



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

Volume II Issue 3
March 2013

SW Washington Gold Prospectors

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Harper & Greer Win Our Hearts!

Well, sort of! Randy Harper won the Valentines Day, heart-shaped, gold nugget in last month's drawing. Dave Greer was the lucky winner of the so called "carotid artery" nugget, an almost heart-shaped nugget. Winners of gem stones were the following: Robert Novak - ruby; Ernie Stinson - amethyst; Gary Smith - garnet; and Gary Upton - garnets.



Harper



Greer



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Wenatchee Gold — by Pat Staat

If you are ever in the Wenatchee Valley, you have got to stop in at Ron's mine. Two of my gold pan partners and myself stop in each time we are over in that direction. He loves to talk prospecting and show off his gold mine and gold. He took us in one of the mines, to show us around. He melts his own gold down and one day, pulled out a 3 oz bar that he had just melted down., Looked really nice. He works the lode gold in the summer and in the winter he goes after the placer gold. He found an old river bed and has tunneled it out. The weather is the same year around in there, so he goes after gold, even when the snow appears.

He sells a scoop of concentrates that he gets out of the mine, for \$10. You always get gold, but the amount is always different. We have gotten several pickers each time. Nice gold. He also gets wire gold. He just started selling the concentrates a little over two years

ago. He loves to teach about gold, prospecting and will teach you how to pan, if you do not know how.

One time that we were over there, we stopped on the river (Swauk Creek) along side Hwy 97, to see if we could get some wire gold. It is there. One time when I got home, I ran into someone that just bought a 7 oz nugget a guy found across the road, where we were panning, on the same day. The nuggets are still there. Ron gets some nice nuggets.

To find Ron's place, drive towards Wenatchee and after leaving Cle Elum drive to Hwy 97. He is located 15 miles NE of Cle Elum on Hwy 97. Just past milepost 152, near the town of Liberty turn off. If you have not been up there, I would recommend a drive up to see the old town. It is very unique. The road up to Liberty, goes along Williams Creek, and it has gold in it too. Some other club has the mineral rights on the entire creek. Before the town, you

will see a small country store on the left. They have some prospecting gear in there. She will answer your questions. We see guys on the creek, each time we go by.

Most of the rivers are claimed over there, but some are not. We get some nice gold, every time, on the Wenatchee River, near Wenatchee. We go down to Sleepy Hollow, near Sunnyslope. Some guys dredge all year round and get good gold. We get lots of garnets too. The Wenatchee area is a great place to prospect, if you can find a place that is not claimed. Lots of gold still there, as well as many working gold mines. Fun place to find garnets, geodes, petrified wood and other minerals and gems.



Concentrates — Meeting Minutes Highlights

Business Meeting 2/10/13 (unofficial minutes)

The January 13, 2013 regular meeting minutes were approved as read.

The treasurer report, which included the total of donations received at and since the January meeting, and the expenses for printing, postage, donation supplies, and office supplies, was accepted as presented.

Safety officer Randy Harper has scheduled a refresher diving class at the Thunder Reef indoor pool for March 17. Ten people have already signed up, and any person who plans to dredge this summer is encouraged to sign up.

Librarian Ernie Stinson stated that additional materials have been donated to our library. Forms are available for Members in Good Standing to check them out.

Sunshine Betsy Shepherd stated a get-well card is going out to John Rogers. She also informed us that she may be moving at the end of

the month, so another member may need to be appointed to take over the Sunshine and Historian responsibilities.

Webmaster Rosalie Mitchell stated that links to government rules applicable to our activities is now on the website. Also, anyone interested in items for sale or trade should email Rosalie their information.

Newsletter Editor Kameron Mitchell stated he still is looking for help from members with articles to be included in the newsletter.

Equipment Manager Dave Greer stated that no new equipment has been added in the past month, but he will donate a 1-1/2 inch hose and a pump, for anyone to use who has a highbanker with no hose. He will prepare an inventory list to be posted in the newsletter and on the website.

Education Chair Myron Hastings is seeking input on

what members want as education topics to be presented at meetings. He stated that with his 45 years of experience, he can teach just about any topic on prospecting.

Unfinished Business

1. The application for the federal identification number, which is needed for our 501(c)(3) application, was returned for additional information.

2. For the Gold Show in the Columbia Hall at the Salem fairgrounds on March 29-30, more volunteers are still needed. Set-up for the GPAA booth, then the D&K booth, then our booth, will be on Thursday starting at 8 a.m., with GPAA providing vouchers for lunch. A schedule for working in our booth (2 hour shifts) and at the door taking admissions (4 hour shifts) will be prepared by Bill Ray. Items have been acquired to raise funds at our booth. A carpooling list

will be set up for those volunteers who need a ride to Salem.

