

South West Washington Gold Prospectors April 2017 Newsletter

Letter from the President

I have had the opportunity to work with 5 other GPAA chapter in the last few months and there is absolutely no doubt that we are not only the best Chapter (I am of course a little prejudiced) but it is confirmed every day that above all we are a family. As with all families there are a few squabbles here and there but we put aside our differences and come together to work for the good of our Chapter. Our members follow through on their commitments and help each other out. With our large family of over 250+ we are able to accomplish a lot.

I am always open to new idea etc. on how to make our chapter better. Send me an e-mail, call on the phone, or contact me in person with any ideas, concerns, etc. you might have. As always your board of directors is available as well.

Lets get out there and hunt for gold (if the sun ever stays around) and have fun!!!

See ya at the next meeting Sun, April 9th.

Your President,
Debbie



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 you help,
Richard Pluff Jr.
503-957-6884

Next Years Gold and Treasure Show

Debbie is working with Brandon and working out the details with the Clark County Event Center. We should have a new contract to give to Brandon soon. Debbie will take the contract to Las Vegas Summit. Brandon is very excited to do the show here.

We will be hosting the Show and will be working out the details as to supporting chapters responsibilities soon. Nothing is set is stone yet except that we are the host chapter and the date.

Moving the show to the event center is something I started working on with Randy 3 yrs. ago, and Ken joined our efforts the first year taking pictures for the GPAA, and we have been off and running since then.

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.

Food Drive Results

We gathered over 65 lbs. of food and some cash for the local food bank. They were happy to have whatever we can give them.

Executive Board	(Elected)		
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
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Patti Long		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	
Claims Chair	(Elected)		
	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	DDWitcher@yahoo.com
State Director (WA,OR)	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Committee Chairs	(Volunteers appointed by club/		
Education	Volunteer needed		
Equipment Manager	Randy Harper		rh82065@hotmail.com
Facebook	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Fundraising coordinator	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Assistant	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Hospitality	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
Picnic, Holiday Dinner	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Misc. Outings	Barbeques, special events		
	Frank Knighton	360-834-5270	jknighton08@yahoo.com
Librarian	Volunteer needed		
Membership	Richard Pluff Jr		magicdragon1957@hotmail.com
Assistant	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing coordinator	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Safety Officer	Daniel Keese	360-241-0489	none
Sargent at Arms	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	none
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Sunshine	Pat Staat	360-798-9499	Healingsprings@centurylink.net
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
Historian	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.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.			
Committees to be filled: Bylaws / Laws and Regulations			

GPAA Points	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
Name Tags	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Awards	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Fundraising	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Picnic and Holiday Dinner	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
Facebook	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com

CALENDAR

We are working on this years calendar and should have it ready soon. Missing the meeting last month has delayed a lot of items we needed to work on. If there is something that you want to do or an outing you would like to see us have , please let me know. We can always add more to the calendar as the years progresses. Debbie

SIGN UP SHEETS

Sign up sheets for all activities, events, committees, etc. are at the back table where you sign in for the meeting. If you have any questions there are chapter members available at the table to assist you.

Albany Sportsman Show

Approx. 20 of our Chapter members made the trip to Albany, Oregon to help out our fellow chapter members from mid-valley at the sportsman show. Myself and Jeff talked to every vendor there about the GPAA gold shows and many of them are interested in joining us at the Clark County Event Show next year.

Ken and Richard were also able to talk to a few vendors and they joined us at the Portland show. We helped Mid- Valley secure some more members so they should be in good shape to do the show on their own next year.

Letter of Thanks

Here is part of a letter that was sent to us via Rick Beehler: The GPAA put together a great show, the vendors, entertainment, lectures and fellow guests were very welcoming to us Canadians, it was well worth the drive over the border. Of course winning prizes was like finding a nugget in your gold pan, I am ever so grateful for the experience. Metal detectors have always intrigued me but I never tried one before. Kevin's lectures make you want to get out there and detect.

