

The Washington and Oregon Gold Prospectors News

Auburn/Green River Valley, Fire Mountain Prospectors, Mid Valley Prospectors, Northwest Washington Gold Prospectors, Portland Gold Prospectors, Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors, Western Washington Gold Prospectors,
Steve Lewin—Oregon/Washington State Director (971-212-5996) - goldpan123@yahoo.com
Donald Kirst—Washington State Director

Welcoming in the New Year

From all accounts 2015 was a “golden year” for the Oregon and Washington Chapters of the Gold Prospectors Association of America. 2015 included two Gold & Treasure Shows, one in Portland and one in Puyallup, both of which had record attendance. The 2016 GPAA Gold & Treasure Shows will be in Portland, Oregon on April 9-10 and Monroe, Washington on April 16-17. Every GPAA Chapter in Oregon and Washington is encouraged to send volunteers to help with the shows and to encourage, friends, neighbors and Chapter members to attend and support the event.

December seems to be the time for Board of Director transitions — “out with the old, in with the new”. Visiting with the 2015 Chapter Presidents, it appears it was a stellar year; more outings, growing membership, increasing meeting attendance and expanded opportunities for community involvement and educational events.

Looking forward 2016 looks like a promising year. For some of you “The Washington and Oregon Gold Prospectors News” may be the first newsletter you have received from a local Chapter. For others “The Washington and Oregon Gold Prospectors News” is a continuation of your local Chapter newsletter with some added features. In the past many GPAA Chapters have struggled to produce a newsletter as each monthly issue requires considerable time to create, edit, publish and distribute. The idea for the consolidated newsletter, combining the two Oregon GPAA Chapters (Mid Valley and Portland) and the five Washington GPAA Chapters (Auburn/Green River Valley, Fire Mountain, Northwest Washington, Southwest Washington and Western Washington) into a single publication is to create a stronger “gold prospecting community” in the Northwest.

This monthly publication hopes to provide a way for the Oregon and Washington GPAA Chapters to join together for outings, share information and recruit additional gold prospectors. Hopefully “The Washington and Oregon Gold Prospectors News” will grow as each Chapter, and many individual Chapter members, begin to provide additional information. We would like to begin a “Letters to the Editor” and an “Ask the Expert” column. (Not sure who the “expert” will be but there are plenty available in the seven Chapters.) Please contact me with your suggestions, comments, questions and contributions. I am always looking for personal stories from local Chapter members regarding their gold panning experiences (good, bad and hilarious). Contact me at hrc2@comcast.net or 360-601-6388.

Thank you in advance for your help, support and patience.
 Larry Hellie—Editor



Steve Lewin—GPAA State Director for Oregon/ and Washington (Left)



Larry Hellie—“Washington and Oregon Gold Prospectors News” Editor (Right)

“Fever Lasts 48 Years ... And Counting” by David “Boo Coo” Haas

The January/February 2016 issue of the “Gold Prospectors” contains an article by David “Boo Coo” Haas who was given an honorary membership to the Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors and the Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. GPAA Chapters at last year’s Gold & Treasure Show.

“Boo Coo” had this to say about the 2015 Portland show: “At the shows, we were like a big family. We ate together and there was always a party after the show. One of the best shows I ever attended was put on by the Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors (Chapter President Randy Harper) and the Portland Gold Prospectors Association, both local GPAA chapters. Their plans for another show this year, to which I have already been invited, will be great I’m sure.”

“Boo Coo” has told us he will pass on the GPAA Convention in Las Vegas this year and attend his favorite Gold & Treasure show at the Portland EXPO Center in Portland, Oregon. Looking forward to seeing “Boo Coo” in April!!!

January 2016

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Oregon and Washington GPAA Chapter Membership Rules

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings of any GPAA Chapter. The Oregon and Washington GPAA Chapters provide opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, the methods and equipment used in placer panning and dredging, as well as hands-on demonstrations and practical experience. Each GPAA Chapter schedules outings (2016 Calendar page 8) to enjoy the pleasures of gold prospecting and the great outdoors. GPAA membership is not required to be a member of a local chapter and membership in a local chapter is FREE! Membership only requires participation at three chapter events in one year. For information regarding attendance and membership in a local Oregon or Washington GPAA Chapter contact the individual listed in the Chapter designated contact.

For information on Gold Prospectors Association of America membership visit www.goldprospectors.org.

GPAA Gold & Treasure Shows

All of the GPAA Chapters have a great opportunity to support, and participate in, the two northwest GPAA Gold & Treasure Shows. Contact your local GPAA Chapter for information on volunteering.



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| President | Debbie Witcher | 360-695-3215 | ddwitcher@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | Steve Lewin | 971-212-5996 | goldpan123@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer | Ken Didier | 360-604-2701 | ky02kid@peoplepc.com |
| Secretary | Larry Hellie | 360-601-6388 | hhrc2@comcast.net |
| Claims | Dennis Witcher | 360-695-3215 | ddwitcher@yahoo.com |
| Education | Steve Lewin | 971-212-5996 | goldpan123@yahoo.com |
| Equipment | Randy Harper | 503-849-5109 | rh82065@hotmail.com |
| Hospitality | The Fests | 360-465-2393 | famfest@wwest.net |
| Safety | Dan Keesee | 360-241-0489 | |
| Outings | Vacant | | |
| Sunshine | Pat Staat | 360-798-9499 | healingsprings@centurylink.net |
| Website | Patti Long | 360-442-9577 | plong48@gmail.com |
| Director | Matt Barner | 360-909-9424 | matthew.barner@gmail.com |
| Director | Rick Beehler | 360-601-6855 | rickbeehler@ymail.com |
| Director | Bob Brown | 360-576-0213 | photogalo1@comcast.net |
| Director | Jim Erickson | | aerickson@q.com |
| Director | Jeanne Geig | 360-673-3179 | jeannegeig@gmail.com |
| Director | Daniel Keesee | 360-241-0489 | |
| Director | Dale Long | 503-665-4717 | dalelongsmail@gmail.com |
| Director | Anne Palmer | | nwanne@comcast.net |
| Director | Richard Pluff, Jr. | 503-957-6884 | magicdragon1956@hotmail.com |