New Business

1. President Lewis asked whether members present were interested in having a Facebook page and the response was positive. Rick Beehler will set up this page and Linda Erickson and Dave Greer will volunteered to assist.

2. We have been informed that White's Metal Detectors in Sweet Home would give interested members a tour but only on a weekday, as the company is closed on weekends.

3. Steve Lewin has a sign-up sheet for a committee to investigate and visit potential sites for club outings.

4. Marvin Kruger stated that he will soon have information when the club can metal detect on property owned by a church which will be demolished and leveled.

Promising Prospects — Outings & Events

Upcoming Meetings:

March 10, 2013
 April 14, 2013
 May 12, 2013
 June 9, 2013
 July 14, 2013
 August 11, 2013

Upcoming Outings:

March 29+30, 2013
 August 17, 2013

SWWGP OUTINGS

The **GPAA Gold Show** is being held on 29 & 30 March at the Salem OR fair grounds. We had a great time at last year's event. If you'd like free entry to the show, sign up to volunteer to work our booth now.

Our **Annual SWWGP BBQ** is scheduled for 17 August. An excellent covered site named "Dogwood" at Lewisville Park just north of Battle Ground, WA has been reserved. There is running water, picnic tables, restrooms nearby, and easy access to the river for panning and sluicing. Set this Saturday aside now!

Additional outings are in the works between these two dates. Stay tuned and check out our website for more info.

www.swwgoldprospectors.org



Lewisville Park Fun 2012



Exclaims !! - Editorials/Opinions



NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS

I, as editor, have made a “command decision” to not make this Newsletter one that is filled with political commentary. Rather, I would like to fill it with interesting articles about our club, educational articles, and other informational articles that may be of interest to you.

It’s not that these issues are not important to us, but I think there are better outlets to find this information. Also, when items are sent to me via email concerning this type of issue, I will forward that email to you.

If you want to write an opinion

piece, I will definitely include it here. Please do so!

Here are a couple of places you might like to check regularly:

The Gold Prospectors Magazine

The Pick & Shovel Gazette

The Western Mining Alliance

NW Mineral Prospectors Club Ore-Wash Gazette

ICMJ Prospecting and Mining Journal

There are many, many more plus on-line sources. If I get an overwhelming number of requests to include this information in our newsletter, then I’ll reconsider this decision.

GPAA Mission Statement

The mission of the Gold Prospectors Association of America is to further the advancement of gold prospecting and treasure hunting by:

1. Developing an organization that actively encourages camaraderie, fellowship, and personal contact among people with the same interests in gold prospecting;
2. Adhering to environmental laws;
3. Following the Bureau of Land management, Forest Service, and Army Corps of Engineers laws and doctrines;
4. Promote increased public awareness of ecologically sound prospecting and small-scale recreational mining for adults, families, and children;
5. Teaching club members how to prospect for gold and treasures;
6. Developing teachers and mentors;
7. Educating the general public about the history of gold prospecting and of the importance of mineral extraction.

Retorts - Letter to the Editor

Gene Anthony sent this to the editor after our last meeting:

“During our last meeting someone brought up a question about the latest edition of the Gold and Fish Book and it was generally agreed that it was 1999. I check my copy and it is dated 2009. What I have is a copy that was handed out before printing.”

The editor has checked the version found on-line at the Washington Department of Fish & Game website and has confirmed that the current version is dated April 2009 (2nd Edition). Be sure to have the most up-to-date version.

The Panning Gourmet

Burnt Baked Potatoes By Cook Unknown

The cook/author accidently made these before while attempting to make regular baked potatoes on the campfire. She left them on the fire too long, and they were so burnt the potatoes were black. She was going to throw them away, but her girlfriend broke one open and the potatoes were really soft and almost the consistency of mashed potatoes.

Ingredients

- 6 large Russet Potatoes
- Butter
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Directions

- Wash potatoes thoroughly.
- Poke 3 holes in each with a fork.
- Completely cover the potatoes with butter and tightly wrap in two layers of foil.
- Lay directly on coals for at least 45 minutes.
- Remove from the coals and let cool.
- Unwrap and cut potatoes open.
- Remove all the potato from the burnt skins.
- Place in a serving bowl.

Serves from 4 to 6.

Rich Placer Deposits — Educational Articles

Prospecting for Gold in the United States - By Harold Kirkemo

[Editors Note: I have cut and edited portions from a much larger article by the author provided by the U.S. Geological Survey to present here in the space allotted.]

Placer Deposits

A placer deposit is a concentration of a natural material that has accumulated in unconsolidated sediments of a stream bed, beach, or residual deposit. Additionally, its characteristically sun-yellow color makes it easily and quickly recognizable even in very small quantities.

The process of washing material in a pan, referred to as "panning," is the simplest and most commonly used and least expensive method for a prospector to separate gold from the silt, sand, and gravel of the stream deposits. It is a tedious, back-breaking job and only with practice does one become proficient in the operation.

