



Upcoming Events:

August 12th: Metal detecting Outing

September 8th-10th – Richardson's Ranch Outing

Meeting Minutes June 15, 2017

Hello-hello! Tonight's meeting was called to order by Pres. Jim P. who also led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were only 25 members present and three visitors this evening as per the sign-in sheet. Thank you all for the delicious cookies tonight. Howard and I will be the “cookie crew” next month.

Rick S. gave us his Treasure's report for the month of May. Howard C. made the motion to accept the report as read, Mike H. made the second and the motion was passed by vote.

Howard C. made the motion to accept the May meeting minutes as published in the last newsletter, Mike H. made the second and that motion was passed by vote. Gary S. and Howard both received phone calls from some of our “life-time” members stating that they have not been getting their newsletters. Rick said he would look into that. So to all, it is important to fill out the membership application each year whether you are a life-member or renewing your membership or have had a change of mailing address or e-mail address.

For the Claims report Larry C. wants to remind all of you to get your claim assessment papers to him. These show BLM what work has been done at the WVM claims, be it cleaning up, clearing trails, time spent mining at the claim, etc. They need to be submitted September 1st so get them to Larry in a timely manner. .

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Minutes –continue

Also on another note, we were informed by a member that our claims were not properly deeded. After much study Larry and Jim P. went to BLM in Portland and met with the person who oversees all mining claims in Oregon. After explaining our situation, she checked our records and said the only issue we need to address is with Sour Dough Pete. There needs to be four other signatures on that claim and four members have volunteered to do that. According to regulations each entity can only claim 20 acres, although there are certain circumstances where that doesn't apply. One of our members brought up the subject of liability while on a WVM claim. On the membership form, which you must agree to and sign, is a statement releasing WVM and /or any member from any damage. But since a member can bring a guest to a claim Jim thinks it wise to have a signed waiver from that guest. This subject will be discussed further at another meeting.

Reporting on our past outing to Vincent Creek Rick S. said there were 14 members there. Jeff F. found a very nice nugget, a couple actually, and some small gold, some of which was covered in mercury. Rick's son-in-law found a little nugget, Rick got a couple of “pickers” and some small stuff. All had a good time, a good pot-luck lunch, and the weather was decent. And the ticks made their presence known this year. Yuck!

Our up-coming events are a metal detecting outing on August 12th. Gary S. and Jim usually head these up but neither will be able to attend. So member Gary Earl volunteered to take over. He will notify us at the July meeting of the time and place to meet. On September 8th-10th there is an outing to Richardson's Ranch in Prineville. This will be an opportunity to look for

thunder eggs and opals. This sounds like fun. Joan Fricke will fill us in with more details at the July meeting.

Mike H. related that other than Yellow Bottom and Miners Meadow road-side camping spots will be for day use only. BLM probably got tired of having to deal with safety issues and cleaning up garbage.

Rick brought in some more prizes that WVM won as part of the 1/2# gold draw. Another “big” knife, a digger shovel, a 1 oz. Silver bar, a nugget donated by Josh Bohmker, and a high-banker. These will be raffled off at up-coming meetings. The 1/2# gold was won by a lucky person in Alaska. Rick was also informed that WVM was the largest contributor to the legal fund. Well Done!

In Government affairs, Mike H. said he spent 5 hours at the Capitol this day. The Democrats are at each other and butting heads. He's been following the debates on the budget. Gov. Brown says she wants to enhance services for Veterans but ended up cutting the V.A. Budget by eight million dollars. What? When asked about that her office refused to comment. The legislative session closes July 10th but with such a fiasco going on there will have to be a special session called. He also talked about an organization called the National Mineral Association. They are working on the Federal level and have introduced bill HR520 (National Strategic & Critical Minerals Production Act) to Congress. We need some kind of Federal standards for mining in Oregon because the state has all but shut us down. Mike also talked about a letter written by Attorney James Buchell(?).

Minutes –continue

The letter was sent to those Republicans who voted for SB3 asking them why they voted as they did. Apparently that ruffled some feathers. The Republican Co-chairman sent a letter to James demanding an apology. His apology said because environmentalists filed lawsuit after lawsuit but could not prove any harm done to ban that activity under strict laws, they turned to Legislators where proof is not required. Supporting extreme environmental agenda is not what we want in our leaders. Wow.

Howard C. again reminded us of the importance of filling out a trip itinerary and giving it to a family member or neighbor. So if you don't return from your travels as scheduled they have an idea where to look for you. He also thanks all of you who help with the set-up and take-down of our meeting room. And lastly, a BIG congrats to our sweet Valerie for her promotion from 8th grade with straight A's. Good Job, Val!

That's all for now - hope to see you at the next meeting. Patti Perkey, Sect.

The 2017 Miner's Meadow outing is now in the history books and the 80 or so members and guests came in around 28 vehicles to make our encampment very memorable. Once again, many members helped set up the common area, brought/cooked food, participated in the ducky races, metal detecting, speed panning and poker chip contests. (Please see the Winners List) and generally had a really great time.

Evening fireside musical entertainment was provided by Jim Perkey, Gary Wolf, Howard Conner, Kathy Pickett and special guest John Doan and the harp/guitar. The harp/guitar creates a truly enchanting tone in the hands of the master, John Doan, who not only presented many songs, but also told of the history of the instrument for our great pleasure.

A special Thank You goes to our Chief Duck Wrangler, John Hefety, for braving the slick rocks and recapturing our 50 little quackers on both Saturday and Sunday races.

No rain, warm sun, cool breezes, terrific food and great friendships, can't get much better than that!!

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR!!

WVMA Minor's Meadow Rendezvous 2017

WINNERS LIST

WVM Supporting Staff & Event Leaders

Government Affairs

Mike Hunter
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Claims Committee

- Larry Coons
- Howard Conner
- Clifford Boren
- George Crutcher

Events & Outings

See *Events Calendar*

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You're invited to include articles, classified ads, promotional notes, and/or advertisements and pictures of events. Remember to have all newsletter material sent to me by the 25th of each month. Thanks!

CONTACT INFORMATION for event leaders in this issue:

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Jim Perkey 503-390-7327

Gary Schrader 503-859-3132

Don Esch 503-884-2501

Saturday Ducky Race:

1st Place: Jackson S.
2nd Place: Donna K.
3rd Place: Patti P.

Sunday Ducky Race:

1st place: Joe H.
2nd place: Larry C.
3rd Place: Joyce W.

Saturday Speed Panning: (Kids)

1st Place: Jarris J.
2nd Place: Carson K.
3rd Place: Emmet A.

Saturday Speed Panning: (Adults)

1st Place: Amy A.
2nd Place: Tim F.
3rd Place: Megan F.

Saturday Metal Detecting:

1st Pick: Gary - ring
adults

2nd Pick: Dee - star

3rd Pick: Jeff - flower

4th Pick: Loui - leaf

5th Pick: ****

6th Pick: ****

7th Pick: ****

8th Pick: Isaac most pennies - kids

HEC

9th Pick: Jeff most pennies

10th Pick: Gary most nickles

11th Pick: Ellen most trash

Special Picks: Valarie and Haily: Prize

!!NEWSFLASH!!!

Casey Kaiser the Executive Director of the Prineville Chamber of Commerce will be at the July Meeting. He will present a program on the various places to camp and maps/flyers, related to rock hounding in the Prineville area, during our July meeting, WVMA has an outing scheduled in September of that area.