SWWGP December Meeting Minutes

The SWWGP December General Meeting was called to order by Randy Harper at 2:05 p.m. Sunday, December 13, 2015. The membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A "moment of silence" was given in respect to Linda Erickson. Randy Harper welcomed guests who introduced themselves. The Secretary's Report was read from the November Newsletter and the minutes were approved as read. The Treasurer's Report was read from the November Newsletter and approved as read. The SWWGP Annual Election was held with the following results:

- President: Debbie Witcher
- Secretary: Larry Hellie
- Claims: Dennis Witcher
- Board Members: Matt Barner, Rick Beehler, Bob Brown, Jim Erickson, Jeanne Geig, Daniel Keesee, Dale Long, Anne Palmer, Richard Pluff

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Randy Harper, David Conti, Tom Fest, David Fritz, Dale Long, Scott Long, Richard Pluff, Jr., Waylon St. Clair, and Debbie Witcher. Motion moved, seconded and approved to spent \$1800 for a dredge from Randy Harper to be used by the SWWGP Chapter. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas Dinner and they are looking forward to 2016.

Treasurer's Report for December 2015

Beginning balance for the month was \$5506.75. Income for December was \$1,722.29. Our expenses were \$4,031.72 which leaves a balance of \$3,197.32 as of December 31, 2015. Expenses for the month included gold and panning materials purchased by Steve Lewin for sale and raffle prizes. Also the club purchased a D&K dredge from Randy Harper for \$1,800.00.

SWWGP Monthly Membership 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 and to become a members. Membership is FREE and EASY!!! For information contact: Debbie Witcher – Chapter President,

SWWGP Volunteers Needed

SWWGP needs volunteers to lead the annual picnic and the Christmas dinner. The Chapter also needs an Outings Chair. If you are interested in any of these positions contact Debbie Witcher, ddwitcher@yahoo.com (360-695-3215).

In Memory of Linda Erickson

As some of you may have already heard we all lost a very dear friend to cancer on November 8, 2015. For those who didn't get the chance to know Linda she was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and also a great and best friend. For many of us we knew her as being kind and willing to help in any way when she could.

When the club first started Linda started the SWWGP Face Book Page when no one knew what to do or how to do it so everyone joining the club could connect with each other sharing pictures, news, etc. for all to see and enjoy. Linda stepped up and said she would give it a try. She did a wonderful job. She also helped in the hospitality and cleaning with Judy and brought baked goodies to the club on a regular basis. Her cooking was awesome, which I'm sure some of you already know. Linda was involved with the club on all occasions, whether it be outings or helping on the Children's Benefit in Longview or donating things for the raffle. She bought lot of tickets for the raffle every month to support the club. Linda never missed an outing. She was very dedicated to our club. Always giving 100%. She was a very positive woman with strong opinions, letting her voice be heard only when something important needed to be said. We all can learn from her. I know I did. Linda touched so many hearts along he way. So if you are out at the river somewhere and get a sprinkle of rain, don't worry it's just Linda rinsing her gold. So stop every once in a while and look up. You might just see a smile in the clouds. Linda will be missed by many! She will be forever in our hearts. "RIP" Linda Erickson.— Becky and Chris Beck

There will be a celebration of life at Lewisville Park at a later date.





SWWGP President's Message—Debbie Witcher

Another year and lots of exciting events around the corner. The 2016 GPAA Gold and Treasure Show is our next big project. This year is a joint effort involving the Brownsville, Portland and Vancouver Chapters. I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the many volunteers, not only at the show, but also with those members willing to fill some of our vacant positions such as a Face Book Administrator, Outings Chair and Picnic Chair, and Christmas Dinner Chair just to name a few. I will do my best to lead your club to another successful, fun and exciting year. Please feel free to call me with any comments, questions or suggestions.

Our Christmas dinner was a huge success. I am grateful to all of those who helped with everything. This dinner would not have been possible without your support and participation. Special thanks goes to Maurine Koppi who not only contacted everyone to organize the food but also stepped in with two hours notice when Toni Fest was not able to be here. Some of those whose help was invaluable are Ann Erickson, Jeanne Geig, Marsy Hellie, Mae Pluff and Brittney Britt. The SWWGP members potluck items were delicious and your contributions were very much appreciated and enjoyed by all those present. There were so many folks I wish I could thank each and every one of you personally. You all made this dinner a great success. THANK YOU!!

SWWGP "Golden Jubilee" Raffle

I hope all of you had a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! To start off the New Year right, with a new President, Secretary and eight new Board Members, I will also start new with a three (3) month raffle, something I have never done before.

Lets call it the **"Golden Jubilee Raffle"**:

- 1st Large Gold Nugget
- 2nd Medium Gold Nugget
- 3rd Medium Gold Nugget
- 4th Gold Nugget Earrings
- 5th Gold Nugget Pendant
- 6th Antique Jewelry
- 7th Large Gemstone
- 8th Large Gemstone
- 9th Small Gold Nugget
- 10th Vial of small Gold

You must be present, with ticket, at the time of the drawing to Win!! See you at the January 2016 Membership Meeting. If you are interested I also have More Liberty Washington paydirt!!!!
Steve Lewin—Vice President

Additions to Library

"Gold Dust" - The saga of the forty-niners—their adventures and ordeals, their courage and greed, their ingenuities, delusions, bonanzas and catastrophes—in California and on the way there." Written by Donald Jackson, published by Casgle Books, Edison, NJ, 1980. Great history of the California Gold Rush of 1849.

