

South West Washington Gold Prospectors January 2018 Newsletter

January

Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on Sunday January 14th. 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, e-mail and phone number. If you are a current GPAA/ LDMA member be sure to give us your membership number.

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

RESIDENTS MESSAGE

We are starting a new year and lots of exciting things are to come. We are working hard on this years outings and education schedules so any and all suggestions are welcome.

The 2018 Gold and Treasure show planning is coming along nicely. So far it looks like all GPAA Chapters in Oregon and Washington will be participating.

Please remember that all concerns and comments are treated respectfully and I encourage all of you to talk to me as your President or I am unable to address them. Rumors esp. false rumors create unnecessary controversy and that hurts ALL chapter members. Lets come together and work for the good of all.

See you at the meeting,
Your President,

Debbie Witcher

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. 15th.

GOLD SHOW TICKETS

Ken D. has gold show tickets and you can check them out from him to purchase and sell.

Thanks to the GPAA for getting us the tickets by the 1st of Dec. as promised.



Executive Board	(Elected)		
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
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	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
Claims Chair	(Elected)		
	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
State Director (WA)	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Committees / Chairs	Appointed by chapter President		
Education	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
Equipment Manager	Randy Harper	503-849-5109	rh82065@hotmail.com
Fundraising coordinator	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
Hospitality	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
Picnic, Holiday Dinner	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Librarian	Dave konti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Membership	Edna Nelsom	503-307-0852	rockhoundstoo1966@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing coordinator	Bill Birdwell	360-263-1749	obill15@comcast.net
Safety Officer	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
Sargent at Arms	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Sunshine	Anne Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Dennis Clevenger	360-281-6338	dennisc@pacifier.com
Historian	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Gold Buyer	Prestin Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Ken Didier	360-567-7360	ky02kid@peoplepc.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.

GPAA Points	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
Name Tags	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Awards	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Picnic and Holiday Dinner	Jeanne Geig	360-673-3179	jeannegeig@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
Facebook	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
Assistant	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
Raffle	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



The January education will be panning and how to beach mine.

Tom Fest will be giving us information on how to spot mercury and dangers of mercury. This is currently planned for the Feb. meeting. Thanks Tom!!!



WHITES TRIP

Myron Hastings is planning on having a date set for the Whites Metal Detector Factory tour by this months meeting. We may also do some mining in the area as we have in the past depending on the weather.

This is a great opportunity to ask questions from the Whites reps. And learn how there products are made.



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

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GOING TO NOME, AK?

AKAU LODGE

Interested in going to AKAU Lodge in Nome AK? You need to get signed up as there are only 6 spots open.

Special rate is 1300 for 1 week and includes meals, snacks, lodging transportation to and from the Nome airport, use of the lodge, fishing and mining equipment, tours, education and history of Nome and much more. ATV's and fishing lic. Are extra and you need to make your own air fare arrangements. Space is limited on a 1st. come basis.

Date for this trip is July 20-27.

If your name is not on the following list and you want to go, see Debbie W.

Sharon Stewart, Wayne Tipping, Jon Olson, Randy Gillespie, Loyd Nelson, Doug Buckendall, Nita Anderson, Dean Anderson, Bob Naylor, Bob Mccowen, Mike Rech,

A lot of you have expressed an interest but have not given a commitment. Remember this is open to all, including not only other chapters but also family and friends.

Children need to be 16 or older.

OUTINGS

As announced in last months newsletter and at our meeting Bill Birdwell is our outings chair. Please help him out by suggesting outings and also think about volunteering to be the lead for an outing. It takes less than 1 hr of your time and is needed. You need to let us know what outings you would like to do. Please be pro active with this and make suggestions. We are very limited as to locations to go.

You can even set up an impromptu last minute outing as Preston did. If you are going somewhere and would like some company this is a great way to include others. Let Mark know the date, time, and where and he will send out an e-mail. Let those who don't have email know so they can attend with you. For those few who were able to join Preston, they had a good time and even got a little gold. We need to have more of these weather permitting.

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.

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

360-256-0892

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 there family as well.

aerickson@q.com



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 or 360-695-3215 or visit www.swwgoldprospectors.org

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.



Washington State Gold and Fish Book

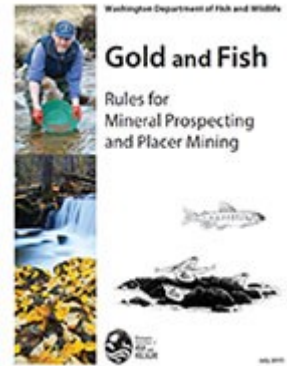
Mineral Prospecting & Placer Mining Rules

If your copy was printed prior to June 29, 2017 be aware that there was an addendum added you will need to re-print.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/mining/>

Mineral prospecting and placer mining have been popular in Washington state since territorial days. If not conducted properly, however, these activities can be detrimental to fish and their habitat.

