



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

Volume II Issue 9
September 2013

SW Washington Gold Prospectors

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August Raffle Winners — by Kameron Mitchell

Ron Tompkins was the August gold nugget winner. (I apologize for misspelling your name in the past, Ron. My fingers have a mind of their own sometimes.)

Linda Williams was the winner of the amethyst; Ernie Stinson won gems; and John Rogers won the George Massie commemorative coin.



Ron Tompkins



Linda, Ernie, and John L to R

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Go for the GOLD — by Linda Williams

I'm so proud of our club. We co-sponsored a great celebration at the Longview WA Library on July 30th. It was the end of the summer reading program at the public libraries in Castle Rock, Kalama, Kelso and Longview. This summer's theme was "Dig into Reading." And the day's event was correctly called "Go for the Gold!" Over 500 kids and their families attended the celebration.

We even made the front page of the Longview Daily



Treasure is found

News, written by Roger Werth. Two pictures were in the paper: Crystal Hutson, 9, and her

mother, Ada, look over a charm, a buffalo nickel and a wheat penny they found in the lawn of the Longview library Tuesday with help from Bill Tatum, a member of the Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors. In the second photo: Justice



Gold brings a smile

Eden, 7, of Longview, shows off a vial of gold that he panned in an interactive river model.

Tom Fest brought the idea to our club several months ago. It took off like gold fever. Our members believe education is really important and we really proved it at Longview. Thirty club members, a group from Gold Bar, WA, White's Metal Detecting and D&K Prospecting

participated as well as other local sponsors. Several members brought a dredge, high banker, Gold Cube, Blue Bowl, sluice boxes and several different styles of classifiers. We showed the kids and their families how we use the equipment and answered questions. We emphasized that mining is good for the rivers and fish.



Tom Fest demonstrates panning

We set up ten Gold Panning Stations consisting of big tubs with water in them. (Continued on page 5)

Retorts - Letters to the Editor

To All Club Members:

So long, fair well, auf wiedersehen, adieu. Goodbye, goodbye, to you and you and you. (Pretend the Von Trapps are singing and I am not !!!)

Yes, as promised, Rosalie and I are leaving this area. We are still uncertain as to exactly when, but it is going to occur. We are looking for an RV and we may have a new home selected, contingent upon the sale of our home here. This is my last news-letter, and if you vote to accept Linda Williams as temporary treasurer, this is my last month as Treasurer for you.

This month may be our last meeting. We are sorry to be leaving all the good friends we've made here in the club. We are also sorry for "sticking" some of you with our jobs we volunteered to do for you. But, as they say, life goes on.

If you happen to be visiting the Las Vegas area, please give us a call, 360-909-8888. We may go into the desert to do some desert prospecting or we can just visit, as you like. Gambling in town will be up to you!

We hope to see you out in the gold fields somewhere in the future, maybe even Alaska!!

May you always have smiles on your faces and gold in your hearts.

Blessings to all.

Kameron & Rosalie Mitchell

D Y K ??? "Did You Know"

- It may take from 300,000 to 400,000 specks of gold to make an ounce!!!
- 1 grain = 0.06479891 gram or 15.5 grains = 1 gram
- 24 grains = 1 penny weight
- 20 penny weight or 480 grains = 1 ounce
- 12 ounces = 1 pound

Note: These weights are using the Troy system. Compare 437.5 grains per 1 ounce avoirdupois.

Promising Prospects — Outings & Events

Upcoming Meetings:

September 8, 2013 October 13, 2013
November 10, 2013 December 8, 2013

Upcoming Outings and Events:

Aug 30 - Sept 2 Blue Moon Claim Outing
Sept 13 - Sept 15 D&K Dredging class at Copper Creek
Dec 8 - Christmas party

SWWGP OUTINGS

Aug 30-Sep 2 - Blue Moon Claim Outing. Contact Al Lewis for details at 971-235-8308.

A dredging class is scheduled to be given by D&K detectors on **September 13 through 15**. This schedule is subject to change. The class will take place on Steve Lewin's claim on Copper Creek. If you need directions to the claim, please contact Kameron via email (kameron.m@comcast.net). Opportunities to dredge may be given to some of the participants. Come out to learn about this ecologically friendly way to retrieve placer gold.

A beach mining outing may be in the works. The outings chair will give more details if, when, and where it will happen.