"The Saga of the Comstock Lode" - Recounts the boom days of silver and gold mining in the Comstock Lode. Details the history of the silver mines of Virginia City, Nevada beginning in 1859. The mines of the Comstock provided most of the funding for the north to fight the civil war. Nevada became a state in October 1864, during the closing months of the Civil War and was called the "Silver State" and the "Battle Born State". Written by George Lyman, published by Ballantine Books, New York, NY, 1971. Originally printed by Charles Scribner and Sons, 1934.

Both books are very well researched and add immensely to an understanding of the history of the gold and silver "rushes". Donated by Marsy Hellie.



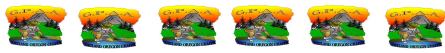
2016 Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

(Front left to right) Rick Beehler, Bob Brown, Jim Erickson, Ken Didier
(Back left to right) Debbie Witcher, Dennis Witcher, Dale Long, Jeanne Geig, Dan Keese, Steve Lewin, Matt Barner, Randy Haper, Larry Hellie, Richard Pluff, Jr.



December Meeting Pictures

(Left) Randy Harper's son, daughter and son-in-law attended to honor Randy.
(Middle) Randy Harper, outgoing President, received a standing ovation for his service to SWWGP.
(Right) The next "generation" of gold prospectors "provided" by D&K Detectors & Prospecting Supplies



2016 Portland Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

Table listing board members and their contact information, including President Jerry Jones, Vice President William Bench, and various board members for 2-year and 1-year terms.

From the PGPI President's Desk

Please join us on Sunday, January 17, 2016 - It's our annual banquet (so remember to bring your food dish) and changing of Officers and Board Members.

I will be turning over the reins to a most capable leader, Jerry Jones along with the VP position to Bill Bench. Of course, Bev Parker and Melinda Dorning will continue their positions as Treasurer and Secretary (respectively).

If you are a new member and want to receive the newsletter electronically, please let Jerry know. If you are not receiving it yet - it's probably because we didn't get it written down correctly.

We will also be having discussions on what "you" would like to see your Chapter doing this year as well. We welcome your input and want to hear from you.

Also, don't forget your canned donations, or your "silent auction" items.

If you have friends, co-workers or others interested in learning about prospecting, invite them to join us and find out if it's something they'd like to do as well.

This is a great year to be prospecting and having fun and you can profit by others involvement and even find some gold. Remember memories become golden with time.

Sincerely David Chiara (retired)

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

Secretary's Report December 20, 2015, Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd Milwaukie, OR Meeting called to order by President Dave Chiara at 1:34 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Attendance: 48 attendees at the meeting; 4 new guests were present.

Meeting minutes: A Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Secretary's report as published in the newsletter.

Treasury report: The Treasury report was read by the Treasurer to the association.

A Motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as written. She also stated last month the treasury received an anonymous \$2000.00 donation for the claim fund. Also the annual rent for the Milwaukie Grange hall is due. A Motion was made and seconded to allow the treasurer to pay \$900.00 to Milwaukie Grange for year 2016 rent. The Motion passed.

President, Dave Chiara, reported our association is an affiliate of Eastern Oregon Miner's Association (a political group advocating for miners) with our renewal of \$80.00 coming due January 1st. This association gave guidance and assisted with our Notice of Operation to the BLM recently. He asked for approval to renew our E.O.M.A. membership which was granted by members present.

Correspondence: No new correspondence this month.

Reports:

G.P.A.A. State Director, Steve Lewin

Steve Lewin brought in bags of pay dirt for sale that he obtained from a Liberty, WA mine that is known for wire gold. He also arranged a special price on the new "Gold Getter" separator that was demonstrated a few months ago by Chris Cosby. Steve had a few for sale at the meeting. See Steve Lewin if you have questions about G.P.A.A. membership or claims.

Election Results: Jerry Johns

Jerry reviewed the results of the November elections for positions that begin January, 2016, as posted on the white board.

Table showing outgoing and incoming board members: President David Chiara to Jerry Johns, Vice President Jerry Johns to William (Bill) Bench, Treasurer Beverly Parker to Beverly Parker, and Claims Director Kenneth Burns to Kenneth Burns.

A vacancy for Vice President was created by the election of Jerry Johns as President for 2016-2017. According to our by-laws, the Board Members may appoint someone to fill the vacancy. William (Bill) Bench agreed to fill the Vice President position. Today the membership approved William Bench as Vice President for 2016 by a show of hands. Also, Joe Weber has agreed to

(continued on page 5)

PGPI Monthly Meeting

The Portland Gold Prospectors' meetings are the third Sunday of every month beginning at 12:00

pm at: Milwaukie Grange Hall

12015 SE 22nd

Milwaukie, Oregon 97267

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. Become a member of the Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. a Chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of America for information contact - Chapter President, Jerry Jones, jerry.j.johns@intel.com or visit www.portlandgoldprospectors.org



Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. (Continued from page 4)

fill the 1 year vacancy for Board Member created by the move of William Bench to Vice-President. Jerry Johns reviewed that we now have eight Board Members at Large as follows:

Board Members at Large:

Richard Ruth (2016 & 2017)
Joe Weber (2016)
Elaine Ruth (2016 & 2017)
Clint Hurd (2016)
Mathew Barner (2016 & 2017)
Charles Foster (2016)
David Chiara (2016 & 2017)
Robert Burns (2016)

Ken Burns fills the Claims Director position with the assistance of Joe Wood and Tony Johnston who will learn the duties of this position.

Outings:

Steve Lewin announced SWWGP will have a booth at the Albany, Oregon, Sportsman's Show on February 19-21 held at the fairgrounds. He invited our members to attend and help the Vancouver Chapter with this event. One feature is visitors will receive a free tablespoon of material to pan out and keep any gold found. Jerry Johns reviewed the 2016 Events Calendar handout. The Gold Show will be April 9-10th at the Portland Expo Center. There are two outings planned next year for beach mining at Cape Disappointment in April and October led by Rodney Chavez. This will be a joint event with the Vancouver G.P.A.A. and Brownsville G.P.A.A. Chapters. In late May/early June our members will begin work at our Tyroy claim near Baker City and return again at the end of mining season to work on reclamation.

