

Newsletter



South West Washington Gold Prospectors December 2019

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Presidents Message

I just wanted to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year. Come and enjoy our holiday pot luck dinner and spend time visiting with other members.

See you at the meeting Dec. 8th,

Your President

Debbie

Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on Sunday November 10th.

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 or 360-695-3215 or

GOLD AND TREASURE NOTES AND FOLLOWUP

Sorry this took so long but there was a glitch concerning the next meeting place. We are not able to use the grange on Jan. 4th so I asked Jerry to make arrangements at last year's meeting place. We are able to meet at the Elmer's on Sandy Blvd. on Sat. Jan. 4th, 2020 1-3:30. Please note the meeting place change. Thanks Jerry.



CHAPTER CONTACTS

The 3 Chapters hosting the 2020 show at Clark County Event center are Mid-Valley, Roy Houtz contact person, Portland Chapter, contacts Mike Lewis and Jerry Johns, Vancouver, Debbie Witcher.

SPLIT

The proceeds from the main raffle will be split as they have been the past few years. For each person working 4 hrs. or more per day will represent a share of the proceeds to their respective chapter. Proceeds will be settled at end of day on Saturday, and again Sunday. Presidents and Treasurers (or a representative chosen by their chapter) will be present for the split. We will use the same form we have used for the past 2 years for the accounting.

VOTE

Each chapter will have 3 voting members present at the meeting to represent their chapter in the event it is needed.

STARTER MONEY

SWWGP is the lead hosting chapter and will be responsible for starter monies for the GPAA raffle, snuffer bottles. Each chapter is responsible for their own chapter projects. Ticket Colors will be green and orange, 10 rolls of each. Cost is to be shared equally by the 3 chapters.

RAFFLE

SWWGP will be in charge of the raffle booth on Sat. with at least one person from Portland, and one from Mid-Valley.

PORTLAND will be in charge of the raffle booth on Sunday with at least one person from SWWGP, and one from Mid-Valley.

Portland is to provide the flashing light and cash register.

SWWGP will have feather flags up to help draw folks to the raffle. Ticket costs will be the same as last year, Jerry has the signs. We will again have the signs with the numbers held up.

VENDOR PACKETS AND TICKETS

Debbie is to check with Brandon as to where tickets and vendor packets are. The vendor packets on line did not print front page well, Debbie will pass that on to Brandon.

FOOD COLLECTION

SWWGP will be responsible for the people and pet food collection.

FLYERS

Debbie will ask for a rep. from SWWGP and Jerry will ask Tim from Portland to work on flyers. The goal is to have them available to all at the next meeting. We need to get as many out as possible.

Ken D. will get flyers out at the gun show.

We are also checking to see if we can advertise at the sportsman's show.

T.V.

Ron K. and Jim are contacting television stations etc. for filming options.

We need as much free advertising as possible

We are checking on the cost for magnetic signs for advertising on our vehicles. \$20 limit.

ADVERTISING

Debbie is checking with Brandon to see what help he can give us with advertising funds. Radio, etc.

FREE BOOTHS

We are asking if GPAA will provide booths for fish and game, BLM, etc.

SHIRTS

This year shirts will be black with gold writing. Shiny if possible. We will again be paying \$5 per shirt towards the costs incurred by DOAK. They will donate the rest to us.

Shirts sizes and totals are due to Debbie by end of Jan.. Sooner if possible. Sponsors list etc. due to Debbie by Feb 16, we are asking to have shirts ready to give to Chapter reps. At March gold show meeting.

SECURITY

Preston will again head up the security for the show and all 3 chapters will contribute workers. This is not the CCEC security.

There are questions on guns being present. We are checking with the CCEV to see what their rules are for vendors.



CELEBS

We are again limiting money spent to bring celebs in to \$1800, we would like at least 3 celebs if possible. Emily Reidel, Nome's mayor Richard B, Randy Harpers Crew, Steve P. Shawn P, the Feldman Brothers, Tony Beets or family, Rick Ness, Chris Newman, and any others we can think of.

Debbie is also asking Brandon if he will help contribute to cost of bringing celebs here. Esp. since there is mention of them in the gold and treasure magazine.

If we have a lot of celebs interested in participating, individual chapters may choose to have a raffle to help raise money toward transportation etc.

We are sending a letter to Tom Massie and family asking that they make an appearance, also an e-mail.

SCHEDULING

Debbie and Jerry will work on the number of people needed, and in what position to work the show and the number each chapter needs to contribute. Mainly Portland and Vancouver with Mid-Valley filling in.

Mid – Valley will again handle the speed panning booth.

MEET AND GREET

We tabled scheduling a meet and greet dinner until we know what Celebs we are able to have for the show.

BAGS

We are asking Brandon if there will be hand out bags given away at the door. If so any chapter coupons etc. will be put in the bags and not handed out by individual chapters at the door.

CHAPTER FUND RAISING

By the March meeting chapters need to let each other know what they are doing at the show and if tickets are required what color they are using. Remember many vendors hand out tickets.

None of the chapters needed new signs for their chapter booth

SIGNS AND CONES

Ken D. is checking to make sure we can use the signs and cones again this year. Also we need to tape off the area just prior to the raffle drawing for crowd control. Our security may need to be more active in crowd control at that time.

SNUFFER BOTTLES

Portland and Vancouver will again be in charge of selling the snuffer bottles, Vancouver will take the lead and provided starter monies.

Next meeting scheduled for Jan. 4th.

CHAPTER CALANDER

We now have the chapter calendar available. We will add outings events etc. as we go thru the year. We need folks to suggest and take the lead of outings, etc. Please give us your suggestions etc. We can have more than on happening on the same day.

Thanks to all who helped me and Scott Long work on the calendar.

WEATHER

Looks like we are starting with the winter weather already. Just s reminder to update your phone number and e-mail address.

In the event we need to cancel a meeting etc. we will send an email and post on Facebook, and web. If you know someone without a computer please contact them and let them know. As always if you have a question about a possible cancelation you can call me. Debbie 360-695-3215.



HOLIDAY DINNER

Our holiday pot luck dinner will be at our Dec. Meeting. Our chapter will provide meat and dinnerware. Please bring you dish or two to the downstairs along with your beverage. We will provide coffee, tea, water. Set up starts at noon. We need help with set up and clean up.

BANNER

We have a new banner to put up at the grange. The wind destroyed the last one. We also have our new feather flags. Check them out.

ELECTIONS

Election are over. Debbie Witcher was re-elected President.

Mark Matilla was re-elected Secretary

Edna Nelson, Tammy Binford, and Jeanne Gieg were re-elected to the board.

Newly elected to the board is Maurine Koppi.

These are all 2 yr. terms.

Thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve the chapter.

GOLD SHOW TICKETS

We should have our gold show tickets available at this meeting. I have been told by Brandon that they are on the way. We encourage you to sign out tickets and sell them everywhere. Tickets are \$5 pre-show, \$10 at the door day of the show. The chapter makes \$2.50 on any pre-sale tickets we sell.



GARBAGE

We need someone to take the garbage after every meeting. Thanks to Scott

Long for volunteering. If you can also help please let Scott and Debbie know.

We will be charged a min. of \$35 each time we don't take it.

RAFFLE

Jim and the group provide a variety of raffle prizes, in addition to the mystery prize. We have gold and mining supplies. Tickets are \$6 for 5 or \$1 each.

We also have our three month raffle ending at the Dec. meeting. Tickets available \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Prizes are a sluice, gold and chinook winds get away.

The small profit the chapter makes from the store, shirts, raffles go to help support the chapter. Remember we are a non-profit so any donations are greatly appreciated.

GOLD AND TREASURE SHOW MEETING

Please note the meeting for the gold and treasure show planning meeting location has been changed.

We will meet at Elmer's restaurant on Sandy Blvd. Jan 4th 1-3:30.

Buy Sell Trade

If you have any prospecting related items to trade, sell or are looking for a good deal let Mark know to publish it here.

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



November Meeting Minutes

South West Washington Gold Prospectors

General Meeting Minutes November 10th, 2019

Meeting called to order at 2:11 pm

There were 10 guests in attendance

Secretary report was read, a motion to accept as read was made and passed

Treasurers report was read, a motion to accept as read was made and passed

The grange asked if anyone would be available to accept a position on the grange board. They are in need of a new member to meet requirements to keep the hall open

The Chinook winds bus trip was cancelled, not enough people had signed up. Another one will be scheduled at a later date

The feather flags are on order and should be available in a couple of weeks

The banner for outside the grange is ready to be picked up

Gold show update – Setup is on 3/19 and the show is 3/20-21, Emily will not be available this time, vendors are needed and GPAA will provide more support based on securing more vendors, Debbie is working with Brandon on guests, Tom and Toni volunteered to help with food on Saturday. We will have coupons for a free quarter in a glass drop and \$1.00 off on bags of paydirt

Ken reported out on the gun safety class he just attended at Safe Fire

Scott and Debbie are working on the outings calendar after the meeting

There is a sign-up sheet for the holiday dinner

4 new chapter members were introduced

Coats donated from Columbia Sportswear were sorted and distributed

WA Fish and Wildlife presented on the new dredging law

The safety presentation was on survival





Understanding Survival (Safety Presentation at the Nov. Mtg.)

1. “STOP” - Recognize the Hazard and Stay Put; STOP, THINK, OBSERVE, PLAN.
2. Believe in yourself—remember the Fundamental Law of the Mind and PMA.
3. Have faith in your God and trust in yourself—but check everything twice
4. Be prepared. The TEN ESSENTIALS: a. extra clothing, b. extra food, c. sunglasses, d. knife, e. fire starter, f. matches, g. first aid, h. flashlight, i. map, j .compass
5. Dress in layers (Wool is best) Remember that if your feet are cold put on a hat
6. Travel if you must but: a leave a note: b. walk a straight line: c. leave a trail
7. Conserve and protect what you have. What you got is what you got
8. Have confidence in your matchless fire craft ability
9. Utilize the BUDDY SYSTEM and have a trip plan—tell someone

EDUCATION

There will be a very short education this month to allow more time for the meal.

SHIRTS

Our chapter shirts are available in lots of sizes and colors. We can also order jackets as well. See Maurine with any questions you might have or a special order.

STORE

Don't forget we have a chapter store. We have lots of mining supplies as well as pay dirt. See Dennis. We have a catalogue for special orders.





Beach Prospecting



One of the more interesting concentrations of placer gold can be found along the southern coast of Oregon, where very fine particles of gold and platinum can be found amongst in the beach sands. These gold deposits were first discovered in 1852, not long after the discovery of a very significant gold district in Southwest Oregon. For a few years after their initial discovery, the beaches were highly productive, and small recovery has occurred since that time. The source of this gold is somewhat due to these inland deposits, as well as the ground that has been eroded by wave action directly adjacent to the beach.

The beach placers of Oregon are similar to the famous beach gold deposits of Nome, Alaska. Like all placer gold deposits, the concentrations of gold are not evenly distributed. Some stretches of beach were exceptionally productive, while others hold only trace amounts of fine gold. The majority of the richest beaches are found adjacent to the Klamath Mountains, just south of Coos Bay. The gold recovered is almost always very finely textured, and found in relation to black sand deposits.

Wave action has a huge influence on locations of black sand deposits, and due to the extremely fine texture they are easily transported by the action of the tides. Successful prospectors look for stringers of black sand that can range from a few feet to several hundred feet in length. New deposits can be quickly transported, and a paystreak can easily disappear with the action of the waves.

Ancient beaches adjacent to the current seashore at approximately 170 feet elevation were also quite productive when originally discovered a few decades after the initial beach placers were found. The gold and black sand paystreaks are generally found at 20 to 60 foot depths, covered with sand overburden.

Many of these placers have been mined, with several commercial operations working along the Southern Oregon Coast for many years during the 1800's, and again with renewed interest during the depression years of the 1930's. It is mostly believed that the richer deposits have been exploited.

Profitability of working these ancient bench deposits is highly dependent on the amount of sand overburden and richness of the paystreak. Because of this, most recreational beach prospectors seek out gold deposits closer to the current seashore. Inconsistency of gold deposits limits the size of most current prospecting endeavors, but certain areas are still more consistent producers than others. The beaches near Whiskey Run, Cape Blanco, Port Orford, south to the mouth of the Rogue River are all areas that will still produce gold and platinum.

Prospecting the beaches of Southern Oregon can be especially challenging, and using methods of fine gold recovery are critical to retaining the extra fine particles of gold and platinum. The largest particle size a prospector will typically encounter is less than 1 millimeter, but the vast majority is much smaller ranging down to micron particles nearly invisible the human eye.

(The Gold Cube works great on capturing fine beach gold!)

The placer gold deposits along the beaches of Southern Oregon have not been productive enough to warrant much attention on any commercial scale for nearly 100 years, but small scale prospectors still explore the area every year in search of gold. The sporadic deposition and fine particle size make an exceptional challenge that many local prospectors enjoy. Occasionally, rich pockets of black sands are uncovered and good gold concentrations can still be found today. The beach placers of Southern Oregon provide a fun and unique gold prospecting opportunity.

Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
	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	971-219-1079	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
	Tina Long	503-754-0612	treasuretrove67@hotmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Tammy Binford	360-449-2714	kaycbear99@gmail.com
	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhoustoo1966@yahoo.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	Don Spillman	360-773-8708	Golddigger357@outlook.com
Fundraising Coordi-	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	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
Picnic, Holiday Din-	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Librarian	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Membership	Edna Nelsom	503-307-0852	rockhound-
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing Coordinator	Scott Long	503-754-0612	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
Safety Officer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	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	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Dennis Clevenger	360-281-6338	dennisc@pacifier.com
Historian	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Deborah Lee	360-624-6565	deborah35@me.com
Gold Buyer	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.			

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	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	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	magicdrag-
Raffle	Jim Erickson	3602603225	aerickson@q.com
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Chapter Store	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com

Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Hwy 99 Ste. G Vancouver WA 98665

Links

Website: 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/>

GPAA <https://www.goldprospectors.org/>

[HPA application process.](#)

<http://mylandmatters.com/>



Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.

Pro Caliber	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	Dana's 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 360-892-3030	Sportsman's Warehouse 360 604-8000 Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup	Oregon Treasure Trail Society

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.



Scheduled Events

Dec 8th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg. Holiday dinner

2020

Jan 4th Gold show planning meeting
 12th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
 18th Cape Disappointment outing, Contact Scott Long—Possibly Fri, Sat, Sun

Feb 9th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.

Mar 8th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
 20th Gold show setup Clark Co. Events Center 8:30 am Lunch provided
 21st Gold show 9:00-5:00 Lunch provided
 22nd Gold show 9:00-5:00 Lunch provided
 23rd-24th Cape Disappointment outing, Contact Scott Long — filming, demonstrations, Mike Pung, Dave Urick, Chris Cosby, possibly Kevin Hoaland and maybe more, Contact Debbie Witcher or Rick Beehler
 28th Daybreak Park outing 10:00 am, Potluck lunch at 12:00, Contact Debbie Witcher

Apr 17th, 18th, 19th Glass Butte Oregon, contact Debbie Witcher or Rick Beehler

May 15th—24th Roaring Camp (tentative) Contact Debbie Witcher, Scott or Tina Long
 16th Daybreak Park outing 10:00 am Contact Debbie Witcher
 17th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.

Jun 5th, 6th, 7th Scotts Bar outing, pre register with Debbie Witcher, camp fee is required
 14th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
 19th, 20th, 21st Opal dig outing, Southern Or. Dry camp, Contact Debbie Witcher or Rick Beehler
 26th, 27th, 28th Sunstone dig outing, dry camp, Contact Debbie Witcher or Rick Beehler

Jul 4th Cape Disappointment outing, Camp out beach mining (Reserve space asap) Contact Scott or Tina Long
 12th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
 18th Chapter Potluck Picnic, Daybreak Park, Contact Debbie Witcher or Jeanne Gieg

Aug 9th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
 15th Chapter Claims outing, (members only) Contact Scott Long
 15th Daybreak Park outing 10:00 am Contact Debbie Witcher
 22nd Daybreak Park outing 10:00 am Contact Debbie Witcher

Sep 4th—7th Camp out and mining with Mid-Valley chapter, to sign up contact Roy or Wendy Holtz 541-890-6214
 13th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
 18-20th Burnt River LDMA camp outing, Contact Debbie Witcher or Bob Brown

Oct 11th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
 31st Nominations close for Nov elections (Treasurer, Vice Pres. And 5 board positions)

Nov 8th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg. Elections

Dec 13th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg. Holiday Dinner

