



# Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

Volume II Issue I  
January 2013

SW Washington Gold Prospectors

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**MAY 2013 BE LUCKY AND PROSPEROUS WITH GOLD !**



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## Elections Held

In our December meeting, the members voted in Bill Ray as our new Vice President, and re-elected the incumbent Treasurer, Kameron Mitchell. It was reported that the races were very close. The President and Secretary seats were not up for a vote this year. Also elected were Board Members At Large: Ernie Stinson, Judy Stevens, Rosalie Mitchell, Marvin Kruger, Andy Lehto, and Rick Beehler. Congratulations to everyone!

## Annual Christmas Potluck Enjoyed by Members

In addition to the regular meeting, the board meeting, and the election of officers, the December 9th meeting held the first annual Christmas potluck. If you missed this meeting, you indeed missed a lot! See the minutes of the meeting on page 3 for the specifics of the regular meeting.

What you missed in the potluck were a tremendous amount of outstanding entrees, side dishes, and desserts! I sampled almost all of them and they were all outstanding! Thanks go out to all the members for their fine culinary efforts.

And the decorations! What an incredible array of center pieces, swags, and even a tree that had each member's name on an

ornament! The decorations committee did a stupendous job! I don't intend on slighting anyone's effort, however, I must say that Chris and Becky Beck's efforts and decorations far out distanced any club's Christmas display I have ever seen. Thanks so much!

After getting our fill, Myron Hastings presented a beginners class on metal detecting.

Al Lewis also presented the "president's awards", which are awards he gave to deserving members for their work for the club. These were received by Randy Harper, Bill Ray, and Steve Lewin. Amy Garcia was presented an award for D & K Detectors for their special support of our club.



The Trading Post



**Metal Detectors  
Authorized  
Dealer**

**Myron Hastings**  
21016 Ne 68th St.  
Vancouver, WA 98682  
360-892-3471



*D & K Prospecting & Detector Sales Inc.*

**For all your prospecting needs.**  
13809 SE Division St.  
Portland, OR 97236  
503-762-1521  
800-542-4653



**Bob Mote**  
7905 SW Elmwood St.  
Tigard, OR 97223  
503-936-1441

**FOR SALE**

2 1/2" Dredge                      \$1400.00

Wetsuits, hood, boots, fins, scuba tanks, weights, and more. See web site for details and pictures. Serious inquiries only.

Call Chris Fri. - Sat. only  
360-260-1572

**Butcher Boys**

**Meats, sausage, cutting, wrapping**

**4710 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.**  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
360-693-6241

**WANTED**

Your ad here.

Free to members in good standing.

The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

- Don't forget to bring your items to the swap table to either sell or trade. Remember a donation to the club for each item you sell.
- All members in good standing may advertise for free. Send or give the editor your want ad or for sale ad.
- Reminder: we have an ongoing food drive for the needy of our

- area. Bring in two non-perishable food items to any meeting and receive one free raffle ticket!
- Remember, we have a metals and aluminum can drive. Please bring in all your scrap metals and crushed aluminum cans for selling to a recycler. All proceeds are to go to the club.

- Be sure to always sign in at meetings and outing to be credited with attendance. To be a member in good standing you must attend three meetings or outings each year.
- Please update your personal information with the secretary.

Promising Prospects — Outings & Events

- Upcoming Meetings:**
- January 13, 2013
  - February 10, 2013
  - March 10, 2013
  - April 14, 2013
  - May 12, 2013
  - June 9, 2013

**OUTINGS**

- No outings were scheduled before press time. Please come to the meeting to hear the latest and/or check the website frequently.

[Check the website for the latest info on outings!]  
[[www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)]



## Exclaims !!



### Watch Out For Scams!

By Myron Hastings

Normally, I take every opportunity to learn something new from an event in the field or in a class. But this time, it became more of a scam.

I am talking about my recent cruise to Alaska. On the activities calendar was a listing for a gold panning trip. It sounded interesting so I bought two tickets, one for my wife and one for myself at \$59.00 each. Most of the time, even on highway 49 in California, you can speed pan and make your fees back. Or, if you are lucky, pickup a small nugget.

This claim was owned by the city of Juno and run by a two-man company who kept it going by salting it with some flower gold and gold as small as the head of a pin. I saw an older prospector bring in ten

sacks of salted material and spread them over the head of the placer so the river could wash the material down over the placer. Well I guess you live and learn!

The only interesting part of the trip was the history of the area. There were 80 miles of tunnels. The entrance into the tunnels was turned into a museum. The cost of which was more expensive than the placer panning trip, however.



### 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.

## Concentrates — Meeting Minutes Highlights

### Business Meeting 12/9/12 (unofficial minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by President Al Lewis. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A total of 61 persons signed the attendance sheets.

The secretary read the minutes of the November 11, 2012 regular meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The treasurer reported the total of donations received at and since the November meeting, and the expenses for printing, purchase of training equipment and banking fees. This report was approved as presented.

Claims/Raffle Chair Lewin reported that our club application to adopt the Copper Creek claim has been approved by GPAA.

Safety officers Bill Ray advised

everyone to be sure to have a safety kit in the vehicle when traveling for the holidays.

Library Ernie Stinson thanked D&K for donating books and other materials that have been added to our library.

Education Chair Myron Hastings reminded all those who had brought in their metal detectors to be sure to attend his class on the upper level of the Grange after finishing eating at the pot-luck banquet.

#### Unfinished Business

1. President Lewis asked for any additional nominations for the position of vice president, treasurer, and board member at large. Greg Frisella nominated himself for the position of treasurer. He stated he is not currently a GPAA member but

would become a member if elected as treasurer. Daniel Keese nominated himself for the position of board member at large. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Ballots were distributed to all Members in Good Standing who were present.

A committee consisting of Bill Tatum, Walter Jensen, Lexie Holloway, and Robert Gregory collected the ballots and moved to another area in the building to count them.

#### New Business

1. Treasurer Mitchell presented the proposed budget for 2013. The proposed budget was approved as presented.

2. President Lewis asked for volunteers for an audit committee to review the treasurer's

records for this past year. Appointed members of this committee are Marvin Kruger, Bill Ray, and Rick Beehler, who will meet with the treasurer at a time convenient for all.

3. President Lewis presented appreciation awards to Amy of D&K Prospecting for this company's support of the club, and to Randy Harper, Bill Ray, and Steve Lewin for their hard work on behalf of the club over this past year.

At the conclusion of the counting of ballots, President Lewis announced that Bill Ray had been elected vice president, Kameron Mitchell had been elected treasurer, and Ernie Stinson, Judy Stevens, Rosalie Mitchell, Marvin Kruger, Andy Lehto and Rick Beehler had been elected board members at large.

## Rich Placer Deposits — Educational Articles

### LC 2125 Analysis - By Pat Locnikar

#### **Motorized Equipment to be Banned in Oregon?**

At first glance, this legislative concept (LC) appears to completely prohibit dredging in Oregon, but after a careful reading, it is a bit more complicated.

The first section of this LC states that "placer mining using any form of motorized equipment or motorized dredge is prohibited in this state." Then in section two it goes on to identify three exceptions. Violation of this prohibition is a Class A misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of a year in prison, or a \$6,250 fine, or both the prison time and fine.

But first things first. "Placer mining" is not defined in this LC or in any of the other laws mentioned. In other parts of the LC, "prospecting" and "placer mining" are mentioned as separate activities, implying that those two terms are not identical. Until whoever is the sponsor of this LC can be identified and asked for clarification, or perhaps, can add a definition to the LC when it becomes a bill in the legislative session, it would be dangerous to assume that a miner, a legislator, a state enforcement officer, and a judge could all agree on a definition of placer mining.

Then, the prohibition mentions "any form of motorized equipment or motorized dredge." So, it goes beyond just dredging. Other forms of motorized equipment that separate gold from concentrate include trommel, high-banker, self-contained mini-slucice, blue bowl, Gold Cube, dry washer, and spiral wheel. Does the sponsor of this LC intend to prohibit the use of all those pieces of equipment throughout Oregon? Put another way, is using these pieces of equipment included in "placer mining?"

Finally, use of motorized equipment is prohibited "in this state." A logical interpretation of this phrase would include federal

land, state land, county land, city land, and private property.

Now, let's look at the three exceptions where the prohibition (and penalty) doesn't apply. The first allows "prospecting" described in the laws concerning scenic waterways. As this law currently stands, both "prospecting" and "recreational placer mining" (both are defined) are allowed on scenic waterways. "Prospecting" means to search or explore for precious metals using non-motorized methods, and "recreational placer mining" includes no-motorized equipment and motorized dredges with specified nozzle size and motor limits. This LC would completely delete all language concerning "recreational placer mining," leaving only use of non-motorized prospecting equipment on scenic waterways. But a review of the State Lands administrative rules shows that no permits for dredging on scenic waterways have been issued since 2001, so this LC's amendment to the scenic waterways law would only impact use of motorized equipment other than dredges, if in fact a miner could actually get the equipment to these remote and inaccessible areas.

The second exception allows "prospecting" described in the laws concerning removal and fill permits. This definition is identical to the definition in the scenic waterways law, limiting a prospector to the use of non-motorized equipment. Notice that laws concerning the State Lands removal and fill permits and the DEQ 700 and 600 permits, which have previously been issued to miners using equipment such as trommels, high-bankers and self-contained mini-slucices, are not mentioned. It's not clear whether this omission is an oversight or deliberate.

The third exception allows "prospecting, small scale mining and recreational mining" described

in the set of laws enacted in 1999 specifically allowing these activities. These three terms are defined, and strangely, the definition for prospecting includes use of motorized equipment, recreational mining includes use of a dredge, and the description of small scale mining allows use of whatever equipment is necessary based on the filed plan of operation.

