



# Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

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April 2013

SW Washington Gold Prospectors

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## Salem Gold Show — by Kameron Mitchell

The Salem, OR GPAA Gold & Treasure Expo was held on Friday and Saturday, March 29th and 30th this year at Columbia Hall on the Salem Fairgrounds. The Puyallup and Salem shows, that is, the shows held in the northwest, are the largest and best attended of all the GPAA shows, and this year's expo was no exception. I did not get the final count, but it appears more than 2000 guests attended in addition to all the vendors and GPAA Chapter personnel.

If you have never attended one of these shows, I would recommend you set time aside for next year's.

All of the latest equipment was on display. D & K's 2-1/2 inch triple sluice dredge displayed at our booth really impressed me. If you are looking for a small dredge, check this one out first. It is top notch. If you needed a pan, I think every type invented was present. There were blue bowls, camels, gold cubes, dredges, high bankers, trommels, and hand tools. If you can use it for mining, it was there at the show. If you have a lot of black sands with fine gold, you should look into some of the new surface materials used on the newer sluices and fine gold recovery systems.



Melody Tallis

The hit of the show, however, was Melody Tallis of the Discovery Channel's hit series "Gold Rush Alaska". One of our own Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors members sponsored Melody's stay in Salem and trip from the Phoenix area. Her presence near our booth was undoubtedly the reason for our club's huge increase in donations over the past year's show.

What a wonderful person Melody is. My wife and I were fortunate to spend some time with her and got to know her a bit better.

She was born in Fairbanks, AK where she graduated from North Pole High School. Her passion in her youth was horse riding where she was a five-time, consecutive, Alaska State Quarter Horse Association Barrel Racing Champion. She was also a two-time, Overall Champion. She qualified for and participated in the National Barrel Racing Championships.

She left Alaska with her horses in 1988 and lives now in the Phoenix area.

She has been mining for about 20 years, but her first contact with "mining" was when she purchased a metal detector principally for finding nails in her paddock! That led to nugget searching, which led to gold fever! She did a little fishing while in Alaska but she did not mine.

How did she become a participant in the Gold Rush show? While watching the episodes, she felt that the show lacked a woman miner's perspective. She wanted everyone to know that there are woman miners too and that they could handle the equipment as well as a man.

So she emailed some people at the show with her viewpoint. She did not receive very quick responses to these emails. She then attended the Mesa, AZ

Gold Show where she knew Dakota Fred Hurt was to appear. She shyly approached him a couple of times to talk to him. Finally, she asked him point blank if he would consider hiring a woman for his crew. The show had mentioned the idea of a woman miner to him so it wasn't a total surprise. But to make a longer story shorter, she impressed him and he hired her as a member of his crew along with his son Dustin.



Melody's Design

Dakota Fred gave her permission to use his claim name on tee shirts that she sells. She designed the miner and she embroiders them herself in her kitchen!

As you can imagine, Melody has a thousand stories to tell about her first year on Porcupine Creek and she told many of them to her fans that lined up for her autograph and pictures.

An interesting anecdote is one day the film crew wanted to do a shoot in Dawson with "hair and makeup". This sounded pretty exciting to her. So they went up there for the shoot. When they called for makeup, the makeup artist brought various types of DIRT that she began to daub on Melody's clothes! She drew the line and wouldn't allow her to put any on her face! She leaves the second week of April for Porcupine Creek. Check her out on Facebook!



Melody's Corner  
at the Gold Show

## The President's Adit - Opening Message



President Al Lewis

How's everyone been? Since I saw them at the gold show, I want to thank everyone for all of the hard work that they did to make my job a lot easier to do and take care of the things that I had to do while I was there. I want to thank Steve Lewin and the crew that set up the show. D&K also told me that they wanted to thank all of the crew for helping and waiting for them to get to the show and help them set up. **GOOD JOB YA'LL!** I also want to let everyone know that the GPAA told me that everyone did an **AWESOME** job taking care of the door and the parking lot. I also talked to Gary Sturgil about next year if we can be closer to D&K. He said that he will work on that. It sounds like a very good chance that we will be in the money slot. I will let everyone know when it gets closer to the show. I hope everyone had a good time at the show working and walking around. Thank all who signed up to work, and those that did not signed up, that worked the show. **MAY THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PAN TURN GOLD !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

SEE YA'LL AT THE NEXT MEETING ON 4/14/2013 AT 1:00PM.

The Pres. Al Lewis

## Promising Prospects — Outings & Events

### Upcoming Meetings:

- April 14, 2013
- May 12, 2013
- June 9, 2013
- July 14, 2013
- August 11, 2013
- September 8, 2013
- October 13, 2013
- November 10, 2013
- December 8, 2013

### Upcoming Outings:

- April 19, 2013
- August 17, 2013

### SWWGP OUTINGS

There is planned a tour of the **Whites Electronics** factory in Sweet Home, Oregon on April 19th.

Our **Annual SWWGP BBQ** is scheduled for 17 August. An excellent covered site has been reserved named "Dogwood" at Lewisville Park just north of Battle Ground, WA. There is running water, picnic tables, restrooms nearby, and easy access to the river for panning and sluicing. Set this Saturday aside now!

A free dredging class is to be given by D&K at Lewisville Park or Daybreak Park at a date yet to be determined.

Additional outings are in the works between these two dates. Stay tuned and check out our website for more info.

[www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)



How To Demos 2012



## Liberty Church Detector Outing

There was a self-directed, metal detector outing at a property of the Liberty Bible Church of the Nazarene for two weeks during March. Nothing of huge value was found. Along with your normal trash, recent coins and many "hot wheels" were found. Marvin Kruger found more than 25.



## Copper Creek Cleanup

Ten brave souls tackled the elements and brush of the GPAA Copper Creek claim on Saturday, March 16th to clean up trash left behind by less conscientious users of the area. Thanks go out to Dave Coffey, Steve Lewin, Bailey Witt, Dave Greer, Mike Witt, Richard Hewitt, Pam Boltz, Kameron Mitchell, Bill Ray, and Phillip VanAntwerp. Photos by Rosalie Mitchell.



## Concentrates — Meeting Minutes Highlights

### Business Meeting 3/10/13 (unofficial minutes)

A total of 86 persons, including 17 guests, signed the attendance sheets.

The February 10, 2013 meeting minutes were read and approved. The February treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Membership Members and guests were informed that a member of this club is not required to be a member of GPAA, that participation in three activities in a calendar year is required to become a member in good standing, that no dues are charged for membership, that members are asked to assist at activities, members are welcome at board meetings, that each person is responsible for signing in at an activity for membership credit, and that only individual memberships, not family memberships, are available in this club.

Safety officer Randy Harper reminded everyone that there is a dive refresher class next Sunday at Thunder Reef for a fee of \$25, and there is room for more participants. He has medical information forms for anyone participating in an outing to fill out and return to him if the member has any medical condition our safety officers should be aware of. Assistant safety officer Dave Greer reminded everyone that if you're out prospecting now, even when it's cold, that you need to drink

water to stay hydrated.

Librarian Ernie Stinson invited people to feel free to donate any materials to our library concerning prospecting. Forms are available for Members in Good Standing to check out materials, which requires noting your club membership number, found on your membership card.

Webmaster Rosalie Mitchell stated that the website has been recently updated. A members-only section is under construction.

Newsletter editor Kameron Mitchell stated he still is looking for input from members with articles to be included in the newsletter.

Equipment chair Dave Greer stated that no new equipment has been added in the past month. Anyone wanting to check out any equipment is asked to contact him.

Facebook editor Linda Erickson reported that the club now has two Facebook sites. Rick Beehler started one that is open to the public. Linda Erickson started a group Facebook site that will be open only to members.

#### Unfinished Business

1. We have received our federal employer number, which is required on the application for a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

The next step is to submit our application. We will be seeking help from GPAA on this application so our application will be as complete as possible when submitted.

2. For the Gold Show in the Columbia Hall at the Salem fairgrounds on March 29-30, more volunteers could still be used for 2 hour shifts at the door and at our booth on Friday and Saturday. Also, help is needed for the break-down on Saturday after the show ends. D&K is planning to bring in new items recently received at its store, and is asking our club to display some of its items at our booth. If any of those items are sold, D&K will donate a portion of the sale proceeds to our club.

