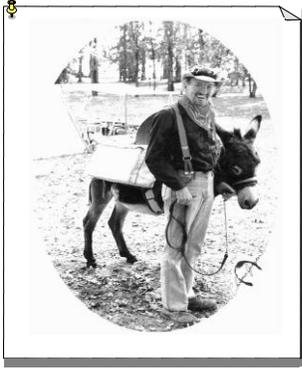


WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

November 2013

Next Meeting
November 21, 2013
7:00pm



Officers

President

Alan Mitchell

541-740-0720

Alnmitc295@comcast.net

Vice President

Mike Hunter

Secretary

George Crutcher

503-779-6955

grcwvm@gmail.com

Treasurer

James Perkey

503-390-7327

jptoads@q.com

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

connerh@centurylink.net

Website

Boyd Puckett

Trudy Schrader

Newsletter Editor

Debi Farrand

503-371-3652

dfarrand@msn.com

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

November Meeting – Officer Elections

December 7th – Christmas Party

President's Report

The October meeting was pretty well attended even though the location had to be changed to the Keizer Fire Station. This was a very nice facility with open space, a full kitchen, and even a gas fireplace in one corner.

Thanks to all who stepped up to be nominated for the coming year's officers. The nominations were Jeff Farrand – President, Mike Hunter – Vice President, Ebon Ray – Vice President, Jim Perkey – Treasurer, and Patty Perkey – Secretary.

Nominations are still open so if you are interested speak up. We will be voting on these at this month's meeting.

With Thanksgiving coming up and Veteran's Day past when you get this remember to say Thank You to all of the men and women who are serving or have served in our armed forces. They are the ones who allow us to pursue all the things we enjoy.

Alan

Meeting Minutes

September, 2013

The President (Allen) called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM.

Allen called on Jeff to lead the Club in The Pledge of Allegiance

] The Treasurer (Jim Perkey) gave the Treasurer's Report for Sept and Oct. since the
] Sept Meeting was canceled because of work being done at Fire Hall #1. Hirsh made
] a motion to accept the Report as presented. Howard seconded the motion. A vote
] was held and passed,

] Allen asked if there were new guests. Tom Bohmker stood up and introduced his son
] Josie and his grandson Hannibal. Les Berg introduced himself and his wife Carol;
] they belong to the High Dessert Treasure Club in Bend Oregon and are owners of
] Jobe Wholesale in Bend.

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

Oregon @ 7:00 PM. Their dues are \$20/year and they have a newsletter called the Pay Dirt Press. He also said they have a Claim close to our Vincent Creek Claim.

Then George stood up and introduced himself and said he was from Yachats and that he was a new member.

Allen then called on Larry Coons for his Claims report. Larry reported that our Corpus Christi Claim was Quitclaim Deeded to Tom Quintal who intern will Quitclaim Deed it to Kramer. Larry also stated that the club did not own WVM #1 in Dry Gulch it was owned by Tom Quintal and two others and was a 60 Acre Claim we can only have a Claim of 20 or less acres. It was Quitclaimed Deeded to the WVM and was refilled as an 18 Acre Claim under the Name of WVM #1B and will be Called WVM #1. All paperwork and fees have been paid and up to Date.

Old Business:

The Beverly Beach outing was a success there were 6 – 7 people from the Club, a few sneaker waves and several people from other Clubs and everyone had fun.

Upcoming Events:

Metal detecting will be at the Salem fairgrounds, Meet at the main Office on 17th Street at 10 AM. Any questions please call Gary Schrader, 503-859-3132, gldlooker@msn.com

Membership is Due after Jan 1 2014 please pay after Jan 1 if you can.

Jeff made a motion to have the funds obtained from the Classifiers go to the Waldo Mining District Lawsuit. Jim P. 2nd it and a vote was held and passed.

Jim P made a motion to send \$2000 to the Waldo Mining District, Jeff 2nd it Mike H. requested an amendment to the Motion to take the money out of the Checking Account 2nd by Joyce. Then Mike H. requested and additional amendment to the Motion to state that the word allotment be added to the motion so we only spend as needed up to \$2000. Joe 2nd and the motion and amendments were voted on and unanimously passed.

Also Howard Conner talked about putting on his First Aid Presentation in Jan. and Feb. next year if there were enough people interested in it. A show of hands showed that it needs to be presented.

Also it was noted that the GPAA club will not put on a gold and mineral show in Salem. Tthis was a great source for new members and we will have to come up with other ways to continue growing.

It is time to get nominations for new officers as needed when officers were polled as to whether they were willing to stay the President, one Vice president, and a Secretary are spots that need nominees.

President Nominees are Jeff and Eben
Vice President Nominees are Eben and Jeff.
Vice President #2 Mike H. is staying
Treasurer Jim P. is staying
Sectary Volunteer Nominee Patty P.
Claims Larry C. will stay.

Election will be in November.

A discussion was held about looking into using the Fire hall in Keizer for our meeting in 2014. Howard made a motion to look into leasing it 2nd by Joyce Vote held and passed.

Christmas Party will be held at the Marion County Fire Hall on Cordon Road, on Dec. 7, 2014. Penny and Mike will cook 1 turkey each. And Joyce will cook the ham. Setup time is 10 AM, we eat at 12 PM . The White Elephant gift limit is \$10. Howard asked for \$130 for decorations.

Trudy suggested we look at getting a miner's License Plate to raise funds but everyone felt that it would put a target on our vehicles.

In an open discussion Joe stated we need to, as an association, file for an injunction in Federal Court against Oregon's SB383. The club needs to decide what direction we need to head. Mike H. said he was going to do it as a single person because he has his own claim.

Meeting was adjourned by Alan at 9:05 PM,

Submitted by:
George Cutcher Secretary.

Raffle Corner

October's meeting was a great night for the raffles! The table was full thanks to everyone's donations.

The pin pointer, which has been our large item for two meetings now, will be given away at next month's meeting. Grab some tickets next month and get in on the drawing!

I'd like to thank the people at Jobe mining for their donation of a full set of classifier screens. It was decided to sell tickets and let one winner pick the screen of their choice. There was a lot of interest in this raffle! We still have eight screens left. All proceeds will go towards the fight against SB 838.

Louie donated a very nice piece of artwork to the club. It's a picture of a miner leading his donkey through the desert - cut out of sheet metal! This could be raffled off, but there was also talk about doing a silent auction to sell it. We'll see.

I will continue to run the raffles unless someone else would like to volunteer at November's meeting (it's election time!).

Members' Corner

Golden Happenings from Briggs Creek

Progress report dated 10-7-13 of WVM members Trevor and Sam, 'The Dredging Duo' by Tom Bohmker Overview; Earlier in an article entitled **“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”** it was mentioned about the first half of summer 2013 for the young WVM members Trevor and Sam. They had finally found a good spot on some a different claim holder's mining claim and worked out a lease and had a couple of good days clean ups before the lightning sparked fires locally closed down the area. Eventually they returned, found some more good gold, a really nice nugget, prospected over the area and are now working a virgin bench gravel deposit by hand that has promise.

Personally I felt guilty for keeping these young miners from their work for two days. In July I arrived down at their camp just after the terrible “dry” thunderstorm that started hundreds of fires.

After nearly a month of near fruitless dredging downstream on the old WVM claims on Briggs Creek in Southern Oregon where the creek is deep and filled with boulders they were able to negotiate with the adjoining claim holder to work on his claims. Finally they started getting some color, then small heavy flakes and decent quantities of little picker nuggets. Upon my arrival down there I recall the last two days they had dredged they had taken ¼ oz each day. However they took time off to help me explore a spot some 20 miles away on the Josephine Creek drainage. Back in 1977 or so I had been dredging at an isolated location and found some natural conglomerate which filled up some crevices. After hours of chopping with a rock hammer and iron bar I determined this material was virgin, never dredged and held small nuggets. However, it took much to much time to chip it out and there was easy to dredge spots nearby so I left the crevices unworked. Now with gold at about 12 times more in price per ounce and virgin pay dirt in short supply I really wanted to try to find the spot and sample dredge to see if it was still there. It was over 100 degrees on a south facing steep hill side of dark serpentine bedrock that we hiked down. We came in a different way as not having a 4x4 truck and struggled to find the old overgrown with brush and poison oak trails. It was evening of the first day when we found what I guess was the spot and cached a 2 1/2” dredge we planned to test with. Now a big dead cedar tree was cast along the bank and a different arrangement of boulders. We returned the next day, dredged down 2 to 3 ' and found the hard as concrete conglomerate, chipped through it and found some nice small, rough pieces of gold confirming what I have thought about for 30 some years. Trevor and Sam didn't mind all the rough packing in triple digit temperatures and seemed to enjoy seeing new country and hearing the mining stories of our efforts years ago but upon return to their camp the Deputy Sheriff was trying to keep everyone out of the Briggs Creek area because of close proximity to the new out of control fires. It was nearly a month before they were able to return, losing a big chunk of the season. In the interim they tried to work some claims Sam has up on the Little North Fork of the Santiam River east of Salem but new difficulties (claim jumpers) arose and little gold was recovered.