This third exception creates massive confusion. When and where is use of motorized equipment prohibited. When and where is it allowed? Placer gold can be found in stream beds, benches far from the current stream bed when the stream changed course in the past, and in dry desert areas nowhere near flowing water. If a miner uses a dry washer on BLM land in eastern Oregon, and takes home three or four buckets of concentrate, then uses a self-contained mini-slucice, or other motorized equipment in the confines of a private back yard, is that miner at risk of being arrested for the Class A misdemeanor? How at risk are the people who operate gold mining operations on private property, such as the LDMA camps in eastern Oregon, using a backhoe to pile dirt for the use of folks coming to an outing for a common dig? How about the folks participating in that outing? If a full ban on motorized equipment is actually contemplated, is the state prepared to compensate miners who purchased and hold valid mining claims on federal land? And how will this affect business owners who make a living selling motorized prospecting equipment?

I'm not sure about DEQ and the Parks and Recreation Department, but I do know that State Lands was not consulted prior to LC 2125 being drafted. Here's to finding more answers than questions during the upcoming legislative session that begins in February!!

# The Art of Gold Panning

by Myron Hastings

Over the last 45 year of prospecting, I have worked on perfecting my panning technique. I have finally developed it into a science that I'm happy with!

The panning process starts with an evaluation of your own panning technique. If you have muddy water in your pan after stirring the materials in the bottom of your pan, then you need to face the fact that you need to improve your panning technique.

The trouble is that most prospectors say "I have been doing this for years and have found gold." What they are not telling you is how much gold they have lost!

I always try to have an open mind and over the years I have adjusted my panning several times. Now, I'm comfortable with the fact that I'm not throwing gold away. Panning starts with several conclusions that you need to make prior to panning. They are: 1) is the material you are using from concentrates out of a sluice, dredge, or any other process that may help free the gold? (Gold in its natural state is impacted usually in clays or various other soft materials

because of its weight.) If you start the panning process before you actually free the gold, you will probably throw away a percentage of your gold. A quick way to tell if the gold is freed is to stir the material up in water and if you are getting muddy water, then the gold is not completely free. To start panning, you must have fairly clear water after stirring the material.

Now you are ready to pan. At this pint your gold is spread through several levels of the material. Your goal now is to work the gold to the bottom of the pan. You need to begin to shake the pan back and forth. This helps the heavies to go down to the bottom of the material. Remember, always have the bottom of the pan on a slant. Slanted toward the riffles. At this point let us stop and talk a little about pans. The first gold pan was made of wood and it wore out pretty easily. On the "do not use" list are metal pans and the little, cheap, black pans. Sure the gold shows up really well on black, but they break easily and the riffles are terrible. You don't want to be 50 miles from nowhere and have your pan break. The very best pan has

been the Garrett pan with the special riffle system. Recently White's Electronics has come out with the same pan, except it is burnt red in color.

Do not start the panning process until you have spent some time working the heavies (gold, silver, and platinum) to the bottom. Remember always work a pan with the bottom on a slant towards the riffles. I even will tap the pan against my hand.

In a swirling motion move some of the material up the riffles and out over the edge. Then shake all the material back to the bottom before you swirl another amount of material up and over the edge. The larger rocks can be picked out of the pan and thrown away, unless they are yellow. You may want to have a closer look at those. Repeat this process until you have a small amount of material built up at the base of the riffles. This material is your concentrates. That is where your gold should be. If you are finding gold further up the riffles, then you are not working the heavies enough to the bottom. In between, every swirl of material that goes out over the edge you need to work the material to the bottom. Now that you have finals or concentrates, place a small amount of water in the pan and swirl it clockwise, washing over the finals uncover your gold or heavies.

## The Panning Gourmet

### Breakfast Burritos By Becky Beck

Fast and easy for camping with a large group. You can use anything you want but here is what I put in them.

#### Ingredients

- 1 bag frozen hash browns
- 2 boxes frozen Banquet precooked sausage links cut up
- 1/2 dozen eggs scrambled
- 1 pound bacon cut up
- 1 cup each chopped onions and peppers
- salt and pepper to taste

#### Directions

Cook hash browns halfway and then add everything else and cook until done. Then add eggs and cook until eggs are done. Put cooked ingredients into gordita shells and put salsa and sour cream in them and roll them up. Very easy.

I cook it all up at home then heat it up at camp.

This feeds at least 8 to 10 people.

**Southwest Washington  
Gold Prospectors**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday every month at 1:00 pm  
Minnehaha Grange Hall No. 164  
4905 NE St. Johns Road  
Vancouver, WA

**[www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)**

**SWWGP Web Master**  
Rosalie Mitchell  
Kameron.m@comcast.net

Treasurer / SWWGP News Editor  
Kameron Mitchell  
360-909-8888

**CONTACT US**

President  
Al Lewis  
Phone: 971-235-8308  
E-mail: [countryal@msn.com](mailto:countryal@msn.com)

Vice President  
Bill Ray  
Phone: 360-749-2817  
E-mail: [williamgold110@gmail.com](mailto:williamgold110@gmail.com)

Secretary  
Pat Locnikar  
4311 NE 75th Ave.  
Vancouver, WA 98662

Claims Chair  
Steve Lewin  
[goldpan123@yahoo.com](mailto:goldpan123@yahoo.com)  
971-212-5996

**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.



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors  
4311 NE 75th Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98662

To: