



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Troy Ray
VICE PRESIDENT: Christoph Schmidt
TREASURER: ?

Meeting Minutes from January 23rd, 2020

First, we had a demonstration:

John Richmond, our very special guest/presenter, came and gave us a wonderful demonstration of his newly patented **GOLDDROP** gold separator. We set up our 10' x 10' canopy for him out in the church parking lot (because it was raining quite heavily), and after he was all set up, we crowded around and watched as he explained how his Golddrop worked. The process utilizes **elutriation**, a process that is used to power the ability of the GOLDDROP to separate gold from pay dirt. We were so impressed as we witnessed the gold dropping out from the concentrates as he poured them in using a hand scoop with an attached hose rinsing the dirt from the scoop into the processor. He said after several years of touch and go, trying to refine his invention, the answer finally came to him in a dream! We are so happy he came!

~~~~~  
**Call to Order:** Our newly elected president Troy Ray led us in The Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all members and guests.

**Attendance:** After everyone had signed in, we had a total of 15 in attendance, including 2 guests.

**NEW OFFICERS:** It is now official for 2020: Troy Ray is our new President and Christoph Schmidt is our new Vice President. **The office of Treasurer and Membership has not been filled. We need someone to take on these positions!**

**Treasury:** In the interim, Penny has all the treasurer's boxes, cash box and bank info. Penny is still signed on at the bank as "Agent of Record", so she can still sign checks for MDiggers. As of Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, there is still cash in the cash box that needs to be deposited into bank (**\$14.00\*** from the 50/50 raffle). So at this time, we have **\$1,336.59** in the bank (not including cash\* deposit) plus petty cash of \$17.87.

**Claims:** For our Jeeter's claim -It was mentioned that we are still required to pay a \$5.00 parking fee (at the 2<sup>nd</sup> trail, just after mile post 4). We should be exempt because we own the rights for access to our claims. So, **someone (?) needs to contact Jerod Ritchy along with BLM and get this parking thing resolved.** Even if we display our Diggers placard in the windshields of our cars, it doesn't seem to make any difference. There is no parking fee at the 1<sup>st</sup> trail parking (just before mile post 4).

**For our Claims paperwork:** This year, all claims paperwork will be taken care of **before Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, so the paperwork will be done long before Dec 30<sup>th</sup>!**

If you visit any of our claims and make any improvements, please fill out Maintenance Work Form and print it out to give to Claudia before mid August. See form below:

**FORM FOR REPORTING MAINTENANCE WORK DONE WHILE ON MILLENNIUM DIGGER CLAIMS.**

Your Name:

Name of Claim:

Date(s) Worked:

Description of Maintenance Work (Labor) Performed:

*(example: clearing trail, removing hazardous obstacles, shoring up embankments, prospecting, etc. Cleaning up garbage will not count as "maintenance". Actual mining and/or working the claim itself does not count either)*

How Many People Involved:

Hours of Labor Involved:

Your Signature:

Please fill out this form, sign it and give to Claudia **by August 1st**, so she can submit the MAINTENANCE FEE WAIVER to BLM.

If you own a claim, remember to file your paperwork in time. The Maintenance Fee Waiver Certificate is due to BLM before Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, (no filing fee). And the Affidavit of Annual Assessment Work is due before Dec 30<sup>th</sup>: It needs to be notarized and recorded by the county clerk for a fee (in the county where claim is located), then sent by certified mail/return receipt requested to BLM to get recorded and time stamped and returned to you. Be sure to include a \$15.00 check to BLM for the filing fee.

**Amicus Brief:** Claudia talked about the Amicus Brief. And because I can't remember the details of what she said, I have included the following of what Dave McCracken wrote in an email:

*"The law firm of FISHERBROYLES has submitted an Amicus (Friend of the Court) Brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of small-scale miners. It is in the strong national interest for the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve the conflicting interpretations of the Clean Water Act that are being acted upon differently by government agencies across America."*

For your interest, the Amicus Brief can be found right here:

<https://goldgold.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PDF-A-Compliant-Amicus-Brief.pdf>

**WALDO MINING DISTRICT is selling raffle tickets to win a HALF POUND OF GOLD! The drawing is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>, of this year. 1 (one) ticket for \$5.00 or 6 (six) tickets for \$25.00.** The raffle money is to go to our mining attorney (Buchal) for representing and defending miners during our court battles.

Joe made a motion that the MDiggers should purchase \$200 worth of raffle tickets from Waldo Mining District for the 1/2lb of gold raffle, and if we do win, we could put it into the Diggers raffle fund. Penny seconded and we all agreed. Penny said she would follow through with the details.

Here is the web address for the drawing if you want to enter:

<https://www.waldominingdistrict.org/win-gold/>

-Claudia saw a guy that wants to sell his claim in the Bohemia Mining District. She said she would talk to him about price and if he would consider lowering it if too high.

**SUGGESTION: We should write a check to the church in thanks for letting us use their Fellowship Hall.**

**Membership Dues renewal:** It is time to renew annual membership, please bring cash or check for **\$30.00.**

**Outings: We need to come up with more outings/events/workshops for this year.** We need some input from our members. Please.

-We do have an outing planned for Miner's Meadow in June, to share with WVM as a joint outing. We will announce the scheduled dates for this at Feb. meeting.

-Troy mentioned going to our Briggs claims, and we agreed to save that for summer. We should still **plan a date**, and keep it, for a club outing/camp trip.

-Also, plan to go to our Jeeters claim and do some trail maintenance and some prospecting. It would be nice to get a few members together and have a couple actual "outings" there. It's not far.

-Claudia could give us a talk on selenium and mercury.

-Penny, Walt and Terrie plan to go to collect sunstones around the end of May. If anyone else wants to go, we can settle on a date during our Feb. meeting

**-NEWS FLASH!** - Terrie saw that there is a brand-new Metal Detector store on the SE corner of Hawthorne and Center St, right next to the marijuana dispensary. 696 Hawthorne Ave NE, Salem, OR

**Letters for Feb meeting "A and B"** (we're starting over again)



**Photo sent from Don on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>,** *“Another nice day here in Quartzsite AZ. Will be starting home on Thursday. Would love to stay longer but need to get back. Don”*

**~END~**