

# South West Washington Gold Prospectors Sept. 2017 Newsletter

## Letter from the President

Now that fall is on the way it is time to tackle some chapter business. Our budget is due in Oct and Ken and the Board will be working on it for your approval.

Elections are coming up and nominations are open. The positions we will be electing are , Sec. Pres. And 4 board members. Mark has agreed to run for a second term, and Debbie has agreed to run for another 2 yrs. However, these are open positions so if you or someone you know wants to give the time to the chapter please let Jeff Wooldridge know so they can be added to the nominations. All candidates must have been with the Chapter as a member for at least 6 months, and be a GPAA or LDMA member in good standing, as well as be willing to perform the duties of the office. Holding and office and or becoming a board member is a great way to serve your Chapter.  
See ya at the meeting!!!



## 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  
[magiedrag-on1956@hotmail.com](mailto:magiedrag-on1956@hotmail.com)

## SUNDAY SEPT 10 MEETING

Next meeting is Sept. 10, 2017, at 2 o'clock. Board meeting is between 12:15 and 12:30. As soon as we have 51 % or more in attendance. ALL meeting are open to everyone. Meetings are announced per our bi-laws. No one has ever been excluded from any meeting either when Randy Harper was President or since I have bee President. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

## Outing Ideas

Is there something you would like to see our Chapter members Do? Want to take a field trip or outing you think might be of interest to other members? Let us know. Send me an e-mail or call me at 360-695-3215 and lets see what we can do. Debbie Witcher.

<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Ken Didier	360-567-7360	ky02kid@peoplepc.com
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>(Elected )</b>		
	Patti Long		palong48@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	360-269-2341	none
	Dale Long	503-665-4717	alelongsmailgmail.com
	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	
<b>Claims Chair</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	DDWitcher@yahoo.com
<b>State Director (WA,OR)</b>	<b>(Appointed by GPAA)</b>		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	<b>( Volunteers appointed by club/</b>		
<b>Education</b>	<b>Volunteer needed</b>		
<b>Equipment Manager</b>	Randy Harper		rh82065@hotmail.com
<b>Fundraising coordinator</b>	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Assistant	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
<b>Picnic, Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Misc. Outings</b>	<b>Barbeques, special events</b>		
	Frank Knighton	360-834-5270	jknighton08@yahoo.com
<b>Librarian</b>	<b>Volunteer needed</b>		
<b>Membership</b>	Richard Pluff Jr		magicdragon1957@hotmail.com
Assistant	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Outing coordinator</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Daniel Keese	360-241-0489	none
<b>Sargent at Arms</b>	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	none
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
<b>Sunshine</b>	Pat Staat	360-798-9499	Healingsprings@centurylink.net
<b>T-Shirts</b>	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
<b>Historian</b>	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@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: Bylaws / Laws and Regulations

<b>GPAA Points</b>	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
<b>Name Tags</b>	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Awards</b>	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
<b>Fundraising</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
<b>Picnic and Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Geig	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
<b>Facebook</b>	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com

### Sign Up Sheets

Sign up sheets for all activities, events, committees, etc. are at the back table where you sign in for the meeting. If you have any questions there are chapter members available at the table to assist you.

### NOME TRIP

There were over 40 of us plus Randy Harpers crew who made the trip to Nome this year. Everyone had a good time. It was very educational and relaxing for the most part. I know several of our members had to catch up on sleep when they returned home as they took full advantage of the extended daylight hours. People were mining, metal detecting, riding the 4 wheelers and exploring until 2/3/and 4 in the morning.

Some of the activities we took advantage of were fishing, some did much better than others, tours, and collecting sea glass.

The first week the weather was rainy and breezy, but not cold, very few biting bugs. The second week was sunny a little breezy and again few biting bugs, For the most part during the day t-shirt and or light jacket weather.

We also played cards, and visited with other members in the lodge. We got to know our fellow chapter members much better.

We have another AKAU Lodge trip scheduled next year For July 20<sup>th</sup> thru 26<sup>th</sup>.

Here are a few things you need to know.

Flying time is around 12 hrs and in most cases will have lay over{s}. You will change planes.

Other than a metal detector, scoop, and viles, you really don't need a lot of equipment. Most of it is provided.

Chest waders are recommended along with a rain suit.

Some mining equipment, esp. hi bankers are to be shared. Treat your fellow miner as you want to be treated.

4 wheelers are available to rent and if you want to do much exploring you will need one.

Everything is expensive, it has to be shipped or flown in. A 6 pk of brand name pop was almost \$10, a 2 liter bottle was \$5.49, bananas were \$1.79 a lb

People are very nice and are friendly.

If you want to fish and need transportation the lodge will take you. They provide the poles but it is a good idea to bring lures etc. An out of state lic. Was \$25 for one day. If you want to learn to fish or proper mining practices, the lodge folks will teach you.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> week we had about 8-10 people who had not run a hi banker. Some need to learn to pan, metal detect, and dredging. There was other equipment to learn also.

The price for next years trip will be \$1300 for the week that includes meals .

The current age for children was 12 years of age, but that may be raised to 14, or high school age.

Keep in mind this is an opportunity to learn the history of Nome and surrounding area, learn and participate in mining and just enjoy you fellow miners.

This is a vacation and adventure. Do not expect to make your fortune or get rich. That is not realistic and you will be disappointed. If you catch the real gold fever you will not have fun.

If you are interested in signing up for next year and or want to confirm you place on the list, see Debbie

First come first serve. This is a joint outing with Mid-Valley prospectors.

### Buy, Sell, Trade

Have something to sell or give away?

Looking for something to buy?

This is a free service to our Chapter members.

