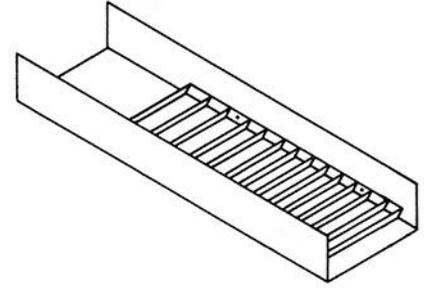




Prospectors Association

444 Winchester PMB 12-D,
Roseburg, OR 97470



THE SLUICE BOX

January 2016

DCPA meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Pine Grove Community Church, 1729 Buckhorn Road, Roseburg, OR 97470 at 7:00 pm. There is an optional potluck starting at 6:30 pm. The Board of Directors meeting is at 6:00 and open to all members.

Dues are \$12 per year for single or family. All members need to attend at least 4 functions (meeting, outing, gold show, picnic, etc.) to qualify to mine on our claims unless it's an official outing.

Sunshine: If you know of anyone who is ill or has had a death in the family, etc. let me know so I can send them a card. Walt: 541-459-3489 or wrevens@yahoo.com

From the Meeting:

1. Called to order by President Bob Peebles
2. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.
3. Treasurer's report read and approved.
4. Still waiting on Claim paperwork back from BLM.
5. No old business.
6. No new business.
7. Awards given.
8. Raffles held.
9. Gift exchange done.
10. Dinner served.
11. Meeting adjourned.

Membership:

Dues are due now and are to be paid by March. I've attached an application for your convenience. You can either mail it in or pay at the meeting. Members who have not paid by the end of March will be dropped from the roster.

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Claims:

As mentioned before, all our paperwork is in. We are just waiting for the filed copies to come back from the BLM. We'd still like to have a Claims class but we're waiting for the LR2000 to be updated. What we look for when researching new claims are those that have been forfeited or not renewed. A good part of the class will be teaching that system.

Outings:

Gold: There is a Beach outing planned for Saturday January 16 at the Wayside which is in the same vicinity as Whiskey Run. I checked the weather and the forecast is 52 degrees with a 60% chance of rain. I asked Gary if he still wanted to do it. His reply was "Rain or shine. Gotta get wet to find gold!" We will be meeting at the Dairy Queen in Winston at 8:00 a.m. and caravanning to the coast. We usually stop at the store in Coquille to use the restroom and pick up food, drinks, etc. They make great biscuits and gravy!

I'm not sure what's planned ahead for the winter months. We could do some indoor activities. Gary has tons of DVDs. We could have a Saturday Matinee at the Church. The clean-up equipment demos went over pretty well although nobody brought their cons to be cleaned. Last year we did one on "Reading the River". I'd also be willing to have another Metal Detecting Class.

Metal Detecting: Cali-boy don't detect in cold weather unless there's sun and definitely not in the mud! We may start back up in the spring.

Annual Christmas Party:

This event was a great success. We had plenty of food and the prime rib cuts were HUGH! The gift exchange is always entertaining as you are allowed to involuntarily trade (steal) other people's presents. Special thank you cards were given to:

Vicki & Terry Johnston
Mike Eschelman
Floyd Jenkins
Ed Julian
Walt Evens

These were for work done on behalf of the club throughout the year.

The two sluice boxes donated by Gary Sturgill and his company Placer Gold Mining Supplies were raffled off. The folding sluice went to our new Vice-President Robert Krewson. The regular sluice was won by Richard Schmitz.

A short business meeting was held in accordance with our bylaws; hence the term "Annual Meeting".



A nice view of the room!



Making dinner happen!

You can see more photos in my Facebook album:

https://www.facebook.com/walter.evens.7/media_set?set=a.10153482769572054.1073742003.751307053&type=3

Legislation:

To the best of my knowledge the moratorium prohibiting motorized mining equipment went in effect on midnight January 2, 2016. This is (in part) an email I received from James Buchal, the attorney representing the Plaintiffs in the case against the state:

“Since we last communicated, the federal court judge granted the State until February 5th to reply to the motion for summary judgment, I moved for reconsideration based on the Oregon Supreme Court’s request for briefing concerning SB 838 in a related case, and the federal court has set a hearing on the motion for reconsideration for January 28, 2015.

In the meantime, we have today received discovery demands from the defendant-intervenor environmentalists, copies of which are attached (The defendant-intervenor environmentalists are none other than the Rogue Riverkeeper organization. I’m still not clear as to why they are representing the state).

These consist of Requests for Admission, which I intend to answer: (1) Deny, (2) Admit (3) Admit; (4) Admit; and (5) Not sure, need more information.

There is a single Request for Production, asking for a list of miners and mineral operations. You each may or may not have such lists; you are not required to generate them by this Request, but they can and do ask for documents to be generated in response to . . .”

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“The most burdensome item is Interrogatory No. 1, which consists of multiple subparts, basically seeking the details of every mining operation conducted by every miner on your claims for the last five years.

It is possible to construct an argument that it would be unduly burdensome to provide this information, and that it is not necessary to resolve the question before the Court. However, refusal to provide the information may delay a court ruling, and it may not be so difficult for you all to answer (with the exception of the district, associations and clubs, who might say they simply do not possess the information).”

We believe these are all stall tactics to potentially eliminate Plaintiffs or possibly give the state time to vote on SB830 (SB838 revised) when the legislative session starts back up in February. SB830 has no moratorium.

On a similar note, the Galice Mining District has come up with a plan to use parts of the Mining Law itself rather than “Federal Pre-emption” to fight the state. I attended their meeting on Friday the 8th. I will report my findings Monday night.

So what does this all mean? As far as I can see you can classify buckets and run your sluice box as long as it's done without power. You can have a hand operated rocker box. You're allowed to metal detect. You may use a motorized drywasher or any other power equipment as long as it's over 100 yards past the Ordinary High Water Mark and you don't disturb any vegetation. You can snipe for gold with crevice tools or use a mask and either a snorkel or scuba tank(s) but not a motorized hookah system.

What may or may not be allowed depending on their interpretation is a hand dredge (sucker made from PVC or ABS pipe), dredging with drain field tubing or a siphon dredge including gravity fed. Although they are not motorized they may still classify them as a dredge according to the latest DEQ700 Permit. I doubt if they'd win that case in court.

What many are already doing (which I'm sure the state would not like if they found out) is classifying buckets, taking them home and running them through power equipment there. If you do that, you could be a good Oregonian and take your processed tailings back to where you got them. I know of one DCPA member who does that.

Lastly, you can go to Umpqua Sand and Gravel and purchase sand. As I've mentioned before they don't use a sluice box so according to Gary Sturgill “There's gold in it!”.

Part of the law reads that the stream will be closed unless there is a natural or manmade barrier keeping the salmonids from swimming upstream. One example is Dorena Dam and the Bohemia Mining District because there is no fish ladder. Although they may be few and far between, I'm sure that's not the only place that fits that criterion. It will take a bit of research to find such areas. You should check and see whether your claim is one of them.

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Legislation (cont.):

When in doubt you could check with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. They're the ones who determined which waterways would be open or closed.

Here's the link to the map. I hear that they have a final version but can't find it on the Internet. Maybe it's just the draft with revisions. I'll see what I can find out.

<http://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b9850ba265e546c8b528e9900e9300de>

Kerby's Corner:

"For those who choose to not obtain a permit: First things first, you should immediately discard the idea of mining at places like Dole Bar, Gold Ray or other areas where do you not have bonafide rights. If you don't have a claim, you should begin actively looking for one, taking care to make a VALID LOCATION. That means making discovery and complying with all the requirements so far as manner of location. State law enforcement who are looking for miners to prosecute typically only visit these areas and seldom venture onto the Public Domain. As a general rule of thumb, the only government employees you might encounter on the Public Domain are typically BLM or USFS (depending on jurisdiction).

Despite our differences, BLM and USFS do not tend to harass miners that are operating small equipment on their claims (so-called "casual use" in their regulations), though some areas might have over-aggressive LEOs associated with these agencies who will harass just about anyone for ANYTHING, including breathing. Most miners are already pretty aware of those individuals and SERIOUS efforts should be made to get them moved out of your area. Beyond those individuals, MOST BLM and USFS employees (especially those who work in minerals) are actually quite aware of some of the issues in these permits and as a general rule, have no interest in undertaking the duties of permit checking. As one USFS Mineral Administrator recently stated locally: "We have nothing to do with these permits and that is not our jurisdiction". And he's correct; USFS do not get involved in that issue and only some of their more notorious employees have been known to demand to see a permit. That is equally true of BLM. Secondly, you should always try to follow two cardinal rules: The first is to NEVER go mining without some sort of recording or video device to document any encounters with agencies. Regardless of what they tell you, you have EVERY right to record/document them. The second is that if possible, you should always have a partner who can not only watch your back and help you do your work, but who can also serve as a witness in case of trouble".

To be continued ...

Pocket Mining by Alex Quartz; NUMBER III; Free or Decomposed Pockets (cont.)

“If he fails to find the feeder without disturbing much of the ground in the vicinity of where he thinks the pocket is, he then cuts a trench down to bedrock, up and down hill, at the end and in the center of the trace, commencing a little below where the gold gave out and extending it up above where he got the last gold. By doing this he cuts across the ledge or seam which gives the pocket, and then it is an easy matter to find the feeder on the ledge.

Should he fail to find a ledge or seam in his trench, which should extend up and down hill far enough above and below where his gold gave out, to cut the ledge if it runs crosswise of the hill, then he digs another trench at right angles with the first one, a short distance below where the gold gave out, and in this trench he will cut the ledge if it runs parallel or nearly so with his trace. In this manner he is sure to find the ledge, and when once found it is an easy matter to find the spot where the pocket is.

I have seen places where prospectors had followed up traces until the gold gave out, and then dug hole after hole and tore up the earth in such a manner that it would be almost impossible for the next prospector who came along to find out where the gold gave out. When such prospectors fail to get the pocket, it is a soft snap generally for the professional who comes after him, for half the work is already done for him and he goes to trenching and soon finds the ledge which the first man has dug holes on both sides of, but did not happen to dig one on the ledge.

In many places the ledges crop or give out considerable float, and in such cases the pockets are more easily found. At the point where the pocket occurs the ledge is generally more or less decomposed, and in most cases it carries a large amount of iron oxide. The stringer or ledge that invariably comes in through the country rock and contacts with the ledge at the point where the pocket occurs, is generally largely composed of lime, iron, copper, or manganese. If it is composed largely of quartz, or is a quartz ledge or vein, it will be found to carry one or more of those minerals in large quantities. .” To be continued...

Miner’s Mall:

This will be a monthly classified advertising area for members who want to buy or sell prospecting and mining equipment. This is for members only. No retailers please. I will approach the board about selling business card size ads for vendors. However, if you’re a vendor and the item is used, I don’t see why I can’t post the ad.

E-mail them to me: wrevens@yahoo.com Send photos if you like. I’ll try to get them in. If you don’t have e-mail then call me at 541-459-3489.

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Miner's Mall (cont.):

For Sale: Slightly used Minelab 705 General Purpose Metal Detector \$625 Tom Bohmker, Cascade Mountains Gold @ 503-606-9895. Email: cascademountainsgold@gmail.com.

For Sale: Used small Keene high banker, foldable and portable with an electric motor/pump and no hoses, \$250; Stephen Trout @ 541 391 2406 in Elkton.

For Sale: Used White's MXT 950 Metal Detector with extra 10" Elliptical DD Coil: \$600
Used White's DFX Metal Detector with headphones and older Bullseye pinpointer: \$500
Used Fisher F75 with three coils: \$749. Used Gold Genie Spiral Wheel: \$300; Used D&K 3 inch Highbanker/Dredge Combo with 6.5 HP Honda Engine and P185 pump: \$1000.00. Walt @ 541-315-2030