#### New Business

1. Myron Hastings gave a very informative presentation on the topic of gold. Gas from the earth's molten core blows minerals to the surface. With new technology, a person can now use metal detectors in gold mines. Tailings at gold mines can now be pulverized to recover gold. Use a good magnifying glass to inspect any gold found; if the gold is coarse and rough, you are close to the lode. Gold in the desert is more likely to have been deposited there during the Ice Age. Early prospectors often looked for white

quartz, which for reasons yet unknown, is likely to be near gold. Metal detectors are designed to find metal, so any readout on a detector saying the metal is "gold" is not to be trusted.

2. The dredging class to be conducted by D&K, will probably be at Lewisville or Daybreak Park. There is no charge for the class. The date is to be announced later.

3. Following a brief discussion, there was a motion and a second to donate \$100 to Public Lands for the People (PLP), a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Motion passed.

4. Becky Beck volunteered to take over the Sunshine Person and Historian duties, as Betsy Shepherd has moved out of state.

5. The tour of the metal detector manufacturing plant at White's Electronics in Sweet Home will be scheduled for Friday, April 19, subject to confirmation of the date with White's.

6. A future outing will be scheduled in Sandy, Oregon with a manufacturer of new equipment that separates gold from black sand.

7. There was a reminder of the August 17 outing at Lewisville Park. Be sure to put it on your calendar.

## March Meeting and Salem Show Raffle Winners

The March drawing for the gold nugget was won by Steve Anthony. Ron Tomkins won the two amethysts and Wayne Tipping won the other two gems.

From the Gold Show in Salem, the following won the prizes:

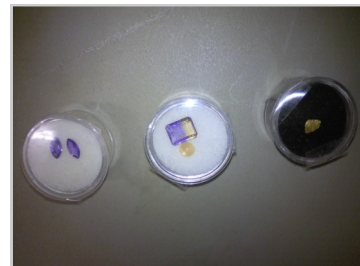
Back Pack & Sluice: E.O. Malone      Falcon Detector: Tom Fest

D&K Sluice box: David Pense      Bear: no name listed

Hand-painted pan: Sandy



Steve Anthony



Gems and Nugget

## Rich Placer Deposits — Educational Articles

### Prospecting for Gold in the United States - By Harold Kirkemo

[Editors Note: I have cut and edited portions from a much larger article by the author provided by the U.S. Geological Survey to present here in the space allotted. This is continued from last month.]

#### Prospecting Gold

Anyone who pans for gold hopes to be rewarded by the glitter of colors in the fine material collected in the bottom of the pan. Although the exercise and outdoor activity experienced in prospecting are rewarding, there are few thrills comparable to finding gold. The would-be prospector hoping for financial gain, however, should carefully consider all the pertinent facts before deciding on a prospecting venture.

Only a few prospectors among the many thousands who searched the western part of the United States ever found a valuable deposit. Over the past several centuries the country has been thoroughly searched by prospectors.

The results of their activities have never been fully documented, but incomplete records indicate that an extremely small percentage of the total number of active prospectors supported themselves by gold mining.

The best chances of success lie in systematic studies of known productive areas rather than in efforts to discover gold in hitherto unproductive areas.

Studies have shown that few, if any, recognizable surface indications of metal-bearing deposits were overlooked by the earlier miners and prospectors.

One who contemplates prospecting for gold should realize that a successful venture does not necessarily mean large profits even if the discovery is developed into a producing mine. Although the price of gold has increased significantly since 1967 when the fixed price of \$35 an ounce was terminated, the increases in the cost of virtually every supply and service item needed

in prospecting and mining ventures have kept profit margins at moderate levels, particularly for the small mine operator.

Today's prospector must determine where prospecting is permitted and be aware of the regulations under which he is allowed to search for gold and other metals. Permission to enter upon privately owned land must be obtained from the land owner. Determination of land ownership and location and contact with the owner can be a time-consuming chore but one which has to be done before prospecting can begin.

Determination of the location and extent of public lands open to mineral entry for prospecting and mining purposes also is a time consuming but necessary requirement. National parks, for example, are closed to prospecting. Certain lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management may be entered for prospecting, but sets of rules and regulations govern entry.

There are still areas where you may prospect, and if a discovery of a valuable, locatable mineral is made, you may stake a claim. Such areas are mainly unreserved, unappropriated Federal public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of the U.S. Department of the Interior and in national forests administered by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Successful gold mining under present conditions is a large-scale operation, utilizing costly and sophisticated machinery capable of handling many tons of low-grade ore each day. The grizzled prospector with a burro is no longer a significant participant in the search for mineral deposits, and the small producer accounts for only a minor share of the total production of metals including gold.

