



Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc

GPAA Portland Oregon Chapter



The Prospector

Come join us at our next meeting.

April 17th at 1:30pm.
Milwaukie Grange hall
12015 SE 22nd, Milwaukie, OR 97222

The Portland Gold Prospectors meetings are the third Sunday of every month beginning at 1:30pm. 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 or visit www.portlandgoldprospectors.org.

President's Blog April 2016

As I sit here writing this blog, it is not lost on me that the Portland Gold and Treasure show is just days away. In fact, it is so close, you probably won't be reading this until after the show is past. Months and months of work have gone into the planning for this show and, in less than a week, we will know if we were successful in putting on the best show possible.

Additionally we are gearing up for prospecting season. The weather here in the Pacific Northwest is starting to warm. We have had multiple 70 degree days in March and there is a possibility of an 80 degree day later this week. Our first chapter outing will be a beach trip to Cape Disappointment. I believe this will be a joint outing with the Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors and will be held May 14th. Learn more at our April meeting.

Be sure to attend our April meeting on Sunday the 17th. We will be firming up the plans on the beach mining and locking down dates for our TYROY outing. In addition, we will have a demonstration on setting up and using a blue bowl for clean-up of your concentrates.

Thanks and see you soon,
Jerry Johns

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	503-668-0484	mdorning@frontier.com
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Joe Weber		joeweb001@yahoo.com

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Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

Secretary's Report March 20, 2016
Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd Milwaukie, OR
Meeting called to order by President Jerry Johns at 1:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Attendance:

63 attendees at the meeting, 3 visiting guests were present

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 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:

No new correspondence was received.

GPAA State Director:

Steve Lewin described damage from garbage that was left recently on the GPAA Copper Creek claim in Washington. He contacted the Forest Service and the garbage has been removed. Steve also discussed another Gold Show that takes place April 16-17 in Monroe, WA. Steve is offering a special BBQ and the opportunity for mining on his private claim on Copper Creek to association members who help with the duties at the Monroe, WA Gold Show.

Randy Harper, past president of the SW Washington Gold Prospectors, described their trip to retrieve about 70 lbs. of lead and a truckful of garbage at a site in Washington. The lead and other material removed will be displayed to draw awareness that members of the mining community are helpful to the environment. Randy asked members to be good stewards of the outdoors by taking trash bags and packing out trash that you find.

Claims:

Ken Burns said there is nothing new to report about the claims near Baker City, Oregon. Dave Chiara, who is another claim holder, will be available after April 1 to discuss prospecting on the claims. Ken asked members to consider taking a fire extinguisher for any motorized equipment used this season. Joe Wood shared that he plans to drive to the Tyroy claim in mid April to check the conditions. Jerry Johns asked to be contacted prior to members going to the Tyroy claim.

Beach Mining:

The 2016 outings were listed on the white board and a handout of proposed dates was available. Jerry asked Rodney Chavez to explain his plan for the next beach mining event in May. Rodney said he will show different equipment and ways to perform beach mining at Cape Disappointment in WA for the week end of May 13-15. A Discovery Pass will be needed which can be purchased online or at the campground. More information regarding regulations for mining in Washington State will be discussed at the April meeting.

Safety:

Jerry Johns asked for a volunteer to fill the safety position. Joe Weber

gave some safety tips today. He stressed being very careful not to dig so you undercut a bank that could collapse on top of you. Also he suggested we carry our cell phones (Tyroy has coverage) so help can be called if needed. He has learned that "gold" is found in many layers at the claim, not just down deep.

Library:

Joe Weber reported the library materials are being used by lots of members. After you have attended 3 meetings and become a regular member, the library is available to you for no cost. Books, dvd's, maps, magazines can be checked out and returned the next month. Donations to the library are also encouraged.

Newsletter: Jerry Johns reported the newsletter is now a regional community newsletter. The Chapter at the top of the newsletter will rotate each month. For those people who wish to have a copy mailed to them, there is a \$15.00 annual fee to cover the cost of printing and mailing. The newsletter can be found on our website.

Membership:

Jerry Johns talked about the process to become a member of Portland Gold Prospectors. No dues are charged for membership. One needs to attend 3 meetings/association events annually (at least 1 regular meeting) and complete a liability release form; then a membership card is issued. Since there are no dues, the association gains funds from monthly raffles at the meetings. Donations are accepted, including items donated for the silent auction at each meeting. Jerry encouraged members to bring items for the silent auction table. Jerry also indicated the need for members to help by volunteering with our events and committees.

Portland Gold & Treasure Show:

Jerry Johns explained that our Chapter is hosting the Portland Gold & Treasure Show on April 9 and 10th, along with the SW Washington and Brownsville Chapters. Our chapter has 200 tickets to sell for a discounted price of \$5.00 with \$2.50 profit staying with our chapter. Members can check out tickets or contact Jerry for tickets. Posters were also available for members to place in local businesses to advertise the Gold & Treasure Show at the Expo Center.

Jerry stated that those who are volunteering at the show will receive a complimentary T-Shirt that must be worn to show you are a volunteer. Some of the volunteer areas to be filled are security, ticket sales, GPAA major raffle sales, canned food area, panning area helpers, plinko operator, GPAA booth helper, and our own booth raffle ticket sales. Walkie-talkies have been purchased and the other chapters also have them, so communication will be much better.

Ken Burns listed some of the items our chapter has in raffles, such as the Miners Back Pack which includes knee pads, large and small pans, classifier, pick axe, 3 ft shovel, sledge hammer, wire brush, snuffer, vial, magnet, etc. to be drawn on Saturday. We also have a 10 oz. silver bar valued at \$172.00 and a donated by Leatherman Tool. Cabela's Store may donate additional products as they did last year. The tickets for the silver bar will be sold on Saturday and Sunday. The raffle winner will not need to be present to win. Anyone, including chapter members, can purchase raffle tickets.

Event times are 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday. The doors open 1 hr early for volunteers. Food will be provided for volunteers.

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On Friday evening at the Portlander Hotel, there is a Meet & Greet event for the chapter members.

Summer Garage Sale:

Jerry Johns reminded members to save your unwanted household items and tools for the association Garage Sale on August 26-27th. More information to come.

Demo Time:

During the coffee break George Parker set up his spiral wheel to demonstrate removing gold from classified material.

Quarterly Volunteer (1.5 gram) Gold Nugget Drawing:

If you volunteered during the 4th quarter, your name was entered into this special raffle held only for volunteers. And the winner is Steve Kragerud. Congratulations on a beautiful nugget!

Elaine Ruth thanked Sopa Burns, Vickey Weber and Dorothy Ruth who worked in the kitchen, and everyone who brought snacks today.

Next the regular raffle was held with \$1.00 and \$5.00 tickets. The first ticket drawn in the five dollar group was for a nice gold nugget won by Merv.

Remember: bring the aluminum pull tabs from drink cans to assist "Dogs for the Deaf."

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm.

(Respectfully submitted by Melinda Dorning, Secretary)



2016 Events Calendar

April 9th&10th: Gold Show at the Expo Center

April 17th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

May (tbd): Cape Disappointment – Joint outing; beach mining with SWWGP (Led by Rodney Chavez -we will align event date to tides as we get closer)

May (tbd): TYROY prep trip to prepare silting ponds & break through Caliche layer - Work party

May 15th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

May 28th – June 12th: 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 19th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

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

July 17th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

July 19th (Tuesday): North Fork Santiam (non-motorized) prospecting. Panning, sluicing only

July 31st: Combined meeting/BBQ with SWWGP

Aug 6th: Lewisville, WA - Dredging, high banking, sluicing and panning with SWWGP

Aug 7th: Daybreak, WA - Dredging, high banking, sluicing and panning with SWWGP

Aug 12th- 15th: Yellow jacket, WA Dredging, high banking, sluicing and panning with SWWGP

August 21st: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

Aug 26th, 27th & 28th: PGPI Garage sale. (May try a 2nd location if enough items are left after initial weekend)

Sept 3rd & 4th: Copper Creek prospecting – dredging, high banking, panning. (One or both days)

September 18th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

September 25th: 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 23rd: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

November 20th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

December 18th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

Oregon Bill 838 Update

Oregon bill 838 Following is an update from Tom Kitchar, president of the Waldo Mining District, on Oregon SB 838: SB 838 was an anti-mining bill passed by the Oregon legislature in 2013. As a result, a five-year moratorium on the use of any motorized placer mining equipment went into effect January 2, 2016, in all waterways designated as "Essential Salmon Habitat" or as "Bull Trout" or "Lamprey Eel" habitat. This impacts around 90% of all gold-bearing waterways in Oregon.

Oregon's Galice Mining District, with the support of the Waldo Mining District and others, filed a lawsuit against the state seeking injunctive relief.

A hearing was held on February 18, 2016, at the US District Court in Medford in front of Judge Mark Clarke. The miners argued that SB 838 is preempted by federal mining law, while the state and environmental attorneys claimed SB 838 is "reasonable" regulation.

On a separate but somewhat related case, miners have appealed a decision regarding National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality continues to require for suction dredging under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act.

The NPDES case has dragged on for ten years. The Eastern Oregon Mining Association and Waldo Mining District filed an appeal with the Oregon Supreme Court in early March 2016.

Contributions to fund their legal cases can be sent to:
Waldo Mining District
PO Box 1574
Cave Junction, OR 97523.

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California Suction Gold Dredging Update

There is still no decision in *People v. Rinehart*, the suction dredging case that will decide whether or not state law can preempt federal law. In other words, can state law deny suction gold dredging, which is an allowable mining method under federal law? Rinehart won his case at the Appellate level, and the State of California appealed to the California Supreme Court.

The Court recently requested additional briefings on SB 637, a bill passed by the California legislature and signed by Governor Brown in October 2015, which provides for suction dredge permits to be issued by the State Water Resources Control Board after additional environmental studies are completed.

One of the main issues in this case involves whether or not suction gold dredging is an activity that can be regulated under the Clean Water Act. As we've mentioned in past articles, the government has the authority to regulate discharges into waterways, but there is no "discharge" from a suction dredge, only a net withdrawal. Suction dredging falls under "incidental fallback" per the DC Appellate Court decision in 2007. [National Association of Homebuilders v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 01-274 JR (D. D.C. Jan. 30, 2007)].

Judge Gilbert Ochoa, who is presiding over the consolidated suction gold dredging court cases in Southern California, continues to forgo a final ruling until the California Supreme Court rules in the *People v. Rinehart* case. *ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal April 2016, Vol 85, No. 8.*

Sold: 87-Ounce Nugget

by Scott Harn

A gold prospector in central Victoria, Australia stumbled across an 87-ounce gold nugget in early February 2015, after his wife told him to head outside to get some air. He had given up smoking a few weeks prior and was getting a bit "grumpy," she told him.

Mick Brown said he took his wife's advice, grabbed his detector, and headed out to one of his usual prospecting spots, though he wouldn't say exactly where.

Brown named the nugget the "Fair Dinkum," which is Australian slang for "genuine."

The 42-year-old Brown said he'd been prospecting for gold for about ten years. His largest finds prior to this one were a 17-gram nugget near the Wedderburn area and an 11-ounce nugget near Marble Bar in Western Australia. Brown said he found the nugget only about six inches below the surface.

"There's more to life than sitting on your (bottom) and watching TV," said Brown in an interview with Australian newspaper *The Age*.

He initially said he was willing to part with his latest find for \$200,000 Australian, which is about \$155,000 US.

Though some higher offers came in from collectors in the United States, Brown "settled" on a price of \$175,000 Australian from a fellow Aussie.

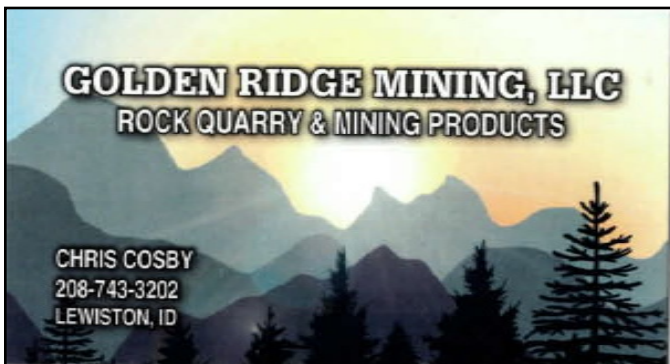
"I sort of wanted to keep it in Australia because, you know, it's our nugget," he told Australian news site 9stories. "I've paid off my tax debt, which was always haunting me and I've bought a couple of things here and there. I paid my credit cards off and threw them in the bloody bin," he said.

ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal April 2016, Vol 85, No. 8.



The "Fair Dinkum" nugget.

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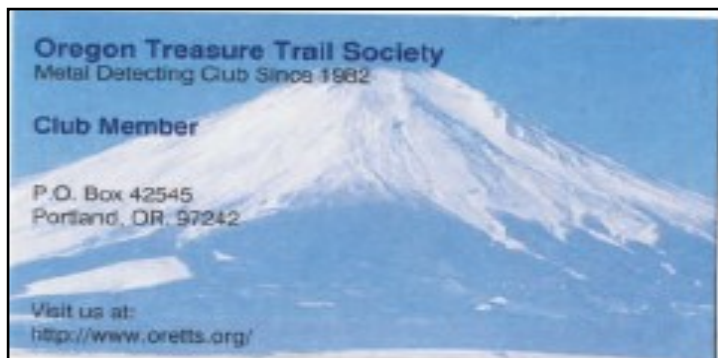
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