Check us out online at www.swwgoldprospectors.org

Concentrates — Meeting Minutes Highlights

Business Meeting 7/14/13 (unofficial minutes)

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A total of 60 persons, including 3 visitors and guests, signed the attendance sheets.

The secretary read the minutes of the July regular meeting and they were approved as read.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Assistant Safety officer Dave Greer cautioned everyone that if bitten by a snake, you need to identify it. If necessary, kill it and bring it in for identification. Venomous snakes have slit eyes while non-venomous snakes have round eyes. All snakes can swim, but do not like to bite under water. For those allergic to bees, you must provide your own prescription medication. To be safe, be sure to get prompt first aid if you get a cut, as it can get infected through contact with river water.

Librarian Ernie Stinson stated that donations are always appreciated, including those about the history of mineral prospecting.

Sunshine Person Becky Beck reported that one card has been sent out to a member.

Webpage now has updated pictures and outing information.

Newsletter editor Kameron Mitchell reported that Linda Williams will be taking over as editor, and that she would appreciate help with stories and other articles for the newsletter.

Equipment manager Dave Greer reported that the club now has new tubs and pans, which were used at the Lewisville event. He will try to set up a panning class after next month's meeting. Equipment can be loaned out between meetings to members in good standing.

Facebook Linda Erickson reported that she is working on getting the club logo on the web page.

Unfinished Business

1. The application for our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status is nearly complete, with a few details to be obtained from the board. The application should be ready to be mailed this week.
2. The annual barbeque potluck outing will be at Lewisville Park this Saturday. Those helping with set-up should get there no later than 9:30, with lunch around noon. Gates open at 7:00. Take the second road to the right to park for the picnic shelter. Those having difficulty walking distances can take the first road to the right for a shorter walk to

the picnic shelter. Participants who have not signed up for a specific food item are encouraged to bring a salad or dessert.

The secretary described the requirements for membership.

Education Chair Myron Hastings gave a presentation on Taking Steps to Treasure. He advised that you continue using your current process if you are getting coarse gold. If not, get a hollow tube with a T-handle at the top to push down into the sand to see if coarse gold can be found deeper. Also use a crevice tool to get into cracks, and watch for quartz alongside the stream. Try to envision what the stream looked like 300 years ago. Find a bench for that level and search with a metal detector within the six inches above that level. You can use a metal detector at old home sites, going out 180 degrees from all four corners to possibly locate gold caches, which are normally not more than two feet deep. Multnomah county libraries have maps from the 1800s showing house sites.

Announcements

1. No highbankers with gas motors may be used at the Lewisville outing, but electric

motors are okay.

2. There will be an outing the third weekend of September for the dredge class, weather permitting. Camp at Sunset Falls campground if possible.

3. There will be an outing at the Blue Moon claim out of Sweet Home (Al and Judy's claim) on Labor Day weekend. You must have your own Oregon permit if you intend to use a highbanker.

4. After prospecting at a GPAA claim, regardless of in what state the claim is located, be sure to turn in a mining report. GPAA relies on claim reports to determine the amount of use for each claim.

5. Tom Fest thanked everyone who participated at the Longview Library event. He estimated that more than 500 kids and their parents attended the event.

6. Due to fire season, be sure to check that roads are open if you are going into back country. Also check whether use of motorized equipment is allowed.

The gold Massie coin was won by John Rogers. The gold nugget was won by Ron Tompkins. Gemstones were won by Linda Williams and Ernie Stinson.



SWWGP 2013 Annual Picnic - By Becky Beck

A beautiful day for a picnic. I'm writing this story because Bill Ray and his wife Laura are mingling in with the crowd today. Their faces have been seen all over the place. I still can't seem to get a hold of them. They must be having a great time.

Now for the rest. First Off, I'd like to thank everyone for coming out to the Annual Picnic. And many thanks to Linda Williams for having made name tags for everyone to wear. It was much easier to put a name with a face and remember them. I think we learned a few names now. I know I did.

A big thanks to all those who helped set things up and tear down after all was over. The picnic was a great success. There was lots of delicious food from everyone. GOOD JOB! Can't wait till next year's picnic.

A couple of speeches were given before the games began from Al Lewis and Steve Lewin. Steve presented Bob and Ellie Tillbrook each with a gold nugget for their dedication and for their craftiness on making things for the Club and donating their time to helping others. They were speechless. I know first-hand that they will cherish them always. Thank you Club for being a part of that.



