



# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

October 2013

**Next Meeting**  
October 17, 2013  
7:00pm

## **Officers**

### **President**

Alan Mitchell

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### **Vice President**

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### **Secretary**

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### **Treasurer**

James Perkey

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## **Government Affairs**

Vacant – Contact Eben  
Ray if interested

## **Committees**

### **Claims**

Larry Coons

Howard Conner

Clifford Boren

George Crutcher

## **Events & Outings**

See Calendar

## **Programs**

Howard Conner

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## **Website**

Boyd Puckett

Trudy Schrader

## **Newsletter Editor**

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**Please have all items for  
the newsletter to me by  
the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month**

## **OCTOBER MEETING LOCATION CHANGE!!!**

The fire hall on cordon road will not be available for the October meeting. I talked to them a week ago, and they said it would be ready and then they called on Friday and said that items did not arrive that they needed to complete the renovation so no it will not be available.

**The meeting will be held at the fire hall in down town Keizer on Chemawa road just east of river road.**

There are 25 spaces for parking behind the building and parking across the street at the Safeway lot. I will be sending e-mail notification to the members, but I know that a lot will be undeliverable so if you are a member that knows of the change in location, please call those that you know and let them know of the change. Please help in getting the word out. When sending out the notice for the meeting location, of the 350 e-mails sent, 50 of them came back as undeliverable. If you did not get this notice will you please send your correct, and current e-mail address to me [jptoads@q.com](mailto:jptoads@q.com) Thanks Jim Perkey

## **October Program - Monty, of Monty's Coin Shop**

### **President's Report**

Well, here it is October, the end of summer, and the end of another mining season. Where did the time go? Time to get the mining equipment winterized and put away for next year. I hope that unlike me you got to spend as much time mining as you wanted to. I have found that as I get older and with each passing year it seems as if time speeds up and I never get enough time to do all the things I had planned to do. I really can't complain though because when I do get out mining, I get to have some great times with my family and the fantastic group of people who make up this association.

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

## President's Report Cont'd

There are a couple of up-coming items on the schedule that you need to think about. First off is the meeting to set next year's calendar. If there is a museum or other place of interest that you would like to visit or would like to volunteer to be the lead person on let one of the board members know. Also up-coming in November are the elections for next year's officers. Keep these items in mind as we will be talking about them at this month's meeting. Now get out there, have some fun

Alan

### Meeting Minutes

September, 2013

**No minutes as meeting had to be cancelled due to flooding of the meeting hall.**

### Members' Corner

Change of Status for WVM-1 & Corpus Christy mining Claims

Communication from BLM stated that WVM-1 was in jeopardy of forfeiture if we don't take steps to correct the issues. The issue is that there is not on record at BLM of a quit claim deed transferring ownership to WVM association. Two of the people listed as the owners cannot be found so we are left to file as a new claim within a 30 day period of time. Since our corporation cannot file for more than 20 acres, the lines of the claim which make up a 40 acre claim need to be restructured. Telephone conversations with seven members of the board of trustees agreed that this should be done, and Larry is redoing the lines and we will file as a new claim on September 25.

There should be no disruption of member use of the claim.

The Corpus Christy Claim was filed on by three people, and so is limited in size to 60 acres. The actual lots make up 77 acres, and needs to be reduced to 60 acres remain viable. The consensus of the board is to just let it lapse and forget it. It will be up to Tim crammer to correct the issues if he wants to keep it.

**Why do those young fellows always seem to have so much gold for show and tell?**

**It is not just a matter of Luck....there is a lot more to the story, Effective Search Strategies**

By Tom Bohmker/ Cascade Mountains Gold

At our monthly meeting of the Willamette Valley Miners (WPA) in Salem, Oregon a common occurrence consists of club members that will "show and tell" some gold or give a quick rehash of a mining adventure of the previous season's activity. Since more than one meeting in recent times has largely been devoted to concerns of government regulations seemingly against the right to prospect and mine or much discussion over a club claim with a disputed boundary with a neighboring claim holder, any time spent at a meeting talking about actual mining gold is appreciated. Several times a white haired older guy next to me would loudly groan when someone would call out to one of the youngest active club members " Trevor, don't be shy, show us that gold bottle in your pocket. Your Dad says you have it with you." Soon we could see on the other side of the crowded room his gold bottle was now circulating and various members (average age in the room was probably 55 or more) would bounce the bottle (or sometimes several bottles and the clincher: a display container with raisin sized nuggets. With anticipation for our own turn to "ohh and ahh" we would watch someone hold the bottle up and rotate it to fully see the contents. I could hear bits of whispers "that big one must weight over a pennyweight", or "He got all of this, must be way over a 1/4 oz. all from last weekend and he has yet to get the fine stuff out the black sand" and comments such as "I've prospected for twice the number of years he is old and never found a nugget like that". The old timer next to me who had groaned earlier explained himself "The young whippersnapper Trevor seems to always have some nice gold he shows to try to make us old guys feel like greenhorn miners from New York City. He is just so cotton picking lucky, that's all". Recently Trevor has partnered up with another go getter young man named Sam and the "Golden Duo" continue to dazzle us older members. This is not a new thing, it started when Trevor was 14 or 15 and going out on weekend dredging trips with his Dad. I recall after a cold spring trip to Vincent Creek in Eastern Oregon

