

South West Washington Gold Prospectors July 2016 Newsletter

Letter from the President

This is the time of the year that we are all busy with vacations, camping, mining etc. It is important for those who are around water to remember that the rivers can be swift and cold so be careful.

Our picnic is fast approaching so be sure to sign up to bring a dish and let us know how many will be attending. The chapter will be providing hot dogs, burgers and buns again this year. Lots of activities are planned. Raffle, bingo, panning, and lots more so come and have fun!

Your President
Debbie



Membership Committee

When you are signing in for attendance at the SWWGP meeting please be sure to verify name spelling, correct address w/zip code, e-mail address and phone number. If you are a current GPAA/ LDMA member be sure to let us know and give us your GPAA/LDMA membership number.

We are in the process of updating our records. Thank you for you help,
Richard Pluff Jr.
503-957-6884

2016 Picnic

Our picnic is scheduled for July 31, 2016 at Lewisville park, at the Dogwood shelter. This is a great time of the year for us all to gather and have fun. Some of the activities will include panning, and equipment demo (this is an opportunity for you to see how different equipment works before you make a purchase).

We will have at least one metal detecting class (bring your detector). As well as our special raffle (SWWGP picnic style) and we will be playing Bingo. Lots and lots of food, fun and much more!

Please remember to sign up how many in your family will be in attendance and what food item you would like to bring. This is a great opportunity to bring and share your favorite summer dish.

If you are able to help out please notify Debbie Witcher 695-3215

Outing Ideas

Have an idea for an outing? Trip? Special event? Etc. Call Steve Lewin 971-212-5996 or Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215

AKAU Lodge

We currently have 2 open spots for our trip to Nome, AK (AKAU Lodge) next year 2017 July28-Aug. 11, 2017. If you are interested in this fantastic opportunity contact Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215. This trip is open to all chapter members, their family and friends.

Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	DDWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Ken Didier	360-567-7360	ky02kid@peoplepc.com
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Matt Barner	360-909-9424	matthew.barner@gmail.com
	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Daniel Keesee	360-241-0489	none
	Dale Long	503-665-4717	dalelongsmaill@gmail.com
	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magiedragon1957@hotmail.com
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicaajeff@msn.com
Claims Chair	(Elected)		
	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	DDWitcher@yahoo.com
State Director (WA,OR)	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Committee Chairs	(Volunteers appointed by club/President)		
Education	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Equipment Manager	Randy Harper		
Events Co-ordinator			
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	DDWitcher@yahoo.com
Facebook	Open		
Fundraising coordinator			
Raffle	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Assistant	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	DDWitcher@yahoo.com
Kitchen Host	Toni Fest	360-465-2393	festfam@wwest.net
Assistant	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
Picnic, Holiday Dinner	Jeanne Gieg,	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Misc. Outings	BAR-B-Ques, special events etc.		
	Frank Knighton	360-834-5270	jknighton08@yahoo.com
Librarian	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Membership	Richard Pluff Jr		
Assistant	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing coordinator	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Safety Officer	Daniel Keese	360-241-0489	none
Sargent at Arms	Daniel Keesee	360-241-0489	none
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicaajeff@msn.com
	3 openings		
Sunshine	Pat Staat	360-798-9499	healingsprings@centurylink.net
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
Historian	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicaajeff@msn.com

Other committees will be formed as needed. Please let Debbie Witcher know if your name was missed or if you would like to serve.

Committees to be filled:

Bi_laws

Laws and Regulations

GPAA Points tracking

INVENTORIES< INVENTORIES< INVENTORIES

All officer and committee chairs:

If you have not turned your inventory in to either Sec. Mark Matilla or Pres. Debbie, it is very important that we have your inventory by the end of the July meeting. This is in the by-laws and is a chairperson's responsibility.

Sunshine

We need approx. 4 people to assist our Sunshine chairperson Pat Staat. Please let me know if you are willing to help out. It is important to call Pat at 360-798-9499, or e-mail her at healingsprings@centurylink.net, or let Debbie Witcher know at 360-695-3215, ddwitcher@yahoo.com if you know of a member who is in the hospital, has been injured, has had a death or birth in the family. Please let us know right away. We would like to send out a card from the chapter but we do need their address. This is another reason to make sure we have updated information.

Bylaws Committee

Bylaws Committee

We will be scheduling our meeting tentatively the first Sat in Aug. Please go over your copy of the current bylaws and write down your suggested changes, ideas, and additions. If you need a copy let me know right away. We will set a time and place for our meeting by the picnic.

If you would like to help out on this important committee please contact Debbie 360-695-3215.

The process is as follows:

Committee meets and makes suggested changes and additions, sends it to the Board of directors who will go over everything and send their recommendations to the chapter to be voted on. From there those changes go to the GPAA for their review and approval.

We would like to have the new bylaws in place by Sept meeting in time for nominations.

The bylaws govern our chapter so it is important to have your participation. This is not a one-person job or decision.

Any questions please contact Debbie 360-695-3215

Daybreak Outing

On Sunday June 26, 2016 our chapter had an outing at Day Break Park. Even though all outings, meetings, etc. are open to all, our chapter extended a special invitation to the Portland Chapter and the Longview Chapter. Our Chapter provided a bar-b-que hot dog lunch. Some folks contributed food so there was plenty for all to eat. We had approx. 35 people in attendance. Lots of fun was had by all on the "hunt for gold." Our chapter members enjoyed visiting with our guests from Portland and Longview. I hope to see them all at our meeting and also our picnic on July 31, 2016.

Club Name Tags

Any club members that would like a plastic name

Tag made for them can place an order at the

Monthly meeting. Cost is \$7.00 for each tag that includes up to 2 lines of engraving.

Questions?

Contact David Conti

User764554@aol.com

360-256-0892



Sample

SWWGP MONTHLY MEETING

The Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors' meetings are the **2nd** Sunday of every month beginning at **2:00 pm** at:

Minnehaha Grange Hall #164
4905 Northeast St Johns Road
Vancouver, Washington

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods and equipment as well as hands-on demonstrations and practice. There are also outings to enjoy the pleasures of gold prospecting and the great outdoors.

Become a member of the Southwest Washington Chapter of the Gold Prospectors' Association of America. GPAA membership is not required to be a member and SWWGP membership is FREE!

For information contact:

Debbie Witcher – Chapter President,

DDWitcher@yahoo.com or
360-695-3215 or visit
www.swwgoldprospectors.org

Roaring Camp Gold Mining Camp

After arriving early morning and getting checked in with our group of 8 Chapter members, we were anxious to get started. After all the other guests were ready to go our guide gave us some instructions and we were off. The one lane road down the hill and into the canyon was not as daunting as some of us (me) perceived. The guides took care to make sure that we all stayed together and to make sure no one had any car issues, hot breaks, over heating, etc. On the way down the canyon many points of interest were marked on our tour map, including the "fountain of youth" spring.

After about 45 minutes we arrived in camp and were assigned our cabin or tent site depending upon which one we had reserved. Tent sites were level, clean, and had a table as well as a cooking area.

Cabins were clean with beds and table inside as well as a storage area. Outside was a table and bar-b-que and cooking pit.

There is a freezer room in each camp has plenty of space to store you frozen foods for the week. Bathrooms and showers are conveniently located for all campers. A washer (cold water only) is available and Solar/wind power drying area (clothes lines) were also provided. There are lots of activities, tours, nature hikes and much more. The opportunity to learn about different types of mining equipment including the gold cube, wizzbanger, blue bowl sluices and large mining trammel were available. Some Geology lessons were also given as well as history of this working 49er gold claim.

The large trammel demo produced over an ounce of gold from approx. 4 1/2 yards of dirt. Several nice sized nuggets immediately caught our attention and fueled our gold excitement.

Currently there are 16 concrete pads which have 1yard of dirt ready to be worked. All the equipment needed to work the dirt is provided. There is a fee for the pile. When you first look at the pile you think to yourself that you will go thru this very quickly. However, 4 days later you are glad this is all the dirt there was. Lots of hard work. There is a lot of help to make sure you are processing the dirt correctly.

In the evening on Monday, everyone who participated in the wizzbanger demo and dig gathers to play cards for the gold that was processed. Jerome Muskie one of our chapter members won the gold. On another night we played dice for the gold that was processed thru the gold cube demonstration at China Camp.

On karaoke night one of our group who was ignoring the fact that it was his birthday was surprised by the Roaring Camp staff and the rest of us with a birthday celebration. No cake but a chocolate chip cookie with a candle. His theory is if you don't celebrate your birthday you don't get any older. Sorry Jerry, another year older.

Last year the camp had an emergency closing due to the fires in the area. The camp is family owned and all of the family and employees worked with the fire fighters to fight and control the fire.

They were a great help to the fire fighters since they know the roads and terrain very well.

The roaring camp family is very conscious of the environment. I was impressed with their use of solar power and recycling. They have a portable saw mill and recycling and reclaiming the trees that are killed and damaged by the beetles etc. in the area. They are milling trees into lumber and that is allowing them to put up some new buildings.

On Sat. night there is a big dinner celebration. Dinner included steak, salad, vegetable and fry bread. Stories are shared by all. This year there were about 130 folks for dinner. People came from all over Utah, Washington state, California, Hawaii and as far away as Moscow, Russia to name a few. Stories being shared included the history of Roaring Camp which has grown from the original 15 acres at Clinton Bar to what it is today.

In 1961 there was a vein of gold discovered in the river that ran completely across the river. That find yielded 30 lbs., yes 30 lbs. of gold as it was measured on a meat scale.

Continued →

Roaring Camp Gold Mining Camp cont.

As with all gatherings around a camp fire, there was a ghost story. The original cabin is said to have a ghost. The lady of the house has become more active since there has been some remodeling and construction on the basement and foundation. It has been reported that items are moved around and disappear. Anyone up for staying in this cabin?

All good visits must come to an end. So at 6 a.m. on Sunday we are all up and ready to leave camp. Again we are guided up the canyon in a group. As we are leaving many of our camp hosts come out to wave good bye, wish us a safe trip and encourage us to come back again. On our trip up the canyon on the 1 lane road there are a few turn outs. As we round a corner, in one of the turn outs, stand 2 cows watching us go by. And I swear with a little imagination you can hear them thinking " safe trip and come back soon"

Here are some things we suggest you need to know/bring:

Even though there is a small store it does not have everything. However, they will make every effort to get you what you need.

Be sure to bring your daily food needs, camping gear, and cooking gear.

There is a small snack bar that cooks some items for lunch and dinner. Not open for breakfast.

One couple in our group was not completely prepared.

The new miners menu is as follows:

Breakfast----Red Bull and pop tarts your choice of flavors.

Lunch or snack----Gatorade choice of flavor and chips of your choice.

Mining equipment that would be good to take:

Sturdy wagon or cart able to carry at least 4 5gal buckets of dirt. Several buckets, pick, ax and shovel, pry bar, crevassing tool, rock hammer, dust pan and brush, sun protection, hat, umbrella, water bottle, gloves and reg. mining gear.

Think about a trip to the "Dude" gold mining camp. It is well worth the experience!

Gold Panning from the Gold Panning and Prospecting for Fun and Profit

Fill your pan with materials from a likely gold bearing area. Your gold pan and material should be submerged below the surface of the water, keeping it as level as possible with one hand. Use the other hand to wash and break up clay and solid particles, but do not allow them to fall out of your pan. After your material has been washed and broken up, take the gold pan in both hands .

Again, make sure that the pan and gravel are held below the surface of the water. Rock the pan from side to side several times, causing the water to rush in one side and out the other. This will cause gold and heavier concentrates to settle in the bottom of the pan. After rocking the pan back and forth two or three times you will notice that the larger rocks are now at the surface. The largest of these can now be removed by picking them out of the pan. This procedure can be repeated several times. While doing this, make sure that the pan is always beneath the surface of the water. This way you will not throw away any of the gold material.

Look at each pebble or stone before you throw it away. Large nuggets may be found at this time.

The first two steps now completed, it is time to float off the sand, gravel, and lighter material. The gravity (weight) of gold is 19.0. Silver has a gravity of 10.1-11.1. That of sand and gravel is 2.2-2.3. Thus, gold being many times heavier than the stones and gravel, it along with the other minerals, should now be located in the bottom of the pan. Again keeping the pan under water, gripping it with one hand and tipping it slightly forward be sure the riffles are in the front of the pan. Start a circular motion just fast enough to create enough centrifugal force to flow over the edge of the pan. You will notice after several motions that the larger pieces that are exposed to the surface are now gone.

Stop the circular motion, holding the pan completely level under water. Shake from side to side, tapping the edge of the pan gently with one hand. This will cause more lighter materials to come to the surface.

Repeat these two procedures until there is approximately one-fourth of the material left in the pan.

To remove the balance of the waste material, hold the pan in one hand, tipping it forward slightly but not allowing the material to spill. Make sure the riffles are in the front of the pan so that all of the materials are washed over them. Now allow the water to rush in. This will float the lighter material and as the water spills back out, carry the materials with it. After doing this a few times, return the pan to a level position and tap with one hand. Continue this washing motion. After repeating a few times, you should have left in the pan only gold and black sand concentrates.

Bring the pan back to a level position. Wash the gold, minerals and black sand to the side of the pan opposite the riffles. Put in enough water to cover the materials left in the pan. Whirl the pan in a circular motion. This will cause the water to separate the black sand from the gold. Leaving the gold exposed. Remove the gold nuggets and pieces with a tweezer. The remaining concentrate in the pan, composed of several different minerals, will also have the fine gold left in it. Save the material for later concentrating.

SWWGP June Meeting and Raffle Winners



June SWWGP General Meeting Minutes

- Six guests were introduced
- Secretary minutes were read and approved
- Treasurers report was read and approved
- CD's have been added to the library from the presentations at the gold show. Also copies are being sent to the Portland and Brownsville chapters.
- We are going to set up a new membership Facebook page and suggest that people take advantage of the information posted.
- For the newsletter, please feel free to submit any stories or educational articles.
- The safety officer put out a request for additional volunteers for safety officers to volunteer to make certain that there is someone to cover all events. Heat exhaustion signs symptoms and treatments were covered. Information handouts were available.
- Big gold raffle was held and Liberty paydirt was available.
- If you have a family or chapter member who is not well please let us know so that we can send out a card.
- Rodney is collecting a list of people who would like to do day trips for beach prospecting. There is a sign in sheet if you are interested. He also thanked everyone for the great time at the last beach trip and all the trash collected on the beach.
- Another get the lead out event was held for 4 or 5 hours and another 45 pounds of lead was removed.
- Debbie has folders for anyone who is doing an outing with all of the documents that you will need. Also please let us know so that we can add it to the Facebook page, website and newsletter and please get the sign up sheet to Mark so that he can update the attendance roster.
- A motion was made and passed to allow up to \$350.00 for the picnic budget.
- Everyone please sign up for helping setup and what you are going to bring for the picnic
- Myron is leading the trip this Friday to Whites and then an outing to quartz creek.
- We can get GPAA points and Federal or state grants for volunteer hours, so please sign in at all events.
- Please watch out for visitors with paper name tags, please make sure to say hi and welcome them.
- GPAA has no decision on the dates or location for next years gold and treasure show at this time.
- Rick Beehler is setting up a rock & gem outing for Aug. at Polk a Dot agate and Glass Butte for obsidian and others in the future.
- Steve went to Baker on an outing with the Portland chapter and found some nice gold. If you join the Portland chapter you can also have access to their claim for outings.
- For the upcoming October elections, we will need to elect a vice president, 5 board positions for 2 years and 4 for 1 years. These positions require that you are a member of GPAA.

MID VALLEY PROSPECTORS



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
State Director (WA,OR) (Appointed by GPAA)
Steve Lewin 971-212-5996 goldpan123@yahoo.com
All e-mail should be directed to midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com

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 member-ship is **FREE!** For information contact: Roy Houtz – Chapter President, midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com or 541-990-1148 or visit www.swwgoldprospectors.org

2016 Oregon and Washington GPAA Chapters Calendar of Activities

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 — SSWG/PGPI Picnic—Lewisville
Park

August 2016

- 01 — Outing Lewisville Park
- 07 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 12-15 — Outing Yellow Jacket Creek
Randle WA
- 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

2016 Oregon/Washington Rock & Mineral Shows

You can view a complete list of the 2016 Rock & Mineral Shows listed for Oregon and Washington by visiting the websites below:
 OREGON — <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=OR>
 WASHINGTON — <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=WA>

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)

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



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