

South West Washington Gold Prospectors August 2016 Newsletter

Letter from the President

We've had lots going on this summer. Dredging season has started and we have had some outings in the rivers. Our annual picnic was a great success. Your Bi-laws committee has their recommendations ready for the board of directors to review, soon to be passed to the membership for the vote. We are scheduling more outings for gold and rock hounding. We had an informative trip to the Whites metal detecting factory. All in all we are having an active summer. Be safe & enjoy!

President Debbie Witcher



The Polka-Dot-Agate Mine

There is still time to sign up for the trip which is scheduled for Aug. 20, 2016. Maps, meeting place, directions, etc. are available. Rick Beehler made special arrangements with the mine for us to be able to have this outing. For questions /information contact either Rick Beehler 360-601-6855 or Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215

Picnic 2016

Our picnic was a great success! We hosted several Chapters including our friends from Mid-Valley, Portland, Oregon and Longview, WA. We invited vendors to join us and they not only demonstrated the products but also donated to our raffle. Other chapter members brought equipment to demo and let us try out. This is a good way to see if the equipment is a good fit for you. For the second year in a row we had our panning stations thanks to Randy Harper and Ken Didier for running the station. Horseshoes were available for those who wanted to take part in a game or 2. As always we had a very successful raffle, one with a twist. Steve Lewin always makes it interesting and this year had help from Dale Long. There was plenty of food thanks to the efforts of Maurine Koppi and Jeanne Geig. Jeanne also made sure there were plenty of summer fun toys for our young people. Jeff Wooldridge brought his bare-b-que and was our cook for the day. Thanks Jeff! This year we added a door prize drawing for the adults. Kim West was the lucky winner of a new metal detector. We played bingo this year and had a lot of fun. Thanks to our photographers Rick Beehler and Carol Brown we have a lot of photos. My thanks to everyone out this year. Set-up and clean-up went smoothly. A good time was had by all we are looking forward to next years picnic.

Membership Committee

When you are signing in for attendance at the SWWGP meeting please be sure to verify name spelling, correct address w/zip code, e-mail address and phone number. If you are a current GPAA/ LDMA member be sure to let us know and give us your GPAA/LDMA membership number.

We are in the process of updating our records. Thank you for your help, Richard Pluff Jr. 503-957-6884

Outing Ideas

Have an idea for an outing? Trip? Special event? Etc. Call Steve Lewin 971-212-5996 or Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215

The Answer Spot

Do you have a question on how to properly operate equipment, what to look for when prospecting, what kind of rock is this, how do I sell my gold, how to dredge, beach prospecting, what is a power sluice or highbanker, what kind of equipment do I need to start prospecting or pretty much anything else you would like information on.

Just submit your question to swwgpanews@gmail.com or if you don't have email call Mark at 360-609-6813 and we will find an expert and get an answer. Questions and responses will be published in future newsletters for all to enjoy.

Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Ken Didier	360-567-7360	ky02kid@peoplepc.com
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Matt Barner	360-909-9424	matthew.barner@gmail.co
	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Daniel Keesee	360-241-0489	none
	Dale Long	503-665-4717	dalelongsmailgmail.com
	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magiedrag-
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Claims Chair	(Elected)		
	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	DDWitcher@yahoo.com
State Director (WA,OR)	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Committee Chairs	(Volunteers appointed by club/		
Education	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Equipment Manager	Randy Harper		
Events Co-ordinator	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Facebook	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Fundraising coordinator	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Assistant	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Kitchen Host	Toni Fest	360-465-2393	festfam@wwest.net
Assistant	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
Picnic, Holiday Dinner	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Misc. Outings	BAR-B-Ques, special events		
	Frank Knighton	360-834-5270	jknighton08@yahoo.com
Librarian	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Membership	Richard Pluff Jr		magiedrag-
Assistant	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing coordinator	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Safety Officer	Daniel Keese	360-241-0489	none
Sargent at Arms	Daniel Keesee	360-241-0489	none
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal101@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Sunshine	Pat Staat	360-798-9499	healing-
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
Historian	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Other committees will be formed as needed. Please let Debbie Witcher know if your name was missed or if you would like to serve.			
Committees to be filled: Bylaws / Laws and Regulations			

Sunshine

We need approx. 4 people to assist our Sunshine chairperson Pat Staat. Please let me know if you are willing to help out. It is important to call Pat at 360-798-9499, or e-mail her at healingsprings@centurylink.net, or let Debbie Witcher know at 360-695-3215, ddwitcher@yahoo.com if you know of a member who is in the hospital, has been injured, has had a death or birth in the family. Please let us know right away. We would like to send out a card from the chapter but we do need their address. This is another reason to make sure we have updated information.



Club Name Tags

Any club members that would like a plastic name Tag made for them can place an order at the February meeting.

Cost is 7.00 for each tag that includes up to 2 lines of engraving. Questions?

Contact David Conti

User764554aol
360-256-0892



Sample

Setting Up Your Stream Sluice

Whether you're a beginner or an old pro, setting up your stream sluice just right takes some trial and error. It isn't hard to do, it just takes an understanding of water currents and angles to guarantee success. Try these helpful tips:



Place your sluice in the flow of a stream or river so that the water enters the flared end and flows through the sluice. If the current is strong you may need to lay some stones against the edge of the sluice to keep it from washing away. The sluice should be set at a downhill angle that allows the material to briskly flow through the sluice. The higher the volume of water available, the shallower the angle will be.

Shovel material into the sluice at the flared end as close to the end as possible so that the material is washed over the entire length of the sluice. Do not overload the sluice with material. Pace your shoveling so that the sluice box has time to clear before you add more material.

The purpose of the riffles in your sluice is to trap gold out of the stream bed materials as they are washed through by flowing water. Riffles are designed and positioned so that there is a back-pressure created that sucks water and material behind the riffles from the flow over top. When the correct water flow is directed over a riffle, the back pressure keeps the area just behind the riffle in a state of continuous fluid suspension. Therefore, the heaviest materials (gold!) will concentrate here.

When it's time to clean out the concentrates, remove the sluice from the water and tip it down into a bucket or tub. Wash as much material as possible out of the sluice into the tub and then remove the riffle tray and miner's moss or carpet and wash both of them out into the tub. (Depending on the type of sluice you are using, not all riffles can be removed, so you might only be able to remove the miner's moss).

Put the miners moss and riffle tray back into the sluice and you are ready to go again. Your concentrates and gold (assuming there is gold where you are sluicing) are now in the tub. Remove the gold from the concentrates with a gold pan or a Gold Cube or a spiral panning machine, or another fine gold recovery tool. With a little practice, you'll be a pro at using and adjusting your sluice!

SWWGP MONTHLY MEETING

The Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors' meetings are the second Sunday of every month beginning at **2:00 pm** at:
Minnehaha Grange Hall #164
4905 Northeast St Johns Road
Vancouver, Washington

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods and equipment as well as hands-on demonstrations and practice. There are also outings to enjoy the pleasures of gold prospecting and the great outdoors.

Become a member of the Southwest Washington Chapter of the Gold Prospectors' Association of America. GPAA membership is not required to be a member and SWWGP membership is FREE!

For information contact:
Debbie Witcher – Chapter President,

ddwitcher@yahoo.com or
360-695-3215 or visit
www.swwgoldprospectors.org

Finding that Perfect Gold Pan

A gold pan is both the beginning and the end of the gold prospecting process. It is used for sampling before you set up a sluice, highbanker, or dredge, and it is used for the clean up of concentrates that are collected by those larger pieces of mining equipment.

A gold pan is the most basic and least expensive piece of equipment, yet can be the most confusing because of all the choices in size, shape, color, and material. The most important thing is to select the correct size. Holding an empty pan is one thing, but once it is filled with heavy gravel and water, if it's too big you will end up with a sore back, shoulders, and arm muscles.



A good way to choose the best size for YOU is to hold a gold pan so that the open side of the pan lies against your forearm. Rest the rim against your elbow crease and notice where the opposing rim lies. Ideally, the pan should fit between your elbow and wrist crease. If the rim extends past the base of your fingers, it is probably too large, so select the next smaller size.

In addition to the traditional round shape, pans are now square, hexagonal, triangular, and even a blend of rectangular and round. The newest on the market is the TurboPan from Australia. Most prospectors favor a 10-12 inch round plastic pan, but it's really a matter of personal preference. Plastic is light weight and won't interfere with the use of a magnet, but steel pans are sometimes favored by old-timers. Color is also a matter of personal preference. Shiny gold shows up well against a black pan, but you may like green or blue or terra cotta better because the magnetic black sand that usually accompanies gold blends into a black pan, green is the most common.



After selecting a pan or two, keep in mind that practice makes perfect in just about everything—it is no different when it comes to gold panning. Luckily you can practice in your kitchen or laundry sink so that when you head outdoors, you'll pretty much already know how to pan for gold and have your technique nailed down.



Rock Tumbling



It takes years and years for nature and its elements - dirt, rock, water, and sand - to smooth a rock's surface. But with a rock tumbler, you can get those same results in considerably less time. A tumbler's purpose is to roll the rock over and over until the sharp edges and dull exterior are worn away, revealing a smooth, shiny surface.

Any rocks will do! Choosing rocks from your own backyard is easy and convenient. You can also take a special trip to an area with interesting geography to get a wider selection of rocks. Don't forget your rock pick! Whichever rocks you choose, make sure they are relatively uniform in shape and don't have any cracks or crevices. Try to choose rocks with interesting colors and patterns that will be brought out by the tumbling process. Take along a handy rock pick.

