



MILLENNIUM DIGGERS ASSOCIATION Keizer, Oregon



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Ken Orndorff

VICE PRESIDENT: George Crutcher

TREASURER: Joe Greene

Meeting Minutes from February 23rd, 2017

Call to Order: We all stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ken called the meeting to order and welcomed any guests.

Attendance: After everyone had signed in, we had a total of **18** including 1 guest, Tim Floyd, who is interested in meeting people who are like minded in prospecting for: gold, rocks, outdoors, metal detecting, and what our association has to offer. –Wes and Tammy also brought their 2 grandsons; they were very polite and well behaved.

Treasure's Report: Joe reported that our checking account looks pretty good and is about average for this time of year.

Membership: Joe is also our **membership chair**. Prior to tonight's meeting, we had 14 paid members (normally we have 30 by now). Those who haven't yet renewed their membership, now is the time. He has membership/renewal applications and will happily take payment of \$30.00 for dues. He also laminated 2017 membership cards for those paid. So after tonight, our membership will have increased.

Penny made a motion to accept the treasurer/membership report, Terrie seconded, all were in favor.

Secretary's Report: Penny sent out the January's minutes yesterday. She asked if everyone had read them ('cuz there was some fun stuff in there). Everyone said they had, Claudia made the motion to accept, Terrie seconded, all in favor, and passed.

Note from Penny: The minutes aren't always boring, I know that most of us don't even bother to look at them, but I do try to color them up a bit so they don't read so "mono-type" or "stagnant". All in favor? I am. Approved? Who knows.

Claims Report: Claudia says she has nothing to report right now. We do have 2 brand new claims to check out, but because of the snow, we can't get to them yet. After the snow is gone, she plans to go up and calculate the mileage and just how to get to each claim. Then

update and include them in a claim's packet and will get them sent out in *email with an attachment to all **PAID members.***

She said if you don't have a working email address, you won't get the claims information. So make sure Joe has your correct email address. Wes, David and Christoph said they don't have working email addresses or can't open the attachments. Claudia said get them fixed. David said "What's wrong with paper?"

(Note: Penny will look into printing a few "hard copies" when the new claims packet is officialized.)

MMAC Update: Claudia said all of their MMAC people went to the legislature in Washington DC and had 33 meetings. She heard it all went well, but doesn't have the official report on it yet. She will update us on this at our next meeting in March.

JOIN MMAC to Support All Mining Districts and get Pro-mining Bills through Federal Legislature
www.mineralsandminingadvisorycouncil.org/USDMM-store.html

Millennium Digger Members can support MMAC with a Silver Membership of \$30.

Old Business: T-Shirts? Claudia talked to her husband, Daniel, about using the file/picture we have for the MD logo, but he says he can't do it, because it is in PDF format and can't be altered. A certain program is needed for doing this, and it does cost quite a bit. Daniel does not have that program. She said she asked Ted Staley to see if he will find the original graphic, because it should be in the right program we need do the T-Shirts. After that gets secured, David will take it from there.

North Santiam Mining District: Meeting Monday February 27th at 6:00pm at Don Esch's place. Everyone is invited. All members of the Millennium Diggers are claim holders in the NSMD, because we have 2 claims there: The Jeeter claim and the new Golden Crown claim. All are encouraged to attend.

George (president NSMD) said we need more people to show up: we need more people on the Board of Directors, probably need to have one more officer so we can keep each at an odd number. So far we have 6 and 2.

We will talk over the by-laws and make any changes we need.

George asked Delmon if he wants to be on the Board of Directors. Right now Don and Chuck are the only Board Members we have and we need an odd number. Over all the duties require over-seeing how the rest of the organization is working, following the guidelines of the set by-laws. Delmon said he could try, but he really can't commit

George said the meetings won't always be on Mondays at 6:00. The schedule will be sent in email in plenty of time beforehand.

-On Our Jeeter Claim: George said he and Chuck did pretty good there last year. He says he found a new use for his Metal Detector: use it to find high concentrations of black sand and dig there.

Break Time: The table raffle had some pretty good stuff on it this time! We sold lots of tickets, so there were lots of winners! The coffee was good and we had a nice variety of snacks.

New Business:

Upcoming Events: Miner's Rally at the State Capitol! Wednesday March 15th, from 8:00 to 5:00.

Everyone is encouraged to come! Miners, loggers, ranchers, farmers, land owners, rock hounds, campers, all outdoor enthusiasts: We are fighting for "De-Regulation", it is becoming absolutely too severe. This over-regulating is affecting our rights, our lively hoods, our income and economic balance in this state.

There will be speakers, miners with a lot to say, senators backing the miners. One or two small-scale dredges will be on display, there will be a gold panning demonstration inside the lobby of the capitol, and several Oregon Gold Associations will be presenting their wares. Also several methods of gold recovery from black sands will be in operation. The demonstrations are to show the basis of the small-scale miner, and **how our activities in Oregon waters cause "less than significant" harm.**

There's more, I will send out a separate email soon as a reminder about the Rally.

This following quote is from Mike Hunter:

"The basic reason we have rallies is to make the public and legislators aware that we are a large group which is being destroyed by liberal laws and regulations. The mass of persons waving banners on the capitol steps are there to call attention to this. We won't be ignored!"

People like Tom Q and I have been (and we still are) consistently lobbying to our legislators to keep mining alive. (Not been real successful since Oregon is an ultra-liberal state.)

We are a needed revenue source for rural towns in the tune of about 30 million a year. We are fighting at the state level and must have better support from the federal government which may now happen with the new president.

We are not the type of people who will just roll over and go away, we have a voice. We stand in support of ranching, logging, farming, recreation and others who are also the revenue sources for the rural areas, as these are also very over regulated."

M. Hunter

WVM, government affairs spokesman/mining lobbyist, president Quartzville MD

-March 25th and 26th GPAA Gold and Treasure Show at the Portland Expo Center Discount admission tickets can be bought online @ goldprospectors.org/goldshows

Adults: \$5.00 presale online

Adults: \$10.00 door 12 and under free

\$7.00 or \$8.00 for parking

Wes and Tammy will be there.

If you volunteer to help with setting up, show up at 8:00am Friday March 24 (free parking that day only).

-Wes and Tammy will be hosting 2 outings to **Beverly Beach**. The first one is on **Saturday April 8th. Meet in the day parking lot at 10:00 am.** Bring buckets, sluice box and a wagon or something with wheels! It's about a mile walk north up the beach to the site. Wes says he's got extra equipment to use if you don't have what you need.

-IMPORTANT TO COMMIT! Memorial weekend- May 26th thru May 29th: Sunstones –contacts? Penny will be the contact person for this outing. Her cell number is 503-508-6582, and home phone is 503-588-9251. She plans to send out a map of how to get there and where we will be camping. More detailed info on this is pending.

-Claudia has reserved **Miners Meadow on Quartzville Creek for June 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th for all Millennium Diggers** members to get together for a **camp out and potluck**.

-Please email any and all ideas for outings to our email address, we can really use your input: milleniumdiggers@yahoo.com (note there is only one 'n')

For The Christmas Raffle: Any ideas for the big prize for the Christmas Raffle? Someone said a "Gold Cube". A "Pin-Pointer" has been a well-received prize in the past. We might be able to get one for free from Whites (?).

-Penny wants to remind everyone that the trommel is parked at her place, with a working motor (in garage).

-Delmon brought two stacks of 3 gallon buckets for everyone to take home.

Rocks or Treasures "A and B": Don brought **Graveyard Point Plume Agate, Stinkingwater Plume Agate**, both pieces were pretty big and he had sliced them. Very nice. Also a **Brazilian Agate** he had sliced and polished.

He gave us a colorful report on his trip to Quartzsite, he was gone for over a month. It was quite the event. He joined in on a huge metal detecting venture, covering about 5 acres with over 200 people, anxiously waiting on all sides of this 5 acre field with their metal detectors, just raring to go. Well, he spent \$30.00 to join in this event and found \$26.50 worth of coins and tokens. For the tokens he received several small prizes, and two 999.99 silver coins, each a troy ounce. And the next day went back out to that field with his detector and found about \$3.00 more!

He also reminded us about the annual **River of Gems Rock Show** (sponsored by Willamette Agate and Mineral Society) at the **Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall** on the third weekend in **April, the 21st, 22nd and 23rd**. Don will be there with his wonderful array of cut stones and treasures. Lots to see and do and lots of stuff to buy and lots of great deals too! There is almost a carnival feel to the event, and it's well worth going and bringing the kids/grandkids.

Ken brought a **Brazilian Agate**, a specimen of **Astrophyllite** (a hydrous potassium iron titanium silicate) from Russia, blue triangle shaped crystals of **Benitoite** from San Benito, Ca., the only place in the world where they are found, and **Neptunite**, which grows along with the Benitoite in Natrolite. (He's thinking of maybe having a field trip down there).



Astrophyllite



Benitoite



Neptunite on Benitoite

All 3 pics taken from internet

Penny brought a selection of 3 different forms of **Aragonite**, which is similar to calcite (calcium carbonate), and also forms as stalactites in caves and as the pearly inside of shells of mussels and other shellfish. **Augite** crystals (pyroxene) she and Walt found in Eastern Oregon, and is also said to be found in Tillamook County. (She will look into it further then physically go there before planning an outing there, just to be sure it's accessible so we all can go.) Also **Beryl**, **Aquamarine**, **Azurite**, **Adamite**, and **Andalusite** (variety called Chialtolite), when cut shows a cross in it. **Apatite** (calcium fluophosphate), **Afresite** (aka Black Beryl), **Barite**, some rainbow colored man-made "hopper" crystals of **Bismuth**, a couple crystals of **Emerald** (Beryl), and **Bornite**, which is also called Peacock Ore because of its beautiful iridescence. We found some in the mine tailings up on Humbug Creek. Also a nice specimen of **Apophyllite** (basic calcium potassium fluosilicate).

March's Meeting Letters: "C and D"

Meeting Adjourned

OUR NEXT MEETING IS Thursday March 23rd @ 7:00pm Be There!

J

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

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