

Newsletter



South West Washington Gold Prospectors September 2020



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

NO MEETING

We are still unable to hold meeting or set up outings at this time. Clark County is still in stage 2 which is gatherings of 5 or less indoors. Hopefully we will move to stage 3 soon.

ALL STAYING

Currently Jeff W. V.P., Patti L. Treasurer will stay in their positions and serve another term, as well as all current board members. When we are able to resume meeting nominations will be opened up and the election process will start. We do need to fill a board position.

GOLD FOR STORIES ETC.

Tom Fest, Rick Beehler and Ron Koppi each contributed to our newsletters and have a gold reward coming. We are extending this offer to all who are willing to take the time and send a story, etc. to the newsletter. Please contribute to the newsletter and not just leave it up to me and Mark to come up with the content. This is after everyone's newsletter.

MINING BUDDIES

If you want to add your name to this list please send me your name, phone number, and e-mail. We have several people wanting to get together with one or two others and go mining. I will update the list once a month but it is up to those on the list to take it from there.

DONATIONS

We have had some more pieces of equipment, books, and raffle item donated to the chapter. Thank you to all of you.

PAYDIRT

Thanks to everyone who took advantage of the pay dirt special. Except for 7 of the California dirt we sold out. The California dirt is available for \$10 reg. \$12 each. Call Debbie 360-695-3215 to make arrangements to purchase.

If you purchased the special please let us know how you did.

BUSINESS CARDS

Anyone need some chapter business cards? Room on them to add your name. Mark made up a good supply for us. Contact Debbie 360-695-3215 to get a few to hand out.

BI-LAW CHANGES

We need a couple of people to work on a committee to make some bi-law change recommendations. We need to address issues that have been caused by the covid 19 for the future. Please contact Debbie W. 360-695-3215 if you can donate a hr. or so to work on this. We will work out a time and place to meet. Recommendations will go to the board of directors and then to the membership for discussion, and agreed upon changes, and a vote. When meetings can start.

CLAIMS

If you are using a GPAA claim or chapter claims please take a minute and send a report to Debbie W.

(Preston does not have an email so I will see he gets a copy). Please include which claims, the date visited, and what you did, carry out garb. Clean up etc.as well as how much time you donated. We need to keep records on this for our report on yearly reports to the BLM and Forest service.

It saves the chapter money on renewing the claims.

BE PREPARED & AWARE !

A couple of people I have been in contact with for a couple of years had asked about going with me into the woods looking for petrified wood, they had even gone out on their own to a couple places up the Lewis River in search of rocks appealing enough to take home.

Taking time to lead these novices into the woods, I ask the couple if they had any firearms with them.

As I heard back that both people were prepared well with the sidearms they carried. So I just needed to be aware of where they were so I wouldn't get shot. Preparing them also with my extra walkie talkie I felt comfortable that if they had any problems or questions they would then be able to seek my assistance as needed.

Then so as to prepare them a bit more so they would be aware of what may linger behind yonder bush or along the stream drinking water I tell them the tale of when I was grouse hunting up on the hill above where we were.

Sneaking slowly along the huckleberry bushes looking for grouse, real real slow and quiet, I reach a turn in the trail and suddenly get a strong smell in the air coming directly at me, I recognize that smell and a big hint of caution come up my spine,, that smell was a boar bear and that smell was real strong. As I had a bear tag also and I had brought along my 7mm magnum, I set my .22 down that I use for grouse and unslung my big gun. Then walking even more slowly, I try following the scent in the air, hoping to get a shot at this big guy. Oddly as it was, that odorous smell of that boar disappeared almost as quick as it had come to me. I wondered if he had smelled me to and took on the same note of caution. Only two grouse and no bear, so it was still a good trip in the woods.

Well that was one story of the woods of the area that I had experienced so I proceeded to tell them of another that some friends had experienced on a night spend up the river a few miles away.

That event had occurred up by the horse camp as a couple of people I knew from the rock club were out for the weekend camped in a tent. Taking their daytime out in search of jasper and petrified wood.

They had hunted the hills and were tired and having come back to camp, they enjoyed a relaxing meal and were taking time to enjoy the firelight. After it got more into the darker hours of the night, they thought they heard someone calling out for help. They kept trying to make out what was being said and as the sounds got closer, the sounds seemed to jump back and forth as if someone might be lost. After listening to the sounds for about an hour, the calls in the wind had stopped, so that led on to a big question, what had happened. Then the sounds, much closer now where real close and the sounds came not from just one, but from the many who had created a circle around their camp. They had been found by a pack of wolves. The sounds as they were so close gave that couple of friends the desire to sleep in their car, NOT in the tent they had put up for a relaxing evening in the mountains.

So as you embark into the woods, remember, YOU are not the only ones out there and you are spending time in their backyard. Be PREPARED & AWARE of where you go.

I told these two stories to the couple I had brought and then started off into the woods to begin looking for rocks. Thinking that they would be right along behind me and they had my extra walkie talkie. As I get up the hill a short ways, I hear their truck start up and as it was a warm day, I assume that they were parking their truck in a shadier spot. I did try calling on the walkie talkie and got no response. I figured OH WELL, they would call if help was needed. After an hour of searching the ravines for petrified wood I really started wondering what had happened to them, so I decided to go back down to my truck to see if I could figure out which way they had gone. In getting back to my truck, I find out why I could not get an answer on my walkie talkie, they had left it sitting on the running board of my truck and evidently left for parts unknown.

No note to say if something had happen to one of them so I had no idea of what had gone wrong.

As this had all transpired in a time frame of about 2 hours, I decided it would be useless to try to chase after them, so I took a different direction and went to check out a place for some gold. One of the benefits of being a prospector, you can hunt for what even is in those hills and call it a good discovery.

Well no good discovery was found and if any of you know me and my truck, it is prepared for whatever calls me. So I go off to a lake I know that has fish who were asking me to take them to dinner. After putting two limits of fish in the cooler and enjoying a quiet night in the woods, two days later I decide to head home to process the fish for smoking.

As I get down to civilization and get an internet signal that I had a message I stopped to check to see if the other world was still functioning, it was a message from one of the friends I had taken rockhounding leaving me this message, “ YOU SCARED THE LIVING HELL OUT OF ME “ that was all of the message I got and then I go to respond and find that I am blocked from communicating with them.

I have played in the woods since I could follow my dad, I enjoy the woods and try to be aware of all that is around me. I wonder if it was my tale about the Bear and the Wolves, why would two friends leave me ALONE in the woods to be eaten up by the WILD animals.

Part of my enjoyment of being in the woods was even the time I sat there looking down the trail at a cougar, crouched, trying to decide who wanted to eat who the most.

Again I say, “ BE PREPARED & AND AWARE OF WHERE YOU GO “

ME,,,I’m, GONE FISHING & HUNTING

Rockhound Rick

The Yellow Stuff, Get Some

Maurine and I have always thought that it would be fun to pan for gold. So, after searching the Internet we found that there was a club in Vancouver called the S.W.W.G.P. Club and after going on one outing and attending two meetings, we became members. We met many wonderful people and were amazed at how helpful and friendly everyone was. It seemed that each and every one of the members was eager to make our experience in the club an enjoyable one. We started acquiring the essentials needed for gold panning such as different sizes of classifiers, a couple of gold pans, buckets, shovels, snuffer bottles, etc. We also purchased a Nugget Bucket which was fun! The more we did this prospecting “stuff” the more we enjoyed it and eventually joined another club in Northern California called the New 49ers and started to make trips to Happy Camp which is where the office for the club is located. Some of the claims that we have access to as club members are located on the Klamath and Scott Rivers which are both good gold producing rivers. One of the things we do a couple of times a year with this club is to go on outings as a group and work together to put as much material through a high banker and sluice as we can. Then, after about 4 or 5 hours of working together, we go back to the club house and run the concentrates through smaller sluices and different pieces of equipment to refine the material even more. Once we have all of the gold separated from the concentrates, we divide the gold between the members that were part of the outing. A few years ago, we spent a couple of days after an outing and worked along the Klamath River on our own.

08/05/2020

It was extremely hot and on the third day I told Maurine that I had enough of the heat and working on the hot riverbanks for a while and wanted to go home. She was really enjoying herself and wanted to stay a little longer and suggested that we stop moving rocks and using our sluice box and go up on the Scott River and do some crevicing. We had done this before on the Scott and had fairly good success with this technique, so we went to one of the claims where we started removing material from cracks in some of the rocks along the river. We found a few little flakes, but nothing to get too excited about. Maurine continued working along the river and I started to explore a little higher up the bank where there were some large boulders.

One of the boulders that I found was covered with moss and had an exceptionally long, wide, and deep crack in it which looked very promising for what I intended to do. I took my crevicing tool and started to dig in the crack and placed all of the moss and material from the crack into a bucket. After cleaning the crack as much as I could with the tool, I then washed the remaining material from the crack into the bucket with water. Then, I went down to the river where Maurine was still working and started to pan. The first of three pans showed a lot of black sand and I called Maurine over and said, "Man, look at all of this black sand in the pan!" Maurine said, "Black sand? Look at all of the gold!" It was amazing at how much gold was buried in the sand. From the three pans of material that I retrieved from my bucket, I found a total of 1.6 grams, which is the best discovery in one spot that we have made since starting this gold prospecting adventure. At today's price of gold (\$2,050), this is about \$105.00. Luckily, after seeing the first glimpse of gold in the pan, Maurine grabbed the iPad and started to video tape me as I was panning. This video is one of our most treasured memories from finding the "Yellow Stuff". I sure am glad that I listened to Maurine for once and did not go home.... lol

Ron Koppi

LIBRARY

All library items are available to check out. Contact Dave Conti 360-838-3712 or Debbie W. 360-695-3215 to make arrangements. Below is a list of the 10 new books donated.

Roughing it

Lost Gold and Silver Mines of the Southwest

Ghost Towns and Historical Haunts in Arizona

Buried Treasures you can find

Successful Coin Hunting

King Con the story of Soapy Smith

Jack Mould and the Curse of Gold

Nevada lost mines and buried treasures

Crooked Past, the history of a frontier mining camp, Fairbanks, Alaska

Treasurer Legends of the West

A new list next month!

When you return equipment please make sure you include all the parts. We are missing some parts including some aire supply parts for the dredge. If you have them laying around please get them to us.

DON SPELLMAN

Don Spellman is our equipment manager and is responsible for equipment maintance and the storage unit. He is arranging things as he needs them and has a checkout system now in place for us to use.

If you want to check out equipment call Don first 360-773-8708 , Dennis W 2nd. 360-695-3215, and 3rd Ron Koppi 360-921-3833. They are the ones with keys. And will be the ones to check equipment in and out until further notice.

Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
	Maurine Koppi	3609079295	koppi@comcast.net
	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Scott Long	971-219-1079	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
	Tina Long	503-544-3695	treasuretrove67@hotmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Tammy Binford	503-766-7814	kaycbear99@gmail.com
	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhounstool1966@yahoo.com
Claims Chair	(Elected)		
	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
State Director (WA)	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Committees / Chairs	Appointed by chapter President		
Education	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
Equipment Manager	Don Spillman	360-773-8708	Golddigger357@outlook.com
Fundraising Coordi-	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
Hospitality	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Tina Long	503-544-3695	treasuretrove67@hotmail.com
Picnic, Holiday Din-	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Librarian	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Membership	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhound-
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing Coordinator	Scott Long	971-219-1079	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
Safety Officer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Norm Erickson	503-801-1452	None
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	bettyerickson13@yahoo.com
Sargent at Arms	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Sunshine	Ann Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
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Assistant	Deborah Lee	360-624-6565	deborah35@me.com
Gold Buyer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
PayDirt	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.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.			

GPAA Points	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
Name Tags	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Awards	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Picnic and Holiday	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
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Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
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Assistant			
Raffle	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Chapter Store	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Highway 99 STE G Vancouver WA 98665			

Links

Website: www.SWWGoldProspectors.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SWwashingtonGoldProspectors>

Gold and Fish Book: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/mining/>

HPA Rulemaking web page: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/hpa/rulemaking/>

GPAA <https://www.goldprospectors.org/>

[HPA application process.](#)

<http://mylandmatters.com/>

FACEBOOK EDUCATION LINKS HERE

<https://www.facebook.co/SWwashingtonGoldProspectors>

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Please do your best to support our chapter sponsors in any way you can. Many of them have been extremely hard hit by the shutdown. Some of them are not open for business at this time, but please keep them in mind for the future. Many are able to do business over the phone or on line. Below is a partial list of our sponsors. Designs of all Kinds, Vancouver Toyota and RV., Chinook Winds, AKAU Lodge, Roaring Camp, Dana's Classic hair Design, Prestige Minerals and Gems, River Gold Designs, Armadillo Mining Shop, Packwood Mining Supplies. These are just a few of our sponsors.

Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.

Pro Caliber	McCord's Vancouver Toyota	AKAU Lodge 760-500-1329
Designs of all kinds 360-892-5597	Creekside Prospecting	Roaring Camp 209 296-4100
Whites Metal Detectors 1-800-547-6911	Armadillo Mining	Spin it Off
Chinook Winds Casino & Resort	Fossickers	Thrive Life
Quick Badge	Dana's classic Flowers and Gifts	Northwest Detector Sales 503-936-1443
Danner Boots 877-432-6637	Danas Classic Hair Supply	Oregon Treasure Trail Society
Lost Adams 541-340-0931	Packwood Prospecting and Mining Supply	American Mining Supply
Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup	Topside Mining	The Gold Lab
Gold Getter	Wilson Brothers	Avon Products—Bug Guard 971-212-5996
AAA Precious Metals 503-253-8591	Sportsman's Warehouse 360 604-8000	

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.

2020 Scheduled Events All Events are cancelled at this point

Sep 4th—7th Camp out and mining with Mid-Valley chapter, to sign up contact Roy or Wendy Holtz 541-890-6214
13th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
18-20th Burnt River LDMA camp outing, Contact Debbie Witcher or Bob Brown

Oct 11th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
31st Nominations close for Nov elections (Treasurer, Vice Pres. And 5 board positions)

Nov 8th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg. Elections

Dec 13th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg. Holiday Dinner