



The Official Newsletter of the GPAA

# The Prospector

Volume 14 Issue 02

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

February, 2014

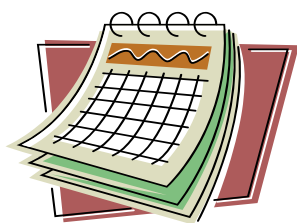
## Chapter Meeting:

February, 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

At the  
Milwaukie, Oregon  
Grange Hall  
12015 S.E. 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Meeting Begins at  
--- 1:30 ---**

## Dates to Remember...



**February, 2014**  
**1:30 PM**

## Our next meeting:

If you bring in 2 cans of food you will receive 1 ticket for our \$1.00 raffle. You can bring in up to 10 cans for a total of 5 \$1.00 tickets. We also have \$5.00 tickets available for a nugget of Gold, or better prizes.



## From The Presidents Desk

Welcome to all who joined us at our annual banquet. We had a great turnout and from what I could see - everyone had a great time (and I don't think anyone went away hungry).

My sincere thanks to Richard Ruth for serving for all the years and positions that he has held. Also, to our current officers, board members and committee folks, thank you for stepping up and sharing the load of keeping PGPI going and growing. It takes all to make this a "fun place to be". Participation by all members strengthens this organization.

At our next meeting we will go over some of the items that need to be discussed and to air some of the things that have changed and the effects on PGPI. Please make it a meeting to attend.

I look forward to the coming year with much anticipation of the events and outings we will share together. Please put on your calendars the activities that we will be holding throughout the year. Your participation is important and your presence needed.

Please feel free to let your officers and board members know what your wishes and desires are – we are here to listen and serve.

Let's make this a great year to have fun and profit by our involvement and find some gold. Even memories become golden with time.

**Sincerely,**

**David Chiara.**

# **Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.**

**Milwaukie grange Hall, 12015 SE 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Milwaukie, Oregon**

Meeting called to order by President Richard Ruth at 12:00 Noon

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

## Attendance:

84 members in attendance to the meeting.

9 visitors in attendance.

## Meeting minutes:

A **Motion** was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's report as written and published in the newsletter.

The motion was approved by the Association body.

## Treasury report:

Treasure report was read.

A **Motion** was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read.

Motion was approved.

## **Outings/ Association Claims – Ken Burns**

Working on schedule for this year's day trips. If you have any areas you would like to attend, please contact Ken.

## **Membership - Ken Burns**

New Membership cards are available for 2014. If you have attended 3 meetings, outings or events with the club you are considered a member. There are no fees required to be a member of the association.

## **Library: Joe Web**

Library was not available this month due to the annual Banquet.

**Newsletter: Bill Mutton**

The newsletter continues to grow. This past month it was 16 pages in length and is expected to be 20+ pages in next month. Keep the suggestions and articles coming and Bill will incorporate these into the newsletter.

**Rotation of the officers:**

The outgoing president Richard Ruth presided over the retiring of the outgoing officers and board members and welcomed in the new incoming board members and Officers. Afterward, Richard presented out his awards for those members who volunteered the most time and were instrumental in keeping the association running in 2013. In return, Richard was presented an award for his previous two years as President of the association.

**Banquet:**

Officers were released and the Pot Luck Banquet was kicked off.

**(Respectfully submitted by Jerry Johns, Secretary)**

**Be on my committee – Outings**

Need volunteers to help check out, select and run outing events.

**Newsletter & Emails**

**If you have not been receiving the Newsletter by Email,**

**Please email us at [portlandgpaa@aol.com](mailto:portlandgpaa@aol.com)**

**Don't forget, you can also download the Newsletter from our website.**

## **History of the Month Linn County Area**

**In Midwestern Oregon in the heart of the Willamette Valley, gold dust is washed out of the Western Cascade Mountains into the Santiam River system, where you can still pan it out today at places like Yellow Bottom Creek. Most of the main placer deposits in the area are gone, so you won't get rich off the proceeds of your panning. However, with a little bit of patience, you will eventually find gold flakes at the bottom of your pan.**

**Much of this region has already been heavily worked, so it is open to public gold prospecting apart from a few remaining claims. Public gold panning is permitted on most streams and rivers running through federal lands in Oregon which are managed by either the Bureau of Land Management or the USDA Forest Service. A detailed map to the Quartzville Mining District, which includes the Yellow Bottom region, can be found [here](#). Sweet Home, Oregon, is the gateway to the Santiam River system. The BLM runs Yellow Bottom Park, along the Quartzville Recreational Corridor about 25 miles north of Sweet Home. In addition to the 22 campsites at Yellow Bottom Campground, free camping is available at designated roadside camping areas.**

### **How to pan for gold**

**To pan for gold, you will need a proper gold pan. You can pick one up at many hardware or department stores in Oregon, or you can go to a store which specializes in mining equipment. Gold pans need to be about 2 or 3 inches deep, with sides which slope at about a 45 degree angle. Most gold pans are about a foot or so across. They can be metal or plastic, often with little ridges along the sides which are known as gold catchers.**

**Next, look for a bend in the stream where the current slows down enough for heavy gold to settle out of the water and mix with the sand. These kinds of places are called gold traps. The inside curve, or point bar, is the most likely place to discover gold in your pan. Other good places are just downstream of water obstructions, such as boulders.**

**Now that you have your location, place about a shovel's worth of sand and gravel into your pan, so that it is about 2/3 full. Tip it so that a little water gets in as well. Gently swish the water and dirt back and forth, so that the water washes the lighter sand, rocks, and dirt out of the pan away from you.**

**When you get down to just a thin layer of dark dirt along the bottom of your pan, you may see a yellow glint along the bottom or ridges of your pan. The dark layer is mostly iron and can be removed with a magnet. Any glint of yellow you see is probably gold. Let the layer dry, then remove gold flecks with tweezers and place them into a small, secure container. An empty pill container works well.**

**All that glitters is not gold. Flecks of placer gold will be at or near the bottom of your pan. Other things that sparkle are mica and iron pyrite, or fool's gold. Mica should wash out. Fool's gold can be separated out with your magnet.**

**It will probably take you several tries before you see a single fleck of real gold. However, if you are extremely lucky, you may even end up with a gold nugget.**

**Gold brought settlers to Linn County and prospectors are still welcome!**

**Gold and other minerals have played a major role in Linn County's history and there's still big opportunity for those looking for a strike.**

**At the turn of the 19th century, Quartzville, in the eastern portion of the county, was the center of a genuine gold rush, drawing many settlers to this part of the Willamette Valley. A town of 1,000 people was located in the mountains 30 miles northeast of Sweet Home, above what is now Green Peter Lake.**

**According to U.S. Mint reports, 3,938.92 ounces of gold were taken from mines in the Quartzville area in the peak year, 1896. The strike was promising, but – here's the good news for today's prospectors – it never reached the mother lode. By the early 1900s, most of the mines – such as the Jackass, Donaca Bar, Albany, Lawler, Lone Star, Red Bull and White Bull Mountain operations – had been shut down and the town of Quartzville was dying.**

**Although mines in the area were shut down because they were not profitable, the mother lode has never been found, so that gives prospectors a good reason to keep searching.**

**Remnants of Quartzville and the mines' boarded-up entrances can still be found in the region.**

**Today, nine miles of open corridor along Quartzville Creek is open to the public, particularly in the Yellowbottom area, and there is plenty of opportunity for eager gold seekers to pan and dredge along the creek bed, only a 35-minute drive from Sweet Home. Wire and pocket gold is still fairly plentiful, by gold-seekers' standards. Caution: There are some club and private claims in the area, so be careful not to trespass onto those.**

**Most of the gold found there is small – flour gold – but it's there. Warning: Although the public gold mining area in Quartzville Creek is open to anyone who wants to hunt for gold, beware that you don't stray onto one of the many private claims in the Quartzville area, usually marked with white posts with silver tape around the top. The silver tape should include the name of the claim, serial number and a basic description such as "southwest corner" and, possibly, longitude and latitude info.**

**In addition to gold, east Linn County also has an abundance of opportunities for rockhounds. For more on that, see our Rockhounding page, below this one on the pull-down menu.**

**Also of interest to prospectors is White's Electronics, makers of some of the finest metal detectors on the market, which is headquartered in Sweet Home and offers tours and a museum.**

Buckhead (early Sweet Home) citizens were watching and at first were applauding. Sweet Home's connection to gold has always been close.

