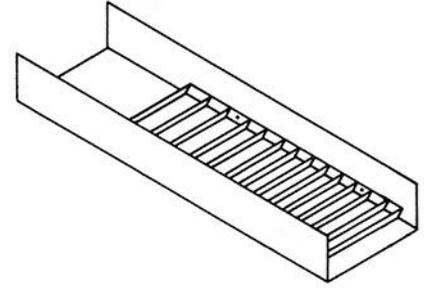




Prospectors Association

444 Winchester PMB 12-D,
Roseburg, OR 97470



THE SLUICE BOX

November 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: 541-649-1677 or wrevens@yahoo.com

From the Meeting:

- Called to order by President Gary Sturgill
- Minutes read and approved
- Treasurers Report read and approved
- Outings: Island Creek and the Wayside
- Claims – All paperwork is in on the new claim
- No legislative Report
- Program – MMAC Presentation
- Raffles held
- Meeting adjourned

There were 24 in attendance with two speakers and three guests.

Outings:

There were two outings for October. The first was to Island Creek west of Riddle. The second was to the State Park we call "The Wayside" out Seven Devils road north of Bandon. Gary Sturgill took a group along with the crew from Prospecting Channel.com to film the equipment he manufactures in action. There was talk at the meeting about running a gravity fed High Banker.

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Outings (cont.):

I'd love to see that. I'm still trying to find a way to use my Gold Cube at the beach without power or hauling sand up to the parking lot.



Just because there's nobody there, doesn't mean the digs are abandoned!



VP Robert Krewson checking on new member Kris Webber's progress.

The November outing will be Saturday the 19th to Whiskey Run north of Bandon for some "Beach Mining". The rendezvous point is the Winston Dairy Queen at 8:00 a.m.

Claims:

All of the annual paperwork has been submitted, approved and returned to DCPA including the new claim out North Myrtle road near Lees Creek. We are good to go for another year.

Presentation/Education:

Our guest speakers this month were Joe Greene and Claudia Wise from the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council (MMAC). There have been many amendments to the Mining law since its inception in 1866. Two things have never changed; the purpose and intent of Congress (even through the revisions) and the power of the Mining Districts to govern themselves. Prior to Oregon's statehood, before city, county and local Authorities, there were the Mining Districts. They made laws and set policies which guided the miners in their day to day activities. They were the government, the clerks and recorders, even law enforcement. Many of what they created and achieved went in to the Mining Law.

Most Mining Districts were not closed but were abandoned much like the mines they governed. During World War II gold mining was outlawed. When they came back from the war, many sought employment elsewhere probably because the mines were in such disrepair that it wasn't feasible to start them back up. Maybe the gold standard was so poor that nobody could make any money at it.

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Presentation/Education (cont.):

The MMAC wants us to re-establish our local mining districts and are currently doing research to locate original By-Laws. Right now, Districts like Galice are currently covering Jackson, Josephine and Douglas counties. Within each of those, there were many smaller districts. They (MMAC) also have a group of lobbyists who go to Washington, D.C. and speak to Congressmen and Senators about the Mining Industry, Mining Districts and the need of metals and minerals for National Security. Most of those they've spoke with were very receptive and hadn't realized how bad things have become. It's my understanding that regardless of what the state says or does, members of the mining districts will be able to do pretty much whatever they want in order to extract wealth from the ground.

Here is a link to their website:

<http://www.mineralsandminingadvisorycouncil.org/>

The MMAC would like to see as many districts as possible but that takes people with the dedication to re-form and run each one. I think the largest was Riddle although another covered the Myrtle Creek area. For now, I think it would be wise to re-establish at least one to govern all of Douglas County. Once we have that going then those that want to get involved can breathe life in to others if they choose. Keep in mind that when the Districts were formed, travel was slow. It most likely took you a few days to go from Grants Pass to Roseburg. Now you can make it in 1.5 hours. With the demographics changing, maybe a larger district covering the whole county would be a better idea.

Mining Districts are on par with regulatory agencies like the Forest Service, BLM and EPA. The important thing is to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the powers that be, especially the BLM. That's what really gives the Districts their clout and levels the playing field. Members should also try and obtain seats on any advisory committees which may try and close areas for various reasons. As I'm sure you're well aware, most of them make decisions without ever contacting those impacted the most.

