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Tammy Sartuche
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Items for news letter in
by 1st of Month



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

January 2005

Next meeting
Jan. 20, 2005

President's Report

Greetings and a belated "Happy New Year." I'm really looking forward to 2005 unfolding and meeting more and more of our WVM members. I'm anticipating some really exciting times and hope we can all share in them together.

We're happy to announce that we have just added two more claims to our "collection." They're located on Dad's Creek, a tributary of Cow Creek in Douglas County and have been designated WVM#2 and WVM#3. It must be noted, however, that the former owners have filed over our paperwork. Accordingly, when we finish and distribute maps and information on the claims, there will be special instructions to our members that will need to be observed. More specific information will be shared at the January 20th general meeting. Please plan to attend. You'll notice we've planned an outing on the two new claims on July 16-17.

Included in this edition of the Newsletter is a survey we would like all members to participate in. The new officers and executive board are committed to building on the excellent tradition of serving our members. One way to help us achieve that goal is to know what we can do collectively to help in moving our club forward and helping it become even stronger. Participation in the survey is strictly voluntary. The information gathered and summarized will be available to club membership only! Please bring the completed survey to the January meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send the completed survey to my address listed at the end of the survey. Many thanks for your help in this effort.

The Executive Board met on December 29 at Denny's in Salem. Most of the discussion centered around the two new claims and preparation for the GPAA Gold Show in March and the Rickreall Rock and Gem show in April. We'll be asking for volunteers to assist in setting up, breaking down, and manning booths at both of these shows.

Among other things to be announced, we will be raffling a nugget at each monthly meeting this year. We're also getting close to drawing for the winner of the "Pin Pointer" metal detector and we're planning our next "big" item to be raffled off. Stay tuned.

Again, Happy New Year and I'll see you at the next meeting.

Paul

Outings/Events

Feb 5-6 Sportsman Show @ Expo Center – Portland

Meeting Minutes

Dec. 2004

Juel Russell, Secretary

WVM's annual Christmas party was held Saturday, December 11. There was plenty of food and fun. The event was well attended. It was nice to see people we only see at the party. The Russell family agrees that we enjoyed the entire party, but our favorites were Bingo and the gift exchange, especially all the stealing of gifts that went on! The slide show by Don H. and Diane S. was a nice wrap up to the year. Hopefully in 2005 more people will take photos at events and send them for the collection.

Dues are due for the New Year

Government Affairs update on DEQ's fourth draft 700J permit by Tom Quintal.

DEQ is proposing the following key changes to the permit.

- ❖ New turbidity limits.
- ❖ Clarify operation and work practices.
- ❖ Allow administration of the 700J through the Oregon Department of State Lands.

The permit committee believes the new turbidity requirements are not very easy to understand. The formula DEQ uses seems confusing at best. The new turbidity standard will allow suction dredging to occur in most streams that have always been open to dredging in the past and with a little more sediment discharge than the old 700J. Example, the 50 ft. width streams will allow up to a 400 ft. sediment plume compared to the old 300 ft. plume with expired 700J permit. One will need to check the proposed turbidity chart in the new permit, as the smaller 10 ft. width streams restrict you to a 100 ft. sediment plume.

The Best Management Practices are more restrictive regarding turbidity monitoring, dredging that will create organic or inorganic deposits harmful to fish, dredging 10 ft. outside of the active stream flow at the time dredging occurs, etc. etc. Fuel handling in case of spills now requires a polypropylene pad or other appropriate

spill protection. You are required to have safe fuel storage 25 ft. from a stream if possible. These are just a few of the added requirements. DEQ is requiring the new 700J NPDES permit to carry the Industrial discharge classification with all the high fines up to \$10,000 per day. Other fines include \$25,000 and 1 year in prison or both and another fine to include \$200,000 and up to 10 years in prison.

The Division of State Lands will most likely be the contact point for the new permit. It may be available on line or other agents may be selling the new permits, such as GI Joes, mining shops etc. The proposed fees in the 4th draft are Oregon residents \$25.00 per year or in lieu of annual fees, a short term 10 day permit is \$15.00. Non residents will pay \$40.00 per year and \$30.00 for a 10 day permit. All size dredges will pay the annual fee.

COMMENTS TO DEQ MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 11, 2005 by 5:00 PM.

To look at the proposed 700J permit with all materials attached, check DEQ'S website:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqpermit/ssmining/smallscalemining.htm>

You can send your comments to DEQ for Scott Manzano at Manzano.Scott@deq.state.or.us He would like comments right a way.

Public meetings will be held at the following locations.

January 26, 2005

5:00 pm. @ Oregon DEQ, 811 SW 6th Ave., Rm. 3A Portland, Or.

January 27, 2005

5:00 pm. Department of State Lands 773 Summer St. Suite 100 Salem, Or.

February 1, 2005

5:00 pm. Anne Basker Auditorium, 604 NW 6th St. Grants Pass, Or.

February 3, 2005 5:00 pm. Baker City Hall, 1655 First St. Baker City, Or.

See inside back page for more on the permit.

Willamette Valley Miners Member Survey - 2005

1. Name:

Spouse's Name:

2. Address:

3. City/State/Zip:

4. Telephone Number:

5. E-mail address:

6. Cell phone number:

7. Number and ages of children at home?

8. Equipment Owned/Used – **(circle all that apply)**:

- A. (P) Pan
- B. (S) Sluice
- C. (D) Dredge
- D. (H) Highbanker (Power Sluice)
- E. (C) Dredge/HB Combo

9. Primary “mining” interest – **(circle all that apply)**:

- A. (G) Gold mining/prospecting
- B. (M) Metal detecting
- C. (R) Rock hounding

10. Do you own your own claim(s)? **Yes or No**

11. Are you interested in acquiring your own claim(s)? **Yes or No**

12. Are you interested in a claim(s) partnership? **Yes or No**

13. Are you looking for a ‘regular’ mining partner? **Yes or No**

14. Are you retired or still working? **Retired or working**

15. How often do you engage in your mining interest?

16. Number of years experience in prospecting? _____

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

17. List other interests, talents, and hobbies you currently engage in?

18. What was or is your current occupation?

19. Would you like to be contacted by phone or email shortly before an outing, event, and/or general meeting is scheduled? **Yes or No**

For our regular monthly meetings during the year 2005, please list program topics you think would be of interest to our club. Please suggest anyone (inside or outside our club) who might be able to offer such program(s).

For the year 2005, please list any topics you'd like to learn more about in a half or full day "workshop-like" setting – for example: "Learning how to use the computerized BLM LR/2000 claim locating system." Please suggest anyone who might be able to offer such a workshop.

Please comment or suggest ways in which you think our club can increase meeting attendance, encourage greater outings participation, promote more sharing between and among members, and/or promote the overall well-being of our club and its members.

Thanks so much for assisting your club by participating in this survey.

Mail to:

Paul Messersmith
1007 37th Avenue SW
Albany, OR 97321

Please Help

We need your help in getting DEQ to come up with a 700-J dredging permit we can live with by having you and your family each write a letter to your State Senator and Representative asking for their help in this matter. Be sure to sign it with your name, mailing address and phone number.

(Don't tell them that you are affiliated with any mining association or club. Write your letter as an affected and concerned miner.)

Some ideas on points to cover:

1. Tell your legislator's that you have mining interests in their area. That makes your problem theirs.
2. Tell them that you will have trouble complying with DEQ's proposed permit as it is very confusing and you need their help to make it better. Let them know the miners of the state have been working with DEQ for months and still don't have a workable permit.
3. Tell them about how clean and environmentally friendly dredging is. That we have many case studies done by different agency's stating we do no harm that we can show them.
4. How fish feed around the dredge as you are working and in the heat of the summer they go to the bottom of the dredge holes in the cooler water and also spawn in the loose gravels from the dredging activity.
5. How dredges remove mercury, lead and other pollutants from the water ways.
6. How dredgers buy supplies and spend money that go into and supports the economy and small business in Oregon. We also bring new money to the economy with the gold we find.
7. Tell them that miners from other states come to Oregon and spend money while dredging and prospecting the rivers and creeks of the state.

