

# South West Washington Gold Prospectors Newsletter

## February 2018



Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on Sunday February 11th.

The board meeting will start at 12:45 and the general meeting will start at 2:00.



### Membership Committee

When signing in for attendance at the SWWGP meeting please be sure to verify name, address, and phone number. If you are a current GPAA/ LDMA member be sure to give us your membership number. Let Mark know if you are not receiving chapter emails.

Edna Nelson  
503-307-0852  
rockhound-  
stoo1966@yahoo.com

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The gold and treasure show is coming along nicely and we are working on outing and events scheduling. However, we do have a few committees that need some more members.

Our picnic date is set for Aug 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 at Lewisville park, dogwood shelter. The Chapter is seeing positive progress in all phases. Things are happening with gold claims. All in all we are on the right track.

Hopefully we will have a recommended budget for the chapter to vote on at this meeting.

So far no bad weather causing the cancelation of a meeting.

But remember we do need your contact info so we can notify you in event of a canceled meeting. As always Mark will send out an e-mail.

See you at the Feb. meeting with lots of fun and surprises.

Your President

Debbie W

### T-SHIRTS / GOLD SHOW SIGN UP

Please sign up asap to work at the Gold and Treasure show, we also need to know the size of t-shirt you will need. We have to turn an order in by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

### CHAPTER STORE

We are looking for someone to be in charge of the chapter store. If you are interested see Debbie

<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	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>(Elected )</b>		
	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@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	griff11546@gmail.com
	Matt Barner	360-909-9424	Matthew.barner@gmail.com
	Tammy Binford	360-449-2714	kaycbear99@gmail.com
<b>Claims Chair</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
<b>State Director (WA)</b>	<b>(Appointed by GPAA)</b>		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
<b>Committees / Chairs</b>	<b>Appointed by chapter President</b>		
<b>Education</b>	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
<b>Equipment Manager</b>	Randy Harper	503-849-5109	rh82065@hotmail.com
<b>Fundraising Coordinator</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jeanne Gieg	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>Picnic, Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Librarian</b>	Dave konti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Membership</b>	Edna Nelsom	503-307-0852	rockhoundstoo1966@yahoo.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Outing Coordinator</b>	Bill Birdwell	360-263-1749	obill15@comcast.net
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Ron Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Norm Erickson	503-801-1452	None
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	bettyerickson13@yahoo.com
<b>Sargent at Arms</b>	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
<b>Sunshine</b>	Anne Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
<b>T-Shirts</b>	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Dennis Clevenger	360-281-6338	dennisc@pacifier.com
<b>Historian</b>	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
<b>Gold Buyer</b>	Prestin Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.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.			

<b>GPAA Points</b>	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
<b>Name Tags</b>	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Awards</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
Assistant	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
<b>Raffle</b>	Jim Erickson	3602603225	aerickson@q.com
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicaJeff@msn.com
Assistant	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Dale Long	503-665-4717	alelongsmaill@gmail.com
Assistant	Prestin Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com

## Education

The February education will be information on how to spot and the dangers of mercury.

If you have a topic or idea for future education or would even like to share your knowledge on a topic or piece of equipment please let Mark know.



## GOLD SHOW TICKETS

Patti Long has taken over the distribution of the Gold Show Tickets .You can sell these tickets to anyone. They are \$5 pre-sale. \$10 at the door.

For every pre-sale ticket we sell we make \$2.50. All tickets and monies must be turned in no later than Fri, the 23<sup>rd</sup> during set up.

## DIVING

Interested in a diving safety class? Talk to safety officer Ron Koppi and let him know

## Nome Trip by Tom Fest

Nome Alaska is like many other places except it is very beautiful, especially when you consider it's history...but like they say, gold is where you find it.

