



# **MILLENNIUM DIGGERS ASSOCIATION Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor Penny Esplin

**\*PRESIDENT- Wes Jeffers\***

**\*VICE PRESIDENT- David Schmidt\***

**\*TREASURER- Terrie Fox\***

## **Meeting Minutes from August 28th, 2024**

**Call to Order:** Wes lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order and welcomed members.

**Attendance:** There were 14 members present and 2 guests, Peyton and Conrad Eckman.

**Treasurer's Report:** Terrie read our bank account balance, including the deposit made from the raffle. Penny made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read, Tammy seconded, and it was approved by all.

**Secretary's Report:** There were no minutes from July.

### **UPDATES:**

-**Pot luck at Don's on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.** Starts at 12:30 or earlier. This is just for the Diggers. Don has asked for some to show up early 11:00 to help set up the 20' x 10' tent. Please bring your own chairs and drinks. He has all the condiments, bread and meat. he has lots of nice rocks! Don is a retired Salem Firefighter.

-On Wednesday July 31<sup>st</sup>, **Lorrie, Gloria, Terrie and Penny** went on a rockhounding outing to **Weston Bar** on the Willamette River out of Dayton. Lorrie had got hold of the operators of **Meisel Rock Products**, who own the gravel pits in several areas, and obtained permits from them for us to come and look for rocks on the gravel bar that's on their property. We followed the guy in charge as he drove down past a couple gravel pit ponds and led us to the road that accessed the river. It is a huge gravel bar! And it was so hot out, it was hard to try looking for any rocks. The poor doggie's toes, hot rocks! The river was shallow and as warm as bath water. But we made our resting spot in the shade under a couple willows with a log to sit on. We enjoyed our time, found some great rocks and hope to go back again when the weather cools down a little. Thank you, Lorrie, for your diligence in finding this for us!

-**Lorrie** also floated down the Santiam River from Jefferson to the Willamette to Buena Vista. She camped for 2 nights along the river.

-**Jerry Carlos** has been "Beaching".

-**Wes** used our new sign at the Steam Up for advertisement It was a big hit, lots of people loved the sign.

-**Ron and Terrie:** Terrie is not a candidate for a bone marrow transplant. She has Leukemia. She is now on comfort care. Extremely sad.

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**Claims:**

Don says the paperwork is done for our 3 claims, Golden Digger in Quartzville, DT#1 and Fossil Flats on Brigg’s Creek. He has received the receipts from BLM.

If you plan to go to the Golden Digger in Quartzville, you should check first with the BLM or the Forest Service. There have been road closures due to the fire danger.

Included in the map packets is a **yellow dashboard placard** you need to display whenever you go to one of our claims. If you see any claim jumpers, take down their license plate number and take pictures of them and of their equipment. Anyone can camp on our claim, but if they have any mining equipment laying around; buckets, shovels etc., they are claim jumping and are breaking the law and it is actually a federal offense! Get a hold of the sheriff.

We can’t kick campers off our claims **unless we are actively mining!** We own the mineral rights. If they are in the way of us doing any mining, such as blocking access or putting up a fight, they can be fined! “We are here now; you have to leave”. (Basically)

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-Our guests: **Peyton and Conrad Eckman** said they are into mining and rockhounding. Their family is in Montana.

**Upcoming Outings:**

**Beverly Beach on Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>. Tammy and Wes** host this outing. Wes said 30years ago he found ¾ ounce of gold working the black sand on the beach for 3 days. Dug down to bedrock, which is like sandstone and acts like clay, so the gold sticks to it. You can dig anywhere from 6 inches to 3 feet of black sand. The black sand is extremely heavy, Wes uses magnets in his sluice for trapping excess sand. A few years ago, he lost a sluice due to a sneaker wave! It caught them by surprise and Tammy was knocked down by a rolling tree stump! Keep your eyes peeled for those sneaker waves, they come out of nowhere and can be deadly

**Rocks/Treasures Brought In:**

**Don** brought a huge thunderegg/geode he found in Arizona when he went to the Quartzite Gem Show. He found it ½ mile from the “Iris Deposit” (?) which is now 8 ft deep. The “Brenda Thundereggs” site is close to the Ramsey Mine Silver Deposit. His “handle” is “Sagebrush Prospector”, and he deals in thundereggs and petrified wood. He prospects, owns several claims, sells a lot of his rocks at trade shows and is an expert in lapidary, amongst other ideal things. He is one of your “go to guys” when it comes to rocks and lapidary.

**Delmon** also brought a thunderegg, Don identified it as one from Skull Springs.

**Penny** brought an assortment of rocks she found while down on Whitehorse Creek, by Azalea. They are rounded, water worn, and each has an almost “cryptic” design on them. They also shimmer when wet and in the sun.

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**New Business:**

We will be having our **Christmas Party** on **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon** here at the church where we meet, a **potluck**. We will be doing the **White Elephant Gift Exchange**, so please bring a wrapped \$20.00 gift. Try to make it something novel, or useable, or something to do with mining/camping/rockhounding. **Please, no:** "Christmas Mugs" or Scented Candles or Christmas Towels, etc. (I know I was never happy receiving any of those kinds of gifts! I say NO! (*Penny*))

**The Raffle:**

-**Monica** won the tent/awning and Wes's grandson, **Jameson**, won the folding picnic table.

-**For our next 3 (three) Raffles** we are selling \$3.00 tickets each for:

-**A Gold Nugget** (donated by Wes)

-**A Sunstone** (donated by Wes)

-**A Faceted Sunstone** (donated by Don)

We will call the winning tickets during the Christmas Party.

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-Please feel free to bring **snacks** or something to drink to any meeting. We will provide coffee.

-Also, bring rocks and/or treasures to share and talk about. It makes the meeting even more fun!

-AND/OR please bring prizes to donate for our raffle table. (This is our only income for our club, after membership dues, and is what pays for our claims paperwork, etc.)

**Our next meeting is Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

**Meeting adjourned**

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm, at:  
Clear Lake United Methodist Church  
920 Marks Drive  
Keizer, OR 97303