Gold was discovered in this area in 1848, but it took 16 years for the prospectors to arrive. Jeremiah Driggs filed the first gold claim on Sept. 5, 1863. By 1869, 500 claims had been filed and a stamp mill and saw mill built. A very rough, unimproved road led to the mines, and the men of Linn County were eager to pack their gear into these operating mines and get rich.



Quartzville, on the Santiam River, was a flash during the booming time of gold rush in this area. The town of 1,000, in the rugged mountains 30 long miles from Sweet Home and Foster, appeared out of nowhere. Logs lay on the stump-lined streets, where no one had bothered to move them, in the way of wagons and people arriving.

Quartzville stamp mill extracted the gold from the quartz rock. Gold was the attraction all right. When the gold was gone, the town died.

The first wagon road started at Gates, between the North Santiam River and Quartzville Creek. It was a steep, rough road that allowed wagons to bring materials and supplies in for the miners' needs.

The wild town of Bryant City, which flourished for a short time during the rush, included a "red light" district. Bryant City was abandoned by 1870.

Two good placer mines working were the Jackass and Donaca Bar mines located on the lower drainage of Quartzville Creek. Other lesser mines also were operating until 1900, including the Lone Star and White Bull Mountain. Two other productive lode mines were the Albany and Lawler.

Despite its early success, it became apparent that the gold strike was not a rich one that would sustain many miners. The Santiam gold and silver mines were disappointing to all the Oregonians who had placed their faith in vast riches.

The Red Bull Mine was still sending men into its tunnels hoping for a new strike. More excitement came in the early 1900's with new machinery coming to the Red Bull and White Bull mines searching again for that big rush of gold. The U.S. Mint reports the largest output of gold in 1896 was 3,938.92 ounces from the Quartzville mines.

Lewis A. McArthur reports in his "Oregon Geographical Names" that Quartzville, Linn County, was once an important locality due to gold discoveries in the early 1860's. The place was laid out as a town in 1864 and a stamp mill built in that year. The Oregonian, optimistic about the "Santiam Mines" in the first few years of the 1860's and into 1869 turned sarcastic and called it "THE END OF A GREAT MINING SPECULATION."

*The paper reported: "A few years ago all Oregon was agog with the excitement over the supposed untold riches of the Santiam Gold and Silver Mines.*

*"Dozens, nay almost hundreds, of joint stock companies were organized. Millions of joint stock was issued, wasting heaps of bank note paper and hundreds of hands into hundreds of pockets and pulled out hundreds and thousands of dollars – thousands, which they were*



*destined never to see again, in this life. Mining schemes went up like rockets and came down like burnt sticks, and people with burnt fingers were thicker even than the burnt stocks.*

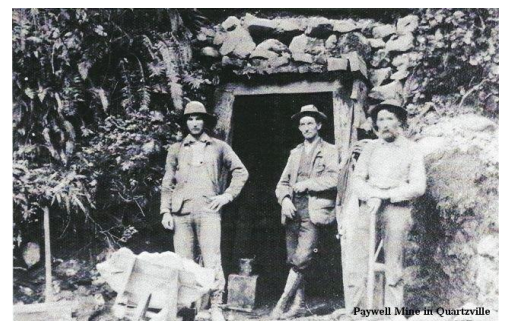
*“A host of expectations were created by Santiam discoveries; tens of thousands of dollars were expended in constructing a road, opening mines, building dwellings and in erecting a saw mill and quartz mill. The work was well done and proved expensive because great results were hoped for and no pains were spared to provide the needed means and appliances. “Santiam stock is no better than waste paper; the buildings are literally the habitations only of bats and owls and the dreary tunnels are hideous bores. They bored heavily into the gold on hand instead of pouring out the anticipated dividends, and will probably stand for centuries to come, a reminder of the past enterprises and failures. The saw mill has been transported elsewhere with more success. Yes, this was the end of the gold strike in Quartzville.”*

Much later, three brothers from the Aho family of Gresham came to the Quartzville mines, for many years toiling in the mountains and mines, lured by the same glittering metal that made this area a booming mining town. These brothers, Edward, Wayne and John were partners in mining ventures since the 1930's. They had some good assays from ore samples taken from their claims. They filed three claims: the Santiam Lily in 1933; the Silver Ridge in 1935 and finally the Relief mine.

Three tunnels were located in the same general area. The Aho's brought in a generator, a wheel barrow, mining equipment and dynamite. The assay reports didn't mean these claims would be profitable, and Gus Hiller of the Western Mining Council and a friend agreed. Hiller hiked into the mines many times with the brothers, and warned them of the dangers of mining and using dynamite.

The brothers stayed in a cabin every summer and worked their mines as years went by. Inside the tunnel, a carbide lamp lit the way. In June 1976, the brothers lit a charge of dynamite with the lamp, the fuse was short and the three men died together in an explosion while they were exploring for the gold ore that brought them back summer after summer. A sad ending of a quest for gold.

Gold has also been recovered from placer deposits. Gravel bars along the Quartzville Creek drainage and parts of the Middle Fork of the Santiam River were placered in the middle 1800's and again in the 1930's. During the Great Depression, miners using hand-placer mining equipment were able to recover enough gold to survive. During 1935, 11 mines were worked on three creeks in Linn County. That year small-scale gold miners in Oregon sold gold with a total weight of 4,021 ounces and a value of \$140,730 to bullion buyers. Miners made an average of \$1.19 a day. Five thousand ounces of silver was mined thru the years until 1980s, with 15,000 ounces of gold.

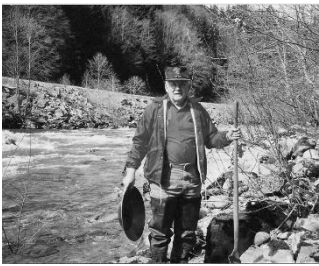


When I was a child, our families camped along the Santiam River, using gold pans to see what we could find. This was a mini-vacation and as close to a vacation as we had during the Depression years. The bonfires, the meals we cooked over the fire pit, sleeping out of doors and the mosquitoes were mostly good memories in the 1930's.

**My dad, Floyd Bryant, always salted my pan to make it more exciting when I squealed because there was a nugget there. The many local unemployed found that, with a little luck, they could spend several days at Quartzville panning and make enough to buy groceries for the week. Sometimes we did too.**

**My mom, Audrey Bryant, worked hard to make tasty meals cooked in iron skillets and large heavy metal pans during our stay. My brothers and I had beans and weenies a lot of the time. The toast we made was always covered with no-see-ums that stuck to the honey. But we ate them anyway.**

**These were great memories and we always felt the excitement of the early miners who found their fortune along this river too. The ghosts of these long-ago prospectors seemed to be hanging around for a good look at what we were doing there. But we never were afraid, just felt comfort in knowing these men had success doing long ago what we attempted too.**



**Bob Brandt enjoyed gold panning and climbing in and out of the old Quartzville mine shafts. He had gold fever, and his search for the yellow mineral was a strictly recreational prospect. Studying geology and the lay of the land gave Brandt an insight into how the veins of gold were lying along the river and also sheltered up on the shelves of the hills around the gold mining area. He filed a few claims in his day. His first, in 1947, produced gold that was in a flat, flaky form.**

**He could pan all day for \$1 to \$1.50 worth of gold. The federal government controlled the price and in the late 1940s it was \$35 an ounce.**

**Through years of enjoying the times spent running a small dredge, he accumulated many good specimens. Brandt had a fine collection of gold dust, nuggets and made some of it into bars of pure gold. In later years he donned a wet suit and used a suction dredge to search in crevices and beneath boulders. In 1976, Brandt's skill at whirling and shifting the contents of a gold pan, separating heavy gold from sand, earned him the title "state champion gold panner" at the Lane County fairgrounds.**

