



Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc

GPAA Portland Oregon Chapter



The Prospector

President's Blog February 2017

It's been quite an interesting winter here in the Pacific NW. Unfortunately weather forced us to cancel both our December and January meetings. There has been a lot of items that we needed to cover in these meeting and we are pushing up against some deadlines. Let's start with the annual potluck banquet in January. This meeting is more than just a celebration of another successful year of prospecting, it marks the rotation of our officers and board members. These selfless volunteers put in countless hours each year to make this chapter successful and they deserve to get recognition for their help. The good news is that we will be having the Banquet at our February meeting instead of January. The next hot item is the Gold and Treasure Show. This is fast approaching on March 25th and 26th. We need to get show volunteers now so we can order shirts for the volunteers. If you are not going to be at the February meeting, but plan on volunteering at the show, please e-mail me so I can get your names and shirt sizes. We need 50 -75 volunteers from our chapter to make this successful. Final topic for this blog is volunteers. We have some vacancies that need to be filled. We REALLY need someone to step up and fill the Secretary role. The chapter doesn't work without support from the members and this is a critical role. We also need a new Newsletter editor. Larry has done an outstanding job the last year or more, but he is transitioning to other responsibilities and needs to pass this on. Finally, Joe is ready to rotate out of the librarians' role. Please consider stepping into one of these roles. We can't have a chapter without volunteers.

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

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Come Join Us at Our Next Meetings

February 19th 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.

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.

Lost Dutchmans & New 49'ers membership for sale

Former member is selling their Lifetime, Paid in Full, Membership in the LDMA, asking \$3300 and Lifetime, Paid in Full, Membership in the New 49'ers asking \$3500. Contact Darlene Schafer [503-593-7534](tel:503-593-7534).

Lost Dutchmans membership for sale

We have lost one of our fellow miners in 2016 and the family is selling their "transferrable" LDMA membership. Cost is \$2400 plus any transfer fees. If interested, please contact MARY SHORT at 503-625-6497.

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. - January Meeting Minutes

January meeting cancelled due to weather.....

MMAC Update - By Scott Harn

Within hours of President Trump's inauguration he signed an executive order to halt any pending regulations and delay for 60 days any that had already been published in the Federal Register but had not yet been implemented so he and his staff could review them.

During President Trump's campaign he stated he intended to reduce the regulations on businesses of all types, including mining.

Bill Jensen, one of the national advisors for the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council (MMAC), was in Washington, DC, during the week of the inauguration, meeting with members of the new administration and Congress to get the first MMAC bill on its way to becoming law. This first bill will federally recognize MMAC-approved Mining Districts and reopen many of the historic access routes and roads needed by miners and all outdoor user groups.

Many traditional Mining Districts have received assistance from MMAC and will soon be reaping the benefits. One such Mining District is the Koyukuk Mining District in Alaska. The Koyukuk Mining District is huge, encompassing millions of acres. MMAC provided assistance in getting the district organized/modernized and helped them obtain voting rights on the federal oversight board.

In early January MMAC held a conference call for traditional, organized Mining Districts and those wishing to get their districts modernized with MMAC assistance. Hundreds of miners participated in this conference call. One caller wondered why he should be required to join MMAC, asked why MMAC was not a non-profit, and compared it to some kind of extortion attempt. If he had questions like these, I assume there are others with similar questions and I will address them here.

First off, there is no requirement to join MMAC. Miners are welcome to try to obtain federal recognition on their own accord, but be forewarned that it is not an easy process. If it were easy, there would be no need for the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council or the services they are providing. MMAC administrators have walked many Mining Districts through the steps needed to become federally recognized and there are literally dozens more Mining Districts in the process right now. MMAC asks for \$110 from those claimholders in MMAC-assisted Mining Districts to pay for materials, representation and on-going training. (If there is more than one person listed on the claim, only one needs to become a "gold" MMAC member; the others listed on the claim can join as "silver" members at \$30 per year and still receive the benefits.)

The funds also go to pay for Geological Information System (GIS) mapping of Mining Districts, which Congress has requested we provide, bill writing and lobbying.

Some have asked why MMAC is not a non-profit organization. Current IRS regulations put a cap on funds spent for lobbying for non-profits. MMAC has already made significant progress in Washington, DC, and wants to continue lobbying to get several bills passed on behalf of all miners.

While MMAC is not a non-profit, there have been no profits generated to date. So far, all of the national advisors for MMAC and many of the administrators have sunk their own personal funds into this effort because we believe it is that important. (I've travelled as far as Montana to represent MMAC and assist Mining Districts on their path to federal recognition, all without reimbursement.)

Each of the national advisors (myself included) and current MMAC administrators believe we can and will be successful in our efforts to return to reasonable regulations, reopen closed areas and roads to valuable minerals and metals, and re-establish mining as a priority for public lands.

Another question I recently received was regarding small mining clubs; specifically, whether or not this effort would benefit them and should they join MMAC.

Members of small mining clubs will definitely reap some of the benefits of this effort. Whether or not you are a claimholder, when a Mining District obtains the authority to reopen closed roads and trails, successfully reopens a closed area or removes some of the previous restrictions placed on public lands, members of small mining clubs will also enjoy those benefits! These folks can join as "silver" members to help us get as many traditional Mining Districts recognized as possible and to help us get the legislation through Congress.

If you have already read the Legislative and Regulatory Update column, you know that legislators in Oregon and Washington are following the path of California, trying to decimate your mining rights. One of the key provisions in our proposed bill will remove authority from the states to regulate mining and return that authority to the Bureau of Land Management and MMAC-approved Mining Districts.

I would like to encourage everyone to visit mmacusa.org to see all that is being accomplished on your behalf. On the website you can view the latest revision of the main bill we have been asked by Congress to write to restore the rights of miners and Mining Districts, you can join MMAC as a silver or gold member, or you can just make a contribution to fund these efforts.

With the new administration and current makeup of Congress, we have historic opportunities that may not come again for decades. If you are a claimholder in a traditional Mining District, contact MMAC and get your district modernized so you are not left behind.

You'll find Public Notices online for the Blewett Mining District in Washington State and the Mount Pisgah/Caribou Mountain Mining District in Idaho. If you are a claimholder in one of these districts, please read the Public Notice and consider attending the meeting. (Be sure to bring along your BLM claimholder records in order to participate in the vote.)

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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 off you last name:



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

- 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 the local GPAA chapters in the 2017 Gold and Treasure

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2017 Gold and Treasure Show**

That First Nugget

by Ray Mills

I met my hunting partner George and his son-in-law Kaleb at our arranged parking site. George, as some of you may know, is recovering from a very serious medical condition and is making a great comeback, and he says “hello” to all his detecting friends. This was our first trip together and after such a long period of inactivity, George was ready to hit the hills.

After getting all the gear together we headed up the old road that led us to an old ground sluice site. George and Kaleb were using lightweight VLF (very low frequency) detectors. I carried a newer technology unit that is just a tad coil-heavy in the front. We had plenty of water as the temperature was supposed to hit over a hundred degrees. Our walk took about twenty minutes until we could start detecting. We came to a place where we split off from each other at the top of a hill. We call this place the Line Pit.

The Line Pit, an old ground sluice site, is a small gully that leads off some high ground and produced some nuggets close to an ounce when we first detected the area. The pocket gold comes from a series of clay lines that run from the northwest to the south-east. To most people the appearance of the Line Pit would not jump out or stir any emotion, unless a person was told what had been detected there years earlier.

I walked by this same area many times on the way to “better ground.” If I remember right, I was with another friend, Ron, years ago, and as we walked by it he asked me about it. I don’t remember if he detected it that day or on another trip, but he found a beautiful piece that was almost an ounce. We started looking at the area harder and found some other areas nearby that produced lots of nice nuggets.



The area below the small hilltop.



George recovering a crumb-sized piece.

The Line Pit was the area that George and Kaleb were going to hunt using their VLFs. I headed down an old roadbed to the bottom of the dry creek bed and crossed to the other side. As I walked up the slope I was in very familiar ground. I stopped to drink some tea, and as I was looking around I began to reminisce about nuggets that I had taken out of this washed off area years earlier. Using my old 3000, I had pulled many ounces off this small slope and the surrounding area. All of the gold was very unique in character and there were many pieces from 2.5 pennyweight on up to twelve pennyweight. There were also quite a few “earring pieces” and larger that came out of this area.

Dave, another friend, found a beautiful 14+ pennyweight nugget in a pile where it had been thrown out. The nugget was shaped like a Christmas tree. It is one of the only areas I remember where all the signals were gold for the first few days. It was fun but it’s getting harder to find areas like this anymore. It takes boots and time on the ground, but there are still places out there. Remember—three square feet can make you really happy.

The first time into this particular area I found several old steel plate grizzlies that had one-inch holes for classifying the material that was being washed by the old timers. The size of the screen holes gave me a good idea as to what size gold may be in the area. I found six of these old steel plates lying around a widespread zone so I was pretty content that I had found a paying piece of ground of a decent size.

I was ready to start detecting and at the same time telling myself not to expect too much out of this old digging as it had been hit hard over the years with many detectors. I hunted for about an hour and had picked up a few small pieces of old white lead and it was starting to get hot. I took another break and could hear George and Kaleb talking as they were coming down the old road.

George knew where the shallower ground was located and put Kaleb on it, hoping he would find his first piece. George moved up the slope and began to hunt. I figured at least one piece would have been found by now by one

I moved around the small knob that was the hilltop, went down the slope a bit and located a nice spot where the ground leveled out some. I started detecting and immediately got a nice, mellow signal from below the pine needles and leaves. I scraped the debris away and found that the target was still in the ground. It also sounded louder and more distinct, which I was happy about. After about three scrapes and about six inches deeper, I got the target out of the dirt and as I dropped the soil onto the coil I caught a glimpse of yellow—Yes! I guessed the nugget to be about 1.5 pennyweight. I started swinging the coil again and got a small but subtle target response that only could only be heard when swinging one direction. This was a smaller piece, I could tell already, and I figured it was only a few inches down. It was a small piece and it turned out to be about eight grains.

I heard some noise and looked up to see George and Kaleb standing above me on the slope. I still had another target in the ground and I began to dig it out.

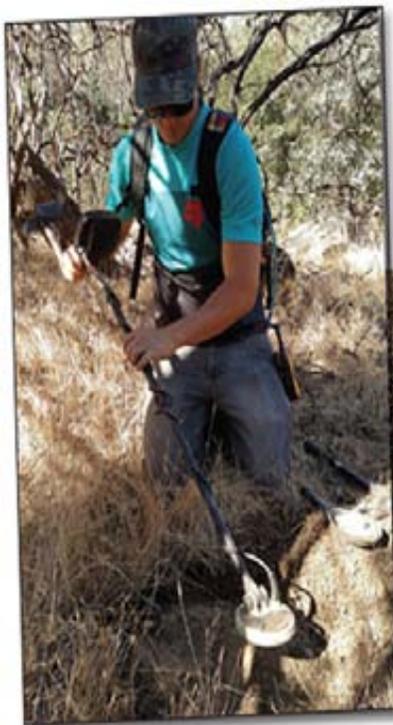
This one sounded like the first one and actually was almost three inches deeper than the first nugget. It turned out to be right at one pennyweight even.

I stopped and turned my unit off and asked the guys if they had found anything. Kaleb still had not gotten his coil over a piece of gold yet and neither had George. I told Kaleb to come on down and swing over my little hot spot. He did and he got a signal right on the edge of my first hole. After showing him the good and bad points of digging and removing the soil, he proceeded to finish up and had the target in the pile. We went over the pinpointing process and I showed him a few tricks that would save him time in the future.

As he dropped the material I spotted a small glint of yellow as the target hit the coil. He still did not see it so we showed him how to move his fingertip around till he heard it or saw it. Upon seeing the yellow he was very surprised, and now I had to find a vial for him to put it in. Those pesky vials—I remember the first few days in here years ago when the gold went into my pocket. Back then I would listen to the gold “sing” to me in my pocket as I walked back to the rig. An ounce of nice nuggets make their own particular clinking and I long for that sound again!



The author's tiny nugget.



(Left) Kaleb pinpointing his small nugget.

(Right) Hole where the larger nugget was found. Kaleb found his first piece next to it.



The heat was getting unbearable and George was ready to go, so we headed out to the rigs. It had been a nice morning hunt and some gold was found with friends, and one friend even got his first nugget of gold. My friend George is getting stronger every day and I think we will be back to full days shortly.

Overall, it was a good morning. Take someone out and show them what you do, you may find a new friend.

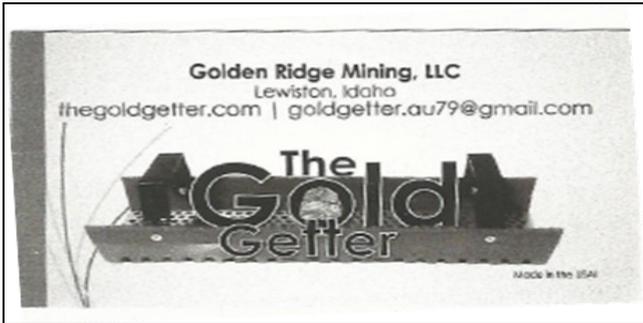
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*(Left) The author's three nuggets.
(Above) Kaleb and George looking for their first nuggets.*

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