

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors January 2026

Next Meeting January 11th 2:00, Board Meeting 12:30



JANUARY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2025 closes and we usher in 2026 I reflect on all we have accomplished and the chapter's growth. This year we have collected food, pet food, diapers, blankets and warm clothing for our community and monies for Meals on Wheels. We have taught panning and educated the public at several community events. We have visited agate mines, museums, and many mining trips to name a few activities. You are a great group of people who I continue to be proud to represent as your Chapter President. Thank you to each and every one of you who have help out and continue to support the chapter. Together I am confident we will make 2026 an even better year.

See you at the meeting!!!!

Your President,
Debbie W.

LAST CHANCE

End of January 2026 will be the last chance to sign up to ride in the van to the sapphire mines in Montana. You must commit to the shared van by the end of the month. This is on a first come, first service basis as space is limited.

If you are driving yourself or a ride share, we still need you to sign up on the participation list so we can make reservations for the whole group.

MEET DOWNSTAIRS

For the January and February 2026 meetings, we will meet downstairs. The February meeting is also SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, and it has been requested again that we have a shortened meeting so folks can attend parties and watch the game.

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR COOS BAY

If you know a business etc. who would be willing to help provide funds to buy gold for the kids to pan at the May Kids Day, please see Debbie W. as soon as possible. We need a total of \$1800. We are a non-profit, so all donations are tax deductible. Debbie W. has the forms.

We also have a signup sheet for those willing to go to Coos Bay to teach the kids how to gold pan.

Please sign up if you can go May 2 – 3, 2026.



JOIN MINNIHAHA GRANGE

The Grange needs members. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm. Meetings are about 1 to 2 hours. Yearly dues are \$55.

Our grange supports community events as well as a youth camp, etc. Please remember that because the grange exists our gold chapter has a reasonably priced meeting place. There are a lot of perks for being a member.

Please see Debbie W., Charlie H. or Dennis W. for questions.

MEALS ON WHEELS

We received a very nice "Thank You" from the Meals on Wheels folks thanking us for our donation. We collected \$330 to give them. Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

MINERS RAFFLE

Prizes are:

.09 Gold Piece

Metal Detector

Stream Sluice

Pan Set includes 14", 11" and large Gold Claw

5th prize to be determined

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Winners will be drawn at the April 2026 meeting. You need not be present to win. Please be sure your name is legible and a phone number is on the ticket or it will be discarded. Proceeds help to support the Chapter.

SIGN UP SHEETS

The following signup sheets are available:

Parkersville (date to follow)

Coos Bay Kids, May 2 – 3, 2026 possibly Lawson Bar

Sapphire Mine, etc., June 25 – 28, 2026

Sapphire Mine – Van trip only, June 25 – 28, 2026

Amboy Territorial Days, July 10 – 12, 2026

Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	J. T. Buck	360-210-8039	jtbuckgolddigger@gmail.com
Secretary	Van Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
Treasurer	Mike Quackenbush	360-608-5345	quacky@pacifier.com
Assistant Treasurer			
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Charlie Hord	360-910-8414	batray@comcast.net
	Mike Kersteter	360-852-6381	
	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net
	Van Meter Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
	Lisa Young	503-260-2698	Lbw.young@gmail.com
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			
Equipment Manager	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcasr.net
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/Name Tags	Queenie Garden	360-839-4802	sharonmgarden@gmail.com
Membership	Lisa Young	503-260-2698	Lbw.young@gmail.com
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing Coordinator	Jamie Louie	971-212-5664	jamlou8@comcast.net
Assistant	J T Buck	360-210-8039	jtbuckgolddigger@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Preston Griffin	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
Sargent at Arms	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
Sunshine	Ann Erickson	360-260-3225	annerickson5755@comcast.net
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net

Historian			
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	Queenie Garden		
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	J.T. Buck	360-210-8039	jtbuckgolddigger@gmail.com
Assistant			
Raffle	Tammy Binford	503-766-7814	kaycbear99@gmail.com
Assistant	Charlie Hord	360-910-8414	batray@comcast.net
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	J T Buck	360-210-8039	jtbuckgolddigger@gmail.com
Chapter Store	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com

Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Highway 99 STE G Vancouver WA 98665

Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Hwy 99 Ste. G Vancouver WA 98665

Links

Website: www.SWWGoldProspectors.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southwestwashingtongoldprospectors>

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

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 503-253-8591	Creekside Prospecting	Roaring Camp 209 296-4100
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	
Prospectors Treasure Trove Dan Rouse 971-708-8699 11572 SW Pacific Hwy, Tigard, OR		

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.