



# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

May 2014

## March Meeting

May 15, 2014

7:00pm

## Officers

### President

Jeff Farrand  
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### Vice President

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### Secretary

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503-390-7327  
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### Treasurer

James Perkey  
503-390-7327  
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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

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

## May Meeting – Mining Summit Report

May 24 - 26 - Vincent Creek outing

June 19-23 - Quartzville Miners Rendezvous

## President's Report

I have been listening to the effects of the BLM and rancher Cliven Bundy issues going out over the news. I find it amazing the ignorance of the eastern states and the misunderstanding of the purpose of BLM and the Forest Service. It also amazes me on how the story has changed back and forth. I can understand how things have gotten out of hand between the two parties as miners are receiving the same treatment over land usage that is rightfully ours to utilize under the mining laws. I have heard many say that the Federal Government should hand the land over to the states. I can only imagine how these western states that are being controlled by the environmentalist will take control of this land. I can tell you, good- bye to mining for sure. All the natural resources of the west will get tied up even more and only the “elite” of the new “property owners” will be able to access any of it.

WVM President  
Jeff Farrand

## Meeting Minutes

The April meeting was called to order by Pres. Jeff Farrand who also led the pledge of allegiance. There were 36 members and 5 guests in attendance as per the sign-in sheet. I took the liberty of entering some of your names—please remember to sign-in so I can have an accurate count. Thanks.

There was not a program scheduled this month, although Howard is trying to get a response from some folks. If you have any ideas at all about someone or something you think may be of interest, give Howard a call at 503-399-0292. At the May meeting Tom Bohmker and Trevor Sheffield will give a report of their trip to a mining summit held in Placerville, Ca.

**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 Cont'd

Thanks to the "Treat team" for the cookies. Mike Hunter and I have volunteered to bring the goodies next month.

Jim Perkey presented the treasurer's report. Howard made the motion to accept the report as read and it was seconded and approved as such. Jeff asked for any comments about last month's newsletter. There were none, so it was seconded and approved.

From claims. In regards to our WVM #5 claim down at Dad's creek, Plum Creek logging informed us, by letter, that we were encroaching on their property and they do not allow placer mining on their ground. So, the claim marker has been relocated further downstream. They also own ground above the nugget farm to #4 and below #3. As good miners, please do not trespass on their properties. Howard C. and Larry C. went to the area and report very little water in the creek. Also, they talked to a couple of the loggers, who were armed, and were informed that there are a lot of cougar in the area. Also, bear have been sighted in the area in the past. The road into the claim is somewhat improved but there will be logging trucks operating. So be sure you use extreme caution if you plan on going to Dad's Creek. Jeff also reported that the back road going to Riddle is closed to traffic.

An update on the WVM-1-B on Dry Gulch- We did get approval to travel through the private property to access the claim on forest service road # 1133410. Be sure you have your dash card visible in your vehicle and carry your wallet card.

Last month's newsletter was a real good one. Thanks to those of you that submitted articles to Debi F., our news editor. There is always something the members can contribute.

Trudy S. says the web-site is up and running. No issues were reported, so all is well.

The past outing- Louie and Joan said thanks to all of you that came to the work shop at their home. Jeff and Valerie were using their mini-slucice that works perfect for extracting fine gold from beach sand. Louie had some larger slucice boxes set up and his spiral wheel in operation. Mike H. brought his ATV

and pieces of equipment and showed how he has set up his rig to carry everything on it. What a clever fellow!

At the Beverly Beach outing, Wes J. said it was OK but a little rainy. Those attending, had fun and some gold was found in the abundant black sand. If you have never tried your hand at working beach sand, these outings are a great learning experience.

Please try to participate in the various outings and workshops if you can. Our members take a lot of time and effort to set these up for the education of all of us.

Howard C. reported a good number of you volunteered your time to help set up and work our booth at the Rickreall rock show. Thanks to all of you and also a big thank you to Jim P. for his time and labor to make new panning stations. They're working very well.

The upcoming outings are:

**May 24 -26** will be the Vincent Creek outing. There is a camping spot outside the Forest Service gate a few small spots inside the gate. If you are a newcomer you may want to check the area before pulling your RV inside. Please be sure to close the gate, coming and going. Also, be sure to display your dash card in your vehicle and carry your wallet card with you. There will be a potluck dinner hosted by Alan & Sue Mitchell probably on Saturday evening. Contact Alan at 541-740-0720 for more information. Also be prepared for all types of weather, too. You never know if you'll get rain, snow, sleet, hail, lightning, sun or all the above.

**June 19<sup>th</sup> 23** is the Quartzville Miners Rendezvous at Old Miners Meadow. This is our BIG outing and it's always lots of fun. The monthly meeting will be held there on Friday evening, the 20<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday there will be the duck races, metal detecting, poker chip hunt for the kids, all with prizes to be won, and the most wonderful, big ol' pot-luck at noon. Besides our "Campfire Crooners", it would be great if any of you would join in. So, if you can pick, strum, fiddle, blow or sing please do. There is usually plenty of DRY camping area in the meadow with the gate open at 2:00pm on Thursday and we need to vacate the meadow by 11am on Monday. And as an added note, some of you may be bringing

along your pets. If you do, they must be kept on a leash! For further information contact Howard Conner at 503-399-0292.

In government affairs, Tom Q. reports that the Western Mining Association states that miners will gather in California at the most significant mining case in generations. The five year ban on mining will be heard in San Bernadine by a judge who will decide if this is the end of 150 years of gold mining history in that state. If, as miners, it goes in our favor on May 1<sup>st</sup> there will be the first hearing of several cases that that affects S.B.838 with a potential moratorium to go into effect in 2016 through 2021. Also, the first meeting of the Governor's Task Force was very interesting with a lot of people there. If you want to attend these meetings they are at the new ODF&W location in the Fairview industrial park area. You can sit in the audience and at the end of the meeting comments will be heard. Meetings start at 10:00am and run to 3:30pm with the next one on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Tom encourages you to come and see what's going on, especially concerning Section 8 of SB 838 that contains all the restrictions to be implemented. If you have ideas or questions you want to share with him, give him a call. It is blatantly obvious that the "green" organizations and state agencies are working hard to revoke our rights as miners. We need to stand up and speak up! In appreciation for all his efforts Tom was bestowed with the coveted "Vulture Award" by Tom Bohmker and "committee".

In new business, Joan Frick would very much appreciate input from new members of what you would like to have for new outings and workshops for next year. There must be numerous things that the planning committee hasn't thought of so please bring your ideas up before they meet again in October. You've heard that saying, "variety is the spice of life".

For good of the order, we received a very nice thank you card from Karen Darnell and Stream Savers for our donation to them. And, Andy Anderson of the Oregon Coast Agate club in Newport has invited WVM to set up our booth at their annual show. It is on June 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Since this is so close to the Miners Meadow outing, it is unlikely that we will participate this year. But, if any of you may be going to the coast that weekend perhaps you could

attend and let us know what it is all about.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn.

See you all next month..

Patti

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Vincent Creek: May 24-26**

**Miners' Rendevouz: June 19-23**

**Dad's Creek Outing: July 4-6**

## **Raffle Corner**

Thank you to Bill and Mary Atkinson for the items they donated to the club. I am sure whoever has the winning tickets will be very happy. For those newer members information, Mary was club president many years back when we were small enough to have our meetings in the back room of Izzy's in Keizer.

## **Members' Corner**

Rickreall Rock & Gem Show

The set up for the show went very smooth and quick with all the volunteers that came to help. On Friday there were a reported 900 kids, but we only sold 29 bags of gold.

On Saturday we were busy with the adults and children and sold 60 bags of gold. There were 7 member renewals, and 2 new members that signed up. All of the members who signed up to help out, showed up on the day they were needed, so it went very well. The new panning tubs worked out very well, and nobody got a sore back. Thank you to all of the volunteers for their contribution, and a special thank you to Tammy Roberts for watching the table so I could work with the kids. Jim Perkey

On May 1, 2014, David Young, Counsel for Public Lands For The People and other plaintiffs, appeared before Judge Gilbert G. Ochoa in Rancho Cucamonga to argue our Motions for Summary Judgments, and oppose the State's cross-motions for Summary Judgments. These Motions regarded the issue of Federal preemption of the State's prohibition of suction dredge mining in California. Judge Ochoa was knowledgeable about the pleadings that had been filed, the arguments made,

and asked challenging questions regarding the State's position that there was only a temporary moratorium, and not a prohibition of suction dredge mining in California. The State could give no assurance to Judge Ochoa as to a date when the so called "moratorium" would end. At the end of all arguments, Judge Ochoa took the matters under advisement, making no ruling from the bench.

Judge Ochoa then asked all counsel to meet with him in chambers. He stated that he would like to see the matter settled, if at all possible, before he ruled on the various motions. We discussed the previous settlement attempts with judge Ochoa which were not successful. Nevertheless, Judge Ochoa exercised his judicial authority to order a Mandatory Settlement Conference ("MSC") beginning June 24, 2014, which may continue for one or two more days. Judge Ochoa will personally preside at the MSC as the settlement Judge, and is prepared to make a substantial personal commitment of time and effort to see if any settlement can be achieved. Judge Ochoa will require all parties to the litigation to be either personally present in Court for the MSC, or to be available by telephone. Those parties who cannot attend personally, should be able to attend by telephone conference at no cost to them. Judge Ochoa has the authority to sanction any party who does not attend the MSC either in person, or by telephone.

When available, a copy of Judge Ochoa's written Order regarding the MSC, and the mandatory attendance of all parties will be provided. Under any circumstances, Jerry Hobbs and David Young will be attending the MSC in person, and all other parties to the litigation are urged to attend in person. Judge Ochoa further stated that he would want to personally address the parties. The parties would have an opportunity, either through counsel, or personally to address Judge Ochoa. Since Judge Ochoa has yet to rule on the Motions now pending before him, the MSC should give everyone a more complete education on the realities of what it takes to actually engage in suction dredge mining in California, and the impact that the State's prohibition has had on suction dredge miners.

## **How To Identify Hot Rocks And Nugget Hunting**

When you are operating with your detector in the All Metal mode, the signal you receive from a hot rock will be the same, as you would receive from a metallic object. The signal is positive and unmistakably metal. Of course, you should first try to identify any target before digging.

Let us make clear again that identification of hot rocks and hot spots is no problem whatsoever to a modern, properly calibrated detector. The procedure for identifying mineral hot rocks (and hot spots) is a simple one, but it will require practice from you. To check to see if the "metal" response is metal or mineral, pinpoint your target with the detector in the all-metal mode. Then, move the search coil to one side, lower it slightly or set it on the ground and switch to the discriminate mode of operation, specified by the manufacturer as the calibrated level for ore sampling. Audio retune the detector, if necessary, according to manufacturer's instructions. Now, with a constant sound (threshold) coming from your detector, pass the search coil back over the target. Keep the search coil at the same distance from the ground, as just discussed. Maintaining constant search coil height may be difficult at first, but you can accomplish it with practice. If the sound level decreases (or goes silent), your target is magnetic iron ore or oxides. These are the only substances that will cause the signal to stop. When this happens, ignore the target, switch back into all metal and continue searching.

If, on the other hand, your signal increases or remains steady, the target should be investigated. Increase your variable discrimination control (usually by turning the knob clockwise) to determine the amount of conductivity in this target. This procedure makes it obvious why you should not attempt to prospect with a detector that has a fixed or programmed discrimination control. If you have previously practiced with varying discrimination, you already know the approximate point on the control where worthless pyrite and low grade (conductive) ore will be rejected. If you continue to receive a positive response after you have passed this setting, it is very possible that you have discovered a non-ferrous pocket, a vein of conductive ore or a nugget.

Hot rocks are “freaks” or “oddballs” of nature. They should not be where they are, and they should not cause your detector to react the way that it does. But, they do! Simply stated, however, hot rocks are “there,” and we must deal with them. With a properly calibrated detector that properly discriminates you can identify them quickly, and they will become to you exactly what they are to veteran prospectors-tolerable pests.

We recommend the all-metal mode. Most professionals do not use discriminate mode because even small amounts of discrimination can result in losing nuggets. Headphones are an absolute must in nugget hunting because the small size of many nuggets results in only faint audio signals. Adjust your audio for faint sound. Scan slowly and methodically to cover all areas of the ground. Be certain to move large boulders aside so that you can scan under them. Scan up against brush and other obstacles. If you find the ground extremely uneven and cannot maintain a constant search coil height, you may encounter problems with ground balance and ground mineralization. If so, simply elevate your search coil a few inches, set your manual ground balance controls at that height and continue scanning. You will not lose depth. In fact, because of the better quality of your audio, you may even detect nuggets more deeply and more accurately.

If the area you are searching is so littered with iron junk or hot rocks that it is really troublesome, experiment with small amounts of discrimination. Dig quite a few targets you detect at zero discrimination and study what you have found. Then use the discrimination techniques but advance your controls no farther clockwise that necessary to reject the most troublesome of your pests.

We suggest you manually adjust your detector for the most precise ground balance. If you like, try automatic ground balancing first. If, when scanning, the audio changes by an amount that, you feel, is too great, manually ground balance the instrument. Precise adjustment of ground balance will enable you to deal with ground mineralization more properly.

There is no magic to location nuggets! Nugget hunters are successful because they are willing to work hard and hunt for long hours. Try it. It will pay you dividends!

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You may have just struck it rich!

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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.

# Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet Third Thursday of  
each month, 7:00 pm at  
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