The Falcon MD20 paid for itself this trip! It is designed as a pointer for very small gold. When properly calibrated, it beats all contenders. I got over 100 pieces with it from the parking lot while others just watched. The road up and down to the lodge from the highbankers was good too (The owner, Augie, said it was assayed at a half a million dollars for just the material in the road up the hill.) It alerted to the ground under the table at the panning tubs, where more was found. Bob Novak and I decided to check the tailings from the highbankers, we found that the smaller gold was going right through it. We learned to decrease the water flow and the slope of the highbankers to catch a higher percentage of the gold. Then I walked the old creek bed. The "pointer" alerted to a spot in the creek that proved out to be a crack in the rock. It was about 1 inch wide, four feet long, and quite deep. There was a rock, about 600#, in the way. I used leverage and moved the rock and cleaned out the crack as best I could. I could see the mercury in the material when I panned it. All the gold I got in Nome was amalgamated with mercury by the time I got home.

I learned three important lessons in Nome. First, the price of your equipment is not as important as your familiarity with it. Second, do sample and adjust your equipment you are running to catch the gold others miss. And third, always take a few pairs of disposable gloves to wear when you encounter mercury.



## GOLD SHOW SIGN UP

Please get signed up to work the gold show and give us your t-shirt size. I need to get the order turned in right after the meeting. Remember the limit is 1 shirt per person. We are donating \$5 per shirt to DOAK to help off set his costs. Also those of you who are working both Sat. and Sun. will by vote of chapter membership receive a parking pass. This is for our chapter only. Each Chapter was making a decision about their own folks. One day parking is \$6. No parking fee on Fri. set up. See Debbie with questions.

Our next gold show meeting needed to be re-scheduled due to scheduling conflicts for the grange. The Meeting will be Sat. Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.

That is also the Albany sportsman Show helping our fellow chapter Mid-Valley.

Richard Pluff is in charge of this outing and you can contact him with any questions. The sign up sheet for this event is at the membership table.

**REMEMBER: GOLD SHOW MEETING RESCHEDULED TO FEB. 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 12 NOON AT THE GRANGE.**

## SIGN UP SHEETS

We have sign up sheets at the attendance/membership table for outings and events we are participating in. Also sign up sheets help us to gauge interest and participation in outing, events, and committees.

Committees are set up by the Chapter President based on interest and/or need.

The Vice President will preside over committees as deemed necessary or the chapter President will appoint a chairperson.

## SUNSHINE

Please let Ann Erickson know of anyone who might be under the weather, in the hospital, or just need a feel good card.

Remember to let us know of anyone with a new addition to their family as well.

[aerickson@q.com](mailto:aerickson@q.com)



## Collection for Veterans

Don't forget that we are continuing to collect food, toiletries, warm clothes for veterans. Pet food for their animals. Please bring your donations. Boxes will be provided.



## 2018 Picnic

The date for the picnic will be Aug. 4, 2018 at Lewisville Park in Battleground, WA. Dogwood shelter starting at 9am to dusk or sooner. This is during dredging season so we need to have some qualified people be in charge of the dredge. As always we can pan etc.



