

From Raffle Coordinator Steve Lewin:

I want to thank every member of the club who has purchased tickets or donated an item for the Extended Raffle. Last chance to purchase tickets is our December meeting where we will draw for the BIG prizes and I've added MORE prizes: A \$25 gift card to Sportsman's Warehouse... AND a 2 pound tub of black sand and gravel that has \$50.00 of gold in it. PLUS I added one more gold nugget in November. Tickets are \$1.00: you don't have to be present to win. See you Sunday Dec 14th! AND... When you buy a ticket you get a guess at how many marshmallows are in the jar and the prize is GOLD!



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Don't Drink the Water. Contributed by Robert Novak.

You hear while travelling other countries, "Don't drink the water". It's also a good warning when gold prospecting here at home. As you hike or stroll through the North American wilderness, carry plenty of water. If not, have a way to purify water.

Just because the water is crystal-clear doesn't mean it is pure. Put a few drops under a microscope and you'd see funny looking one-celled animals named giardia lamblia. Drinking the water or even brushing your teeth, you may be in trouble without disinfecting it first. If you're infected, within a week or so your upper small intestines become covered with giardia. You may not be aware of it. You may suffer nothing more than average rumbling in your belly and a few loose stools; and you may walk around unwittingly shedding giardia cysts for the next few weeks: or you may feel your stomach and intestines were turned inside out or worse. After a few days the symptoms may decrease. That's what "Beaver Fever" can do.

Drinking surface water is liking gambling with your health. You may get sick or not or you may experience a prolonged spell of indigestion, sulfurous belching, bloating, passing gas and diarrhea. So when you lift that cup of crystal-clear water to drink, ask "am I feeling lucky today".

It's hard to believe our clear mountain streams could be fouled with disease-causing parasites. It is true. Giardia is carried in the small intestines of infected humans, beavers, cows, sheep, dogs, deer and other animals. When mature they become cysts, dividing into two and passing in feces. An infected animal may spread millions of cysts each day. They may lay around on the ground or in streams for months before being eaten... and the process starts again.

Man is to be blamed for the spread of giardia to remote wilderness areas, "back-packers diarrhea" is a more fitting title.

If contracted, dehydration will result. Drink sips of water or other non alcoholic liquid. Forget solid food for a few days.

To use water in the wilderness: boil, filter, or use a chemical disinfectant.

Club Store

PRICE LIST	Regular	<u>December Specials!</u>
<u>GPAA Membership Kit</u>	\$84.50	
<u>14" GPAA GOLD PAN</u> (retails for \$10.95) (Green)	\$6.00	\$5.00
<u>SCOOP</u> (retails for \$9.95)	\$4.00	
<u>SNUFFER BOTTLE</u> (retails for \$2.99)	\$2.50	\$2.00
<u>Black Sand MAGNET</u> (retails for \$8.95)	\$7.00	
<u>Classifier Kit</u> Base is a 1" Classifier with a 1/2" Screen, and a 1/4" Screen (retails for \$25)	\$20.00	\$18.00
<u>Mini Sluice</u> (retails for \$29.99)	\$18.00	\$15.00

Thank you for Supporting Our Club Store!



Gold, Its Origin. Contributed by Myron Hastings

Early on in our planet's formation ores were surfaced from the earth's core. If you think about smelting where we heat rock and ore to a molten state: that is what occurred in the earth's core. It was like a gigantic smelter operation. The early-on earthquakes were like tapping the side of a crucible to help the ore and rock separate. Then the volcanos that were active eons ago vented the rock out the top of the natural smelter.

The rest of the material was ores that, through the heat, had reached their own levels purifying the ore! Then as the irritable core had birth pangs, the center of the earth's core began producing more gasses; pushing the ore upward. With this much pressure added to the ore bodies, they found the path of least resistance! Cracks air deposits suddenly began to fill with ores, agate, and other separated materials. All this happened many many years ago. As the earth began to stabilize the ore bodies, the melted materials began to cool and solidify.

As the plates shifted under the surface of the earth causing earthquakes, these ore veins would snap and shift, moving the material. In cases where the ore bodies and other materials did make it to the surface, the gasses pushing them would vent. That is where we are able to do Hard Rock mining. All rock is porous so when the exposed material is subject to rain and freezing it begins to break up and the ore washes into the rivers with the softer material breaking away from the harder material and quartz, forming nuggets of Gold through erosion.



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TRADING POST! All Members in good standing and Donors may include their business card or ad, at no cost. Newsletter deadline is 1st Sunday of each month.

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2015 Education Planned

Our 2015 Education Committee with Steve Lewin at the helm, has scheduled education at each club meeting through June. Our board of directors has gotten the message from you that we need more Education: for our members and for the general public. So we're starting out the new year right. Here's the schedule so far:

January	Pocket Gold and it's Geology	Tom Bohmker, local author
February	Black Sand Magic	David Conti, SWWGP Board Member
March	Metal Detecting	Bob Mote, NW Detector Sales
April	Dig Your Target-Metal Detecting	Marvin Kruger SWWGP Board Member
May	How to Build a Bucket Faucet	Dale Long SWWGP Board Member
June	Reading the River for Gold	Discussion plus interactive display

Thoughts and Facts From Myron Hastings

The South Dakota Rubies are garnets but the locals have called them rubies over 90 years that I know of! You can pan them in the streams of Custer State Park. (Watch out for rattlesnakes)

South Dakota at one time had the largest hard rock mine in the world. They had dug it down to several thousand feet in the ground. Temps were 140 degrees and the ore began to peater out. At that point the Russians then had the largest productive mine in the world. Now it's Africa with the largest mine .

We don't know why, but in the majority of cases, Gold is with white quartz. The early miner with his mule, walking through the desert, was looking for quartz and then the Gold that always seemed to be nearby.

A prospector looking for ore in the 1800's in Nevada came across a miner's pick buried in the sand. He took it as his good luck omen and started digging. He dug 20 some odd feet down and struck one of the richest silver lodes in all of Nevada!



Amy Garcia is selling tubs of black sand for \$50.00 guaranteed to contain at least \$50.00 worth of Gold. You can buy them at D&K Detector Sales. She donated one of these tubs to our Club for the Extended Raffle. Thank you Amy!!

Visit our website at www.SWWGoldProspectors.org



And On Facebook: **Southwest Washington GoldProspectors**

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.

Go on outings to enjoy the pleasures of the outdoors and prospect for gold.

Become a member of one of the newest chapters of the Gold Prospectors Association of America.

All memberships are individual. There is no fee or age requirement.

Join in the Fun!

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors

Meets 2nd Sunday every month at 1:00 pm

Minnehaha Grange Hall No. 164

4905 NE St Johns Rd, Vancouver WA

For more information, call Steve Lewin at 971-212-5996



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Dec 14th
HUGE
Holiday RAFFLE
Extended Raffle
Drawing

Tickets are \$1.00 ea.

The Lovealls are having their 2nd Annual

Hungry Miners Christmas Day Dinner!

These are tough holidays to be alone or hungry. Bring something to share if you have it. But don't worry about that. Just bring yourself.

Call Anthony and Michele for details:

619-735-2027

You're Always Welcome at a Hungry Miners Dinner!

