

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors March 2026

Next Meeting March 8th 1:30, Board Meeting 12:00



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Don't forget to set your clocks forward 1 hr on the 8th. (spring forward fall back). We will hold our meeting upstairs.

All organizations have people who like to spread rumors and falsehoods.

Please do not participate in this behavior. If you have any suggestions or questions concerning the chapter or members please contact me directly.

We are looking forward to a fun year!

See you at the meeting!

Debbie W. President

PICNIC

Our picnic is scheduled for Sept. 20th at Daybreak Park.

We need someone to bring a bar- b- que and to cook. If you can help with this please let me know.

Everyone is asked to bring a dish or two to share with the group. At least 1 bag of ice to help keep food cold, your beverage, and a chair. Mining equip. if you want.

Don't forget your gold and fish rules.

The chapter will provide dinnerware, water, meat and condiments.

There will be bingo with lots of prizes. Kids prizes, reg. raffle and we will draw winners for the miners raffle. We are working on some surprises too.

We will not have our reg. Sept. meeting but if we need to address any issues we will take a few moments to do so.

SAPPHIRE TRIP

We are planning to go to the sapphire mines and other activities in Montana on June 25 thru 28.

The vans are full and motel reservations for those folks are made.

However, if you are driving please remember to sign up on the sapphire trip sheet as we need a head count for some of the attractions.

There are a few folks who have some room for a passenger in their car/truck for anyone wanting to go who does not want to drive. Carpooling is great.

There is camping and many hotel/motels in the area. Contact Debbie W. for details.

This outing is being lead by Jamie Louie and Jan Hurtabise.

VICE PRESIDENT

J.T. Buck is no longer Vice President of SWWGP.

Anyone who is interested in finishing the 2 year term, please see Debbie W.

For job duties etc.

MYRTLE POINT

We still need a few more people to help at the Myrtle Point kids day. Especially needed are those who can pan.

This event is Sat. May 2nd.

There is dry camping available for Fri. May 1st. Lunch is provided on Sat.

There are many campgrounds and motel/hotels in the area.

Myrtle Lane Inn in Coquille gives us a discount. I have the phone number for them. Ask for Josephine. I have some rooms on hold.

Be sure to sign up at the membership table. Take a chair and pans etc.

Any questions, contact Debbie W.

TERRITORIAL DAYS

We will not be participating in Amboy Territorial Days this year.

We will be holding our reg. July meeting on Sunday July 12th at the grange.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

We have a new simple emergency contact form to be filled out. Your information will stay confidential.

Questions, contact Debbie W.

IDEAS

We need your ideas for outings, education, safety, and meeting treats.

BUY, SELL, TRADE, FREE

Remember we have a section for our members to advertise products etc. to sell, trade or give away as well as looking for something to buy etc. send info to Mark M.

OUTING SCHEDULE

We are working on our calendar for this year. We need your suggestion asap.

FACEBOOK

We need a new Facebook editor. If you are interested in this position please contact Mike Q. or Debbie W.

CHAPTER BUSINESS CARDS

If you would like some business cards. Contact Debbie W. and sign up at the membership table.

SIGN IN

Please remember to sign in at the membership table. Double check that your info. is correct. Also sign in at any outings and events you attend.

RAFFLES

Remember to buy your raffle ticket for reg raffles and the miners raffle. All tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Miners raffle prizes are:

Gold piece Metal detector

Stream sluice Pan set

Camping package

THANK YOU

I want to thank Mike Q, Lisa Young. And Laurie Vietenheimer for helping me with setting up the raffle prizes for the raffle team.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Every day is a fresh start

IRISH BEEF STEW



Colder weather always makes me crave something hearty and comforting, and this Irish Beef Stew is my absolute go-to. I first discovered this recipe during a rainy fall trip to Dublin, and now I make it every October when the leaves start turning—it fills my kitchen with the most incredible aroma that reminds me of cozy Irish pubs

INGREDIENTS

- For the beef: 2 lbs beef chuck roast (cut into 1-inch cubes), 1 tbsp olive oil, 1 tsp salt, ½ tsp black pepper
- For the vegetables: 1 large yellow onion (chopped), 3 carrots (peeled and sliced into ½-inch rounds), 2 celery stalks (chopped), 2 cloves garlic (minced)
- For the liquid: 4 cups beef broth, 1 cup Guinness beer, 2 tbsp tomato paste, 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- For finishing: 2 tbsp all-purpose flour, 2 tbsp cold water, 2 bay leaves, 1 tsp dried thyme

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pat the beef cubes completely dry with paper towels.
2. Season the beef evenly with 1 tsp salt and ½ tsp black pepper.
3. Heat 1 tbsp olive oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat until shimmering.
4. Working in batches, brown the beef cubes for 3-4 minutes per side until deeply browned.
5. Transfer all browned beef to a clean plate using tongs.
6. Add the chopped onion to the same pot and cook for 5 minutes until softened.
7. Stir in the carrots and celery, cooking for another 4 minutes.
8. Add the minced garlic and cook for 1 minute until fragrant.
9. Stir in 2 tbsp tomato paste and cook for 1 minute to deepen its flavor.
10. Pour in 1 cup Guinness beer, scraping the bottom of the pot to release any browned bits.
11. Add 4 cups beef broth and 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce to the pot.
12. Return the browned beef and any accumulated juices to the pot.
13. Add 2 bay leaves and 1 tsp dried thyme to the liquid.
14. Bring the stew to a gentle boil, then reduce heat to low.
15. Cover the pot and simmer for 1.5 hours, stirring occasionally.
16. In a small bowl, whisk together 2 tbsp flour and 2 tbsp cold water until smooth.
17. Stir the flour mixture into the simmering stew to thicken it.
18. Continue simmering uncovered for another 30 minutes until the beef is fork-tender.
19. Remove and discard the bay leaves before serving.

For the ultimate comfort meal, I love how the beef becomes meltingly tender while the vegetables



Prospector Tools Word Search

W X I U R W K H N O W J G Q K Q F Q U L
O X R D G T W Y S O E M U P N C D O H B
N B W Q H A T C H E T G E W B W H F G X
K C Z F F O X Z M O Y I J J P R D I M Q
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L J H H X T H V T M P X F R F X C K K W
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T O C G V D G W K E I K N U G G E T B A
M O Q B N T Z H L B D K C T L H R G G N

pickaxe
pan
sluice
shovel
rocker

cradle
hatchet
bucket
knife
sifter

lantern
rope
nugget
tinplate
flask



Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President			
Secretary	Van Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
Treasurer	Michele Quackenbush		quacky@pacifier.com
Assistant Treasurer			
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
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	Lisa Young		Lbw.young@gmail.com
Claims Chair	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			
Equipment Manager	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Fundraising Coordi-	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant			
Hospitality	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant			
Picnic, Holiday Din-	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Librarian	Queenie Garden		
Membership	Lisa Young	503-260-2698	Lbw.young@gmail.com
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing Coordinator	Jamie Louie		971-212-5664
Assistant	J T Buck	360-210-8039	jtbuckgolddigger@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
Sargent at Arms	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
Sunshine	Ann Erickson	360-260-3225	annerickson5755@comcast.net
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net
Historian			
Assistant			
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			
Name Tags	Queenie Garden		
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			
Facebook	J.T. Buck	360-210-8039	
Assistant			
Raffle	Tammy Binford		
Assistant	Charlie Hord		
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	J T Buck		
Chapter Store	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com

Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Highway 99 STE G Vancouver WA 98665

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

Links

Website: www.SWWGoldProspectors.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southwestwashingtongoldprospectors>

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

Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.

Designs of all kinds 360-892-5597	McCord's Vancouver Toyota	AKAU Lodge 760-500-1329
AAA Precious Metals 503-253-8591	Creekside Prospecting	Roaring Camp 209 296-4100
Whites Metal Detectors 1-800-547-6911	Armadillo Mining	Spin it Off
Chinook Winds Casino & Resort	Fossickers	The Gold Lab
Quick Badge	Gold Getter	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	

Prospectors Treasure Trove
Dan Rouse 971-708-8699
11572 SW Pacific Hwy Tigard OR

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.