



## Presidents Message

The gold and treasure show is almost here. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year we have hosted the show for the GPAA. This is a great opportunity to check out the new products, revisit old vendors and work with our fellow chapters. Volunteering for the show is a lot of hard work on our part but as always, I know we are up for the challenge. Under Randy Harpers leadership several yrs. ago we did our first gold show. What a struggle, most of us had no idea what we were doing and we wanted to try most everything. We had a group of about 12 or so folks who stepped into the leadership rolls and were off and running. As always there were issues but we plugged along and the show was a success. What a learning experience! The next year (2016) we partnered with the Portland and mid-valley chapters and have hosted the shows together ever since. Our common goal to make the show a success. We have achieved that goal and make it look easy to all outsiders. Many of us are still working hard on the shows. In 2016 and 2017 we hosted 2 shows. As I look back and realize how far we have come not only as a growing chapter but also with our show efforts I am in awe of all of you and your tireless effort to make everything we do a success and have fun doing it. I am so very proud to be your chapter president! Thanks to all of you for your hard work. See you at the meeting, Debbie

**Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on Sunday January 13th.**

**Board meeting will start at 12:30 and the general meeting will start at 2:00.**

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!

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

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)

Mailing address: 5400 NE Hwy 99 STE G  
Vancouver WA 98663



## Membership

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.

If you need an updated membership card be sure to let Edna know.

Also we have medical cards available.

Edna Nelson 503-307-0852

rockhounstoo1966@yahoo.comm



## Special Presentation

### RUN, FIGHT, HIDE

Our education and safety segments will be presented by the Clark County Sheriffs Dept.

This is going to be focusing on run, fight, hide situations. We feel it has become very important that we have as much knowledge on what to do etc. as possible. Please bring any questions you might have. We will shorten our reg. meeting as much as possible so they may have a minimum. of 1 hr. for their presentation and question and answer period. This is needed information whether we are at a meeting or in a grocery store. This has become a part of our daily lives. Please keep unnecessary comments and chatter to a min. and be respectful. We will take a break and then have our raffle after the presentation.

# GOLD SHOW tickets

Tickets are available.

Pre show tickets are \$5.00 each and \$10.00 the day of the show.

We make \$2.50 for each ticket we sell. This money goes to help support the chapter and is a good deal for those ticket holders.

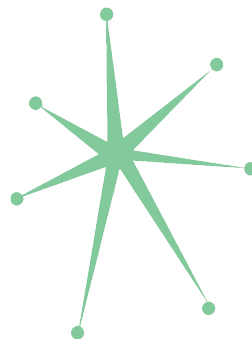


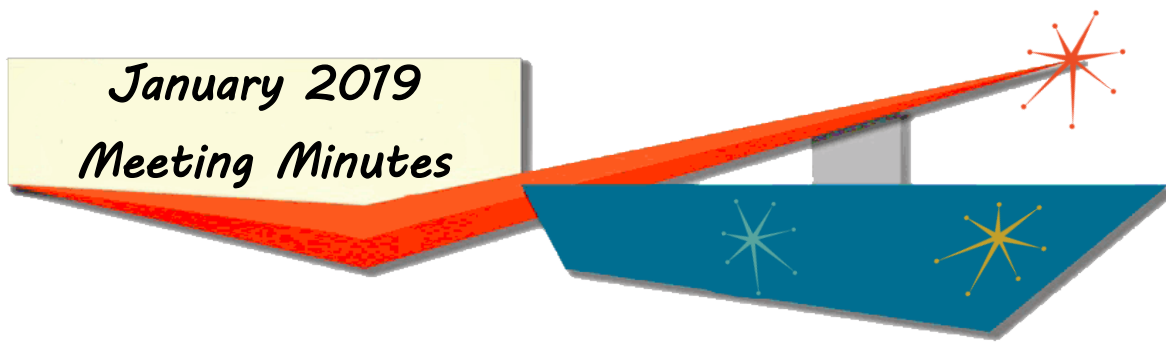
## Don't Lose Your Gold in the Clay!

Clays are a real problem in many areas. It will clump up and hold onto small gold particles, preventing them from settling down into the riffles of a sluice box the way it is designed to work. If you are prospecting in an area that has heavy clays in the soil, you need to find a way to break up this material so that the gold can be released.

There are a few ways to do this. If you are in an area with heavy clay soils, then classifying is really important to do. You will find that this process will help to break up dirt clods that attract the gold.

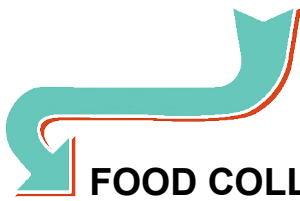
Physically using your hands to bust up heavy clays works well also. You will need to feed the sluice box slower than you normally would if you have to deal with clay to allow the sluice to work more efficiently.





- Meeting called to order at 2:00
- 13 guests were in attendance
- The secretaries report was read, a motion to accept was made and passed
- The treasurers report was read, a motion to accept was made and passed
- A motion was made and passed to pay the yearly rent in full was made and passed
- Rick reported out on the upcoming beach outing on Jan 19th
- A requirement was noted to have at least 10 people sign up to support the Albany show by the end of the meeting was announced.
- It was requested to look into prospecting on the Washougal river
- There will be two sheriff deputies at the Feb. meeting to do a presentation on run, fight and hide.
- There is a bingo bus trip being set up for April 20th. The bingo trips are open to family members and friends also
- There will be a gold show meeting on Feb 2nd at 12:00 at Elmers on Sandy.
- Sign in sheets are available for working the gold show
- Patti has gold show tickets for everyone to sell
- We are working on prizes for a two month raffle to be drawn at the gold show
- The safety presentation was on winter driving
- There was a reminder to return any library materials or equipment on time
- There are two cabins and a couple of tent spaces still available for the Roaring Camp outing May 19th—26th
- There is a board position open, if you would like to be a member please let us know.
- We are looking at doing another partnership with Columbia sportswear for clothing donations in February





## **FOOD COLLECTION**

As many of you are aware the food banks have taken a big hit with the government shut down and are trying to restock.

The veterans food bank is almost out of food and needs donations of canned foods, dry package and sustainable shelf items.



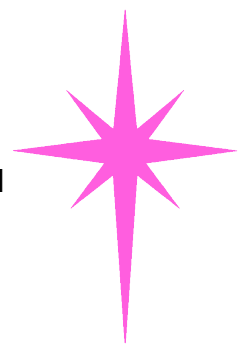
Our fund raising bus trip is scheduled for April 20, 2019 which is a Sat. You need to sign up for this as space is limited. We have room for 51 people. You must be 21. This is open to all chapter members, soon to be chapter members, friends and family. Cost is \$20 per person. Includes bingo with cash prizes, a raffle ticket, and the casino gives us a discount on our meal as well as they donate raffle prizes. This is a day trip and all proceeds help to support our chapter. Lots of raffle prizes, some really nice to the goofy ones. Talk to anyone who has gone on these trips and they will tell you everyone has a lot of fun. Also a chance to get to know your fellow chapter members.

## **OPEN BOARD POSITION**

Sandi C. gave us her letter of resignation last meeting. Sandi and Doug have moved to Idaho. We want to thank them for their service to our chapter. They will return from time to time to participate in some of our functions. We wish them the best in their new life.

We need to fill the empty board position. You need to be a current GPAA member as well as a current chapter member. Be willing to give an extra 1-1 ½ hr. of you time on meeting day. All board positions are open to committee members as well. Please consider becoming a board member.

Also, just a reminder that all regular board meetings are open to everyone. We value your input as well.



## Gold Mining in Moss

This method can be very profitable once you catch on to how moss traps gold. Since moss favors or grows well in shaded areas, that is where I usually start my search.

Very early spring is an ideal time to look for low growing moss. Focus your search on crevices and bedrock locations close to the main channel of a river or stream. These spots are always darker locations with little direct sunlight actually penetrating down into the dimness.



Spring melt raises the water level over top of these low growing "moss clumps" temporarily submerging them under water until the snow melt runoff is finished.

- 1) Pick on areas that will have the greatest water flow at high water.
- 2) Seek out moss in cracks versus growing on top of rocks.
- 3) Thicker dirty moss roots will always capture more gold than lighter, cleaner moss.
- 4) Moss (and slime) are nature's teflon when it grows on rocks. Be extremely careful when crawling down to harvest this green carpet.
- 5) Use a flat flexible blade to work moss free from rocks. Always clean out the dirt underneath as this can be very rich.
- 6) Place moss into a bucket immediately after harvesting.

Don't lay it down on the ground as you pull more free or you will lose some of your gold on the ground.

### Extracting Gold from Moss

There are a few different ways to harvest your gold from it's mossy bed.

- 1) Take your moss clumps and wash them in a rubber tote, just like you are washing your clothes; in 1930. Wash, rinse and repeat. OK maybe that is a little extreme but you want to flush as many gold particles out of the moss as possible



March 30-31 , set up on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Please sign up to work the gold show. We need to have your shirt size so we can get that order taken care of. If you miss the meeting call me and let me know what size. The shirts will be a maroon color. We ask for a \$5 dollar donation to help DOAK off set the costs.

We have gold show tickets available for you to sign out to sell or to purchase. Tickets are \$5 pre- sale \$10 at the door. All active military and veterans are free with id, and children 12 and younger are free. The chapter receives \$2.50 for each pre-sale ticket sold by us. Let's make our 300 ticket goal or more.

Work schedules will not be figured out until after our March gold show meeting. If there is something you prefer to work, please write it down when you sign up.

I want to send out a special thanks to Carol Brown for creating our gold show flyer. The Portland chapter was to have done that but with only 3 days notice let me know they were not going to be able to. I worked with Carol and as always she stepped up to the challenge and had it ready to go for the gold show meeting. When you see Carol please thank her.

We will be having our meet and greet dinner at Billie Blues in Hazel Dell again this year. They have good, reasonably priced food. We will start the dinner at 5 o'clock on Fri. evening. We will have a sign-up sheet on the membership table. This is a great opportunity to relax and interact with fellow gold show volunteers as well as some vendors.



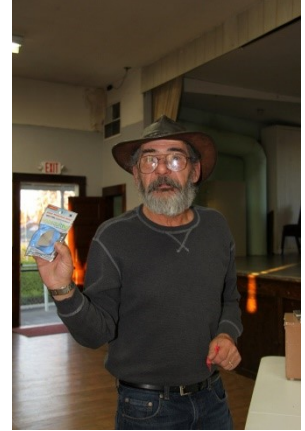
## CHAPTER BUSINESS CARDS

Do you need some business cards to hand out? Are you a committee or board member and need some cards? Let Mark know and he will take care of that for you. There will be a sign- up sheet for that also at the membership table.



## GOLD DIRT

The store will have both Roaring Camp and Colorado dirt for sale. This will be in the store. See Dennis.







## **SPEAKING OF WEATHER**

Be sure to update your phone number and e-mail address. In the event of bad weather and a meeting is canceled for everyone's safety we will send out an e-mail, post on face book, and web sites. If you know someone without an e-mail or computer, please give them a call to let them know. As always you can contact officers and board members to see if a meeting is still being held.

## **SIGN UP SHEETS**



We have several sign- up sheets at the membership table. We you sign in please take a moment to add your name to the ones that you are interested in.



## **COOKIES NEEDED**

Jeanne would like to have a couple of people bring cookies to the meeting. We have extra guests on Sunday.



## **AKAU LODGE**

AKAU LODGE is giving chapter members and friends a special offer. Save \$1000, Contact Betty K. at 760-500-1329 for details. Have questions contact Debbie W.



## **OUTINGS**

We need some more outings suggestions. Please see Scott Long or Debbie W. We hope to have a calendar available for all at the next meeting.



## **CHAPTER STORE**

The chapter store will be in the break room. We have ordered pumps and brackets for the mini sluices. We expect to have those in time for the meeting.



## 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)

## 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 \$8.00 for each tag that includes up to 2 lines of engraving.

Questions?

Contact David Conti

[user764554@aol.com](mailto:user764554@aol.com)

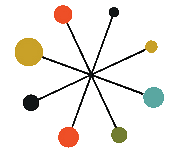
360-256-0892



## 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.

## CLAIMS



Remember when visiting claims to be very aware of the severe cold, high, swift running water. Do not take chances. And as always have your gold and fish rules with you.



