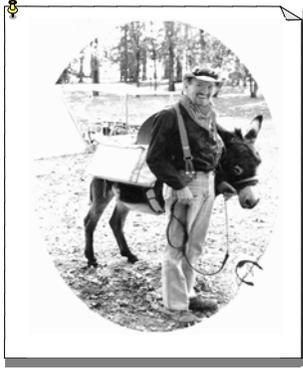


WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

September 2013

Next Meeting
NO SEPTEMBER
MEETING!!!!



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Vacant – Contact Eben
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Claims

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See Calendar

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

NO SEPTEMBER MEETING!!!
**Due to flooding during the recent rain storm,
there will be no meeting in September.
Meetings should resume in October.**

President's Report

This month I want to talk about a couple of different issues. First off, I received a call from a member who reported he was at our Vincent Creek claim and met a person who claimed our mining claim was in the middle of his patented claim. The member didn't get any contact information from this person, which makes it impossible to track him down. My point is if at all possible please, please, please get as much information as you can... At a minimum a name and phone number gives us a place to start. Take care to appear non-confrontational and if things become tense, back away, nothing is worth compromising your safety.

On a completely different note, I'm sure you have noticed the newsletters of late are a little short on content. One thing everyone needs to keep in mind is that this is YOUR association and YOUR newsletter. We really need to have some contributions submitted to our editor. Some ideas or suggestions to get you started might be an adventure you had while prospecting (I shared one of mine last month), tips or tricks that have worked for you, a favorite recipe, you get the idea. You don't have to be an accomplished writer to contribute something (believe me, I'm not).

Now get out there, have fun and keep safe

Alan

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

August 15, 2013

Meeting Started at 7:07 PM by Pres. Allen Mitchell

Allen led with Pledge of Allegiance

Allen asked for a motion to accept minutes as stated in the July newsletter. Howard C. made a motion to accept the minutes as stated in the newsletter, Bruce seconded the motion a vote was held and passed.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jim P. He stated that there were 344 members in the Club. Jim presented the Club Financials. A motion was made by Anthony to accept the report as stated. Louie F. seconded the motion a vote was held and passed.

Past Events:

Myrtle Creek August 16-18

Louie said everybody do your own thing.

Dads Creek August 31-Sept 3

Cancelled due to fires

Silver Dollar Outing

There was some small gold found

Tom Bohmker told a story about one of his mining trips

Howard Conner gave a presentation on removing Ticks and how bee stings should be treated more to come in future meetings

Wess wants to trade a gold nugget for a green bowl that was raffled off in July

Press Allen Mitchell closed the meeting at 9:22 PM

Raffle Corner

Our large raffle item is currently the White's pinpointer that Margaret Henderson donated. Be sure to buy some tickets at the next meeting. The winning ticket will probably be drawn during September's meeting, but it may have to wait until October if there aren't enough tickets sold. We'll see.

Thanks Howard for the buckets that you donated to the table raffle. All donations are appreciated!

At the August meeting our president won the nugget. Congratulations Alan!

We also have two new large raffle items; a 1oz silver round, and a "severe weather kit" made by Les Schwab's. Look for these in a few months.

Members' Corner

Claim Jumping Still Very Real

We urge you to use extreme caution when purchasing claims off the internet. We've covered this issue before and once again another of our members has had a claim illegally listed for sale on the internet.

Be careful when dealing with any internet company no matter how legitimate their name may sound. There is a good possibility the claim you buy belongs to someone else and you will lose your money.

There are multiple companies listing claims for sale on the internet. We advise against buying any claim from any company that makes a business out of flipping claims. There are plenty of open claims out there you can file on by doing your own research, or if you want to buy a claim in a particular area there are always willing sellers.

A good rule of thumb is never buy a mining claim that has been held by the current owner for less than three years. That's a sure sign of a claim flipper. They really don't care whether you lose your money. If the claim is still valid – you lose.

All active placer claim owners need to be very proactive about maintaining their proper paperwork and site location notices as a preventative to claim jumping. Lode claim owners aren't as susceptible to this action as it typically takes quite a bit of money to open a paying lode mine, while working a new placer claim can be done with a minimum expenditure such as a gold pan.

The BLM and the County Recorder's office both take your money and keep track of mining claims. If someone over-files on your claim, neither entity

will deny them from doing so. If someone goes to the BLM office to file the new claim, the BLM officer will tell them that the ground they are filing on is already taken, but they will not prevent someone from overfilling on you. What to do to prevent your claim from being “jumped” – in short there is nothing you can do, other than be aware;

1. Keep all your BLM and County paperwork up to date
2. Vigorously maintain your monuments, and signs at least on a quarterly basis.
3. Create a Google alert on your computer with the name of your creek, or any other local name which would define your property, in case someone posts it on an online auction site.

Check the LR2000 at least on a quarterly basis to ensure there are no other claim filings in the section your claim is in. If you see another filing in your section, you can call the BLM and they will send you a copy of the latest filing so you can determine if you have been overfiled. According to the Bureau of Land Management the LR2000 database is typically within days of being current.

If someone buys your claim online from someone who fraudulently represented themselves as the owners of the claim, there is a fraud line you can contact: www.ic3.gov and the government may assist in prosecution, but don't count on it.

Post dating claim filings is illegal, so instead be sure to have valid records of gas receipts, store purchases from local stores, or video evidence you filed the claim when you say you did. If there is a case of overfiling, your records become critical.

Remember, you may not even know your claim has been sold, you could just show up one day and there are new markers up.

Our best advice if you are buying a claim is never to purchase a claim from anyone but someone who has owned the claim for a long time and actually worked the claim. In a recent encounter we ran into some folks who had purchased a claim indicating it had good road access when in reality it was in an inaccessible canyon. They spent days looking for a road that didn't exist.

Don't be fooled. Only buy claims after doing your homework.

Golden Duck Tales

Installment #1 An ongoing chronicle of a young family's adventure on a gold rush during the summer of 2013

By Tom Bohmker, Cascade Mountain Gold

Overview: In the Spring of 2013, my older son Josh (who is 34) kept telling me he needed a gold mining adventure come summer. Of course as he grew up from the time he first could remember every summer and some winters were always filled with gold mining adventures. We dredged various rivers in Oregon, California and even Nevada, dry washed in Arizona, sluice boxed in South Dakota, sunk mine shafts and blasted for rich pockets of lode gold and so on. With such a childhood when you grow up either you hate it or love it. With a wife and couple children 7 & 4 years of age, Josh noticed of late that less time was spent every year chasing yellow. Last summer he moved out of his house, put it up for sale and moved into a plush converted school bus. This spring he told his boss “I need a couple of months off this summer or I will quit being your concrete finisher”. By May of 2013 he was ready to start looking for a summer mining opportunity. If he would have had 15 or \$20,000 and would have been starting in February he may have gone to Nome to dredge in the Bearing Sea. Such a plan was not available this summer so he asked me if I knew of some good opportunities that would keep him busy for two months and hopefully be rewarding in gold.

It was late in the season but I suggested he put an “I am available” add in the “Prospecting and Mining Journal” and reminded him that during college and upon finishing I found my first good mining jobs by such an advertisement. Actually my son had more advantage than I way back then as he has much more experience in suction dredging, mechanical placer mining and underground mining plus considerable metal fabricating skills, truck repair, and years in construction. In spite of the trend towards finding everything on Google and face book such an old fashioned ad soon put him into touch with a number of old school miners planning

big adventures. It became a chore to choose a venue, among those that answered or phoned:

1. One group was building a large commercial dredge with Humphrey Spirals to handle the fine gold in the black sands of the Salmon River in Idaho. A gyro system was supposed to keep the spirals on an even keel.
2. Another Miner was working on a underground pocket mining venture in Tuolumne Co. California and was impressed that Josh (along with his younger brother Tim) had help me sink shafts and mine and a nearby property when young teenagers.
3. A man named Allen was building a barge dredge to dredge out a big hole in the Similkameen River just 5 miles north of Oroville, WA, near the Canadian border. For 17 years he watched small units struggle in the 25-40' deep water, find gold but soon give up. Now he was building a custom unit just for this one spot and needed a diver

Josh and I talked about the prospects and he decided on #3 at Oroville. He would get a decent % share and be loaned a 4x4 as a runner. There was open camping area along the river and plenty of room for his converted bus, wife and young children.

- By the end of June, Allen and Josh decided to wait until the water cleared up around the first of August. They were to spend a week putting the unit together, another week to launch, tow to site and break in the unit.
- At the end of July, Josh had the bus at our farm outfitting, rebuilding rear racks, and dozens of other preparations for the trip.
- On the 2nd of August, he had repacked several times and was ready to leave. The barn yard around the bus was covered with all the stuff that didn't make the final pack including: a small motorcycle and carrying rack, 3 extra wet suits and accessory gear, a box of extra new flooring from the bus improvements, empty beer cans, several coolers, a tent, empty boxes from the recently installed solar cells, extra fishing gear, kids toys, extra clothing, extra blankets, bags of trash etc., various tools, duffel bags of stuff, children wheeled toys, a work truck with a big lock box of tools, their family 4 x4 vehicle, a 12' aluminum boat, inflatable boats, oars and much, much, more. I understood how he needed

to "leave Dodge City" and biting my lip said the magic words "Leave on your adventure, I will clean up and put all this stuff away, you need to get started". Yes after several weeks most of the stuff did get put away.

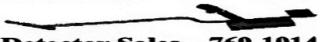
- August 3rd: They had a bus problem, a blown rear tire. There was never room made on the bus for a spare so he had to call for road side service from Les Schwab. This was an unwelcome delay and an expensive downer.
- August 5: After a family day at the Water Park in Seattle they eventually made in over the very scenic N. Cascades Highway to Oroville. On the hills the loaded bus only goes 25 mph.
- August 20: (from my daughter-in-law, Sarah's, e-mail) "It's been two long weeks of Dredge building...driveway builds are what Josh does best. We are in the final stages of painting and assembly, and then disassemble to take it down to the boat launch to reassemble and put into the water, (what a process). We should be in the water this week! We named the dredge the 'Lucky Duck', red, black and grey." Sarah also reported that she bought a WA fishing license and on the second cast caught a big mouth bass but lots of yellow jackets. Note; this area of Washington is also known for good sized platinum nuggets and since there is 10 miles or so of open river, that is unclaimable recreation river, the area attracts many small time Dredgers.
- August 20: Josh called. He said he took a small boat out to the site to dive the pool. The river takes a huge dog leg (called Shankers Bend) and features a dike of hard rock that crosses the river forming a "mix-master" pool on the lee ward side. He related that there was all kind of iron and steel metal in the bottom (he measured 27' of water on top of unknown thickness of alluvium). Hopefully that is a good sign that metal in the river seems to stay in the pool so perhaps the nuggets will too. The 16 hp out board motor had just been overhauled and needed testing. It will propel the barge to the work site. Josh discovered after they left the dock the fuel tank had straight gas (not mix). He rowed back, remixed extra oily mix and it seems OK now.
- August 23: Josh called and said the "Lucky Duck" slid OK down the steep 100' long boat ramp into the water OK. It is 19' long, a dozen 55 gal plastic barrels provide floatation and had

5" Dalhke nozzle with a 20hp Honda with 50' of 5" hose. This is largest unit that can be operated in Washington State. The unit has a good compressor and hot water system for the divers. They tested the pump in the water for first time and the pump blew up! It had been assembled with the two halves of the case just silicone together. Another trip to town, new bolts and it was ready to dredge. Interestingly after they anchored in the hole another miner showed up and said "I am also building a barge dredge to do this hole, it will be ready next week". However, according to state rules, a dredge gets 200 feet up and down the river as your spot. As long as they continue to dredge no one else can move in so they got there just in time! This promises to be a great mining adventure: Hopefully they will find some gold. The local rumors are that there could be 200 ounces in this hole. Time will tell and we will share the story with you as it unfolds....

Until next installment: keep mining

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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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