amend our pleadings to allege the June 27, 2012 passage of SB 1018, which repealed the June 20, 2016 date by which the moratorium on suction dredging might have otherwise expired, and then to seek a ruling by summary judgment (or preliminary injunction) that the SB 1018 and its predecessors are preempted by federal law.

Submitted by Tom Quintal

Three environmental groups are suing the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest for allegedly failing

to protect threatened Coho salmon from suction dredgers mining for gold in the Rogue River Basin's Coho country.

Filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Medford, the suit seeks to require that NOAA-Fisheries biologists review suction dredging operations here to ensure they don't harm wild Coho and their habitat before miners can operate on forest-managed streams.

The suit maintains that these reviews, called consultations, are required under the federal Endangered Species Act before dredgers can operate on federally designated wild Coho habitat. That includes reaches of the Rogue and its tributaries accessible to Coho, which were listed here as a threatened species in 1997.

Forest Service officials, however, did not undertake these consultations before approving suction dredging operations that could illegally damage wild Coho spawning and rearing habitat, the suit states.

The suit comes on the heels of a June 1 ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that any Forest Service actions that impact wild Coho must go through the consultation process with NOAA-Fisheries.

"If the Forest Service is going to say 'mine here' or 'don't mine here,' they have to follow the requirements of the Endangered Species Act," says George Sexton, conservation director of the Ashland-based Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, one of the plaintiffs in the case.

"There's a step here, consultation, that we're asking them to do," Sexton said.

The suit further seeks to ban suction dredging on Rogue River-Siskiyou forest streams until the consultations are completed.

The suit was filed "so mining on public lands is focused on areas where it does the least harm to endangered salmon," Sexton said.

"I think it's a values clash," he said. "It comes down to what people value public lands for."

Forest spokeswoman Virginia Gibbons declined

Tuesday to comment on the lawsuit, which Forest Service officials were reviewing.

Gibbons also declined to discuss any aspect of the forest's dredging program, including how many miners were authorized to dredge each of the past three years and how many miners were denied operation.

Cascadia Wildlands and the Ashland-based Rogue Riverkeeper groups joined the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center as plaintiffs in the suit. The civil case was assigned to U.S. District Court Judge Owen Panner.

— Mark Freeman

The Waldo Mining District has decided to file for intervention in the new suit brought by KSWild against the Siskiyou NF demanding full Section 7 consultation before they "allow" suction dredge mining in area streams.

Cost for this will be anywhere from \$1500-\$4000, and will NOT take any funds earmarked for the EOMA/WMD litigation against DEQ.

Donations for this will be gladly appreciated, and can be sent to:

Waldo Mining District
Legal Fund
P.O. Box 1574
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Any unused funds will be applied towards the ongoing EOMA/WMD litigation against DEQ, or returned upon request.

Tom K.

All of us fondly remember how we felt the day we brought home our new dredge or hi-banker. Beaming with pride we set it up right away. We kept staring at it, the adrenaline pumping as visions of gold clogging the sluice box over and over ran through our mind. We wiped the dust off it, lest our baby get dirty. We dreamed about it and awoke with the realization that it was still January.

That's how it's been for me and many miners. However, we eventually get used to the dirt and scratches, the hose that still needs fixed or replaced.

Before long we forget how much maintenance is required to keep us up and running come summer time. Why not take advantage of the end of the season by pampering the old dredge for a change? Here are some helpful hints to make your summer months trouble free.

1) If all your buckets are full of concentrates for winter panning simply dump one out and clean it. Fill it half full with hot water and some dish soap. Finish filling the bucket with your hose to cool off the water and make lots of suds. Now give your machine a bath. Equipment gets all kinds of dirt and salts and other things that can cause corrosion on metal and plastic parts.

2) Once your dredge is clean and dry set it up and run premium gas with fuel stabilizer, or better yet just start buying non-ethanol gas. Today's ethanol is death to fuel systems! If you don't believe me then just remember me when you purchase a new carburetor for your motor.

3) Next, make sure your hoses are free from any rocks or debris. Clean and let dry before storing them indoors away from the elements.

4) Using a compressor, hair dryer or leaf blower will help get rid of any moisture left in your pump system. Even a small amount of moisture can cause problems with corrosion.

5) Last but not least take the time to thinly wax your pontoons with a non-abrasive car wax. This really helps keep them supple and protected from the variances in temperature that wear out plastic parts. Take note of any parts that need repaired or replaced and replace them now. We all have experienced frustration over a backordered part that we need and have to wait for. Place your orders now, that way you're ready on opening day! Hope you all find gold in every pan!

Gary

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Mining books, where to find gold, Falcon and Fisher Detectors
Book publishers and small mining consultants

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.

Classifieds

Wild West Gold Sales

I Buy & Sell Gold nuggets and Fines no amount is too small. E-mail: wrtckenhaines@comcast.net
Ph: 541-791-9986

For Sale

SMITTY BAZOOKA UNDER WATER GOLD DREDGE with 4" & 5" NOZZLES - \$995 (SALEM)

Wanted

Gold Screw

Dan @ 541-401-0922 (Sweet Home)

Willamette Valley Miners
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
PLEASE CLEARLY PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name: **Last** _____ **First** _____ **M.I.** _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Why would you like to join WVM? _____

What special skills / work have you done _____

Would you be willing to receive your newsletter by email/website? Yes / No

Which committee/office would you be interested in? (Circle one) President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure, claim, Events, Programs, Website, Newsletter, Government Affairs

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 and Education. I have read and understand the agreement below.

Annual Family membership dues - \$25.00.
Membership year begins in January for all members

Annual dues for individual or families including children under 18 years living in the same household.

As a member of the Willamette Valley Miners I hereby agree to abide by the rules and guidelines established by the association. A member may be removed from the membership by a vote of members at a normally held meeting if member is to be found violating the rules and guidelines.

I acknowledge that small scale prospecting may involve inherent dangers and I hereby release the Willamette Valley Miners, 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, or other clubs who we share claims with. I further agree to hold the Willamette Valley Miners, 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 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
each month, 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
300 Cordon Rd NE
Salem, OR

