



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

Volume II Issue 7
July 2013

SW Washington Gold Prospectors

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June Raffle Winners — by Kameron Mitchell

As all of you are aware, our raffles provide our chapter with the funds to educate the public and promote our rights to mine the minerals of the United States as provided by the constitution and laws of this great country. We thank all of you who support us by buying the raffle tickets each month.

The gold nugget winner in June's raffle was Jim Virden, pictured at right with President Al Lewis.

Next, you will see DOUBLE winner David Conti, who won the three "pickers" as well as two gem stones.

Other winners included Thesia Sloop (citrines); Daniel Keesee ("gold card"); and Miss Loveall (George Massie coin). See the treasure chest below.

I apologize for the poor quality of some of the pictures :>(



Jim Virden & Al



David Conti



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Thanks Hospitality Staff

The hospitality staff (Linda Erickson, Judy Stevens, and others) do a great job in providing the club members with tasty morsels to nosh each month. We thank the club members who support their efforts with monetary donations, as well as, sharing with us goodies they bring to the meetings. Atypical of these goodies is the artistic, and apropos, cake made and given to us by Bill Ray's daughter at June's meeting. I tried it and it was excellent. **Both times!!** Thanks so much to everyone and keep up the good work!



We hope your 4th of July celebration was a **BLAST!!**



Outings Round Up — by Kameron Mitchell

Wow, what a month! I, for one, have enjoyed many outings this month and there are more to come in July! I reported on the June first outing in last month's newsletter so I won't repeat the story here. (Thank goodness!) Best of all the outings this month, the pot-luck outing at Daybreak Park, organized by Becky Beck and staff, was simply outstanding! Becky did an amazing job as was evident by the spread available to our members. The club provided the hot dogs and Bill Ray brought some burgers to barbecue. On a gorgeous day, these were a hit. The salads were plentiful and good, and the fruit was delicious! Many other snacks and dishes were there to choose from as well. If you didn't make it, you missed a great day, which was beautiful, sunny, and warm like so many of our days in the Northwest. (Not!) Working extremely hard, we were able to find some of those small flakes of gold and the flour gold present in the Lewis River. Some were more successful than others, but isn't that the way it always is? We welcomed a few new members to our chapter and we even signed up a couple of new GPAA members. (See Ernie's article on page 4 for more on this outing.)



06.15.2013



06.15.2013



The weekend of July 30th, about seven stalwart SWWGP members ventured to the hills (with relief) to Al Lewis's Blue Moon Claim for a work party to help clean up the area. (As you who were in the lower realms will recall, that weekend was HOT!) After a couple of hours of work, we were then able to prospect to our heart's desire. Although the shorter route to the claim was still closed, the secondary route was clear and the road was fairly good. The extra drive was worth it. What a beautiful area! And, of course, the gold was just a bonus! Thanks to those of you who helped out.



Some of the Cleanup crew



Water Fall on claim



John and his fish



Old bridge timbers



Have Gun, Will Travel

Promising Prospects — Outings & Events

Upcoming Meetings:

July 14, 2013

August 11, 2013

Upcoming Outings:

July 20, 2013 9:00 am Copper Creek

July 30, 2013 6:00 pm Longview Library

July 27-28, 2013 Al's claim

August 17, 2013 BBQ

SWWGP OUTINGS

As you can see above, there are quite a few outings planned for this summer. There will be many opportunities to learn about the environmentally sound methods today's miner use to extract precious metals. There may also be opportunities to learn about the history of prospecting in our local area.

On July 20th, we will be having an outing at the GPAA claim on Copper Creek. Again, contact the editor for directions to the claim if you need them before the 20th.

The Longview Library is holding its annual "Dig Into Reading" picnic on July 30th from 6 to 8 PM. There will be gold panning for the kids now expected to number 500 and demonstrations of other equipment as well. SWWGP has committed to help out. Please volunteer. With so many children, a lot of volunteers are needed. Our legacy will continue with them.

Al Lewis will be opening up his claim again for chapter members on July 27th and 28th. See Al for more information.

Our **Annual SWWGP BBQ** is scheduled for 17 August. An excellent covered site has been reserved named "Dogwood" at Lewisville Park just north of Battle Ground, WA. There is running water, picnic tables, restrooms nearby, and easy access to the river for panning and sluicing. Set this Saturday aside now!

There are also a number of outings being planned for some other dates this summer. Notice for them will be given at a later date.

Check us out online at www.swwgoldprospectors.org

Concentrates — Meeting Minutes Highlights

Business Meeting 6/9/13 (unofficial minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Al Lewis. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A total of 72 persons, including 6 visitors and guests, signed the attendance sheets.

The secretary read the minutes of the May 12, 2013 regular meeting. They were approve the minutes as read.

The treasurer reported the total of donations received at and since the May meeting, and the expenses for printing, postage, hospitality supplies and materials, raffle materials and office supplies. This report was accepted as presented.

Safety officer Randy Harper reminded everyone to fill in any holes you dig to avoid safety hazards to yourself and others. Watch out for sun exposure and slippery rocks. Have a way to get yourself or someone else out of a hazardous situation. Try to leave your work site in better shape than when you arrived.

Library Ernie Stinson reported that library materials are available for members with a club card. Additional

materials are always welcome, including those about precious stones.

Becky Beck reported that food needs for the June 15 outing have been filled, but more food is welcome. Also, ice can be brought.

Webmaster Rosalie Mitchell reported there is nothing new concerning the website.

Newsletter editor Kameron Mitchell expressed appreciation for articles submitted by members. For new folks without an email address, the newsletter can be mailed for \$7.50 for the rest of the calendar year. He also has more GPAA membership kits to sign up for GPAA membership at a discount.

Education Chair Myron Hastings stated that another trip to White's manufacturing plant may be scheduled.

Facebook liaison Becky Beck reported that there is now a group page only for members for private exchanges. You need to use your email address to get in. The site will also have links to interesting articles and YouTube videos.

There was a discussion about getting stickers with the club logo, but the cost was unknown. There was a motion and a second to purchase the stickers. Motion passed.

Myron Hastings made an educational presentation on the use of discrimination settings on a metal detector.

Steve Lewin's tip of the week: tie a string around the neck of your snuffer bottle, make a loop at the other end of the string and tie it onto a button or belt loop to keep the snuffer bottle from floating away. There is a beach mining application if you want to mine beaches in Washington. Getting the permit may take about three weeks. He is still working on getting GPAA approval of our taking over the maintenance on the GPAA Direct I claim. Be sure to read, understand, and carry the Fish & Gold pamphlet at all times when prospecting. Steve now has a form to sign out club equipment. For those going out prospecting, you may find gold in county parks such as Prindle Park on the Washougal River or Moulton Falls Park.

Members who want jack-

ets with the club logo can order the jacket of their choice from the catalog, with the price set at the cost to the club plus a \$5 donation to the club. All jacket orders must be prepaid.

Tom Fest presented information on the educational event at Longview Library on July 30. This event is expected to involve about 200 kids and their parents. He provided details on equipment, informational brochures, and volunteers needed. Setup will begin at noon, with the event running from 2:00 to 8:00. If you have any concentrates, equipment or prizes you are willing to donate, bring it to the July meeting and Bill Ray will store it until July 30. Members may also bring their own equipment and concentrates for a demonstration, keeping their own gold. Sign-up sheets will be available at today's and at July's meeting.

The gold nuggets were won by Jim Virden and David Conti. Gold flake was won by Daniel Keesee. Gemstones were won by Thesia Sloop and David Conti.

The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

- A big thank you goes out to Gene Mawby of **MGM Enterprises**, Maple Valley, WA for the donation to our club of "The Gold Suck-em Up" manual dredging tool. It is now available for check out from the equipment manager.
- Become a GPAA member! Membership kits are now available from the Treasurer, Kameron Mitchell.
- Don't forget to bring your items to the swap table to either sell or trade.

Remember your 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.
- Remember, we have an appliance, metals, and aluminum can drive. Please bring in all your old appliances, scrap metals, and crushed aluminum cans for selling to a recycler. All proceeds are to go to the club. Thanks to all who have done so to date.

- Be sure to always sign in at meetings and outings (and update your information) to be credited with attendance. To be a member in good standing you must attend three meetings or outings each year.
- In addition to the manual dredging tool, the club has for check out the Grizzly III, high banker, and pans. See the temporary equipment manager Steve Lewin.

SWWGP Outings @ Daybreak Park — by Ernie Stinson

On June 1st, I arrived at Daybreak Park at around 6:30 Saturday morning. It started out to be a great day for prospecting for the yellow stuff we call GOLD!! As I understand it, some members were coming here to Daybreak and others were going to Lewisville Park.

