



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS  
ASSOCIATION  
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

**\*PRESIDENT: Karen Darnell\***

**\*VICE PRESIDENT: Ted Staley\***

**\*TREASURER: Joe Greene\***

**President's Message:** Karen sends this message: She's **"GONE MINING!"**

**Meeting Minutes from September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

**Call to Order:** All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** 25

**Secretary's Report:** No minutes were taken from August's meeting (potluck @ Don Esch's). But there were certain issues discussed. (See below).

-Penny apologized for giving the wrong mile post number (#3) in the directions to our Jeeter claim. It is actually **MILE POST 4**, and will need to be changed to that in the membership claims packet. She said, *"I really couldn't imagine giving the wrong mp number all this time and being so sure about it; almost seems like the mile post numbers had been changed.."* she remarked. Then, Tammy who had attended WVM's last meeting said **"Yes"**, they had heard that it is true, **"The mile posts have recently been changed on the Little North Fork Rd."** So, please take this into consideration.

**Outings/Activities Reports from August and September:** Delmon and Tim went to Fossil Flats (Briggs Creek). Tim is now thoroughly hooked on mining and can't wait to go back for more! Delmon mentioned the camping stuff left behind by previous camper/miner.

-Claudia met Penny, Walt, Terrie and Don Esch at Detroit Lake by the dam on road cut by Whitman Creek. We were collecting pyrite and sphalerite (zinc sulfide also called "ruby jack" or "black jack"). Real nice metallic sheen, translucent green, red and/or orange.



Sphalerite pieces



From there, we all drove up the Breitenbush River to the Elk Lake Rd turn off, then up Humbug Creek to go and check out a mine (Penny had found in some old mining records). We thought maybe the creek flowing down from there might be a good place to prospect for placer gold, and if it showed any color, we could look into putting a claim on it. Well, Don did some panning and turned up nothing. Penny got hooked on the old tailing pile, finding a lot of pyrites and sulfides, and some with "peacock ore" (bornite) and some with bright green copper carbonate (malachite). Walt went exploring the upper waterfalls area, and while picking his way back down, stepped on a yellow jacket's nest and was stung 14 times! AAHH! He left his hat behind, those hornets can have it! Somehow he frantically scrambled his way down the huge boulders in the creek and made it to the truck. It was a frightening experience. Thankfully, he did not have an allergic reaction. –We did bring back some dirt we still need to pan, and some of the interesting rocks from the site. But it didn't produce what we wanted for making a claim.

-Karen went to Soldier Creek and worked the area at Fossil Flats.

-Delmon also mentioned that we need to replace our "Federal Mining Claim" signs, because the ORMC numbers have faded and are unreadable.

#### **From August: Potluck at Don's- Topics Discussed:**

Claudia and Joe filled us in on their new roles as administrators for the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council (MMAC). "With the miners choosing to organize the traditional mining districts, they shall have federal supremacy over conflicting state and federal law upon federal lands."

Claudia said we needed to make some signs to place at the entrance of the mining districts on each main entry point with basic information giving the name and area the district encompasses along with identifying it as a MMAC assisted district (examples can be found at [www.MMACUSA.org](http://www.MMACUSA.org)). Penny volunteered to produce these signs, as requested per mining district. Wes volunteered to get several aluminum signboards. We agreed they should measure 24" x 18"

-Chuck asked about if and when we might be going to the sunstone area. We thought maybe early in October would be nice. But we did not come to terms, we still needed more member input.

#### **New Business:**

New Treasurer! We are happy to welcome back our very own **Joe Greene**, taking on his former and rightful place as our **new treasurer!** For many years Joe had been our treasurer,

and we honestly didn't take him for granted; he was just so finely tuned and disciplined in his dutiful accounting; he just had the right stuff...well, enough said, he's back. And by unanimous vote, once again, Joe is now treasurer. **Thank you Joe!**

**-Mining Demonstration/Rally in Grants Pass at the Josephine Co. Courthouse, held, September 24<sup>th</sup>.** There were small scale suction dredging demonstrations, along with many other sophisticated and custom built gold extraction devices: sluices, wheels, cubes, detectors, snuffers, to name a few, along with vendors and sponsors. We provided proof through these demonstrations of how and why small scale mining is important. Also, Joe and Claudia were there representing MMAC, in support of and promoting "The Power of Mining Districts".

-For detailed information on the dynamic power of mining districts, please go to MMAC's website [www.MMACUSA.org](http://www.MMACUSA.org)

**MMAC IS THE ONLY MINERS ORGANIZATION THAT HAS REAL SOLUTIONS!**



First sign completed by Penny 24"x18"

-Chuck wanted to know if anyone was planning to go to the sunstone desert. Maybe 2 members raised their hands. Walt and Penny wanted to go. So did Terrie. But alas, their plans were thwarted, and nothing became of the hoped-for outing.

**Editor's note:** regardless of scheduling of events and outings for each new year we still always have these "fumbled get-togethers". We need to have at least one meeting devoted to making up a schedule for the year that everyone gets behind and is serious about attending. It is disheartening to schedule an outing and then only have 2 people show up. We will try this again and appoint a contact person for the events or outings. This was brought up during the meeting, and we all agreed and decided to table it for discussion and resolution next month (October).

**Mark Your 2017 Calendar!** -Claudia has reserved **Miners Meadow on Quartzville Creek for June 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> for all Millennium Diggers** members to get together for a **camp out and potluck**. It's a real nice area, with plenty of camping spots and it is now reserved for us! This is a great opportunity for all of us to share: camping, food, gold panning, metal detecting and good fellowship with our club members and their families. The bonding and

memories we will later share is something special that always comes with camping together! We will have more info as the time gets closer.

**T-Shirts** -David Schmidt needs the folder with our Millennium Diggers logo in order to change the “diamond” to a “gold nugget” the gopher is holding. From that he can proceed with the plans to have T-shirts printed as we have previously discussed.

**Snacks:** Tim brought snacks tonight. Thank you Tim! (and thank you to anyone else that contributed!)

**Tonight's Topic:** MMAC (Minerals and Mining Advisory Council) and the Power of Mining Districts. Joe and Claudia are the new administrators of MMAC in Western Oregon. They will guide us (the miners) through the moves we need to organize our traditional mining districts.

Claudia said the founders of MMAC were sick of the loss of their rights, the road closures, the new monuments, the state agencies creating impossible regulations targeting miners and their federally granted mining rights on federal land, etc, etc. The founders put in their own money, \$100,000, to get the ball rolling, went to Washington DC and BLM, educating young managers of the agencies and the legislature that the power of mining districts on federal land has Public Land stakeholder rights that are actually elevated above the BLM authority.

As administrators of MMAC, Joe and Claudia told us that within the mining districts: all roads must stay open; there won't be any *Forest Road Management Closures*. . The *Travel Management Plan* does not apply to miners. Someone asked, “Will we need a Plan of Operation (POO)?” The answer is No. We won that court case against the Karuks. The only time you need a POO is when there is a significant surface disturbance identified by the miner.

Chuck said, “So we need to unite all miners, hunters, ranchers, *all* outdoorsmen..”, Yes, so we can organize these mining districts as originally intended. Claudia said that is one of the main goals of MMAC. Everyone needs to join MMAC and fund those working to keep our mining rights and doing so will keep roads open within those districts to the general outdoors folks as well and may also allow open areas for Ranchers.

Claudia and Joe will have MMAC silver membership forms (\$30) and gold membership forms (\$110) available at our next meeting. All mining claim owners will need the Gold Membership as part of being a member of a mining district. An important benefit is that some of the funds will go toward putting your district on GIS, a Geographic Information System Map that can be used to overlay other land uses that if in conflict with mining may be removed.

A PowerPoint presentation will be given at the October meeting titled "**The Power of Mining Districts, Restoring Access and Returning to Reasonable Regulation**" The presenter will be **Joe Greene**.

<p><b>Claims owners of the following Mining Districts should attend the scheduled Organizational meetings:</b></p>
--

**MEETING: for the NORTH SANTIAM MINING DISTRICT**

**When: Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**

**Where: Santiam Golf Club Restaurant in the Sun Room (Stayton)**

**Directions:** From Salem, Hwy 22 east towards Stayton, exit #12, turn right onto Golf Club Rd, then left into the parking lot for the golf club.

Anyone with mining claims within this district is encouraged to attend. Millennium Diggers has the Jeeter Crk Claim, which makes our members claim owners in this district.

\*\*\*

**MEETING: for the QUARTZVILLE MINING DISTRICT**

**When: Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**

**Where:** Lum's Garden Restaurant (or Lum Yuen's) (Albany)

**Directions:** From Salem, Interstate 5 south to Albany, exit 233 to Hwy 20 east. Take bridge across freeway, then turn left onto Price Rd. It's got a red roof, it's next to Hwy 20 and the I- 5 north on-ramp and the Albany Airport. You can't miss it.

Anyone with a mining claim in this district is encouraged to attend. If you are a member of the Willamette Valley Miners, you are included as a claim owner in this district.

**ALSO:** Whether you attend either or both meetings, please show your patronage to these restaurants for letting us use their meeting rooms and order some food! Thank you.

-Chuck made a motion for our association to donate \$500.00 to MMAC to help with associated administrator costs for Western Oregon. It was discussed and yes, we have enough in our treasury to make that donation. We all agreed that this is an important investment! The motion was seconded and approved by all.

**October's Meeting** Delmon will chair our October meeting, **Our program with Jack Peters** (the explosives master) who was coming to give us a presentation of just what he does and the mine owners he has benefited **has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.**

**Show and Tell:** Delmon brought in a true relic; it was an old, old dredge his dad and uncle found in the 1950's on the Yuba River after flooding had exposed it. He said it must have sat on inner tubes when it was being used. It was a real antique and a great part of history revealed.

**Break Time and raffle Ticket Sales**

**October's Letters are "S and T"**

**Meeting Adjourned**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00pm  
BE THERE!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**RAFFLE TICKETS TO WIN 1/2 LB OF GOLD- DRAWING JUNE 2, 2017:**

**ENTER TO WIN  
1/2 POUND OF GOLD**

The Western Culture Conservancy (WCC) is proud to sponsor a series of two (2) Drawings to help raise the necessary funds for Galice & Waldo Mining Districts to stay in the fight against SB 838, and so EOMA & Waldo can continue the case in the Oregon Supreme Court against DEQ's unlawful permit.

**\$5.00 PER ENTRY ~ SIX ENTRIES FOR \$25.00**

**PRELIMINARY DRAWING**

will be held DEC. 2, 2016

**GRAND PRIZE (to date): White's MX Metal Detector**

*Plus many more great prizes!*

**FINAL DRAWING**

will be held June 2, 2017

**GRAND PRIZE: 1/2 LB. of Placer GOLD!**

*Plus many more great prizes!*

**ALL ENTRIES IN THE PRELIMINARY DRAWING WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN IN THE FINAL DRAWING.**

**Both Drawings will be held at joint meetings  
of the Galice & Waldo Mining Districts.**

**NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**ONLINE ENTRIES:** Entries can be made by going to:

<http://westerncultureconservancy.blogspot.com/p/blog-page.html>

**SUBMIT ALL ENTRIES TO:  
WESTERN CULTURE CONSERVANCY  
P.O. BOX 1407  
JACKSONVILLE, OR 97530**

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
WESTERN CULTURE CONSERVANCY**

**To request a receipt, please include self-addressed stamped envelope with your mailed entry.**

**Otherwise, your check-stub is your receipt.**

**PRIZE LIST PRELIMINARY DRAWING DEC. 2, 2016**

<u>PRIZE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>DONOR</u>
1941 WW2 CAPTURED RUSSIAN NAGANT PISTOL WITH DOCUMENTATION - DONATED BY RANDY AND SUSAN PROBASCO (WAITING FOR VALUE, SHOULD FIND OUT TODAY.)		
MINER STATUE	\$29.95	ARMADILLO
BOOK: THE PROSPECTOR'S GUIDE TO RESEARCHING & LOCATING MINING CLAIMS	\$29.95	TOM KITCHAR
(4) FANCY HANDLED KNIVES	???.??	DAVE LEWIS
VB CLASSIFYING GOLD FILTER COMBO	\$339.00	CHARLOTTE
1.0 DWT NUGGET ON 18" GOLD CHAIN	\$599.00	SHELLY STUN
GRAND PRIZE: WHITES MX SPORT METAL DETECTOR	\$799.00	K.HARNACK/

**NOTE: THE PRIZE LIST WILL BE PERIODICALLY UPDATED AS MORE PRIZES ARE DONATED.**



**PRIZE LIST FINAL DRAWING JUNE 2, 2017**

<u>PRIZE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>DONOR</u>
BOOK: THE PROSPECTOR'S GUIDE TO RESEARCHING & LOCATING MINING CLAIMS	\$29.95	TOM KITCHAR
(4) FANCY HANDLED KNIVES	???.??	DAVE LEWIS
GOLD CUBE MERCHANDISE	???.??	MIKE & PAM
WHITES / LESCHE DIGGER W/SHEATH	\$49.95	JACK STILL
BIG FOOT STATUE	???.??	FRANK SERRONI
A52 KEENE SLUICE	\$125.00	DAVE LEWIS
HARD ROCK NUGGET	???.??	JOSH & SARAH BOHMKER
11.0 DWT GOLD NUGGET	Market. Value	ARMADILLO MINING



(2) VB CLASSIFYING GOLD FILTER COMBO	\$339.00	CHARLOTTE GARCIA
1/4 LB (20) SILVER COINS	Market .Value	ARMADILLO MINING
KEENE MINI MAX POWER SLUICE	\$499.00	KEENE ENG.
KEENE HIGH BANKER #173/BRIGGS	\$1,750.50	KEENE ENG.
<b>GRAND PRIZE:</b> <b>1/2 POUND OF GOLD</b> (6oz Troy)	Market. Value	GMD/WMD et.al

**NOTE: THE PRIZE LIST WILL BE PERIODICALLY UPDATED AS MORE PRIZES ARE DONATED.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE:** The money you spend on purchasing tickets is *not* tax deductible. **But**, if you want to make a DONATION to Western Culture Conservancy (a 501C3 non-profit org), as a contribution to our legal battles, **your donation IS tax deductible.**

**~~ALL MINERS ARE AFFECTED BY SENATE BILL 838~~**

\*\*\*\*\*

Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

The Millennium Diggers Association is a group based in Keizer, Oregon, which is near Salem, Oregon. The Association is for people that share an interest in searching for things of value. The club's charter is to provide members with an Association that will help promote the activities of metal detecting, prospecting, rock hounding, and treasure hunting. Part of our yearly dues pay for mining claims that are available for all club members to use. We use Association meetings to share information about locating gold, silver, coins, jewelry, gemstones, fossils and metal detecting. We plan Association outings each month where we can help each other learn all aspects of our outdoor activities. This is a great family activity, bring the kids! Please feel free to drop in on one of the monthly meetings.

**We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m, at:**

[Clear Lake United Methodist Church](#)

**920 Marks Drive**

**Keizer, OR 97303**

We meet in the church's Fellowship Hall; a real a nice meeting place complete with tables, chairs and a kitchen. The church is located across the street from the Clear Lake Fire Station. There's plenty of parking in the church's parking lot which is located behind the church.