

Millennium Diggers Club News

Volume 5, Issue 3

May 02, 2004



Club Officers

- PRESIDENT – **Ted Staley**
- VICE PRESIDENT – **Tom Ashworth (moved)**
- TREASURER – **Ouida Staley**
- SECRETARY – **Debra Ashworth (moved)**

Please help our officers by volunteering for committees or items of interest!

MEETINGS:

2nd Tuesday Each Month
7pm-9pm
Keizer/Salem Senior Center
930 Plymouth DR. NE
Keizer, OR

Presidents Corner

March:

Hello Fellow Diggers,

First of all I would like to thank everyone that helped to make the gold show a success.

We made enough money to pay off the dredge and to pay for the booth. A lot of contacts were made with other clubs and associations. As most of you know we had Dave McCracken as our guest speaker at the March meeting. Dave has been mining since he left the navy in the seventies. He lectured on sampling techniques, and told some very interesting stories.

There seems to be a lot of interest in our claims marking outing on April 3rd and 4th we will be meeting around 8:00 Saturday morning at Meadow Wood RV park the direction are posted on the Millennium Diggers forum www.millenniumdiggers.com and Tom Ashworth's forum www.tomashworth.com

The plan is to try and find a road or trail into the Reuben Creek Claims on Saturday And also put up the claim markers. Then back to the RV Park Saturday night where we will have a pot luck and the club will furnish hamburgers and hotdogs. Then on Sunday we will go to the Cow Creek claim and put up markers.



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April 13 Meeting:

Thirty Five persons attended this meeting. It was called to order at 7pm by Ted.

He had good and bad news about Ruben Creek to report. The April 3-4 outing was a partial success, A road was found into the upper northwest corner. The Bad news is that the road in to here is about 3 to 3 ½ miles down on a very steep switch back road. Ted does not recommend a vehicle to use this but there was a jeep down there. A quad was a good way to go. There was an old claim there and there is a gate, we are looking in to this at this time.

A financial report was given.. The GPAA Show was a great success. We have paid for the Dredge for our raffle.

The main body of the meeting was a slide show presentation by Dan Williams about the Trip to Arizona that Dan, Tom & Ted took.

There were lots of interesting facts about the area and many stories they will always remember. The members attending the meeting asked many questions of Dan and Ted.

While in Glendale picking up Tom, Debra runs out of the house and states she gets to go, Dan and Ted look at each other and wondered just where she was going to ride, The truck was so full that Ted reported that “they could not even have shoe horned in another thing”

Debra then let them in on the joke she was not really going “got you guys”

The Weather was atypical it rained from the time Dan and Ted left Salem to pick up Tom in Glendale and stopped only 1 day in Arizona and then it continued to rain till they returned. At one point Dan said they had every bit of clothing on that they took because the weather was 38 Degrees. “An Arizona heat wave”

Dan even bought a new Gold Duster dry washer for the trip you know it only rains in Arizona in the monsoon season. “Some one should have told the weather it was not monsoon season.”
Needless to say the dry washer came back to Oregon unused.

After the presentation the topic turned to the May outing May 28-31 The Sun stone Outing. The subject for the May meeting is about Sunstones. “The Oregon State Stone.”

Hope to See you all there.

Ted Staley

Note from the Treasurer:

January, 2004

MEMBERSHIP INCOME	\$299.46
RAFFLES	\$121.64

TOTALS	\$421.10
EXPENCES	\$2,017.39

TOTALS	(\$1,596.29)
DECEMBER TOTAL	2241.98

ACOUNT TOTALS	\$645.69
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Ouida Staley

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Great Fun, Food & Friends

By Debra Ashworth

The April 3rd and 4th outing was good people, fun, quads, 4 wheel drives, laughing and lots of good food just for starters. The attendance was the best we have ever had to any outing since the Millennium Diggers was started.

People started rolling in Friday night some early some late but we all managed to met up Saturday morning ready to go. Ed and Donna surprised us with some donated raffles prizes from "Heaven On Earth Restaurant" that were given to them after breakfast. Two HUGE cinnamon rolls, two pies, peanut brittle, apple butter jelly and Marion Berry, beef jerky and much more. They even gave us the tickets to sell and Ed managed to convenience everyone Sat. night at the pot luck to buy some raffle tickets. Collected \$60.00 to go towards the club account.