However I did get an e-mail from them a short while after their return to mining back on Briggs on

September 24. It included a U-tube connection which shows 3 good days dredging (perhaps over an ounce of gold) and a nugget just under ¼ ounce! This shows the result of persistence and hard work. The site can be viewed at http://youtu.be/TrSqV3nO_Tw.

Later I heard from them around Oct 1 and they reported that they had packed out their extra 2 1/2" dredge and packed in another 4" unit and so they worked together with two dredges. Each dredge generally recoded over 1/8 ounce and some days together they were getting 1/3 ounce. However the recent heavy rains made it difficult as the creek rose in their pool some 18" overnight. The dredge was anchored with a huge lead weight but in the light of dawn he was shocked to see it gone from sight. Trevor trotted down the boulder tossed edge of the narrow canyon and was pleasantly surprised to find his valuable dredge in the next pool, more or less OK for its wild journey. About this time they had to stop dredging and using one of scary cable crossings went across the now foaming river to the over side and started "high banking" a virgin bench gravel deposit. A cable crossing is sort of an upside down bicycle hanging from pulleys which roll on a single overhead steel cable that crosses the creek. Such devices are very intimidating but can be the only way to cross an isolated creek when it is in winter high water.

On October 8 Trevor phoned and related they are making progress on the new bench diggings. They have removed most of the overburden sluff that covered up the hard packed material on the soft bedrock. They have been able to move 3 or 4 cubic yards of the boulders and gravel a day which is really a lot considering the pack of boulders, cobblestones and sand. With some 15' of overburden this is extremely hard work to uncover even one square foot of bed rock but if they persist it may pay off. There are layers of black sand that show a little color so far. Of course, they are hoping to find a rich crevice or fluke nuggets in the overburden as has been found in this area. At present a large, round 600 lb. Boulder is in the crevice gut of the old channel and they are working on steel cable rigging and winches to pull it out.

We will keep members posted on progress of the "Dredging Duo" as they try various mining venues this winter.

Tales of the Lucky Duck part II "This first picker nugget we finally found, when you hold it this way looks like the letter 'L',.....hmmm...L is for Lucky Duck"

by Tom Bohmker copyright 10-8-13

Talk about "easy" "gold....here is a synopsis of my son Josh's work in Washington State this past summer. In writing about this, the story was always strong with adventure but until now I was uncertain about the ending...would they find much gold?

Kevin (nicknamed Skipper) a local miner on the Similkameen River near Oroville, Washington had come up with this plan 17 years ago to dredge the biggest hole on the river. Some 10 years ago he started accumulating the equipment and this summer partnered with Josh to put it all together and go for it. The dredge is a 5" the biggest allowed normally at this location but mounted on the frame of an 8" commercial unit so as to have a platform for deep dredging. Finally after a month of welding, building, hooking up all the water and air lines, transporting to river, towing to position, fixing technical bugs (some of 55 gal barrels started to leak when above the big hole...etc.) they dredged for 2 weeks, put down 7 holes from 10' to 27' in water depth but found very little gold (maybe 1/2 dwt or \$35.00 of very small sized fines). One promising spot where the big gold is probably hiding there is a vertical shelf of bedrock down under 10' of water that drops off another 10 feet or more. This location is on the "wrong" side of a big turn but features a tiny seasonal rill that dumped in to an alluvium fan on edge of the river from an end moraine pile of glacial till up hill. It pan tested very well.....he decided to dredge this location the next day. That night it rained hard (we got over 2 to 3 inches here in Oregon from that storm) and the rill flooded and down came 2 feet of silt on top of the gravel pile by morning...the river there was in a mess. In fact they lost nearly a week from the bad weather. They will try this spot next season....