Dave Chiara mentioned that several outings are planned together with members of SWWGP (Vancouver Chapter). There are mining opportunities nearby in S.W. Washington at Steve Lewin's claim and the Copper Creek G.P.A.A. claim. A barbeque is also planned on July 31st.

Annual Banquet Meeting

Jerry reminded us the Banquet will be held on January 17, 2016 at 1:30 pm (the usual meeting time). Each family brings one potluck dish to share. We will have a voluntary donation again for the Oregon Food Bank that can be either 2 non-perishable food items or \$5.00 that goes to the food bank. Each donation receives a chance for one gold nugget to be given away (one ticket per adult). Other prizes will be raffled. Help with set up is appreciated. Friends are also invited to attend.

Safety: Jim Dorning

Jim gave a brief description of websites that one can search for weather and river information before traveling. He suggested Google searches for ODOT road cameras, NOAA, Oregon Beach cameras, or NW River Forecast Center websites to see current conditions, thus helping you decide whether traveling is safe.

Jerry Johns asked for another member to consider becoming our Safety person since Jim Dorning is stepping down. We also need to have someone handle safety during outings. Please contact Jerry if you can help with this.

Newsletter:

Dave Chiara announced that the Newsletter will be created beginning January 2016 as a regional posting of information for S.W. Washington, Portland area, and Brownsville area by Larry Hellie (the current secretary for SWWGP). Members will continue to receive the newsletter and it will be on the Portland Gold Prospectors Inc website.

Website:

Dave Chiara asked for input on the website.

Library:

Joe Weber said the library materials will not be at the Banquet Meeting in January. If you check out material today, you may keep it until the February meeting. Joe showed a new item this month on the Bodie

Mine. He encouraged members to take out a book and return it the following month. There are no library fees.

Membership

Dave reviewed the requirements to become a full voting member of Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. – that is attending a combination of 3 meetings or outings in a year. There are no dues to join. Once becoming a member, the library is available for materials to check out and membership cards are printed at the beginning of each year. He also mentioned the association receives our income from donations, a monthly raffle, and participation at the annual GPAA Gold Show.

Old Business:

Jerry Johns reminded members the GPAA Gold & Treasure Show will be April 9th and 10th in Portland. There have been two joint planning meetings with the Vancouver GPAA Chapter so far. He plans to hold a meeting for Portland Gold Prospector members about mid January to continue our planning. [Watch for details](#) and plan to help out.

Tyroy Claim:

Dave reported we are waiting for spring germination of seeds planted in November.

Silent Auction:

Items in the silent auction were a mini-sluice and five gallon buckets of Tyroy dirt. Anyone who takes a bucket of dirt is asked to return the bucket the next month. Members are encouraged to bring items for others to bid on. This donation helps our association because we do not charge dues.

Code of Conduct: Dave Chiara reminded members to contact a Board member for any concerns about conduct or dealing with other members.

Mining Permits:

Jerry Johns reminded members to do their research on permits that are required in the area they plan to prospect. He offered an informational handout that describes the permits from Oregon DEQ, Department of State Lands, Dept. Of Geology and Mineral Industries, the US Forest Service and/or Washington State Gold and Fish Book. He also announced that effective January 2016 the Oregon 700 permit will not be valid due to a moratorium on dredging.

New Business

Members are requested to save the pull tabs from aluminum pop cans and bring them to our meetings. Bill Bench helps an organization collect them for "Dogs for the Deaf."

Tyroy 2016 Outing:

Dave Chiara told members there will be a late spring work party at the Tyroy claim to prep for the mining season. This is dependant on the weather in the Baker City area. Several members discussed safety precautions to implement at the claim site, such as wearing bright vests, hard hats, sturdy shoes/boots, and placing barriers around heavy machinery.

Dave Chiara thanked Elaine Ruth for taking the Hospitality Chairperson position and the other helpers in the kitchen today, Helen Burns, Dorothy Ruth, and Vicky Weber.

The raffle winner of a Gold Nugget was Betty Bench. Congratulations! The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

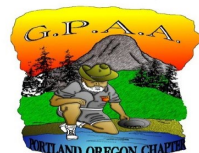
(Respectfully submitted by Melinda Dorning, P.G.P. I. Secretary)

Save Soda Can Tabs

Bill Bench collects the tabs
for
"Dogs for the Deaf"



Portland Gold Prospectors , Inc.





Mid Valley Prospectors December 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:40 PM by President. Minutes from the November meeting—Motion to accept as sent out via email, seconded and passed. Treasurers report was given, motion to accept made, seconded and passed.

Old Business-

Albany Sportsman Show will be held February 20-21, 2016 with setup on the 19th. MVP is looking for help at the event. Roy will contact Sportsman's Warehouse for possible support and donations for the event. Gold and Treasure Show- Information sent out regarding the questions/answers for Brandon. MVP will help with tickets, security and south valley advertising. Next Gold Show meeting will be on January 3 in Vancouver. Please contact Roy with anything pertaining to the Gold Show needing to be addressed. We will need "warm breathing bodies" at the show so plan on committing for one or both days. Motion made to spend \$500.00 for advertising for the Gold Show, seconded and passed. Raffle prizes for the Gold & Treasure Show were discussed. Motion made to purchase two silver/gold highlight rounds for the two raffles (one each day), and four silver rounds for sale. Seconded and passed. Roy will handle the purchase of the rounds. Mike discussed donation of concentrates and gold for panning bags for the Gold Show. Art to look into possible break on quantity of concentrates. Art will call Salem BLM to see about Quartzville brochures and possibility of other public area information to distribute at the show.

