



Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc

GPAA Portland Oregon Chapter



The Prospector

President's Blog June 2016

Good cheers to everyone! You will see this month's newsletter is coming out a bit later than normal. This is because we just returned from two weeks at our claim near Baker City. As usual, this year's event was even better than the year before. We had roughly 20+ people show up for some period of time during the two week event; gold was plentiful and everyone had a good time. The weekend following our return from Baker City Cabelas held its "Family Fun Weekend". Cabelas invited us back again this year to share our chapter with the public. We taught panning, and had multiple pieces of equipment available for demonstration. Our partnership with Cabelas continues to be very strong and we look forward to future opportunities to support them. The next month we have many outings planned. In reality, this will be the busiest time (for outings) of the year for us. North Fork of the Santiam on July 19th, July 31st SWWGP has invited us to their Picnic/Potluck at Lewisville Park, August 1st thru 15th there are multiple outings scheduled to take advantage of dredging & highbanking in Washington (Day Break Park, Lewisville Park, Yellow Jacket). Finally, we have our big Garage Sale coming up August 26th, 27th, and 28th. We are asking all members to donate one or more items to the garage sale. This has the potential to be a big fund raiser for the chapter so we ask everyone to please share as many items as possible. If we have enough items at the end of the sale (unsold), we will look at having another sale in September at a different location. All funds from the garage sale will go the Chapter's treasure.

Thanks and see you soon,
Jerry Johns — President - Portland Gold Prospectors Inc.



Come Join Us at Our Next Meeting.

July 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.

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Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. June Minutes

Secretary's Report June 19, 2016
Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd Milwaukie, OR
Meeting called to order by President Jerry Johns at 1:32 pm

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Attendance:

60 attendees at the meeting, 1 visiting guest was present.

Meeting minutes:

A **Motion** was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's report as written and published in the June newsletter. The motion was approved by the members present. President, Jerry Johns, reminded members to sign up so the newsletter will be emailed to them.

Treasury report: Beverly Parker

The Treasury report was read by the Treasurer to the association. She explained that we had two main sources of income from the Gold & Treasure Show. Last month the sales from our booth were reported and this month the amount split with the two other Chapters from the GPAA Raffle was included in the Treasurer's report. A **Motion** was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as written.

Also, Jerry mentioned that a new wireless microphone was purchased to pass around at meetings so everyone can hear the discussion and comments. He asked members to use the microphone when talking and to keep other side conversations until later.

Correspondence:

The Eastern Oregon Mining Association newsletter for June 2016 was available for review. See the link in our newsletter for EOMA to obtain more information. Also two thank you cards were mailed out last month related to the Gold & Treasure Show.

Membership:

Jerry Johns talked about how to become a member of Portland Gold Prospectors. Membership with GPAA is not required to participate with the Chapter. One needs to attend 3 meetings or association events (at least 1 regular meeting) for full membership. Be sure to sign in at each meeting to record your attendance. Since there are no dues, the Chapter gets income from monthly raffles at the meetings where everyone is encouraged to participate. The Chapter has GPAA new member kits available for purchase at our meetings for \$84.50 that includes a gold pan, snuffer, instructional DVD, and Mining Guide of USA claims. Renewal of existing memberships can also be purchased at meetings. See Jerry Johns or Steve Lewin if you wish to become a GPAA member.

Library:

Joe Weber said a new book titled "Tomboy Bride" was donated to the library recently. Joe reported that the library materials are available to check out at no charge for members. He asked that each item be recorded when taken out and checked off when returned the next month so others can use them.

GPAA State Director:

Steve Lewin brought a donation of two hats that were shared from the Gold & Treasure Show. The hats were from Christine Rose-Bering Sea Gold and Pro-Caliper.

Mike encouraged members to attend a GPAA outing in the future.

Mike Lewis gave a report on the L.D.M.A. (Lost Dutchmen's Mining Association) outing he attended at Burnt River Camp in eastern Oregon recently. He said about 80 people attended, of which about ½ were GPAA members. High-bankers were used and there was a common dig where everyone received a bag with gold. People traveled from several other states to attend. The outing included bingo and other games with prizes for entertainment. He said LDMA is having special membership offers right now. Another highlight he reported is the Blue Bucket LDMA Camp has re-opened as of June 15th near Baker City, Oregon.

Outings:

Jerry reviewed the upcoming events. On July 9th the Cabela's store has a family fun day where our members can set up a panning demonstration. Jerry reminded members to plan for the North Fork of the Santiam River also in July. The Washington state dredging season takes place from August 1-15th on the Lewisville River. There will be a BBQ with the SWWGP Chapter at Lewisville Park on July 31st.

Dave Chiara discussed plans for mining at our eastern Oregon claim this season. He reminded members that no overnight camping is allowed on the claim due to restrictions. Camping will be on property owned by a local rancher who has given permission. Also each person is required to fill out a Chapter safety and hold harmless notice and medical form before they can begin any prospecting. Dave passed out the paperwork. Dave will give directions to the claim if you missed the meeting. Participants were told to expect low temperatures at night and mid 80's to high 90's during the day. Also mosquitoes and ticks can be a problem. Members were reminded that under digging is dangerous and will not be allowed. Also everyone needs to have their own permits from DEQ or Dept. of State Lands. Joe Weber suggested participants wear a club hat or similar one with back flaps for covering the neck to prevent sunburn.

Jerry and other members will have equipment to use by those who want to come but do not have their own large equipment. This will be a common dig and the results will be split equally.

Another group prospecting event at the Eastern Oregon claim may be planned later if several people are interested.

The Chapter Garage Sale will be held August 26-28th, and donations of good, usable items are requested. Dave asked that everything donated be clean and in working condition.

Ordering New Hats/Shirts:

Dave Chiara told the group he contacted Designs of All Kinds and received their pricing on shirts. He asked for a volunteer to contact another printing company for a second bid.

Demonstration and Education:

Richard Ruth set up a mini-high-banker outdoors to show how a high-banker works and how to fine tune the angle and water flows.

Discussion for Time Change:

Jerry asked the members if they are interested in changing the meeting start time from 1:30 pm to 1:00 pm so the meeting would end sooner. A discussion followed and several reasons to remain at the current time were brought up.

Bill Adams asked members to give him information they have on lead
(continued on page 3)

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. June Minutes (cont.)

or mercury that has been removed from local rivers. He is doing re-research on this topic. Rodney Chavez talked about the recent group outing at Cape Disappointment. He said the work done to clean up the trails by the two Chapters was appreciated by the staff at the camp ground. Rodney is currently sampling and plans to discover the most productive area for members to work at the next beach mining event. He plans to host another group event in the fall.

The Raffle was held after the coffee break. Jerry mentioned that since the association does not charge dues, the raffle is a major source of income for the Chapter and participation by members is appreciated. Also, dirt bags with gold were available to purchase. The Silent Auction contained 2 buckets of unprocessed material from the Tyroy claim.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

(Respectfully submitted by Melinda Dorning, Secretary)

Proof Mining Districts Work—Scott Ham

For the past couple years we've been harping on miners to locate the original bylaws for their Mining Districts and get them organized if they are in disarray. That's because Mining Districts are federally recognized entities with the power and authority to create their own regulations and to seek coordination status with local, state and federal agencies.

This power was written into the 1872 Mining Law, which specifically states: "...and according to the local customs or rules of miners in the several mining districts..." If you need more proof that having an organized Mining District can help you, look no further than the recently proposed Methow Headwaters Withdrawal in north-central Washington State.

The Slate Creek Mining District in Washington State is a traditional Mining District that was in disarray. The Minerals and Mining Advisory Council, Public Lands for the People, along with us here at the Mining Journal, provided guidance to help them put things back in order. The Slate Creek Mining District was originally established in 1894 in Whatcom County, Washington. They were able to locate the original bylaws and we published a Public Notice on their behalf. Thirty-two concerned claimholders arrived at the first meeting to get re-established. A new board was elected and we assisted them with properly notifying federal agencies.

Along came the recently proposed "Methow Headwaters Protection Act of 2016" by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). The Slate Creek Mining District was not consulted regarding this proposal, so the government had no choice but to leave the Slate Creek Mining District out of the proposed withdrawal. If you are tired of getting withdrawals and closures forced down your throat, get your traditional Mining District organized. We published step-by-step instructions again in our June 2016 issue. The ball is in your court.

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2016 Events Calendar

Late June/Early July: TYROY: Come to our meeting to learn exact plans and dates.

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 SSWGP

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

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

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

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.

