



The Official Newsletter of the GPAA

The Prospector

Volume 15 Issue 03

Website: www.PortlandGoldProspectors.org

March, 2015

Chapter Meeting:

March, 15th 2015

At the
Milwaukie, Oregon
Grange Hall
12015 S.E. 22nd

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

Dates to Remember...



March, 2015

Our next meeting:

On February 15th 2015

For every 2 cans of food you bring
in you can get 1 ticket for our
\$1.00 drawing up to 5 tickets



The Presidential Post

Portland Gold Prospectors
2015

March

From the President's Desk

Come join us on Sunday, March 15th. We've got lots to talk about – regarding outings and the Gold Show.

Ken and a few of our members have been out checking new areas to possibly have additional outings at. We will be going over our Outing Schedule with dates, please join us.

If you have a donation item for the Gold Show Back Pack – please bring it to this meeting – we need your contributions.

As most know, GPAA's Gold Show will be at the Expo Center in Portland this coming year (Mar 28, 29) and we're working with other local chapters to make it a great success. If you are interested in "working" the Gold Show in our Chapter booth – please see Joe Weber this meeting to let him know. He can use your help and will schedule your time. It really is a lot of fun. If you need Gold Show tickets – see Joe or another officer to get yours (you save at least \$5 off the door admission price).

If you have friends, co-workers or others interested in learning about prospecting, invite them to join us and find out if it's something they'd like to do as well.

This is a great year to be prospecting and having fun and you can profit by others involvement and even find some gold. Remember memories become golden with time.

Sincerely,

David Chiara

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

Secretary's Report Feb 15, 2015

Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd Milwaukie, OR

Meeting called to order by President Dave Chiara at 1:35 pm

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Attendance:

42 members in attendance to the meeting

3 visiting guests 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 members present.

Treasury report: Beverly Parker

The Treasury report was read by the Treasurer to the association.

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

Correspondence: Jerry Johns

The Association received a current newsletter from Eastern Oregon Mining Association which was available for review by members. Richard Ruth reported that a link has been placed on the Association website to connect to EOMA with newsletters.

Dave Chiara explained the Association also has a link for the organization "Land Matters" and Idaho House Bill 51.

Claims and Outings:

Dave Chiara discussed the upcoming events. He asked that any donations to the backpack raffle for the Oregon Gold Show should be given to Ken Burns.

➤ **Oregon Gold & Treasure Show at Expo Center March 28th, 29th**

Joe Webber, coordinator, asked for members to sign up to staff our booth for a 2 hour session Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are now available for \$5.00 each and will be \$10.00 at the event. Veterans are free.

Dave Chiara stated the Vancouver GPAA Chapter contacted several TV celebrities related to prospecting who will attend the Gold Show. Our chapter was asked for a donation towards their airfare and lodging expenses. Donations are appreciated.

Ken Burns reviewed the other events/outings

- A group event at Beverly Beach on the Oregon coast is planned for April 12th – low tide is best.
- McMinnville UFO Festival (fund raiser) similar to last year, May 15th-16th
- T.Y.Roy event date to be determined based on the availability of water for processing during the summer months. Use hand digging tools only.
- Cape Disappointment (WA) beach mining event. Ken is checking with members who have been successful in this area.
- Day Break Park (WA), planned for June 14th

Other places listed for discussion:

- Rice Museum August 2nd, 3rd
- N. Fork Santiam River (OR)
- Long Beach (WA)
- Lewisville Park (WA)

Dave Chiara asked members to suggest additional places they would like for outings.

Safety: Jim Dorning discussed things to consider when one goes outdoors for prospecting, such as beach mining. Check the expected weather; bring appropriate clothing and rain gear; take extra food and water; use smaller buckets for heavy sand; don't rush or over work.

Newsletter: Not in attendance this meeting.

Reminder there is an annual fee of \$15.00 to cover mailing costs. Otherwise the newsletter is available on the Association website.

GPAA: No update this month.

Library: Joe Webber

Books are free to check out for members. Please return books the following month. The Association now has a Facebook page with pictures and event notices. Please email your mining pictures to Joe Webber. Share with friends to let them know about our organization.

Old Business

Code of Conduct – Dave Chiara reminded members that any concerns or complaints about conduct should be brought to the attention of an officer. We thank all of the members for their pleasant interaction.

BLM and T.Y.Roy Claim

Richard Ruth discussed the maps of the T.Y.Roy claims near Baker City. Officers and directors have been working through a committee to select an area for expected work and to submit a notice level plan of operation to the Bureau of Land Management early this year. Planning is nearing completion, so once submitted we would wait for further information from B.L.M. Maps were circulated for review by members present.

Silent Auction

Dave explained the purpose of the silent auction and asked members to bring in items they can donate for auction.

Education/Speaker: Jeff Dougherty

Jeff talked about his life-long interest in prospecting and gold mining. He was employed for four years with AAA Precious Metals in Portland. Currently, Jeff is a soils reclamation and waste consultant in the Baker City area. He discussed many approaches for separating gold from other materials, i.e. hydrological process, bio-leaching, pyro-metal chemistry, and others. He estimates that approximately 99% of world-wide gold is remaining to be mined. The future of gold exploration is on the rise.

New Business

Brochure for Portland Gold Prospectors Inc: The association is seeking a volunteer to create a new flyer to advertise our organization. If you have experience in this area, please contact Dave Chiara or another officer.

Audit: - The treasury of the association is due for an annual review of 2014 entries. Volunteers were requested and Bill and Betty Bench stated they can help. Bob Burns will assist with the process of review in May. One other volunteer would be useful.

Demonstration:

A panning demo was held outdoors during the coffee break. Members had a chance to pan or ask questions of those who have good panning experience.

The winner of the Plinko split-the-pot drawing was Helen Burns. The winner of the gold nugget drawing was Melinda Dorning.

(Respectfully submitted by Melinda Dorning, Secretary)

Be on my committee

Outings See Ken Burns

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

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

www.portlandgoldprospectors.org

Article of the Month

Gold Panning Tips and Techniques

One of the reasons why gold panning is so popular is because it requires very minimal equipment to get started. As long as you have a pan, a stream and the determination to find gold, you can hop into this fun and rewarding hobby with little effort. However, to improve your odds of finding any significant amount of gold, you must know the correct panning technique. The fact is that most beginners don't know the proper way to pan, and as a result, they leave behind huge sums of valuable gold. To ensure you get the most gold possible from your panning trips, you should use the following technique listed below.

Finding a Stream or River



When you're ready to start panning, you'll need to find a stream or river that's likely to contain gold. We go over [how to choose a location for gold panning](#) on a different page of our site, and we highly recommend you read it before jumping into just any nearby stream or river. If you aren't careful, you might end up trespassing or illegally prospecting on someone else's claim, both of which are big no-nos that should be avoided. Thankfully, there are still plenty of legal areas where panning is allowed for little-to-no cost, but it's up to you to find them.

Ideally, the best place to pan for gold is on a slow-moving stream or river where there's a large rock or log on the bank for you to sit on. Trust me, your legs, knees and fit will grow weak after standing up panning for hours. Something as simple as a large rock will provide you with nature's very own chair to sit down and rest.

Now that you're ready to start panning, go look for some dirt and gravel to scoop up with your pan from the bottom of the water. One of the things I've noticed during my 10+ years of gold panning is that gold tends to settle at areas in rivers or streams where fast-moving water slows down. While you're probably eager to get in and start panning, you should first scout the waterway to look for pockets where gold and other heavy sediments may be trapped. These areas are going to be your best shot at finding placer deposits containing gold.



Filling Up Your Pan

Okay, now it's time to start filling up your pan with sand and gravel deposits (hopefully gold too) from the stream or river. To do this, take your pan and fill it about 3/4 of the way full. Some people may find this is a bit excessive, but you'll quickly learn that the more dirt and gravel you go through, the more gold you'll find; therefore, it's in your best interests to get into the habit of panning gold in a fast and efficient manner.

While you're filling the pan up, go ahead and remove any large rocks, driftwood or other materials that were accidentally scooped up. These items take up valuable space in your pan that could be used for gold-containing mineral deposits. In fact, it's not a bad idea to clear the bottom of the river or stream where you plan to scoop up gravel and dirt of any large rocks.

