



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

Volume I Issue 5

Southwest Washington Gold

August 2012

July's Nugget Winner

President Al Lewis drew the winning number for July's nugget. The lucky winner was Valerie Holzman, pictured to the right. Thanks to all who entered in this drawing. All the moneys received allow us to operate.



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SWWGP Outing Lewisville Park

By Ernie Stinson

This Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Outing took place on 14 July 2012 at Clark County's Lewisville Park located just north of Battle Ground, WA. I arrived early, about 7:30 AM on this Saturday morning and I was the first to arrive. I had a visitor that was on her morning walk through the park. She stopped to talk with me for a while. I invited her to come back and join us to learn about prospecting. She said she would be back. Some time later, my visitor returned with her daughter. They were introduced to President Al Lewis and Terry Eldred. Both of the women talked with Terry for a few minutes and were introduced to gold prospecting. From about 8:00 to 8:30, SWWGP members started arriving. (To get the best parking places!) Those who came early started prospecting before the others arrived. I was told that about 75 people or more joined the outing. We had semi-training on

prospecting from panning to classifying, both in a tub of water and into a 5 gallon bucket of water. It seemed everyone was doing very well at classifying material. Some members were using sluices after they classified their material. They did very well in doing so. I classified my material into my 5 gallon bucket (about half-way), which I took home to clean up. I then started to take pictures of every one having a great time prospecting and visiting other members. We took time out for our BBQ about 1:30 or so, however, a few of us (myself included) had a hot dog before all the others. (We just had to make sure they were OK for the rest. And the hot dogs were just great!) Just a note for all that will take part in our outings: you need to bring your own equipment with you so you won't have to borrow from others. It's hard to share a pan. And for those who have a lot of equipment,

bring the extras along in the event someone needs something. If we have extras, we will share.



The President's Adit - Opening Message



President Al Lewis

It was nice to see everyone at the last meeting. I would like to thank the kitchen staff for the good work they do in the kitchen. It was nice to see all of the members at Lewisville Park for the outing and BBQ. My wife and I had a very good time with everyone that came. The last I heard there were around 70 people. I want to thank Bill Ray, Randy Harper, and Don for cooking the burgers and hot dogs for the outing and also to all the people who brought all of the good sides. There

were so many I was not able to try them all. I got too full. Everything was great! Thank you all! For the members that did not make it to the outing, you missed a great time and good food. **OH, the gold was good** too. It was good to hear that a lot of members got some gold. We also had some visitors that were walking through the park who came by to see what the group was doing. They even tried their hand at panning. They even got a few flakes of gold! Also, I would like to thank

Terry Eldred for helping the two ladies that came over to me to see what we were doing also. I would like to thank Terry for taking pictures at the outing of all the members having a good time panning and getting gold. Also I want to thank Bill Ray, Randy Harper, and Steve Lewin for the talks they gave before the outing started.

MAY THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PAN TURN GOLD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SEE YA'LL AT THE NEXT MEETING ON AUG. 12TH AT 1:00 pm.

The Nugget Patch — Editorials

By Kameron Mitchell

I can hear the hurrahs now because there is no expounding, pounding, or hounding by me this month! I'm sorry, but Rosalie and I are going to Colorado for a week and I don't have much time to get this Newsletter out. If you just have to see an editorial, check out page 5 for "cartoons" I drew for a story I wrote some time ago.

ExClaims! — Letters to the Editor

[Editors Note: This letter was forwarded to me by Al Lewis.]

Dear GPAA,

On Saturday July 14, 2012 I attended an outing hosted by the Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors which, I'm told, is the newest local chapter of GPAA in Washington state. I am traveling in the Northwest and since I didn't know any prospector types in the area, I called the Vancouver, WA local chapter contact, Al Lewis. Al is the chapter president of the 4-month-old club and was enthusiastic about having another

GPAA member from elsewhere in the country contact his chapter.

My wife and I were invited to their Saturday outing held on the Lewis River and we met up with them around mid-morning in Lewisville Park. After signing in, Al introduced us to a large group of members and guests (sorry I can't remember all their names) and we were made to feel at home. A safety briefing was held, legal do's and don'ts reminders for all and we were off to the river. Great day, some gold, great eats and new

friends made.

Just want to let the "home office" in California know that this club is to be commended for the job they are doing in representing our prospecting heritage and the GPAA as an organization. In four months this little club went from a handful of members to sponsoring an outing attended by more than 70 prospectors and guests. At the end of the day even the "newbies" had become enthusiastic prospectors.

I first joined GPAA back in

1978 and have been a Life Member since the mid-1990's so I've seen the club grow over the years. I'm sure the Buzzard is proud of what he started as he smiles down on those who keep our prospecting heritage a reality. Some day I hope I can get to the Alaska Expedition but my old bones creak a little more each year so maybe that won't happen, but I'll keep wetting a pan in the lower 48 long as I can.

Dennis Brandt
Madison, SD

Promising Prospects — Outings & Events

Upcoming Meetings:

August 12, 2012
September 9, 2012
October 14, 2012
November 11, 2012
December 9, 2012
January 13, 2013
February 10, 2013
March 10, 2013
April 14, 2013
May 12, 2013

OUTINGS

- There is a "work party" outing planned at Al Lewis's Blue Moon claim July 27, 28, and 29. We will help clean up the campground and claim area and then we will be free to prospect for the elusive gold.
- On August 4th, the mini-outing (one day) at Sunset Falls has been moved to **Daybreak Park**.
- On August 18th, a day outing is planned on GPAA's and Steve Lewin's Copper Creek claims.

[Check the website for the latest info on outings!]

[www.swwgoldprospectors.org]



Outings Coordinator
Steve Lewin

Rich Placer Deposits — Educational Articles

How Much Is Too Much? - By Ernie Stinson

I was once told that I always bring too much gear when I go prospecting. I load my pick-up truck with everything. You never know what you may need or what you will run into in the field. So what to bring? You bring what you don't think you may need! And you bring something you know you will need!! And you bring something you know you don't need!!!

Below is a list on what I always bring with me. My list is my list so it's up to YOU to make a list of your own.

CAMPING GEAR

Tent, tent stakes
Stove, bottled fuel, matches
Pan, forks, knives, spoons, plates, cups
Large knife
Drinking water
Ice chest

Compass
Sleeping bags
Extra clothing
First aid kit, medicines
Portable toilet
Toilet paper
Eye glasses
(oh ya, don't forget your food!)

PROSPECTING GEAR

Gold Pans
Tubs

Sniffer bottles
Zip Lock bags
Paint brushes—many sizes
Wet/Dry vacuum
Electric cord
Generator
Air compressor
5 watt solar cell
Gold Magic
Sluice
5 gallon buckets

Getting Started - By Kameron Mitchell

There are many interesting mineral prospecting activities one can do: agate collecting, crystal hunting, geode searches, and, of course, gold prospecting to name a few. If you are new to these activities, it is best to concentrate on one until you learn it well before branching out to the other activities. My passion is gold prospecting, so my comments will be more specific to that endeavor.

When you have decided on your area of interest, study as much information as you can find on it before you go out for the first time. Things such as where to go, what to take, and how to do it. Of course, it is next to impossible to put off your outing. Your excitement

and anticipation may take you out before you are ready. If possible, on your first expeditions, go with a club or someone who has some experience.

So where should you go? Go where what you are looking for has been found before! People have been looking for valuable minerals for hundreds of years. The likelihood that you'll find a new, undiscovered area is slim. Save those types of outings for further down your prospecting trail.

If possible before your first outings, buy some "pay dirt", gold bearing sands, to practice with before you go. They for sure contain gold. Practice with that pay dirt until you have the knack of panning. That way you'll be

more certain whether the spot you have chosen to pan has gold there or not.

Now you've prepared yourself and are ready to go out with some friends. But are you really ready? Be sure you have the correct equipment for your outing. For example, if you are going to pan for gold, ensure there are pans for everyone who is to participate. Sharing pans is nigh on impossible. Have enough buckets, shovels, classifiers, specimen containers, and so on. [See article above.]

I don't recommend buying thousands of dollars worth of equipment before your first trip. Start out slowly. Buy just a few items. The Buzzard Special items are a

good start for new gold prospectors.

Maybe you won't enjoy the hard work so the smaller the investment the wiser you will be. Looking for gold can be physically demanding and the environment can provide a lot of discomfort such as sun burn and bug bites. There are a lot of ways to hurt yourself out there. There is a good reason gold is valued at more than \$1600 an ounce! As you gain experience, buy a few more things as you need or want them.

And don't forget your food and beverages!

That's it . I hope this helps you turn the bottom of your pan yellow with GOLD!

The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

- We were told at the last meeting that our Sunshine Lady, Betsy Shepherd, was under the weather. We are praying she improves quickly and stays healthy.
- Our new PA system really worked well at our July meeting. Thank you Judy Stevens and Al Lewis for making that purchase. And thanks to them for donating the mike stand.
- Don't forget to bring your items to the swap table to either sell or trade. The "want ad" section in the newsletter will begin when ads are sent to the editor.
- The Silent Auction begins August 12th. If you have items to donate, please bring them!

Concentrates — Meeting Minutes Highlights

Business Meeting 7/8/12 (unofficial minutes)

June 10, 2012 regular meeting minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Claims/Raffle Chair Lewin reported that a good time was had by all who participated in the outing on June 16, with some of the gold found there to be given away today to several lucky persons who participated in that outing. Be sure to have the Washington Gold & Fish pamphlet with you at outings in Washington. The next outing will be this Saturday (July 14) at Lewisville Park starting at 8:00 with a break for a barbecue pot-luck lunch. D&K will donate \$50 for meat to grill, and Butcher Boys has offered to

sell meat to the club at half price.

Safety assistant Randy Harper handed out forms to be completed by those going to outings to disclose health concerns. These confidential forms will be retained by the Safety Officers. He reminded everyone going on outings to bring lots of water to drink and extra medication in case you get stranded.

Website webmaster Rosalie Mitchell reported that the website is updated about three times a week, and contains information on outings that may not be in the newsletter. If you have items to sell, buy or want for free, get that information to Kameron Mitchell.

Membership requirements were outlined by Secretary Pat Locnikar: participate in a minimum of 3 events in a calendar year, to include meetings, outings and/or educational events. Every person is responsible for signing in at any event. Dues are not required to become a member.

Education Chair Myron Hastings stated that he would like to set up mini meetings following the monthly club meeting to provide information to persons who have less experience and would like to learn.

The members still want a swap table. A minimum of \$1 to be donated to the club for every transaction.

Members are urged to bring in metal or appliances to be sold for recycling for the club benefit.

Bylaws as proposed by the committee were handed out and will be voted on at the August meeting.

The August 4 outing at Sunset Falls was changed to Daybreak Park.

Robert Rasey has been appointed as the Assistant Sergeant at Arms.

The deadlines and types of paperwork to be filed with various government agencies if you own a claim were presented.

This month's gold nugget was won by Valerie Holzman.

The Panning Gourmet

Cowboy Goulash

By Pat Staat

Ingredients

¼ lb Hamburger per person
Onion to taste
1 Carrots
1 Potato
Salt & Pepper to taste
Garlic salt
Ketchup and/or Barbeque Sauce

Directions

Place hamburger, then vegetables, then seasoning on a large enough piece of tinfoil and wrap it twice loosely. Place it on the hot coals 10 minutes on each side for about one hour.

Serves 1

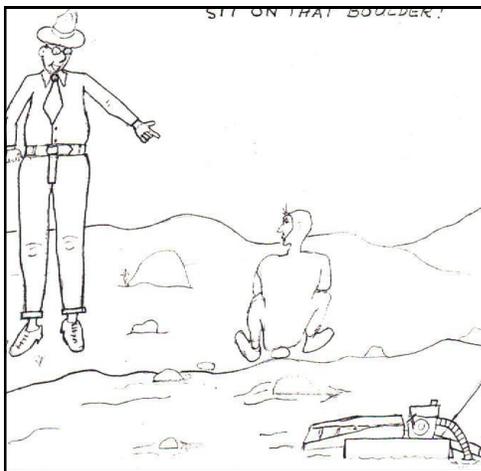
Multiply ingredients by the number in your group.

[Check www.swwgoldprospectors.org for more recipes!]

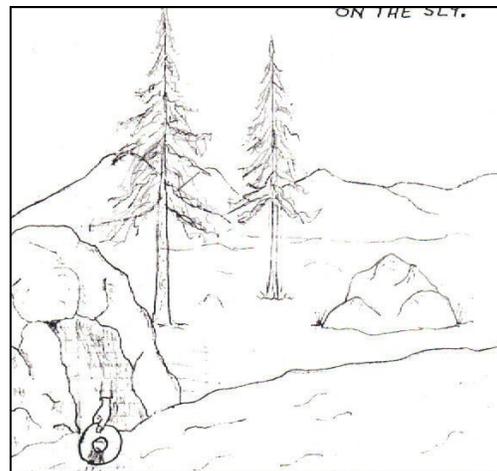
Your article goes here!

Don't be afraid.

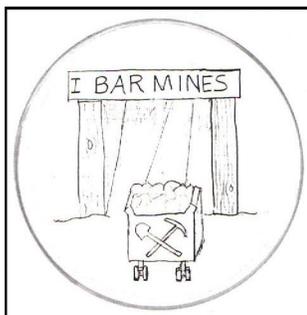
Everything is welcome, however, not everything may be published!



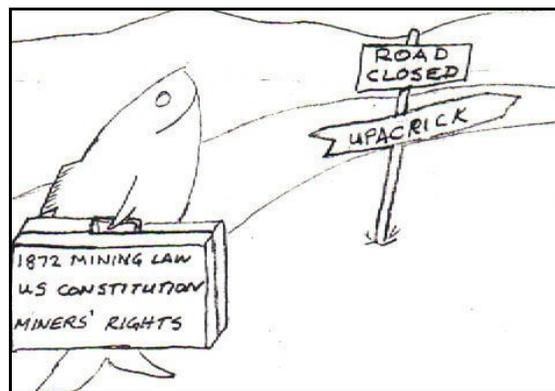
Regulating and redefining common sense items?



Will you have to hide and prospect on the sly?



Do your rangers hide this pin under their lapels?



Don't let this happen to your rights!

**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: