

# South West Washington Gold Prospectors Newsletter

## July 2018



Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on Sunday July 8th.

The board meeting will start at 12:45 and the general meeting will start at 2:00.



### Membership Committee

When signing in for attendance at the SWWGP meeting please be sure to verify name, address, and phone number. If you are a current GPAA/ LDMA member be sure to give us your membership number. Let Mark know if you are not receiving chapter emails.

Edna Nelson  
503-307-0852  
rockhounstoo1966@yahoo.com

### Presidents Message

Summer is in full swing now. Children are out of school, we are all planning vacations. Chapter members are going to AKAU lodge in Nome, Alaska, or roaring camp as well as day trips to our claims. Those of you who are GPAA or LDMA members are taking advantage of those claims and camp grounds provided thru the GPAA /LDMA membership.

With fire danger in full swing early this year please be aware of your surroundings and be safe!

See you at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting!!!!

Your President,  
Debbie Witcher

### WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Long and Sandi Croonquist were voted into board positions at the last meeting. Patti Long has agreed to take the treasure position. The chapter and GPAA members in attendance at this month's meeting will be asked to confirm her. Patti served as treasurer in the past and did a fantastic job! If elected she will be taking over the job from Mark, who has been filling in for the past treasurer who resigned. Paul Knight who is a new member has offered to assist her.

*An ounce of gold can be beaten into a sheet covering 100 square feet*

<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Mark Mattila (Temporary)	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>(Elected )</b>		
	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Scott Long	503-754-0612	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Sandy Croonquist	503-661-5529	exetor1325@comcast.net
	Tammy Binford	360-449-2714	kaycbear99@gmail.com
<b>Claims Chair</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
<b>State Director (WA)</b>	<b>(Appointed by GPAA)</b>		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
<b>Committees / Chairs</b>	<b>Appointed by chapter President</b>		
<b>Education</b>	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
<b>Equipment Manager</b>	Don Spillman	360-635-2308	
<b>Fundraising Coordinator</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
<b>Picnic, Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Librarian</b>	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Membership</b>	Edna Nelsom	503-307-0852	rockhoundstoo1966@yahoo.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Outing Coordinator</b>	Bill Birdwell	360-263-1749	obill15@comcast.net
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Ron Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Norm Erickson	503-801-1452	None
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	bettyerickson13@yahoo.com
<b>Sargent at Arms</b>	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
<b>Sunshine</b>	Anne Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
<b>T-Shirts</b>	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Dennis Clevenger	360-281-6338	dennisc@pacifier.com
<b>Historian</b>	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Deborah Lee	360-624-6565	deborah35@me.com
<b>Gold Buyer</b>	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.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.			

<b>GPAA Points</b>	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
<b>Name Tags</b>	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Awards</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
<b>Picnic and Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
<b>Facebook</b>	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
Assistant	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
<b>Raffle</b>	Jim Erickson	3602603225	aerickson@q.com
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicaJeff@msn.com
<b>Chapter Store</b>	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com

## Links

Website: [www.SWWGoldProspectors.org](http://www.SWWGoldProspectors.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SWwashingtonGoldProspectors>

Gold and Fish Book: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/mining/>

HPA Rulemaking web page: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/hpa/rulemaking/>

## Education

The June education will be on different types of gold common to our area

If you have a topic or idea for future education or would even like to share your knowledge on a topic or piece of equipment please let Mark know.

Topic ideas:

How to sell gold

What do we need to do to meet the required improvements on our claims

What kind of equipment is best to use for a given situation (gold cube, sluice, high banker)



## RAFFLE TICKETS

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets!

Reg. raffle at the meeting

3 month raffle prizes to be drawn at the picnic Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>

Once in a lifetime chance to win a trip (you provide airfare) to the AKAU Lodge in Nome, Alaska.

Winner will be drawn at the Dec. holiday meeting.

## SWWGP Chapter Equipment

(2) Quest 10x10 canopy	(1) Pitch Fork
(2) Picks	(2) Shovels
(1) Portable Trummel W/Legs & Sluice	(1) Mountain goat portable trammel reversible
(1) Wood rocker box	(1) Mini mate hand pump
(1) 8x16 APP portable high banker	(1) Gold Camel
(2) 4x4x7 tents	(1) Jimbo's gold fine gold clean up
(1) Martin prospecting equipment—fine gold cleanup w/pump/legs	(1) Garrett super sluice gold pan
(1) Royal dry washer w/pimp 9GASO	(1) Jobe hi banker w/pump and hoses
(1) 7" gold pan	(1) 2.5" dredge gas
(1) Keene drysher w/pump	(2) panning tubs
(1) Coin master metal detector	(2) small treasure tracker metal detectors

Elvis Presley owned three cars manufactured by Stutz Motor Company, in which every part that is normally chrome was converted to gold



### **MINI HIGH BANKERS**

Those of you who have pre-ordered the mini hi bankers will be happy to know that they have arrived. We will have them available at the July meeting. Bring your monies.

The next order will have a price increase. We need to cover the sales tax and shipping. The chapter cannot absorb that. We aren't making any money from the sale, we do it as a service to our members.

## Women Who Led the Klondike Gold Rush

Women are changing the world. But of course, they always have been. One place where the impact of American women was especially strong was in the formation and care of our nation's greatest parks. The National Park Service's Women In History Initiative began in 2012 as effort to improve the understanding of women's history and spread the word on historical places with strong ties to women. They are passionate about sharing the stories of women's contributions to our national parklands—and there are few places better to showcase these stories than against the breathtaking backdrops of Alaskan national parks.

In 1896, the Klondike Gold Rush began with a wave of gold seekers sweeping across the Yukon and Alaska. Among this flood of desperate prospectors, many mainstays of stereotypical masculinity thrived - rowdy barrooms, bandits and street brawls. Yet a closer look at history shows that it was women who set the course for what would become one of our nation's greatest destinations. These pioneering women helped shape Alaska's history and national parklands in ways that are both significant and enduring.

### **Shaaw Tláa (Kate Carmack)**

Without Shaaw Tláa there would be no Klondike Gold Rush, and of course, no [Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park](#). In 1896, Tláa, a Native American woman also known as Kate Carmack, was traversing remote lands in Canada when her team discovered gold at Rabbit Creek. This event acted as the catalyst for what would become one of the largest gold rushes in American history.

### **Emma Kelly**

The year following Shaaw Tláa's discovery, Emma Kelly trekked north to report on the Klondike Gold Rush for Midwest newspapers. On the trail north, the men she encountered told her that she was too late in the year to travel and that she couldn't handle the journey. Determined, Emma overcame doubts, endured blizzard after blizzard, and the Yukon River even froze while she was on it. But in the end, she persevered and got her story.

### **Mollie Brackett**

Through her photography, Mollie Brackett captured moments of everyday life in Skagway from 1898 to 1900. These non-professional but nevertheless informative pictures chronicled some of the best-known aspects of the Klondike Gold Rush: mining in Atlin, Alaskan natives, the internment of Soapy Smith's gang, the building of her father-in-law's Brackett Toll Road, and people traversing a snowbound White Pass Trail.

### **Annie Hall Strong**

Meanwhile in Skagway, Annie Hall Strong arrived in town and spearheaded an "advice for women" column in the local newspaper, which helped female stamperders plan for their sojourns into the gold fields. "There is no use trying to discourage them," Strong wrote about these women. "Our wills are strong and courage unailing."

### **Harriet Pullen**

Elsewhere in Skagway, Harriet Pullen is a prime example of the women who fashioned their business skills and thrived during the Klondike Gold Rush, seizing opportunities that came along with the chaos stamperders brought. Arriving in town without a cent, Harriet baked pies and meals for the stamperders, even running her own horse team. Eventually, she owned both a dairy farm and the fanciest hotel in town—the Pullen House. Harriet gained a reputation for rooms with hot baths and soft beds, while her guests got to enjoy fresh vegetables from her garden along with milk and cream from her farm. In the parlor, Harriet even provided entertainment: dramatic presentations of her personal stories and experiences with the colorful gold rush characters she'd met along the way.

### **Longview Library**

We will be helping the Longview Library with a summer education program on Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be teaching gold panning. Those of you who are helping we need to be at the Library by 2 o'clock. Felix dirt is helping us provide the gold, by contributing 65 packets to our education program.

Doug Buckendahl has been in contact with Felix Dirt and made arrangement for this donation. He is working with them to become a chapter sponsor and helping in the future. Great job Doug! Another good idea put forth by a chapter member.

We have several members who purchase Felix Dirt and are very happy with it.

*During the California gold rush, some speculators paid more for an ounce of water than they received for an ounce of gold.*

### **Election committee**

We need people to sign up for the election committee.

### **Open Board Positions**

With Patti moving to treasurer, and Richard Pluff Jr. working out of state for the next 5-6 months those are open board positions. Please consider giving an hr. to hr. and ½ to the chapter by becoming a board member. We meet just before the reg. meeting so it does not required a separate day for the meeting.

You must be a GPAA member. Also you must be a chapter member for at least 6 and willing to give the 1 to ½ hrs of your time. You come to meeting anyway so why not?

### **Secretary Assistant**

Tina Long has volunteered to help Mark out with sec. duties by being his assistant.

### **Volunteers Needed for Raffle**

Jim Erickson need 2 more people to help him and Ann with the raffle. Dennis took over the store, Richard Pluff is out of state working and Dale is no longer with us so he needs the help. It is only during the meeting time.



	<b>Scheduled Events</b>
7/8	Board 12:45 and Chapter 2:00 meetings
TBD	Polka dot mine TBD
7/21	Prospecting outing (location TBD)
8/4	Picnic (Lewisville Park)
TBD	Dredging outing TBD
8/25	Prospecting outing (location TBD)
9/9	Board 12:45 and Chapter 2:00 meetings
9/26-9/30	GPAA/LDMA outing Burnt river OR
10/14	Board 12:45 and Chapter 2:00 meetings
11/11	Board 12:45 and Chapter 2:00 meetings
12/9	Board 12:45 and Chapter 2:00 meetings

### **OUTINGS**

Remember to give Bill Birdwell you outing requests and suggestions. Also you can volunteer to lead an outing.

Paul Knight has lead both the May and June outings at our claims, Rick Beehler has lead the polka dot mine outing. Tammy Binford is working on an outing to be announced.

### **PICNIC AUG. 4<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

Be sure to mark your calendars for our picnic Aug. 4, 2018 at Lewisville Park, Dogwood shelter. Set up 9:00 a.m. This is a pot luck so bring you favorite dish or 2.

The chapter will provide the meat, buns, dressings for burgers and hot dogs, and dinnerware.

We ask that in addition to your dish you also bring you beverage and possibly some ice.

Please sign up at the membership table so we have an idea what you are bringing and how many will be attending.

Jeanne Geig is in charge of the picnic. Questions call her or you can call Debbie.

Swimming, mining opportunities, lots of games and fun!!! Bring your friends and family, meet and mingle.

## BUS TRIP

Our bus trip on Sat June 30<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Everyone had a lot of fun and it was a good day at the beach.

We had a lot of raffle prizes.

Thanks to Jim Erickson for getting prizes to go in our backpacks.

Tina Long donated prizes and snacks as well as helping to sell raffle tickets on the bus.

Amy Wright helped to sell raffle tickets and got prizes donated to us from Danner.

Thanks to both of them as well as to Sandi Croonquest she also sold raffle tickets.

Rick Beehler took photos and acted as the raffle runner. Thanks Rick!

And as always I have to thank Dennis for helping me with the bingo and getting things gathered up for this trip. Our bingo cards were in storage and he had to go get them.

It takes a group to make this successful and it sure was. Even though we only had 37 people we cleared a little over \$800 for our chapter.

Interesting tidbit: Debra Lee brought her friend who was visiting from Colorado and wouldn't you know it she won the gold pan and Colorado Dirt!

Everyone wanted to do this again, sorry not once a month as someone suggested, so we will schedule another for Sept. Probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. We have 52 seats open so let's fill the bus. Cost is a \$20 dollar donation to the chapter and will cover the bingo cash payout. This is open to members, soon to be members, friends and family.

Chinook Winds will again give everyone \$10 free play, \$3 meal credit, and donate prizes. Come and have fun!

Tie a few feet of fishing line to some small lead weights and affix balloons to the line... set it loose down the river and watch where the weights settle - that's a good place to start your hunt for gold.

## GPAA Kits

We still have a couple of GPAA kits with membership, and remember if you are renewing your membership to be sure to let the GPAA know to credit our chapter with your membership.

They are also giving out 50 year pins this year if you renew



### Buy Sell Trade

Have something to sell or give away? Looking for something to buy? This is a free service to our Chapter members. Please send an email to Mark Mattila with the information and pictures at [chipper49@outlook.com](mailto:chipper49@outlook.com)

### Sunshine

Please let Ann Erickson know of anyone who might be under the weather, in the hospital ,or just need a feel good card. Remember to let us know of anyone with a new addition to there family as well.

[aerickson@q.com](mailto:aerickson@q.com)



### Collection for Veterans



Don't forget that we are continuing to collect food, toiletries, warm clothes for veterans. Pet food for their animals. Please bring your donations. Boxes will be provided.

A 2 inch quartz rock and a 1 mm sphere of gold will fall through water and deposit in about the same place— making them hydraulically equivalent

### Fine Tuning Your Sluice

Because of the principles of Hydraulic Equivalence and Incremental Processing, you may have realized that slowing down a sluice can really cause problems and loss of gold. How do you know if your sluice is running too fast or too slow? Experiment! Of course doing so is a little scary because the #1 fear of most gold miners is losing gold, and quite honestly, until your sluice is fine tuned, that just might happen. To avoid losing gold, most miners start running their sluice at the "normal" or widely accepted pitch of 1 inch per foot. But this is just a starting point. If you see gold in your tailings, your first thought is probably to slow it down so you aren't blowing gold out of the sluice. But perhaps that's not the cause at all. Perhaps it's because gold doesn't have a place to sink down into and hide in your sluice. Experiment by running way too fast, say at a 15-degree pitch. Then take it to 13 degrees, then go down to 12.5. Keep adjusting until you find an acceptable capture rate for the size of gold you want to hold.

### Club Name Tags

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

Cost is \$8.00 for each tag that includes up to 2 lines of engraving.

Questions?

Contact David Conti  
[user764554@aol.com](mailto:user764554@aol.com)  
360-256-0892



### 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](mailto:ddwitcher@yahoo.com) or 360-695-3215 or visit [www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)



## June 2018 SWWGP General Meeting Minutes

The June meeting was called to order at 2:05

There were 4 guests in attendance

The secretary report was read, a motion to accept was made and passed

The treasurer's report was read, a motion to accept was made and passed

The Washington State gambling commission is changing and will now require a \$60.00 per year fee and also a 3% fee from our raffle take.

Scott Long and Sandy Croonquist volunteered to replace Matt and Dale as board members, a vote was taken and both were elected to complete the terms.

A motion was made and passed to have a celebration of life for Dale in October when everyone will be back

Mini high bankers were offered for sale for \$80.00 with a pump and \$50.00 without a pump

Mark will publish a list of our equipment for members to the July newsletter

Starter paydirt bags are available for \$8.00

If you are going to our claims please bring a trash bag and report what you find

Rick Beehler reported out on the Polka Dot mine outing

Volunteers are needed for the July 18th Longview library education outing

The bingo bus trip was moved to June 30th

There is a sign in sheet for the 8/4 picnic

There will be a July outing at Daybreak TBD

GPAA kits are available, if you join on-line please list the Vancouver chapter in order for us to get points

We need help with the following positions:

Sargent at arms

Raffle

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

Assistant Secretary

Outing Leads

Raffle tickets are available for sale at \$1.00 ea or 6 for \$5.00

The June education was Steve Lewin and Bill Adams on the importance of carrying the gold and fish book and classifying

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

Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal  
Pickup

Topside Mining

Northwest Detector Sales  
503-936-1443

9 Cent Color Copies  
360-896-7220

Creekside Prospecting

Roaring Camp  
209 296-4100

Whites Metal Detectors  
1-800-547-6911

Armadillo Mining

Spin it Off

Chinook Winds Casino & Resort

Fossickers

Thrive Life

Quick Badge

Danas classic Flowers and  
Gifts

McCord's Vancouver Toyota

Danner Boots  
877-432-6637

Danas Classic Hair Supply

AKAU Lodge  
760-500-1329

Lost Adams  
541-340-0931

Packwood Prospecting and  
Mining Supply

American Mining Supply

Designs of all kinds  
360-892-5597

Nayhely's Place  
360-571-7088

The Gold Lab

Gold Getter

Wilson Brothers

Avon Products—Bug Guard  
971-212-5996

AAA Precious Metals  
503-253-8591

Sportsman's Warehouse  
360 604-8000

Oregon Treasure Trail Society

Pro Caliber

Please support these vendors as they support us with contributions and in many cases discounts. We will be doing interviews with many of them so we can get to know a little more about them.