

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

SWW Gold Prospectors

SWWGoldProspectors.org

March 2012

SWWGP Members Winners at Salem Gold Show

By Kameron Mitchell

The ticket pictured to the right was NOT the first ticket drawn for the two-week GPAA Cripple River trip given away at the Salem Gold & Treasure Show. It was actually #503204. I was sooooo close yet so far away!

However, chapter member Herb Gunn DID WIN a 3-day trip from Oregon Gold Trips to their Wines Camp. Herb, having a good heart (and not caring too much for digging in the dirt!) gave his winning ticket to his wife Colleen (who DOES enjoy digging!) Herb has entered this raffle for years and finally won. Like prospecting, perseverance does pay off. Congratulations!

Our chapter had three raffles at

the Show and we did fairly well with them. D & K Detectors located on Division St. in Portland donated to our club one of their newer, approximately nine-foot sluice box models for our raffle. (Thank you D & K!) It was won by our member Dixie Caris. The White's Coinmaster metal detector we purchased was won by our member Randy Harper. Our third item, a deluxe beginners prospector's backpack kit was won by member Joyce Selover.

CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners.

(And for those skeptical readers out there, the GPAA drew all the numbers.)



Oh So Close!



Our raffle prizes



Inside this issue:

The President's Adit	2
The Nugget Patch	2
ExClaims !!	2
Promising Prospects	2
Concentrates	3
Logo Contest	3
Rich Placer Deposits	3
GPAA Mission	4
Contact Us	4
The Tailings Pile	4

GPAA Salem Gold and Treasure Show

By Kameron Mitchell

The Gold Prospectors of America Association Annual Gold & Treasure Show at Salem was held at the Salem Fairgrounds Exposition Hall on March 24 and 25, 2012. This year's event proved to be very popular as it broke all previous years attendance records. Saturday's count was 1969 a new single day record and total count for the weekend topped 3000 attendees, also a new record.

There were a large number of vendors and clubs represented this year. You would be hard pressed to not find what you were looking for in the line of prospecting equipment. Although my time was limited, I saw basic equipment such as snuffer bottles, pans, scoops, and so on to

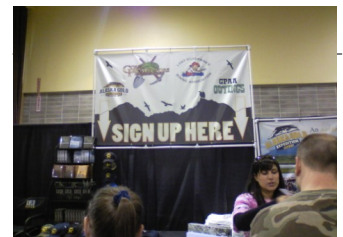
large and small dredges, high bankers, and trommels. The gold and treasure detector equipment manufacturers were well-represented. I extended my retirement date out another month by buying a Minelab 15 inch elliptical mono "Commander" coil from my friend Bob Mote at NW Detector Sales! My prospecting equipment wish list was increased by at least two more items!

Prizes galore were given out by the GPAA, as well as by several organizations and businesses. The grand prize of the show was a two-week, GPAA Cripple River Gold trip to Alaska, one given away on each day. I did not catch the names of the winners, but what an awesome trip to

have won!

Our Chapter was called upon to provide assistance with ticket taking. With the record attendance, they were extremely busy at the front door. I would like to mention all of the volunteer's names, but I might leave someone out since I don't know everyone yet! But many thanks to all of them.

In addition to the extra duty at the door, our chapter also was manned by member volunteers. Even though we were placed in a back corner, traffic was heavy and interest in our chapter was high. We signed up several new GPAA members whom we hope to see soon at one of our upcoming meetings. Welcome to all!



The GPAA Booth



Rosalie at the front door selling admission tickets



The President's Adit—Opening Message



President Al Lewis
(well not really)

In this space, in the months to come, will be a short missive from our President, Al Lewis. In order that I get this first edition out before our next meeting, I have decided to wait until next month for his message. In our next News I would like him to give us his views on where he would like to take our GPAA

Chapter and what to expect in the months ahead. Each month he will give us a short message on what he is thinking about at the time as it relates to our passion: prospecting. It could be legislation, outings, gold shows, or what ever he would like. Until then, this will have to do.— the Editor

The Nugget Patch—Editorials

By Kameron Mitchell

“Enough is enough!”

I've never been much of a political activist in my time, but enough is enough! The silent majority has been silent long enough! The vocal minority must be drowned out! I'm tired of seeing our American flag being disrespected and our Constitution being ignored. Our country has been a magnet attracting peoples from around the world because of our freedoms. We must not let that minority take

them away from us through regulations and improper interpretation of the law! Let's debunk their arguments, which often are based on their pseudo-scientific diatribes: global warming? Crap! Dredging harming our rivers? Crap! Miners polluting our rivers with toxins? Crap! It has been scientifically demonstrated various times that responsible dredging does not harm fish; removes toxins such

as lead and mercury from our rivers; and has *de minimis* effect on the environment.. Be responsible and we will continue to prove “them” wrong.

I'm a strong supporter of groups like People for Public Lands. We should all support them in their efforts to fight for the retention of our rights to access public lands, that is, our lands!

ExClaims! —Letters to the Editor

Hope to see some of your letters and comments in our next editions. Email the editor at kameron.m@comcast.net

Check out our website

SWWGoldProspectors.org

Our website will soon be operational. Go to the site and let us know what you think. Give us some ideas on how to improve it. Be mindful that it will take some time to complete the “construction”.

We plan to have public and private areas; a photo gallery; calendar of events; contact information; SWWGP News; How To sheets; and other informative sections for our chapter.

CHECK IT OUT!

What do you have to say?

Promising Prospects—Outings & Events



GPAA Italian Bar outing 2003

Upcoming Meetings:

April 8, 2012
May 13, 2012
June 10, 2012
July 8, 2012
August 12, 2012
September 9, 2012
October 14, 2012
November 11, 2012

OUTINGS

We will be listing here the outings our committee comes up with soon. Keep checking here as we will be updating this as soon as the schedule is available.

Concentrates—Meeting Minutes Highlights

Organizational Meeting 2/12/12

In our first, very long meeting, we elected the Chapter's officers and board members. We also obtained volunteers for other positions. The principal officers are listed below. We voted on various options for the name of our Chapter and the one selected was Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors.

Officers:

President: Al Lewis

Vice Pres: Myron Hastings

Secretary: Pat Locnikar

Treasurer: Kameron Mitchell

The membership was asked to draw a logo for our chapter to be voted on at a later meeting. Many items were raffled off which provided our first operating funds.

Second Meeting 3/11/12

The Treasurer reported on the funds donated and raffle proceeds from the first meeting. He also said that the Grange rental has been paid for four months. The secretary reported that the Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the Washington Secretary of State. The non-profit 501(c)(3) status is awaiting our Bylaws before it can be filed. The Claims Chair, Steve Lewin, will be talking to the Gifford Pinchot Forest personnel concerning access to the Copper Creek claims. A work party list was also made available for volunteers to help clean up the claim. Logo submission for our Chapter is still open. It was decided to look into a

speaker system for the business meetings. A discussion on fundraising ideas was held. Safety Officer gave a talk on the effects of sun and exercise while prospecting and how to avoid the dangers. We decided to have a booth at the GPAA Gold & Treasure Show in Salem, OR. Volunteers from the Board were scheduled for 2-hour shifts. A discussion was had to determine how and what to raffle. The Board authorized the Treasurer to open a "personal" bank account for the chapter until the IRS 501(c)(3) authorization was complete. Kameron Mitchell volunteered to write the Newsletter and Rosalie Mitchell volunteered to build our chapter's website.

We decided to have a Swap Table at each business meeting. The chapter will receive a minimum donation of one dollar per transaction. It was decided that we would hold our regularly scheduled meeting next month as scheduled even though it falls on Easter as no alternate date or location is available. Four gold nuggets were donated to the chapter by D & K Detectors. One was raffled off at this meeting. Ron Tompkins was the lucky winner.



We too will be organized soon!

Logo Contest !

Hey artists! We are in the process of choosing a logo for our Chapter. Sharpen your pencils and get out your Crayons! Voting will occur at the April meeting. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Maybe you can design a beautiful Logo like the GPAA one to the right. If you haven't submitted your entry yet, you can send it to: kameron.m@comcast.net or Kameron Mitchell 14819 NE 74th Circle. Vancouver, WA 98682. **GOLD LUCK !!**



Rich Placer Deposits — Educational Articles

Heat Exhaustion

by Bill Ray

Working out in the sun can turn a good day into a bad day. Heat exhaustion can strike without warning. Taking short breaks and drinking plenty of water or sports drinks that are full of electrolytes will keep you hydrated and feeling good.

Signs of heat exhaustion are typically cool, moist, pale or flushed skin, heavy sweating, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, and exhaustion. Other

signs are muscular pains and spasms, usually in the legs or abdomen. These are early signs the body is having trouble with heat.

Stop what you are doing and get cooled down. Remove or loosen tight clothes and apply a wet cloth to skin. Fan the person. If the person is conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink, making sure they drink it slowly. If the person refuses

water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, call 911 to get help. Working with a partner can be best. Watch each other, and remind each other to take breaks often. You will have a great day.

Remember: Safety is "GOLD"



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors

Meets 2nd Sunday every month at 1:00 pm
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May the bottom of your pan always turn
GOLD!

GPAA Mission Statement

The mission of the Gold Prospectors Association of America is to further the advancement of gold prospecting and treasure hunting by:

1. Developing an organization that actively encourages camaraderie, fellowship, and personal contact among people with the same interests in gold prospecting;
2. Adhering to environmental laws;
3. Following the Bureau of Land management, Forest Service, and Army Corps of Engineers laws and doctrines;
4. Promote increased public awareness of ecologically sound prospecting and small-scale recreational mining for adults, families, and children;
5. Teaching club members how to prospect for gold and treasures;
6. Developing teachers and mentors;
7. Educating the general public about the history of gold prospecting and of the importance of mineral extraction.

The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS !!

I need your help writing this newsletter! Any of you who would like to write an article or editorial is wholeheartedly welcome to send your writings to me. I may need to edit some content and/or shorten them due to space limitations, but I will try to keep that to a minimum. Reporters are sought! I may not be able to make all outings and of course I can't see all that happens, so help in reporting on what you see

will be appreciated. Also, more than one of you may report on the same outing or event. I can compile the information. Don't be shy. Short story writers: send me your compositions. I would like to include a story with each issue in a "Around the Campfire" section and I don't want to use and reuse my own!! I'm not sure of the space we will have available, but I will let you know soon. Thanks for all your help.

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. (GPAA membership is required to be a voting member but it is not necessary to join in the fun.)