Uncovering Your Gold

If you ask ten different experienced gold panners what the best technique is for uncovering gold, you'll probably get ten different answers. Like most things in life, practice makes perfect, and you may develop your own technique after getting some experience under your belt. With that said, you'll need to get the basic fundamentals of panning down first. When your pan is filled about 3/4 of the way up with sand and gravel, dip it completely underneath the water and shake it around in a clockwise motion. Unless you're familiar with gold panning and prospecting, you might be wondering what purpose this serves. Well, there are a couple different reasons for this, one of which is to settle the gold on the bottom of the pan. Gold is one of the heavier metals found in sediments; therefore, it naturally settles to the bottom.

Another reason for shaking the pan while it's submerged is to remove the lighter sediments and rocks. When you shake a pan filled with gravel and sand, the lighter dirt will float to the top and hopefully wash away. In order for it to wash away, you'll need to dip it in a part of the stream or river where the current is actively moving. Don't make the mistake of trying to dip your pan in a stagnant pool of water, as the dirt and other light sediments won't wash away.

Your ultimate goal when swishing the pan back and forth is to remove everything except the gold nuggets and flakes. When there's only a couple of inches of dirt left in your pan, take it to the surface where you can dip some water in to help swirl the contents around. It may take some serious swishing to finally get there, but continue doing it and you'll eventually be left with a pile of black sand with gold mixed in. Some prospectors may use tweezers or other tools to pick out the gold during this step, but I recommend using your finger. You can pick through the black sand using your finger and move any gold you find off to the side.

Simple Gold Panning Tips:

- Bring a pair of thick water boots or waders to keep your feet dry. Even if it's a hot summer day, you probably don't want to have your feet wet the entire time you're panning.
- Keep a small glass vial on you for storing any gold flakes you come across. They may seem insignificant, but they will quickly add up in value.
- A plastic sniffer bottle can be used to suck up flakes that are too small for your fingers or tweezers to get.
- The black sand at the bottom of your band is highly magnetic, so you can use a magnet to help separate the gold from it.
- While you'll need to use some force and muscle when swishing the pan back and forth, you don't want to knock any gold out of your pan. Keep practicing until you find a happy medium where the gold is settling to the bottom and the lighter sediments are floating out.

As always check with local area authorities for rules and regulations that might apply. And always check to make sure you don't go on someone's private land or claim. Also check that you can pan or sluice in the area you chose to go to.



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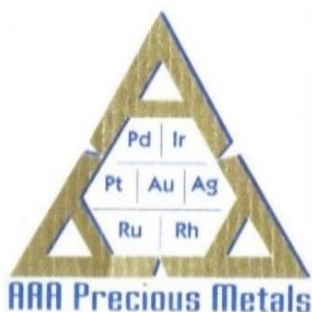
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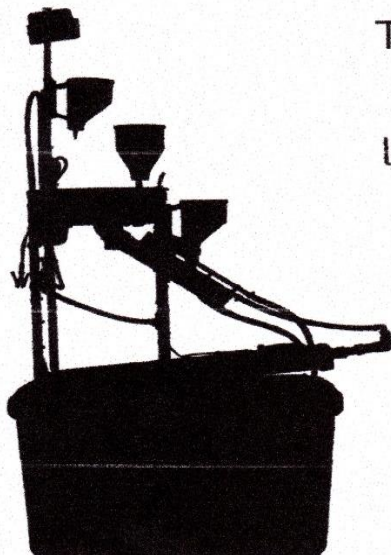


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The WMA is an alliance of miners fighting to restore our legal mining rights. We need all miners to stand together and fight this illegal taking of mining claims and our rights to mine.

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

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

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Gold Life Membership	20,000
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WHEN RENEWING, PLEASE WRITE A NOTE OR IF BY PHONE TELL THEM YOU BELONG TO THE PGPI ASSOCIATION OR THE PORTLAND GPAA CHAPTER TO REQUEST OUR ASSOCIATION'S 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 they have available. 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:

The association earns purchasing points with renewal of GPAA Membership. Please tell them you are a Portland Gold Prospector member

**2015
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Secretary: Melinda Dorning mdorning@frontier.com	Treasurer: Bev Parker 503-666-4301 bevpark@comcast.net
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The Printed version of this newsletter is just the most important news about
Portland Gold Prospectors Association Meetings.

If you would like to see the entire Newsletter you can have it Emailed to you
Or go to 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.