



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

November 2014

November Meeting
Thursday, November 20,
2014 - 7:00pm

Officers

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

November – Officer Elections

December 6 – Christmas Party

President's Report

If members haven't winterized their equipment, don't forget to do it. This will help keep your equipment working at its best next season. Also if you have broken parts or upgrades, now is a good time to do it. I have been getting the itch to mine but with little time, shorter days and the cold, I have not been able to do anything about it. I have used the time to go through my classified materials. I think that I have finally found a piece of equipment that will go through my concentrates nicely; actually, I am very impressed with the results.

Reading and looking through maps and investigating on areas you would like to try out is good to be doing now also. I guess that what I am trying to say is, There are things you can still be doing in the off season to fill the mining need.

Jeff Farrand

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

October 16, 2014

The October meeting was called to order by President Jeff Farrand. Larry Coon led the members in the pledge of allegiance. There were 32 members and one guest in attendance. Thanks for coming folks.

Jim P. read the treasurer's report for last month. Howard C. made the motion to accept the report as read, Mike H. made the second and it was accepted by vote. Jeff F. asked if everyone read the last months minutes and if there were any comments. There were none. Howard C. made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Mike made the second and they were accepted by vote.

From claims Larry C. stated that there was nothing new to report. Joan F. said that she and Louie went on the mine tour along with some members of Mid Valley Prospectors. Apparently, they are the new owners of the "Old Farts Dream" claim, so for your information, we no-longer have permission to access that claim anymore.

Jeff asked if anyone had any issues with the newsletter. No one did, but Jim P. mentioned that if you submit items that are copyrighted by some other source that could be infringement. Joe G. is going to send us a disclaimer that can be included in the newsletter, but you should always credit the original author.

About the past outing to Beverly Beach Tammy R. said "what happened at Beverly Beach, stays at Beverly Beach". Wes J. said about 12 people showed up but it was a short weekend thanks to Mother Nature. There were some big old sneaker waves that drenched everyone so they decided to pack up and quit early. He didn't see anyone with gold but someone found some at the bottom of their bucket of sand they brought back home. Tammy said it was "memorable"--probably because one of those waves picked up a log and rolled it on her. Hope your bruises are healing.

Jeff brought a rock he got from a mine claim (with permission of course) that he thought looked interesting. When he got it home and washed the mud off, guess what? There was a nice little piece of gold attached.

For our last monthly outing there will be metal detecting on November 8 at 10 a.m.. It will be at Bush Park and we will meet in the parking lot on the south side of Mission Street and Winter Street below the Soap Box Derby racetrack. Jim Perkey is your contact person and you can reach him at 503 390-7327.

On December 6 is our annual Christmas Party at the fire hall. If you would like to help with the setup and decorating meet there at 10 a.m.. A potluck lunch will be held at 12 o'clock. After our meal there will be an optional gift exchange and maybe a little thievery too. Please limit your gifts to \$10.00 or less. Then a game or two of bingo with prizes (if you're feeling lucky.) It's always nice to sit and visit and groan because we ate too much. We always have fun so please try to come.

Karen D. from Stream Savers had a nice front page write-up in the latest edition of Pick and Shovel from the GPAA. Congrats to Karen and Dave. Their venture, Stream Savers, is moving right along she said. They are getting ready to do a promotional video of mining operation and a restoration project along with the Douglas County Prospectors Assoc. They have been working on the vision and mission statement. They are also offering two 8 hour management courses as a fund raiser. She also said that she and Penny E. have been holding signs at street corners trying to influence people not to vote for our current Governor. He is definitely not on our side of this mining issue.

For government affairs, Tom Q. wants to thank those of you that attended the Governor's Study Group session. Gary E. spoke at the final session and Mike H. passed out a not too kind letter to those officiating. Tom feels that nothing much was accomplished during all these months. The only thing agreed up on was to keep some mining infractions as a violation instead of a misdemeanor. But if you are sited repeatedly for the same thing then you could face a \$6,250.00 fine and a year in jail. Yikes! At the study group, we miners were greatly outnumbered by other special interest groups that are anti-mining in general, so it wasn't a fair fight. But we can only hope to get a fair shake in the final report that goes to the Governor. In general he feels it was pretty discouraging and a waste of the taxpayers' money and people's time. And he is really hoping that someone in our

membership will step up and take over the Government Affairs position this year. Mike H. has been involved a lot but this job certainly could use more than one person.