When tumbling, start with a coarse grit, move to a fine grit, then proceed to a silicon sand step. The final step is polishing with any variety of commercial polishes, including titanium dioxide (an ingredient used in toothpaste) or cerium oxide polish which helps create a wet, glassy look. Expect to use only a fraction of the amount of polish as you do grit.

WEIGHT BLACK SAND & SG WATER by "LOST ADAMS"

specific gravity of H₂O = 1

Mass of H₂O @ 50°F 8.3430 lbs/us gal

There are 7.48 gallons in cubic foot
and 62.41 lbs/ft³

specific gravity of minerals in black sand (BS)

mineral	low	avg.	high
magnetite	4.9	5.05	5.2
chromite	4.3	4.45	4.6
ilmenite	4.3	4.9	5.5
garnet	3.8	4	4.2
cassiterite	6.8	6.9	7.0
MY black sand apx -----		5.25	

$8.34 \text{ lbs/gal} \times 5.25 \text{ sg/bs} = 43.785 \text{ lbs/gal}$ of MY black sand

$5 \text{ gal} \times 43.785 = 218.925 \text{ lbs}$

$50 \text{ gal} \times 43.785 = 2189.25 \text{ lbs}$ or 1.094625 tons

The mass of MY Black Sand(BS) in the above is ONLY AN Approximation for Rough Down'n Dirty work. To find the True weight/mass of YOUR BS you would need to find the percentages(%) of all the different minerals, you may have more or less or heavier minerals, in Your BS and then multiply the Avg SG of each mineral by the % in the whole and then Add the mass's to arrive at the Total Mass/weight of YOUR BS.

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An alternative (easier) way is to make a box that is 12" x 12" x 6" Inside Dia., from plywood or what ever is handy, then you can weigh and measure YOUR BS in one operation and reduce the math involved. Mine is made of sheet metal (slicker so BS slides off easier) with handles on the sides and there is no Bottom in it. Helps when you have A LOT of BS to Handle, all you have to do is lift it off, leaving all the BS in place, set it down someplace else and then start letting it fill up again, ad infinum. Then set on a Bathroom Scales and Tare the Box to 0 and then add YOUR BS till the box is full and Strike off the top level, not getting any on the scale of course. This Will be the True weight of YOUR BS and NO One else's. Each of you will have to do this for yourself as Every One's BS doesn't Weigh the SAME, unless you and your Partner are getting your BS from the Same HOLE, then both of your BS's will Weigh the Same, and it will be a wash.

Now you have the Question of How Many Gold Pans are in a Cubic Yard. This measure of pans in a cubic yard is the standard so it can be converted to \$\$\$\$ per yd by using math. Well just take your plywood(PLYWD) BS measure you made in the above, (you did make one didn't you!!), and fill you Gold pan with PURE Wind Driven White Sand(PWDWS) , not BS, and then strike it level. It's USUALLY a lot easier to find PURE Wind Driven White Sand (PWDWS) (Sand Dunes), than Black Sand (bottom of rivers), and as the BS is SO Heavy and Mixed into/with the PWDWS and it takes SO MUCH WORK to separate it out, when all you have to do is the MATH and it Becomes SO Clear and easy to SORT it Out. Dump this in Your "PLYWD BS" measure and repeat till you have it level full, and then write down the number of times you filled your pan, (you did keep count didn't you).

Since there are 27 cubic ft in a cubic yard and you have a "PLYWD BS" measure that equals 1/2 a cubic ft you will need to multiply $27 \times 2 = 54$ x ??# pans to fill YOUR "PLYWD BS" measure to get the number of pans of PURE Wind Driven White Sand in a cubic yard. Now when you count the colors in a pan you can just multiply by "Your BS PAN Factor", not someone eles's, and find the \$\$\$/per YD of YOUR Gravel Bank.

NOW you must remember that Your BS's are Heavier than the PURE Wind Driven White Sand of Others, so you'll have to take that into account also. And as I haven't found any way to measure or weigh that yet, you'll need to take that up with Your Personal Spiritual Adviser, as I'm NOT qualified to weigh and measure That Sand. I Sincerely hope this helps you all in Sorting out All that Buckets/BS/PANS/\$\$\$/per Cubic Yard lingo that you hear in this NEW GOLD Prospecting life You have Chosen to pursue.

AND always remember the Time Honored Words of Mark Twain in "Roughing It".
"A Gold Mine is a HOLE in the Ground with a Lier standing next to IT".

Derived from 40+ yrs prospecting & mining experience!!!

