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Secretary/Editor Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT- Troy Ray

VICE PRESIDENT- Christoph Schmidt

TREASURER- Penny Esplin

Meeting Minutes from August 26th, 2021

Meeting Called to Order: We met outdoors. After we recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Troy called the meeting to order.

Attendance: We had 9 members attend. We currently have 17 paid members and 17 unpaid members (from last year's numbers). No new members last month.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account had \$1848.15 and after subtracting \$281.76 (reimbursement to Barb for Web Hosting for 2 years), our balance now is \$1566.39. We have \$17.27 in Petty Cash.

Secretary's Report: Troy read July's minutes. A motion was made, seconded and approved by all.

Claims Report: For our **Jeeter Creek** claim, thanks to **Claudia**, she has done some hard work and was able to get us written authorization from BLM to work our claim again, this covers assessment/ maintenance and prospecting. (Remember, Little North Fork Rd remains closed to the public). This claim is now accessible to **our members with the following requirements:**

-A copy of the **Special Use Permit #2120** must be **signed by the member** attending and **displayed in the windshield** of the car parked at either of the parking areas at the trailheads that lead to the claim. (*Please see below)

- Our claim's parking areas (currently no parking fee) are located on either side of **milepost 4**, we are not to go past the bridge beyond milepost 5. If you are found beyond this area, you are in violation of the Fire Closure and would be subject to a fine or arrest.

Troy personally contacted the Marion County Sheriff's office and got permission from Sgt. Wilkinson to access our claim. And Troy assured him that we would only be accessing our claim and then leaving back to Hwy 22 when done. Thank you, Troy!

On Sunday August 22nd, Troy, Claudia, Walt, Penny and Terrie went to the Jeeter's claim and did some trail re-establishing and maintenance work to cover our Maintenance Fee Waiver and Annual Assessment Work for this year. Troy turned in the record of maintenance work done to Claudia.

Here is the report from that day: The claim trails are in very poor shape. On the first trail**, the trees have been cut down and now laying all over the claim and will remain there for a while, thus obliterating our known trail location. The entire claim property is covered with tall brush, snags, weeds and along the road

bank, blackberry vines are waist high. Rocks tumble under foot, there is nothing left to hold them stable! It's a mess. It will take a long time to get the trails cleaned up and re-established before they are considered safe for our members to get down to the creek. The water was super low. Claudia took pictures.

And while we were there, standing by our vehicles, two County Sheriff trucks stopped and talked to us. "Tom", asked us "Are you the miners?" He had got word of us getting the "OK" to be there. He said if anyone hassles us, we are to call the Marion Co Sheriff office and they will straighten it out. He also said others will be trespassing if they leave their vehicles and come down and harass us.

Notice: Claudia is now handling all of the M Digger's claims paperwork. Thank you so much Claudia for your diligence and hard work you do!

*If you plan to go to the Jeeter's claim, **you must first contact Troy** so he can give you (or email you) the **Special Use Permit** to display in your car's windshield. His # is **503-330-3169**. **THE LITTLE NORTH FORK ROAD NOW HAS A GATE. TROY CAN GIVE YOU THE ACCESS CODE FOR THAT TOO.**

****Government Affairs:** Seven environmental groups are suing the Oregon Dept of Forestry to halt salvage logging in the Santiam State Forest east of Salem. The lawsuit, filed April 15th in Multnomah Co Circuit Court, seeks an injunction to stop ODF from logging in areas of the state forest that burned in the 2020 Labor Day wildfires. Plaintiffs include the Center for Biological Diversity, Audubon Society of Salem, Audubon Society of Corvallis, Benton Forest Coalition, Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and Willamette Riverkeeper. The groups raised concerns over the impact of post-fire logging on healthy watersheds, recreation and wildlife habitat.

Timber sales would provide direct economic benefit to Marion, Linn and Clackamas Counties, which would receive two-thirds of the revenue generated. ODF also estimates the work will create 675 primary jobs and 640 secondary jobs in the woods. But environmentalists argue that post-fire logging increases sedimentation and run off into streams and rivers and eliminates habitat for a variety of plant, insect and wildlife species.

This lawsuit directly affects our Jeeter Creek claim, as the hazardous trees were cut, they will remain in place until there is a resolution to the lawsuit.

-Our **Golden Dollar** claim on Dry Gulch is open again. The Bruler fire has been contained and no longer shows on the fire map.

-If you go to any of our claims, please get a Claim Maintenance slip from Troy and fill it out and return it to Troy or Penny and we will make sure Claudia gets it for our future claims paperwork.

- If you want to press charges on anyone trespassing or in direct violation on your (and ours) claims, and you put up a camera, YOU MUST FIRST POST A SIGN SAYING: **ATTENTION! ON SITE VIDEO CAMERA IN USE!** . Otherwise, you cannot prosecute without this posted warning.

Outings and Events: The potluck that was scheduled at Don's place on Sunday August 29th has been **cancelled**. Instead, on that day, Troy, Don and Terrie plan to go up to our Jeeter Creek claim and work on the trail (second trail).

Upcoming: The first Saturday in October (**Oct 2nd**), Tammy and Wes have another outing scheduled for **Beverly Beach!**

Miner's Meadow camp trip is scheduled for the weekend of **Friday October 22nd thru Sunday October 24th**, which is the weekend before Halloween weekend. WVM will be attending along with the Mid-Valley Prospectors.

Rocks/Treasures Shared: Don brought some special good sized agate nodules he had cut and polished from the Whitcomb Creek area by Green Peter Reservoir. They were exceptionally beautiful pieces. It would be nice to explore that area again, but the logging road that accesses the area has been closed for some time. If you ever find it open, you will be lucky, so make the most of it! It is the road going up Thistle Creek. Sometimes, small agate nodules can be found in the creek itself, which is a nice one to walk up on a hot day.

AND Don says that anyone who wants to go up to his place is welcome **ANYTIME!**

Meeting Adjourned



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