Mike H. suggested that WVM should join the PLP group (Public lands for the People). The dues are \$100.00 per year and it would give them needed support. Howard C. made the motion that WVM should join the PLP and after discussion a second was made and the motion was approved by vote.

In old business ---REMEMBER--- next month, November 20 is election of officers. We need you!! Would you be willing to take a chair for one year? Amy Allen has volunteered to be secretary. Thank you! Rick Stepper might be interested in the treasurer's position, but that is two out of four seats. Nominations will be taken before the election along with anyone who wishes to volunteer, so let's step up folks for our association.

Wes J. presented the "Old Buzzard" to a member who has been with this association for some time, who tells us what to do and how to do it right, and is always there to help us out. And "Momma" Trudy is the lucky recipient! Congratulations!

In new business, Lloyd B. told us that Pietro's Pizza has a meeting room that can be available to us for our monthly meetings. There is no charge but some people have reservations due to amenities and noise. Jeff said he would check into it further to see if it is suitable for our use.

With that, a motion was made to adjourn, it was seconded and approved. See you all next month November 20th. Patti

Upcoming Events

Election of Officers-November 20th

Christmas Party-December 6th

2015 Calendar

We need members' input on the events list at the Nov meeting. If you have other places you would like to go or things you would like to do as a group please let us know.

Jan

17th Rice Museum – The Fricks

Feb

21st Metal Detecting – Jim Perkey/Gary Schrader

Mar

20th Tour Whites Metal Detecting manufacturing (Friday) – Mike Hunter

April

4th Beverly Beach – Wes Jeffers

17-19th Rickreall Rock and Gem Show – Howard Conner/Jim Perkey

May

23-25th Vincent Creek - ??

June

?? Quartzville Miners Rendezvous w/potluck and games – Howard Conner

6th Metal Detecting – Bush Park - ??

July

3-5th Dads Creek – Howard Conner

? Bohemia mines tour – Jeff Farrand

Aug

Member's choice

Sept

19 & 20th Cedar Bend - ??

Oct

3rd Beverly Beach – Wes Jeffers

18th Committee Meeting to set up 2015 calendar – TBA

Nov

7th Metal Detecting – TBA - ??

Dec

5th Christmas Party

All of these are subject to change

Member's Corner

Pocket Gold Report: Fall 2014
By Tom Bohmker

This summer was a good one for a small pick & shovel gold miner finding small quantities of high grade ore and specimen crystalline gold. We had good reports from two areas of SW Oregon and two locations in the southern Washington State Cascades that had production of eye catching gold. Further and a first ever on my watch from the Quartzville Area of the Central Oregon Cascade Range with two different projects that show good to excellent potential. All of these were not new discoveries but of ore left behind, blank veins of quartz with occasional gold masses, prospects covered up with hill side sluff or adjacent to historical diggings. Several were from well known properties and one was a small prospect long overlooked.

More News from the Briggs Pocket

As detailed in earlier newsletters, my son Josh and partners located an historic pocket diggings "The Briggs Pocket" in the high wild border country between Cave Junction, OR and Happy Camp, CA. The small pit some 20' long and 5 feet deep had yielded about 1,700 ounces of chunky, porous pocket gold in a two week period in 1904. Back then this discovery touched off a localized gold rush for several seasons and was detailed by numerous local and national newspaper coverage. Apparently since about 1907 the prospect had been little visited or prospected and considered "worked out". Metal detecting starting in June of this year on the "trace" of eroded gold down the hill from the discovery on the first day yielded one piece of quartz float showing smaller bunches of crystalline gold were recovered. Later more was found ranging from raisin sized bits to baseball sized quartz float with nice seams of porous gold here and there.

