

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Newsletter

Letter from the President

Back from an exiting trip to Nome. Thank you Steve Lewin, for filling in. You all did a great job, setting up the joint club outing, and all the dredging outings this last month. I saw a lot of smiles and even a few miners' rigs, everyone helped make it a fantastic month. Thank you.

Every member is an important part of what makes us SWWGPA. As we grow in numbers, more of you bring experience and skills with you. Thank you for giving so generously of those different skill sets. Together we can further accomplish the will of the club. And in doing so, educate and spread the fever, meet new friends and get off the couch and out there where the fresh air is.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting and on the trail.

Randy Harper—President SWWGP

SEPTEMBER 2015



SWWGP/GPAA Television Filming on Copper Creek—August 28 & 29, 2015

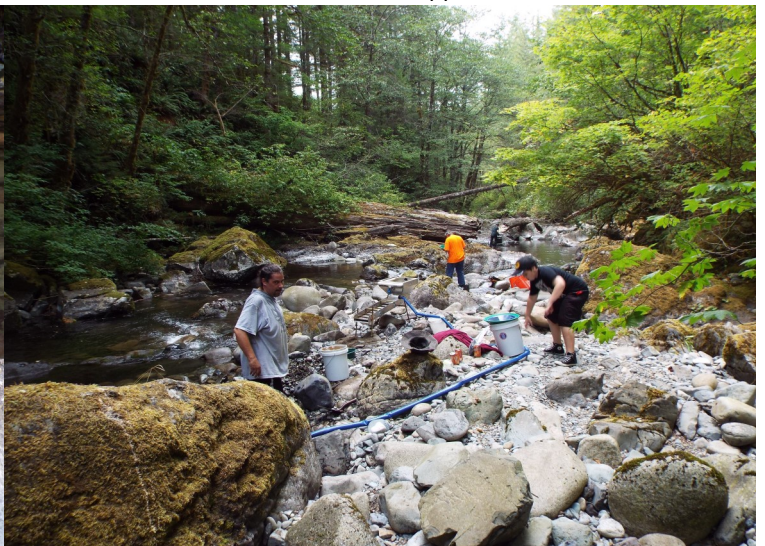


Ron Koppi with Kevin Hoagland and the Gold Trails film crew

Randy Harper's 2" dredge



D&K Prospecting and Detector Sales dredge
SWWGP Club members operating a high banker, dredge and sluice box on Copper Creek



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

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CHINOOK WINDS CASINO TRIP — OCTOBER 17, 2015

The next Chinook Winds Casino Bingo Bus trip is scheduled for October 17, 2015. Bus pick-up and drop-off will be at the East Mill Plain Walmart parking lot (remember to park at the south end of the lot near Jack-in-the-Box).

We will be going to Chinook Winds for a day trip on Saturday, October 17th. Be sure to sign up. Lots of fun and raffle prizes. Sign up at the September Monthly meeting or call Debbie Witcher for additional information and to sign up.

Submitted by Debbie Witcher

SWWGP MONTHLY MEETING

The Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors' meetings are the second Sunday of every month beginning at **2:00 pm** at:

Minnehaha Grange Hall #164
4905 Northeast St Johns Road
Vancouver, Washington

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods and equipment as well as hands-on demonstrations and practice. There are also outings to enjoy the pleasures of gold prospecting and the great outdoors.

Become a member of the Southwest Washington Chapter of the Gold Prospectors' Association of America. GPAA membership is not required to be a member and SWWGP membership is **FREE!**

For information contact: Randy Harper – Chapter President, rh82065@hotmail.com or 503-849-5109 or visit www.swwgoldprospectors.org

Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance for the month was \$7949.51. Income for August was \$1085.64. Our expenses were \$2600.63 which leaves a balance of \$6434.52 as of 8/31/2015.

The expenses for this month include a new laptop computer for the club secretary, a new printer for the club secretary and two new external hard drives for club records storage one each for the club treasurer and secretary.

Submitted by Ken Didier

Treasurer-SWWGP



FAREWELL TO MARVIN KRUGER

We said a sad good-bye to Marvin Kruger at the August Monthly meeting. Marvin has been a "golden supporter" of the club, serving as a Board Member, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Librarian as well as a host of other volunteer efforts. Marvin was always willing to help others.

Marvin and his family moved to Anchorage Alaska. You can follow him and/or contact him on his Facebook page.



SEPTEMBER EDUCATION

The September Educational Program will be a presentation by an inventor from Idaho. This is a new product being introduced to the "gold prospecting" market so the presentation should be both informative and entertaining.

SWWGP EVENT SCHEDULE

September 2015

- 4-7 Labor Day Weekend
13 SWWGP Monthly Meetings -
2016 President, Secretary and Board of
Directors Nominations

16-20 Scott Barr Lost Dutchman Mining Outing

- 27 SWWGP Club Outing (tentative)

October 2015

- 11 SWWGP Monthly Meetings - 2016 Presi-
dent, Secretary and Board of Directors
Nominations

- 17 SWWGP Chinook Winds Casino Trip

November 2015

- 1 Daylight savings time ends
8 SWWGP Monthly Meetings -
2016 President, Secretary and Board of
Directors election

- 11 Veterans Day
26 Thanksgiving Day

December 2015

- 13 SWWGP Monthly Meetings Christmas
Potluck - Installation of 2016 Officers
25 Christmas Day

LETTERS (OR E-MAILS) TO THE EDITOR

Hi, I have been filling in as the Newsletter Editor for the past three months, September is my fourth newsletter. I am new to SWWGP and GPAA but I grew up in "gold country" and have a little experience in "getting wet and moving mud" also "drilling rock and burning powder".

I feel this newsletter should reflect the interests of the SWWGP members so I am asking for your input as to topics, needs, wants, likes and dislikes. If you would like to see a specific topic in the newsletter send me a note "hhrc2@comcast.net" or call me 1-360-601-6388.

Since this is the SWWGP's Newsletter I would encourage you to submit an article, story or comments for publication. Don't worry about the format, grammar or spelling (that is what an editor does). It would also be great to have some additional pictures from your personal gold outing, not just from club outings.

The September Newsletter will be the first one which has been e-mailed to all interested SWWGP members in some time. The Membership Committee has worked hard to clean up the Member Roster, Every month we are adding several new members but at the end of the year we will be losing some members due to non-participation. If you want to remain an active member of SWWGP Club you need to attend three meetings or outings each year or risk being dropped from the Membership Roster. There is still time to stay current with your membership by attending the September, October, November or December Monthly Meeting or participating in one of the remaining outings or events scheduled between Labor Day and the end of the year.

Larry Hellie—Newsletter Editor

SWWGP Monthly Raffle

The monthly raffle is a primary source of funds for the club. Your participation is appreciated whether as a delighted "nugget winner", a raffle prize contributor or as a participant who buys a lot of tickets and patiently sits and waits for your number to be called.....which never happens!!! The raffle is fun and the prizes are appropriate for gold "prospectors". And the raffle tickets provide the main source of funds for SWWGP outings and programs.

SWWGP MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The SWWGP Membership Committee completed an audit of attendance records based on existing roster and meeting and outing sign-in sheets.

We now have an accurate and current record of all active SWWGP members. This is important as all active members have voting privileges for club business and elections.

If you have not received your SWWGP membership club card/packet please contact Debbie Witcher at 360-695-3215 so we can make sure it is available for you. **Please remember that you need to sign in at every meeting and outing or event.** We will be making an extra effort to update our records at the next few meetings.

Please make sure the spelling of your name, your address including your zip code, and phone number are all correct. Also if you have an e-mail please make sure it is correct in our records. We do NOT give this information to anyone other than club officers/directors and GPAA. If you have questions or corrections updates call Debbie Witcher at 360-695-3215.

If you know someone who is ill, hospitalized, in distress or just needs a "we're thinking of you card" please contact Sunshine person Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215 so we can send them a card.

SWWGP AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

The SWWGP August Monthly meeting was called to order by Steve Lewin at 2:15 p.m.

The first order of business was the reading of Linda William's letter of resignation as SWWGP Secretary. Larry Hellie was nominated to fill the Secretary's remainder of the term and the membership voted approval.

Ken Didier provided the Treasurer's Report which showed a balance of \$7,949.51 as of July 31, 2015. The membership voted to accept the Treasurer's Report. SWWGP has purchased a laptop for the Treasurer and the members voted to approve the purchase of a laptop for the Secretary, a printer for club use and back-up hard drives for both laptops.