he dredged up a couple pea sized nuggets with a 2” dredge bettering the final take of a number of other members using much larger 4” dredges.

Actually, it is a lot more than luck that seems to help Trevor and Sam to come home with generally more gold with consistency than most others in the club. By reviewing some the search strategies that work for them we may be able to increase our own poke of gold.

1. Trevor was brought to mining club meetings as a young teenager by his mining partner, his dad and to the mining shows and workshops. They also went on club mining outings together with experienced club members who shared their knowledge of mining, prospecting and minerals. Trevor became a good understudy, listened, asked good questions, learned how to research potential new spots and came to really enjoy this lifestyle. Sam is little younger but was helped learn the ropes from longtime club member (and former president) Gary Schrader and his wife Trudy.

2. In addition Trevor read lots of books on mining, mining history, rocks and minerals and with his dad soon was doing lapidary work. At most mining meetings he would bring me rock samples he had picked up for identification and comparing. When placer mining instead of just throwing the larger rocks aside he had his eye opened for “keepers” and a number of times found big chunks of quartz gold ore that especially when cut and polished revealed small masses of free gold. He has a great collection of pretty agates, petrified wood and other nice rocks that a different person would have just thrown out of the way.

3. Importantly Trevor especially developed an eye for the smaller quartz matrix nuggets that are heavy enough to stay in the sluice but are not obviously containing significant gold as more solid pieces. Often these nuggets are stained red or black from oxidizing sulfides and related minerals and may not at first look obviously like gold. When screening down the sluice concentrates he quickly but efficiently learned how to look over the material for such keepers. Others working in same location apparently never spot the ones no doubt are present at times.

4. Another asset for Trevor and Sam is that they are very enthusiastic and have lots of mental stamina, sometimes called stick-to-it-ness. Any miner can easily become discouraged with all those “dry holes”, that is digging big test excavations and finding little or nothing. Of course nearly as important these young men has lots physical zip and can pack the dredge/mining equipment further, faster, more frequently than most others I know. Further, they seem to have a great time looking for gold even when the old poke is quite light at the end of the search.

Case in point, Trevor and Sam spent 3 weeks in early summer 2013 on the lower portion of the Club Claims on Briggs Creek in the section with numerous huge boulders. They burned some 30 gallons of gas in their dredge packed in 2 miles of very tough trail and found very little gold. This convinced the club members to unload these claims figuring “If those two young men can’t make those claims pay, I would never stand a chance”. These young miners did persist and the club appreciates their sacrifice in really giving those claims a fair testing. Interestingly their persistence paid off soon afterwards. The claim holder upstream from them was very impressed with their zeal for mining. He invited Trevor and Sam to move up stream onto his claims which are much richer and have fewer huge boulders for a % of the gold they recovered. This area is actually much closer to the trail head and the first 2 days dredging they panned out ¼ ounce a day. The “Labrador” fire on the nearby Kalmiopsis Wilderness area broke out and the choking smoke filled the canyon and the Sheriff evacuated all residents and miners in the area. They came back to the Willamette Valley, did some work for grubstake money, dredged some on the North Fork of the Santiam and currently have returned to Briggs Creek. It is important to note the strategy of quickly being able to change plans, have back up plans and general adaptability.

5. Most important recently is that Trevor and Sam are not “fair weather” miners and continue the search as they can in the winter time. Of course it is more pleasant to do things outside in nice sunny weather but as repeatedly demonstrated sometimes the only time or best time may be in the winter time for some claims.

Case in point: by the end of college winter term most students are anxious (and perhaps deserving) for a break and have some fun. Most of these young people's talk seems constructed around parties, traveling to seeing friends, snowboarding and socializing with relatives & eating nice big hot meals. Trevor and Sam do some of the above activities during the winter break but they know it won't get them any gold or the adventure they are passionate about. So last December they spent a cold week up at the club claims on a small tributary above the Quartzville Townsite above Green Peter Reservoir near Sweet Home. The club has a special permit to allow dredging in winter when the normally dry creek (no fish) has water flow. The two mining partners told me in February of 2013, "We played around a little and did some prospecting too but did move some of the big boulders that are held tight by the clay and dredged what we could. Finally it really started snowing hard and we left before it built up to 2' and more". Note at this point in the conversation they pulled out the gold flakes and a big quartz nugget some 3/4" long, it had a band of gold going through the specimen, about 1/4 of its width. It isn't the fanciest nugget they have found, but how much gold did you get last December? I know I spent my December vacation installing the wood floor ("about time" is what my wife Rosie said) in the living room and railing in the stairs.

6. Another important plus going for Trevor is that he had the support and help in his mining activities from his dad and mom. Now, as an adult he has found a great new partner, Sam, now a sophomore in college. They are now limited to weekends during the school year but in the summer dedicated large chunks of time go to the quest for gold. It is just a matter of time before they will find more nice gold to show us and have great new adventures.

7. Also now with Trevor's new partner Sam came some mining claims on the North Fork of the Santiam River east of Salem given to Sam by a couple of older club members who had these claims for many decades. The older couple could have sold them for thousands of dollars but wanted to give them to someone who would mine them and take care of them so the claims were transferred over to Sam. In March of 2013 these two went out weekends and dug a hole with pick and shovel on

the bank on the North Fork Claims that looked from a picture as 10' across and 4 to 5' deep. They showed me about 1/4 oz. of flake gold from this hole (4 days work) with many heavy flakes and a small nugget, the biggest I have ever seen from this area noted for normally only having fine sized flake gold. Because these two are successful, work hard at mining they have already in their young lives built well deserved reputations. Already, people are starting to ask their advice, request them to test out potential mining sites. Sooner or later one of these will pan out and Trevor and Sam will be first in line to reap the rewards.

We personally may not have the physical stamina to move big boulders, throw small mountains of cobblestones out of the hole and work in 34 degree water in snow storms as this "Dredging Duo" manage but if we take note of some of their "Search Strategies" we can likewise improve our take of gold and enjoy more of the adventure of gold mining.

## **SB 838 HELP NEEDED**

We are still in the initial planning stages regarding filing a suit in federal court against SB 838. Buchal suggests a simple suit arguing preemption and supremacy, and estimates it costing \$10-15k. He also suggests that this needs to be started sooner and not later.

Currently dealing with two problems:

1. finding plaintiffs, and
2. finding money to pay for it

Waldo Mining District could be the client (i.e.; responsible for the bills), but cannot be a plaintiff (none of the plaintiffs in the EOMA/WMD suit against DEQ can be used). There is no time to raise \$\$ with a raffle, etc.

Last spring at the Miner's Rally we collected \$4725.00 in Pledges from approximately 51 people. Yesterday I typed up the list of all that made Pledges. Most gave phone numbers and/or email addresses (along with mailing addresses). Because these Pledges we made last spring, I feel before we commit to a suit that these people should be contacted to verify they still would honor their pledge.

WHAT I NEED: I need 1 or more people willing to phone the people on the Pledge List to:

1. Find out if they still will honor their Pledge,
2. Make sure all contact info is correct (I can't read some of the email addresses, etc.).

We will NOT be asking for \$\$ at this time (but will probably need some within a month or so). We will tell them that as soon as the decision to sue is made, we will contact them for \$\$.

ANY VOLUNTEERS?????

This is YOUR BIG CHANCE to actually HELP! I can NOT do this, as I do not have a phone at home.

.....  
**SECONDARY PLAN:**

As (to date) the Pledges will only cover about 1/3rd of the estimate of what we will need, we will need to raise more \$\$ . My "plan" is to get a list of

everyone that has a current 700PM permit and contact them to see if they will donate/pledge. Online I can get a list of names of people with the permit, but the list does not give complete mailing addresses (just gives city & state). I am working on getting a list with names, complete addresses and phone numbers. If that info is not obtainable, we may have to look each name up in the phone book(s) so we can call them.

I WILL NEED people willing to possibly look people up in phone book(s) (online) and then call them.

ANY VOLUNTEERS?????

PLEASE RESPOND IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP.

Tom K



**On August 14, 2013, Oregon Governor Kitzhaber signed into law SB 838. SB 838 heavily restricts or prohibits all forms of small-scale "motorized placer mining" in Oregon.** The Waldo Mining District (WMD), with other mining orgs, is preparing to file suit in federal court against SB 838 and the state on the grounds that any state prohibition violates the U.S. Constitution and Mining Law of 1872. The WMD is seeking Pledges of Support from all miners in Oregon to help pay for this suit.

