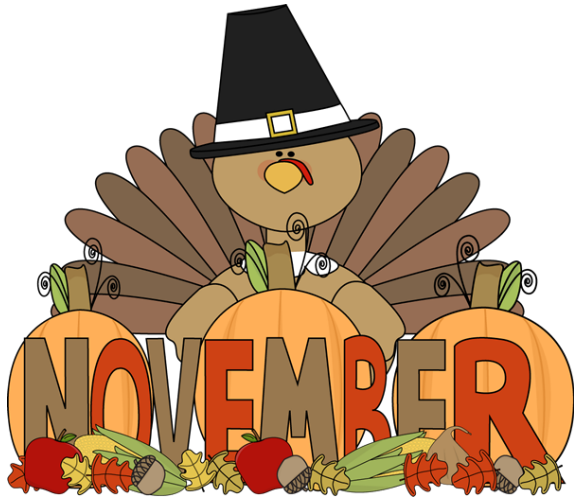


# South West Washington Gold Prospectors November 2017 Newsletter



## November Meetings

Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on November 12th. The board meeting will start at 12:45 and the general meeting will start at 2:00.



## Membership Committee

When you are signing in for attendance at the SWWGP meeting please be sure to verify name spelling, correct address w/zip code, e-mail address and phone number. If you are a current GPAA/ LDMA member be sure to let us know and give us your GPAA/LDMA membership number.

We are in the process of updating our records. Thank you for your help, Richard Pluff Jr.  
503-957-6884  
[magiedrag-on1956@hotmail.com](mailto:magiedrag-on1956@hotmail.com)

## Presidents Message

The holiday season is upon us and we are all busy this time of the year. Let us take a moment to reflect on everything our Chapter has accomplished this year and what we have planned already for next year. We have contributed a great deal to our community with the get the lead out program, continuing donations to our local veterans, as well as the clothing donations. Cleaned up and streamlined our bi-laws. We had outings (not as many as we would like) and trips. Our chapter is a growing chapter and we are a family. I am very proud to be your President and to be able to work with all of you. As I talk with other Chapters throughout our GPAA family I very thankful for our chapter members. Let us give thanks to your fellow members for all we do for each other. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

## Outing Ideas

Is there something you would like to see our Chapter members Do? Want to take a field trip or outing you think might be of interest to other members? Let us know. Send me an e-mail or call me at 360-695-3215 and lets see what we can do. Debbie Witcher.

<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Ken Didier	360-567-7360	ky02kid@peoplepc.com
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>(Elected )</b>		
	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	none
	Dale Long	503-665-4717	alelongsmailgmail.com
	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	viff11546@gmail.com
<b>Claims Chair</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
	Preston Griffin	3609032054	viff11546@gmail.com
<b>State Director (WA,OR)</b>	<b>(Appointed by GPAA)</b>		
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	Appointed by chapter President		
<b>Education</b>	Volunteer needed		
<b>Equipment Manager</b>	Randy Harper	503-849-5109	rh82065@hotmail.com
<b>Fundraising coordinator</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
<b>Picnic, Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Librarian</b>	Dave konti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Membership</b>	Richard Pluff Jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1957@hotmail.com
Assistant	Edna Nelson	503-307-0853	rockhoundstoo1966@yahoo.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Outing coordinator</b>	Bill Birdwell	360-263-1749	obill15@comcast.net
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Ron Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	
	Norm Erickson	503-801-1452	
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	
<b>Sargent at Arms</b>	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	none
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
<b>Sunshine</b>	Anne Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
<b>T-Shirts</b>	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Dennis Clevenger	360-281-6338	dennisc@pacifier.com
<b>Historian</b>	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
<b>Gold Buyer</b>	Prestin Griffin	360 903 2054	viff11546@gmail.com
	Ken Didier	360-567-7360	ky02kid@peoplepc.com
Other committees will be formed as needed. Please let Debbie Witcher know if your name was missed or if you would like to serve.			

<b>GPAA Points</b>	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
<b>Name Tags</b>	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Awards</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
<b>Picnic and Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Geig	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
<b>Facebook</b>	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
Assistant	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
<b>Raffle</b>	Jim Erickson	3602603225	aerickson@q.com
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicaJeff@msn.com
Assistant	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Dale Long	503-665-4717	alelongsmail@gmail.com
Assistant	Prestin Griffin	360 903 2054	viff11546@gmail.com

### Holiday Dinner Sign Up

We only have 1 more meetings before our holiday dinner. The time is here to start thinking about it. Please take a moment to sign up for the pot luck and let us know how many will be attending.

### November Raffle

Okay Club Members ... this is your raffle ticket Master Jim speaking. Please be advised that there will be a surprise drawing in our November raffle. You can purchase these tickets at the same time you buy the regular tickets.



Thank you all for participating in our raffle as this is your way of supporting your club.

Master Jim at your service!!

### Mining Equipment

If you have a piece of mining equipment or that new next best home made gadget you would like to demo and share with others, please bring it to the meeting.



## OCT. BAR\_B\_QUE

Our bar-b-que went well after our Oct. meeting. Many thanks to "Chef Jeff" for not only doing the cooking but also for hauling his bar-b-ques to the meeting.

This was a great use of the left over meat from our July picnic. Thanks to Ron and Maurine Koppi for keeping the meat in their freezer for us.

Also thanks to Toni Fest and family and all of you who helped in the kitchen. Our kitchen host Jeanne G. was out of town for this event.

As always the leftovers went to our local veterans who were grateful to receive them.

## SUNSHINE

We have a new sunshine person, Ann Erickson has assumed those duties. If you know someone from our Chapter who is in need of a little "Sunshine" please contact Ann [aerickson@q.com](mailto:aerickson@q.com) and give her the details so she can send a card.

Our many thanks to Pat Staat for her years of service in this position.

## Collection for Veterans

Don't forget that we are continuing to collect food, toiletries, warm clothes for veterans. Pet food for their animals. Please bring your donations. Boxes will be provided.

## Committee Members Needed

Just a reminder that we need additional committee members for the following:

Education  
Sargent at arms/safety

Please consider helping out.

All have Chairpersons but we do need a few more folks to help.

If you need information, want to know what is involved, time needed or to volunteer, Please contact Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215



## Club Name Tags

Any club members that would like a plastic name Tag made for them can place an order at the next meeting.

Cost is 7.00 for each tag that includes up to 2 lines of engraving.

Questions?

Contact David Conti

[user764554@aol.com](mailto:user764554@aol.com)

360-256-0892



## 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: Debbie Witcher – Chapter President,

[ddwitcher@yahoo.com](mailto:ddwitcher@yahoo.com) or 360-695-3215 or visit [www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)



## SPORTSMAN SHOW

We have been invited back to the Sportsman show in Albany again next year. We brought this up at the last meeting and many of you expressed an interest in doing the show again. We need someone to take the lead on this event and coordinate everything. It is a Fri, Sat. Sun. event. Please contact Bill Birdwell or myself to volunteer. I can answer any questions you might have. If no one commits to take the lead we will not be able to participate in this fun event.



I met with the Vancouver Schools resource coordinator the middle of Oct. and made arrangements to give them the kids coats we collected and sorted from Columbia Sportswear. We provided 160 coats, 20 pairs of winter pants and several misc. items. They went to families in need and were shared among the schools. What we were able to provide served 62 families in our local area. Everyone was grateful to get a nice warm coat. This is a project that I am sure we will do again now that we know the logistics involved. Thanks again to V.P. Jeff Wooldridge for making the arrangements with his employer for us to do this project.

Debbie

## T SHIRTS

Remember to buy your Chapter t-shirts. We also have license plate holders available now. Need a special order? Ask Maurine Koppi

## CHAPTER STORE

We would like to restart the chapter store but we need someone to be in charge. It is not a lot of work and will be open only at meetings. Please contact Debbie for more info. There is a lack of available vendors that are close so this will fill a need.

## 3 MONTH RAFFLE

Remember to buy your tickets for our 3 month raffle. Winning tickets will be drawn at our Dec. meeting and holiday dinner. Check out the prizes on display at the sign in table and purchase your tickets. \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Prizes are Disney Collector picture, Thule car top carrier, 2 prospector silver collector coins, gold and quartz specimen, and \$50 roaring camp gold dirt bag

## **NOMINATIONS**

Nominations will be closing at the beginning of our Nov. meeting and voting will take place. The offices that are being voted on are:

President, Sec. and 4 board positions. All candidates must be current GPAA members and a Chapter member in good standing for at least 6 months.

In order to vote you must be in good standing with the GPAA, and a current Chapter member.

Please contact Vice President Jeff Wooldridge with any nominations for these offices.

I will be preparing ballots Sat. evening Nov. 11, 2018 with all currently submitted names.

Daniel Keese as head of security and his volunteers will be taking over the election at the meeting.

No one who is running for a position will be involved in counting the votes.

## **GOLD SHOW PLANNING MEETING**

We held our planning meeting on Sun. Oct. 22. Lots of planning and good ideas. Our next meeting will be on SAT. Nov. 18 at the Mininihaha grange at noon. This is a Sat. meeting in order to accommodate some of the schedules. Please plan to attend if possible, your input and ideas are needed.

We will be donating \$5 per shirt to help DOAK offset costs of the shirts. They will be blue with white print. This is one of the places that we acknowledge the support from our chapter sponsors.

We need ideas as to where to advertise the show, as well as chapter sponsors and show vendors.

Remember we get points for each vendor we sign up. I have more vendor packets if you need them.

Portland will have the lead on the GPAA raffle on Sat. and SWWGP will have the lead on Sun. All participating chapters will be represented in the booth both days.

## **Nome, AK. (AKAU LODGE)**

Wanting to take that fun educational and interesting trip to Nome, AK? Here is your chance to get signed up. Meals, lodging, activities, mining included in the price. This is for 1 week, July 20 -27 2018. Air fare is an additional cost. This was a great trip and all enjoyed it. See Debbie W. to sign up and get info.

## **WHITES**

We are scheduling another trip to Whites Metal Detector factory. The date has not been determined yet but it is on a Fri. The sign up sheet is on the sign in table. Myron Hastings is the lead for this outing. We need to have at least 10 people participate. This is very interesting and educational, well worth the time!

