

SW Washington Gold Prospectors Club Newsletter

Volume III Issue 6, June 2014

President's Welcome

Hello again, Fellow Prospectors.

Water levels are dropping and the sun is gracing us with longer days. We have our next meeting coming up on the 8th, next Sunday. We'll be covering next year's Gold Show, and our involvement in it, as well as other exiting plans for outings and don't forget our famous raffle. Win more gold than you can find in a weekend. Other great prizes available as well. Looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting. Randy Harper

May Raffle Winners!

Mothers' Day Drawing Winners are Karen Gillen, Pat Staat, Colleen Hord, Leigh Ann Chavez, Linda Erickson and Carey Carman. They each won a nugget or gemstone or gold.

Regular Raffle Winners include:

Frank Larson and Debbie Witcher won gold nuggets

John and Nate Bakker won gemstones

Maurine Koppi won an emerald

Jim McCall won a pink pan

Debbie Witcher & Pat Staat won bags of rough emeralds

CONGRATULATIONS!



Our upcoming meeting



is THIS Sunday

June 8th at 1:00pm



NEW

BIG

RAFFLE

1st Prize 1.5 pennyweight specimen gold and quartz nugget from Scott River, California

More prizes will be added in the next months. This raffle is for the club to raise money to purchase some prospecting equipment.

Tickets will be \$1.00 each

SWWGP Outing at Lewisville Park on May 25, 2014. by Ernie Stinson

Sunday morning was a really great day to start out with: a really great day to go and dig up some rocks to look for that yellow stuff we all call GOLD!!! And as usual I was the first one to arrive at the park. So at about 6:20am, I was driving through the main gate. Once I arrived at the boat ramp, I found me a place to park since no one else was there. I looked around to claim my place to dig.

I chose the boat ramp on the right side with the flow of the water. The river was cold and running, the water level was down, and so there were a lot of places to dig. Anthony said later that I was claim jumping. So after two and a half buckets of material, I had all I needed. So I gave Anthony his claim back. Ha ha

At about 8am members started to arrive and to claim their digging claims. Steve brought donuts for everyone. Thank you Steve. Then we had our safety talk, Randy asked if any new people were there. There were 3 or 4, and then Steve started a Gold draw. And 4 winners are added to the list of winning Gold.

There were about 25-30 members and first timers there. Some training was taking place up and down the river. Pictures were taken by myself and Becky. Stories of some prospecting tales were being told. All-in-all I believe everyone was having a great time and I hope everyone had found some GOLD!!!

Most people were looking at prospecting equipment either to buy or to modify theirs, myself included.

So, don't forget to fill in your holes. And you can take water out of the river, BUT NOT any material yet. August 1 to August 15 at Lewisville Park and Daybreak Park are dredging season.

So may your gold pan turn yellow with the yellow GOLD!!!!



Gold is where you find it. Don't be afraid to look at home! Spend some time at your local Library. An excellent source for information is Fists Full of Gold by Chris Ralph.

Have you ever heard the old story, "They got all the gold out of there years ago" ????? The old timers threw all the little stuff back, since gold was only \$32 an ounce until the 1970's. If the old timers couldn't see the gold, they couldn't get it. You can be like Superman and see through that 1/16th of an inch of dirt and get it with a metal detector. A microscope or a magnifying glass will let you see if there are sharp edges indicating if the gold travelled very far. You can go to the Library or search the internet to find out where that piece of gold came from. Was it from a local deposit or did it travel with the glaciers? Was there a fault like, rift zone, or ancient ocean? Maps and geological reports are another improvement we have to our advantage. The GPAA Mining Guide is also a great reference.