New Business-

Membership and liability forms coming up for replacement. Cabela's spring panning demonstration will be coming up in April, start planning on sharing the workload. We have been invited to join forces with Vancouver and Portland on a combined newsletter for all three chapters. It was brought up that we could have a joint outing at Quartzville with all three chapters to be base camped at Miners Meadow. Note- Art looked into BLM fees for the site, and it runs \$40-50 for overnight. Vault toilets and garbage dumpster are on site. By reservation only, open/available from May 22 to Sept 7 only. Next meeting will be February 7, 2016 at the Brownsville Fire Station. The January Monthly Meeting will be cancelled due to the holiday weekend.

Good of the Order-

Mike is planning on a Quartzville outing on Sunday, December 13, 2015, rain or shine at the Canal Creek bridge area to look over and scout the claims if we can get to them. Art is planning to join him, all are welcome to come share the misery. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM for the potluck and gift exchange. Respectfully submitted — Art Waugh — Secretary

MID-VALLEY PROSPECTORS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| President | Roy Houtz | 541-990-1148 |
| Vice President | Brian Rinehart | |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Art Waugh | |
| Equipment Manager | Wendy Houtz | 541-990-6214 |

All e-mail should be directed to midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com

From the President:

I will pass on what we learn at the January Gold & Treasure Show meeting with Vancouver and Portland chapters. We checked in to "Old Miners Meadow" for this year and it is already booked up. Check out the Vancouver Chapters web site and you can see their newsletter. The members that did not show up for the December Meeting missed out on a lot of good food. Thank you — Roy Houtz—President

MID VALLEY SPECIAL EVENTS

April 2 and 3, 2016 "Gold Panning" demonstration at Cabela's in Springfield.

MID VALLEY MONTHLY MEETINGS

(No January, April, July or September 2016 Meetings)

The Mid-Valley Gold Prospectors' meetings are the first Sunday of every month beginning at **1:30** pm.at:

Brownsville Fire Department,
600 E Blakely Ave, Brownsville, OR
(541-990-1148)

Become a member of the Mid-Valley Chapter of the Gold Prospectors' Association of America. GPAA membership is not required to be a member and Mid-Valley membership is FREE! For information contact: Roy Houtz – Chapter President, midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com or 541-990-1148 or visit www.swwgoldprospectors.org



Western Washington Prospectors Bremerton/Port Orchard

WWGPAA 2016 Officers and Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| President | Cal Blackburn | 360-830-4613 | caveminer27@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Carl Berg | | |
| Treasurer | Dannie DeForrest | | |
| Secretary | Al Comstock | | |
| Outings | Eric Blake | | |
| Claims Officer | Ken Jones | | |
| Fundraising | (Vacant) | | |
| Equipment | Ken Jones | | |
| Board Member | Dave Thompson | | |
| Board Member | Roland Nelson | | |
| Board Member | Penni Nelson | | |
| Board Member | Richard Dusatko | | |

Western Washington Prospectors Monthly Meeting

The Western Washington Prospectors' meetings are the second Saturday of every month beginning at **1:00 pm** :
 Elm Lutheran Church,
 5911 E Hillcrest Dr.,
 Port Orchard, WA (360-830-4613)
 GPAA membership is not required to be a chapter member and AGRGPC Chapter membership is FREE and EASY, just attend three Chapter events in one year! For information contact: Cal Blackburn – Chapter President, 360-830-4613 or caveminer27@gmail.com or visit www.wwgpaa.com

Auburn Green River Valley Gold Prospecting Club

Auburn Green River Gold Prospecting Club Board of Directors

The Northwest Washington Gold Prospectors' meetings are the third Thursday of every month beginning at **7:00 pm** at:
 River Estates Club House,
 3611 I St NE,
 Auburn, WA (253-833-2255)
 GPAA membership is not required to be a chapter member and AGRGPC Chapter membership is FREE and EASY, just attend three Chapter events in one year. For information contact:
 John Dawson – Chapter President, captjd44@aol.com or 253-833-2255 or visit pnwgpaa.com/chapters/washington/auburn

Everett Gold Prospectors

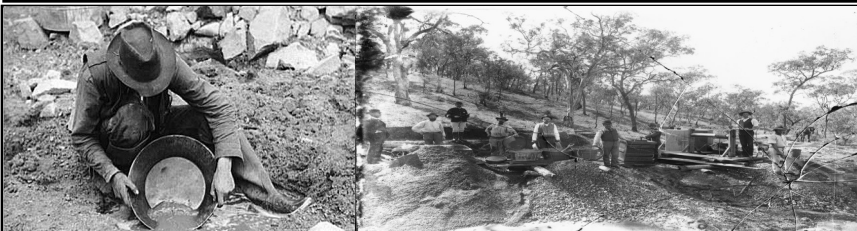
Everett Gold Prospectors Monthly Meeting

The Everett Gold Prospectors' meetings are the second Friday of every month beginning at **7:00 pm** at:
 Silver Lake-Alfy's Pizza,
 9620 19th Ave, Everett, WA
 GPAA membership is not required to be a chapter member and AGRGPC Chapter membership is FREE and EASY, just attend three Chapter events in one year. For information contact: Eras Gattshall – Chapter President, WOOD-PILE1971@COMCAST.NET or 425-263-2293 or visit www.everett-gpaa.org

Fire Mountain Prospectors

Fire Mountain Prospectors Monthly Meeting

The Fire Mountain Prospectors' meetings are the third Saturday of every month beginning at **10:00 am** at:
 Bob's Sporting Goods
 1111 Hudson Street.
 Longview, WA
 GPAA membership is not required to be a chapter member and AGRGPC Chapter membership is FREE and EASY, just attend three Chapter events in one year. For information contact: Robert Costello – Chapter President, 360-274-3396 COSTELLO7801@YAHOO.COM, or visit firemountainprospectors.webs.com



