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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

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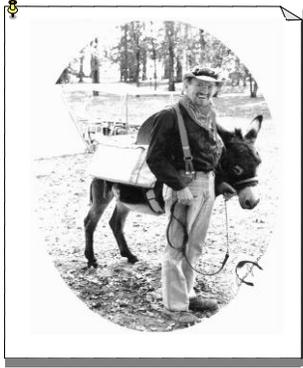
## Website

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



# WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

October 2014

**October Meeting**  
Thursday, October 16,  
2014 - 7:00pm

**October 11<sup>th</sup> - Beverly Beach**

**October 18<sup>th</sup> - Event Planning Committee**

**November – Officer Elections**

**November 8 – Metal Detecting Outing**

## President's Report

Hi All! I had a visitor knock on my front door the other day. When I opened the door I could feel the rage, and the humor go through my body all at once. Rage because this person had an Oregon Rivers Environmental badge on. The humor because I couldn't believe this fellow just knocked on my door. My first words out of my mouth after he introduced himself and my mind stopped spinning was, "you have just knocked on the wrong door buddy." I don't think he had gotten such a response from any of my neighbors because he was truly speechless for a moment. I did become more polite and talked with him about mining. He had no idea of our situation. He started asking me questions about who and why would be doing such things. He seemed to be pleased that we were actually removing heavy metals from the rivers and not adding to it. His own words said that the mercury that did get exposed from the bottom that is otherwise covered up gets moved around in anyhow when we have storms. I almost wanted to pat the guy on the back. He was there ultimately because of big businesses polluting waters in Oregon. I did talk to him also about all the lies and twisting of the truths to create what I call political science rather than true science. He didn't ask me to sign the petition, he just said he understood why I wouldn't. I was happy that he listened to the miners' side of things and I truly feel that he took in the info just because of the questions he was asking, and I was able to educate the other side just a little bit.

**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 continued

On another note, what is up with all the fish runs, I have heard little about it is in the news. I have heard through many of my fishing friends how the fish are so thick that they are snagging them left and right. I find it odd that they can injure 10 before they finally have that one legal catch to take home. I have been told that there freezers are getting full. It always seems to be that when it comes to dredging, we are destroying their eggs and habitat. Seems to me some people are getting it wrong.

Jeff Farrand

## Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2014

The September meeting was called to order by V.P. Mike Hunter. Eben Ray led all of us in the pledge of allegiance. There were no guests present this evening but there were 43 members in attendance. Thank you to the "treat team" for all the wonderful goodies--it was quite a spread. Ellen C. and Mike H. volunteered to bring the snacks for next month.

Jim P. read the treasurer's report for last month. The motion was made to accept the report as read. It was seconded and approved by vote. Jim also informed us that since 2011, WVM has contributed \$7543.00 to battle various political and legal issues that are affecting mining activities.

There were no comments about last month's minutes; a motion was made to accept them as submitted, it was seconded and approved by vote. Jeff also apologized for the web-site glitch last month.

We had a special program this evening thanks to Chuck Choate and Howard for contacting Lt. Dave Gifford of the Oregon State Police working in the Fish & Wildlife division. He is the supervisor for the S.W. Region and over sees operations of five sergeants and usually twenty seven troopers. They oversee the Rogue, Umpqua, Elk, and Sixes Rivers which are very popular areas for miners. Although not a miner himself, he kayaks, floats and fishes these waters

and has also experienced limitations and restrictions to access and use of some of the rivers, as have the miners. He has seen a significant increase in mining activity up until this year. Specifically when California imposed the anti-dredging moratorium there was quite an influx of miners from that state. A couple of years ago in the upper Rogue Basin on opening day of the in-water work period an office counted about 50 miners' vehicles from as many as 32 different states. Lt. Gifford then presented an edited slide show that is used as part of the officers' training program. We were shown examples of dredges in the water, scenarios that would create a warning or citation to the miner, and so forth. He has attended some of the Governor's study group sessions regarding SB838. He, along with others in the group, is trying to make sense of it all in order to make recommendations to the legislature. He admits it is a challenge to get the various interests groups to come to a consensus on anything but at the last meeting all did agree that this legislative session is going to be a "can of worms". His agency is asking for changes to the language in the law that would allow them to use their discretion in issuing violations versus citing a crime for mining offenses. He is trying to do the best he can to help us deal with a bad situation on new regulations the legislature is trying to impose. He would like it to be easy to understand, easy for the O.S.P. to enforce and have some common sense applied and that is a challenge in the political climate that we as miners are in. Most of the O.S.P./F.W.D. warnings and citations issued this year involve instances of violations regarding miners not having their DEG700 permits, having gas cans within 25 feet of a water way (often the cans are sitting on the dredge), leaving dredges untended in the water ways, and trespass. Some of the challenges they are dealing with come from DEG, DSL, ODFW, DOGAMI [Dept. of Geology & Mining Industry], Oregon Water Resource Dept., BLM, USFS, the county and its code enforcement people and others. And Jackson County has imposed a \$3500.00 fee for a land use permit, so it appears that county wants to shut down the miners with such exorbitant fees. All in all, this was a wonderful presentation from the law enforcement point of view, full of good information and much more than I can

include here. For those of you that could not attend the meeting, sorry you missed this.

