

# Gold Prospectors Newsletter

South West Washington Gold Prospectors Association, Portland Gold Prospectors,  
Mid Valley Prospectors.

## Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors

### Letter from the President

A new year and we are looking at a bright future

We have lots of activities scheduled and in the planning stage.

There will be seven of us attending the Las Vegas summit and Gold show this year at the end of Feb.

We are planning to bring back lots of info for the club.

Randy and myself have been asked to speak at the summit and of coarse we said yes. Should be fun. We all will be helping at the Las Vegas Gold and Treasure show.

Our Gold and Treasure planning committee is on track with preparations. We are working with the Portland and Brownsville clubs. Everyone needs to get signed up to help with show. Sign up sheets are on sign in table. We only have 2 more meetings before the show.

Looking forward to summer, and we need someone to be in charge of our annual picnic this July. There is a lot of help, Who will step up and take the lead?

My thanks to all of you who give of themselves, their time and energy to make our club successful. See you at the meeting Feb 14th at 2 o'clock. Remember the special drawings.

Debbie Witcher, President



### Special Valentine Drawing

Ladies Drawing  
Pink Pan  
Piece of gold

Gents Drawing  
Green Pan  
Piece of gold

Young miners drawing 10 and under

Stuffed animal  
Stuffed animal

6 prizes total must be present to win!

Contact Steve Lewin 1-971-212-5996 with questions

### Message from Hospitality

We thought it would be a lot of fun to have you bring your favorite Red goodie for our club meeting on Feb. 14, 2016 Sunday club meeting if you are so inclined.

Any questions call Toni Fest 36-465-2393 or e-mail [festfamily@wwest.net](mailto:festfamily@wwest.net)  
See ya there!

ToniFest Hospitality Chair

### The Big Raffle

We are still selling tickets for our 3 month (or so) raffle. may be extended depending on ticket sales. Go to the facebook page to view prizes. Must be present to win! Questions?  
Contact Steve Lewin  
1-971-212-5996

### February 2016

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## Open Position

Our club is in need of a new Secretary as Larry Hellie has resigned.

Here are some of the duties for the position:

Responsible for the documentation, reading and upkeep of all SWWGP meeting minutes. Will be held accountable for the maintenance of all club records and correspondence.

Serve as the authorized party relating to record keeping , Making sure that the records are accurate and up to par, with the exception of financial records.

Perform all duties associated with the office of Secretary of a corporation in addition to duties assigned to him/her by the President and /or Board of Directors. Additional duties include but not limited to:

Maintenance of required forms and documents, Calendar for Events, Outings and meetings,

Store GPAA chapter program formation and bi-laws master copy

Prepare club correspondence, agendas for meetings as requested by the president

Provide board meeting minutes to board members for review prior to next board meeting, Provide complete club minutes to newsletter for club members review prior to meeting.

Store club files for the minimum time frame required by club bi-laws, as well as local and federal entities

Manage and maintain all club office equipment and mail supplies

Keep track of GPAA points earned and report those points at the board meetings

Performs other duties as designated by the President and/or the Board of Directors

Documentation and upkeep of the club membership roster

Work with membership chair to provide current monthly updated roster to Sunshine person, President, and board members as requested and approved by President/and or board. This is private information and not to be used in any way for anything other than official club business.

Prepare ballots and document that all officers and board candidates are current GPAA members.

Keep a log of all current club members who are GPAA/LDMA members

Perform other duties as designated the President and/ or board of Directors

The Secretary may have an assistant with board/ club approval

Anyone who would be willing to help out and fill this position please contact Debbie W. President @ 360-695-3215 for more information .

## Newsletter

Greetings, I would like to introduce myself as your new newsletter editor. First I would like to take a moment to thank everyone in the club for the opportunity to serve in a small way by preparing the monthly newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas or articles for future editions.

Regards,  
Mark Mattila

## Pay Dirt

We will have approx. 20 bags of pay dirt at the Feb.14th meeting  
Pay dirt will ONLY be sold during the break, limit 1 bag per person first come basis.

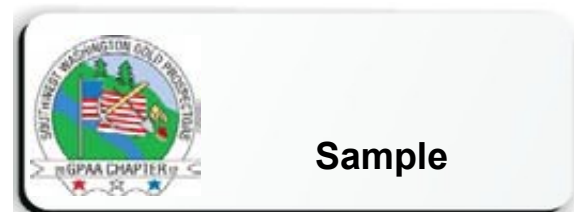
If you had dirt reserved at Christmas and have not picked it up contact Steve Lewin 1-971-212-5996

## Club Name Tags

Any club members that would like a plastic name

Tag made for them can place an order at the February meeting. Cost is 7.00 for each tag that includes up to 2 lines of engraving.

Questions? Contact David Conti  
User764554aol 360-256-0892



## Membership Committee

When you are signing in for attendance at the SWWGP meeting please be sure to verify name spelling, correct address w/zip code, e-mail address and phone number. If you are a current GPAA/ LDMA member be sure to let us know and give us your GPAA/LDMA membership number.

We are in the process of updating our records.

Thank you for you help,

Richard Pluff Jr.

503-957-6884

[magiedragon1956@hotmail.com](mailto:magiedragon1956@hotmail.com)

## Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

President	Debbie Witcher	360-635-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ken Didier	360-604-2701	ky02kid@peoplepc.com
Secretary	Vacant		
Claims Chair	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Education Chair	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Equipment Manager	Randy Harper	503-849-5109	rh82065@hotmail.com
Hospitality	The Fests	360-465-2393	famfest@wwest.net
Safety Officer	Ron Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Outings	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Sunshine	Pat Staat	360-798-9499	healingsprings@centurylink.com
T-Shirts/Clothing	Maurine Koppi		
Website Manager	Patti Long		
Newsletter Editor	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Membership Chair	Richard Pluff jr		
Library & Name Tags	Dave Conti		
Fundraising Coordinators	Steve Lewin Debbie Witcher	971-211-5996 360-635-3215	goldpan123@yahoo.com ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Historian	Vacant		
Laws & Regulations	Vacant		
Sergeant at Arms Chair	Daniel Keese		
Facebook	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
GPAA State Director Oregon & Washington	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com

## SWWGP MONTHLY MEETING

The Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors' meetings are the second Sunday of every month beginning at **2:00 pm** at:

Minnehaha Grange Hall #164  
4905 Northeast St Johns Road  
Vancouver, Washington

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods and equipment as well as hands-on demonstrations and practice. There are also outings to enjoy the pleasures of gold prospecting and the great outdoors.

Become a member of the Southwest Washington Chapter of the Gold Prospectors' Association of America. GPAA membership is not required to be a member and SWWGP membership is FREE!

For information contact: Debbie Witcher – Chapter President,  
[rh82065@hotmail.com](mailto:rh82065@hotmail.com) or 503-849-5109 or visit [www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)

## Albany Sportsman Show

Volunteers needed  
Setup Friday Feb. 19th  
Show dates Saturday Feb. 20th and Sunday Feb. 21st;  
Sign up sheets at the sign in table or contact Steve Lewin 1-971-212-5996



Welcomes the  
2016 SWWGP  
GOLD & TREASURE SHOW  
COMMITTEE!



Portland Expo Center Friday April 8, 9 & 10, 2016.

Special Member Rate of  
\*West Bldg. \$89.95 / \*East Bldg. \$84.95  
Please call hotel direct (800) 523-1193 for reservations!

Come and enjoy The Portland Inn along with our Arcade, 24-hour Convenience store, 24-hour full service restaurant,

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Portland, Oregon 97217  
[www.portlanderinn.com](http://www.portlanderinn.com)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

\*Rates are based upon single or double occupancy and does not include tax & fees.

\*Each additional adult \$10.00 + tax per day.

## Gold and Treasure Show

Gold and Treasure Show committee meeting

Our meeting was held as announced and scheduled on the 24th of Feb.

We had approx. 30 members present from all three clubs.

Reports were given by the different committee chairs

Ken Didier was in contact with a few more hotels to try and get the best proposal possible. It looks like Jubitz will be our Host hotel unless Ken gets a better proposal by Tues. We need to get this information to GPAA so we can get it on the website. We need to have 20 rooms min booked to get a discount on the meet, greet, and mingle reception of Fri. April 8, 2016.

Ron Koppi reported that he spoke with Drew Carney concerning filming the show. We are working out details since Drew does not work on week-ends to see what we can do. Mike Rech will work on some leads as well. More to follow. We would like to give us leads on who to contact for local clubs and news outlets. Call Dave and Melinda 503-668-0484 or Ron Koppi 360-254-9309 with information.

Jerry Johns 503-686-9422 is going to submit some online Show notices.

We are still working on Club sponsors to help with the show. Contact Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215 or Randy Harper 503-849-5109 with information or leads.

We are expecting our posters, flyers, and tickets soon.

For the GPAA raffle we decided that we will split the days and Ken Didier will have a team on Sat the 9th and Melinda Dorning and her team will take Sun. Please contact them to get signed up to work in that area,

Steve Lewin gave a security report, he needs 10-12 persons signed up to work with him. Jim Erickson, Dale Long and Richard Ruth are currently assisting him.

We need to get volunteers signed up for set up and take down.

We created a food committee, Portland and Midvalley will sign up reps, currently from SWWGP we have Jeanne Geig, Maurine Koppi and Betty Erickson. Betty will be the lead on that committee.

Everyone was asked to secure vendors to send to GPAA for approval.

Randy Harper is working to get celebs. Her. Boo Coo is for sure. He was given a budget to work with. More to follow.

**We will need approx. 120 volunteers combined from all 3 clubs.** Shifts will be 4 hrs or less, See your prospective clubs for sign up. It is up to all of us to make this a success and have fun too.

Brownsville (midvalley) will be filling in as much as possible.

DOAK will again provide special shirts for our volunteers. Great sponsor to have on board.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 6th, 1 o'clock at the grange. As always meetings are open to all

(will let you know for the newsletter asap on hotel, should know tomorrow)

Debbie Witcher lead and liaison for gold and treasure show committee

Food co-chairs are Betty and Jeanne

## Rocker Box

After watching an episode of Kevin Hoagland's "Gold Trails", I decided to make my own rocker box.

I figured a three foot box would be just about perfect for my needs. I wanted something I could run material that had been classified to 1/4 inch.

A ten foot 1 x 10 is plenty long enough for wooden parts. Using wood glue and screws it took only a few hours to put the box together.

The top foot of the bed is ribbed rubber mat. The bottom two feet is black indoor/outdoor carpet topped by half inch expanded metal, held down with two 1/4 inch bolts with washers and wing nuts. A sheet metal plate at the top acts as a deflector, directing material to the top of the box.

Total cost of material is less than thirty dollars. I am happy with the way it turned out and can't wait to use it.

respectfully submitted by Norm Erickson



## Rock Me Corner

By Rockhound Rick

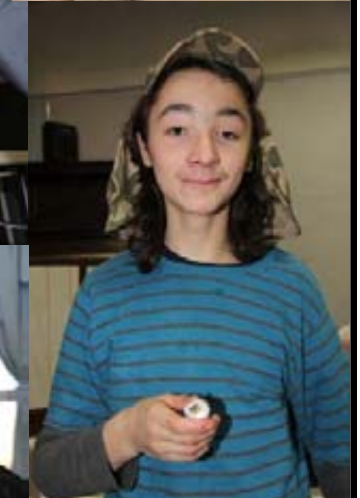
Don't Lick That Rock Coloradoite is a recently discovered crystalline mineral originating in magma veins. The mineral is a mercury telluride compound formed when mercury fuses with tellurium, another extremely toxic and rare metal. Coloradoite therefore poses a doubly toxic threat to anyone daring to handle it. The combi-



nation of the two elements poses the risk of serious poisoning if carelessly handled. If heated or chemically altered, deadly vapor and dust is released by this strange mineral. Interestingly, the mineral may be mined for its tellurium content. Tellurium minerals may combine with gold, but were previously not recognized. In a strange twist of fate, the streets of Kalgoorlie in Australia were mined in a bizarre gold rush after the realization that gold-bearing tellurides had been used to fill potholes.

Please submit any questions about rocks to [chipper49@outlook.com](mailto:chipper49@outlook.com)

## SWWGP January Raffle Winners



These are some of the lucky raffle winners from the Jan SWWGP

Monthly Meeting. The monthly raffle is a primary source of funds for the club. Your participation is appreciated whether as a delighted "nugget winner", a raffle prize contributor or as a participant who buys a lot of tickets and patiently sits and waits for your number to be called.....which never happens!!!

## MID VALLEY PROSPECTORS



### MID-VALLEY PROSPECTORS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Roy Houtz 541-990-1148  
Vice President Brian Rinehart  
Secretary/Treasurer Art Waugh  
Equipment Manager Wendy Houtz 541-990-6214  
All e-mail should be directed to [midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com](mailto:midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com)

### MID VALLEY MONTHLY MEETINGS

(No January, April, July or September 2016 Meetings)  
The Mid-Valley Gold Prospectors' meetings are the first Sunday of every month beginning at **1:30 pm.**at:  
Brownsville Fire Department,  
600 E Blakely Ave, Brownsville, OR  
(541-990-1148)  
Become a member of the Mid-Valley Chapter of the Gold Prospectors' Association of America. GPAA membership is not required to be a member and Mid-Valley member-ship is FREE! For information contact: Roy Houtz – Chapter President, [midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com](mailto:midvalleyprospectors@yahoo.com) or -990-1148 or visit [www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)

Thanks to these companies for supporting SWWGP activities. SWWGP members may advertise free by submitting a business card.



*D & K Prospecting & Detector Sales Inc. 13809 SE Division Portland, OR 1-503-761-1521*

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# The Prospector



## PRESIDENT's BLOG

### Portland Gold Prospectors Inc

Please join us at the Milwaukie Grange on February 21<sup>st</sup> - 1:30pm, 2016 for our second meeting of the year. We will be doing some panning training and practice as our meeting activity and plenty of gold bearing material from our TYROY claim will be available. Bring your snuffer bottle and keep whatever you find. We will also be discussing the upcoming Gold and Treasure Show at the Expo center (April 9—10, 2016) and will be looking for your help to make it a big success. We are expecting thousands of attendees and it should be a great event.

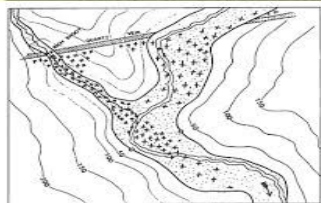
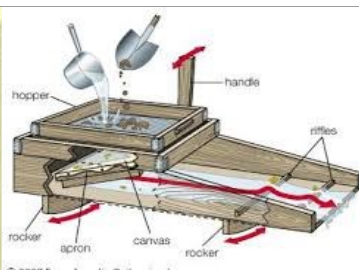
If you missed our January meeting, you missed our annual pot luck / banquet. We had a rotation of the Officers and Board Members and handed out new 2016 membership cards to those present. If you didn't get your membership card, please contact Ken Burns and he can bring your new card to the February meeting.

I would like to give a **HUGE THANK YOU** to our outgoing President Dave Chiara. Our Chapter is immensely thankful to him for his past two years of service and the great job he did. Dave isn't off the hook completely though. He will remain a Board Member for the next two years and will be a close advisor for me as I ramp up as your new PGPI chapter President for 2016—2017.

2016 is shaping up to be one heck of a year. We have created a calendar of events for the year and it is full of opportunities to learn and practice prospecting skills along with great social engagements with our sister GPAA chapters in Brownsville, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington. We hope to have record high attendance at this year's events with both current and new members.

I want to close this blog with a few words that are not original but mean a lot to me. *Being part of the GPAA and learning to prospect is not just about the gold you find, but the adventure and lifelong friendships you develop along the way.*

Jerry Johns, President—PGPI



Sources of placer gold may be hard to trace uphill because they can be complex and cover a large area. This illustration shows how a vein system might drop gold into the adjoining streams and tributaries.



## January 2016 Meeting Minutes

### Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.,

Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd, Milwaukie, OR. 97222  
Secretary's Report for January 17, 2016.

The PGPI Monthly Meeting was called to Order by President Dave Chiara at 1:30 pm.

The membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Dave Chiara.

Attendance: 55 members and guests were in attendance for meeting and Annual Banquet.

#### Approvals:

##### Meeting minutes:

The Secretary read the December Meeting minutes. The President asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as read.

##### Treasury report:

The Treasurer read the January report. The President asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as read.

#### Business:

Dave Chiara introduced Randy Harper, the Past President of the Southwest Washington Chapter and several other SWWGP members. Also in attendance was Steve Lewin, GPAA Oregon/ Washington State Director.

President's Awards: At this time President Chiara handed out awards to various members for service to the association. Dave stated that with the end of this meeting he was retiring from the office.

#### Rotation of Officers:

Jerry Johns, incoming President, gave a report on the upcoming year's outings. Looks like a fun time for all.

#### Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 for the Banquet, followed by the raffle.

Respectfully submitted,  
S. William Bench  
Acting Secretary

Next meeting: February 21, 2016, at 1:30pm

## PGPI Monthly Meeting

The Portland Gold Prospectors meetings are the third Sunday of every month beginning at 1:30 pm:

Milwaukie Grange Hall  
12015 SE 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Milwaukie, OR 97267

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. Become a member of the Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. a chapter of the Gold Prospectors of America. For information contact Jerry Johns, [jerryjohns@gmail.com](mailto:jerryjohns@gmail.com) or visit [www.portlandgoldprospectors.org](http://www.portlandgoldprospectors.org).

## 2016 Portland Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

President	Jerry Johns	503-686-9422	jerryjohns@gmail.com
Vice President	William Bench	503-708-4997	swbench@comcast.net
Secretary	Melinda Dorning		mdorning@frontier.com
Treasurer	Bev Parker	503-666-4301	bevpark@comcast.net
Claims	Ken Burns	503/631-3071	cruisehl@yahoo.com
Board Members at Large 2016-2017:			
	Richard Ruth	503-663-9087	richard.ruth5@comcast.net
	Mathew Barner	360-909-9424	matthew.barner@gmail.com
	David Chiara	503-285-8553	dmchiara@comcast.net
	Elaine Ruth	503-663-9087	richard.ruth5@comcast.net
Board Members at Large 2015-2016:			
	Clint Hurd	503-829-8553	
	Charles Foster	503-630-7669	fostercr@rconnects.com
	Robert Burns		rdburns77@hotmail.com
	Joe Weber		joeweb001@yahoo.com
Library	Joe Weber		joeweb001@yahoo.com
Safety	Bob Casey	503-703-7448	casebob221@columbiacenter.org
Hospitality	Elaine Ruth	503-663-9087	richard.ruth5@comcast.net
Webmaster	Aaron Jurgens	360-402-0771	aaron@ajcreative.net



### GOLD PANNING IS COMING

The pictures on this page sure make it hard to wait for spring so we can get back to prospecting. Be sure to check the PGPI 2016 Events Calendar below and the 2016 Oregon and Washington GPAA Chapters Calendar of Activities on Page 3.