## HOLIDAY DINNER

Our holiday pot luck will be held at our Dec. meeting DEC. 10<sup>th</sup>. The chapter will provide the meat, non- alcoholic drinks, dinnerware and ice. Jeanne Geig is in charge and has the following list of suggested items: potatoes, noodles dishes, vegetable dish, rolls and butter, salads, condiments, desserts, relish dish, vegie plates to name a few. This is a chance to show off the special holiday dish.

Sign-up sheet is on the sign in table. Please let her know what you are bringing. Jeanne's phone number is 360-713-8610.

In May of 2017, I made the voyage south to the Pine Grove California area to Roaring mining Camp .This was my second time there as last year, My wife and I as well as a few other club members attended the camp for the first time. Now this year , I knew what to expect and I developed a game plan for the week long stay. I brought a couple of helpers this time (my oldest son Justin , and my youngest son Jacob ). When we first arrived, I knew I wanted to "stake my claim" on a area that they call "Cesar's Wall" which is the ancient river channel where everyone can dig.The soil at this place is very rusty and high in iron so it will stain your clothes and even your skin. Since all the rain and high water this past year, I knew the river was not going to be a option to mine like it was last year so getting a good spot on the wall was crucial. There were several family's there again that were there last year as well as a couple of old timers that help out around camp and are really great people. One of them (Jack) has been going there since the 60's and he, and the founder of the camp back in the day found 30lbs. of gold in the Mokelumne river. I saw pictures of him holding huge pans of gold.

One great thing about this place , besides being beautiful is that the family run staff has a event going on each day and sometimes a second event in the evening. These events consist of hikes , contests, karaoke, dice roll game for gold , and one day a trip down river to another area on the property called China Camp. They also do periodic demonstrations on mining equipment that they sell. All these events are optional to attend. We stayed in a cabin which have no power ,but have 2 beds and a wood stove which they have wood for if needed, and a picnic table inside and outside the cabins. Cabins and the bathrooms are clean and well stocked. Folks that don't want a cabin can tent camp. THERE IS NO CELL SERVICE , which can be kind of nice actually. You are way down in a valley over 3 miles down a steep, well cared for gravel road. Another draw for me to this place is the history here. Lots of old rusty equipment and a neat lodge type building called the trading post where you can buy food , snacks , a little restaurant they run , bar ,museum and gathering place. When I walk down the steps of that place I always feel like I should get on a horse and ride off.

As for the gold , I only measured the largest nugget which came in at 1.47 grams . The total amount still remains to be seen as I still have 2 buckets of material to run.

I have made plans to attend the camp in May of 2018. If anyone has questions about the camp , please ask me. Also , I believe that Mike and Ricky , both camp employees and family members are planning to be at the local 2018 Gold and Treasure show so they will have plenty of information on the camp.

David Conti



## October 2017 SWWGP General Meeting Minutes

- \* Meeting called to order at 2:10
- \* 9 guests in attendance
- \* Secretary minutes was read, a motion to accept was made and passed
- \* Treasurers report was read, a motion to accept was made and passed
- \* Ken is still investigating the gambling requirements for the state of WA.
- \* The next gold show meeting will be at the grange on Oct. 22nd at 1:00
- \* Dennis would like everyone to go through the web site and provide him feedback for updates
- \* A motion was made and passed to have Dennis set up the chapter web site on go daddy for the next 3 years at 215.64.
- \* The board met with and insurance agent to collect information. The rep will bring back quotes based on his meeting with the board.
- \* The budget review has been moved to November
- \* The Harvest Festival has been cancelled
- \* People are needed at the Nov. meeting for the elections committee
- \* The Vancouver chapter will be featured next month by the GPAA, send Debbie any suggestions and or photos that may be used in the article.
- \* Myron announced that if anyone is interested he does a 3 hour training on prospection
- \* A motion was made to commit the chapter to assist with the Albany sportsman show for the next 3 years if we are invited.
- \* Ken will bring his laptop to show video he took at the Albany show last year.
- \* Education for the month was Preston on claims.



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

Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal  
Pickup

9 Cent Color Copies  
360-896-7220

Whites Metal Detectors

Chinook Winds Casino & Re-  
sort

Quick Badge

Danner Boots

Lost Adams

Designs of all kinds  
360-892-5597

Gold Getter

AAA Precious Metals  
503-253-8591

Pro Caliber

Oregon Treasure Trail Society

Topside Mining

Creekside Prospecting

Armadillo Mining

Fossickers

Danas classic Flowers and  
Gifts

Danas Classic Hair Supply

Packwood Prospecting and  
Mining Supply

Wilson Brothers

Sportsman's Warehouse

Nayhely's Place  
360-571-7088

Northwest Detector Sales  
503-936-1443

Roaring Camp

Spin it Off

Thrive Life

AKAU Lodge

American Mining Supply

The Gold Lab

Avon Products—Bug Guard

McCord's Vancouver Toyota

Please support these vendors as they support us with contributions and in many cases discounts. We will be doing interviews with many of them so we can get to know a little more about them.