From claims, Larry C. reported that he went to Vincent Creek recently and some folks had been there and left a bunch of garbage all around. He also found some really deep holes left behind that took him quite some time to fill in and he brought the garbage home. He stresses how important it is to fill the holes you make and pack out your trash. As miners, we are being scrutinized by others and things like this just give them fodder to use against us.

About the past outings; To the Golden Dollar, Larry C. said only three or four people were there doing some sluicing and they found a little color. No one went down to Dads Creek so nothing to report there. At Cedar Bend there weren't very many people. The water was shallow and the boulders were tricky but there was a little bit of gold found anyway.

Our upcoming outings include Beverly Beach on October 11. Meet at the day use parking lot at 10 am. Wes J. is the contact person and you can reach him at 971-563-5080 for more information. On October 18 is the annual planning committee. This is the time that the schedule is set for next year's events. Remember, we need your input! If you have any ideas or interests you would like to see happen let one of the board members know. Better yet, come to the meeting. Bring finger food, snacks, etc. The meeting will start at 10 am at Louie & Joan's home. From Salem, go south on I-5, take exit 242, go east 1.1 miles. You will see a WVM sign. You can contact them at 541-327-1210 for any further info. Mike H. has tentatively set a date in March 2015 for a tour of Whites Metal Detectors in Sweet Home that will be an interesting outing. On November 8 will be a metal detecting get-together. The time and place will be announced at a later date. Even if the pickings are slim we get to gab a lot and eat donuts.

In government affairs, Tom Q. stated the Forest Service was hosting a public meeting on September 23 to discuss road management in the Sweet Home and Willamette National Forest Dist. This would also include the Detroit area.

They are talking about closing even more road access in these areas. Hopefully, someone will have attended that and can give us an update on what the F.S. is up to now. As to the Governor's study group, we know that DSL, DEQ, environmental groups and others had a lot to do with senate bill 838. They have used a "wish list" to implement the language in this bill. There is one last meeting coming up on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the ODFW building. Tom would really like to see as many of us as possible to show up, even if you don't stay for the whole session. That would show the panel that we really are concerned about what is going on there and what they are doing. About the only thing that has been agreed upon is maybe reducing a misdemeanor to a violation, but whether the legislature will go along with that is unknown. The miners are so far outnumbered that we seem to get lost in the shuffle. He wants you to make sure that you have your proper permits and follow the rules and regulations because we are being watched.

In old Business, Jim P. is reminding everyone about the old panning tubs and stands. They are still available, and if anyone wants one you need to get it before he moves from the farm or they will end up in the land fill. Call him at 503-390-7327. Trudy S. says she has most of the pictures from the Quartsville Outing now on the WVM web-site. Take a look—you may even see yourself.

In new business, Tom B. said his son has staked 2 claims south of Cave Junction and has taken out some really big chunks of gold with his metal detector. He wants to turn the claim over to a mining group so they can have some fun detecting. Tom has suggested that whatever organization gets the claim they agree that one weekend a year be set aside to allow some other mining groups access to that claim. It is a hard to get to area, with a 2 mile hike in very steep [45 degree] terrain.

Remember, November is fast approaching and we need to elect new officers. So-- please step up and volunteer to fill one of these positions or make a nomination of someone you feel could fill a chair. Trevor Sheffield has been nominated for President but we need more people. Without officers, there is no association. WE NEED

YOU!

For good of the order, Chuck C. is urging all of us to get out and vote in the upcoming election. Take a close look at the candidates for Congress and Senate, our local candidates for the legislature positions and how important it is for the voters to get to the polls.

And the winner is---Louie F. presented the "Old Buzzard" to someone who teaches us about placer mining, who has been a promoter and faithful member of WVM for many years and someone who likes to help others find gold. And that someone is Wes Jeffers. Congrats, Wes!

A motion was then made to adjourn. It was seconded and approved by vote. Here's hoping to see you all next month. Patti P.

## Upcoming Events

The upcoming outings are:

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** - The outing to Beverly Beach that was scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> has been changed. So please note it will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Wes J. is the contact person and you can call him at 971-563-5080.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** - 2015 Club calendar committee meeting is Saturday, Oct 18th, 10am at Louie and Joan Frick's house. Directions: travel south on I-5, take exit 242 (Talbot Rd) then go east toward Jefferson, 1.1 miles, look for grey house with bright-colorful WVM sign at driveway. You have arrived at 1307 Talbot Rd, Jefferson and 541-327-1210 is the phone (if you get lost). Come with ideas and snacks/finger foods if you want munchies!

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** - metal detecting

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## Classifieds

For Sale: Mine Lab X-Terra detector, \$650. This is Minelab new model VLF detector especially good for small gold in mineralized soil. We purchased 3 of these in June 2014 that were used to find Josh's new nugget patch on the Oregon/California Border this summer. We found they were much better pin pointing than the expensive and deeper seeking PDI machines we also use. This one has been only used one day and has the smaller 9" coil, lots of warranty left. (9/14)Tom, Cascade Mts. Gold [503-606-9895](tel:503-606-9895).

# Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044  
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We Meet Third Thursday of  
the month, 7:00 pm at  
Marion County Fire Hall  
300 Cordon Rd NE  
Salem, OR

