



SWWGP Newsletter October 2023

Next Bleeding Oct. 8th 2:00

Presidents Message

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We are fast approaching the end of the year. We have had a good year. Several outings, a couple of fund raisers and information hand out opportunities. Our treasury in is good shape, a supply of prizes, most all committee positions are filled.

Let's keep things on a roll and set up for a good year next year. Elections will be over soon and we will move forward. We will be tweaking our bi-laws soon.





GARAGE SALE

We still need some more folks to help out at the Nov.4th, Sat. garage sale at the Clark County fair-grounds. This is a one day event. We need panners, and tear down people the most.

We give out lots of information about the chapter and gold mining, teach panning, and make a little money.

Please sign up at the membership table. We will pay for your entry and parking for those of you who are working the booth. You will have plenty of time to enjoy the sale and maybe find some bargains too.

Contact Debbie W with any questions.



SKOOKUM GOLD CAMP

David Jones will be leading an outing to the Skookum gold camp. Printed info at the membership table. Contact Dave for info, details.



BI-LAW COMMITTEE

We would like to have some more member on the bi-law committee to suggest adjustments to our current bi-laws. Those suggestions will then be presented to the chapter for discussion and a vote on any changes.

Biden plan would overhaul 151-year-old mining law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is recommending changes to a 151-year-old law that governs mining for copper, gold and other minerals on U.S.-owned lands, including making people with claims and patents for the first time pay royalties on what they extract.

Their plan is to eliminate claims and patents on properties and force everyone to lease the properties (at an undetermined amount at this time) from the Federal Government in order to charge a tax up to 8% on **ALL** materials removed.

It is also being recommended that the SMW be entirely removed. The SMW is the waiver we receive for improvements to the claims.

These groups argue that eliminating the SMW would disincentivize unnecessary ground disturbance while reducing administrative costs. Eliminating the SMW would also avoid the need to adjust waiver requirements and maintenance fees in tandem.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN





3 MONTH RAFFLE

OUR NEW 3 MONTH RAFFLE PRIZES ARE:

Gold Piece

Gold Rush Nugget Bucket

Drop riffle sluice donated by Dave Urick family

X stream pro system

Railroad spike creation by Jeanne Geig and 2 pay dirt bags donated by Clarence

Beerman gold prospecting.



ELECTIONS

The following position are open: Vice President, Treasurer, and 5 board positions. You need to declare you intent to run for a position no later than Oct. 31, 2023. No later entries or write in's since the Secretary needs to verify eligibility. To be eligible you need to be a member for at least 6 months or more, an active member and in good standing with the chapter.

To be an active you must have attended 3 meetings, outings, or activities, any combination of, within the last calendar year.

Vice and President currently need to be a gpaa member or willing to join immediately. All terms are for 2 years.

Please let Debbie W and/ or Mark know you want to run for a position. Email, in person, or text is best.

Our election committee will oversee and validate the election. Any questions talk to Debbie W. Contact Debbie W. to help out and with any suggestions or questions.

Current candidates:

Vice President Abraham Escobdo---(jeff is retiring)

Treasure rMike (Michelle) Quackenbush current

Board:

All current

Tammy Binford

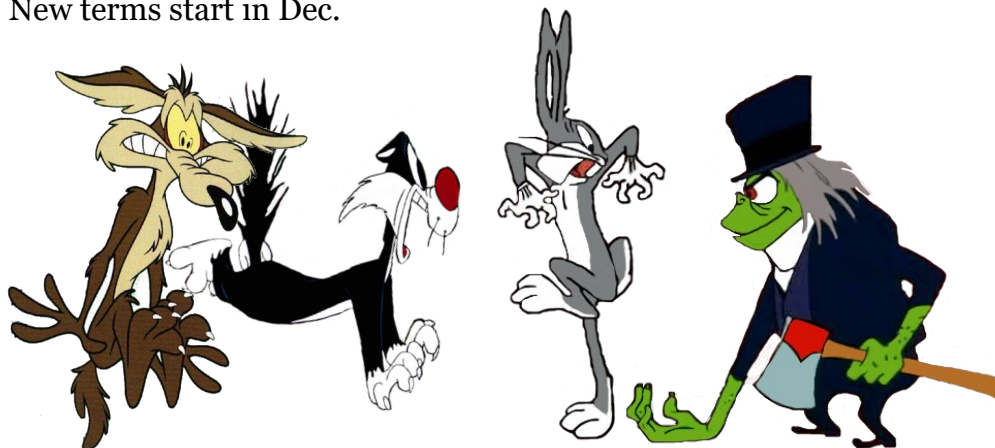
Preston Griffin

Jeanne Geig

Charlie Hord

Van Hord

New terms start in Dec.



Holiday Celebration

This year instead of a dinner, we are having a desert buffet. This is a great opportunity for you to bring and share a favorite desert. Please list ingredients that someone might be allergic to. I.E. nuts, chocolate, etc. If you would like to provide a recipe that would be great.

The chapter will provide dinnerware, coffee, water, ice cream, desert topping and?



We had a great picnic. The weather was great, lots of food, fun, and prizes. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up, and to all of you who brought pop ups and tables.

We welcomed some new members and drew our three month raffle winners.

- Gold piece---Toni Fest
- Gold cube ---Rick Beehler
- Chinook Winds --- Jan Hurtubise
- Nugget bucket---Dave Jones
- Clock ---Lisa Young

Thank you to all who buy raffle tickets. Proceeds go to support the chapter.



SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to Dave Jones who has been taking new folks under his wing and helping them out with panning skills.



EDUCATION

Mark will be giving us info on some upcoming bills he is researching.



NEW BLOG: Be a Parks S.T.E.W.A.R.D

From dinosaur fossils to 19th century multi-tools, our state parks are home to many natural and cultural treasures. Most are housed in our Collections department or interpretive centers. They may be used for research or become part of kits that visit schools, libraries and museums.

It can be ridiculously cool to find such objects but, handled improperly, they can crumble or rot (like this mammoth tooth, pictured above left when found, and above right after months of improper care, before it was turned in to State Parks).

We are responsible for protecting these resources – and you can help!

“But how?” you might ask...

[Learn to become a S.T.E.W.A.R.D of parks in our latest blog posting!](#)



Let the Ghoul times Roll

DOWNIEVILLE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH DAYS 2023 AS TOLD BY DAVID CONTI

On Wednesday August 9th, my wife and I made the drive to Downieville, CA. It was over a 12 hour drive which included a couple of stops. At one point it felt like we would never get there. I was told by Josh Reinke (the event organizer and owner of the mining journal magazine), that we might want to top off our fuel tank in Camptonville, the last place to get gas as Downieville does not have a gas station. We stayed at a restored Motel along the Downie river that I had booked well in advance of the event. There are several campgrounds on the way there along highway 49 as well as another motel and airbnb houses people rented and I believe another campground a few miles past the town of Downieville. We got there a couple days early before the main weekend part of the gold show. I spent the first two to three days working under a single lane bridge in town as it was easy access and shaded. Due to the event, open mining was available to anyone that paid the \$25 admission and received a wrist band. Downieville is a very small mountain town where the north fork of Yuba and the Downie rivers meet. The town founded in 1849 still has that western movie set feel with wood boardwalks and two story storefronts with spindle railings on the balconies above. This town is a huge mountain bike town with tons of trails so people are on bikes all over town. Also, Downieville is very dog friendly. A few small shops, the wonderful local museum, a couple of bars, a coffee and ice cream shop and an awesome hardware store (the kind with one of everything in it). There is an authentic Mexican restaurant, a pizza place, and three wonderful food carts for food options. No real grocery store in town, but there is a limited convenience store. So bring your own food if you choose to do so. The gold show actually had great attendance. Josh told me well over 600 wrist bands were handed out over the duration of the event. They sold raffle tickets with a drawing every two hours and you had to be present to win so that kept folks coming and going. Dave Urick from Columbia River Mining as well as Mike Ping with Gold Cube, Cash Best with Gold N Sand, Keene Engineering's Mark Keene was there and many others selling everything for prospecting. Books, Jewelry, metal detectors, gold nuggets and more. The PLP (public lands for people) had a huge presence there with their main annual raffle drawing on Sunday afternoon. On Saturday evening, a group of local town people closed the main street and were dressed in the old time era clothing and performed a gunfight with loud movie type cap guns. It drew a nice crowd and was a free show. The last couple of days, I crossed the river, and went to a different spot to prospect. I have never worked in bedrock like they had there. Nice smooth little bowls. I found another area as well with more overburden that had a good rusty layer with a layer of gray/blue, stinky clay or decomposing layer on top of bedrock. I always find the best gold on the last day or two of my mining trips, it never fails. There was at least two-three Gold prospecting clubs with members at the gold rush days. I believe the whole event was a success and it will be

Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Assistant Secretary	Van Meter Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
Treasurer	Deana Yoakum		deana3325@gmail.com
Assistant Treasurer	Michele Quackenbush		quacky@pacifier.com
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
	Maurine Koppi	3609079295	koppi@comcast.net
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Tammy Binford	503-766-7814	kaycbear99@gmail.com
	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhounstool1966@yahoo.com
	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net
	Van Meter Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
Claims Chair	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
State Director (WA)	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Committees / Chairs	Appointed by chapter President		
Education	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
Equipment Manager	Don Spillman	360-773-8708	Golddigger357@outlook.com
Fundraising Coordi-	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant			
Hospitality	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant			
Picnic, Holiday Din-	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Librarian	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Membership	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhound-
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing Coordinator			
Safety Officer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	bettyerickson13@yahoo.com
Sargent at Arms	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
Sunshine			
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net
Historian	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant			
Gold Buyer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
PayDirt	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.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.

GPAA Points			
Name Tags	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Awards	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Picnic and Holiday	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant			
Facebook	Rick B		
Assistant			
Raffle	Kerry Wookdridge		
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Chapter Store	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Highway 99 STE G Vancouver WA 98665			

Links

Website: 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/>

GPAA <https://www.goldprospectors.org/>

[HPA application process.](#)

<http://mylandmatters.com/>

FACEBOOK EDUCATION LINKS HERE

<https://www.facebook.co/SWwashingtonGoldProspectors>

Let Mark know if you have something that you would like to buy, sell or trade to post in the newsletter..



Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.

Designs of all kinds 360-892-5597	McCord's Vancouver Toyota	AKAU Lodge 760-500-1329
AAA Precious Metals	Creekside Prospecting	Roaring Camp
Whites Metal Detectors 1-800-547-6911	Armadillo Mining	Spin it Off
Chinook Winds Casino & Resort	Fossickers	The Gold Lab
Quick Badge	Gold Getter	Northwest Detector Sales 503-936-1443
Danner Boots 877-432-6637	Danas Classic Hair Supply	Oregon Treasure Trail Society
Lost Adams 541-340-0931	Packwood Prospecting and Mining Supply	American Mining Supply
Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup	Topside Mining	

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.

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Claim Visit Record

Return this slip to Ron Koppi or Debbie Witcher

On (Date) _____ visited the claims

I did general maintenance, _____ anything else _____

Carried out trash _____, Filled in some holes _____

Panning/Mining _____, Did you find any gold? _____

Was anyone else on the claim(s)? _____

Who else was with you? List all names _____

Have them sign as well: _____