So... you decided on going out to find something no one else has ever found. The old timers died early... mercury poison, disease, accidents, Indians, or their fellow prospectors' bullets. Those are not going to slow you down! Let's get us an advantage... a little geology... not too much (If you want more go to the Library)

Let's look for minerals that are associated with gold. Get a magnifying glass first. To quote Chris Ralph, "A mineral is a stable combination of elements...that is found naturally in the earth." (An excellent book is Rocks and Minerals by Chris Pellant). Sometimes when these minerals form they will be in crystal form. Look for quartz. Many times fools gold, or iron pyrite, contains some gold. If you pan out a sample, the presence of black sand (magnetite, hematite, limonite) is a good sign. Garnet and zircons may be present. Be careful if you find that red cinnabar... it's mercury is not good for you. Most gold is not pure. It may be with copper, silver or mixed like an electrum. It may not be yellow! The rock may have gold in the "dirty streaks" of rust colored minerals in the cracks in bedrock or quartz areas. A metal detector will tell you if it needs more investigating. Gangue minerals are not valuable, but often lead to gold, silver and platinum. They include quartz, pyrite, calcite, barite, and feldspar. Gold is heavy. It will beat its way into cracks, and fall out in eddies. Until the metal detector, most small scale gold prospectors looked for placer gold they could see...

Next time... What causes those placer deposits?

Safe panning... Watch for ticks and snakes. Tom Fest



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7905 SW Elmwood St
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503-936-1443

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TRADING POST

Members in good standing can advertise for free.
Newsletter Deadline is the 1st Sunday of each month.
Call Linda Williams 503-703-1142 or e-mail her at
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Dave Urick
Columbia River Mining Supplies
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Discount for our Club Members

May Meeting Highlights

We did not have a quorum of officers so we had a general discussion then went outside for a Treasurer Hunt and Sharing of prospecting equipment and summer of hot dogs, beans, potato salad and watermelon. Thank you everyone for making this a fun, educational event!

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The Yellow Stuff: It's Just a Bonus. By Maurine Koppi

My husband, Ron, and I have always thought that it would be fun to pan for gold. So, after searching the internet, we found that there was a club in Vancouver called the S.W.W.G.P. Club and after going on one outing and attending two meetings, we have just recently become members. We have met wonderful people so far, and are amazed at how helpful and friendly everyone is. It seems that each and every one of the others in the club is very eager to make our experience in the club an enjoyable one.

We have been acquiring some of the essentials needed for gold panning such as different sizes of classifiers, a couple of gold pans, buckets, shovels, snuffer bottles, etc. Ron has taken a small power station and hooked it to a sump pump, which applies water to some PVC pipes attached to a bucket and is now able to classify material without going back and forth to the river with a bucket for water. It works very well! Our latest gadget we purchased is the Nugget Bucket, which was demonstrated at the March meeting and we were very excited to give it a try.

One day last week we took all of our gear and loaded it on a duck decoy cart that Ron made some modifications to so that we can load all of the gear on it. We heard that Day Break Park was a pretty good place to go, and that is where we went to FIND SOME GOLD. After getting everything set up, we found an area back in the trees where it appeared high water had reached during the winter, and it appeared as if someone had already been digging in that spot, so we thought we would give it a try. Our process consisted of filling a 5-gallon bucket with the sand and gravel, taking it back to the riverbank and running it through the Nugget Bucket. During the course of about 2 hours we went through eight buckets full of material and started to realize that although it is a lot of fun: gold panning can also be a little work. As we were panning some of the 3rd or 4th buckets of concentrate from the Nugget Bucket a young man showed up with his gear and told us that he had been panning for gold nearly 10 years and loved it. We helped him set up his Sluice Box and pump, and then he showed us how that worked. He was a very nice man, and we spent the remaining part of the day working with, and talking to him.

We worked for four hours on the riverbank, moved quite a bit of material, and actually found a couple of tiny flakes of gold. However, at the end of the day, both Ron and I decided that being together, getting some exercise, and enjoying the beauty of the river that Mother Nature created, is the real treasure in this search for gold. If you find some of that yellow stuff, it's just a bonus!

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



For All People Interested in GOLD

Write a story about one of your Gold outings

If your story is printed in the newsletter, Steve Lewin will give up some GOLD!

Send your story to me: Linda Williams, SWWGP Newsletter Editor,

11780 SW Royal Villa Dr, Tigard OR 97224, e-mail me at bstwshes@yahoo.com

or call me at 503-703-1142 Newsletter deadline is the 1st Sunday of each month.

If you have an e-mail address and you are not receiving our Club newsletter, check the master roster at the sign-in desk and correct or give us your e-mail addy.
Thanks!