



The Prospector

President's Blog April 2017

If you missed our March meeting, we had a great speaker from the Minerals & Mining Advisory Committee (MMAC). He shared the great work being done to help keep our mining rights alive. Additionally, March was our annual Gold and Treasure Show at the Portland EXPO center. This was a huge success and we thank all of the volunteers in the chapter that made this happen. It was definitely a group effort.

Our April meeting will be falling on EASTER Sunday. We expect family will come first in most of our member's lives, but we will have a meeting for those that are available and want to join us. The Easter bunny might be dropping by with a special opportunity for those that do make it.

We have posted our 2017 events calendar. You can see it in the newsletter and it will be adjusted monthly to reflect our ever changing plans. One change from last month's meeting until now is that the outing to the chapter claims on the East Fork of the Lewis River has been pushed out due to high water levels. The claims are still open, but the chapter outing will be later now.

Happy Prospecting, Jerry Johns

President - Portland Gold Prospectors Inc.

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Come Join Us at Our Next Meeting

Milwaukie Grange Hall
April 16, 2017—1:30 p.m.

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.

Hold everything!

A single hummingbird egg is holding up construction upgrades on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge north of San Francisco, according to the Associated Press.

Anna's Hummingbird is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which forbids the removal of the egg from a fist-size nest in a tree that is scheduled to be removed as part of \$70 million project to widen and improve the freeway.

Under the rules, the nest must remain until the hummingbird hatches and the bird leaves.

2017 Events Calendar

<u>April 16:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm – EASTER
<u>April 30:</u>	Cabella's 'Camping Classic' weekend – Will have booth set up
<u>May 20:</u>	Beach Mining – Cape Disappointment
<u>May 21:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
<u>June 11:</u>	East Fork of the Lewis River – chapter claims – pushed to June due to water levels
<u>June 18:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
<u>June 26-July 9:</u>	TYROY – Come for a day or the whole two weeks
<u>July 16:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
<u>August 5:</u>	Dredging, high banking, sluicing: on the chapter claims – North Fork Lewis River
<u>August 13:</u>	Dredging, high banking, sluicing: Day break park or Lewisville Park
<u>August 20:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
<u>Sept TBD:</u>	Beach mining - either Oregon or Washington beaches - TBD
<u>Sept 17:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
<u>Oct 7:</u>	TBD – Weather pending, we will fit another outing in before winter.
<u>October 15:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
<u>November 19:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
<u>December 17:</u>	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

Your Tax Dollars at Work

Last minute spending spree

Just three days prior to President Trump's inauguration, the State Department under the Obama Administration sent another \$500 million to the United Nations Green Climate Fund. This was the second contribution of \$500 million; the first was sent in March 2016.

And according to an article in The Daily Signal, \$221 million was sent to the Palestinian Authority within hours of President Trump's inauguration despite holds that had been placed on the funds by several representatives in Congress.

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(Might be better spent improving wilderness access for hikers, hunters, loggers and miners.)

Portland Gold Prospectors Chapter Minutes – March 19, 2017

Start time: 1:30pm

Members in attendance – 58, Visitors – 3

The president led the group in "The Pledge of Allegiance"

The Minutes from the February meeting were discussed and a motion was made to approve them as written in the March Newsletter. It was seconded and approved. The Treasurer read the monthly treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve them as read. It was seconded and approved.

Correspondences:

Burnt River invitational June 2nd – 5th. Anyone interested in attending, please see the President for details.

Blue Bucket – work party: Work party will be April 1st. Again see President for details if you wish to participate.

Membership: There are three levels of membership for the chapter.

Level 1: Chapter Member. To do this you must attend at least 3 meetings, outings or functions in a given year. At least one of these must be a business meeting. There is no additional cost beyond the 3 attendances to be a member.

Level 2: GPAA Member – We are a chapter of the GPAA and as such, all officers must be members of the GPAA. All chapter members are encouraged to join the GPAA, but that is not a requirement.

Level 3: LDMA Member– The LDMA is an Elite level within the GPAA and allows special access and discounts to functions and mining claims.

Newsletter: To get the newsletter mailed to you, please add your e-mail to our sign-in roster. If you are still not getting it, please verify the address on the roster is accurate. We can also mail it to members for \$15 a year which covers the cost of postage.

Library: A big thank you for Joe Weber who has been our librarian for the past 3 years. This ownership will now transfer over to Ron Barnas. If you have any books you would like the chapter to purchase, please contact the librarian. We have an annual budget for this. You may check out anything from the library if you are a chapter member. Please return the book(s) at the next meeting so others can also check it out.

Chapter Outings for 2017: The President went over the scheduled outings and events for 2017. A print out was also provided.

Please note: Outing timing and locations do change. See the newsletter for the monthly updates to the outing schedule.

Chapter Claims: The Chapter has five claims on the East Fork of the Lewis River and three claims near Baker City. Please attend future meetings for updates on these claims. Details will not be published in the newsletter.

MMAC – Minerals and Mining Advisory Committee: Joe Greene was the guest speaker in our meeting this month. He spoke about the great work that the MMAC is doing for the prospecting community and how we, as chapter members, can participate and support the work being done. Feedback from members was that Joe's presentation was well received.

The Chapter President discussed the need for a Chapter Secretary and Newsletter editor. The chapter is fully staffed by volunteers and these positions are considered critical roles. If interested in filling one of these positions, please contact the Chapter President: Jerry Johns.

Gold Show: The gold show is just one week after the meeting. The final details and volunteer positions were discussed.

Radio Adds will be playing in the week prior to the show.

Raffle was held and meeting was closed at 3:40pm.

The Ups and Downs of Nugget Hunting - ICMJ, April 2017 (Vol 86, No. 08)

Last July my wife and I were invited to visit Norm and Heather. They are the finest sort of humans. Norm is an excellent nugget hunter. Heather is a very fine photographer and naturalist. We always enjoy their company. Norm was taking us to a place I had read about but never got to visit. Previously he found some nice gold in the area and wanted to share with me. Actually, I think he was just being kind and generous because that is his nature. I always love seeing and detecting new country, so I was happy to head north.

On the appointed date we arrived at their house. After spending the night, we drove down the canyon, around many bends, up the mountain and through the valleys until we came to a lovely meadow. I cannot share a picture because someone might recognize the area. When someone takes me to their secret spots I never reveal the location. I will not go back unless they invite me. My integrity is worth far more than gold.

After we found the meadow we leveled our rigs. Then we had a beer, of course it could have been any beverage. Taking the moment to relax, appreciate the scenery and be happy is all part of my camping experience. After the break we assembled our detecting equipment and away we went.

Norm led me to an area where he found several nuggets. Of course he had found all the easy stuff. However, he wanted to see if he left any nuggets and asked me to scan the area. I had hardly started when I got a small signal. After sorting and digging a small bit was found. I was surprised and so was Norm. We resumed detecting and after a few minutes I found another small nugget. That was a real surprise to both of us because Norm is a really careful operator. Yes, I was feeling smug—for shame!

The next day we went to another area that had been searched by Norm and others. I started detecting in the old logging road. Roads usually have plenty of junk in them, so most people don't detect them for that reason. I have found some nice goodies in roads despite the trash. Still, I almost fell over when my first target was another small nugget—very nice and lucky. All my other signals were junk but you have to dig them all. The only way to be certain of the object's identification is to dig and see the object. On the final day we walked out from camp. You can do that when you camp on or near the gold areas. After Norm gave me a tour of another well detected area we went our separate detecting ways. I found some lovely deep pieces of iron but no gold. The day was waning, so I started detecting back to camp. I could see the road when I received a very deep and large signal. Norm had filled my head with visions of multi-ounce nuggets. You know what I was thinking and hoping. Sadly, all my deep holes have been junk and this was just another deep piece of wadded up wire. Curses on someone!

As is my habit, I checked the area for more targets, hopefully not the trashy kind. I got a small signal and it turned into a little nugget. I forgave those I cursed. I scanned the area again and got a fairly loud signal. Expecting trash I almost walked away but quickly reconsidered. After some digging the target was in my sorting pan. Shallow targets are more often trash than treasure so I was not hopeful. After a shake of my sorter I was surprised to see a man's gold wedding band. The ring looked just like my wedding ring, which I thought was safely in the truck. I was confused—actually bewildered by this—so I went back to the truck and checked. My ring was where it belonged. I could not believe I had found a gold ring while hunting gold. I laughed at myself and fate over that find. I returned to camp and showed everyone my finds, and they were justly amazed also.

Our time at Norm's spot was over. We packed up and headed to the Sierra outing organized by the Western States Prospecting Association. Unfortunately all I got at the outing was good company and fine food. My wife wanted to go home to her quilts and fat cat, so we did.

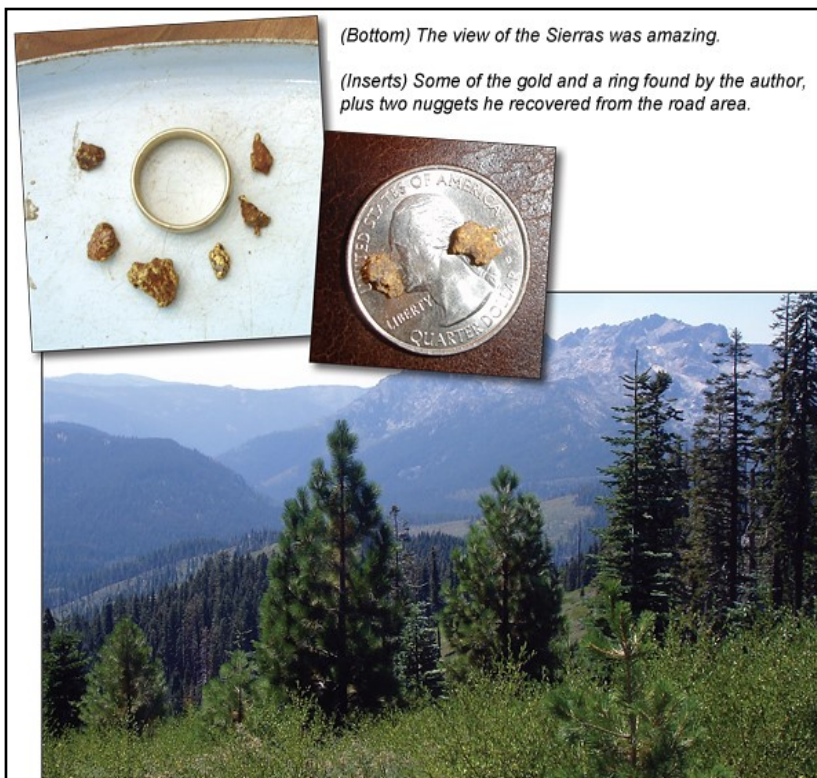
I did not get nearly enough gold hunting or gold nuggets that week so I planned another trip, and again arranged to meet up with Norm. Later in the week I planned to hook up with two more detecting buddies, Steve and Chris. I was really eager to find some gold, so I left a few days early. I was not exactly greedy for the gold; I just needed to find some. I returned to the WSPA claim. Still smug from my previous success, I was thinking I could not fail. However, the gold gods had other plans. Norm and I beat the ground for two or three hard days. Bullets and junk were found, but no gold. Woe is me!

Norm was equally disappointed in our results. Fortunately, he had an ace in the hole. Heather wanted to go home, but Norm hates to leave with only junk and skunks in the bag. He decided to give another try to an area he felt was well worked. Humans, like any other creature, return to areas where they got a goody. We always hope for more!

After another short tour of the area, we geared up and started detecting. We had been at it 20 minutes or less when Norm called me to come to him. He had a faint signal and wanted my opinion if it was a real signal or false. After a few passes over the area I told him that I would dig it if he did not. After digging through fluff and roots he got down to real soil, and in a few more scoops he had the target out. What a beauty it was—a very lovely heart-shaped nugget of about 10 grams! Sadly, my streak of no goodies continued. Norm's work was done. He had a nice nugget, so we returned to camp.

The next day Norm and Heather went home. Before leaving Norm gave me permission to return to his spot. When I returned I worked long and hard but got discouraged and left. As I was leaving I kept berating myself for not succeeding, I turned that rig around and went back. I figure I am fairly good at finding gold and I was not leaving until I had mine. The only place I had not given a good search was the old road. I had stopped earlier because of the trash in the road.

I worked that road, dug many bits of dozer blade, and finally got a better sounding signal. Sometimes I just know a signal is likely to be gold. Of course, I have to see it to be certain. Wonder of wonders—it was a fairly small bit. No matter how small, I had found a piece of gold. My posture straightened and my pride returned—success! After a few more junk targets, I found another small nugget. Yes! I was happy I had persevered and succeeded. (Continued on page 4)

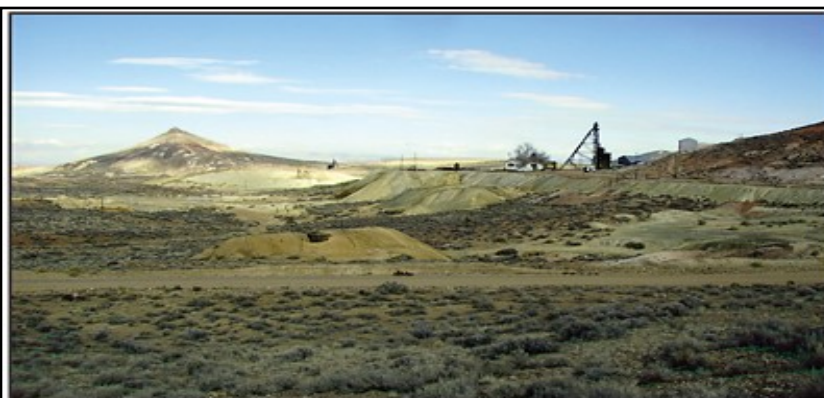


Ask The Experts - ICMJ April 2017 (Vol 86, No. 08)

Q: I recently read an ad from a reputable metal detector company claiming that one of their products has a long range locator probe that can detect changes in the electromagnetic field around the operator for quite a distance. It claims it can be used to locate metals, tunnels, etc. However, I was wondering how such a device could locate a rich gold vein in quartz, for example, since a metal like gold is non-magnetic. Perhaps something like this hypothetical vein could be located if other metals, like iron, were associated with the gold vein. I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter.

A: This is a topic which is more than plenty controversial among prospectors, with lots of differing opinions. Since you asked my opinion, all I can say is that I am personally pretty dubious of the claims made by long range locator (LRL) device makers. I have seen tests done on the operations of LRLs, and I have not seen anything myself that would convince me they work. Normal metal detectors are pretty straightforward and work on known, repeatable science like magnetic fields produced by conductive metals, but LRLs do not work on those same principals.

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The Goldfield district in central Nevada is a high-sulfidation epithermal system. The ore is high in sulfide minerals, including some rare copper minerals. More than four million ounces of gold were produced here.

(Continued from page 3)

The next morning I decided to find the shortcut over the hill to another WSPA claim. Memory is a very unreliable sense. I did find the short cut but it was not short and certainly not smooth. Quads would make short work of the trip, but in my truck it was a rough and rocky ride. As I drove through the country, I found some old workings and decided to check them. As I prospected along I came within 20 feet of a meat bee nest. The meat bees, otherwise known as yellowjackets, were in great supply this summer and not friendly. Of course, I went around them and continued detecting.

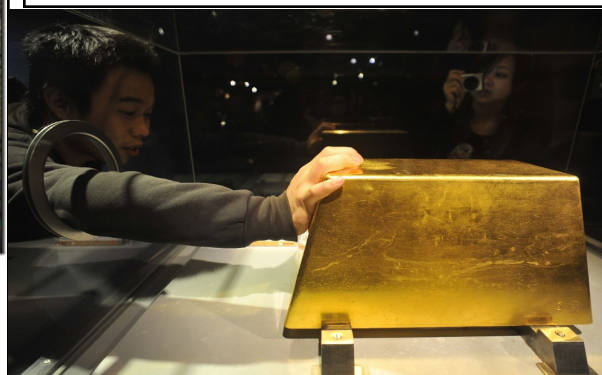
As I was detecting another area, I got that dreaded call of nature. As I was searching for the perfect spot, I stepped over another nest. These wasps did not care for my intrusion and started flying around me. Still needing to find the right spot to answer that call, I jumped away, trying to keep my pants up, but the meat bees were chasing me. I was still attached to my detector gear, holding my pants in one hand, slapping at yellowjackets with the other and moving away from the nest.

After a short run there was only one wasp attacking me. Holding my pants with my left hand, I was madly trying to kill the little monster with my right hand. Things were not looking good for me. I was wildly slapping at that wasp when it landed just below my left eye. It stung me! Fortunately, I had dropped my pick and was swatting with my bare hand; otherwise, we would both be dead. I landed a lucky blow, knocked it to the ground and stomped on the beast.

Man, my eye was hurting! My eye was aching and I feared a serious reaction. Fortunately, aside from serious pain, which lasted for a week, I did not suffer any other ill effects.

After that episode I was hurting and also very tired. I decided not to meet up with Chris and Steve. I hated to tell them I was heading home. I was sorry I was passing up a great opportunity to detect with two of my favorite gold hunters. I was sorry I jumped the gun in my haste to get more gold. That is the way it goes when eagerness overwhelms patience and proper planning. I still had a very fine time, of course.

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