You can read more about the MMAC and Mining Districts in the free online articles from the International California Mining Journal (ICMJ) here:

<http://www.icmj.com/>

Annual Meeting and Holiday Party:

The event is planned for Monday December 12th starting at 6:00 p.m. It's the only "Outing" scheduled for that month. There will be a short meeting wrapping up 2016. Dinner will be Gary's award winning prime rib. DCPA is also providing drinks. Everything else is "Potluck". Bring your favorite deserts and side dishes to round out the feast. The cost is \$5 each for members and their immediate family; \$12 for guests and non-members.

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Annual Meeting and Holiday Party (cont.):

All monies collected will go towards prizes. There will be a gift exchange. I believe the limit is \$15. If you bring one, you receive one. The fun part actually begins when participants are allowed to trade "steal" from others. This happens three times and then you keep what you have.

Kerby's Corner:

Clipping of the day (it's a long one, but exciting stuff) -

LARGEST ALTHOUSE NUGGET WEIGHED 17 POUNDS FINDER LIVED IN CONSTANT FEAR THEN ON; By Wm. Mackey

McVay Jealous

"McVay was somewhat jealous and piqued by the admiration of the miners for Maxwell and was always in a good-natured way taunting and daring Maxwell. The latter seemed to disregard all this and appeared to avoid anything that would lead to a personal collision.

There was an Australian Englishman named Webb who kept a hotel and saloon at the forks of Althouse Creek. One day on a special occasion a large number of miners were assembled at Webb's from different parts of Althouse and other parts of the country. While the miners were sitting in the barroom, and when several bottles of whisky were brought and passed around and their contents drunk Harry McVay arose suddenly in the crowd and said, "I can throw any man that is in this house."

When McVay flung out his challenge to the crowd, Maxwell, who spoke with a brogue, replied, "Harry, you mane that for me, now you have gone far enough. You'll have a chance to try yourself."

McVay admitted that he meant his challenge for Maxwell. The miners quickly cleared the room in the center and formed a circle to witness the struggle between the two men. When they clinched, Maxwell threw McVay without any apparent great effort. McVay, surprised, said, "You cannot do that again."

"Yes," replied Maxwell. "I'll do it aisy," and he threw McVay three times in quick succession.

Cousin Steps Forward

Then Dick Doran, a first cousin of McVay's, came forward and struck Maxwell with the back of his hand. Maxwell, with wonderful self-control, pulled out a purse containing \$100 in gold dust and handed it over to the barkeeper for safekeeping. He then addressed McVay and the latter's friends and said with an Irish brogue, "Yees have been after me for a long time. Now if this is yere game I'll give ye enough of that too. Let the best of yees come. I can whip any man that is on Althouse."

Kerby's Corner (cont.):

“The miners then tried to prevent the men from fighting. They put McVay out of the house and the miners all went outside themselves and they locked the door on Maxwell and kept him inside. That terrible temper that had swept Tom Ryan before it in Browntown was aroused. Maxwell procured an axe and swore that if they did not open the door for him he would chop the door down. They then opened the door and let Maxwell out.

Excitement Prevails

Great excitement now prevailed among the miners. Axes were uplifted and pick handles were flourished and pitched battle seemed about to be fought between the friends of the two men. At length, the crowd was pacified and quieted down and two combatants faced each other. McVay made a furious rush at Maxwell, but the latter cleverly sidestepped and knocked McVay down. McVay sprang to his feet like a lion and launched several terrific blows as he fiercely rushed the fighting, but Maxwell skillfully ducked and parried those blows and they went wild. Maxwell knocked McVay down several times in a few minutes. The men then clinched and McVay was thrown heavily and severely beaten by Maxwell while underneath the latter. The miners told McVay to give up and say enough as Maxwell, they said, was too much for him, but McVay replied that he would die before he would do that.

The miners then pulled Maxwell off the prostrated form of McVay, and while being pulled away Maxwell gave McVay a parting kick with the toe of his heavy boot, cutting a terrible gash in McVay's forehead. McVay had been severely punished; his face and head were blackened with bruises and blood from cuts and gashes, while Maxwell scarcely bore a mark of the exciting struggle. The miners gathered around the two fighters and the two men were made to shake hands. McVay was complimented on the gallant struggle that he had made and Maxwell was acknowledged the best man on Althouse.

