



MILLENNIUM DIGGERS ASSOCIATION Keizer, Oregon



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Troy Ray
VICE PRESIDENT: Christoph Schmidt
TREASURER: (Penny/temp.)

Meeting Minutes from September 24th, 2020

Our meeting

Attendance: There were ___ of us present.

Call to Order: After we recited the Pledge of Allegiance, **Troy** called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: **Troy** read the meeting minutes from August. The motion was made to accept the minutes as read. It was seconded and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report: **The treasurer's report** was the same as last month. Except that a deposit of \$30. Still has to be made. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as stated, it was seconded and approved by all.

Membership: 25 paid members. Troy will send email to unpaid members. If you have been on one of our claims, and haven't yet paid your membership dues, YOU NEED TO PAY! Troy has membership applications with him and the laminator with a power converter to operate it from his truck.

Claims: Penny will go to Marion Co clerk asap to file Jetter's claim paperwork and get it sent to BLM.

Troy, Walt, Penny and Terrie went to **Dry Gulch** to check out our **Golden Diggers** claim. Walt and Troy hiked up the hill to Joe and Claudia's claim. Troy said the claims paperwork was loose and on the ground. He put it back in the jar and returned to the tree where it was.

Penny and Terrie wandered up the road from parking area (Golden Digger's) and found on the right side of road a bunch of rocks with quartz crystals. Brought home quite a few rocks. Penny followed rocks up the hill to find a huge mine tunnel that was now closed off with a metal grate, and could see it was done recently. Afterwards, we met back at our trucks and had sandwiches and birthday cake, as it was Troy's birthday! He did a lot of hiking around and covered a lot of ground.

Troy left and Walt, Penny and Terrie drove up Dry Gulch to check out Walt and Penny's **Silver Dollar** claim. Fortunately, the mess the loggers had made was cleaned up. Penny replaced the claim sign and hiked up to visit the rest of the claim. After some clearing of the fallen debris, all appeared well. Gathered up some sand and gravel from the creek to bring home.

Brigg's Creek/Fossil Flats access: Take side road at mile post 13 to get to Fossil Flats. As far as DT's #1 directions, still need to get with Claudia to make any corrections for the claims packet.

Jeeter Creek claim: The day after the initial fire was reported, Troy went up the Little N Fork with a friend to help look for a friend's 12 year old boy. His house was at milepost 4.5 and it was gone. Burned up. There were houses on fire and trees burning. He regretted taking that drive. They turned around at mp 5, couldn't go any further. But on the way back, checked out both trails to Jeeter's. All burned up, no trees standing. -We can modify the trails and make them better than before. And work on the parking area as well. We can plan a trip to do that this next spring.

On Calapooia: WVM's claim Golden Dollar appears to be burned up too.

-Penny took a look at the **fire incident map** and it looks like everything south of Marion Forks has not burned; the Middle Santiam, South Santiam, Quartzville have not burned.

-Troy mentioned some bad logging practices that do not make sense when it comes to fire danger.

-Penny said that a couple summers ago, coming back from Bohemia Mining district, on Bear Bones Rd, all the spur roads were closed due to fire danger. Yet, on both sides of the road, there were dried branches all over under the trees as far as you could see. Not in piles, but just laying there where they fell after being cut. And dry as a bone! Talk about kindling. It just doesn't make any sense.

-There are many fire horror stories.

Ideas for Raffle: Troy says we could have raffle prizes spread out on table and members could put money in the jar, then Christoph can randomly pick out a bingo ball and write your name and number down. Only time you would be touching something is when you came up to claim your prize.

-Troy has been going through his garage and finding a lot of good things to put on raffle table.

Old Business: ???

Sharing of Interesting Finds: Penny brought a rock from Golden Diggers that has quartz crystals all over it. Also, a California Prionus Beetle, found while at Fossil Flats. And 2 unidentified skulls with no nose holes.

New Ideas for Outings? Penny mentioned an outing she always wanted to take. It's a place in the Tillamook State Forest off of the Wilson River, on Cedar Butte, where Augite crystals can be

found. They are little black, barrel shaped crystals. But first, wants to check out the site before making any plans for a group outing.

In October, Troy is going on vacation to Colorado. And 25 minutes south from where he's going, is Cripple Creek. There is the **Molly Kathleen mine** there that for \$20, the mine tour will take you 1,000 ft (100 stories) down a vertical shaft into the ground of the old gold mine. It the deepest verical shaft gold mine tour in North America. He'll be taking pictures and giving us a detailed summary of his trip. He's hoping to buy some specimens from the mine's gift shop. He's going to be in the same area where they filmed Gold Rush a couple years ago. The company giving the tour is called Gold Mine Tours Inc, right next to the Cripple Creek Heritage Center.

-Chuck advised all of us to read each candidate's profile in our Voter's Pamphlet before choosing who to vote for. And please **"REMEMBER TO VOTE!"**

-For Sale- **Chuck is selling his 1989 Jeep Wrangler YJ**, 6 cyl, it has a soft top (needs work). He put on a new winch, which has never been used. It has good tires. He's asking **\$3,500** for it. If interested, call **Chuck 775-513-3106**.

~End~

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