

# SW Washington Gold Prospectors Club Newsletter

Volume III Issue 5, May 2014

## President's Welcome

Hello again Members,

Looking forward to seeing everybody at our next meeting. Steve's got a lot of gold to raffle off to several people who will be going home with gold, as they always do.

We will have a short-as-possible meeting, then move straight outside. For those who want to learn more about detectors, we'll have a treasure hunt out back. Bring your small gold recovery tools and your cons and let's see what works best.

Linda and I had a productive time in Vegas. We gathered a lot of good information, learned a lot, and met a lot of really good people from all over the United States. What a great organization the GPAA is. I'm proud to be a part of it and I'm proud to be associated with our club.

We'll see you Sunday,

Randy Harper



## April Raffle Winners!

New People gold raffle won by Melvin, Steve, Jim, Malee and Michael

Bering Sea gold won by John Rogers, Brenda Thornlimb and twice by Ron Tompkins.

Rogue River gold won by Linda Williams

Bering Sea nugget won by Jim McCall

CONGRATULATIONS!



Come to our meet-  
ing, Sunday, May

11th at 1:00pm,

Bring your detec-  
tors, we're having a  
Treasure Hunt!

Bring your small  
gold recover tools  
and cons and let's  
see what works

best!

Ladies! Come to  
our Club meeting  
and get a chance for  
GOLD

## **Advanced Cartography or... Finding places on maps electronically.** By William Adams

Have you ever read or heard of a place on a map, where to find GOLD, and didn't know where or how to get the map? Or maybe the storyteller didn't reveal enough detail to find the place! You know how SOME Gold Miners are...

Well, there is a way to find and download the Topo maps FOR FREE: as I will reveal in the next few paragraphs.

First, we need a name to find, so I'll pick one from my "Lost Adams" air(head) space at random. Recalling a Lost Gold Mine story from Ruby S. Hult's book, *Lost Mines and Treasures of the Pacific Northwest*. On page 114 is the story of the "Lost Shepherd Mine south of Vale, Oregon. In the story it tells of the area being between three mountains, west of the Owyhee River. The mountains are shown on a crude map that was published in the March 11, 1951 edition of the Oregon Journal. The mountains are Freezout Mountain, Sourdough Mountain and Grassy Mountain.

So we need to find a starting name. Let's pick Grassy Mountain. Then we go to the USGS's GNIS server. Click the following link <http://geonames.usgs.gov/> or Google GNIS to go there and then in the upper left hand corner you should see a link that says "Search Domestic Names". Click it. In the "Feature Name" box type Grassy Mountain, then pick the state in the dropdown box, second on left of page. Just leave the county blank for now because we don't know what county it's in yet. Then click on "Send Query" and the program will display any and everything that has "Grassy Mountain" in it. I received 10 results, the first two being in Lane County, so I know there's Not what I'm looking for. So I see that third and fourth down are "Summits" so I click on the fourth one that is underlined in the Feature name column. I know which one to choose, so if you don't then you will have to experiment with several choices till you find the right one. Next page is the "Feature Detail Report Page". On it will be the GPS Chords for the feature and to the right is the 7.5 min Topo map, which says Grassy Mountain.

Now the neat thing is the BOX on the far right that says "Mapping Services". It lists HOT links to the different mapping programs on the internet that can be used to view the map with.

The BEST part of that box is that when you click on a link from this page it will automatically place you on the relevant Topo map, AT the GPS chords/feature you were searching for!  
TRY IT OUT!!!

Now that we know the name of the Topo map we start the second part of the QUEST: to get an old Topo map that still has all the "Cultural Features" pin-pointed on it. This is in the USGS's "Historical Map Collection" that is downloadable in PDF format from their servers.

For this adventure we google "USGS Historical Maps" or go to the USGS Map Server at <http://nationalmap.gov/historical/>. Scroll down the page till you can see the highlighted link "Historical Topographic Map Collection Search". Click on it and then in the upper left choose your state from the dropdown list. In this case we will choose Oregon and then enter the topo's name we got from the GNIS server, Grassy Mountain. Click search. then click search.  
(Continued on page 4)

## May's GRAND Drawing with a BONUS!

### FIRST PRIZE

**\$50.00 GOLD NUGGET**

**T-SHIRT**

**SPECIAL Custom CLUB HAT**

**NEW!**

### **SECOND PRIZE: GOLD NUGGET!**

This time you will receive both sides of ticket, print your name and phone number on ticket and place in can. **You don't have to be present to win**

The money from this RAFFLE is going toward the purchase of equipment for the Club. This RAFFLE will run for March, April and May. Drawing at May meeting.



### Las Vegas GPAA Summit and Gold and Treasure Show. By Linda Williams, Secretary

Randy Harper and I just returned from Vegas. The Summit was an all-day training for Chapter officers. We met Brandon John, President of GPAA. He said that 80 out of 130 chapters were represented. Pretty good! Louis Escarcega is our Chapter liaison and Aley Arrigon is working with him. They are energetic and full of ideas, but short on gold prospecting experience.

Louis went over the new, improved GPAA website. Each Club has a page and members can sign in and create profiles. Louis and Aley presented their newest project: The Perfect Panning Station. It's a green awning with GPAA logos, green table skirts with club and GPAA logos and a really nice banner that also has GPAA and club logos on it. It's kind of spendy, but we can purchase it with Club points. An update of points is being sent out soon so we'll see if we can/want to get one.

There was a presentation on applying for non-profit status with the IRS. It wasn't detailed but I got a couple names and numbers to get help from other Chapters.

GPAA headquarters is changing their perspective about things. They want to provide us with low cost items like hats and shirts and banners. They want the clubs to see GPAA memberships and are working out the details of providing clubs with membership kits.

There was a lot of time spent on how to put on a Gold and Treasure Show. Our club hopes to be sponsoring the Show in May, 2015 so we took lots of notes. I helped the host club with set-up and registration in the morning so I'd have a better idea of what we'll need to do .

## **April Meeting Highlights**

We have a Committee for our annual picnic on August 3rd and a new Outings Committee. Thanks for donating books and other items to the club. We have an unlimited supply of 5 gallon buckets Anthony and Michele are selling for \$1 each to benefit the club.

Come to our May meeting for a Treasure hunt and bring your metal detectors and classifiers and concentrates to show how they work and share information. Watermelon is provided. Come have fun and learn too: Sunday May 11th!

## (Continued from page 2) **Advanced Cartography**

If you want to restrict the search to ONLY Historical then click the button on the right that says "Historical", What we receive is Three selections that are in the 7.5 min (24000) scale and the oldest is the 1967 Edition that was imprinted in 1971. In the column "Download GeoPDF" select the little picture with the right arrow and then wait for the thing to download. Or, select "open" and the zip file will open when downloaded, and then double click on the file name and it will open the PDF where you can SAVE AS to the Directory of your choice. This method saves duplicated files on your computer and keeps you from having to guess at which USGS-coded filename is the one you are looking for. You'll see what I mean later.

For those who would CHASE this ONE, Don't. I've already confirmed the location and the company that is mining the 18"wide Vein that is running 96 ozs./ton. Ask me at a meeting and I'll tell you the story how I did it.

Sincerely,

"Lost Adams"

wvadams@gorge.net

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## **How to Read a Stream of Gold.** By Gary Sturgill

If you know where the fish are hiding, then you can tell where the gold is by using the same techniques. Fish like to hide in the low-current places such as behind rocks or downed trees because that's where the food drops out of the river's swift current. Gold will do the same thing. It will drop out and settle into the gravels whenever the water flow is no longer strong enough to keep it moving. Remember, gold is 19.3 times heavier than the water that's pushing it. The only metal heavier than gold is platinum which is 21.4 times heavier than water.