Sincerely
Bill A. aka. "LOST ADAMS"
wvadams@gorge.net

SWWGP July Picnic



July 2016 SWWGP General Meeting Minutes

- Introduced 7 guests.
- The secretary report was read and passed.
- The treasurer report listed 7605.51 for the chapter balance as of Jun 30th.
- Steve reported that they placed boulders around the copper creek entrance to prevent vandalism.
- Safety reminder that unlike last year the rivers are still running cold and fast.
- Current outings upcoming are for Polka Dot and Richardson rock ranch.
- Debbie and Rick B are researching and writing grants for the chapter.
- We discussed the possibility of becoming a part of the adopt a highway program.
- There was a reminder about the Aug 6th bylaws meeting.
- Outing kits were displayed for everyone to utilize to use for events.
- The chapter purchased generic business cards for anyone to hand out.
- Education, Richard showed a PVC addition for a constant water flow to a nugget bucket, Ken and Steve are to determine a date to have a class on building the PVC addition.
- Ken demonstrated his blue bowl plate addition and can make additional plates if members are interested.

MID VALLEY PROSPECTORS



MID-VALLEY PROSPECTORS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Roy Houtz 541-990-1148
Vice President Brian Rinehart
Secretary/Treasurer Art Waugh
Equipment Manager Wendy Houtz 541-990-6214
State Director (WA,OR) (Appointed by GPAA)
Steve Lewin 971-212-5996 goldpan123@yahoo.com
All e-mail should be directed to midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com

2016 Calendar of Activities

August 2016

01 — Outing Lewisville Park

12-15 — Outing Yellow Jacket Creek
Randle WA

20— Polka Dot Rock and Jem Trip

September 2016

11th—Nominations open for Vice President,
Treasurer, and 9 Board Positions

05 — Labor Day Outing with Brownsville/Mid
Valley chapter

October 2016

9th—Nominations open for Vice President,
Treasurer, and 9 Board Positions

November 2016

11 — Veterans Day

13th—VP / Treasurer / Board elections

24 — Thanksgiving Day

December 2016

GPA Oregon/Washington Chapters

Auburn — Auburn Green River Valley Gold Prospectors — 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm. River Estates Club House, 3611 I St NE, Auburn, WA (253-833-2255)

Bremerton — Western Washington Prospectors 2nd Saturday, 1:00 pm., Elm Lutheran Church, 5911 E Hillcrest Dr., Port Orchard, WA (360-830-4613)

Brownsville — Mid Valley Prospectors — 1st Sunday, 1:30 pm. Brownsville Fire Department, 600 E Blakely Ave, Brownsville, OR (541-990-5148)

Everett— Everett Gold Prospectors 2nd Friday, 7:00 pm., Silver Lake-Alfy's Pizza, 9620 19th Ave, Everett, WA

Longview — Fire Mountain Prospectors — 3rd Saturday, 10:00 am., Bob's Sporting Goods, 1111 Hudson St., Longview, WA (360-274-3396)

Portland — Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. 3rd Sunday, 12:00 pm., Milwaukie Grange, 12015 SE 22nd, Milwaukie, OR (503-258-8553)

Vancouver — Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors — 2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm. Minnehaha Grange 4905 NE St Johns Road, Vancouver, WA (360-695-3215)

2016 Oregon/Washington Rock & Mineral Shows

You can view a complete list of the 2016 Rock & Mineral Shows listed for Oregon and Washington by visiting the websites below:
OREGON — <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=OR>
WASHINGTON — <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=WA>

August 2016

12-14—PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON: annual show in conjunction with the Jefferson County Fair; Port Townsend Rock Club, Jefferson County Fair; 4907 Landers Street; Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 10-6; Adults \$8, Seniors \$6, Students \$6, children ages 6-12 \$2 / Children 5 and under free; contact Marge Roark, PO Box 1383, Port Townsend, WA 98368; e-mail: margejroark@gmail.com

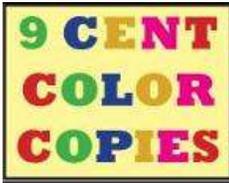
13-14—EDMONDS, WASHINGTON: 10th Annual Rock and Mineral Sale; Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse; 8802 196th St. SW; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; contact Bev Ryder, (425)-338-4184; e-mail: famryd@aol.com

20-20—SHELTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Shelton Rock and Mineral Society, MCRA Park; 2100 E Johns Prairie Road; Daily 9 -5 ; Free Admission; 7th Annual Tailgate Rock Sale and Swap. All rock hounds and vendors are invited to participate and bring rocks, minerals, fossils, rock crafts and equipment to sell and swap. Raffle, door prizes, and displays.; contact Susan Perrault, WA, (360)-272-9432; e-mail: srms242@yahoo.com; Web site: sheltonrockclub.weebly.com

Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities. Members may advertise free by submitting a business card.



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