Buy, Sell, Trade

Parts of 2 blue bowls, parts of 2 dredges, 2 sluice boxes and hose, Newer, looks to be unused hi-banker with pump and 50 ft of hose.

Contact Dennis with questions 695-3215. He is helping Gene and Walter Jensen sell these items.

Have something to sell or give away?

Looking for something to buy?

This is a free service to our Chapter members.

Call Mark Matilla at 360-609-6813 or chipper49@outlook.com

Collection for Veterans

We are continuing to collect food, toiletries, warm clothes for veterans. Pet food for their animals. Please bring your donations. Boxes will be provided.

Any questions please contact Debbie.



Committee Members Needed

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

- Outings
- Education
- Hospitality
- Picnic/holiday dinner
- Bar-B-Que and special events
- Membership
- Sargent at arms/safety
- Set up/tear down
- Sunshine and flowers

Please consider helping out.

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

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

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 or
360-695-3215 or visit
www.swwgoldprospectors.org

Portland GPAA Show

WHEW!!!! It is over and we can relax. Our Chapter had approx. 80 members working over the three days. We had the bulk of the volunteers again. Rain or shine (lots of rain) Bad traffic (lots of that too) we were there. Our shirts looked fantastic and showed unity among the three hosting chapters. We worked very hard to make sure everyone had a chance to enjoy the show and had their breaks. We are sure to have many new and interested members at the next couple of meetings. The GPAA called on us to assist some of the vendors who truly did need the help, not only with loading and unloading but also with manning their booths. The GPAA raffle was a success and vendors were happy! Great job!!!

The GPAA asked me if we had someone who could help out a new vendor with his booth. Dennis Witcher and Dale Long's grandson Isaac Wright stepped up and helped.

The vendor American Mining Supply has joined our other Sponsors and contributor because of their efforts. He is very grateful for their help and is glad to be part of our chapter. He is extending a 10% discount to all Chapter members and is giving us 2 miller tables, one for our equipment check out inventory and one for us to use in a raffle. What a reward for their efforts on behalf on the Chapter.

Our Chapter Raffle

All I can say is WOW!!! What a success. Ticket sales exceeded my expectations. I know what we made but you will have to come to the meeting for the announcement from Ken. Thanks to everyone who bought and sold tickets.

A special thank you goes out to Rick Beehler and Sharon Stewart. These 2 folks spent Tuesday. Wednesday. and Thursday. the week before the show from 10-6 (8 hrs.) every day selling both our raffle tickets and the GPAA Show entrance tickets at the Sportsman's Warehouse.

When contacting the raffle winners to make arrangements to get them their prizes, one lady told me that she has never won anything before, she bought her ticket at Sportsman's Warehouse.

Puyallup GPAA Gold and Treasure Shoe

We hosted the Puyallup Show with assistance from the Port Orchard, Auburn, and Everett chapters. We had 20 + members who made the trip up to Puyallup to work the show. As agreed the GPAA raffle was divided as to how many volunteers showed up from each chapter and worked. Not only did we have the larger share of the raffle but I was able to secure another Sponsor/Contributor for our Chapter. They joined us and not only did they give us 4 of the Gold Claws for our raffle, but they are very excited to work with us. They will come to a meeting and show us the ins and outs of using the Gold Claw. Jeff Wooldridge became very proficient in the use of this new pan. He was in charge of the panning booth Sat. and Sun. and got to demo this product a lot.

Steve Nelson took on the job of selling the snuffer bottles as required by the GPAA.

To everyone who came up to help and worked very hard my THANKS. It is so great to work with a group of hard working and committed people. You are what makes us stand out with and for the GPAA. We have their thanks as well.

Minor's Jargon

ADIT

Also commonly referred to as a tunnel, an ADIT is a horizontal or inclined entrance into a mine.

ALLOY

A mixture of more than one metal. It is typically done to strengthen soft or weak metals

ASSAY

A detailed analysis of ore to determine exactly how much gold and other valuable metals is present.

AURIFEROUS

Gold bearing

BEDROCK

A solid, impenetrable layer of the earth's crust that traps gold and other heavy metals thus allowing them to accumulate.

BENCH GRAVEL

River or stream gravels that were deposited in a flat area (bench) above the current elevation of a river or stream at a point in history when the water was flowing at that level.

BLACK SAND

Sometimes magnetic, black sands are heavy particles of iron ore that have been ground down to sand sized particles by forces of nature. Black sands, like lead are very heavy and act as an indicator that gold or other precious, heavy metals might be present. Bear in mind however that although black sands virtually always accompany gold deposits, only occasionally does gold accompany black sand deposits due to the fact that black sands can be found virtually everywhere. Probably even in your own back yard.

BULLION

Precious metals that have been refined to near 100% purity. Precious metals found in nature are often sent to a refinery to eliminate impurities and can be poured into bars or rounds.

CALICHE

Typically brown or white in color, caliche is a layer that usually contains rocks and gravel that are cemented together tightly with calcium carbonate and is commonly found in dry, desert places.

CEMENTED GRAVEL

Gravel from a stream or river, often found in ancient beach gravels. These gravels are very tightly packed together and if found in areas with a history of gold, can be very concentrated with gold.

CLAIM

A legally filed temporary ownership of the valuable minerals on a specific piece of public land. The owner of a mining claim retains exclusive ownership of all of those valuable minerals for as long as they continue to prospect and mine the claim and file the required annual paperwork.

CLASSIFIER

A tool that is used to screen material to a common size in an effort to make the process of extracting VALUES more efficient.

COARSE GOLD

Gold of varying size that is very rough and has not traveled far from its original LODE source.

CONCENTRATES

Material that has been "concentrated" through the mining process using a Gold Pan, Sluice, Dredge, Drywasher, High-banker, etc.... Gold and other heavy minerals such as Black Sands make up the majority of this material which is then processed further to extract the Values

Minor's Jargon

CREVICING

The process of gathering gravels from cracks, crevices or depressions in Bedrock. This mining method typically involves using pry bars & scraping tools. This material is then typically panned out and Values removed.

DEPOSIT

Area where gold. Other metal or gem has been found.

DREDGE

A sort of underwater vacuum that sucks material from the bottom of a stream or river and runs it through a sluice box to concentrate the heavy, valuable minerals for further processing. The remaining material or tailings are simply redeposited back to their source.

DRYWASHER

A device used to produce concentrates in a dry areas such as the desert without the use of water. This device uses air to separate and trap the heavy minerals while blowing the lighter sands away.

FALSE BEDROCK

Any hard layer such as clay, Caliche, and even cemented gravel, that can act like bedrock and trap gold and other heavy metals.

FLAKY GOLD

Small, flattened pieces of gold that have been smashed thin in transit from their lode.

FLOUR GOLD

Extremely fine powdery gold particles that are very hard to recover.

FOOL'S GOLD

Any rock or mineral that has an appearance similar to that of gold such as pyrite.

GRIZZLY

Similar to a classifier, but is a device used to keep large rocks out of the sluice box of mining equipment such as a high-banker.

HARDPAN

(See Cemented Gravel)

HIGHBANKER

A sluice box with legs and a hopper that material is hand fed into for processing. Water is pumped to the box allowing for it to be used some distance from its water source.

LODE

Also referred to as the "host" or "source rock" where the gold was originally formed, typically in a quartz vein.

MINERAL TRESPASS

Also referred to as claim jumping, it is the act of stealing valuable minerals from a mining claim that belongs to another prospector. Depending upon the severity and extent of the "theft", as well as the state that the crime has been committed, it may be considered either a misdemeanor or a felony.

NUGGET

A large piece of natural gold. Most prospectors consider a piece of gold a "nugget" if they can pick it up with their fingers and feel a weight to it when dropped into the palm of their hand. Others consider a nugget anything that will not fit through a 6 mesh screen.