Call Mark Matilla at 360-609-6813 or [chipper49@outlook.com](mailto:chipper49@outlook.com)

### Club Name Tags

Any club members that would like a plastic name Tag made for them can place an order at the next meeting.

Cost is 7.00 for each tag that includes up to 2 lines of engraving. Questions?  
Contact David Conti  
[user764554@aol.com](mailto:user764554@aol.com)  
360-256-0892

### RAFFLE

Jim Erickson has taken over the raffle with the assistance of Jeff Wooldridge. Dennis W and Dale Long will continue to help as well. Preston is our gold buyer and will be helping with gold prizes.



### VOLUNTEERS

We need a few volunteers for certain committees. We need a SGT. At Arms lead and a few committee members who are not board members.  
Ron Koppi has agreed to take the Safety committee lead but he does need a couple of people to help. Daniel Kessee will stay on that committee as will a serve as a Sgt. At Arms.

### SWWGP MONTHLY 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. 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.

### ADOPT A CLAIM

Since our chapter now has the paperwork signed off by the GPAA on the adopt a claim program this is a reminder that we adopted Yellow Jacket, Direct One, and Easy Diggin's. Our claims director Preston Griffin will be overseeing these claims. Any GPAA or LDMA member in good standing may go on these claims at any time. Please give Preston a quick report on the condition of the claim, access to the claim, and any gold you may find, etc. It is a good idea to take a trash bag with you so that if you find any trash you can carry it out with you. Our Chapter members who might not be a GPAA or LDMA member can accompany a current GPAA or LDMA member on the claim but are only allowed to be a dredge tender, hi banker helper, or you can pan. Having a full access at any time is another good reason to be a GPAA or LDMA member. Contact Preston or Debbie with any questions.

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](mailto:ddwitcher@yahoo.com) or  
360-695-3215 or visit  
[www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)

### **Gold Show Meeting**

Our next gold show meeting will be Oct. 22, 2017 Sunday at the Grange 1 o'clock . Please continue to recruit Vendors, if you need more vendor packets let Debbie know. There are a lot of exciting things planned for this show.

### **HARVEST FEST**

Sunday Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 is the Harvest Fest. This is a community fund raising activity. Our Chapter participated last year and it was a lot of fun. We were invited back again this year and Jim Erickson is in charge again this year so please consider donating a few hrs. We will have more info and a sign - up sheet at the next meeting.

### **T-Shirts**

Remember to by your chapter t shirts ,need something special? Talk to Maurine Koppi

### **Outings Leaders Needed (no training required)**

We need people to suggest and lead outings. Many outings require as little as 15 min. of your time. Take a group to one of our claims, Daybreak park, Lewisville Park or ?????? You can schedule an outing for a week-end day or during the week. You decide.

Bonus!!! You get a raffle ticket entry into the Golden Awards raffle for taking the lead. Try it you'll like it. Contact Debbie W 360-695-3215 ,for info. Paperwork and questions

If you have an outing that you would like to do, please contact Debbie or Jeff W.

### **License Plate Holders**

Our lic. Plate holders are here and have them for sale at this month's meeting. Please see Maurine the back table.

## 2017 Calendar of Activities

### January 2017

### February

### March

17-19 Puyallup Show  
17-19 Portland/ Gold Show  
28th Newsletter info due

### April

9th Chapter Meeting  
24th Newsletter info due

### May

14th Chapter Meeting  
19-21 Cape Disappointment  
29th Newsletter info due

### June

2-5 Baker LDMA joint outing  
11th Chapter Meeting  
17-18 Polka Dot Mine  
Newsletter info due

### July

9th Chapter Meeting  
16th Picnic  
24th Newsletter info due  
28th—Aug. 11th Nome trip

### August

1-11 Nome trip  
13th Chapter Meeting **Cancelled**  
19th Hollywood Rock Ranch **Cancelled**  
19th Daybreak Park Outing  
28th Newsletter info due

### September

4th Labor Day Albany Outing

### 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)

### 2017 Oregon/Washington Rock & Mineral Shows

#### September 2017

9-10—PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association, Vern Burton Community Center; 308 East 4th Street; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission

9-10—WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, Walla Walla County Fairgrounds; Community Center, 363 Orchard Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5

16-17—CASTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON: 52nd Annual Rock and Gem Show; Southern Washington Mineralogical Society, Castle Rock Fairgrounds; 120 Fair Lane; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free

30-30—SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Seattle Gem & Mineral Show, Lake City Community Center; 12531 28th Ave NE; Sat. 10-6; Free Admission;





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

Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup	Topside Mining	Northwest Detector Sales
9 Cent Color Copies	Creekside Prospecting	Ruth Enterprises
Whites Metal Detectors	Armadillo Mining	Thunder Reef
Chinook Winds Casino & Resort	Fossickers	Thrive Life
Quick Badge	Danas classic Flowers and Gifts	Danner Boots
Jensen Wood Crafts	Danas Classic Hair Supply	AKAU Lodge
RDK Plastics	Packwood Prospecting and Mining Supply	American Mining Supply Roaring Camp
Designs of all kinds	The Gold Claw	The Gold Lab
Gold Getter	Wilson Brothers	D&K Prospecting & Detector Sales Inc.
AAA Precious Metals	Sportsman's Warehouse	Avon Products—Bug Guard
Pro Caliber	Nayhely's Place	Spin it Off
Oregon Treasure Trail Society	Gold Rush Nugget Bucket	Lucky Dog Supply
Lost Adams	McCord's Vancouver Toyota	LAMAR Advertising
Danner Boots	Wilson Bros.	Roaring Camp
Gold Claw		

Please support these vendors as they support us with contributions and in many cases discounts. We will be doing interviews with many of them so we can get to know a little more about them.