



Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc

GPAA Portland Oregon Chapter



The Prospector

President's Blog December 2016

2016 is almost over and we are already looking toward 2017 and all the fun it will bring. The January meeting is our annual potluck. We will welcome in our new officers and board members at this meeting and give thanks to those that helped make the chapter so successful this past year. You will find a full page advertisement for the potluck inside the newsletter.

We are also doing great on our planning for the March 25th, 26th Gold and Treasure show. We have many sponsors already on board and you can find them listed inside this newsletter. Please be collecting some non-perishable foods for the less fortunate and/or dog & cat food to bring to the show. Finally, reserve these dates in your calendar as it will be a blast.

Happy Prospecting,

Jerry Johns

President - Portland Gold Prospectors Inc.

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.net
Treasurer	Bev Parker	503-666-4301	bevpark@comcast.net
Claims	Ken Burns	503-631-3071	kenhellenburns@gmail.com

Board Members at Large **2014-2016:**

Charles Foster	503-630-7669	fostercr@rconnects.com
Robert Burns	503-680-8885	rdburns77@hotmail.com
Joe Weber		joeweb001@yahoo.com

Board Members at Large **2016-2017:**

Richard Ruth	503-663-9087	richard.ruth5@comcast.net
David Chiara	503-285-8553	dmchiara@comcast.net
Elaine Ruth	503-663-9087	richard.ruth5@comcast.net

Library	Joe Weber		joeweb001@yahoo.com
Hospitality	Elaine Ruth	503-663-9087	richard.ruth5@comcast.net
Webmaster	Aaron Jurgens	360-402-0771	aaron@ajcreative.net
Newsletter	Larry Hellie	360-601-6388	hhrc2@comcast.net
OR/WA GPAA	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
State /Director			

Come Join Us at Our Next Meetings

December 18th 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.

2016 Events Calendar

December 18th: PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

Mining Equipment for Sale

Harold is a previous member of our chapter and has decided that he is done mining. He has a bunch of mining equipment that he has accumulated over time and is wanting to sell it. If you are interested, please call HAROLD KOHLER @ 503-882-3100.

Surprising Gold Facts

The size of a standard gold bar is 7" by 3 5/8" by 1 3/4". There is more steel created per hour than there has been gold dug up throughout history.

Around 161,000 tons of gold have been mined by humans.

It is believe that nearly 80% of the gold on earth is still buried underground.

Absolutely pure gold is so soft it can be molded in your handle using your fingers.



UNITED WE STAND

PORTLAND GOLD PROSPECTORS INC. PRESENTS

ANNUAL POTLUCK BANQUET

JANUARY 15, 2017 at 1:30 pm

Milwaukie Grange Hall

- ▶ There will be a short general meeting and then ... the celebration begins.
- ▶ All Members, Guests and Families Welcome
- ▶ Please bring potluck food to share: One dish per family
label foods that contain nuts or strawberries
- ▶ The Chapter will provide roast beef, ham, potatoes and gravy, coffee, bottled water, rolls.
- ▶ We recommend you follow the below guide based on your last name:



- ◆ A-D: Salad. (Ideas: Green, Pasta, fruit, etc.)
- ◆ R-Z: Dessert (Ideas: If it's sweet it is a dessert)
- ◆ E-J: Appetizers (Ideas: Chips, Cheese, dips, etc.)
- ◆ K-Q: Side dishes (Ideas: Vegetables, stuffing, mini sausages.)

- ▶ Please label pots and serving spoons for easy identification and return.
- ▶ You do not need to bring your own table settings: the Association provides plates, silverware, cups, and napkins
- ▶ There will be Door Prizes.
- ▶ Special Raffle: Enter to win some gold by making a donation of canned foods. One entry per adult only. Bring two or more canned/boxed food items. If you forget to bring food items, \$5.00 food bank donation will be allowed. (1 ticket max per adult, 18 & over)
- ▶ Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up. If interested, please contact Bill Bench 503-708-4997

Plan to attend for great food & great fellowship

Special THANKS to the following businesses and individuals who have sponsored at least one of the three local GPAA chapters in the 2017 Gold and Treasure show

Cabela's



Greg Swanson
greg@summittrailerfmfg.com 503-804-8239

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PORTLAND, OR 97230 971-279-2176
971-279-2006 summittrailerfmfg.com

**George and Beverly
Parker**



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503-761-1521 Fax: 503-760-5170 800-542-Gold

For Hobby & Commercial Use Home Of Nugget Products



Tuesday - Thursday 10:30 Am to 5:30 Pm
Friday 10:30 Am To 6:00 Pm
Saturday 10:30 Am To 4:00 Pm
Sunday & Monday Closed
www.dk-nugget.com

Watch this page for more new sponsors for the 2017 Gold and Treasure Show

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. October Minutes

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

The Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Attendance:

42 attendees present at this meeting, and no new guests were present.

Meeting minutes:

The November Newsletter with the Secretary's report of the previous month was not published as of this meeting. Therefore, the approval of the minutes will be requested at the December meeting.

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:

No new correspondence was received since last month. Each month our Chapter receives a newsletter from Eastern Oregon Mining Association. It can also be seen through a link on our website. Jerry Johns said he was made aware the American Mining Rights Association (AMRA) wrote a letter to President-Elect Donald Trump explaining how Americans have been hurt by restrictions on mining over the past years. The letter can be found on the AMRA website.

Membership:

Jerry explained the requirement to become a full member of Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc that includes attending at least three meetings or events each year. New membership cards for 2017 will be handed out at the January meeting. He also talked about joining the Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA). The GPAA new member package can be purchased at the meeting for \$84.50 which includes a gold pan, snuffer, gold pan, DVD, and Mining Guide of USA claims, plus a subscription to the GPAA magazine.

Newsletter:

The current volunteer Newsletter editor is Larry Hellie who creates a great publication. Jerry stated there have been problems getting the information placed onto our website and he expects the newsletter will be there soon. Anyone who needs a hard copy mailed to them should see the treasurer to pay the \$15.00 annual fee to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

Library:

Joe Weber is the library volunteer. He said the library contains useful information for beginning prospectors and for more advanced people who want to learn about mining and equipment. There are many good references. The library is free to use for members. He asked members to please return materials the following month.

Association Claims:

Richard Ruth explained that he drove to our new claims along the Lewis River in Washington yesterday where he placed new mining claim signs that can be seen from the roadway. He said claims number 1-3 currently have corner post markers in place. The claims are each about 10 acres deep and 20 acres long. He was able to use a GPS in this area, but he

reported there is no cell phone service. Members were reminded that dredging is allowed on the Lewis River until February. Recently, the first four miles of road were improved; however, beyond that area the road is rutted.

Banquet:

Bill Bench announced the Annual Banquet will be held on January 15, 2017. He has met with a Banquet Committee to start the planning and they chose the theme "United We Stand" to tie in with the Presidential Inauguration. As in the past, members are asked to bring potluck style foods to share. The Chapter will provide beef and ham, potatoes and rolls, and drinks. Bill said there will be at least 15 door prizes and two small gold nuggets as prizes. We will also collect canned food for the Oregon Food Bank. He asked for more helpers in the kitchen that day and someone to coordinate the kitchen duties.

Richard Ruth will create a slide show of our activities to be shown during the banquet. Richard would like other members to send him their pictures also.

Jerry explained that funds will be needed to purchase prizes, supplies, and the food for the banquet. He asked for membership authorization to spend Chapter money for this purpose. Larry Sharp made a **Motion** to allow the Chapter officers to spend up to \$1,000 on the Banquet. The motion was seconded and passed by the members present. Jerry said he does not expect to spend the full amount.

Tyroy Claim – End of Season:

Dave Chiara thanked the members who helped with work at the Tyroy claim in October. He said new grass seed has been sown and the ponds look good. He reminded members that our claims are under a Plan of Operation for the next two years. Any member who plans to visit the area is required to inform Jerry Johns, Dave Chiara or Charlie Foster before going to the claim.

Clothing:

New items of clothing such as T-shirts and sweatshirts are planned to be purchased to sell to members and show club support. Beforehand, the officers would like to know what items members prefer. A pre-order list was passed so members can indicate what they might purchase. Prices will be determined soon from a printing company.

2017 Gold Show Committee:

The Gold Show Committee held two meetings to begin planning for the event at the Portland Expo Center on March 24-26, 2017. Every member will be needed to help. We especially need to obtain new vendors and sponsors (donors) for the show. Sponsors will have their name printed on volunteer T-shirts and possibly the business name on a banner. The three chapters agreed to print business cards in their newsletter for one year when a business donation is made. Jerry reported the regular admission price will again be \$10 or \$5 when purchased in advance. Our chapter can sell tickets and received a portion of the funds. Member volunteers will pay \$5 to receive their T-shirt and 2-day admission. The next planning meeting is set for Dec. 4th.

Jerry discussed our raffle plans for the Gold Show. In the past, we have presented several raffles of various items. As discussed and agreed last month, the Chapter has purchased a large 0.35 oz. gold nugget from Nome, Alaska to be our Gold Show raffle item. In order to make this available to more members and maximize our profit, the raffle tickets will be sold starting at this meeting and extend through

Sunday of the Gold Show. Ticket prices for the gold nugget are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. All of the profits will remain with our Chapter. Bill Bench has agreed to build a nice display case for the nugget. The suggestion was discussed to take a picture of the nugget that will be with our advertising poster to encourage more participation.

Elections:

Elections are held every November for two officers and one half of the Board positions. Nominations were again opened for the position of Vice-President. Those nominated last month were Bill Bench and Larry Sharp. No new nominations for this position were offered. Then nominations were opened for the position of Secretary. No new nominations for this position were offered. At this time no one has volunteered to serve as Secretary next year. Nominations were opened for four Board Members at large for 2017-2018. Those who were nominated include Jim Schmidt, Bob Burns, Larry Sharp, Vern Freitas, Charlie Foster and Ken Burns. Jerry stated that Steve Lewin is interested in serving on our board. Discussion was heard about the State GPAA Rep also serving on our Board. This was tabled to check if there is a GPAA rule to prevent him from serving in both positions. Matt Barner has asked to be replaced as a Board Member for the remainder of his term. Voting was conducted by private ballots. The results of the elections are as follows:

Vice-President: Bill Bench (2 year term)

Secretary: No Volunteer; the position needs to be filled

Board Member-At-Large: Charlie Foster, Bob Burns, Vern Freitas, Jim Schmidt Ken Burns

Education- DEQ WPCF 600 Permit Renewal:

Completing a renewal application for the DEQ 600 Permit was explained by Richard Ruth. Richard recently spoke with a DEQ official about the questions on the permit and learned they are interested in the type of equipment that will be used. He suggested what is needed for the 7 page application. Although our Tyroy claim is not on a stream, it was recommended to have the 600 Permit available.

Fund Raising:

There was a discussion on purchasing an additional 1-2 oz of gold nuggets that would be sold at the Gold Show to raise money. Jerry asked for input from members. The fluctuating price of gold was discussed and the fact that we could only increase the spot price slightly. A suggestion was made to receive a Chapter donation that is tax deductible in exchange for gold nuggets. This needs further consideration to learn what tax deductions can legally be offered. The subject was forwarded to Board Meeting discussion.

New Business:

Mining Districts:

Dave Chiara talked about the Mineral and Mining Advisory Council that is assisting groups to re-activate old mining districts that may maintain the mining rights of current miners. The Tyroy claim is within the old Pocahontas Mining District in the Baker City area. Dave suggested we ask an official of the Mineral and Mining Advisory Council to come speak to our group. Members indicated interest in having a speaker.

Invasive Species Prevention:

Dave also shared information about the spread of invasive species that can attach to our equipment and tools for mining. The problem has been addressed for boaters who move their boats to different streams. He suggested our group create a policy to recognize this problem and set ways to protect the environment. Dave volunteered to head a commit-

tee to recommend ways to be proactive on invasive species prevention. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

Jerry thanked the kitchen crew including Elaine Ruth, Dorothy Ruth, Betty Bench and Vicky Weber. The donation can is available to help with costs of the refreshments. Members can bring cookies or other treats to share. Please contact Elaine Ruth.

A raffle was held with \$1.00 tickets and \$5.00 tickets. The gold nugget was awarded to Bev Parker on the first \$5.00 ticket drawn.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

(Respectfully submitted by Melinda Dorning, Secretary)

Gold Rush to Washington State

The only significant gold rush to take place in Washington State occurred when gold was found in Swauk Creek in the central part of the state in 1873. Although prior reports of gold in the region existed as early as 1860, it was the rich deposits of gold on Swauk Creek that caused interest in gold mining in Central Washington. The first prospectors to rush into the area were the local farmers of nearby Kittitas Valley, but as word of the discovery spread, people from all around the surrounding area came to the area to search for gold.

Miners continued searching for gold deposits in the nearby area, and soon found that Williams Creek also held rich gravels that produced significant amounts of gold. Rich pockets of gold were found up and down both drainages, and mining camps in the early days of the discovery were routinely moved to accommodate miners. Named for one of the early miners to the area, the mining town of Meagherville was established at Williams Creek.

Extensive explorations into the surrounding mountains did not yield overwhelming results for prospectors seeking new gold deposits. Unlike many of the larger gold districts across the west, it was quickly realized that although there was gold to be found throughout the Cascade Mountains, by far the richest gold deposits were in Swauk and Williams Creeks, with lesser discoveries found at Boulder, Negro, and Baker Creeks.

Placer mining continued strong for many years, as rich pockets of gold were uncovered. Many lode mines were also staked in the area, which sustained the region long after the placer ground began to be worked out. One notable characteristic of the area was the beautiful crystalline and wire gold specimens that came from the district. Consisting of very rough shapes and textures, specimens from this mining district are highly sought out by mineral collectors. During the heyday of the gold rush, little interest was given to these amazing specimens, and most were melted down for their gold content. These specimens ranged from small gold crystals to huge coarse nuggets, including reports of a huge nugget that weighed over 22 ounces. Sadly, nearly all of them were sent off to be smelted.

By the early 1880's the placer deposits were beginning to be depleted, and interest from the white miners was focused instead on lode production. During this time many Chinese miners moved into the region to work the ground that the white miners considered to be "worked out". Due to the harsh conditions in China at the time, even less productive ground was attractive to the Chinese miners. With the introduction of [hydraulic mining](#), there were renewed interests in the placers for a short time, but most placer mining petered out by the end of the decade.



Ruth Enterprises



Richard & Elaine Ruth

Cash Register, Computer & More Recycling

9100 S.E. 282nd Ave

Boring, OR 97009

ruthenterprises1@comcast.net

Cell 503-348-5271

Merry Christmas

and a

Very Happy New

Year