Many placer districts in California have been mined on a large scale as recently as the mid-1950's. Streams draining the rich Mother Lode region--the Feather, Mokelumne, American, Cosumnes, Calaveras, and Yuba Rivers--and the Trinity River in northern California have concentrated considerable quantities of gold in gravels. In addition, placers associated with gravels that are stream remnants from an older erosion cycle occur in the same general area.

Much of the gold produced in Alaska was mined from placers. These deposits are widespread, occurring along many of the major rivers and their tributaries. Some ocean beach sands also have been productive. The principal placer-mining region has been the Yukon River basin which crosses central Alaska. Dredging operations in the Fairbanks district have been the most productive in the State. Beach deposits in the Nome district in the south-central part of the Seward Penin-

sula rank second among productive placer deposits of Alaska. Other highly productive placers have been found in the drainage basin of the Copper River and of the Kuskokwim River.

In Montana, the principal placer-mining districts are in the southwestern part of the State. The most productive placer deposit in the State was at Alder Gulch near Virginia City in Madison County. Other important placer localities are on the Missouri River in the Helena mining district. The famous Last Chance Gulch is the site of the city of Helena. There are many districts farther south on the headwaters and tributaries of the Missouri River. Gold has been produced at many places on the headwaters of the Clark Fork of the Columbia River, particularly in the vicinity of Butte. Placer production from the Butte district, however, has been over-shadowed by the total output of byproduct gold recovered from the mining of lode deposits of copper, lead, and zinc.

Idaho was once a leading placer-mining State. One of the chief dredging areas is in the Boise Basin, a few miles northeast of Boise, in the west-central part of the State. Other placer deposits are located along the Salmon River and on the Clearwater River and its tributaries, particularly at Elk City, Pierce, and Orofino. Extremely fine-grained gold occurs in sand deposits along the Snake River in southern Idaho.

Placers in Colorado have been mined in the Fairplay district in Park County and in the Breckenridge district in Summit County. In both areas large dredges were used during the peak activity in the 1930's.

The most important mining regions of Oregon are in the northeastern part of the State where both lode and placer gold have been found. Placer gold occurs in many streams that drain the Blue and Willowa Mountains. One of

the most productive placer districts in this area is in the vicinity of Sumpter, on the upper Powder River. The Burnt River and its tributaries have yielded gold. Farther to the west, placer mining (particularly dredging) has been carried on for many years in the John Day River valley. In southwestern Oregon, tributaries of the Rogue River and neighboring streams in the Klamath Mountains have been sources of placer gold. Among the main producing districts in this region are the Greenback district in Josephine County and the Applegate district in Jackson County.

Minor amounts of placer gold have been produced in South Dakota (the Black Hills region, particularly in the Deadwood area, and on French Creek, near Custer) and in Washington (on the Columbia and Snake Rivers and their tributaries).

In addition to these localities, placer gold occurs along many of the intermittent and ephemeral streams of arid regions in Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and southern California. In many of these places a large reserve of low-grade placer gold may exist, but the lack of a permanent water supply for conventional placer mining operations requires the use of expensive dry or semidry concentrating methods to recover the gold.

In the eastern States, limited amounts of gold have been washed from some streams draining the eastern slope of the southern Appalachian region in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Small quantities of gold have been mined by placer methods in some New England States. Additional placer deposits may be discovered in the East, but prospecting will require substantial expenditures of time and money. The deposits probably will be low grade, difficult to recognize, and costly to explore and sample.

The Trading Post



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Your ad here.
 Free to members in good standing.

The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

- Don't forget to bring your items to the swap table to either sell or trade. Remember your donation to the club for each item you sell.
- All members in good standing may advertise for free. Send or give the editor your want ad or for sale 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!
- Remember, we have an appliance, metals, and aluminum can drive. Please bring in all your old appliances, scrap metals, and crushed aluminum cans for selling to a recycler. All proceeds are to go to the club. Thanks to all who have done so to date.
- 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.

DYK??? "Did You Know"

The largest GOLD nugget ever found was what is called the "Welcome Stranger" discovered by John Deason and Richard Oates in Australia on February 5 1869. The nugget is 10" by 25" and yielded 2,248 ounces of pure gold. It was found just two inches below the ground. You never know where you will find gold, two inches or two feet, so keep looking under every rock, around every corner, because GOLD is where you find it. [Thanks for this information go to Bill Ray.]

Gold is the "Noblest of all Metals" and has been valued since the dawn of time as a store of wealth. Gold continues to be the most solid medium of exchange in the world. It has a unique appearance and luster due to the richness of the metal's color. This appearance will keep you from confusing it with pyrite, or Fools Gold, which is brittle and has an inconsistent reflective quality. Be aware, however, that gold is often found with pyrite!

**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: