



Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc

GPAA Portland Oregon Chapter



The Prospector

President's Blog September 2016

So much has happened since the last newsletter publication. We had multiple dredging / high-banking outings at Lewisville Park, Daybreak Park and the GPAA claim "Direct 1" on Copper Creek. We also had a Garage Sale (fund raiser) in August. In the upcoming month we are planning outings at our new claims in the East Fork of the Lewis, Prospecting at Cape Disappointment and a trip to Baker City where we will shut down our claim for the winter, clean out the ponds and hopefully bring back some dirt to process during the winter.

I picked up a blue bowl system at the garage sale and decided to run all my black sand (from the past four years) through it. I had heard that classifying the material prior to running it was critical so I classified it through a 1/8" screen, a 50 mesh and a 100 mesh screening. Long story short, when I was done processing I had hundreds (yes hundreds) of flour sized gold in the bowl. I consider myself pretty good at panning by now so you can imagine how surprised I was to see that much gold. Granted it was very very fine gold, but WOW.

Last but not least we are selling GPAA membership kits at the chapter meetings. Some of the profits go directly to the chapter. If you are wanting to renew please consider doing so through your chapter. It's the same price and you will be supporting your chapter in doing so.

Happy Prospecting, Jerry Johns— President - Portland Gold Prospectors Inc.

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OR/WA GPAA	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com

Come Join Us at Our Next Meetings

September 18th at 1:30 pm

October 16th at 1:30 pm

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.



Dan Davis doing some very relaxed panning at Day Break Park on the Lewis River.



Wayne Roth working a "honey hole" the North Fork of the Santiam River.

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. August Minutes

Secretary's Report August 21, 2016
Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd Milwaukie, OR
Meeting called to order by President Jerry Johns at 1:29 pm

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Attendance:

51 attendees at the meeting, 2 visiting guests were present.

Meeting minutes:

A **Motion** was made by Ken Burns and seconded to accept the Secretary's report as written and published in the August 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 given.

Correspondence:

Bev Parker mentioned that the association receives a monthly newsletter from Eastern Oregon Mining Association that is available for members to read. It can also be found on our website. She also received 6 raffle tickets from EOMA for their Minelab metal detector raffle drawn in December.

Darlene Shaffer, a long-time member, thanked people who contacted her during a recent injury. She also donated used mining equipment to the association yard sale.

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 or association events and complete a liability release form before a membership card is issued. Be sure to sign in at each meeting to record your attendance. Membership with GPAA is not required to participate with the Chapter. Since there are no dues, the association gains funds from our monthly raffles at the meetings. The Chapter also 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.

Newsletter:

Jerry Johns reported that the monthly newsletter is posted on the website each month for members to retrieve. Usually there are a few printed copies at the meeting for new people to take. The newsletter includes the calendar of upcoming events and several interesting articles about searching for gold. Jerry said anyone who doesn't use computers can have this mailed for a \$15.00 annual fee to cover printing and postage.

GPAA State Director:

Steve Lewin stated there is a recent N.O.A.A. report that supports no harm to fish found from dredging in rivers. He hopes the report will have a positive impact to allow continued dredging.

Library:

Joe Weber described the library materials that are available each month so members can check them out and return items the following month to make them available for others to use. The library is free once you

become a member. Let Joe know if there is a title you would like to have purchased for the library.

Outings:

Jerry Johns reminded us of the yard sale taking place in Redland, OR on Aug. 26-27-28. Quite a few donations were brought in today including mining equipment. A sign up sheet was passed for members to help with the sale.

The next outing on the schedule was described at the GPAA Copper Creek claim on Saturday, Sept. 3rd. GPAA members are allowed to bring one guest to the claim that is about 40 minutes from Battle-ground, WA. Activities can include highbanking, dredging or panning.

Jerry reported the outing on Sept. 25 to N. Fork of Santiam has been changed to the East Fork of the Lewis River in Washington where our association has filed for 5 claims. This site is open for dredging and highbanking from August through February of 2017.

A fall beach mining event at Cape Disappointment is on the schedule for October to be led by Rodney Chavez. The date will be determined by Rodney according to beneficial tides.