The park didn't open their gate until about ten minutes to 7:00. As soon as I got parked, I went over to the river. The river was still high. After a few minutes, I found a nice little beach, which had a little patch of black sand about five feet long by about two feet wide. I scraped up the sand down to about one inch deep. Over to the right about two feet of this patch, was another patch of black sand, but this one was only about three feet long by a foot and a half wide. I started to scrape it up like before and this one had a second layer of black sand. By the time I finished scraping up the sand, I finally had a little over a bucket (5 1/3 gals.) of sand. (With gold!!)

By the time I finished filling up my bucket and started to load it in my truck, other members started to arrive. After most members got there, a safety talk was given on things to look out for, which is a MUST before anything in done, for everyone's safety.

For the rest of the day, I just took pictures of all of the other member setting up their sluices and panning and digging and digging and digging and... Well, you get the picture.

A reminder to everyone: when working on site, you can't dig in the water yet. You just have to wait until the dredging season starts, which isn't until the first of August. So remember you can only pan or sluice in the river. You can pump water out of the river to work with, make sure your work site is about 15 to 25 feet

away from the water of the river. Also, when you dig materiel, be sure to fill the holes.

So here's hoping to see you at the next outing. May your pan be full of that yellow stuff we call GOLD!

On June 15th, I arrived at Daybreak Park at around 6:30 Saturday morning. It started out to be a great day for prospecting for the yellow stuff we call GOLD !! When I arrived, I thought I'd be the first one to arrive, however, to my surprise, I was the second. I guess I'll have to try harder to be the first again. Oh well!!!

At about 10 minutes to 7, the gate was opened. We drove in and started to set up the site for the pot-luck. (Of course, the members started to arrive when all the work had been done! But that's OK though.) We had all kinds of help taking down the canopies that we put up; we had five or six canopies set up.

We also had my Magic Gold wheel and a Blue Bowl set up. We had a great time instructing members and some new people how to use them. We explained how and what to use when they go prospecting. Also, we showed them some of the prospecting tools and how to use them. Later, I saw some of the other members explaining how to prospect in the rock bar in the river.

Well, I started to take pictures everywhere. And out at the rock bar, I was taking some pictures of some members and when I got up to where Kameron was setting up his sluice,



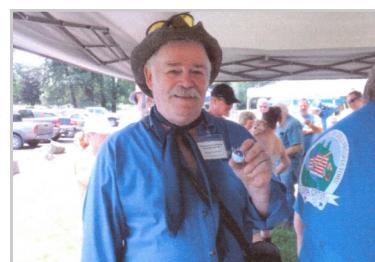
well, let's just say I had just missed a "GREAT PICTURE".

What had happened was Kameron was in the river setting rocks up for his sluice and he took a step backward. He LOST HIS FOOTING and down he went. I asked him to go and do it again for me to take a picture, but he wouldn't. How about being a team player Kameron???

A safety talk was given on things to look out for, which is a MUST before anything in done, for everyone's safety.

For the rest of the day, I just took pictures of all of the other members prospecting.

Then it was time for the cook-out! There were all kinds of hot dogs, cold drinks, and food that members brought. Steve Lewin, our Claims guy, brought some goodies for a raffle and I was one of the winners. It was the Fathers Day Gold nugget. Woohoo! (At our last chapter meeting I had told my wife that I was going to try to win her a piece of gold for her. So it took me until this outing to get her her gold.



So here's hoping to see you at the next outing. May your pan be full of that yellow stuff we call GOLD!

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Viking Era Discovery

Published May 16, 2013 Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Danish museum officials say that an archaeological dig last year has revealed 365 items from the Viking era, including 60 rare coins.

Danish National Museum spokesman Jens Christian Moesgaard says the coins have a distinctive cross motif attributed to Norse King Harald Bluetooth, who is believed to have brought Christianity to Norway and Denmark.

Sixteen-year-old Michael Stokbro Larsen found the coins and other items with a metal detector in a field in northern Denmark.

Stokbro Larsen, who often explores with his detector, said he is often laughed at because friends find him "a bit nerdy."

Moesgaard said Thursday that it was the first time since 1939 that so many Viking-era coins have been found, calling them "another important piece in the puzzle" of history.

Read more:

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/05/16/teenager-rare-viking-era-find-metal-detector/?test=latestnews#ixzz2TTgsUK84>



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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. There also are outings to enjoy the pleasures of the out of doors and 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.