## JOIN THE GPAA

There are several ways to join the GPAA. We still have kits available or give them a call. Be sure to mention that you are with Southwest Washington chapter.

Why not join and take advantage of all the available perks offered thru the GPAA.

Have questions?

|  |                                |              |  |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Executive Board</b>   | (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  | Patti Long                     | 503-320-3854 | palong48@gmail.com   |
| <b>Board of Directors</b>  | (Elected )                     |              |  |
|  | Rick Beehler                   | 360-601-6855 | rickbeehler@ymail.com  |
|  | Jim Erickson                   | 360-260-3225 | aerickson@q.com  |
|  | Jeanne Gieg                    | 360-673-3179 | jeannegieg@gmail.com   |
|  | Scott Long                     | 503-754-0612 | mthoodfire74@hotmail.com   |
|  | Tina Long                      |              | <a href="mailto:treasuretrove67@hotmail.com">treasuretrove67@hotmail.com</a> |
|  | Preston Griffin                | 360 903 2054 | griff11546@gmail.com   |
|  | Sandy Croonquist               | 503-661-5529 | exetor1325@comcast.net   |
|  | Tammy Binford                  | 360-449-2714 | kaycbear99@gmail.com   |
| <b>Claims Chair</b>  | (Elected)                      |              |  |
|  | Preston Griffin                | 360-903-2054 | griff11546@gmail.com   |
| <b>State Director (WA)</b>   | (Appointed by GPAA)            |              |  |
|  | Steve Lewin                    | 971-212-5996 | goldpan123@yahoo.com   |
| <b>Committees / Chairs</b>   | Appointed by chapter President |              |  |
| <b>Education</b>   | Preston Griffin                | 360 903 2054 | griff11546@gmail.com   |
| <b>Equipment Manager</b>   | Don Spillman                   | 360-773-8708 | Golddigger357@outlook.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 Conti                     | 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>  | Scott Long                     | 503-754-0612 | mthoodfire74@hotmail.com   |
| <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  |
| Assistant  | Deborah Lee                    | 360-624-6565 | deborah35@me.com   |
| <b>Gold Buyer</b>  | Preston 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 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>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       |
| <b>Chapter Store</b>             | Dennis Witcher    | 360-695-3215 | ddWitcher@yahoo.com         |

Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Hwy 99 Ste. G Vancouver WA 98663

## Links

Website: [www.SWWGoldProspectors.org](http://www.SWWGoldProspectors.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SWwashingtonGoldProspectors>

Gold and Fish Book: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/mining/>

HPA Rulemaking web page: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/hpa/rulemaking/>

## Education

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.

### OUTINGS/ EDUCATION

We need your suggestions for outings and education.

There is a list started at the membership table. Please contribute.

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

Whites Metal Detectors  
1-800-547-6911

Topside Mining

Northwest Detector Sales  
503-936-1443

Chinook Winds Casino & Resort

Creekside Prospecting

Roaring Camp  
209 296-4100

Quick Badge

Armadillo Mining

Spin it Off

Danner Boots  
877-432-6637

Danas classic Flowers and  
Gifts

Oregon Treasure Trail Society

Lost Adams  
541-340-0931

Danas Classic Hair Supply

McCord's Vancouver Toyota

Designs of all kinds  
360-892-5597

Packwood Prospecting and  
Mining Supply

AKAU Lodge  
760-500-1329

Gold Getter

Nayhely's Place  
360-571-7088

American Mining Supply

AAA Precious Metals  
503-253-8591

Wilson Brothers

The Gold Lab

Sportsman's Warehouse  
360 604-8000

Avon Products—Bug Guard  
971-212-5996

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.

|         | <b>Scheduled Events</b>               |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
|         |                                       |
| 1/13/19 | Board 12:30 and Chapter 2:00 meetings |
| 1/19    | Cape Disappointment Prospecting       |
| 2/10/19 | Board 12:30 and Chapter 2:00 meetings |
| TBD     | Copper Creek Outing                   |