Minor's Jargon

OVERBURDEN

A layer of material that typically carries little or no value that a miner must remove to locate a deposit.

PAYDIRT

An area where a prospector has found a deposit of gold or precious metals.

PICKER

A piece of gold smaller than a nugget and larger than a flake. Most prospectors consider a piece of gold to be a picker if it is smaller than a nugget but can still be poked up with their bare fingers.

PLACER

A deposit that has eroded from its original lode and mixed with sand and or gravel typically working its way into a wash, stream or river where it is concentrated into pay-dirt.

PROSPECTING

Also referred to as sampling, it is the search for and testing of areas to locate a good deposit that can then be mined. All mining begins with prospecting.

SLUICE BOX

A rectangular shaped trough that water and material flow through. Inside the trough is wooden or metal riffles (traps) that slow the passing water down to allow heavy minerals such as gold to drop out of the material that is being fed through it thus producing concentrates. The sluice boxes is one of the most commonly used tools for prospectors.

SNIPING

Typically considered to be the act of re-working material that was already worked by prior operations in hope of recovering the values that they missed.

SOURDOUGH

A highly experienced miner who has many years of prospecting under his or her belt.

SPECIMEN

A piece of gold that has extremely unique, outstanding characteristics

TAILINGS

The waste material that has already been processed or run through one of many different mining techniques such as dredging, sluicing, etc..

VALUES

Things of value. For prospectors, values refer to the gold that is being extracted from the material they are mining.



Assistants and Committee Members:

We need some assistants and/or committee members for the following, T-shirts, Chapter Store, Membership, Library, Sunshine bereavement (part of the Sunshine committee) Outings, Awards, Adopt a high way, and many more.

Most of these already have a chairperson. This is a great opportunity to get involved, give a little bit of you time helping out.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please contact Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215 or ddwitcher@yahoo.com

Outings Committee

We need volunteers for our outings committee. You will need to come up with ideas for outings. What are you interested in doing, seeing? Others may be too. We need suggestions for day trips, local and otherwise, week-end trips, etc..

Here are a few of the things we did this year: Whites metal detectors, beach mining, polka dot agate and Richards rock ranch, Roaring Camp, Daybreak, Lewisville, copper creek.

Please sign up and or give suggestions. Lets get our calendar started for next year.

Library

We are in need of a new Librarian

For those of you who may not know we have a Chapter library. It contains books, magazines, DVD's, etc. Once you are a member you are entitled to check out materials for up to 30 days. You need to sign the log book with your information and what you are borrowing. Please do not keep the materials longer than 30 days so someone else can borrow it.

We currently have materials that have been checked out since April as well as missing materials. This is an honor system so please do not put our librarian in the position of having to call you to bring the materials back.

Our librarian is Dave Conti so if you have any questions or want to donate something to the library please contact him.360-256-0892 or user764554@aol.com

Chapter Store

Our chapter store carries a lot of items including t shirts and mning equipment. Needing something and don't see it? Just ask Maurene Koppi and Patti Long, they will see what they can do for you.

March 2017 SWWGP General Meeting Minutes

Called to order at 2:14

Secretary report read and accepted

Treasurers report read and accepted

Ken is to file the Oregon annual chapter report.

Ken has contacted the Washington gambling commission and has the management guidelines

Ken is to meet with the local representative and review all regulations

The President, Secretary, and Steve need WA state certification in order to conduct raffles.

It was reported out that the monthly rent is increasing from \$100.00 to \$150.00.

A motion was made and passed to pay 6 months rent

A reminder was noted that we need to have volunteers for Sgt at Arms

A reminder that any members who have equipment for salt to contact Mark for adding to the newsletter.

AKAU, Roaring Camp, Danner Boots, and Basket Nugget have been added to the list of chapter sponsors

Riverview middle school asked to have a panning demonstration event.

The las vegas summit is back on.

A motion was made and passed to allow \$300.00 to help those members attending the Las Vegas Summit.

We are working on GPAA claims that are available for adopting by our chapter.

Preston presented on the Gold and Fish book and the responsibility of each person to have a copy present with them whenever prospecting.

Steve and Jeff presented on the online GPAA mining guide.

Next meeting at 2 o'clock on May 14th, 2017



2017 Calendar of Activities

January 2017

February

March

17-19 Puyallup Show
17-19 Portland/ Gold Show
28th Newsletter info due

April

9th Chapter Meeting
24th Newsletter info due

May

14th Chapter Meeting
29th Newsletter info due

June

2-5 Baker LDMA joint outing
11th Chapter Meeting
17-18 Polka Dot Mine
Newsletter info due

July

9th Chapter Meeting
16th Picnic
24th Newsletter info due
28th—Aug. 11th Nome trip

August

1-11 Nome trip
13th Chapter Meeting
28th Newsletter info due

GPA Oregon/Washington Chapters

Auburn — Auburn Green River Valley Gold Prospectors — 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm. River Estates Club House, 3611 I St NE, Auburn, WA (253-833-2255)

Bremerton — Western Washington Prospectors 2nd Saturday, 1:00 pm., Elm Lutheran Church, 5911 E Hillcrest Dr., Port Orchard, WA (360-830-4613)

Brownsville — Mid Valley Prospectors — 1st Sunday, 1:30 pm. Brownsville Fire Department, 600 E Blakely Ave, Brownsville, OR (541-990-5148)

Everett— Everett Gold Prospectors 2nd Friday, 7:00 pm., Silver Lake-Alfy's Pizza, 9620 19th Ave, Everett, WA

Longview — Fire Mountain Prospectors — 3rd Saturday, 10:00 am., Bob's Sporting Goods, 1111 Hudson St., Longview, WA (360-274-3396)

Portland — Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. 3rd Sunday, 12:00 pm., Milwaukie Grange, 12015 SE 22nd, Milwaukie, OR (503-258-8553)

Vancouver — Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors — 2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm. Minnehaha Grange 4905 NE St Johns Road, Vancouver, WA (360-695-3215)

2016 Oregon/Washington Rock & Mineral Shows

You can view a complete list of the 2017 Rock & Mineral Shows listed for Oregon and Washington by visiting the websites below:
OREGON — <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=OR>
WASHINGTON — <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=WA>

April 2017

8-9—EDMONDS, WASHINGTON: April Sale; Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse; 8802 196th Street SW; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-6;

22-23—YAKIMA, WASHINGTON: 57th Parade of Gems; Yakima Rock Club, Modern Living Building; Centrak Washington State Fair Grounds, 1301 South Fair Avenue; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4;

22-23—KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Lakeside Gem and Mineral, Benton County Fairgrounds; 1500 South Oak Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4;

29-30—SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Annual show; West Seattle Rock Club, Alki Masonic Temple; 4736 40th Avenue SW; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5

29-30—ELMA, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Grays Harbor Gem and Geology, Grays Harbor Fairgrounds; 43 Elma-McCleary Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4



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

Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup	Topside Mining	Northwest Detector Sales
9 Cent Color Copies	Creekside Prospecting	Ruth Enterprises
Whites Metal Detectors	Armadillo Mining	Thunder Reef
Chinook Winds Casino & Resort	Fossickers	Thrive Life
Quick Badge	Danas classic Flowers and Gifts	Danner Boots
Jensen Wood Crafts	Danas Classic Hair Supply	AKAU Lodge
RDK Plastics	Packwood Prospecting and Mining Supply	American Mining Supply Roaring Camp
Designs of all kinds	The Gold Claw	The Gold Lab
Gold Getter	Wilson Brothers	D&K Prospecting & Detector Sales Inc.
AAA Precious Metals	Sportsman's Warehouse	Avon Products—Bug Guard
Pro Caliber	Nayhely's Place	Spin it Off
Oregon Treasure Trail Society	Gold Rush Nugget Bucket	Lucky Dog Supply
Lost Adams	McCord's Vancouver Toyota	LAMAR Advertising

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.