SWWGP CALENDAR

January 2016

- 01 — New Year's Day
- 03 — Gold & Treasure Show Meeting—
Vancouver, Minnehaha Grange
- 08 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 10 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 16 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 16 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 18 — Martin Luther King Day
- 21 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting

February 2016

- 07 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 12 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 13 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 14 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 15 — Presidents Day
- 18 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 20-21 Albany Sportsman Show
- 20-21 Washington Prospectors—Gem &
Mineral Show
- 21 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 27-28 — GPAA Gold & Treasure Show
Las Vegas, NV

March 2016

- 06 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 11 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 12 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 13 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 13 — Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 16 — Port Orchard Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Port Orchard Outing, North Beach,
Port Townsend
- 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

April 2016

- 02-03 — Resource Coalition—Gold, Gem &
Treasure Show
- 02-03 — Gold Panning demonstration—
Cabela's Springfield, OR
- 03 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 08 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 09 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 9-10 — GPAA Gold & Treasure Show
Portland EXPO Center
- 10 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 15, 16, 17 — Bremerton Outing—Cape
Discovery State Park
- 16-17 — GPAA Gold & Treasure Show
Monroe, WA
- 16 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 21 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting

May 2016

- 01 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 07 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 08 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 08 — Mothers Day
- 13 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 15 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 21-22 — Bremerton Outing—Dungeness
Forks Campground, Sequim
- 30 — Memorial Day

June 2016

- 05 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 10 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 11 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 11-12 — GPAA Gold & Treasure Show
Boise, ID
- 12 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 14 — Flag Day
- 16 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 18-19 — Bremerton Outing—Chapter
Claims in Sequim
- 19 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Fathers Day

July 2016

- 04 — Independence Day
- 08 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 09 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 10 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 16 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 21 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 31 — SWWGP Picnic—Lewisville Park

August 2016

- 01 — Outing Lewisville Park
- 07 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 12-15 — Outing Yellow Jacket Creek Randle
- 12 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 13 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 14 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 18 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 21 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

September 2016

- 05 — Labor Day
- 09 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 10 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 11 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 15 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 18 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

October 2016

- 02 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 07 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 08 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 09 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 15 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 16 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting

November 2016

- 06 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 10 — Marine Corps Birthday—(Semper Fi)
- 11 — Veterans Day
- 11 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 12 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 13 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 24 — Thanksgiving Day

December 2016

- 04 — Brownsville Monthly Meeting
- 09 — Everett Monthly Meeting
- 10 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 11 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting
- 15 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Longview Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 25 — Christmas Day
- 31 — New Year's Eve

GPAA 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)



GO WITH THE FLOW

The use of water to perform tasks such as grinding or milling has been practiced for thousands of years. Chinese, Roman and Middle Eastern countries each contributed to increasing the efficient use of water as a tool. Inventors such as Archimedes of Ancient Greece and Bernoulli (the inventor of the principle that drives our modern dredge nozzles) used innovative scientific principles and techniques to advance the use of water in everyday life.

How can we use water more effectively in gold recovery?

One of the most important and overlooked aspects in mining is the dynamics of water and how it affects gold recovery. A significant portion of gold is lost due to failures in three major areas:

- Incorrect water velocity, depth and lack of agitation;
- Improper classification and material handling; and
- Using equipment with limiting capabilities.

Water flow

We can easily demonstrate water dynamics and its effects on gold using the classic inside bend example. When stream flow is straight and velocities are at their highest most recoverable or “flood” gold will be suspended in the flow. As a bend in the stream causes flow to begin slowing down the heaviest gold begins to drop out because the water no longer has enough velocity to suspend the material. The stream continues to lose power as the bend length increases and smaller and smaller gold continues to be deposited until there is no longer any in suspension or the remaining water flow and speed can carry it farther downstream.

Water velocity and flow affect attempts at recovery in all capture devices in exactly the same way. Each piece of gold in classified material requires a certain flow and length of time to separate, drop out and be captured based solely on its relative size and weight. If the velocity and flow are too great, the gold will remain suspended and will exit the machine regardless of machine length or method of recovery.

Today's miners are lured into a false sense of security by using longer sluices or adding special riffled matting which may have little or no effect and can even reduce capture by negating or altering built in flow characteristics. Improper water depth in the sluice can create additional problems in recovery. Methods of material collection have much less effect if the gold is suspended in the upper part of the water flow. Finally, most capture devices provide little or no material agitation to break up the classified material and provide the necessary change in flow that facilitates gold separation. This lack of agitation allows smaller pieces to be carried through the machine.

Classification

Another common mining problem is improper classification. There is a direct relationship between material classification and water speed, which many miners overlook. It is common to classify for ease and speed of filling buckets rather than size of gold being targeted. Larger classification requires increased water speed to push the material through most recovery systems. The trade-off is forfeiting recovery of finer gold by increasing the length of drop time. This reduces the number of gold capture attempts and even machine effectiveness by having concentrations of larger material wedging into riffles, drops, etc.

Many miners compound the problem by not handling material correctly. Running material dry requires the sluice to liquefy the material while it is passing through. Gold particles will suspend in the dry material, reducing the chance of capture. Many miners also use a scoop and drop their material into the machine in large clumps or clods. This also allows particles to suspend instead of being processed.

Randy Clarkson describes this phenomenon in his 1990 study and research paper: “ ... If the slurry velocity is reduced through overloading with solids, insufficient water flow or shallow gradients it may not sustain a vortex ... and gold efficiency will be reduced” (Clarkson 1990:4, *An Analysis of Sluicibox Riffle Performance*). Material should always be liquefied or slurried prior to processing and material should cast side to side across the machine when either cast by hand, bucket or when using a scoop.