Dave Chiara explained the process for fall reclamation on our claims near Baker City. The date will be set as soon as the fire danger is lessened. Dave asked members who wish to participate to sign up to be contacted. The reclamation will comply with our BLM Plan of Operation; also no camping will take place on the claim.

New Claims:

Jerry reported that three of the five new claims have completed filing paperwork in Washington State. They are about 1-1/2 hour drive from the Portland area. Due to the mining season running from Sept 1 through Aug. 31st, new claims need to have maintenance fees paid for the next season (before Sept 1) in addition to the filing fees paid in July. The officers also found there was another person establishing a dredging area next to the area we are claiming; therefore, swift action was necessary to avoid having them file over our preferred claims. Jerry Johns asked the membership to approve the additional costs for obtaining all five claims on the Lewis River. Ken Burns **Moved** to use \$1,065 to complete filing on the new claims. The motion was seconded by Larry Sharpe and was passed by a voice vote of members.

A member asked about maps and GPS coordinates for the new claims. Steve Lewin said they will be available soon. Also, he advised members who prospect or mine in Washington State need to have a personal copy of the Gold and Fish Book and to have read it thoroughly. He also said enforcement officers may site miners who violate the regulations in this book, so be prepared.

Old Business:

Jerry was contacted by a filming company who wants to contact people for one of their projects who have a family history of mining. Details were on the sign in table.

Fundraising:

Jerry explained how the Chapter makes money needed for the maintenance of our organization. The upcoming yard sale may bring in funds for the claims. He encouraged members to participate in the raffles and the quarter drop to win a small amount of gold. The silent auction is another revenue source where members bring in items they wish to

donate. This month there are bags of material from the eastern Oregon claim for purchase at \$20 per bag to cover transportation costs.

A member reported about the July picnic with the SW Washington Chapter that was well organized with food and prizes for participants. He thanked them for inviting our Chapter members.

Bill Bench reminded us to save the metal pull tabs from drink cans that he collects. They benefit an organization for dialysis transportation costs.

Elections:

Although the election of officers takes place in November, Jerry reminded members we need to fill the positions of Vice President and Secretary for the 2017. He asked members to consider one of the positions.

2017 Gold Show:

The dates for the next Gold Show were announced as March 24-25-26 at the Portland Expo Center. Portland Gold Prospectors will play a key role in this show. The 2018 Gold Show will be held at the Clark County Fair Grounds with the S.W. Washington Chapter taking the lead. Since our Chapter will be responsible for planning the 2017 event, Jerry asked members to begin thinking of vendors and sponsors and to sign up for the first planning meeting in September.

Jerry thanked Elaine Ruth, Dorothy Ruth, and Vicky Weber for helping in the kitchen and to those providing great treats and wraps. He reminded members there is a coffee donation can near the refreshments.

Steve Lewin donated 4 garnets for the Raffle today. The Raffle was held at the end of the meeting. The winner of a gold nugget in the \$5.00 drawing was Betty Bench.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm.

(Respectfully submitted by Melinda Dorning, Secretary)

2016 Events Calendar

September 18th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

September 25th: East Fork Lewis River – new chapter claims

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



Gold found from the "blue box" found in Jerry Johns "old black sand".



Ask the Experts ICMJ Prospecting and Mining Journal, September 2016, (Vol. 85, No. 1)

Q: *Popular Science* produced a book called *Formulas, Methods, Tips and Data for Home and Workshop* by Kenneth M. Swezey. I was wondering if you know of any similar books specifically for the mining and prospecting community at large. I know there's some good information out there, but it is scattered all over the place. The average John Doe probably does not know how to pull it all together or might miss some important step.

I was wondering if there was a book(s) for beginning to say mid-level miners and prospectors that contained DIY recipes (natural and chemical) for processing suspect ores, building your own mining equipment, finding off-the-shelf substitutions or re-purposing something to use in mining or prospecting. I am also looking for basic charts, how to clean certain ores into display specimens, conversion tables, etc. Kind of a low-tech book of things the average guy could do, make, or use without breaking the bank, so to speak, preferably with technical jargon explained in layman's terms. It could possibly include a miner's code of conduct, up-to-date mining district rules, do's and don'ts of mining and prospecting and other modern things. - John

A: I have a whole library of mining books—hundreds of them—and it doesn't fully cover all that. The problem with mining is that it is an interdisciplinary science with lots of different types of knowledge combining to get the job done. Advanced degrees are granted just for mineral processing. Completely separate degrees are granted for geology-related topics, and still different degrees for mining and the actual getting the stuff out of the ground. However, there are some classic old handbooks and I have copies of them.

Arthur Taggart's *Handbook of Mineral Dressing* is the classic work all about crushing and recovering minerals from ores, including placers, and how to operate the standard processing equipment. Robert Peele's *Mining Engineer's Handbook* is the old standard of mining engineers. *Dana's Mineralogy* is the standard text on minerals and it can be downloaded off the internet for free—that is where I got my copy. I wish I could say there was one book where the small miner could go to get all the info he wanted, but such a single book does not exist.

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A Mining District is a federally recognized entity specifically authorized by the 1872 Mining Act, which states, "...according to the local customs or rules of miners in the several mining districts..."

We've reported on the success stories of several Mining Districts over the past few issues, and miners are beginning to realize they can utilize the power of their Mining District to retake control.

Mining Districts create a jurisdictional problem for federal agencies. These Districts were established long before wilderness designations, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and the Endangered Species Act came into being. There are literally thousands of Mining Districts—virtually anywhere valuable minerals or metals have been found.

If you need some background on the history of Mining Districts, you'll find [an instructional video on our website \(www.icmj.com\)](http://www.icmj.com). Just click on "Videos" under the Resources tab.

Recent Accomplishments

One recent success was the exclusion of the Slate Creek Mining District from a proposed wilderness area in Washington State. Another recent success involved the Rand Mining District in southern California.

Before I get into the recent progress in the Rand District I need to give you some background.

For several years there has been a Desert Advisory Council that has been establishing rules and regulations for a large portion of the Mojave Desert, which includes the Rand Mining District. Many areas have been placed off-limits or restricted, and these restrictions affect miners, off-roaders, campers and other public land users. One of the key tools in the council's arsenal is ACECs.

Joe Martori has a large placer gold mining operation in the town of Randsburg, which is part of the Rand Mining District. He began attending Desert Advisory Council meetings several years ago, and he was eventually granted a seat on the council to represent mining interests. The council is represented by members of the BLM, the US Forest Service, environmental organizations, off-roaders, miners and other public land users. It became evident to him the members of the council were ignorant of the laws related to mining and he took it upon himself to help educate them. Along the way he sought help from geologist Don Fife, Clark Pearson of PLP, and he brought me into the fold as well.

Clark, Joe and I made presentations to the council on miner's rights, symbiotic relationships and the power of Mining Districts. My presentation included the fact that we at the *Mining Journal* have been advising our readers to serve federal officials with a Direct and Constructive Notice. The Notice lays out your rights as a miner and advises them they will be sued personally if they violate those rights.

We definitely got their undivided attention with our presentations.

As a direct result of our presentations, the Desert Advisory Council recommended a Memorandum of Understanding be put together between the council and the Rand Mining District. This MOU was recently completed. Signs were posted at all major entry points to the Rand District and part of the agreement stipulates that ACECs do not apply within the Rand District, and many of the roads and trails within the district that were previously closed are now open for the benefit of all public land users.

Along the way, Joe established the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council (MMAC) to assist other miners who have allowed their Mining Districts to fall into disarray.

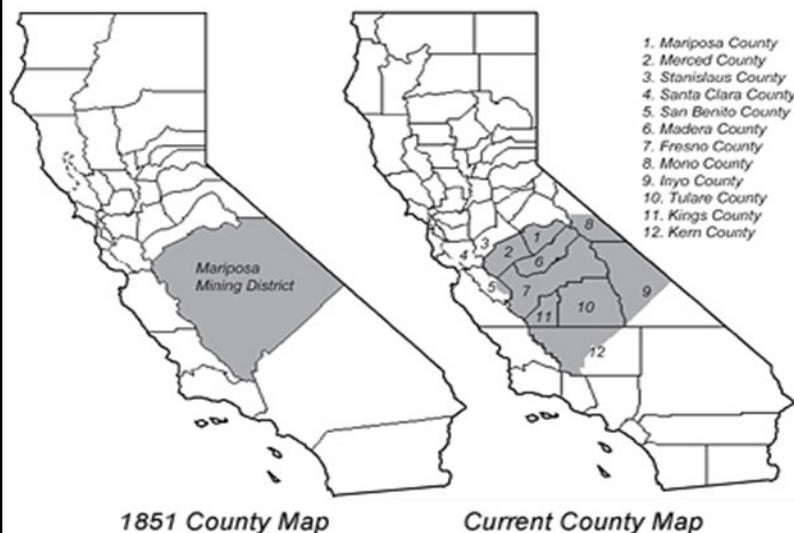
Joe, Clark and I have been fielding many calls from miners wishing to put their Mining Districts back in order. In the past month I've talked with miners interested in getting their district organized in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, California, New Mexico and South Dakota. You'll see a Public Notice for 10 separate districts (links below) in this issue and we provide these public notices free of charge.

A total of 38 Mining Districts have been re-organized or are in the process, while nearly 50 additional Mining Districts have expressed interest and are in the early stages.

The next stop for MMAC and PLP will be MINExpo International 2016 in Las Vegas in September where they will be contacting equipment manufacturers and mining companies to garner additional support for Mining Districts.

Huge Mining District Encompasses 13 Counties

One of the public notices is for the Mariposa Mining District in northern California. This Mining District was originally organized in 1851. At that time there were fewer counties in California and the original district was huge, encompassing all or portions of 12 counties. Other Mining Districts were later organized within this area.



So, what do you do if you are a claimholder within this area? You can certainly organize your own district within this area even if your district was created at a later date. In fact, we would highly recommend it so you can get your own "seat at the table." In the meantime, consider attending the meeting for the Mariposa Mining District on October 11, 2016, in Sanger, California. (View [Public Notice: Mariposa Mining District.](#))

PLP Assistance in Idaho

Miners in Idaho continue to face obstacles from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the Forest Service and the EPA. Public Lands for the People and MMAC are providing assistance, along with Rocky Mountain Mining Rights.

Two miners were denied due process by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). Both miners applied for dredging permits. However, the IDWR wants to issue them "recreational" dredging permits. This would put them in conflict with federal
[\(continued on page 5\)](#)

MMAC & PLP UPDATE— Scott Harn— ICMJ Prospecting and Mining Journal, September 2016, (Vol. 85, No. 1)

(continued from page 4)

mining law—federal law does not allow recreational use of a mining claim. The IDWR also failed to coordinate with the Mining Districts, many of the IDWR's requirements would materially interfere with mining operations, and the list of conflicts goes on. (You can view miner Ron Miller's Notice of Appeal and Request for Administrative Hearing in our "MMAC & PLP Update" article in the August 2016 issue.)

Both miners requested an appeal hearing, but the agency failed to respond.

PLP is assisting Ron in withdrawing his application to the IDWR because they have failed to follow due process, and then he will go dredging.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is trying to coax miner Dave Erlanson into settling his case. The EPA claims Erlanson failed to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit because they believe suction gold dredging creates a discharge. However, the courts have already ruled (twice) that the material coming out of a dredge does not constitute a discharge. (Incidental fallback represents a net withdrawal, not an addition of material.)

PLP is also supporting the miners in court, and they are in negotiations with a local attorney with expertise in these types of cases to handle representation.

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Ask the Experts — Chris Ralph – © ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal, September 2016 (Vol. 85, No.1)

Q: I have been trying to reach agreement with a private property owner who owns 60 acres of which about 20 acres could be permitted and mined. After much time I have received the contract which I feel is over done. Is there a standard in placer mining followed or is it pretty much left to the parties to reach agreements? They have very little knowledge of mining but know the property has values as we gave them drill test map done in 1914-16.— Rob

A: I wish I could give you some sort of standard contract that everybody uses, but there really is no such thing. Percentages of sharing that could work well with one property may be impossible to use on another. Simply saying a 5%, 10% or 15% share is a well-known industry standard won't work because that isn't true.

Reaching an agreement with property owners can be very difficult, especially with owners who have no experience with what is typical in mining and have no grasp of the risk and money involved in bringing a property into production. I have seen many deals over the years that I've been involved with the mining industry. The terms in these agreements range all over the map from those that were extremely poor for the property owner to those that were ridiculously bad for the miner.

It is very standard that property owners envision their property to be worth far more than it actually is. The very term "gold mine" implies something incredibly rich even though, in reality, many properties are very borderline. Over the years I have seen many mining deals that could have worked well for both sides but never actually happened because the property owner saw his property as extremely rich and just simply wanted too much.

Usually the terms are the hardest thing to work out. Who is going to be taking the risk? Who is going to be doing all the investment? What permits will be required? Will a bond be posted to ensure that any disturbance is properly cleaned up? How rich actually is the property? I can tell you that any drilling done a century ago will have been done by a churn drill and may not be as accurate as you wish it would be. Churn drill results are anything but a sure thing.

My best recommendation for you would be to figure out very carefully what you need to get out of the operation to make things work financially for you. Offer a contract which describes the terms you need. If you cannot operate and make a good profit with the terms the owner wants, then your only alternative is to say no. There is no benefit to you or the property owner in attempting an operation for which profitably will be questionable. This is actually pretty common—as I noted, I have seen many potentially profitable deals go down in flames most commonly because the owner wanted too much.

10 Years Ago

ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal, September 2006 (Vol. 85, No.1)

Eastern Oregon miners forced out of water

A federal judge has ordered that gold mining operations along the North Fork of the Burnt River in Baker County, Oregon, be suspended.

Environmentalists had filed a lawsuit against the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, claiming that allowing mining in this area violated the Clean Water Act.

Judge Papak agreed. "The Forest Service may not ignore or defer its responsibility to remedy existing water pollution in the project area based on a misguided notion that the right to mine trumps federal and state environmental laws," wrote Judge Papak.

Key to the lawsuit were claims that the North Fork of the Burnt River and two of its tributaries do not meet federal water quality standards for temperature and clarity.

A total of 49 known mining operations are affected by the ruling.

There's gold in them thar... holes?

A man in Montclair, California, began digging in his front yard after getting a positive signal from his gold detector.

Norm Enrique told city officials he only planned on digging about four feet, but got "carried away."

When workplace safety officers arrived, the hole had reached a depth of sixty feet. Two men who Enrique had hired were inside the hole, utilizing a bucket and rope to remove the dirt, reported the Associated Press.

The 63-year-old Enrique was forced to fence off the property and hire a licensed engineer to secure the hole

60 Years Ago

ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal, January 1956

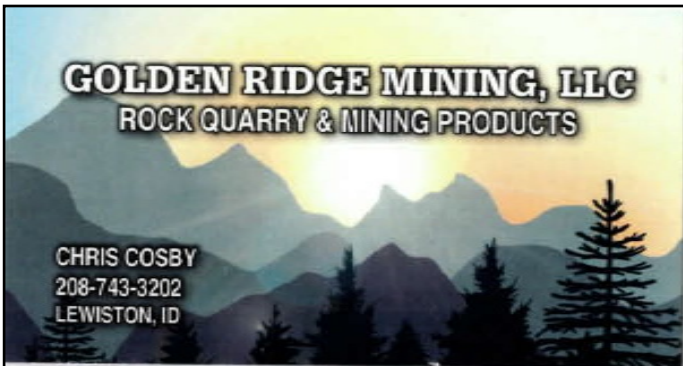
Half Nation's Power to be Atomic in 10 Years Says GE

Uranium is the miracle metal produced by the Miners of America for American Industry's Atomic Energy.

Uranium is the most sought-after element in the world today for it is the basic substance required in Atomic Energy. The Colorado Plateau and nearby areas are becoming the world's leading source of this vital substance.

Atomic power has passed from the dream stage to the threshold of reality. The new Atomic Energy Act brought the Atom out from behind closed doors of Government monopoly and gave industry the right—and incentive—to build, own and operate atomic power plants.

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