Mining Report on WVM club members Trevor and Sam: by member Tom Bohmker 6/27/17

Many of the WVMA club members have proudly followed the mining careers of the younger members such as Trevor Sheffeld and Sam Seth. At least a decade ago Trevor's dad Les came to our club meetings and outings and they quickly learned the ropes of prospecting and suction dredging. Often Trevor would have technical questions and ask for help in identifying various rocks and minerals. After the two bought a little 2" suction dredge I started to notice that they came home with bigger nuggets than other club members using bigger and fancier equipment. After watching the duo dredge on an outing it was apparent that they moved a more gravel and pried out bigger bedrock boulders than anyone else: No wonder they found more. As a teenager Sam was helped by a long time senior club member and his wife gain some experience in how to chase gold and when Sam showed genuine interest he was given a mining claim and a good deal on a 4" dredge. As both of these young men approached adult hood they did the right things: went to college, got jobs, bought their own vehicles and more mining equipment but they continued to gain more experience in prospecting and mining. Note: Trevor cashed in a lot fine gold he had squirreled away to by a used 4 x4.

Fast forward a few years these two can really hold their own as “Journeyman Gold Dredgers” and are now in a position of helping others to learn the art and science of successful gold prospecting. They have helped out in the legal struggles at the state capitol. Sam has launched a series of prospecting videos on U-tube and has substantial fan base. You can visit his site by going to google: Sam Seth Mining Videos.

Meanwhile Trevor, after finishing a college course in machine shop and some summers into the late fall dredging Quartzville, Little North Fork of Sanitam, and Southern Oregon went to work for McCallum Rock Drilling, a commercial blaster. “I never thought I could get a job and get paid big bucks to blow things up” he is quoted as saying. Last summer he worked as a heavy equipment operator for a construction outfit and operated dozers, loaders, off road dump trucks. While those jobs are well paying and fit into the resume of someone pursuing a career in the mining industry he found a job that would move him into the heart of the mining in South western Oregon. Recently he became employed at the Out’n’About Tree House “treesort” near Cave Junction, OR which is just 15minutes away on all points of the compass from placer mining, pocket gold hunting and detector nugget shooting areas. Sam is planning to move down or at least spend considerable time at his promising claims in the Lower Briggs Creek Area.

Trevor has teamed up with my son Josh Bohmker, his wife Sarah and children in both producing mining videos and a guide on the tours put on by Josh called “The Prospectors Odyssey: Provisions for Discovering Gold” as mentioned in the April 2017 WVP newsletter. These one day excursions cover detector application, local mining history, in the field geology interpretation, and much more. Recently they released on the website several new videos including one entitled “Prospector Odyssey, How many holes can you dig in day? Follow Josh and Trevor as they dig and finally find a picker”. These are educational and made on location in a true, realistic fashion. Further when scouting out locations suitable to claim and use as an “out door class training area” Josh was following a trace looking for pocket gold when he chanced upon a hill side placer bench diggings in which lots of unworked gravel was left here and there. They tested the gravels and tailings in the winter and found color to picker flakes in most pans. Later in December Josh detected up a ¾ oz nugget the first day trying with a detector. On a recent visit we panned and sluiced they have some additional areas they claimed in the Alt-house Creek drainage area, one of the richest in the state.

Check out the Free Video to watch from our website: www.goldpannersguide.com. Of course Sam is going to working on his claims in Briggs Valley this summer and nearby at an old pocket mine Josh, Trevor and a geologist friend of our Mike are going use aero photographs with a stereoscope in an effort to help trace on surface fault lines in their quest for pocket gold. By this late fall we will have more new adventures to share and gold to flash around....we hope!.

Wanted: any parts of game (or other meats) that you might be wanting to unload from your freezer. This is for dog food, it can be old. I will share the bounty with likeminded friends if too much for my freezer. Text Michelle Coon 541-905-4748 or email lkjessie@comcast.net. More info at <https://corvallis.craigslist.org/wan/6175952737.html>

Club Seeks Gold for Purchase

30 mesh gold used in club fund raisers (gold bags) needed urgently. Will pay going rate-contact Treasurer, Rick at 503-507-8844