The membership Committee completed an audit of the club roster and determined there were 214 active SWWGP members. It was also noted that 213 individuals only attended one SWWGP event last year. There were five new SWWGP members introduced at the meeting: Sebastian and Lucas Britt, Ray Stone, Marsy Hellie and Randy Nein. There were also nine first time attendees: Mike Janulewicz, Bill Pfeiffer, Matt Barner, James and Audra Knutson and Robin, Viktor, Christopher and Paige Lopez. The membership was informed of a planned review of the By-Laws which will be completed and presented to the membership at the September monthly meeting.

The television outing for filming of "Gold Trails" by the GPAA was announced. It will be August 28 and 29 on Copper Creek.

Nominations will be taken during the September and October meetings for President, Secretary and the Board of Directors positions. The elections will be held at the November meeting and officers installed at the December meeting. Dave Conti volunteered to assume the Librarian responsibility from Marvin Kruger through the end of the year.

Gold and gem stone raffle winners for August included James McCaston, Norm Erickson, Sebastian Britt, Lucas Britt, Ron Tompkins, Dan Shelton and Diane Shelton. The final activity was Marvin Kruger's farewell party.

Larry Hellie - Secretary

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors / Gold Prospectors of America Association Television Filming of "Gold Trails" on Copper Creek

We held our GPAA Copper Creek outing the last week end of August (28,29). The total attendance for both days was over 80 including GPAA personnel and members of the Portland Chapter. In addition there were some people who did not sign in. Please remember signing in at every meeting and outing is important as this is how you retain your membership in the SWWGP.

The kitchen was open for approximately two hours. Those who did not show up during the announced meal time made due with leftovers. The club served hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, potato salad, beans and treats along with pop, water and coffee.

Everyone enjoyed the food and were impressed with the burgers. My thanks to Toni Fest, Marsy Hellie, and Jeanne Gieg for their help with the set up, cooking and clean up on Friday. Jeanne Gieg and I did these chores on Saturday. When you see these ladies give them an extra big THANK YOU!!! Remember these are all volunteer helpers.

Also I want to express SWWGP's thanks to Jeanne Gieg for making several trips up and down the hill and along the road and trails gathering signatures on the outings forms and letting people know when lunch would be served and the kitchen closed.

We also want to thank the Portland chapter for splitting the cost of the food and the port-a-potty.



GOLD PROSPECTORS TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

So far the feedback from last month's first edition of "Gold Prospectors Terms and Definitions" has been positive. Several SWWGP members indicated that pictures would also help understand some technical terms and or specialized equipment. If you have any questions, comments or would like specific information you can e-mail the editor at "hhrc2@comcast.net" or call 360-601-6388.

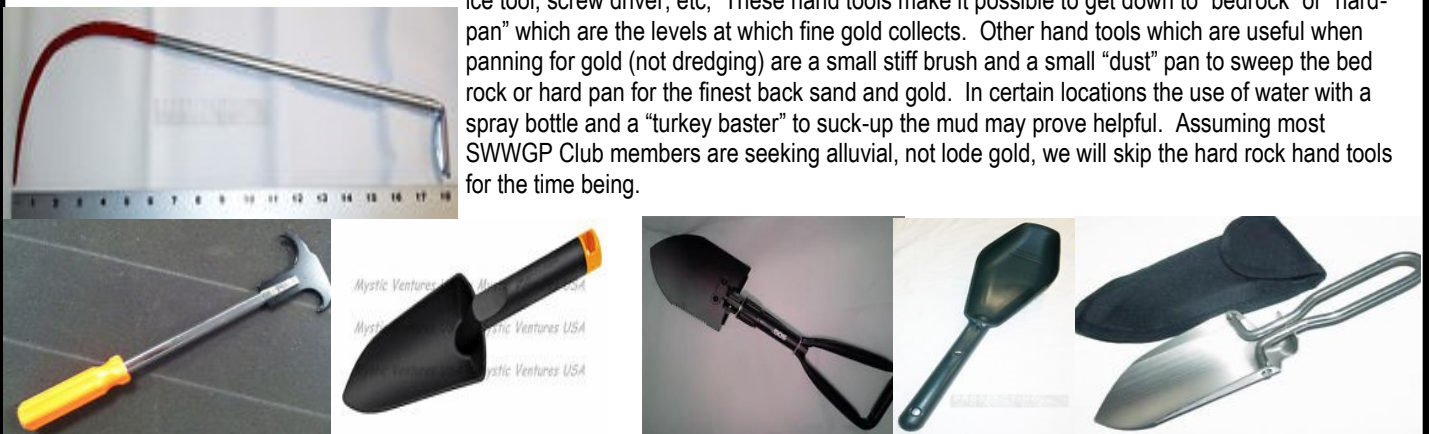
- A **Gold Pan** is a circular concave device used to separate gold and black sand from lighter materials. Originally gold pans were made of steel but today the vast majority of the gold pans are made from hard plastic. Gold pans are available in a variety of colors and shapes with different riffle patterns.
- **Gold panning**, is a method of placer (plac-er) mining and was the traditional method for extracting gold from a placer deposit. "Panning" is one of the simplest ways to extract gold, and is popular with new prospectors especially because of its cheap cost and the relatively simple and easy process. Once a suitable placer deposit is located, gravel is scooped into a pan where it is then gently agitated in water and the gold sinks to the bottom of the pan. Materials with a low specific gravity are allowed to spill out of the pan, whereas materials with a high specific gravity sink to the bottom of the sediment during agitation and remain within the pan for examination and collection by the gold panner. These dense materials usually consist primarily of a black, magnetite sand with whatever gemstones or metal dust that may be found in the deposit that is used for source material. In many situations, gold panning usually turns up only minor gold dust that is usually collected as a souvenir in small clear tubes. Nuggets and considerable amounts of dust are occasionally found, but panning mining is not generally lucrative. Panning for gold can be used to locate the parent gold veins which are the source of most placer deposits.



- **Classifiers** - A good classifier (or even a whole set) is essential for today's gold prospector. An inexpensive classifier, or a set of classifiers is a great tool for the beginning panner. Classifiers are made of stainless steel and plastic with multiple mesh size options (2, 4, 8, 12, 20, 30, 50, 70 and 100). A screen, sieve or classifier is used to reduce rock, gravel and sand to a manageable size—one that is close to the size of the gold you expect to recover. Most classifiers are designed to fit over a 14" gold pan or five gallon bucket. Large nuggets are very rare so most gold is very fine with an occasional "picker" nugget. It is best to begin with a quarter-inch (#4 mesh) screen. While gold is heavy fine gold flakes will have a hard time displacing large rocks. Screening or classifying materials using multiple classifiers (progressively smaller mesh) will make it easier to recover fine gold which is the type usually found in Washington streams. The screened off rock and gravel should also be panned separately to wash off any gold particles and to search for "nuggets" or gold imbedded in rocks.



- **Hand Tools** - Panning for gold requires digging, classifying and panning large amounts of alluvial rocks, gravel and sand. The beginning gold prospector can accomplish this using only their hands but having an assortment of hand tools will significantly increase the speed and ease of panning for gold. The primary tool is some type of digging implement; i.e., small shovel, folding shovel, trowel, scoop, pry bar, crevice tool, screw driver, etc. These hand tools make it possible to get down to "bedrock" or "hard-pan" which are the levels at which fine gold collects. Other hand tools which are useful when panning for gold (not dredging) are a small stiff brush and a small "dust" pan to sweep the bed rock or hard pan for the finest back sand and gold. In certain locations the use of water with a spray bottle and a "turkey baster" to suck-up the mud may prove helpful. Assuming most SWWGP Club members are seeking alluvial, not lode gold, we will skip the hard rock hand tools for the time being.