**His largest bonanza was a 2 1/2 ounce chunk of gold from a Merced, Calif. mining trip in the 1950's. The largest single nugget ever recorded was found in Australia. The Hand of Fate nugget weighs 58 lbs. and valued at over \$1 million. In the 50 years Brandt pursued the gold, he spent most of his weekends with his wife Sylvia and their two children, Jack and Ellen, with a picnic lunch and a hunger for touches of gold. He worked the rest of the week delivering mail for the Sweet Home Post Office, mostly via his bicycle. This outgoing man was well known in the community, serving on the school board, Boy Scout leader, volunteer fire department and also the City Council.**

**He was known in recent years as a regular at Mollie's Bakery during coffee time with friends who gathered each morning playing a guessing game and seeing who paid for the group's bill. Bob Brandt passed away in 1997 and his gold is also gone, but his many friends miss his humor and presence.**

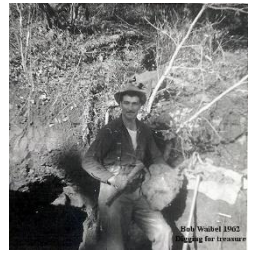
**My family was privileged to share this pastime often; it was either panning gold or digging for rocks all over this county. Our two families accumulated Holley Blue agate, Chandler Mountain carnelian, jasper, thunder eggs, geodes from around Foster**



reservoir and so many more kinds of choice rocks too. The Brandt's were our special adventuring friends. Panning no longer gives a man a day's wages, but the thrill is still there. Yes, we were some of the ones that packed a picnic lunch to eat along the banks of the Santiam River and enjoy all the things that nature bestowed. We were all Sweet Home Rock Club members.

Active prospectors continue to dredge gold from Quartzville Creek. The precious metal has not lost its charm or interest. And in 2007, some old-timers like to play the role of prospectors, though younger people wear wetsuits that are better for the cold water of the Santiam River.

A few prized one-ounce nuggets have been found recently, which encourages people to keep looking. Today's miners may use a White's Electronics gold metal detector especially made for searching for gold. These are manufactured in our town.



Visit Oregon Prospecting & Rita's Relics at 1045 Main St., where Rita sells gold pans and everything you need, and will show you how to use one. Rita also takes would-be miners to Quartzville.

Although commercial mining is over, small amounts of gold are still found in the Quartzville area; one crystallized gold specimen appeared as a small piece of lace. But seemingly no glory holes with gold nuggets are around today. Remains of the mine shafts are difficult to find, still hidden behind brush and dangerously near main roads. Beware! A sign is now erected on the site of the Bryant City-Quartzville gold rush area. Otherwise, all traces are gone of Bryant City and the buildings that once made up the community.

Oregon will never come close to matching the excitement of our neighbor to the south, California's production of precious metals.

Quartzville is a nice warm-weather drive, but really not much to see and explore. But our memories of the '49ers gold seekers remain and we listen for the call of another gold strike. And according the Bob Brandt, "modern-day panners may find gold yet; the gold moves and the river rebuilds itself."

*There's Gold in Them Thar Hills.*



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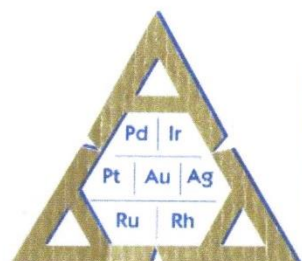
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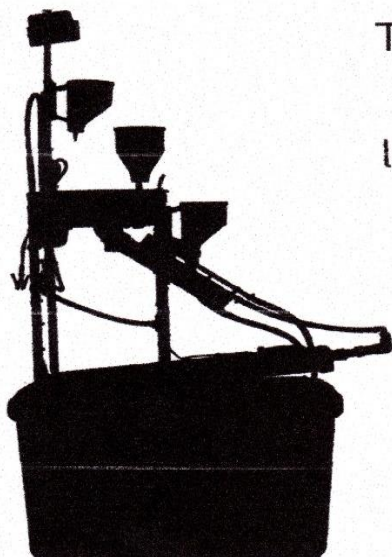


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## Western Mining Alliance is Fighting For You But They Need Our Help!!!