We had 4 new members that seemed a little nervous about all of us at first but by Sunday they new that this club was one to have fun no matter what. We were able to split into two groups because the turn out was so good which enables us to cover a lot more ground to try and find a back way into Rueben Creek. Ed, Donna and Larry managed to find the spot but the bad news it will take a quad to get to it or a real long walk. Once you get to it the beauty is something to behold. There is a little waterfall and a great swimming whole along with some great place to put in a small dredge. Donna and Ed liked it so much they have decided to take there honeymoon there the weekend they are married.

Sat. night was some great food and conversation with everyone. We all got really full with October fest sausage, steaks, hot dogs, hamburgers, spaghetti and meatballs, salads, beans (3 different kinds) but I told everyone that mine were gasless. HA!! Two wonder cobblers and much more and plenty left over for lunch the next day with still leftovers.

We made a fire and since there were so many people there I did the dirty deed of making everyone introduce themselves and tell a little bit about what they enjoyed doing. By the end there were a lot of laughs from the stories and I felt like it was my going away present because I had the greatest time.

Sunday we split again so we could get some signs hung on the claims. Jim Williams , goes by JAWS on the internet was nice enough to cover the Cow Creek Claim why others of us continued the search for another way to get into Rueben. Had another wonderful day Quading with Ted, Ouida, Ed, Donna and Larry but no luck with another road. We headed back, good and tired and chow down and everyone went their separate ways to start there work week the next day.

I just want to tell everyone thanks for the great time and one I will remember. I was feeling sad about leaving all my new friends leaving for Idaho but now I think we might be seeing some of them later this year, after Tom and I find some places we can go find gold. Maybe they will just come and visit, that would be nice too.

I know that Tom and I have left the club in good hands and I have no doubt that it is just going to get bigger and better. Hope to see a bunch of you at the Sunstone outing at the end of May. We had a great time last year and look forward to having another one. To all my Millennium Diggers buddies thanks for the good time. Hope you find the Mother lode.

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SOME GREAT PICTURES FROM OUR OUTING!

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May Calendar Memorial Weekend Sunstone Outing In Plush Oregon. May 28,29,30,31,

We will be camping on the BLM area. This is a no fee Sunstone area. There is a restroom but no water. So bring plenty. Saturday night will be "The Potluck" bring a dish to share that will feed five. The club will be providing Hotdogs and Hamburgers, and all the condiments. We will be mining at the "Dust Devil Mine" Most stones are free but colored stones may cost \$\$\$\$. The Dust Devil Mine is about 1 mile from the camp area. Bring plenty of water to drink and sun screen. Tools: Hammer, Small Pick, Shovel, Small Prybar, A bucket for your sunstones. Ted made a Classifying Screen last year. The Mine provided shaker tables on a first come first serve.

Directions to Plush from Lakeview:

Drive North about 6 miles Turn Right on Hwy 140. This intersection is well marked for the Warner Mt Ski area and Adel. Drive 16 miles east on Hwy. 140, Then turn left on CR 3-13 toward Plush. This intersection is well marked for Plush, Where you should top off your fuel tank and pick up ice. Beverages and snacks before continuing north on CR 3-10 also known as Hogback Road. It is the main roads running through Plush. The pavement will end after 5.5 miles. Drive another 5.5 miles to the intersection with CR 3-11 and turn right Go ½ mile and turn left at the intersection with BLM 6155, Which is marked by a decaying sign that once read SUNSTONE. Drive 7 miles and turn left at the intersection with BLM 6115 which is well marked by a sign pointing this way to the Sunstone Collecting area.

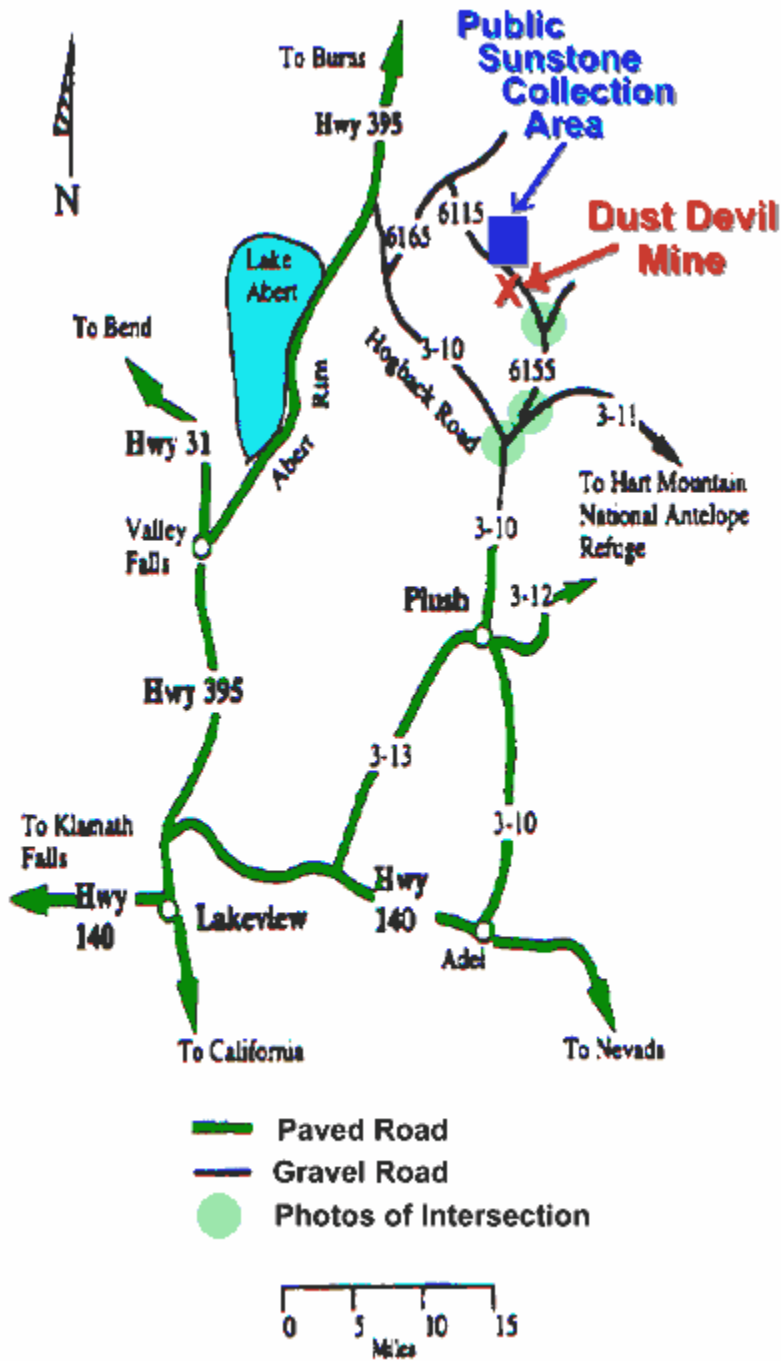
Coming From the North On 395

When traveling from the north on Hwy 395, turn left on Hogback Rd. Milepost 64. During dry weather with high clearance vehicles turn left after 7 miles on unmarked Nasty Flat Rd. Drive 7 ¼ miles then right on BLM 6115. In wet weather or in low ground clearance vehicles travel about 20 miles south on Hogback Rd. then left on cr-3-11. Then left at the intersection with BLM 6155 and left again at the intersection with BLM 6115. Travel 5 miles to the mine.

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Beginners Luck? NOT!

A True Story by Joe Greene

I'm going to head on down to Arizona the week before Ted, Tom and Dan and beat those old pros out of all there gold nuggets. He! He! Heeeeeeeeeee!.

Oh, of course, one very minor problem was observed at the Brooks outing. It goes like this: Ouida, "What's Joe doing over there leaning against the side of his truck and reading something?" Claudia, "He's reading the manual to figure out how to operate the metal detector!" Ouida replied, "Don't you think he should have done that before he got here?" Well! What do those girls know anyway????

Monday morning February 23, the truck was all packed with camping and metal detecting gear, and I was on my way. I hit the road early and by 6 pm. I was eating the dinner special in the casino restaurant at Bordertown, Nevada. I was feeling real good after dinner so I got back on the road and had an easy drive through Reno. I headed east through Fernley and Fallon, NV, then south on Highway 95. I knew there were campgrounds at Walker Lake so that was where I headed. I arrived at the lake about 9:30 to 10 pm. It was cool but not uncomfortable. When I awoke at sunrise it was somewhere in the 20 degree range. Pretty chilly! The mountains to the west were all covered with snow.

The sunrise coming up over Walker Lake was beautiful. After a couple of bowls of cereal I headed south. I arrived at Beatty about 1:45 pm. and fueled the truck. Then I wandered over to the casino restaurant and fueled myself. I arrived in Las Vegas at rush hour. That was fun! But, I pushed on through. I didn't want to mess with security at Hoover Dam so I stayed on Highway 95 which turns south just west of Boulder City. When I arrived



at Laughlin the sun had already set. I pushed on through Kingman to Highway 93 which I traveled until I reached Wikieup. Spent the night there then pushed off south early the next morning. Cruised through Wickenburg around 10 am. and arrived in Morristown 15-20 minutes later. It was 10:30 and I was on Castle Hot Springs Road and heading north into the desert. My destination was the Roadrunner Prospecting Club of Arizona claims north of Morristown. The claims were in-and-around the San Domingo Wash, Ox Wash and the Little San Domingo wash. They consist of 21 contiguous claims and 5 additional GPAA claims that interlock with them on the north side.

I headed first into the Little San Domingo Wash. Drove into the wash about a half mile and came to a rock wall. So, I decided to backtrack and head on over to the far Northwest corner of the claims and start there. The roads were great in many places then you would come upon spots that it would be best traveled with high clearance vehicle. I arrived at the Carrie #4 claim and set up camp, turned on and ground balanced my Whites Gold Master II metal detector and headed out to the northeast. I immediately dropped down into a small wash and it was soon obvious there had been a lot of dry washing going on there. There were holes and piles of material everywhere. Immediately I started hitting targets. I must have been near an old camp site. I found some lovely old rusted soup cans, and pieces of rusted tin of every imaginable size. I soon became tired of digging rust. There wasn't a bench along this part of the wash so,

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I headed up the side of the nearby hill. I was not finding anything in the way of metals but, the ground did give up some pretty quartz crystals. I circled around to the northeast and back south to camp. Along the way I picked up a few bullets and shell casings.

Late in the day my 1:4, 1:40 ground balance potentiometer didn't seem to feel right when I was adjusting the ground balance. To make the story short, all 3 wires were broken off of the fine tuning pot because it had come loose from the housing and the wires had been moving at the solder joints during ground balance.

So! There I had 3 colored wires broken loose and no idea which color went on which attachment point.

I headed out of the desert and into Chandler, about an hour and 45 minute drive. I called Whites Electronics and spoke to Steve Hanson. He found out which colored wire attached where so I could make my own repairs. CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS!!! My son-in-law does not own a soldering iron. Well, I am sure Radio Shack was dying for my business. After repairing my metal detector I spent the night with the family.

The next morning I was on my way to Morristown. I set up camp at the same place on Carrie #4, ground balanced my detector, and headed up the "hill" to the west. I heard there was a wash with a nice wide bench over there. It is not clear on this photo where I camped look for a white spot Above the handle of the metal detector and between the saguaro and the bush. See



the black area about 200 to 300 feet below where I was standing? And I thought all deserts were flat (just like the earth. Right?). I found with metal detecting a person can spend a long time swinging the darn think and not hearing any targets. Being an amateur I do not yet trust that I have my detector set correctly. Can you imagine, after a long period without hitting a target, how excited I was to find a lead bullet! Well, the gods did not look down kindly on me. NO GOLD! Can you believe that?

But I had a great time, good weather, and beautiful country to roam in. I did not come home empty handed though. I brought back a lot of interesting "stuff". I found buckshot, bullets, cartridges and unfired 22 shells. I found square nails, shoe nails, and other small nails. I found chicken wire, more rusted tin, and 2 metal rings. But best of all I was awarded 2 stars for effort.

Good hunting to all of you. It's a great time even without finding the gold. **But, finding gold is definitely better!**

Artifacts I Found!!!