While several bottles of whisky were being purchased and handed around a proposal was made to raise a purse of money and send Maxwell to English to fight the English champion, Tom Sayers. As they said that Maxwell would surely make his mark in the world if he did not spend all of his life in the wilds of Oregon.

Rich Bar, where Maxwell and his partners worked, is a part of the famous Leonard, Beach and Platter claim, a tremendous deposit of gravel near where Althouse empties into the Illinois Valley. A fatality seems to have attended the working of these extensive placer deposits.

Two tunnels were driven the length of several hundred feet to drain the ground and dump the tailings into the Illinois Valley. Great freshets filled these tunnels with debris and choked the outlet for tailings and otherwise impeded the progress of working for many years past.”

Kerby's Corner (cont.):

Gulch Yields Fortune

“Immediately over a low hill from Rich Bar lies Democrat Gulch, where a few hundred yards of shallow ground yielded in early mining days the sum of \$300,000. This gulch empties into the Illinois Valley near the Smock store at Holland.

In 1870 when many of the richest claims on Althouse were pretty well worked out, the gold excitement was on the wane, and things were not as brisk as they used to be. The majority of the first miners had taken their departure for new fields. Yet there remained quite a number of the standbys who partook of ardent spirits and made things howl on certain occasions, keeping alive the spirit of the golden '50s. Among those was an Irish miner named Bill Dooley, who was called Old Bill by the miners because he was a true chip off the old block. He had been a soldier on the plains in the '40s and a miner in the early '50s in California. He was a true type of the early plainsman.

In Old Bill Dooley's time on Althouse there was a German miner named Peter Lockamyer who worked on that stream. He was a short, heavy-built man with crooked and deformed hands and feet.

Deformity Marked

Lockamyer's deformity was very marked. The palms of his hands were turned out a great deal, and the ends of his feet at the toes were turned extremely to the outside. As he struggled his shoulders when talking he presented [a] ludicrous appearance. He had a very peculiar turn of mind. He was given to making mischief and trouble for others and was continually prying into other people's affairs and investigating other people's business and commenting on what he found out and heard. Very little of what transpired in the entire county escaped his notice and comment. The miners used to say that Lockamyer was more valuable than any local newspaper from which to learn the news of the day.

There seemed to be great rivalry between Lockamyer and Old Bill Dooley. Lockamyer seemed to never tire of trying to undermine and overthrow Old Bill and upset the latter in all of his plans. Old Bill said that Lockamyer was a crooked-legged Dutch scoundrel, who was as crooked in his mind as he was in his hands and feet.

Old Bill and Lockamyer had claims opposite each other on the banks of Althouse Creek. The bed of the creek between their claims was not located by anyone.

Lockamyer had a German partner named Charley, who went away from Althouse before the trouble which we will relate occurred. While Old Bill was working at the Cohen quartz ledge for wages, Lockamyer located the creek bed between Old Bill's claim and his own, and sold it to a company of Chinamen.” To be continued.....

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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 email, then call me at 541-649-1677.

For Sale: Used White's DFX 300 Metal Detector; Excellent condition. Just got back from Whites with a complete tune up and calibration: \$375; Jim in Myrtle Creek @ 775-224-8840

Used Equipment: Slightly used White's MXT Metal Detector with Coil Cover: \$639; Slightly used Whites VX3 Metal Detector with coil cover: \$959; New Minelab X-Terra 505 Metal Detector with Koss UR30 headphones, Pro-Pointer pin pointer, 9 inch 18.75 kHz mono coil plus finds pouch & baseball cap: \$800; Used Gold Miner Spiral Wheel: \$200; Gold Magic 12E Spiral Wheel, used once. Works wet or dry: \$325; Walt @ 541-315-2030

For Sale: RP44 Shaker Table with stand. Retail at \$3000, asking \$2400; located in Gold Beach. Call Douglas @ 541-247-6707

For Sale: Dixie Doodle Trommel: \$500 motor needs work call Micah @ 541-221-2914