## 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



## 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

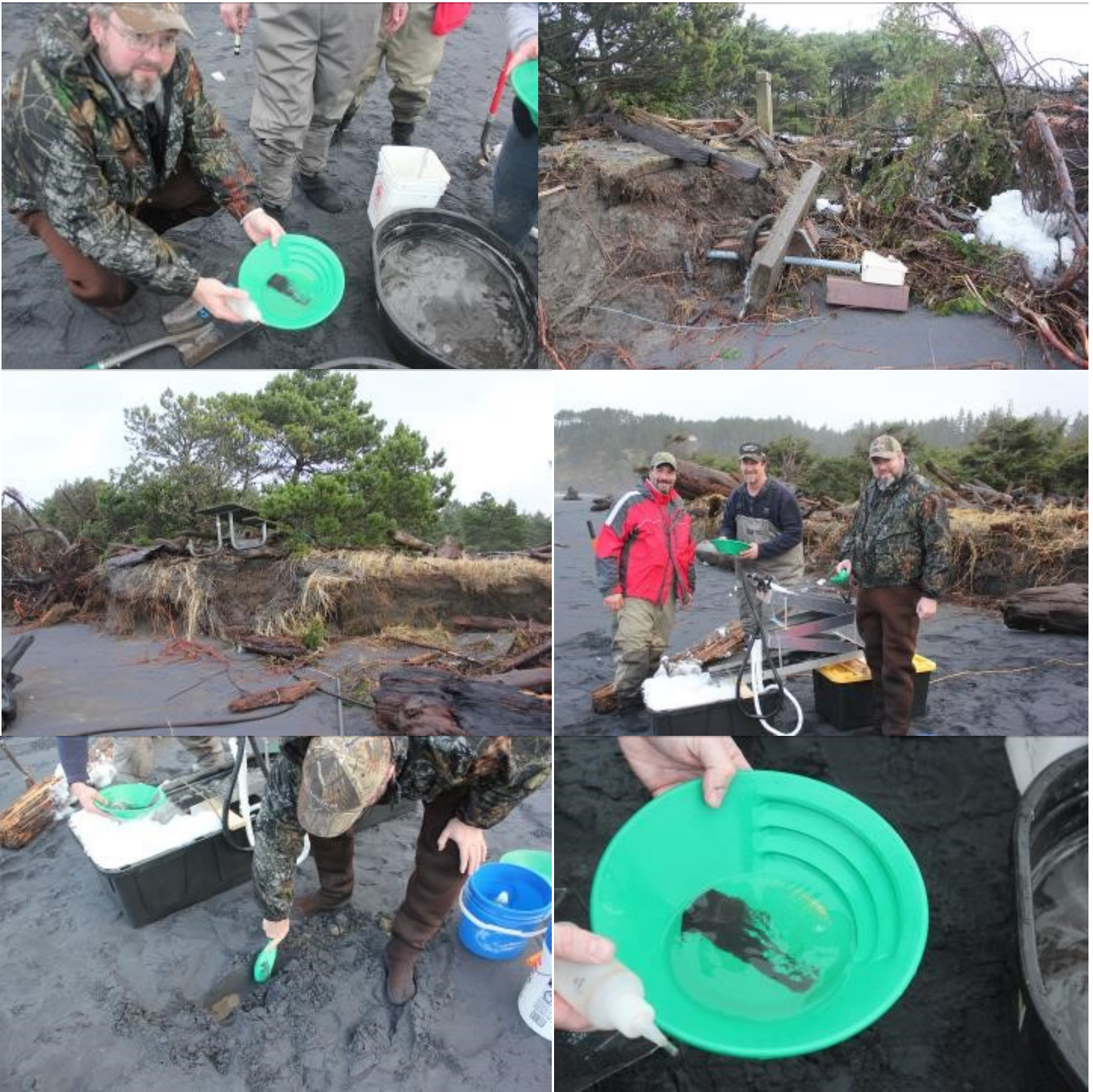
All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods and equipment as well as hands-on demonstrations and practice. There are also outings to enjoy the pleasures of gold prospecting and the great outdoors.

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)

## Jan 20th Beach Outing



The day outing at Cape Disappointment was a great success. Approx. 20 people were in attendance and learned a lot. New and old mining ways. Almost everyone got gold. Even though the weather was a concern precautions had been taken and the weather turned out nice for the time of the year as people predicted Sat. was a calm day. Because people had so much fun they extended this outing into Sunday.

## HAVE YOU NOTICED

that the last 3 meetings our raffle chair person Jim Erickson has a secret prize raffle? He is trying to make the raffles fun and exciting. Last month we gave away a Lamborghini. The lucky winner was Patty Long, and yes it was a remote control car, but a girl can dream can't she. What will Jim have in store for us this month? Come to the meeting and find out!

## PANNING CONTEST

Rick Beehler will be holding his panning contest at this meeting. Keep practicing. There will be prizes both for new and experienced panners. This is for our chapter members and those wanting to join our chapter. Everyone is welcome to watch and cheer your favorites on. Thanks to Bill Adams for the pan donations.

## Outings Changes

For future reference, only the president, outings chair or the outings leader will be canceling or modifying an outing. We take safety seriously but ultimately if you have a safety concern you may decide not to attend an outing. Only you know what you are comfortable with.

## Scheduled Events

**Feb.11**

2:00 Panning Contest for Novices through experienced.  
Minnehaha Grange 4905 NE St. Johns Rd. Vancouver WA 98663

**Feb 17-18**

Albany Sportsman Show  
Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany Or.  
Setup Fri. Feb.16th. Show Saturday 17th 9:00-6:00 Sunday 18th 9:00-4:00  
Teach panning, Joint project with the Mid-Valley Chapter  
Contact: Richard Pluff Jr. 503-957-6884

**March 24-25**

Gold and Treasure Show  
Clark County Even Center Setup is on March 23rd  
Show sponsors joint chapters contact Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215

**May 2**

Coos Bay Children's Fair  
Coos Bay Oregon Teaching children to pan, campout, try the rivers  
Contact Randy Harper 503-849-5109, or Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215

## **SIGN IN SHEETS**

When we attend outing, events, etc. it is extremely important that you sign the sign in sheets. This is important for several reasons including, Chapter liability, outing, event interest, as well as your eligibility to be a chapter member, but more importantly your eligibility to vote in elections.

If anyone has sign in sheets from past events, please get those to Mark M. asap. There were several sign in sheets just given to us that are up 2 years old. This can effect your voting rights.

Anyone who has files and or paperwork belonging to the Chapter please get it to Mark M. immediately. The secretary is responsible for record keeping and can not do that correctly if you withhold paperwork.

## **On a Negative Note**

At the Dec meeting one of our chapter members was given a bag of gold dirt, and he put the dirt with his belongings while he was talking with the President and others. When he returned to his seat the bag of dirt was not there. We are assuming that it got mixed in with someone else's things. We all brought a lot of items to our Dec. Dinner meeting and this probably got mixed in by mistake. Please check to make sure you don't have it and if some how you do please give it to Debbie, Jeff, or Mark so we can get it back to the rightful owner.

## **IN NEED OF TREASURER**

Ken Didier resigned as treasurer at the Jan. Board meeting. We want to thank Ken for his service to the chapter as treasurer.

Mark is filling in as treasurer for the time being until we have a new volunteer. Mark as you know is not only the chapter secretary, but also newsletter editor, so it is important that we find a volunteer to fill this position. If you are interested or have any questions please talk to Debbie, Mark, or Patti Long who was a previous treasurer.

We will go over what is involved and expected with this position.

## **GPAA KITS**

We still have a couple of GPAA kits with membership, and remember if you are renewing your membership to be sure to let the GPAA know to credit our chapter with your membership.





## How to season your gold pan

Modern plastic gold pans with sharp molded riffles are a vast improvement over traditional smooth metal pans. Some die hard panners prefer to use the metal pans however newly designed plastic pans are lighter and help the novice panner retain more gold and speed up the panning process.



**Modern gold pan with various riffles and gold traps**

These new plastic pans come in a variety of colors and configurations to fit any panner likes and needs. The plastic pans are formed using injection molding technology to produce uniform shapes, sharp riffles and various gold traps to help retain the gold.

During the injection molding process the manufacturer has to use oil or some other lubricant to help free the newly molded gold pan from the mold.

This will leave a coating of oil on the surface and slightly impregnated into your new gold pan.

Having any oils in your gold pan can cause you to lose much of your fine gold.

### Seasoning your pan - Preferred Method

At home, wash your new gold pan with hot water and dish soap that has a good degreasing agent. Scrub the gold pan with a clean semi-abrasive sponge and thoroughly rinse the pan.

Let the pan dry and repeat this process again a few hours later or the next day.

On your first trip to the river with your new gold pan, fill your pan about 1/3 of the way full with sand and small rocks.

Add water and rub the mixture over the entire surface of the gold pan.

This roughening of the surface will help to liberate impregnated oils and give your pan a nice smooth texture that will help to keep fine gold in your pan.

This should be all that is required to break in/season your new gold pan!



**A favorite, one size fits all**

### Tips

-Keep your pan away from oils

-Wash your pan with a degreasing soap regularly

-Do not use your gold pan as an oil changing tub or to eat out of while camping

-Thoroughly wash your hands before working with or panning your concentrates

-Keep your fingers out of the gold pan as much as possible(the piece of gold in the video was made to float by wiping my index finger across my forehead and quickly submerging it in the water)



**Old style metal gold pan,(note, no riffles)**

Frequently practice and hone your panning technique and you will soon be able to pan out the smallest of fine flour gold. <http://coloradogoldcamp.com/tutorials-how-to/seasoning-your-new-pan/>

## Emergency Backpack Contents

### Front little zipper

Content list & owners information sheet  
Batteries  
Flashlight  
Glasses

### 2nd Zipper Whistle, Thermometer and compass on zipper ring

Condiment pack  
Dental floss  
Emergency blanket  
Leatherman knife  
Light socks  
Magnifying glass  
P40 can opener  
Pen, paper and pencil  
Ponchos (emergency type)  
Super glue  
Tissue and toilet paper  
Toothpicks  
Walkie talkies  
Wound seal

### 3rd Zipper

Duct tape and rescue tape  
First aid kit  
Hand warmers  
Hydrogen peroxide  
Insect bite relief  
Matches (waterproof) strike anywhere if you can find them  
Medicine 3 days worth  
Parachute cord and small rope  
Signal disc / mirror  
Steel wool and 9 volt battery (fire starter)  
Sting kill disposable swabe  
Surgical tubing  
Water bottle

### 4th Zipper

Beef jerky / Protein bars (long shelf life)  
Black plastic bag  
Blue fox fishing lure  
Camera  
Collapsible cup  
Gloves  
Para cord rope tightener  
Plastic utensils  
Radio and batteries (preferable crank type)  
Shovel (folding)  
Snacks  
Sport wrap (self adhering)  
Spray insect repellent  
Tarp  
Urinal (plastic with handle)  
Water purifier straw  
Zip ties

### Back Zipper

Binoculars  
Defense Spray



## Last 2 Years Outings

Below you will find a list of the outings with dates that we have held and participated in over the last 2 yrs.

The Polka dot agate mine(1 each yr).

Chinook Winds Bus trips

Whites tours include mining after lunch at local rivers

Oct. 2017 Daybreak w/ Preston

Sept. labor day week-end out w Mid Valley

Daybreak Aug 13

Nome AKAU lodge 43 folks attended this July 20-Aug 11

The yearly picnic at Lewisville (1each yr.) include panning and if during dredging season, dredging

Polka ot 6/17

Snake River 6/2-5

Burnt River 6/2-5

Day Break 5/20

May 6th Get the Lead Out

8/6 Lewisville

6/26 Daybreak outing

6/17 Whites Tour

6/11 Get the lead out

5/14 Daybreak

5/14 Beach Prospecting

5/14 Daybreak

4/30 Lewisville

Cooper creek 4/16

3/26 Get the lead out

10/17Chinook winds

10/3-4 Cape Disappointment

8/28-29 Copper Creek

8/8 Lewisville

8/1 Lewisville

6/27 Chinook Winds

6/21 Lewisville

6/6 Daybreak

5/24 Lewisville

5/16 Copper Creek

Look it over and let us know what you liked and help with scheduling. Is there something you would like to do? Give us your ideas and lets try it.

## 3 MONTH RAFFLE

We have our prizes for the 3 month raffle (now2). You can sell tickets to anyone, they do not have to be a chapter member or present to win. Winning tickets will be drawn at the GPAA gold Show on Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>, and they will have 30 days to claim their prize or it will revert back to the Chapter.

Clearly Print Name and Phone number on ticket, we must be able to read it.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Here is a list of the prizes:

Rocker Box and starter kit donated by Norm and Betty Erickson

Metal Detector and kit from Whites Donated by Whites

Thule car top rack Donated by Vancouver Toyota and RV

Aluminum camp stools and soft side cooler filled with goodies Donate by Vancouver Toyota and RV

Spin it off donated by Dave Urik

Gold miners Belt buckle donated by Tom Fest

Gold nugget Doug Buckendahl

## Safety

February's safety topic will be on what should you have in your first aid kit



## Buy Sell Trade

Have something to sell or give away? Looking for something to buy? This is a free service to our Chapter members. Please send an email to Mark Mattila with the information and pictures at [chipper49@outlook.com](mailto:chipper49@outlook.com)



Asking \$275.00 any  
question please text 971  
-244-3210 John Rehder  
or call Tammy Binford.  
360-601-6855

## January 2018 SWWGP General Meeting Minutes

- ◇ Meeting was called to order at 2:24
- ◇ 3 guests were in attendance
- ◇ The secretary report was read, a motion was made and passed to accept
- ◇ The treasurers report was read, a motion was made and passed to accept
- ◇ A reminder was made to everyone to sign in at meetings and outings and for outing leads to turn in attendance sheets.
- ◇ We received a confirmation from the state of Washington that we are in compliance regarding the B and O and sales tax
- ◇ Gold show tickets are available to sell for half price which is \$5.00 per ticket. You can get tickets from Mark Mattila and do not need to pre-pay for tickets you intend to sell.
- ◇ We are checking on the gambling license for Washington
- ◇ Parking for the gold and treasure show is 10.00 for the weekend or 6.00 per day.
- ◇ A motion was made and passed to have the chapter provide parking passes for those working the show for the Vancouver chapter
- ◇ We are looking at doing the 5.00 donation for each gold show t-shirt. This topic will be discussed at the next gold show meeting.
- ◇ Whites will be donating a metal detector for the chapter to raffle at the gold show
- ◇ Vancouver school district will be including gold show in their newsletter to parents
- ◇ Preston presented on a claim being investigated for the chapter
- ◇ There will be a Whites outing either on Wed. Jan 17th or if not then it will be sometime in April.
- ◇ A motion was made and passed to accept the results of the previous election
- ◇ Dave reported on the upcoming beach outing and beach prospecting
- ◇ The annual picnic will be Saturday August 4th at Lewisville park in the Dogwood section
- ◇ There is a sign up sheet for a diving class
- ◇ This months safety report was on First aid kit supplies

# January Meeting



**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  
503-936-1443

9 Cent Color Copies  
360-896-7220

Creekside Prospecting

Roaring Camp  
209 296-4100

Whites Metal Detectors  
1-800-547-6911

Armadillo Mining

Spin it Off

Chinook Winds Casino & Resort

Fossickers

Thrive Life

Quick Badge

Danas classic Flowers and  
Gifts

McCord's Vancouver Toyota

Danner Boots  
877-432-6637

Danas Classic Hair Supply

AKAU Lodge  
760-500-1329

Lost Adams  
541-340-0931

Packwood Prospecting and  
Mining Supply

American Mining Supply

Designs of all kinds  
360-892-5597

Nayhely's Place  
360-571-7088

The Gold Lab

Gold Getter

Wilson Brothers

Avon Products—Bug Guard  
971-212-5996

AAA Precious Metals  
503-253-8591

Sportsman's Warehouse  
360 604-8000

Oregon Treasure Trail Society

Pro Caliber

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.