The WMA is an alliance of miners fighting to restore our legal mining rights. We need all miners to stand together and fight this illegal taking of mining claims and our rights to mine.

If you won't stand up now we will lose all of our rights. We are an organization founded by some of the most experienced miners alive. We are teamed with other organizations fighting to take back our rights for land use, timber management, fishing, hunting and the other activities we, as Americans pay taxes to use.

We are supported by the mining equipment manufacturers; small businessmen; political representatives and of course by our claim holders. As a member of the WMA you will receive:

- Monthly e-mail updates on the legal fight
- Flash messages on critical events
- Access to our published reports on mining districts
- Join the Watershed district and the mining district

Here's a link to more info [http://westernminingalliance.org/?page\\_id=626](http://westernminingalliance.org/?page_id=626)

### GPAA Membership Renewal Credits

	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	1 Year w/o mining guide
Buzzard Special	1,365	1,820	2,730	
GPAA Membership Renewal	1,365	1,820	2,730	1,365
Gold Life Membership		Paid in Full 20,000		Payment Plan @ Sign-up 9,500
LDMA Membership		45,500		18,200
Alaska Expedition			Once Expedition is Paid-in-Full 22,750	

**WHEN RENEWING, PLEASE WRITE A NOTE OR BY PHONE SAY YOU BELONG TO THE PORTLAND PGPI OR GPAA CHAPTER TO REQUEST THE CLUB CREDITS.**

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.

#### All members note:

Our club earns purchasing points with renewal of GPAA Membership. Please tell them you're a Portland Gold Prospector member.

**2013  
Board Members**

<b>President:</b> Dave Chiara 503-285-8553 <a href="mailto:dmchiara@comcast.net">dmchiara@comcast.net</a>	<b>Vice President:</b> Robert Burns <a href="mailto:Rdburns77@hotmail.com">Rdburns77@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b> Jerry Johns 503-649-4702 <a href="mailto:Jerry.j.johns@intel.com">Jerry.j.johns@intel.com</a>	<b>Treasurer:</b> Bev Parker 503-666-4301 <a href="mailto:bevpark@comcast.net">bevpark@comcast.net</a>

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<b>1 year term</b>	<b>2 year term</b>
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Elaine Ruth	Darlene Schafer
Bill Bench <a href="mailto:swbench@comcast.net">swbench@comcast.net</a>	Joe Weber <a href="mailto:Joeweb001@yahoo.com">Joeweb001@yahoo.com</a>

**Supporting Members**

<b>Claims and Outings:</b> Ken Burns 503-631-3071 <a href="mailto:cruisehl@yahoo.com">cruisehl@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Safety:</b> Bob Rasey 503-703-7448 <a href="mailto:casebob221@columbiacenter.org">casebob221@columbiacenter.org</a>
<b>Equipment:</b> Ken Burns 503-631-3071 <a href="mailto:cruisehl@yahoo.com">cruisehl@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Newsletter:</b> Bill Mutton <a href="mailto:muttsmining@gmail.com">muttsmining@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hospitality:</b> Helen Burns 503-631-3071 <a href="mailto:cruisehl@yahoo.com">cruisehl@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Webmaster</b> Tom Jones 503-680-9159 <a href="mailto:tom@rosewindmining.com">tom@rosewindmining.com</a>
<b>Librarian:</b> Joe Weber <a href="mailto:Joeweb001@yahoo.com">Joeweb001@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Sergeant at Arms:</b>  To Be Determined

The Printed version of this newsletter is just the most important news about  
Portland Gold Prospectors Association Meetings.

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Or go to [www.PortlandGoldProspectors.org](http://www.PortlandGoldProspectors.org) and you can view or download the whole  
Newsletter there. I really want to make it very informative and complete, but it would  
Be far too expensive to print out the longer version of the newsletter.