When you get to the stream, you first want to take it all in from a high vantage point so you can read the stream in question. Remember, during flood stage the gold will take the straightest and shortest route. Look for gravel bars left high and dry from the winter flood. They are going to be on the inside corners where the water flow slows.

The outside of a turn is where the water flows the fastest and you might find some color there but not as much as you will find on the inside. The gravel bar's rough surface acts like a gold trap, collecting all the fine particles of gold that come dancing across its surface. You can usually find "flood gold" every spring in the top eight inches.

Look for downed trees across the stream and the gravels behind them on the downstream side; it acts like a big riffle in your sluice box collecting the stream's heavier material behind it.

Look for boulder patches. The gold will drop out between these big rocks and eventually work its way under them. Be very careful when moving these big rocks, as they can roll and do bodily damage, and or pinning you under the water.

Look for exposed bedrock and follow it into the river and up the bank, popping all the crack as you go and cleaning them out. If the bedrock is pointed and sharp, someone has already been there ahead of you. But, if the bedrock has been worn smooth from the water flowing over it, you are looking at an unworked area, so pop them cracks open. The bedrock will rise and fall creating low spots that fill with the heavier material, these are areas to concentrate on also.

Now that you have surveyed your surroundings, let's get to work. First start test panning the areas that looked most promising. When you start finding lead fishing weights and old shotgun lead you are in a good spot. Keep digging and testing, putting all the lead you find to the side to be disposed of later. Although lead shot has been banned in most places and hunters are now using steel shot, lead fishing weights are still commonly used by anglers. Be sure to remove this toxic lead from all rivers and streams to do your part for the environment.

Now, you should be finding some smaller pieces of gold, as you go down they will get a little larger. Watch the sides of your hole as you go, looking at the different layers. The layers with the larger rocks are heavy water years and pushed a lot more gold than the sandy layers without any pebbles. Bigger rocks mean bigger gold! As you are testing the layers and you find one that is giving more colors than the rest, start drifting. Follow the layers that are producing and testing every so often as you go as to stay in the pay streak. Remember that gold is where you find it and sometimes it has missed a good place to hide.

 <p><b>NORTHWEST DETECTOR SALES</b> Metal Detector Community</p> <p><u>Bob Mote</u> 7905 SW Elmwood St Tigard OR 97223 503-936-1443</p>	<p>For a full line of <b>Avon</b> Products</p> <p>Call Steve Lewin 971-212-5996 or Patricia Bartch 503-286-9252</p>
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<p><u><b>Dave Urick</b></u> <u><b>Columbia River Mining Supplies</b></u> <b>Bucket Faucet, Hand Trommel, Gold Cube &amp; More</b> <b>360-980-7190</b> ColumbiaRiverMiningSupplies.com</p>	<p><u><b>D &amp; K detector and Prospecting Sales Inc</b></u> <u><b>Your metal detecting and prospecting headquarters!</b></u> <u><b>13809 SE Division Portland OR 97236, 503-761- 1521, 1-800-542-4653</b></u> <u><b>Discount for our Club Members</b></u></p>

**My trip to Day Break Park. By Ernie Stinson**

On Sunday, the 23rd of March, I drove out to Day Break Park. I arrived at 6:45am. The gate was already open so I just drove in. It was already daylight. I loaded up my little wagon with my prospecting gear. I brought my mini-high banker, along with my gold magic wheel, besides the gold pan, buckets, tub, classifiers and other tools to work and dig with.

The place I decided to prospect was the area we went to last year at the outing. Which was the large rock bar. About in the idle and up to the edge of the grass. It had been flooded up to that area and much more. The water was fast and high and cold.

I started with setting up the mini-high banker, with a good spot to draw water from the river. Hooked up the battery... to my surprise—I can spit faster than the pump could pump water. So, I started to dig in the rocks, took a sample which was ok... and filled up my bucket with half -inch stuff, and worked it down to one-eighth stuff. The hole was about 2 feet deep by 2 feet wide.

