



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

Volume I Issue 9
December 2012

SW Washington Gold Prospectors

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November's Raffle Winners

Wayne Tipping was this November's winner of the gold nugget. Other drawing winners included the following:

Nolan Shanholtzer - peridot gems and Ron Tompkins - autographed gold pan.



Wayne



Nolan



Ron



Veterans Honored

All the veterans in attendance were honored today with a round of applause for their service in the defense of our country and freedoms. Thanks go to Rick Beehler for these pictures. Four were taken and he combined them in this panoramic view.



Ex-claims !!

I received an email requesting that I make available a link so that all the members could go to the web address and read the result of a court decision concerning prospecting. That address is: http://www.plp1.org/images/USA_v._Tierney.ORDER.pdf. I do recommend you read it. The case concerns a pick and shovel prospector being ticketed by the Forest Service for causing

"significant surface disturbance of surface resources", not obtaining a special use permit, and not filing an approved operating plan. This is typical of some FS officers and I ran into the same thing a few years ago here in our state. The good thing is, the judge found the prospector NOT GUILTY !

What has always caused me heartburn is that "significant disturbance" has never

been defined in the statute and the rangers run the gamut from you can't even walk on the grass! I found what the judge stated in regards to this as great. This precedent making case needs to be in every prospector lawyer's briefcase! This is a big win for all of us. I can't do justice to the decision here so please read it.

Thanks go out to Scott Atkinson for his heads-up on this issue.

Retorts !!

THE MINERS' PRAYER

When our Father calls us to his claim in Heaven
May our brothers and sisters meet there.
And may our pans sparkle with the word of God.
John Rogers 2012

To all the members of my club.. The biggest THANK YOU to all for the clubs purchasing of my prospectors grub stake. Also a thank you for the proceeds of the passing of the Pan. I am truly humbled by this gesture of friendship. I'm am so very proud to be a member and each and every one of you should be as proud to be part of this outstanding club.
ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU.
Don Brenteson

Deer Eddittorer....It has become real noticable to me that there are a bunch of so called "club members" that have a BIG problem with the support of the SWWPGgatherings.. This few peoples refuse to by them there little pices of pape that les people take stuff home for there cachee..In fact , let it be nonnse to all member that thesenun get up and depart the building when itts the time to bistow the givvins of the club to its fellow and gal that have so unshelless given ther hard panned life safeings.. I; mean wees aint for a vitle of there gold?? we aint evens begging for der shirts frooom der mbacks.. I wood like ,to see a rule that anyones leaving beforee da end of da meeten that they have to raise there , hands and saying there handle anns ask the pressedent for persimmons to skiddle from da gathering!!.. Now if a fellow prospector has justifable cause to have noo shiners in da bottom of hissenn pan deen tda clud should GIVEN then there prospectors I (one) ticket sa as da can hab da chance to take somtin home to there bride or goom I rite dis whith thechance of fallen in da cold iceey wadder of da river iffen it aint all trtrustt.. bestess regardless, the young frogbreath prospector!!!!>>

The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

- Don't forget to bring your items to the swap table to either sell or trade. Remember a donation to the club of \$1.00 for each item sold.
- The want ad section in the newsletter will begin when ads are sent to the editor. Send or give me your ad.
- Reminder: we have an ongoing food drive for the needy of our area. Bring in two non-perishable food items to any meeting and receive one free raffle ticket!
- Reminder: save your aluminum cans and other scrap metal and appliances and bring them to a meeting. We will sell it to a recycler for the benefit of the club.
- Be sure to always sign in at meetings and outing to be credited with attendance. To be a member in good standing you must attend three meetings or outings each year.
- Please update your personal information with the secretary.
- Reminder: \$15 will get this newsletter sent to you each month. See Kameron if you would like this service (to begin with the January issue).
- Bring in your knives to be sharpened for a small donation.

Promising Prospects — Outings & Events

Upcoming Meetings:

December 9, 2012
January 13, 2013
February 10, 2013
March 10, 2013

WHITE'S TOUR

The club is setting up a tour of White's Electronics Manufacturing facility in Sweet Home, OR. We can either go on Saturday or a week day. If we go on Saturday, they will make a special provision for us to tour the plant, however, they do not work on Saturdays. We would not be able to see the manufacturing process. If we go on a weekday, we would be able to view the process. So, we are gathering everyone's preference on the matter before the date is set. Let Myron Hastings know if you would like to participate and which day of the week you would prefer. Contact Myron at 360-892-3471 or prospectornw@peoplepc.com.

The Trading Post



**Metal Detectors
Authorized
Dealer**

**Myron Hastings
21016 Ne 68th St.
Vancouver, WA 98682
360-892-3471**



D & K Prospecting & Detector Sales Inc.

**For all your prospecting needs.
13809 SE Division St.
Portland, OR 97236
503-762-1521
800-542-4653**



**Bob Mote
7905 SW Elmwood St.
Tigard, OR 97223
503-936-1441**

WANTED

Very inexpensive
rock saw and / or flat lap

Kameron
360-909-8888

Butcher Boys

Meats, sausage, cutting, wrapping

**4710 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661
360-693-6241**

FOR SALE

Your ad here.

Free to members in good standing.

Concentrates — Meeting Minutes Highlights

Business Meeting 11/11/12 (unofficial minutes)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. All veterans present on this Veterans Day were thanked for their service with a round of applause.

The October 14, 2012 minutes were read and approved.

The treasurer's report including the total of donations received at and since the October meeting, and the expenses for educational materials was read and accepted.

Claims/Raffle Chair Lewin reported there have been no recent outings due to the weather. Possible educational outings to the Rice Museum or D&K's shop are being checked out for the early part of next year.

Safety officers Bill Ray and Randy Harper cautioned against relying on electronic devices such as your cell phone for navigation when going into unfamiliar areas, as they won't work if there is no cell service. Even when it's cold and foggy, you still need to drink water to stay hydrated, and be sure to dress in layers. Always carry with you a "go bag" packed with survival items whenever

you leave your vehicle and are out in the field. A list of survival items for this "go bag" will be posted on our website and included in the newsletter.

Library Ernie Stinson reported that several magazines and new books have been donated, and are available for members in good standing to check out.

Sunshine Lady Betsy Shepherd reported three cards were sent out this past month.

Webmaster Rosalie Mitchell stated that any submissions would be welcome.

Newsletter editor Kameron Mitchell mentioned that this month's newsletter is very slim as very little input from members was received in the past month. He urged everyone to think about submitting articles to be included.

Equipment chair Robert Gregory reported that he now has a binder with sign-out sheets for members to check out club equipment.

Unfinished Business

1. Our bylaws were approved by GPAA.

2. Payment for shirts ordered last month must be paid by today.

3. There will be a potluck lunch at next month's meeting, at the usual start time of 1:00. The hospitality chair and other volunteers will decorate the lower level of the Grange while the business meeting is being conducted on the upper level.

New Business

1. Nominations for the position of treasurer were opened. Kameron Mitchell was nominated and he accepted the nomination.

2. Nominations for the position of vice president were opened. Members nominated were Bill Ray, Randy Harper, and Myron Hastings. Each of these members accepted the nomination.

3. Nominations for the position of board members at large were opened. Members nominated were Ernie Stinson, Judy Stevens, Rosalie Mitchell, Marvin Kruger, Andy Lehto and Rick Beehler. Each of these members accepted the nomination.

Additional nominations for these positions may be made at the

December meeting. Before the vote.

4. President Lewis asked for volunteers to be appointed for committee chairs for next year. Dave Greer volunteered to be equipment manager and Dixie Caris volunteered to remain as hospitality chair.

Announcements

1. D&K donated a large box of items for our fundraising efforts. Amy Garcia was present and was publicly thanked for these donations.

2. The tour of White's metal detector facility in Sweet Home will be scheduled for next year. The plant is in operation only Monday through Friday. If members want to see the plant in operation the tour would need to be scheduled during the week as any Saturday tour would be with only a guide pointing to areas where activities happen during the week.

3. A member needs to sell his personal prospecting equipment. He is offering his Grizzly Sluice III equipment for \$250. The club voted to buy the equipment for \$200., which was accepted.

Rich Placer Deposits — Educational Articles

Oregon Beach Placers — by Kameron Mitchell

Beach placers along the Oregon coast were richly productive for a time after their discovery in 1852 and have since yielded small amounts of gold and platinum annually. The generally mountainous Oregon coast is bordered in places by coastal plains that range from a quarter of a mile to 4 miles in width and are mostly less than 100 feet high. The plains are of two types: lowlands composed of bay-mouth bars or barrier beaches and the filled embayments behind them; and a group of slightly elevated marine terraces.

In addition to these terraces, a remarkable series of marine benches appear at intervals between sea level and 1500 feet. The different terraces are capped with marine sediments, the largest area of which is between Port Orford and Cape Arago and is related to an ancient shore line at an altitude of 170 feet.

Beds formed offshore compose a terrace plain about South Slough that is somewhat lower, and there are remnants of beaches in some of the other terraces.

The placer deposits are wave-concentrated layers in the beaches and offshore beds and are generally called black sands composed of chromite, magnetite, and other heavy minerals such as gold and platinum. In the beaches that are retreating under wave attack, the deposits are variable and inconstant, but certain beaches are likely to be richer or more often workable than others. The back shore of the present beach and the ancient beach at an altitude of about 170 feet have been the most productive. The pay streak generally ranges from a few feet to 200 to 300 feet in width, is 3 or 4 feet thick in the middle, and tapers toward the edges. It consists largely of alternating layers of black and gray sand with more or less cobbles, boulders, and driftwood and, in the ancient beach, is mostly covered with a barren sand overburden 20 to 60 feet thick.

The immediate sources of the beach minerals, including gold and platinum, are the shores that are being cut back by the waves. Most of the gold-bearing

beaches are south of Coos Bay, along the coast opposite the Klamath Mountain region, which contains several areas of gold-bearing lodes. As a result of stream sorting, only the finer particles reach the coast. No definite source of the platinum has been found.

Owing to the transitory character of the foreshores of the present beach no definite estimate of reserves can be made, but it is concluded that deposits suitable for small-scale operators will continue to form here and there along certain parts of the coast. Ordinarily these deposits may be expected to yield from about \$1.75 to \$172 per day per person at \$1720/ounce. Although there are noteworthy amounts of gold and platinum in certain areas, attempts to mine them have not been economically successful. Most of the richer parts of the ancient beaches at 170 feet have been mined and whether any of the remainder can be profitably worked is doubtful. [Information contained here is distilled from "Oregon's Gold Placers", Miscellaneous Paper 5, issued by State of Oregon Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries.]

The Panning Gourmet

Breakfast Hash

By Kameron Mitchell

Ingredients

1/4 pound bacon
3 medium potatoes, cubed

3 extra large eggs
1/2 cup shredded (or cubed) cheddar cheese
1/2 cup shredded (or cubed) pepper-jack cheese
1/2 chopped small onion

1/2 cup chopped tomatoes
1 tbs Tony Chachere's seasoning
1/2 cup chopped bell pepper

Serves 3 hungry people

Multiply ingredients & packets by the number in your group.

Directions

Fry bacon until nearly crisp. In a separate frying pan (or use the bacon pan and some of the drippings), mix the potatoes, onion, bell pepper, and seasoning well. Cook over medium heat. Turn the vegetables occasionally so they do not burn, until the potatoes are tender. Reduce heat to medium low. Sprinkle cheeses on top, place the cooked bacon on top of the cheese and then crack the eggs evenly separated on top. Cover and let cook until eggs are cooked to desired hardness. (Alternatively, eggs can be scrambled (mixed) with the vegetables and cooked with them.)

[Check www.swwgoldprospectors.org for more recipes!]

Thunder Eggs & Other Rocks
by Kameron Mitchell

During the two weeks prior to Labor Day 2012, I found myself reading the two "Gem Trails" books of Washington and Oregon. (I reviewed these books in our September 2012 issue.) By the time I finished the Oregon book, I was getting excited about trying a little rock hounding! After some internet research, I decided I wanted to look for some thunder eggs. The Wednesday prior to Labor Day, my wife, Rosalie, and I thought it would be great to head out to Madras, OR to see what we could find. Rosalie looked online and surprisingly found motel rooms in Madras and Bend and this on a holiday weekend!

Friday came, and we left right after work for this new adventure. Our first stop on this adventure was a spur-of-the-moment decision to visit Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. Rosalie had never been there and even though it had nothing to do with thunder eggs, it was constructed with a lot of rock! What a magnificent historical place. After this short delay, we continued on to Madras where we spent the night.

When we arose, it was bright but not that early! We had a quick bite in the lobby and headed out to Richardson's Rock Farm, some eleven miles or so east of Madras. We nearly didn't make it. I was "on call" this holiday weekend, and for the first time in fifteen years I was called to help with some serious computer programming issues, which means it would cost the company money until it was fixed. I nearly had to return to Portland. It took us nearly two hours to reach the farm due to cell coverage and stopping to talk them through some of the problems. But without the interruptions, we would not have seen this beautiful sight: two spikes bucks and one huge, four-point, mulie buck crossing the road in front of us. After about five hours (literally) on the phone, I was able to get it fixed.

Richardson's Ranch is actually a working, cattle ranch that just happens to contain this unusual geological occurrence: thunder eggs. So, just what are thunder eggs? The Northwest native Americans believed that they were formed during lightning storms. They believed that the thunder spirits of Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson when angry would steal the eggs from thunderbirds and then throw them at each other. Actually, thunder eggs are rough, rock spheres usually from about one inch in diameter to three inches in diameter that usually contain centers of chalcedony in the form of agate, jasper, or opal. A geode, on the other hand, is a rock with a hollow in it, often containing crystals. A thunder egg may be a geode but not all geodes are thunder eggs. Thunder eggs are bubbles that form in pyroclastic volcanic flows which transform into these unique agate nodules. A pyroclastic flow is formed during a volcanic eruption and be as hot as 1830 degrees F and can flow as fast as 450 miles per hour.

The Richardson family have graciously opened their ranch to the public. They allow the public, for a fee, to dig in the agate beds and keep all the thunder eggs and rock they wish. For each car, there is a minimum charge of \$10. For each pound of rock over ten pounds, you pay one dollar. They also can cut your eggs in two for 25 cents per square inch. Additionally, they have many hundreds of pounds of rocks from all over the world that you may purchase. They have jaspers, agates, carnelian, quartz, and many types of geodes. They have many polished specimens as well rock in the rough form. And you may purchase lapidary

equipment here too.

With hours of interruptions from my real work, I found some time between calls to dig up some eggs. I was surprised at the hundreds that could be found. You have to be careful not to break them. It is simple enough to chip away the surrounding material in most beds. Some beds are very difficult but in others the surrounding material is lightly packed sand. I brought home only about 20 eggs so there are plenty left for everyone else. I can't believe it, but we purchased something like 75 pounds of rocks that weren't even gold! We closed up their store at 5 pm and left to spend our next night in Bend. Our next planned three stops were for petrified wood, jasper, and polka dot agate.

Rising to another beautiful, cloudless, central Oregon day, we set off in search of petrified wood. We searched for 2 hours (using our Garmin) and never found the area described in "Gem Trails". The road sign was missing and apparently we drove right by it. It is always a good idea to have a good map in addition to the latest technologies, but in our rush, we left it at home.



uphill to the jasper

We gave up and headed to Prineville and the Ochoco Reservoir area to see what kin of jasper we could find. The directions were excellent and we found the area easily. After a healthy walk up hill, I found various nice samples. This area has been visited often and from what I could see, the jasper is thinning out. So if you visit here, take only what you need for your collection so that others may get some too.

As the day was passing quickly, we hurried of to our last destination: the Polka Dot Mine back toward Madras. Again directions were good. Here we found the unusual polka dot agate in various forms. I must warn you, if you dig your own, you are in for a "hard rock" experience and not of the cafe style! Many samples are available to purchase if you don't break off your own. Other agates and rocks from other areas are available for purchase at this fee dig area as well. All rock taken from here starts at three dollars a pound and goes to about five dollars a pound.

If you get a chance, even though it is not gold, I'd recommend visiting these areas.



one egg I found that I had cut



Nice big piece of polka dot agate

**Southwest Washington
Gold Prospectors**

Meets 2nd Sunday every month at 1:00 pm
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Join us !

All interested parties are invited to attend one of our monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods, and equipment as well as some hands-on practice. Soon there will also be outings to enjoy the pleasures of prospecting for gold. Become a member of one of the newest chapters of the Gold Prospectors Association of America. There are no membership fees and GPAA membership is not required to join in the fun.



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To: