

Millennium Diggers Club News

Volume 6, Issue 4

November 2005



Officers:

**Presidents: Ted Staley,
Ed Johnston**

**Reminders Calls:
Lynn Baustian**

**Treasurer: Ouida Staley
Secretary: Robin Callander**

Meetings:

**2nd Tuesday Each Month
7pm – 9pm**

**Keizer / Salem Senior Center
930 Plymouth Drive NE
Keizer, Oregon**

The Oct 2005 Meeting was attended by 17 members.

This meeting was an open forum.

The topic was “Officers for 2006”

The vote for the new year was that each person or family will pick a subject and teach the other club members at the monthly meeting.

And also volunteer to head up a outing

Each volunteer will be asked to do this only one time in the year.

Ted and or Ed will be there to help and give support.

A Calendar will be at the next meeting so people can start to sign up for their volunteer meeting and outing.

The dredge raffle is not going to well at this point and we need to sell tickets. Ted and I will be posting on the other forums to see if we can sell some tickets. The club will have to think about the raffle for next year and the GPAA Gold Show.

Some other fund raising ideas were a silent auction, a giant yard sale, selling extra mining items on E-bay using an e-bay drop off site.

A few people volunteered to bring an item to raffle and the proceeds to benefit the club.

A Great Slide show was presented by Vern Nussbaumer on his adventure to the Amazon river. What things we saw and will never get do.

Thank you Vern for sharing with us.

Ed and Donna Johnston will host the Christmas Party at there home in Gaston OR. December 17. 2005. The time is going to be 5:00PM due to early darkness.

Directions will be on the website and in the next newsletter.

Thank You Ed And Donna

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THE OUTING

The Outing For October was the 22nd. Metal Detecting
We went to The Hoover Camp Ground at Detroit Lake.
The lake is at a low this time of year, and the weather could
not have been more wonderful.



The greatest finds:

A Leatherman found by Donna Johnston,
Channel Locks found by Amber Parker and her friend Isabella
“Hope I got that right”

The most money found was 22 cents.

And an assortment of other stuff,

We had a little BBQ after.

Gary Moore and his wife and son provided hotdogs and potato salad.

Club had hot Coffee

Thank you.

PS.. The Leatherman and Channel locks were found without the aid of the metal
detectors
Go figure.



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Triple 5 “Dredge by D&K

Prototype report

by Ed Johnston

Jim Britton, owner and operator of D&K Detectors of Portland, Oregon gave me the privilege of purchasing the **Triple 5** prototype. The following is a report of the maiden voyage of this newly designed dredge.

The pontoons are the first noticeable difference for experienced dredgers. The forms originally produced by Dave McCracken were purchased and modified by Jim. A generous 6” was added to the depth of the pontoons creating an *amazingly strong flotation* devise that can withstand a man lifting himself from the water up on to the dredge without taking on water. For a little added style, Jim stepped away from the solid color look with a black speckling additive to the polyurethane material creating a marbling effect.

The new frame has the usual anodized coating protecting it from rust, but what makes this design stand out is the easy handling features. New T-handles are placed in all four corners for maneuvering the dredge in and out of the water. For those dredgers hauling all their gear in the back of pick-ups, this *frame comes apart!* A flat bar has been added to the square tubing, bolting the frame together in the center. A wrench is all you need to alter this machine to accommodate one person handling into a compact loading space.

The **Triple 5** can handle one or two motors. The prototype used a single Honda 9 horse motor, T-80 air compressor, and 20’ of 5” hose with a D&K swivel nozzle.

Now for what you want to hear? Did it get the GOLD?

YES!

The triple sluice box was revamped to separate the nuggets from the fine gold by redesigning the area under the grizzly. A “sink” of sorts was created when Jim modified the metal between the flare and the carpet into a V-shape, detouring the fine gold into the side boxes. This slows the water flow immediately trapping all gold material, of any size, in your dredge.

The facts are, *three times* more fine flour gold was recovered with this dredge than my previous 4” over & under new style Keene dredge. Now you might be thinking the 1” difference in hose size is a factor, but I want to add that these figures are based on moving HALF the amount of material with the 5” than I did with the 4”. Personal mishaps came into play when I smashed my finger early on the 2nd day of my vacation, seriously slowing my ability to dredge to my fullest potential. The **Triple 5** was limited only by it’s one-handed operator!

The fine gold recovery on D&K Detector’s new **Triple 5** is the best I’ve ever seen in my 15 years experience dredging. Call Jim for more information. He knows where to find me!

Ed Johnston
Gaston, Oregon

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