Since 1980, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has regulated most freshwater mineral prospecting and placer mining activities through the [Gold and Fish pamphlet](#). (hold ctrl and click)



The pamphlet, a type of Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA), serves as your permit for the freshwater and ocean beach mineral prospecting and mining activities described in it. No application or fees are required, although you must follow the rules outlined in the pamphlet and in some cases carry it with you in the field.

Basic steps for using the Gold and Fish pamphlet

Print out the pamphlet from this website or request one from a [WDFW office](#).

- Decide where you want to prospect or mine.
- Decide what type of equipment you want to use.

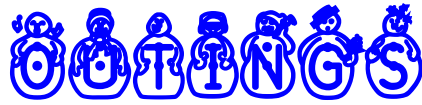
Find the waterbody in the work time table to see when the location is open for work and if you need a separate, written [HPA](#).

- See if you need to work under “Mineral Prospecting Without Timing Restrictions”, “Mineral Prospecting With Timing Restrictions” or “Mineral Prospecting on Ocean Beaches”.
- Obtain any additional permits you may need from other agencies before starting work.

Follow the provisions in the pamphlet.

Remember, you must carry a copy with you at all times in Washington.





The following is a list compiled from everyone's input at the December meeting. If there are any ideas not listed please let us know so we can add them to the list. Send Bill Birdwell a message. obill15@comcast.net You can even set up an impromptu last minute outing. Let Mark know the date, time, and where, and he will send out an e-mail.

Yellow Jacket	Lewisville	Daybreak	Get the lead out
Copper Creek	Nome AK	Burnt River	Randall
GPAA sites	Whites	Richardson Ranch	Beach
Liberty Mine	Dredging	Camping	Gun Range/Shooting
McMinnville Aviation	Blue Bucket	East Oregon Claims	
Northern Calif.	Southern Oregon	Quartz Creek	Mt Adams
Direct One Claim	Easy Diggins Claim		
Outings to schools for education		Prospecting near RV campground	
Joint chapter outing to Quartzville		More weekend outings	

Scheduled Events

Jan 14	2:00 Panning demonstration and training / How to beach mine Minnehaha Grange 4905 NE St. Johns Rd. Vancouver WA 98663
Jan 20	Beach outing at Cape Disappointment
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.

CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT

We have an up coming outing for beach mining on Sat. Jan 20th 2018 at Benson Beach. We are to meet Dave at 10:00 am. He is planning on leading this outing rain or shine.

This is a one day outing and the co/leader is Rick Beehler.

Dave will be going over the details and answering questions you may have at the Ja. Meeting.

Remember to sign in.

EDUCATION

Preston has volunteered to chair the education committee, and as you may know this is adding to his duties as claims chairperson and as our gold buyer. Thanks again Preston.

If you would like to help him please let him know. As gold buyer for the chapter he is the one who must authorize any old buying within the budget the chapter has given him. He may from time to time ask someone to make a purchase for the chapter on his behalf. Preston works closely with our raffle leader Jim Erickson who is also doing and excellent job.

GPAA KITS

We still have GPAA membership kits available. See Ken D. for info. The benefits of the GPAA far out way the small yearly cost. If you are not a member please consider joining. Need info on the GPAA? See us.



Burnt River OR, LDMA Camp Outing

June 2 to 5, 2017

The Burnt River Oregon, LDMA Camp is known for its dark, bronze-colored gold, but during our trip to the Snake River Invitational, planned and hosted by the Snake River Region, GPAA Chapter from Twin Falls, Idaho, there was a lot more than just the gold to create an attraction. Upon entering the area near the camp, you are greeted by a sign that says, "Big Horn Sheep, Next 12 Miles, Be Prepared To Stop." After a few days, we wondered if there *really* were Big Horn Sheep in the narrow valley, but then Bob, one of the caretaker helpers, stopped by our camp and told us that the sheep were down the road a ways, if we wanted to see them. We jumped into the truck and sure enough, there was a whole herd of Big Horn Sheep in the road, in the meadow below and the hills next to the road. I got lots of chances to get photos of the beautiful animals. Just before we left, many new babies were born.

Along with the Big Horn Sheep, we had deer meandering through camp at all times of the day, not seeming to be afraid of the RVs and mining equipment. We also sat in camp and watched eagles and Red Tail Hawks flying above. One of the eagles was carrying a baby lamb or goat in its talons. Thankfully, we only saw one of the rattlesnakes that we were told inhabited the area. He crawled on a rock to get some sun and we left him alone.

There is a dirt road – up Deer Creek Canyon, that goes from the Burnt River LDMA camp buildings all the way into Baker, which was the old stage route to Baker. A nice man named Ron Rogers, who was staying at the camp for the summer, asked us if we wanted to take a trip on our quads and side-by-side, up Deer Creek Canyon? We had gotten to the camp several days before the outing started, along with Bob's brother and wife, and it was a little hot that day, so we thought that sounded like a good idea. As we followed Ron, we could feel the air get cooler as we climbed and after about 4 miles, we could look back through the valley toward camp. It was a wonderful view! There had been a terrible fire that had swept through that area the year or so before, and you could see the damage from the burned trees and vegetation. Thankfully, the Burnt River Camp was fine. From where we stopped, we were level with the big hill that was behind our camp. It was a gentle climb and we saw many colorful wild flowers, butterflies and even a mama elk and her newly born calf. We saw a man out gathering wild mushrooms, on the lush, green slopes of the canyon. There had been a lot of rain there as well, so in late May/early June, it was still very green. We made the same trip again on our quads a few days later, with just Bob's brother and wife, and we went up about 5 or so miles. I would definitely recommend that jaunt to anyone who goes to the Burnt River camp. (: The view is beautiful!

We also drove up the road from the camp past Clarksville, to see where the Hoffman's of the TV program, Gold Rush, had tried their luck. The area is posted, so we stayed in our truck and I just took some photos.

We were blessed by the friendly and helpful members of the Snake River Region Chapter. Bob soon found out that the uneven ground was hard for him to navigate, due to his bad knee, from the accident last year. We had run some material we had dug from above the camp, but Bob didn't have the equipment to run a pump from the water source to his small, Kicking Donkey brand high-banker, so a nice man - Ron Rhodes, the Idaho State Director and from the Idaho group, brought Bob a small high-banker called a Gold Duster that could circulate water in a tub. I went to get some material off of the pile designated for the outing attendees, and Bob and his brother were able to run some material, while sitting in camp. We only saw a few colors, but then we only ran about 3 buckets of material. Those who were running their equipment for most of the 3-day outing, found some nice, little pickers, fine gold and some people who had just come to the camp to prospect, showed me some of the famous, Burnt River gold they had found. (: You know me... I had to get some pictures of it. (:

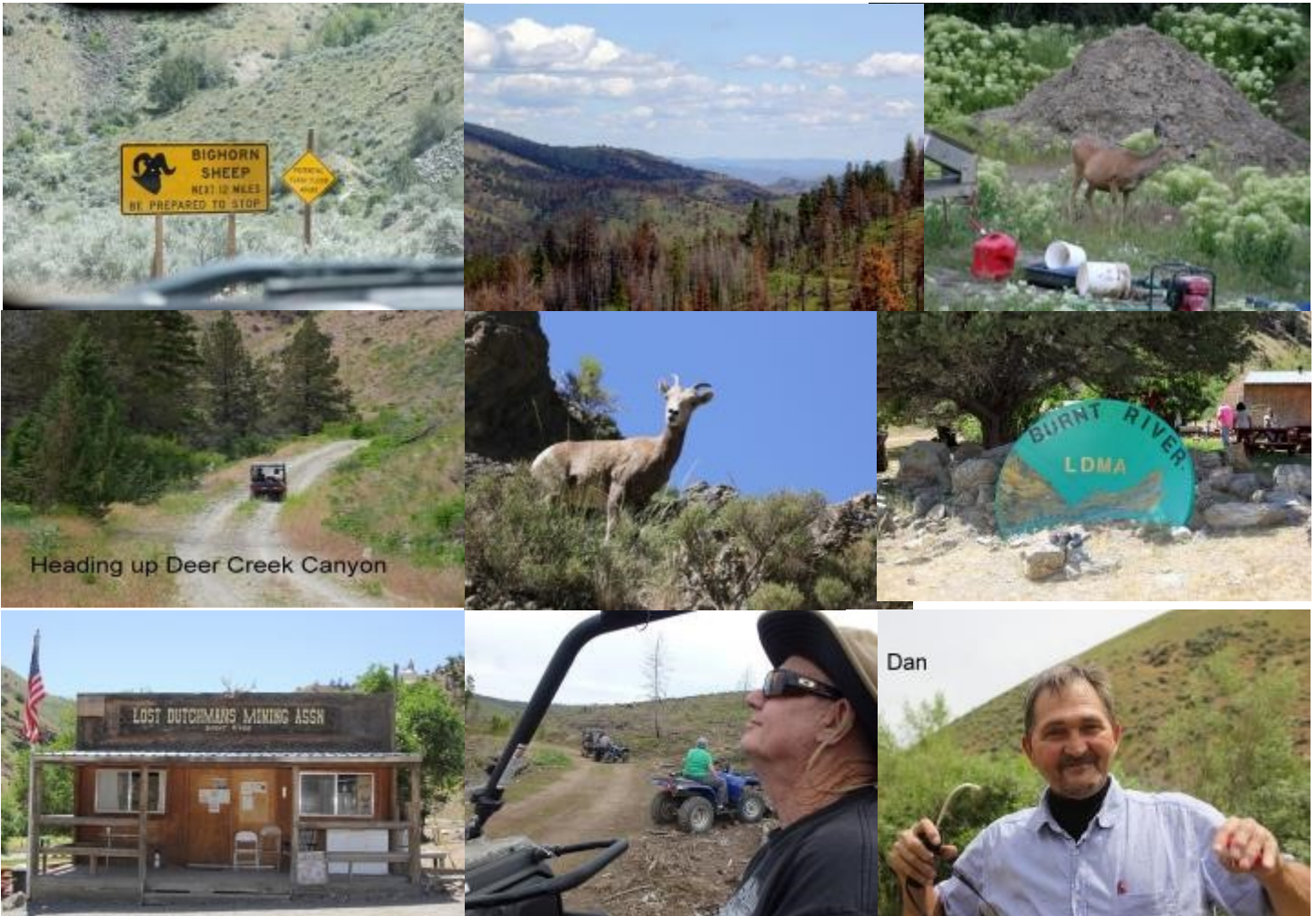
Dan Shelton and his son were the only other members from our SW Washington Chapter, who attended the outing. Bob's brother and wife, who are from Utah, met us there, so it was good to see them. My cousin also visited us while at the Burnt River Camp. We both grew up in Baker and she and her husband still live there.

The bathrooms were clean and nice, with hot showers and they are handicap-accessible as well. The Club House was nice and I could use the electricity there to download photos to my laptop and it had a swamp cooler in it, that made it nice and cool, while I was working on my photos. There is an RV waste dump there as well, for a small fee. It is a good place to get away from technology, as there is no cell phone service at the camp nor any Internet.

We got to know some nice people while we were there – especially Eric Whitmore – President of the Snake River Chapter and who is also the Idaho State Co-Director along with Ron Rhodes, who loaned us the mining equipment. Eric’s wife, Jenny, did a great job of organizing the outing, and their two daughters kept us all entertained, especially the youngest one. (: We called her “Mom’s little Hamburger Helper,” since she ended up wearing her dinner at the potluck. We made some four-footed friends, as well. We also got to meet the new State Director for Northern Nevada - Dave Terwilliger and his wife, Nancy, along with Bob and Linda, who help the Caretakers – Jim and Pam Haney, and their calico kitty, Sage, so it was a nice trip. The Haney’s had a vendor booth up and they sell polished rocks and very unique, handmade jewelry. The Idaho group had games for the kids and a potluck and prize drawing on Saturday evening, and we all won some nice prizes, donated by White’s Mining Equipment. Thank you, Whites and the Snake River Region GPAA Chapter!

This was Bob’s first prospecting trip since his accident, and I think he over-estimated how much he would be able to do, and though we didn’t come home with a lot of gold, we came home with some great memories. (: I think he just loved being out of the house and enjoying nature and the beautiful scenery, there. We had a good time and would definitely go back. (: We would recommend the Burnt River LDMA Camp to others.

Submitted by Carol Brown, Vancouver, WA



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



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

December 2017 SWWGP General Meeting Minutes

- * Meeting called to order at 2:11
- * 1 guest in attendance
- * Secretary report was read and a motion to accept was made and passed
- * Treasurers report was read and a motion to accept was made and passed
- * Ken is checking with the Washington department of revenue for tax compliance
- * A sign up sheet was offered to anyone to be on the elections committee
- * Safety Presentation on ways to start a fire in the wilderness
- * A reminder for all to turn in their medical cards
- * A suggestion box has been established for any ideas
- * Sheets were handed out for members to list any outings or education they would like
- * The picnic is trying to be scheduled during dredging season
- * Ken has Gold show tickets available for sale
- * Richard Pluff is the lead for the Albany sportsman's show, he needs an assistant
- * Randy and Deb are working on doing the Coos bay children's fair
- * There will be a panning competition at the January meeting for experts, novices and children.



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.