CODE OF ETHICS

1. I will respect private property and will refrain from treasure hunting without the property owner(s)' permission.
2. I will fill my treasure hunting excavations and prospecting holes in good faith.
3. I will use thoughtfulness, consideration and courtesy at all times.
4. I will properly dispose of trash that I find and will not litter.
5. I will leave gates as I found them.
6. I will honor the rules and regulations of the BLM and Forestry Service at all times and will respect all laws and ordinances set forth to govern prospecting and mining.
7. I will not destroy private property, buildings, or what remains of ghost towns and deserted historical structures.
8. I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities, and/or equipment.
9. I will respect other prospectors' claims and will not work those claims without granted permission from the claim owner(s).
10. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife and fisheries.
11. I will only build fires in designated areas and will do so in accordance with the current federal, state and local guidelines.
12. I will use extreme caution when handling fuels and motor oils taking into consideration their potential destructive effects on the environment.
13. I will have all necessary permits and licenses on hand in accordance with GPAA rules and regulations in conjunction with Local, State and Federal prospecting laws.
14. I will not remove stream bank material, destroy natural vegetation or woody debris dams, nor discharge excess silt into waterways under any circumstances.
15. I will not refuel motorized equipment in or near streams preventing oil from motorized equipment to penetrate the water and/or surrounding areas.
16. I will not prospect in areas void to mining.
17. I will be respectful and considerate when in the presence of minors.

MISSION

The mission of the Gold Prospectors Association of America is to further the advancement of gold prospecting and treasure hunting by:

1. Developing an organization that actively encourages camaraderie, fellowship and personal contact amongst people who share a mutual interest in gold prospecting.
2. Adhering to environmental laws, rules and regulations.
3. Following the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers laws and doctrines to ensure a positive representation of prospecting in our industry.
4. Promoting public awareness of ecologically sound prospecting and small-scale recreational mining for adults, families and children.
5. Teaching club/chapter members how to successfully prospect for gold and treasures.
6. Developing teachers and/or mentors who are passionate about the education of prospecting.
7. Educating the general public nationwide about the history and future of gold prospecting and the importance of mineral extraction.

Please help us to maintain a positive image for all who enjoy our sport, lest local and national governments completely restrict our hobby!



SWWGP Article Three—Purpose

The purpose of SWWGP is to provide education to members and potential members on all aspects of prospecting, treasure hunting and small scale mining, including, but not limited to, increasing member and public awareness of environmental, historical, ecological, conservation, natural habitat, and legal issues. This education shall be accomplished through lectures, demonstrations, videos, distribution of materials, or hands-on training at meetings, outings, or such other public venues as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

Historic Placer Regions in Washington

The old-time placer miners probably prospected or mined virtually every creek and river in Washington and discovered the gold bearing watercourses. Historic regions like the Liberty region in Kittitas County, the Peshastin area in Chelan County, the region south of and close-by Republic in Ferry County, the Okanogan Highlands and Western Okanogan in Okanogan County and the Sullivan Creek district in Pend Oreille County are probably the best bets in the six counties. The chances of discovering a virgin placer gold creek are slim indeed. The best gold creeks have already been found so stay in the old regions.



1880'S GOLD MINING DISPLAY AT THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM - BEND, OREGON

Spirit Of The West - For many visitors to the Bend area, this is the must-see exhibit... an unforgettable walk through time that brings the Spirit of the West alive. For "gold prospectors" the display of a "lode mine", the placer operation, miner's cabin and the "Silver City" store fronts bring the 1880's gold mining history to life.

The display starts with a stroll past a Northern Paiute shelter and a French trapper's camp where all the historic details are depicted in incredible detail. Continues through the Hudson's Bay Company fort, alongside an Oregon Trail wagon, through a hard rock mine, past a settler's cabin and into the boomtown of Silver City. Silver City includes an Assayer's Office, a Wells Fargo Office, Leather and Harness Shop, a Chinese Grocery Store and much more. The pictures below show some of the exhibits

Assayer's Office
Sluice Box
Sluice and Rocker Box

Live Reenactor

Inside of Miner's Cabin
Outside of Miner's Cabin
Ore Cart, Shovel and Pick



Thanks to these companies for supporting SWWGP activities. SWWGP members may advertise free by submitting a business card.



D & K Prospecting & Detector Sales Inc.
 13809 SE Division Portland, OR 1-503-761-1521



Books currently available from D & K

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- Gold Rush Nugget Bucket
- Lemar Advertising
- McCord's Vancouver Toyota/RV Center
- Pro Caliber
- Quick Badge and Signs, Inc
- Red Lion—Inn at the Quay
- Steel Security & Safety Systems
- Thunder Reef Diving
- Sportsman's Warehouse
- Whites Metal Detectors