Another issue is using machines with limiting capabilities. Modern riffle sluice designs are long and heavy and are set up to maximize attempts at gold capture, not recovery. Riffles are evenly spaced making them too far apart to impart the “vortex” or reverse underflow that is talked about in mining circles. What actually happens is an up-and-down wave motion as the water travels down the sluice. The only “action” imparted is the same negative flow that happens when water flows over a rock or some other obstacle in the stream. Material suspended at the bottom of the flow is deposited as the water climbs over the riffle and slows. Material that is heavy enough and can no longer be suspended drops. The rest of the material remains in the flow and continues to be carried down (and possibly out of) the sluice. Most modern riffle (standard and drop designs) sluices are susceptible to improper setup angle which can either clog the machine with material or blow it out completely. Either problem has the same result—loss of gold.

Finally, one of the biggest mistakes in sluice design and operation is the “V” fallacy. The idea that channeling your water towards the center of the sluice using a wide angle flare will increase its effectiveness and therefore increase gold recovery could not be further from the truth.

This problem is compounded by dropping your material into the center of the slick plate. This forces your material into the center of the sluice which is quickly overloaded by the volume of material and causes the first series of riffles to lose their effectiveness.

Removing the flare from your sluice will eliminate the center concentration and will create an even flow across the machine. You can create a V-

(continued on page 10)

GO WITH THE FLOW (continued from page 9)

shaped wing dam with a short straight section in front of your sluice if you need to increase water flow or speed. Casting your material across the width of the sluice will eliminate overloading of the riffles.

Boost your gold returns

So, how do we overcome these issues and increase our recovery? Or, in other words how water height and speed changes your recovery. You can either use measured weights of gold or go to an area where you are familiar with gold concentrations. Work with one variable at a time.

- **Water height:** My recommendation is to start with water height. Begin with the water flowing just above the riffles or drops. Run small amounts of material and watch as the dirt passes through the sluice. Notice how the material enters the riffles or drops. Make sure to use the correct method of dropping or casting material evenly from side to side. Gradually increase the water height until processing suffers. This will determine the minimum and maximum water height for your sluice.

- **Water velocity:** The next test is water speed. Set your sluice water height for maximum processing and a fairly fast flow then gradually reduce water speed as you process small amounts of material. You may have to adjust your sluice to maintain proper water height through this process. Note how changes in water speed decrease or increase the quality of material processing.

- **Classification:** The final test is to verify how changes in classification affect material processing and ultimately gold recovery. A common misconception is that taking time to classify down reduces the amount of material you run, which in turn has a negative effect on the amount of gold you recover. Classifying actually increases the concentration of gold in your bucket and eliminates unnecessary materials from processing. You will be able to process material faster through your sluice. This coupled with further reduction in water speed will almost certainly increase gold recovery.

Fine-tuning your sluice

Finally, here are some thoughts on fine-tuning your sluice and other sluice options:

- How things like expanded metal and matting changes affect recovery. Are they really worth the extra effort and do they work?
- Can I easily add some sort of material agitation which helps in stratifying material?

Once you've determined the best water height and speed for your machine coupled with the best classification size to maximize recovery in your sluice, you may want to add these additional items. Be sure to follow the process of introducing one variable and verify how recovery is affected. You can also use things in tandem with your current sluice. For instance, run material through a hopper with a rubber flap on the slick plate that helps liquefy and add agitation to your material.

Another thing to consider is changing to a high recovery or what I call super sluices. These sluices have no riffles, expanded metal or matting of any kind and therefore can be used with several water heights and speeds. Fluid bed machines use a combination of negative pressure and fluidization within their material box to increase collection and recovery of both large mesh and very fine flour gold. Other examples include a magnetic sluice that captures gold from classified material using black sand. Either of these examples take material processing and gold recovery to a much higher level.

Take some time to explore water dynamics. I'll bet you'll get more gold!

Kevin Bell is an experienced prospector and inventor of fluid bed sluices. He is the owner of Aurora Mining Products. He can be reached through the AMP website: www.auroraminingproducts.com.

Gold Rush to Washington State

The only significant gold rush to take place in Washington State occurred when gold was found in Swauk Creek in the central part of the state in 1873. Although prior reports of gold in the region existed as early as 1860, it was the rich deposits of gold on Swauk Creek that caused interest in gold mining in Central Washington.

The first prospectors to rush into the area were the local farmers of nearby Kittitas Valley, but as word of the discovery spread, people from all around the surrounding area came to the area to search for gold.

Miners continued searching for gold deposits in the nearby area, and soon found that Williams Creek also held rich gravels that produced significant amounts of gold. Rich pockets of gold were found up and down both drainages, and mining camps in the early days of the discovery were routinely moved to accommodate miners. Named for one of the early miners to the area, the mining town of Meagherville was established at Williams Creek.

Extensive explorations into the surrounding mountains did not yield overwhelming results for prospectors seeking new gold deposits. Unlike many of the larger gold districts across the west, it was quickly realized that although there was gold to be found throughout the Cascade Mountains, by far the richest gold deposits were in Swauk and Williams Creeks, with lesser discoveries found at Boulder, Negro, and Baker Creeks.

Placer mining continued strong for many years, as rich pockets of gold were uncovered. Many lode mines were also staked in the area, which sustained the region long after the placer ground began to be worked out. One notable characteristic of the area was the beautiful crystalline and wire gold specimens that came from the district. Consisting of very rough shapes and textures, specimens from this mining district are highly sought out by mineral collectors. During the heyday of the gold rush, little interest was given to these amazing specimens, and most were melted down for their gold content. These specimens ranged from small gold crystals to huge coarse nuggets, including reports of a huge nugget that weighed over 22 ounces. Sadly, nearly all of them were sent off to be smelted.

By the early 1880's the placer deposits were beginning to be depleted, and interest from the white miners was focused instead on lode production. During this time many Chinese miners moved into the region to work the ground that the white miners considered to be "worked out". Due to the harsh conditions in China at the time, even less productive ground was attractive to the Chinese miners. With the introduction of hydraulic mining, there were renewed interests in the placers for a short time, but most placer mining petered out by the end of the decade.

Liberty sustained itself as a stable community for considerable time. Some families continued (continued page 11)

What “Incidental Fallback” as It Relates to Suction Gold Dredging?

“Incidental fallback” represents a net withdrawal, not an addition of material. Incidental fallback cannot be a discharge within the meaning of any state or federal Clean Water Act (CWA) as the CWA only permits and regulates additions. All gold mining suction dredges are designed to withdraw heavy metal (based on their specific gravity) from gravels and soils; it cannot be said that suction dredges add anything within the meaning of the CWA. It is simple math—the difference between addition and subtraction. Those activities that add can require a 401, 402, or 404 permit; those that subtract do not require a permit at all. That is the intent of Congress. The EPA and the Army Corp has for the past 30 years tried to redefine “incidental fallback” under a regulated and permitted “redeposit” category, but the courts have found this agency practice invalid on numerous occasions and instructed the EPA and Army Corp to remove their offending regulatory expansion.

To illustrate this point, let’s look at *National Mining Association v. US Army Corps of Engineers* (145 F.3d 1399, 1404 (D.C.Cir.1998)). The court explained that, “[b]ecause incidental fallback represents a net withdrawal, not an addition, of material, it cannot be a discharge” and questioned “how there can be an addition of dredged material when there is no addition of material.” (Emphasis added.)

The court further stated, “This understanding of ‘discharge’ excludes the small-volume incidental discharge that accompanies excavation and landclearing activities. Senator Muskie explained that ‘the bill tries to free from the threat of regulation those kinds of manmade activities which are sufficiently de minimis as to merit general attention at the state and local level, and little or no attention at the state and local level, and little or no attention at the national level.’” (Senate Report on S. 1952, 95th Congress, reprinted in 1977 Legislative History at 645.)

Senator Domenici stated that, “We never intended under section 404 that the Corps of Engineers be involved in the daily lives of our farmers, realtors, people involved in forestry, anyone that is moving a little bit of earth anywhere in this country that might have an impact on navigable streams.” (Senate Debate, id. at 924.)

This holding stands today, and is reflected in the *National Association of Homebuilders v. US Army Corps of Engineers* decision (D.D.C. 2007) invalidating the January 17, 2001, amendments to the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulatory definition of “discharge of dredged material” (referred to as the “Tulloch II” rule). The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated a joint final rule to amend this definition by conforming the Corps’ and EPA’s regulations to the language of the court’s opinion by deleting language from the regulation that was invalidated.

Agencies like to claim that sediment movement or turbidity created by suction dredging also creates a discharge, but in *Frobel v. Meyer* (13 F. Supp.2d 843) the court ruled:

“Redepositing of indigenous sediment caused by state agency’s removal of dam did not result in any ‘discharge of dredged material’ that would require permit from Army Corps of Engineers under Clean Water Act (CWA) and either possible version of implementing regulations, even if manner in which dam was removed created a ‘scouring action’ that disturbed sediment and funneled it down stream.” (Federal Water Pollution Control Act, § 404(a), as amended, 33 U.S.C.A. § 1344(a); 33 C.F.R. § 323.2(d).)

The state, as mandated by the CWA and funded by federal law, cannot carry out an objective when it conflicts or is inconsistent with express Congressional intent, exemptions, and purpose. (See *CA Coastal Commission v. Granite Rock* 480 U.S. 572.)

If you take the time to read the instructions that are included with a 404 permit application you will find the words “other than incidental fallback” in the application instructions. It is the position of Public Lands for the People that suction gold dredging does not require a Section 404 or related permit. As the court previously ruled, “[b]ecause incidental fallback represents a net withdrawal, not an addition, of material, it cannot be a discharge.”

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Gold Rush to Washington State

mining for many generations. The area had very desirable living conditions, and the unruly behavior commonly associated with mining camps was not tolerated in Liberty, Washington.

The Liberty Mining District was unique in that it was really the only significant gold rush to occur in the state of Washington. Although gold can be found in every county throughout the state of Washington, including along the beaches of the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean, most deposits are limited in quantity and never provided the richness needed to attract long term mining activity. Large amounts of gold have also been recovered as a byproduct of lode mining for copper, zinc, lead and a variety of other base minerals throughout Washington, but these required significant investment and Lode production continued on for many years.

In 1892, a post office was established in the area and the town name was officially changed to Liberty. Unlike the vast majority of boom-and-bust mining towns that occurred across the west, development, limiting their appeal to the average gold prospector.

Mining has continued in the Liberty area for many years, and still exists on a smaller scale even today. Extensive mining over the past century has depleted the richness of much of the area, but occasionally nice wire gold specimens are still recovered from time to time.

*Article provided by goldrushnuggets.com—
PO Box 6794, Boise, Idaho 83707*



Interesting Gold Facts

Gold is so rare that the world pours more steel in an hour than it has poured gold since the beginning of recorded history.

Due to its high value, most gold discovered throughout history is still in circulation. However, it is thought that 80% of the world’s gold is still in the ground.

One cubic foot of gold weighs half a ton. The world’s largest gold bar weighs 200 kg (440 lb).

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GOLD PROSPECTORS CLASSIFIED ADS — SELL, TRADE, BUY, DONATE

This "classified ad" section is a new feature for the newsletter. The newsletter is now being distributed to all Oregon and Washington GPAA Chapters so your ad will reach a large number of gold miners. There is no charge for placing a "classified ad". Ads are subject to acceptance by the editor and must be related to gold mining, metal detecting or outdoor activities. Classified ads must be received by the 25th of the month in order to appear in the next month's newsletter. Send your "classified ad" to hhr2@comcast.net or mail to: Newsletter, 2621 NE 49th St, Vancouver, WA 98663.

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