## 2016 Events Calendar

**Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>:** Sportsman show in Albany, OR

**February 21<sup>st</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm – Panning practice (TYROY dirt available – bring your snuffer bottle and keep what you find)

**March 20<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**April 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>:** Gold Show at the Expo Center

**April 17<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**Late April or Early May (TBD):** Cape Disappointment – Joint outing; beach mining with SWWGP (Led by Rodney Chavez -we will align dates to tides as we get closer)

**May (TBD):** Work party, TYROY trip to prepare silting ponds & break through Caliche layer

**May 15<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 12<sup>th</sup>:** TYROY prospecting. Come for a few days or stay the whole two weeks. (Tentative dates based on weather and water supply at site, mechanical digging will be available.)

**June 19<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**June 25<sup>th</sup>:** Day Break Park (no motorized prospecting, but battery operated high banking, sluicing and panning ok)

**July 17<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**July 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday):** North Fork Santiam (non-motorized) prospecting. Panning, sluicing only

**July 31<sup>st</sup>:** Combined meeting/BBQ with SWWGP

**Aug 6<sup>th</sup>:** Lewisville, WA - Dredging, high banking, sluicing and panning with SWWGP

**Aug 7<sup>th</sup>:** Daybreak, WA - Dredging, high banking, sluicing and panning with SWWGP

**Aug 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>:** Yellow Jacket, WA Dredging, high banking, sluicing and panning with SWWGP

**August 21<sup>st</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**Aug 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI Garage sale. (May try a 2<sup>nd</sup> location if enough items are left after initial weekend)

**Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:** Copper Creek prospecting – dredging, high banking, panning. (One or both days)

**September 18<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**September 25<sup>th</sup>:** North Fork Santiam prospecting (Non-motorized)

**September/October (TBD):** TYROY trip – Reclamation work and opportunity to bring dirt back.

**October (TBD):** Cape Disappointment – Joint outing; beach mining with SWWGP

(Led by Rodney Chavez -we will align event date to tides as we get closer)

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**November 20<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**December 18<sup>th</sup>:** PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm



## Gold in Oregon

In Douglas County, check out the areas around Myrtle and Cow creek. Quines and Last Chance Creeks, along with the South Umpqua River and all waters that drain into it have been producers. Both placers and lodes have been worked here, along with numerous hydraulic operations.

Jackson County is a great area to prospect. Well over ½ million ounces of gold have come from this county since its initial discovery in 1852. Check out the Applegate River, along with Sterling, Palmer, Willow, and Elk Creeks. Gold can be found in all waters in this area.

Josephine County has produced plenty of gold in the past. Check out the Illinois River and Josephine Creek, along with Galace and Althouse Creek. Basically all creeks in this county have the potential for gold. Check for old placers, hydraulic pits, and lode mines.

Curry and Coos Counties also have plenty of gold. Mining on the Sixes River will yield gold, and the Oregon beaches in this area also yield very fine gold. Look for black sand deposits.

Eastern Oregon was the other major gold producer in Oregon, with nearly 2/3 of the total production coming from a few counties in the northeastern section. A gold belt covers an area roughly 100 miles long and 50 miles wide, covering much of Baker, Grant, and Union Counties. The area is covered with old gold mines, hydraulic and hand placer areas, and valleys churned up by bucket line dredging.

The eastern side of the gold belt starts along the Snake River next to the Idaho border. From the town of Huntington up to the base of the Wallowa Mountains, several mining districts contain gold. The Burnt River along Highway 84 has gold, and most major drainages that flow into it will too. Some of the lower elevation areas have limited water, so mining methods may be limited to early season when spring runoffs are at their peak.

Further to the west, the Blue Mountains are a fantastic area for prospecting. The Powder River drainage upstream from the town of Baker has had extensive mining done since the early 1860's. Bucket dredges worked the Sumpter Valley for several years, and churned up miles of valley floor. Gold can still be found in these old tailing piles. In fact, the old dredges were designed to discard larger material, so many large nuggets and specimens were lost.

Other areas to check out include the old mining towns of Granite, Bourne, Greenhorn, and Susanville. The famous Armstrong Nugget was found in Buck Gulch in Susanville. The gold belt continues westward toward John Day, Oregon. The John Day River and the headwater drainages are all worthy of exploration. The majority of creeks throughout this area will produce placer gold, and thousands of mines and prospects still have gold across Eastern Oregon. *Article provided by goldrushnuggets.com, PO Box 6794, Boise, ID 83707*

### A Recent Visit to Liberty, Washington

For a gold miner like myself, I have always been fascinated with the Liberty mining district. The most exciting thing about this area was the size of some of the gold nuggets that have been found here. Some of the nuggets found here were HUGE. During the early days, it was not uncommon for miners to unearth nuggets weighing many pounds each. The largest ever found was 70 troy ounces!

Liberty is also known for some really neat crystalline gold specimen. I have had the chance to handle quite a few of these specimens over the years, and they are really neat. They are generally very thin crystals, wires, and clusters... anywhere in size from just a few grains up to several ounces. They are really cool, and gold collectors really like them.

As much as I was interested in the area for its crystalline specimens and large gold nuggets, there is something else that has always fascinated me about the Liberty area, and that is the relative small size of the mining district.

I have prospected quite a bit in northern California, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. In most of these states, there are extensive gold districts that are quite expansive. Most gold-bearing areas will have many rivers and creeks that have good gold. And there are usually clusters of mining areas not too far away... either over the next ridge or a few miles away. Once you are in gold country, the areas that you can find gold are fairly expansive.

Not so with gold mining in Liberty, Washington. Nearly all of the gold here was mined from the placer deposits on Swauk Creek and Williams Creek, as well as a few smaller tributaries as well as some elevated river channels and bench deposits. Yes, there are certainly a few places in the surrounding area where gold can be found, but the extremely rich area that produced the large gold nuggets was really limited to just a few square miles.

As you drive into town, there is a sign welcoming you to Liberty, stating that it is the oldest mining town in the state of Washington with a bit of history about the first gold rush that occurred there.

Across the road is an old arrastra, a replica of one that was once used at a nearby mine to grind ore. There are also a few ore carts on display. Driving through town, there are some great old homesteads that appear to be original structures. Look close and you will see lots of old mining relics hidden in the weeds.

There is also a great informational sign that talks about the gold nuggets that Liberty was famous for. There was nowhere else in Washington that even came close to producing nuggets of this size.

There is still some active mining taking place here, and certainly evidence of past mining activity can still be seen along Swauk and Williams Creeks. Bucketline dredges were used along some parts of the creek, and extensive ground sluicing from years past can still be seen today.

While certainly most of the gold here was found long ago, there are still some good discoveries being made. I recall just a few seasons ago some prospectors found a couple nuggets weighing over 10 ounces each. So they are still out there! *Article provided by goldrushnuggets.com, PO Box 6794, Boise, ID 83707*

# 2016 Oregon and Washington GPAA Chapters Calendar of Activities

## February 2016

07 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 12 — Everett Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 13 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 14 — Vancouver Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 15 — Presidents Day  
 18 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 20 — Longview Chapter Monthly Meeting  
**20-21 Albany Sportsman Show**  
**20-21 Washington Prospectors—Gem & Mineral Show**

21 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting  
**27-28 — GPAA Gold & Treasure Show**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

## March 2016

06 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 11 — Everett Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 12 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 13 — Vancouver Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 13 — Daylight Savings Time Begins  
 16 — Port Orchard Monthly Meeting  
 17 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 19 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 19 — Port Orchard Outing, North Beach, Port Townsend  
 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

## April 2016

**02-03 — Resource Coalition—Gold, Gem & Treasure Show**  
**02-03 — Gold Panning demonstration—Cabela's Springfield, OR**  
**02-03 — 17th Annual Gold & Treasure Show, Coeur d'Alene, ID**

03 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 08 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 09 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
**9-10 — GPAA Gold & Treasure Show, Portland EXPO Center**  
 10 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 15, 16, 17 — Bremerton Outing—Cape Discovery State Park

**16-17 — GPAA Gold & Treasure Show, Monroe, WA**

**16-17 — ICMJ Gold Prospecting and Mining Summit, Placerville, CA**

16 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 17 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 21 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
**23-24 — North Central Washington Prospectors Gold, Treasure and More Show, Cashmere, WA**

## May 2016

01 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 07 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 08 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 08 — Mothers Day  
 13 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 15 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

19 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 19 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 21-22 — Bremerton Outing—Dungeness Forks Campground, Sequim  
 30 — Memorial Day

## June 2016

05 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 10 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 11 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
**11-12 — GPAA Gold & Treasure Show**  
**Boise, ID**

12 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 14 — Flag Day  
 16 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 18-19 — Bremerton Outing—Chapter Claims in Sequim  
 19 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 19 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 19 — Fathers Day

## July 2016

04 — Independence Day  
 08 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 09 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 10 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 16 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 17 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 21 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 31 — SWWGP/PGPI Picnic—Lewisville Park

## August 2016

01 — Outing Lewisville Park  
 07 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 12-15 — Outing Yellow Jacket Creek Randle WA  
 12 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 13 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 14 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 18 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 20 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 21 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

## September 2016

05 — Labor Day  
 09 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 10 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 11 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 15 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 17 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 18 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

## October 2016

02 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 07 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 08 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 09 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 15 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 16 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 20 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting

## November 2016

06 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting

10 — Marine Corps Birthday—(Semper Fi)  
 11 — Veterans Day  
 11 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 12 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 13 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 17 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 19 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 24 — Thanksgiving Day

## December 2016

04 — Brownsville Monthly Meeting  
 09 — Everett Monthly Meeting  
 10 — Bremerton Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 11 — Vancouver Monthly Meeting  
 15 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 17 — Longview Monthly Meeting  
 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting  
 25 — Christmas Day

## 2016 Oregon/Washington Rock & Mineral Shows

You can view a complete list of the 2016 Rock & Mineral Shows listed for Oregon and Washington by visiting the websites below:

OREGON — <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=OR>

WASHINGTON — <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=WA>

## GPAA Oregon/Washington Chapters

Auburn — Auburn Green River Valley Gold Prospectors — 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm. River Estates Club House, 3611 I St NE, Auburn, WA (253-833-2255)

Bremerton — Western Washington Prospectors 2nd Saturday, 1:00 pm., Elm Lutheran Church, 5911 E Hillcrest Dr., Port Orchard, WA (360-830-4613)

Brownsville — Mid Valley Prospectors — 1st Sunday, 1:30 pm. Brownsville Fire Department, 600 E Blakely Ave, Brownsville, OR (541-990-5148)

Everett — Everett Gold Prospectors 2nd Friday, 7:00 pm., Silver Lake-Alfy's Pizzeria, 9620 19th Ave, Everett, WA

Longview — Fire Mountain Prospectors — 3rd Saturday, 10:00 am., Bob's Sporting Goods, 1111 Hudson St., Longview, WA (360-274-3396)

Portland — Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. 3rd Sunday, 12:00 pm., Milwaukie Grange, 12015 SE 22nd, Milwaukie, OR (503-258-8553)

Vancouver — Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors — 2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm. Minnehaha Grange 4905 NE St Johns Road, Vancouver, WA (360-695-3215)



# Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc

GPAA Portland Oregon Chapter



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