

Newsletter

South West Washington Gold Prospectors May 2020



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy Mother's Day to all!!! I know these are stressful times for all of us but we will get thru this and be able to go back to spending time together. We will reschedule the outing that have been necessary to cancel.

We have been fortunate that our members have not been hit by this virus and that even though we know everyone is bored we are all safe.

Stay safe and well and we will see you soon!!!!



Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meeting TBD

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
visit www.swwgoldprospectors.org

WELLNESS CALLS

I have been calling a lot of our members and doing a wellness check. So far no one has reported being ill. However, if you know of someone who is ill, please let our Sunshine Chairperson Ann Erickson or myself know so we can send a get well card to them. If you have not talked with me I will be contacting you soon, we have 300+ members so that is a lot of calls.

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Please do your best to support our chapter sponsors in any way you can. Many of them have been extremely hard hit by the shutdown. Some of them are not open for business at this time, but please keep them in mind for the future. Many are able to do business over the phone or on line. Below is a partial list of our sponsors. Designs of all Kinds, Vancouver Toyota and RV., Chinook Winds, AKAU Lodge, Roaring Camp, Dana's Classic hair Design, Prestige Minerals and Gems, River Gold Designs, Armadillo Mining Shop, Packwood Mining Supplies. These are just a few of our sponsors.

ROARING CAMP

Our friends at Roaring Camp are planning to open on June 1, 2020. They have sanitized everything and are able to observe all social distancing rules. So as soon as California and the U.S. Government give the ok they will be up and running. They will be adding at least one extra week to the regular schedule so you can enjoy the festivities. We will send out an email as soon as we get the ok from them that they are opening. Any questions or to make reservations call 209-296-4100.

RICHARD BENEVILLE

We are sad to announce the passing of a friend and member of our chapter. Richard as we all know was the Mayor of Nome Alaska and full of energy.

He wanted to help our chapter grow and had supported the gold show efforts. He had planned on making a guest appearance again this year. When I talked with him several months ago he had had a heart attack but was determined to make his appearance this year. Early this year when I talked to him he had just gotten out of the hospital after having a stroke, followed by pneumonia. In Feb he told me that even though he had a stroke and it was slowing him down, he was doing well and starting physical therapy. He was just re-admitted to the hospital with another bout of pneumonia. A press release announced his passing on Sunday night May 10th. He was 75 years young. We will be adding Richards name to our memorial plaque.

Richard was a close friend to our friends at AKAU lodge, Betty K. has asked that anyone who has a recording of his performances to please send her a copy. Betty can be contacted at 760-500-1329 or at the lodge in Nome.

AKAU LODGE

AKAU Lodge in Nome, AK have gotten their permits to open the lodge and have guests. Their plan is to be open on June first this year. Please give them a call for reservations or questions. Betty K. 760-500-1329. Our friends at AKAU Lodge will do their very best to see that you have a good time. Those of us who have gone up there in the past have had an awesome experience.

GOLD BUYER

I would like to thank Ron Koppi for agreeing to be our gold buyer. Having him in this position is a better use of his skills, especially since Ron also works with our raffle Chairperson Jim Erickson on the raffles.

BIG RAFFLE

Our special raffle is on hold right now along with our picnic. Since we are not allowed to have any meetings yet. I will keep you updated as I have information.

PAY DIRT

A reminder that we have lots of paydirt available. Give me a call Debbie 360-695-3215, and we will make arrangements for you to safely pay for the pay dirt and pick it up. This is a good way for you to practice your panning skills. Our pay dirt sales are the only income the chapter has right now. We have enough fund to pay our chapter bills, rents, permits, lic. Etc. These are bills that must be paid weather we are able to have meetings or not.

I have asked all the leads to not spend any money until we are up and running again. Preston has agreed to not charge the chapter for gas money when he checks on the claims. With so many of our members using the claims rightnow they are taking care of the garbage etc. if there is any. I hear from a lot of you on the claims, keep those reports coming.

SCOTT RIVER LDMA OUTING

Our Scott River outing scheduled for June 5-7, has been canceled. When I talked with Karen the camp host she wanted me to let everyone know that they are currently allowing self-contained rigs. I.e. no tents, and as safe distancing will allow. The common areas etc. are closed. They have re-scheduled their dirt party for July 14-19, 2020. To stay at the camp and or sign up for the dirt party call Karen 503-496-3204. Be sure to let her know you are with our chapter.

If you are interested in visiting another LDMA camp be sure to check with the camp host to see what their rules are. Must have a self-contained rig, be LDMA or GPAA.

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

GOLD SHOW UPDATE

I talked with GPAA and all the gold and treasure shows have been postpone until further notice. At this time we will not plan for a show until spring unless we hear differently from GPAA. The tickets we have sold or given away will be honored at the next show.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

If you have any chapter business or issues that need to be addressed call me. Myself and the board will address the issues.

Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicaajeff@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
	Maurine Koppi	3609079295	koppi@comcast.net
	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	503-544-3695	treasuretrove67@hotmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Tammy Binford	503-766-7814	kaycbear99@gmail.com
	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhounstool1966@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	Tina Long	503-544-3695	treasuretrove67@hotmail.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 Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhound-
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing Coordinator	Scott Long	971-219-1079	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	360-907-2602	harmonicaajeff@msn.com
Sunshine	Ann 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	360-907-2602	harmonicaajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Deborah Lee	360-624-6565	deborah35@me.com
Gold Buyer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
PayDirt	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.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			
Raffle	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Chapter Store	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Highway 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/>

FACEBOOK EDUCATION LINKS HERE

<https://www.facebook.co/SWwashingtonGoldProspectors>

Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.

Pro Caliber	McCord's Vancouver Toyota	AKAU Lodge 760-500-1329
Designs of all kinds 360-892-5597	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	Northwest Detector Sales 503-936-1443
Danner Boots 877-432-6637	Danas Classic Hair Supply	Oregon Treasure Trail Society
Lost Adams 541-340-0931	Packwood Prospecting and Mining Supply	American Mining Supply
Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup	Topside Mining	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	

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.

2020 Scheduled Events

- May 2nd Coos Bay Panning outing
24th—31st 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