While taking a little break, I walked over to the downstream side of the rock bar. And at the edge of the water was some sand, and made a pan sample test. Tested out to be very good to run with the gold magic wheel. About almost a full bucket of sand and with the other bucket I got a little gold out of it.

I loaded everything up and left to go home. I was hoping to see someone else prospecting, however I was the only one brave enough to go prospecting there. The day started out to be a little cold at first, but it turned out to be a really nice day.

So, until the next time, may the bottom of your gold pan turn yellow stuff we call GOLD.



## **GOLD. WHY? What makes it Great?** Tom Fest, Education Chairman

Gold has been the catalyst for wars. Its extraction has changed the landscape of the earth. It has been used for human emotional, medical, and technical uses: and the search for it has cost the lives of millions of people. So why are we still seeking it?

All the gold ever found to-date in the world... All the rings, statues, computer parts, crowns, teeth, satellite parts and every other speck would fit into a cube that would be 20 meters or 22 yards on each side. But it would weigh in at over 171,000 metric tons! It is very rare.

The California and Alaska landscapes were changed when large hoses of water were used to knock down the mountains to get at the gold... but that was nothing compared to what the Romans did in Europe in 58 BC. They built huge viaducts to redirect water for hundreds of miles... just for the gold.

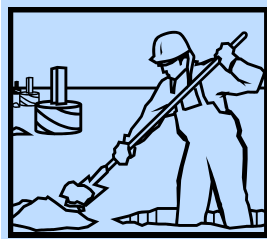
Gold is dense. It is 19 times heavier than water. It is twice as heavy as lead. One square foot weighs over 1,200 pounds. If you tried to put that load of gold from the bank robbed on your favorite Western: the horses' backs would break. However... a one troy ounce piece can be pounded by a skilled person between special leather pages into a piece that is 29 feet square. It would only take 4.5 ounces (the amount put into our Library gold show last year) stretched into a 5 micron thick wire to reach from the earth to the International Space Station. It is malleable and ductile and resists corrosion.

In 3600 BC the Egyptians were the first to smelt gold. In 1200 BC they invented the lost wax method to make items from gold. That method is still in use today.

That is just the beginning. In future issues we will look at the mining and uses for gold and its value and use as an investment.

Happy Panning!! Tom

### **FILL YOUR HOLES AND A FEW OTHERS TOO!**



#### **For All People Interested in GOLD**

Write a story about one of your Gold outings

**If your story is printed in the newsletter, Steve Lewin will give up some GOLD!**

**Send your story to me:** Linda Williams, SWWGP Newsletter Editor,

11780 SW Royal Villa Dr, Tigard OR 97224, e-mail me at [bstwshes@yahoo.com](mailto:bstwshes@yahoo.com)

or call me at 503-703-1142 Newsletter deadline is the 1st Sunday of each month.

Visit our website at [www.SWWGoldProspectors.org](http://www.SWWGoldProspectors.org)



And On Facebook: **Southwest Washington GoldProspectors**

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.

Go on outings to enjoy the pleasures of the outdoors and prospect for gold.

Become a member of one of the newest chapters of the Gold Prospectors Association of America.

All memberships are individual. There is no fee or age requirement.

**Join in the Fun!**

**Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday every month at 1:00 pm

Minnehaha Grange Hall No. 164

4905 NE St Johns Rd, Vancouver WA

For more information, call Steve Lewin at 971-212-5996

[Intro to Scuba Classes.](#)

Call Dave Greer for more information,

[360-601-8752](tel:360-601-8752) or [airgod40@yahoo.com](mailto:airgod40@yahoo.com).

If you have an e-mail address and you are not receiving our Club newsletter, check the master roster at the sign-in desk and correct or give us your e-mail addy.

Thanks!