

# Newsletter



South West Washington Gold Prospectors May 2019

## Presidents Message

Summer is finally here! Now is the time to get out and enjoy the mining opportunities available to us.

The rivers are cold and running fast so be cautious!

Our claims are available to current chapter members.

About 20 of us will be going on an outing to Roaring Camp this month and I will have my phone with me. I will be checking messages but if there is something urgent be sure to contact Mark Mattila as he will be in charge in my absence.

See you at the meeting!

### MAY MEETING

Our meeting will be on Mother's Day. We are having a special surprise for moms in attendance.



Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on Sunday May 12th.

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)

## MEMBER PASSING

For anyone who did not attend our last meeting we made the announcement that Bob Novak has passed away that morning. Per Bobs wishes there will not be a funeral service or a memorial service. Bob was an active member of our chapter always willing to help out. He will be missed on outings and trips. He was always willing to work with new folks and to share his equipment upgrades and knowledge. Bob was a friend to many of us. Rest in Peace friend, you will be missed but not forgotten.



## Outings

Interested in having a chapter outing at Burnt River, Oregon, Blue Bucket, Oregon, or Scotts Bar, Calif.?

These are LDMA camps but we can try to make arrangements for outing there. Sign up if interested. Dates etc. will need to be determined. This will be for all members, including non- GPAA or LDMA members. Let's see what interest you have and we will see what we can do.

## Sargent at Arms

We need to have some additional Sargent at Arms people. This requires you help set up for the meeting, put chairs etc. away. This is an important part of the meeting. See Debbie.

## OUTINGS AND EDUCATION

Have an idea for an outing and/or education?

Contact Scott Long for outings or contact Preston Griffin for Education.

As always you can contact Pres. Debbie W. with anything

May Safety presentation will be on what to do if you encounter dangerous animals.

## Roaring Camp Outing

If you are interested in joining the chapter outing to Roaring Camp May 19-26, it is not too late to sign up. Roaring Camp is in Pine Grove (northern) Calif. Just east of Sacramento. It is about a 14 hr. drive. We will have some special things happening with our folks.



## Can Your Dog Find Gold?

If someone was to tell you there are dogs prospecting for gold, you'd probably laugh, thinking it was a joke. The truth is stranger than fiction as woofers are employed to find that elusive gold nugget and are proving pawsome at their jobs.

Before you grab your loyal pooch and go looking yourself, there is a bit of training to be done - but once again our dynamic dogs are full of surprises. It seems they have the nose that knows and in this instance, it's a pocket full of gold. Let's hope their food bowls are gold-lined as payment. Can dogs smell gold?

"There's gold in them thar hills," voiced the prospector of days gone by as they arrived in the town ready to cash in on their find. We've come a long way since the gold rush days, with high-tech equipment and furry, four-legged dogs using their sniffing powers to unearth the precious, yellow prize.

Ancient Egyptians and Greeks were aware of gold's mesmerizing power and before currency was invented and sculpted ornate jewelry and decorative items with a golden glow.

Today, dogs are trained to sniff out all kinds of ore and alert their handler to a find. You're likely to see them running around, head turning in all directions - sniffing for the appropriate scent. If gold is suspected, they'll dig at the ground, tail wagging as they scratch around the spot with the strongest scent.

Dogs are working hard, sniffing out drugs, explosives, bootleg DVDs, and cash so we really shouldn't be taken aback by the news they can also find gold. This priceless commodity has no real scent but is generally found in mineral deposits referred to as gold ore. Finding pyrite minerals, known as "fool's gold," might also lead to the treasure, as the real version is often in the vicinity of this yellow colored rock. This makes it tricky for prospectors to know the real gold from the fake.

If you've been training your own dog to find this millionaire-making metal, they'll probably bark, with ears perked up knowing they've done their job. Their prize might be a toy or treat for a job well done, so they'll play-bow, tilting their head to one side, excited to get their reward.



## EQUIPMENT

For this month, if you need to check out equipment contact Pres. Debbie W. Our equipment manager Don Spillman will not be available.

Equipment is available to all current members in good standing to check out for up to 30 days.

## BUS TRIP

Our bus trip to Chinook Winds was a lot of fun. We made a little over \$500. And only had 24 people on the bus. All future trips must have a min. of 45 and need to be signed up 10 days in advance of the trip. If not, the trip will be canceled. This is Chinook Winds policy. We will be able to accommodate some last-minute attendees as long as we have the 45.