Oct 12 2014: Josh reports that he is finished for the season and will start working again for the Treehouse Resort doing construction this winter of new tree house rental units and spending the winter in the Cave Junction area. During his last time out to the Briggs Pocket in October he was alone when he suddenly heard the approached of unknown visitors. At a distance the leader announced himself "I'm coming over, don't shoot!" and presently

appeared out of the old growth on the 45 degree slope. Josh had just detected a "cornflake" sized chunk of gold, quickly he hid it under a rock and was more than a little tense while trying to appear calm and cool but eyed his pack nearby with his wife's grandma's old Winchester '94, just in case. A solitary figure, armed with a pistol on his chest suddenly appeared out of the old growth timber nearby and stopped at 100 paces on this isolated claim. The conversation started with Josh's inquiry about if they were hunting animals (No, the fellow explained they were gold prospectors with detectors). Josh informed them of his claim filing and where the boundaries were. When asked the visitor explained the route they had followed from the distant road apparently following GPS coordinates. The uninvited visitor showed respect and withdrew off the claims but Josh could hear them talking above through the trees with his associates, off the claims. He could hear the prospecting party discuss that Josh was detecting, digging holes, and what brand of detector he was using. Of course at this point word had gotten around the mining community of the strike and photos of baseball sized pieces of quartz with seams of gold on them had circulated around. Josh considered leaving and avoiding any confrontation but decided to keep detecting and watching out for his claims but all the while thinking "are they watching me?". He turned the volume down very low on detector so as to be able to hear the now unseen but still close by unknown visitors or let them know what he was finding. Very close to his previous discovery hole Josh found a golf ball sized piece of quartz showing some gold and sometime later at the end of the afternoon after digging a 2' deep hole, under a nail found a final nice piece of quartz showing some good gold. When his pick struck it instead of the clang clang sound of steel on hard rocks it went a soft "thud" sound and eventually when cleaned showed the pick mark on the gold. It was nervous to find such nice gold knowing uninvited, possibly dangerous visitors were close by. Later we learned they are OK people, friends of mining acquaintance Kerby Jackson. Of course Josh did not know this but no doubt wondered if these guys were crazy with gold fever. Finally after he heard them leave late afternoon he cautiously packed out. It was an exciting day with the sudden visitors but finally 3 nice gold specimens.

From the Mt. Reuben Area Kirby Jackson writes:

As for the pocket we found, it was in a historic prospect along the greenstone contact in the old Mount Reuben district. The tunnel had been sloughed closed for years, but there was a local rumor that an old timer had intended to patent that claim and had made a strong enough discovery to pass marketability. My suspicion was that some very good ore had been left in place intentionally to meet the validity requirements. After getting the adit open, a Teknetics G2 detector got strong hits in a grey-red seam running next to a quartz vein within fifteen feet of the portal. Those hits turned out to be little nodules of rusty calcite shot through with free gold. Host rock was a very rotten metasediment (possibly an argillite) that eventually altered into typical greenstone. We then concentrated on extracting the seam (varied from a half inch wide to 6 to 8 inches wide in places - pinching and swelling). We'd dump the bag across a wooden table (free of any metal) and then pick out the pieces that sounded off on the G2 to be hand mortared. (In hindsight, we should have just cleaned them up good, because I smashed a couple nice quartz gold nuggets). We took the rest back to the Lower Applegate to mill. On the + 20 mesh stuff we did about 1.25 troy pounds. With the fines (still not processed, but we had them XRF'd), I'd guess the final total will break two troy pounds.

From Charlie the Pocket Hunter in Washington:

Washington State is known to have gold deposits that are scattered with few concentrations of larger gold particles and pocket gold. A well know exception is the Liberty area west of Wenatchee but other areas have yielded sizable gold in recent times to detectors. Two area in SW Washington yielded nice gold to "Charlie" the pocket hunter. First the McCoy Creek area south of Randle, WA has long been known to have many veins and masses of pyrites on the surface, many of which are auriferous, that is gold bearing. At times in the oxidized zones the gossan contains larger masses of gold, some of it quite porous. Other samples show solid visible masses of gold mixed with large sized pyrite crystals or masses of crystals. A second area east some 15 miles from Randle on high way 12 towards Yakima is the Summit Mining District. A number of small lode mines are in the general area and the placers on Morse Creek were rich in places and produced nuggets in the 1/20 ounce to 1/2 size. A couple of years ago several people called me wanting more information on the area. I could not find many details of the lode mines. Just recently, when rereading the info I noticed references to "numerous small parallel veins on Pick Handle ridge". Perhaps it was one these small prospects that "Charlie the Pocket Hunter" started detecting on this past summer. Starting just with an inexpensive Falcon and later a full sized detector, he found occasional small masses of gold in the quartz otherwise blank with gold. Other pieces show hollow inclusions partially filled with clusters of wire gold resembling the bird nest gold so desired by collectors. A piece of quartz 4" long with nice wire gold in it was sold for 10 figures. In places he has excavated using a generator and electric rock breaker. Charlie also prospected at the McCoy Creek area and found in the other ubiquitous exposures of veins of pyrite certain spots which the detectors hit on and turned out to be free gold hidden in the pyrites. One nice specimen was found where the sulfide veins crossed Mc Coy Creek. Although in the hand sized sample shown me you could not see any gold it signaled very loud in one place. This wire gold specimen recently found in SW Washington was about 3" long.

From the Quartzville area in Oregon Cascades:

The Quartzville area is well known as a premier recreation mining area as large sections of a productive placer creek has been designed for recreational panning and dredging with many areas open to Camping. The lode mines of the area were generally small, with somewhat discontinuous veins which did yield small quantities of fair grade ore here and there. Large nuggets to 3 ounce have been found in the creeks in recent years showing the potential. This summer while at the Willamette Valley Miners club event when they all meet at a campground WVM member Trevor and I decided to prospect some of the old lode diggings. I knew where a trail heads up a steep slope to some old workings and had written the story of the last old time miners, the AHO brothers and their tragic end at one of their underground passages. In one of the old adits we identified a rusty narrow vein with very little quartz some ¼” wide to a few spots of 2” wide in greenish andesite country rock. The pyrite and other sulfide minerals had oxidized down to rusty red mud and it panned very well with showings of little colors of gold. A bulk sample of 2 x 5 gallon buckets yielded 1/10 ounce of gold, well over 2 ounces per ton. The vein continues in the drift for some 150’. Since it is very narrow this could not likely develop into anything big but could yield a few tons of the rich ore by hand work.

Later Trevor got together with a prospector “Joe” I know who had made a surface discovery at an old prospect also in the Quartzville area on deeded land. Joe obtained permission from the owners to prospect. Apparently a discovery pit exposing a 2’ wide zone of oxidized ore was never worked out. Perhaps it was left to entertain stock holders or for the validity requirements as mentioned above at Mt. Reuben prospect. A drift tunnel some 30’ shows sulfides but no enrichment and continues on a shear zone for hundreds of feet. The conclusion is that the oxidized gossan showing small colors, wires, small dendritic leaves of gold and small (2mm) clumps of tiny wires will not be very deep but should be mined out. They have ordered a small impact mill, Trevor has a Gold Cube for concentration. In Late October Trevor packed in a Generator set and a new electric rock breaker and in a couple of hours broke up tons of the ore zone. In doing so his pin point detector gave some strong signals on certain rocks. One when carefully washed in a tub later was show to have one face with numerous 2 to 3 mm size clumps of wire and leaf gold with quartz crystals. This is nicest high grade piece of lode ore I have ever seen come out of this mining district in modern times. Everyone has a dream and Trevor and Joe hope to be pouring a gold bar soon.

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Mining books, where to find gold, Falcon and Fisher Detectors
Book publishers and small mining consultants

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).

WANTED: Newsletter Editor. Please consider taking over the newsletter. All you need is a computer with Microsoft Word and the knowledge to use it. It is mostly just cut and paste.

Willamette Valley Miners

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