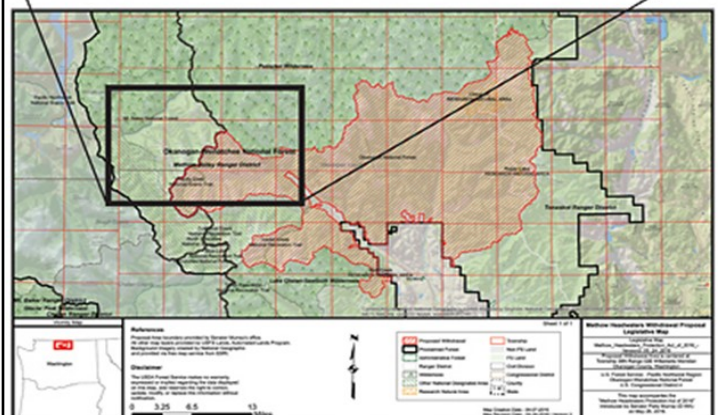
October (TBD): Cape Disappointment – Joint outing; beach mining with SSWGP

(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



The light green area on the map (top) is the Slate Creek Mining District, which was left out of the recently proposed Methow Headwaters Withdrawal.

The Essence of Gold Prospecting

by Chris Ralph © ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal, CMJ Inc—July 2016 9Volume 85, Number 11)

The essence of gold prospecting is the exploration for new locations, and if you can master this critical skill, it will take you far toward making you successful in your prospecting efforts. Some people really enjoy the challenge, while others dread it. You never really know what you will find—nice gold or not much. The problem is that more often than not, exploration leads to poor results as the new spots very often don't pan out, giving the net effect that many times the prospector will find little or nothing while looking for new spots to dig. Dry spells are no fun for anyone and that's why some folks do as little exploration for new spots as they can get away with—and that sometimes means none at all.

Still, exploring and prospecting are important because every patch or deposit eventually plays out, and once the gold is gone, it doesn't grow back. Often the best of a spot is worked first, and once the cream is taken, it's necessary to keep searching to find quality gold. This applies to all forms of gold prospecting—from sluicing and panning to dry washing to high banking and metal detecting. That's why I say that exploration is the essence of gold prospecting. Although most new locations don't work out, some do and that's the motivation to continue the hunt. Some locations will work out very well indeed, and of course, this is what the prospector is hoping for. The undiscovered new spots with loads of gold are few and far between these days, but they do exist. You need to be very lucky, or persistent and hard working.

Steve Herschbach and I got out to do a bit of exploration prospecting recently, searching for new places to metal detect in northern Nevada. We



Getting off the beaten path to remote, little known locations like this one in Nevada can yield good gold.

found some very good locations last year, but we've gotten the easy gold out of them already. There are still some crumbs out in those places, and maybe a few widely scattered decent nuggets, but the cream is taken and the easy stuff is gone. On the other hand, there is no reason why we can't find more quality places and be back on the good gold again—it's just going to take some work in the form of exploration.

One new place we explored was down a very faint road that was all overgrown with brush and didn't show any sign that anyone had been there in years. When I got out of the car and looked around, I couldn't see any detector dig holes at all, and that's always a good sign. I got started detecting and had my first nugget within 5 minutes of turning on my detector. It was my second target. I thought we had found another great new spot! Visions of nuggets by the handful were dancing through my head, and I was really enthused about the potential for this new spot. However, it wasn't to be. We both searched around there for several hours and I never got another nugget. Steve got one small one about 50 yards away from where I found mine, but that was all he found, too. Some places are like that—they get your hopes up quickly, but don't give up that nice hoard of gold you were hoping for.

On the other hand, I've gone to spots that looked good and yielded nothing for the first trip or two. Since these places that I am thinking of looked so good, I returned even though the first try didn't go well. I kept trying and eventually did alright. Sometimes it takes a while to really get a handle on the gold at a particular spot. The gold may not be in what seems to be the obvious locations. First impressions are not always the right ones, and you can't allow yourself to be too quick to give up on a spot that has genuine potential. It takes persistence and sometimes trying some different prospecting techniques to really determine the true potential of an area.

(continued on pages 5, 6 and 7)

On that same trip, Steve and I found at least one place that yielded some gold and needed further investigation (a different spot than the one I mentioned above) and it will require rolling some rocks around and doing a bit of digging to really see what the potential is. It's the kind of place that, if it pans out, I might even bring in my dry washer. Still, most of the new places we looked at gave up no gold at all. In the end there were no home runs on that trip, and so the search for the next great patch continues.



Getting out to explore mining areas you have not visited before can open up new potential spots to work. Even areas that were principally hard rock producers can have good placer spots.

One thing I try to teach prospectors on the subject of exploring for new spots is that you have to set your goals high to succeed. Too many guys will be OK with just a few flakes and some dust. Yes, that is what everyone gets sometimes, but you don't have to tell yourself that those amounts are satisfactory. In many cases an optimistic spirit is the key to being persistent, so convince yourself to be optimistic and stick with it. There is good gold out there and there is no reason you can't be the one making those big finds if you keep exploring. The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow does exist; you just have to get out and locate that rainbow!

There are many ways that one can identify potential locations that you might want to explore. Different prospectors take different approaches to picking spots that interest them and no one method is guaranteed to work. However, no matter what processes you use to select new spots, it takes real work. Some of the work to find new deposits is out in the field digging, but some can be done from the comfort of home. This effort includes historical research, checking mining claims and land status, studying Google Earth, reading old mining reports, looking at old maps, etc. The tools and information that are out there today are greater than ever. The Internet has worlds of information available to the prospector that were not available years ago when I was getting started. I had a few books on "Where to find gold..." or "The placer deposits of...." They are still very useful books, but there is so much more that is available to the prospector now.

(Right) Signs of past mining like these stacked rocks hiding in among the trees can indicate that there is good gold here and the old timers were willing to put in a lot of work to get it.

(Below) Maps like this one can give the prospector information about places to explore. Many maps show old placer workings and other areas that have been worked in the past.



There are plenty of signs and indications that point to places that may have good potential for gold. Signs can be man-made like old stacked rocks, old dry wash piles, areas that were scraped with a dozer to find more gold, and other types of old diggings. The old miners often left very obvious indications of their digging and mining, but at times these old workings can become overgrown and hidden. They never got all of the gold, and these can be good places to explore. Any exposed bedrock in and around the old workings is always worth checking out for gold that was left behind. Sometimes this bedrock can be very productive, though not always. Usually, if the old time miners put in a bunch of work, they did it for a reason, and that reason was normally the fact they were getting some good gold.

On the other hand, indications of a potential good area can be geologic and natural, like areas of ground stained red by iron mineralization, accumulations of quartz vein matter on the ground, or the presence of fault zones. Even some types of plant life that grow best in mineralized areas can be good natural indicators. The geologic indications that are the most important for finding gold vary from one mining district to another. There is no one indicator for gold that always works. What works well in one mining district may not always work so well in another. Plant life that can be helpful in some desert locations isn't found in mountain locations. In one place a certain type of rock may host all the deposits. In another district the most important indicator may be areas of soil colored red by high iron concentrations. Perhaps the most important thing in prospecting is to know the characteristics of the district in which you are hunting. As in sports, there is a home court advantage for prospectors who have learned the particulars of the district in which they are working.

When doing your initial armchair research and selecting potential areas to explore, consider all the indicators, both natural and man-made. The factors of each can be combined to determine what locations are most likely to succeed. Sometimes just the total production of an area can be an important factor—a district that produced millions of ounces of gold might have more potential than one that only produced a few thousand. Once you have done enough exploration, you'll get a feel for what the potential of an area might be.

At times you might hope that another prospector will just tell you where the good places are, or at least to reveal some of the ones they know. Maybe that's possible in some cases if you have the right friends. There are lots of potential locations out there, but most experienced prospectors who are successful in their exploration for gold rich spots will not give up great locations to be published or put them on the Internet. Like I said, it's work to identify these places, and even more work to get out, explore and find them, so the spots that do yield some nice gold are dark secrets held by the ones who find them, just as it has been for centuries. If you can learn to enjoy the quest for new locations to dig, you are miles ahead of the other guy who doesn't want to do it.

Sometimes keeping things interesting means doing things a bit differently and mixing things up. I try to strike a balance by going back and forth from new areas that I am exploring back to old, known areas where I find crumbs I missed previously. When I am "crumming" the old areas, that gold gives me some confidence for when I go out and explore new locations where I might not do so well. It helps me avoid long, dry streaks of finding little or nothing.



(Above) Rich bits of gold-bearing quartz like this piece can be found by getting out and exploring in new locations. This is the type of gold that is great for hunting with a metal detector.



(Above left) Chances for a prospector to make big, spectacular finds like this 5-ounce nugget from Nevada, are greater for those who are willing to get out and explore for new locations to dig. (Right) The gold country of the Western US can be a beautiful place to explore, and even when the prospector doesn't make that big find, it still can be a very nice place to spend some time.



The need for exploration to find new gold is more important for today's prospectors than ever before. The old timers got the easy stuff, and the prospectors who followed them for the last century have been gleaning through what those old timers left behind. As a result, the easy stuff is gone, so searching is now the order of the day, and will be far into the future. If you do get out and do the necessary prospecting, there is good gold to be found. I've had good success in recent years with a variety of forms of prospecting. I can assure you that there are still good prospects out there if you are willing to work for it.

One of the most important things a prospector needs to focus on is optimism. It is the discouraged prospectors that give up. An old friend has a saying that metal detectors and other mining equipment sitting in a closet or garage will gather only dust. So, when you take on the task of finding new locations, have a good attitude. Keep focused on the potential for that really big score. The success stories we publish in these pages show how well some prospectors are doing and can help keep you energized. I can assure you that there are many large finds that are never published in a magazine as the owner wants to keep the find quiet. Great finds are being made, and you can be a part of that if you will just get out and explore!



Late May at TYROY. PGPI members preparing the site for the upcoming prospecting season.

Legislative and Regulatory Update by Scott Ham

• PLF scores another win for property rights

The Pacific Legal Foundation scored a big win against the US Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of property owners. The case is *US Army Corps of Engineers v. Hawkes Co., et al.*

The US Supreme Court ruled unanimously that landowners have a right to seek judicial review immediately in federal court when their property is designated as wetlands subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

The Corps had made a "judicial determination" that the Hawkes Company's property in Minnesota qualified as "wetlands" and threatened hefty fines. The Obama administration argued the company's only remedy was to apply for a permit at a cost of well over \$100,000 and many years to get through the permitting process.

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May 2016 (Vol. 85, No. 7) ►

• "Recreational" mining bills in Washington State

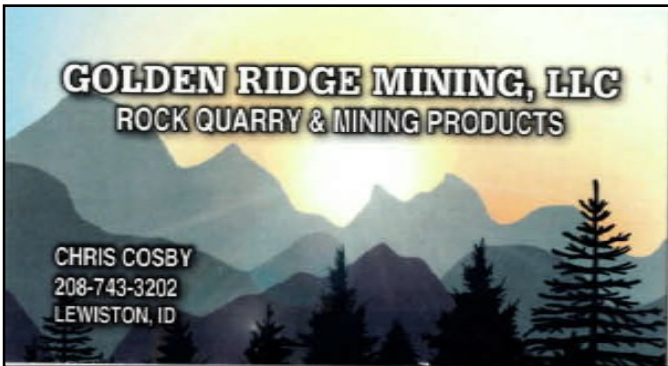
Washington State miners and prospectors were faced with another legislative attack, but fortunately this one was short-lived. Bills were introduced in both the House and Senate to establish a licensing program for "recreational motorized mineral prospecting in Washington State streams and rivers equivalent to the licensing of recreational fishing."

First off, whether you are out prospecting and mining to recover gold to pay for your equipment and hopefully make a little extra, or doing it as a sole source of income, you are not recreational. We certainly hope you are not referring to yourselves as recreational. The 1872 Mining Law provides granted rights to miners, not to people who are mining as a form of recreation. By applying for a "recreational" permit you are giving up your granted rights.

The bills that were introduced died in committee this time. If similar bills are introduced and eventually passed, then file a mining claim. You have granted rights available to you under the federal mining law as a mining claim owner. We recommend you do not apply for any permit that would label you a "recreational" miner.

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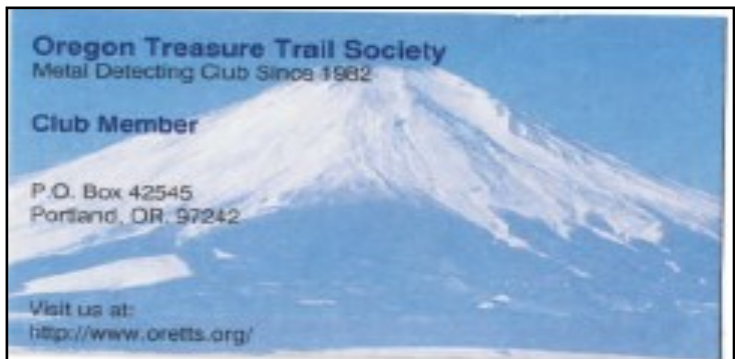
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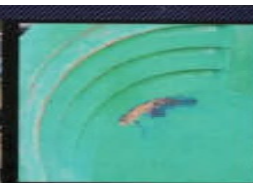

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PORTLAND GOLD PROSPECTORS

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