

# The Prospector



Official Newsletter of the GPAA Portland Chapter

Volume 7 Issue 12

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

Aug, 2007

## Next Chapter Meeting:

Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
at the  
Milwaukie, Oregon  
Grange Hall  
12015 S.E. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Meeting Begins at  
1:30PM.



## DATES TO REMEMBER...

Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Chapter Meeting

Aug 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Rice Museum

Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007  
Gold Panning Class for the  
Kings Family Kids.

Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Spaghetti Feed & Silent  
Auction at the Estacada  
Community Center

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Chapter Meeting

Please submit Newsletter  
Reports before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday  
of each Month.



## From the Presidents Desk

How many of you are planning on being at the Estacada Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction at 5pm on September 15? Tickets are \$10 for the dinner and the hall will only hold 100 people so order your tickets now!

The Royal Family Kid's Camp Gold Panning training is on Tuesday the 21st from 4:30PM to 5:30PM and 6PM to 7PM and there 32 kids. It is at the Canby Grove Convention Center 7501 S. Knights Bridge Rd. Canby. Last Sunday after noon I met with 14 of the Councilors showed them how to pan, 3 did very good and 3 did not. Right now there are 4 volunteers, including me. I apologize for the short notice. I have been swamped this last month. Can you help?

On the last page you will see that I am restricting access the storing unit. This is some thing I have not wanted to do but we have equipment that has been remover, not signed out and never returned, returned very dirty. Then when I signed out 3 cleanup pan to train the Councilors for the Royal Family Kid's Camp one of the pans had bubblegum and oil in it! So by the time you read this I will have the keys that were at the office. I am very sorry to have to do this!

Stay safe, stay well and we will see you at the next meeting.

Sincerely

Richard Ruth

## Secretary's Report for meeting dated July 15, 2007<sup>th</sup>

Meeting opened 1:33 pm  
Milwaukie Grange Hall

### CALL TO ORDER

**Richard Ruth (Club President)** welcomed attendees & visitors. 45 total, 0 new.

June meeting minutes in newsletter accepted as posted.

**Bev Parker (Treasurer)** not present, Richard Ruth read Treasure's Report. Report accepted as read, (see report)

### REPORTS

**Dave Chiara (Claims Mgr.)**. Club Membership Cards – It takes 3 functions (a combination of monthly meetings and / or outings to qualify for membership). Be sure and sign in at each meeting (legibly, please). Books for new members are \$5.00

**Robert Wedding (GPAA Claims Mgr.)** – not present. Richard talked about filing the GPAA form out and getting it in (*if you use a GPAA site*).

**Eli Nicholson (Outings)** – Not Present. *Check the new schedule (see handout). Rice Museum exhibit is August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> See Ed Eckersley. GPAA Blue Bucket is August 9 – 12. Penny and Chris's claims (gold and crystal) will be open August 4 – 8. Eli is working on getting a date set up for Minor's Meadow in 2008 (during dredging season).*

**Preston Griffin (Safety)** – Drink plenty of water. Also, ticks are bad this year, use a spay.

**Ken Burns (Equipment Mgr.)** – Not Present. – Dave talked with Ken – one high banker and motor/pump, one still in repair. *See new equipment list in your club update. If you need something equipment wise – talk with Ken or give him a call (503-631-3071). Our equipment is in unit # 46 and the key is in the office. Need to show your membership card when getting the key. Please return key to office when done. The equipment is at "The Storage Place of Clackamas" 157000 SE McKinley Ave (off I-205). It has been noted that the equipment is not coming back in "good shape" and there may be some changes coming as to how equipment is checked out.*

## Secretary's Report...

**Curt Barnes (Website)** – Not here this meeting. *The web site is up and running (working very well).*

*Editor's note: please visit site*

[www.PortlandGoldProspectors.org](http://www.PortlandGoldProspectors.org) and see for yourself. *We would like to see more folks using / commenting / responding in the forum – it's there for your use. Curt has put some "money making ideas" on the website for anyone interested in helping the club finances.*

**Newsletter - (Richard Ruth)** should be out the Friday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month meeting.

### Old Business

**Richard Ruth** – Royal Family Kid's Camp – Tuesday Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> – Volunteers teach kids to pan. *See Richard if you're interested in helping.*

**Richard Ruth** – Spaghetti Feed & Silent Auction at the Estacada Community Center – Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> and at the Milwaukie Grange Hall – Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> (after our club meeting) Need volunteers & spaghetti sauce.

**Clarence Mohr** – talked about equipment & using a list to make sure when you go out, you have all the right equipment with you. Clarence also talked about dry washing and tips on what to make sure you have with you. When using a dredge, be sure to have a flusher valve.

**Penny & Chris's claim** – Penny said the Forest Service has closed Baker County forests/camp grounds due to extraordinary dry conditions (and no water at Blue Buckets – ponds are dried up). **Trip scheduled August 4<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup> CANCELLED.**

**Penny or Jeanne** – club hats (baseball type) \$10, mugs \$6, T-shirts \$8, sweat shirts \$12 each, bigger sizes are more. Buckets (5gal @ \$2 and square @ \$1). Remember all profits go to the club. *If anybody wants to bring in buckets for club sale, please bring on meeting day.*

**Cook Books** – we're still looking for recipes for the Montana GPAA folks (to buy a new claim). Please send them in to Jeanne or Richard. Also, our club will do a book later this fall (for sale too).

## New Business

**Penny** talked about sun stones at Sunstone mines. **A 1093 carat sunstone was found while they were there. The biggest one ever found.** Also talked about Opals in Nevada, at the rainbow and peacock mines

For those of you who renew your GPAA memberships on an annual basis – please let them know you are a member of this club and we'll get credit for it.

***Dave Rutan updated us on the Little Chetco claim and camp building progress.***

**Richard Ruth's** mother **Dorothy Ruth** made and donated ceramic figurines. Thank you.

Next meeting scheduled for August 19th 1:30 p.m. at the Milwaukie Grange Hall.

No Raffle – Eli wasn't present.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm. No board meeting, not enough officers or board members present.

## GPAA Membership Renewal Credits

Buzzard Special	17.50
1 Year Mining Guide Renewal	12.50
2 Year Mining Guide Renewal	20.00
3 Year Mining Guide Renewal	25.00
Gold Life Membership	25.00
LDMA Membership	50.00
Alaska Sign - Ups	50.00.

The 2 & 3 yr. Mining Guide renewals credits are adjusted because the member is getting a reduced price.

For Alaska sign-up information, please contact the Alaska Administrator.

These credits are used to buy things from the GPAA Catalog. If you do not have a GPAA Catalog, you can go to <http://www.goldprospectors.org/catalog/index.asp?PageName=Catalog> to see what all they have. If there is anything in the catalog that you would like to have for the raffle Please let one of the board members know .

Richard

### Estacada

#### Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction

**Estacada Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction is slated for 5pm on September 15 at the Estacada Community Center 200 SW Club House Dr. With \$10 for dinner for the first 100 people. We are only serving enough for 100. Please see Richard Ruth to order your tickets.**

## “BUTTIN IN” WITH Gold Sally’s TRIVIA



**Where did Gold Miners Convert their Gold Dust into “the coin of the Realm”?**

U.S. Mint.

### Must Sell

**Keene High Banker  
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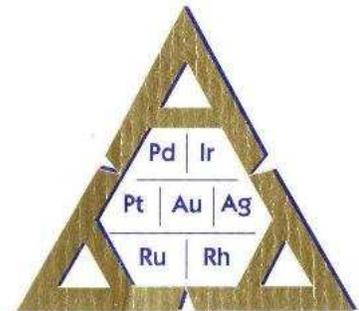
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**This is interesting information the club members should be informed about.**

## **A brief chronological history of (small-scale) mining regulations in Washington State and the involvement of Resources Coalition in an attempt to make substantive changes.**

Mineral prospecting in Washington State is regulated by the hydraulic code under state law. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) administers it. The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) specifically list these activities and the rules a person must follow when panning, sluicing, highbanking, suction dredging and other mining activities. In addition, they categorize and enforce penalties for non-compliance.

Since the 1980's, small-scale mineral prospecting (never called recreational prospecting!) has been permitted with a 'programmatically pamphlet HPA (Hydraulic Project Approval)' titled the 'Gold and Fish' (G&F) pamphlet. This was your free permit to prospect.

Every few years this pamphlet rule book was updated. The mining community was contacted and [supposedly] involved with reviewing and revising the rules. In 1997-1999 this process produced a nightmare. A pamphlet that was almost incomprehensible (in fact contradictory).

The rules in this latest version were dreadful:

\*All excavations (panning, sluicing, dredging) must be separated by 200'

\*An exclusionary zone was created, from the high water line 200' landward, where absolutely no activity was tolerated. Including metal detecting. Imagine what this did to existing mining claims.

\*Panning, sluicing and other non-motorized activities were tightly regulated. In fact, the G&F pamphlet permit was required to be on site for these and other activities.

\*Excavations must be refilled after 16 hours.

\*If freshwater mussels are encountered, you must move 200' away.

\*Absolutely no prospecting of any kind allowed on the states' salt-water beaches.

And many more. Some rules in the Gold & Fish pamphlet were so vague as to be interpreted by enforcement to their advantage.

Under Washington State law, the penalty for any small-scale mining infraction is a 'gross-misdemeanor'. **This is literally a year in jail and a \$5000.00 fine, for each citation.** It was not uncommon to see several citations for each operation.

Shortly after the new G&F was published and became rule, Resources Coalition was formed. Merle Stout (now deceased) organized and focused a coalition of miners, prospecting clubs and others to work cohesively in changing these onerous regulations.

For the next 8 years, a core group within Resources Coalition made it their mission to make these changes. Contacting state and federal legislators, working with state regulators, education, positive environmental activities (clean stream concept), outreach to schools, mercury collection, and anything positive to small-scale mining.

In 2002, Resources Coalition kicked off a mercury collection effort at the Dredge Earth First (DEF) Rally in Myrtle Creek, Oregon. Working with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), a drop-off point at the rally was established and several pounds of elemental mercury were collected. This endeavor has continued over the years with the latest effort having 70 pounds being turned in at the 2007 Washington Prospecting and Mining Assn. (WPMA) Gold Show in Monroe, WA. The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) has recognized this as the 'only' positive private effort to significantly remove mercury from the environment.

After attending the 2001-2002 DEF rallies in Oregon, Resources Coalition initiated its first (2003) gold mining rally in Oroville, WA. State regulatory agencies were unsure as to what permits were required of this event and offered little assistance. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stepped in, without warning, and stopped this event, on the morning it opened. In fact prohibiting 'all' small-scale mining in the entire state.

In December 2003, a contingent of miners testified to a state Senate committee. DNR attempted to defend their actions and were severely reprimanded.

Early in 2004, Resources Coalition worked with state legislators to pass a bill into law creating 'mineral trespass' penalties. It went to the Governor without one dissenting vote.

### **RCW 77.44.330**

*(1) A person commits the crime of mineral trespass if the person intentionally and without the permission of the claim holder or person conducting the mining operation:*

*(a) Interferes with a lawful mining operation or stops, or causes to be stopped, a lawful mining operation;*

*(b) Enters a mining claim posted as required in chapter 78.08 RCW and disturbs, removes, or attempts to remove any mineral from the claim site;*

(c) *Tampers with or disturbs a flume, rocker box, bedrock sluice, sluice box, dredge, quartz mill, or other mining equipment at a posted mining claim; or*

(d) *Defaces a location stake, side post, corner post, landmark, monument, or posted written notice within a posted mining claim.*

(2) *Mineral trespass is a class C felony.*

In 2004 the Rally's name was changed to NW Miners Rally, and continues today.

After several months and 17 permits (state and federal) the NW Miners Rally held a 5-day event in 2004. The first 2 days were specifically dedicated to in-water mining activities for regulators. Lunches were provided, hands-on training with suction dredges, highbankers, panning and sluicing were some of the planned events. It attracted over 29 individuals from state and federal agencies, including the tribes. Most had never seen a suction dredge. It was a success and continues to pay dividends today.

The rallies are well attended. Several hundred attendees and numerous vendors and speakers make this a premier event.

During 2004, with the assistance and direction of Public Lands for the People (PLP), the 'Washington Miners Council' was initiated to specifically address new regulations for small-scale mining. Most miners in the state were contacted for their input.

The summer of 2004 witnessed a cooperative effort between the Resources Coalition and Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) to conduct a study involving suction dredging and heavy metal suspension and turbidity (NPDES). This study is a conclusive answer.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0503007.html>

*"Results showed that the metals concentrations discharged from small-scale gold dredges are not a significant toxicity concern for aquatic life in the Similkameen River. Although this activity will exacerbate exceedances of arsenic human health criteria, it would take very large numbers of dredges to effect a 10% change in the river's arsenic levels, even at low-flow conditions."*

Spring 2005 brought a new regional manager to WDFW. She promptly declared the NW Miners Rally be removed from Oroville and from that entire county. This action was perceived as a threat by local state legislators, the mayor of Oroville and the county Commissioners. At a WDFW Commission hearing, several testified and numerous letters were received. The Rally stayed.

During the summer of 2005, just prior to that year's Rally, over 20 citations were issued to miners in the vicinity by WDFW enforcement. Regulation interpretation was again used as a basis for 'creating' infractions.

The 2005 and 2006 NW Miners Rallies had their share of permitting issues. Close attention by rally organizers kept the regulators in line and permits timely. These rallies were ultimately very successful.

Bedrock Prospecting Club, which is a substantive supporter and participant in Resources Coalition, hosts a yearly workshop to provide in-water, hands-on mining for any legislator, regulator or interested individual. Many have taken advantage. Again, this has paid dividends.

Spring 2006, Resources Coalition was again approached by WDFW for assistance in conducting a study on the effects of suction dredging and freshwater mussels. We supplied expert dredge operators and dredges. This report has not been published but preliminary information is favorable.

In 2006, following suggestions from PLP, Resources Coalition and NW Miners Council created and distributed a petition to the mining community requesting the WDFW Commission begin the substantive rule-making process for small-scale mining regulations. 1300 signatures were gathered. This was a very forceful and dramatic appeal.

Shortly thereafter, the Commission did indeed initiate the 'procedure' for a new G&F pamphlet. State and federal agencies, the tribes and prospecting representatives sat down together, painstakingly worked out issues, and have drafted a proposed set of regulations. At this time, nothing has been planted in concrete. The few remaining issues hold the key to success or failure. The next step is public involvement and comment. Then the WDFW Commission will review the proposal and either adopt, modify or throw it out. There is hope the 2008 mining season will see new and improved small-scale mining regulations (opportunities) in the state of Washington.

The 2007 NW Miners Rally is scheduled for August 17-19, again in Oroville, WA.

Throughout the last several years, consistency and determination by Resources Coalition has made a difference. All avenues to change were explored and invested in. We have made mistakes, but if we hadn't tried, we would not be where we are today.

Resources Coalition

<http://www.resourcescoalition.org/>

<http://www.minersrally.org/>

Public Lands for the People

<http://www.plp2.org/>

## Board Members

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**Due to people not following the few rules we have! Access will be restricted the day this newsletter is published !!**