AKAU lodge has some specials for you. Contact Debbie for discount information.

## **New Board Member**

Ron Koppi volunteered and was unanimously confirmed to fill out the remainder of the term for our open board position.

Many thanks to Ron for all he does for the chapter  
Anyone interested or have any questions please contact Debbie W. 360-695-3215 The position requires 1 1/2 hr. on meeting day, must be a GPAA member and chapter member for 6 months, in good standing.

## **Hidden Mine**

For more than a century, rumors have abounded that there is a rich mine hidden in the Cascade Mountains. Said to have been located near the headwaters of the Lewis River somewhere in the wilderness between Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams, the mine was worked by an old Spaniard in the 1880's. The miner often journeyed south to The Dalles, Oregon, to bank his gold at the French & Company Bank. On a number of occasions, other prospectors would attempt to follow him as he returned to the mine, but the old Spaniard was clever and always eluded them, using a number of tricks including putting the shoes on his mule backwards. Suddenly the old Spaniard stopped appearing to bank his gold and local miners began to wonder what had happened to him. About a year later, numerous Yakama Indians began showing in a number of stores in Washington, paying for goods with gold nuggets. When asked where they had obtained the gold, the Indians refused to answer. Soon, rumors began to circulate that the Indians had found the Spaniard's mine. Later, a skeleton of a man and a mule was discovered near Spirit Lake by Mt. St. Helens. It was thought to have been the old Spaniard who had been killed by the Indians. The mine, that some say is hidden behind a waterfall in a cavern, has never been found.



## **PAY DIRT**

We will have 50 more bags of Colorado pay dirt at this month's meeting. There will be a special price of \$12 per bag. See Dennis W. at our Chapter store (downstairs) to make your purchase. The pay dirt is part of the store.

## 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)

## 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.  
[aerickson@q.com](mailto:aerickson@q.com)

## Club Name Tags



Any club members that would like a 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



### **RUN, FIGHT, HIDE**

The Sheriff's Dept. is planning to make a presentation at our June 9, 2019 meeting.

## PICNIC

Remember that our picnic is coming up on July 14, 2019 our reg. meeting day. No reg. meeting, board meeting only at 11 o'clock. All are welcome at board meeting. Picnic set up starts at 9am. Picnic over at 5ish. Lewisville park, Dogwood shelter. There is a small parking fee. Signup sheet at membership table.

## Snake River Invitational 2019

We have again been invited to the Snake River Invitational for 2019. This is an event one of our fellow GPAA chapter's hosts. It is scheduled for June 7-10, 2019, in Idaho. It does require pre-registration. Flyers are on the membership table. I have the registration forms etc. for anyone interested. Jenny Whitmore is in charge of this event. Eric Whitmore is the Idaho state director and both do an excellent job.

<b>Executive Board</b>	(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
<b>Board of Directors</b>	(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	503-754-0612	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
<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 Coordi-</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 Din-</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	rockhound-
<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	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Norm Erickson	503-801-1452	None
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	bettyerickson13@yahoo.com
<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</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	magicdrag-
<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 98665

## 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

May education will be on reading the water to help find gold but remember to sample, sample, sample

## Membership

When signing in for attendance 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.com

## OUTING

Preston will be leading an outing on May 18<sup>th</sup>, Sat. at Daybreak Park from 10am to 2pm. He will be teaching those who want hands on learn to read the river. This is a good mining opportunity for panning etc., even rock collecting. He will start his class at 10:30. Bring you lunch&, beverage. Questions? Call Preston 360-903-2054, or 360-673-3179.

**Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.**

Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup 360-896-7220	Topside Mining Creekside Prospecting Armadillo Mining	Northwest Detector Sales 503-936-1443 Roaring Camp 209 296-4100 Spin it Off
Whites Metal Detectors 1-800-547-6911	Fossickers	Thrive Life
Chinook Winds Casino & Resort 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	Sportsman’s Warehouse 360 604-8000	Oregon Treasure Trail Society
Pro Caliber 360-892-3030		

Please support these vendors as they support us with contributions and in many cases discounts. We

<b>Scheduled Events</b>	
May 18th	10:00AM Daybreak Park
May 19-26	Roaring Camp
Jun 7-10	Snake River Invitational
Jul 14	Picnic No regular meeting, Board meeting at 12:30