Collectively with Josh's mapping and sample dredging of the deep "mix master" of a hole down some 20 to 30' or more they know more about the location than probably anyone else. The state took back the claims some 20 years ago and made it a recreational mining area, first come, first serve. Several groups tried to dredge this bend with its deep hole and other likely spots created when the Similkameen River carved through a hard area of

tough meta- sediment rock into a softer layer on the other side. However these dredgers always failed because of the technical problems of the deep water. Most dredges are not powerful enough or large enough platforms to effective work below 20' The test hole in the middle went through some feet of silt, then more compact rock and gravel, then good sized boulders and finally what stopped them was a huge boulder over 6' wide on bottom of the hole. It would have to be lifted with air bladder strapped on to the sides, again a project for next year.

Another plan Skipper and Josh have hatched is to run a guide service for visiting dredgers that come from CA., OR and British Columbia where dredging is limited or prohibited. It is a good idea, something I did back in the 1970's in Southern OR, a venture we called "Gold Panning Safaris". The new possible plan of a "Gold Guide Service" would boat the people back and forth from the public camping areas and provide the equipment and expertise. Much of the river is 5 or 6' to bed rock and can yield a decent amount of gold. This season 3 nuggets of one ounce plus were found both upstream and downstream of Enloe Dam by other miners using dredges.

So in preparation for my visit Sept. 21 2013 Josh decided to move the large (8' x16') dredge christened the "Lucky Duck" to a bed rock gut on the inside of bend just before the big hole, some 1 to 4' deep with very rough bed rock, In a way they were practicing on me for their first customer of a planned "gold guide service" they may try next year. Josh knows my ear would give me problems at those deep depths and now with recent rains giving poor visibility and so figured it was a good place for "old fart" dredging. He had spotted the location the first time he viewed it from the highway on the opposite side of the river but their efforts had been concentrated on their desire to "hit the mother lode" so to speak of a big potential pay streak in the bottom of the big holes. Now they would check out this shallow spot which is immediately upstream from the big hole they had been working.

By a 3 mile boat trip we arrived where the "Lucky Duck" was moored. I put on wet suit, grabbed some hammers and pry bar, they started the dredge and I was off. The bedrock was very rough and covered with a few inches of gravel, I started dredging to the side of the gut, a shear vertical wall of this same

rough bedrock. Here there was 6" of water on top of 1 to 3 feet of over burden consisting of very rough broken chunks of the bed rock. Most of material was not water worn but looked like fragmented pieces left by someone's previous chopping down a few inches or more of bed rock looking for gold impacted into the numerous little cracks. Water logged sticks were also in the material which was firmly stuck together with a well packed heavy silt. It had the appearance of having been worked previously. The Skipper who drove past here daily for 17 years assured us he never saw this obvious spot worked. I decided to just give it a try and enjoy the search. After several hose jams of the angular material, Josh pulled out small picker, in the shape of a V and 1/4" wide from the sluice. It was the first piece in their weeks of effort worth talking about! Josh turned it around and said, "This first picker nugget we finally found, when you hold it this way looks like the letter 'L',.....hmmm...L is for Lucky Duck" .

After over an hour and several square yards of rough bedrock exposed I requested Josh to take over so I could go up on the bank and make a "nature call" (not an easy thing without zippers and flys on the wet suit). Presently Josh came over, I stepped out the 3' deep pool, now right up to the place where the bedrock rose vertically and had walked about 50 feet up the bank when he called me back pronto. When the water had fully cleared he had spotted a nugget jammed in a crevice where I had left off. I dove down and looked. It was big, actually bigger than anything I had found since 1996. This nugget in the shadows looked like a quarter of an ounce. I waited on surface for Josh to pry it out....slowly it came out and got bigger and bigger. We were so excited....It weighs nearly 2 ounces, and worth up wards of \$4,000. We later cleaned up 5 or 6 little nuggets that collectively weighed 1/20 of an ounce. It had started to rain but we did not notice until I got my camera out. The nugget is about the size of a stack of 5 quarters.

Next day on Sunday it was colder and overcast. It was really hard to put on the damp wet suit and get back in the water. Of course my brain told me we had found a fluke nugget the day before and nothing else would subsequently appear for our efforts. Again the Similkameen River surprised me as we had dredged for 8 minutes with the Skipper holding the nozzle and me throwing out the oversize rocks. I noticed a thick piece of wire gold, the diameter of #12 electric wire and an inch long in a bedrock

crack just under the nozzle and pointed it out to the Skipper who was very intense on his work. Under water a cloud of bubbles signaled him blowing out “Oh my goodness” or something when he saw it. We burst out of the water and Josh on the dredge 40' away heard us mumbling (we had the hooka mouth pieces or snorkels in our mouths) and wildly waving. “Oh no, “he thought, “someone has smashed his finger”. Finally, he heard Skipper spit out the mouth piece and loudly cry out “bring me a screw driver” and Josh realized we had found another big one. It was flat and weighs at least a half ounce and was on a bed rock shelf only 1' deep from surface. We had seen only one edge of the nugget visible down in the narrow crevice where rest of it was hidden. Another celebration broke out!

Josh kept telling me “We were ready to quit for the season, we just would not have moved the dredge into that shallows except for your visit. And you immediately dredged over and found an overlooked spot apparently left by previous dredgers more than 20 years ago and uncovered that big nugget. Wow, Thank you so much, my dreams have come true.”

Interesting my 7 year old grandson Hannabal was watching when Josh pried out the big nugget. He had spent 3 weeks with me in Montana the previous summer where we panned at some 400 different locations on 100 different gold bearing creeks. We never found anything larger than one 3 mm flake (but lots of colors smaller than .5 mm). Thus he really appreciated this big nugget and went wild with excitement! When we went back to the bus and camp that after noon we showed my wife Rosie the little nuggets and flakes. She knew that Josh and the Skipper had only found a few tiny colors to that point and was excited. Then on cue Hannabal said he had a magic trick, went through some raz-ma-taz and “out” of his grandmothers ear pulled out and dropped the big nugget in front of Grandmother Rosie.....She was stunned into silence for a while and looked at me with an expression “Is this for real?” Interestingly later she told me that she was afraid that the magic trick might include something like a live frog so the nugget was a welcome relief. That night this young gold miner went to sleep in his bed holding the nugget. Sometime in the we hours it fell out of his hands and Rosie who was sleeping on the floor next to him found it in her blankets next morning.

This experience made gold mining look very easy. In review we made a weekend trip to visit our son and family, helped find about 2 3/4 ounces with very little effort on my part with a total dredging time of 3 1/2 hours. Josh and the Skipper asked me “Was I a satisfied customer of the proposed gold guide trip?” Of course I answered “Yes, I will come again next summer and stay longer but will expect similar results!”

Actually as a guest, I made no claim to any of the gold. The Skipper told Josh to keep the big nugget as he was so happy that with Josh's efforts the dredge project 17 years in the planning, and 10 years since components were purchased actually came to pass this summer. It was nice to see there were no problems in distributing the one big piece of gold. On the second day with the find of the second piece there was the obvious conclusion “this is Skippers' nugget”. The third sized nugget weighs 13 grains, the size of a pea, along with 6 other smaller pieces (totaling about 1 /20 of an ounce) was given to me. I was very satisfied that their season full of struggle, setbacks and technical problems had such a fantastic conclusion, the two partners seemed happy about the unequal gold split and I came home with some nice little nuggets to flash in front of my mining friends. Gold mining just doesn't get much better!

Hopefully we will have more episodes of this unfolding story to share.

Tom Bohmker, WVM member, is a small mines consultant, mining author and publisher through “Cascades Mountains Gold”

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