Hey guys! Look over here!

Ok, let the games begin! Whoever wanted to play horseshoes had to draw a number. Steve and Dale took a little convincing to play but finally came around. Steve and Chris Beck picked the same numbers, and Dale and Karl had the same numbers as well as Rosalie Mitchell and Keven. The ones that had all the luck in picking their numbers were husband and wife Anthony and Michelle Loveall. And as for me, I stepped in and helped out other teams when needed; although I don't think I helped them very much. My shoes were way up in the air. Let's just say more than they should have been. And poor Ernie Stinson, I think we were aiming right at him. Ok, mine went that way. Sorry Ernie!! I'll practice some more. A lot more.

Steve and Chris took 1st place so they get bragging rights for this year. Anthony and Michelle came in 2nd place. But look out for next year's competition, 'cause they really know how to work those shoes. The two old Vets totally felt the challenge but definitely held their honor. Way to go Guys!!



Horseshoe winners

The two teams that were fighting to hold on to 3rd place? Well, let's

just say that they are still tied for 3rd. I was taking a bathroom break. SORRY! The teams were Rosalie and Keven vs. Dale and Karl. Pending till next year. But I think the play of the day goes to Jonah. The look on his face when he got his first ringer was priceless.

Now it's on to BINGO! We had quite a few players on this as well. The funny thing was, I told Greg Frisella that he was going to win the Blackout Nugget and lo and behold, he did just that. You should have seen my face. I was surprised. Better yet, Greg was a happy man! There were lots of great prizes given out at both games.



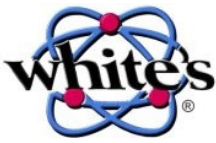
Judith Skagen, Greg, & friends

Thanks everybody. Steve really did a fantastic job. His cooking wasn't so bad either. Well the picnic has come to an end. I almost forgot, thank you Jim Erickson for that wonderful speech.

I sure do hope Bill and Laura aren't too tired from all that mingling. From what I hear, they were all over the park. Let's give a BIG WELCOME HOME to Randy Harper and Andy Lehto at the next meeting.

Hope you all find gold in your pans!

The Trading Post



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("Go for the Gold" continued from pg 1)
Then a club member put a little scoop of black sand in each child's gold pan and showed them what to do. Our big-hearted club members seeded the sand with gold so each kid could take home gold they panned themselves.

There was also a Treasure Hunt. White's loaned us metal detectors and club members helped kids find buried treasure that we buried in the Library flower beds. Tom and I brought

items to bury including coins, rings, key chains and other cool items. Someone found a mercury dime that must have been there for decades. Kids were lining up to take part in these activities with as many as three kids at a panning station. It was really hard to get the kids to let go of the metal detectors too. It was chaos and a lot of fun.

Three drawings netted children prizes such as magnifying glasses, books, gold pans, and all kinds of prospecting tools. The

grand prizes were a metal detector donated by White's and a Discovery Parking Pass that I donated.

We were all exhausted by the end of the long, fun day. But we went to sleep that night with smiles on our faces and laughter in our ears from all the happy kids of the Longview Library District. Thank you Tom, and thank you everyone for showing up and bringing Gold Fever to a new generation of gold prospectors!

The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

- Become a GPAA member! Membership kits are now available from Linda Williams. Join now and save.
- Don't forget to bring your items to the swap table to either sell or trade. Remember your donation to the club for each item you sell.
- All members in good standing may advertise for free. Send or give the editor your want ad or for sale ad.
- Remember, we have an appliance, metals, and aluminum can drive. Please bring in all your old appliances, scrap metals, and crushed aluminum cans for selling to a recycler. All proceeds are to go to the club. Thanks to all who have done so to date.
- Be sure to always sign in at meetings and outings (and update your information) to be credited with attendance. To be a member in good standing you must attend three meetings or outings each year.
- In addition to the manual dredging tool, the club has for check out the Grizzly III, high banker, and pans. See the Equipment Manager Dave Greer.



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To:

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors

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Join us !

All interested parties are invited to attend one of our monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods, and equipment as well as some hands-on practice. There also are outings to enjoy the pleasures of the out of doors and prospecting for gold. Become a member of one of the newest chapters of the Gold Prospectors Association of America. There are no membership fees and GPAA membership is not required to join in the fun.