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

**KNOW ALL YE MEN PRESENT** that I, the undersigned citizen of the United States of America, am aware of the clear and present attack on my constitutionally & congressionally granted mining rights by SB 838 and the State of Oregon; and by signing this Pledge **I am pledging my support of: ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS** (or more) to be used in any litigation against the State of Oregon in connection with SB 838; and that I will make every effort to submit such funds to the best of my ability when called upon.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
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RETURN TO: WALDO MINING DISTRICT P.O. BOX 1574 CAVE JUNCTION, OR 97523  
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT: [www.waldominingdistrict.org](http://www.waldominingdistrict.org)

### **Does your dredge suck?**

I have done a few articles on dredging performance in the past and I have to tell you of an experiment that I did and was surprised by the results, after all, I thought I had it nailed down before. Many things can affect how your dredge performs. The type of riffles, the slope, carpet and or matting, hoses, pump, flair, is the nozzle or power jet pushing water correctly, and yes even the fittings you use. I am first going to recap some of these things but I am not going to deal with slopes, riffles, and flairs. I believe that a dredging book can better explain this portion because they come with pictures that visually shows what you should be doing and seeing at the riffles. One thing that I can never seem to find in a book is how to check the dredge out for suction and pressure performance. We should trust the suppliers for this, but trust me, they are out to sell items and sometimes, items are changed to make a deal sound better, performance suffers.

The thing that irritates me most is when someone mentions a trash pump with a dredge. Trash pumps can be used on highbanking just great, but dredges? I can tell you they can work, but up to a point. Now I have been seeing "clear water pumps" being sold with dredges. Yes, what a cost savings but at what cost? Pressure pumps are the correct tool for the job. Why buy a Lamborghini if it has a Geo Metro engine in it? Pressure is what you want; volume is no good without the pressure.

The nozzle and power jets can affect your performance by the way they push the water down the hoses. For example I had an issue with a new dredge and its suction. I had gone through the whole system scratching my head. At this point, with the dissatisfaction of my first dredge (it had a trash pump). I was ready to throw the new dredge in the river and give up on mining. For some reason I had the hose going to the dredge off of the nozzle and started up the pump. The water was spraying down the side of the pipe and going everywhere. I drove 2 hours to get a new nozzle, stuck it on and out came the water down the center and a stream that went clear across the river. The Dredge worked good after that. As far as a nozzle or a jet, I have both setups for my unit and both produce the same suction using them at the same depth. The only difference I could tell was that the nozzle takes more energy to work and the jet is harder to unplug.

The hose length makes a difference. Unless you ask for it, suppliers don't sell you hoses that are too long, this only ups the cost. But if you want longer hoses, keep in mind that it can affect pressure. As water travels down the hose, friction is created, more hose, more friction. You are also moving more water and material. My dredge is on a stand. I move my pump up or down river for shallow dredging to avoid fumes and noise. Down river is only if I am forced to recirculate. If I start draining out a hole and go deeper, I will move my pump closer and shorten the pressure hose to 25 feet. If I don't, I start losing suction. At the least, use the size of the hoses that connect in and out of the pump. Don't reduce until you are right up to the nozzle or jet. A pump up river normally pushes water downhill. A pump down river will have to push water up hill.

The height you lift is also a concern. A floating dredge stays close to the water but a unit on stands can be up high. Get it down as close to the water as you can. It's the lift once it breaks the water plane that really makes a difference.

Fittings add to the friction. More fittings, equals more friction. This is where my experiment took place. Those who have worked with me know I push my dredge to the limit in every way possible. I was getting a Hydroforce but it recommended a 2" hose out of the pump, my pump only allows a 1 1/2". I was offered a 2" hose at half price but was concerned about having to move more water and if the pump could move only the 1 1/2" what could the 2" do. Then I was examining my fittings for the 1 1/2" hose and realized that the internal size was 1 1/4". What the heck, at each fitting I was reducing what the pump could put out. I went down to the store and looked at the 2" fittings. The internal size was 1 1/2", the same size max my pump could put out. I spent the money and replaced my hose and fittings with 2". Prior to this, I was lucky to drain a hole and get 5' of lift. After the switch, Jim Perky and I drained a hole and were dredging with a lift of just over 8'. What a simple change with big results. The engine doesn't have to work as hard at normal dredging either.

I don't claim to be a professional at this but I can say I have learned from mistakes, experiments, and experience. I just hope I can help others to avoid added cost, lost time and headaches.

My first dredge somewhat sucked, When I got my new dredge, it really sucked, after replacing the nozzle, it sucked. Now it really, really sucks. How does your dredge suck?

Jeff Farrand

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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.

**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

**Wanted**

**Gold Screw**

Dan @ 541-401-0922 (Sweet Home)

# Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044  
Salem OR 97309-1044

We Meet Third Thursday of  
each month, 7:00 pm at  
Meeting Location change  
For October Meeting