If we do not prevail in this confrontation with DEQ we can expect a tightening of all state regs pertaining to the environment. This permit not only affects dredging, if we loose this round the water turbidity set by DEQ will be a standard that all mining will have to deal with. We need all our Legislators to become aware of the magnitude of

small miners here in Oregon. Already some of our Legislators have been in touch with miners wanting to know what is going on----- **Please take the time to write a one page letter. Keep mining alive in Oregon.**

This news letter is shorter and missing the business card/for sale page because the copier has stopped working and we have to pay to have it copied. We are hoping to have it up and running by next month. Also our news letter editor lost the power supply in her computer so if you sent in something for the news letter she may not have gotten it.

Remember to bring your raffle items to the meeting.

We use the money from the raffle to help pay the cost of putting out the news letter. The more we make on raffles the longer we can go with out raising our club dues.

Miners Moss Screen No Name

For a lightweight screen to fit over you miner's moss, I have found that plastic rain gutter guard is lightweight and at 6 inches is about perfect for a minislucce or mini high banker.

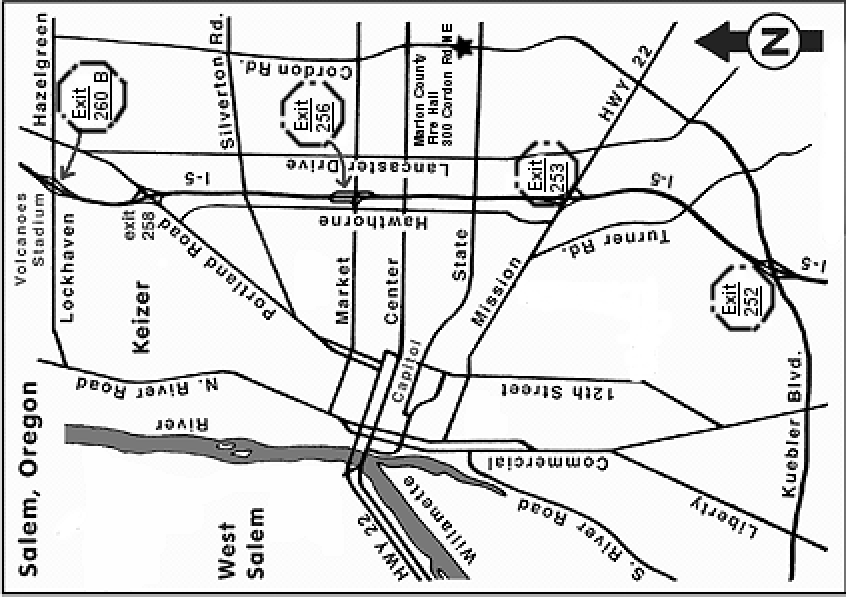
Riffle Material From Spyder, Oregon

In the sewing/crafts department of the local Wal-Mart or similar department stores you can find a material I believe is called crochet canvas or something to that effect. Essentially, it is a 12 inch square piece of Plastic screen which fits nicely between the carpet and riffles of a sluice box. It greatly increases the recovery of fine gold.

A loaded mini van pulled in to the only remaining campsite. Four children leaped from the vehicle and began feverishly unloading gear and setting up the tent. The boys rushed to gather firewood, while the girls and their mother set up the camp stove and cooking utensils. A nearby camper marveled to the youngsters' father, "That, sir, is some display of teamwork."

The father replied, "I have a system; no one goes to the bathroom until the camp is set up."

We Meet at
Marion County Fire Hall
300 Cordon Rd NE
Salem OR



Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044
Salem OR 97309-1044