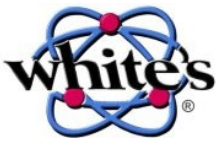
Some degree of success in finding gold still remains for those choosing favorable areas after a careful study of mining records and the geology of the mining districts. Serious prospecting should not be attempted by anyone without sufficient capital to support a long and possibly discouraging campaign of preliminary work. The prospective gold seeker must have ample funds to travel to and from the region he selects to prospect and to support the venture. He must be prepared to undergo physical hardships, possess a car capable of traveling the roughest and steepest roads, and not be discouraged by repeated disappointments. Even if a discovery of value is not found, the venture will have been interesting and challenging.

Locations of important gold-producing districts of the United States are shown in some of the reports of the Geological Survey. You may also obtain additional information from Geological agencies of the principal gold-producing States. Information may be obtained, too, from U.S. Bureau of Mines State Liaison offices located in the capital cities of most States.

#### Lode Gold

Lode gold occurs within the solid rock in which it was deposited. Areas likely to contain valuable lode deposits of gold have been explored so thoroughly that the inexperienced prospector without ample capital has little chance of discovering a new lode worth developing. Most future discoveries of workable lode gold ore probably will result from continued investigations in areas known to be productive in the past. The districts in which such new discoveries of gold may be possible are too numerous to be listed in detail in this pamphlet. Some of the famous districts are: in California, the Alleghany, Sierra City, Grass Valley, and Nevada City districts, and (continued on pg. 5)

## The Trading Post



**Metal Detectors  
Authorized Dealer**  
**Myron Hastings**  
21016 Ne 68th St.  
Vancouver, WA 98682  
360-892-3471



*D & K Prospecting & Detector Sales Inc.*  
**For all your prospecting needs.**  
13809 SE Division St.  
Portland, OR 97236  
503-762-1521  
800-542-4653



**Bob Mote**  
7905 SW Elmwood St.  
Tigard, OR 97223  
503-936-1441

### FOR SALE

Wet suit, boots, fins, scuba tanks, weights, and more. See web site for details and pictures. Serious inquiries only.

Call Chris Fri. - Sat. only  
360-260-1572

### Butcher Boys

**Meats, sausage, cutting, wrapping**

4710 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
360-693-6241

### Columbia River Mining Supplies

Bucket Faucet, Hand Trommel,  
Gold Cube & More

David Urick (Swwgp member)  
360-980-7190  
ColumbiaRiverMiningSupplies.com

## The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

- 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.
- Reminder: we have an ongoing food drive for the needy of our area. Bring in two non-perishable food items to any meeting and receive one free raffle ticket!
- 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 (and update) at meetings and outing to be credited with attendance. To be a member in good standing you must attend three meetings or outings each year.

### Prospecting for Gold continued from page 4

the Mother Lode belt; in Colorado, the Cripple Creek, Telluride, Silverton, and Ouray districts; in Nevada, the Goldfield, Tonopah, and Comstock districts; in South Dakota, the Lead district in the Black Hills; and in Alaska, the Juneau and Fairbanks districts. Deposits in these districts generally are gold-quartz lodes.

Prospecting for lode deposits of gold is not the relatively simple task it once was because most outcrops or exposures of mineralized rock have been examined and sampled. Today's prospector must examine not only these exposures, but also broken rock on mine dumps and exposures of mineralized rock in accessible mine workings. Gold, if present, may not be visible in the rock, and detection will depend on the results of laboratory analyses. Usually, samples of 3 to 5 pounds of representative mineralized rock will be sent to a commercial analytical laboratory or assay office for assay. Obviously, knowledge about the geological nature of gold deposits and particularly of the rocks and deposits in the area of interest will aid the prospector.

There are many publications of interest to those seeking more information about gold. Anyone contemplating a prospecting venture or mining operation should consult some of these publications to become better informed on this fascinating and challenging subject. Many papers, maps, and articles on gold and related heavy metals were published on the results of investigations conducted in the mid- to late-1960's by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines. Titles and instructions for ordering many of these appear in the publication catalogs of each agency. Some may be out of print but may be consulted in libraries of the two agencies, and in many city, college, and university libraries.



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To:

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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.