



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Ken Orndorff

VICE PRESIDENT: George Crutcher

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP: Joe Greene

CLAIMS OFFICER: Claudia Wise

Meeting Minutes from March 23rd, 2017

Call to Order: We all stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ken called the meeting to order and welcomed any guests.

Attendance: After everyone had signed in, we had a total of **21** including 2 guests, Steve and John.

Secretary's Report: Penny said she sent out the minutes to everyone and had a hard copy of the minutes with her if anyone needed it. Tammy made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Terrie seconded, motion passed by all.

Miner's Rally Report from March 15th @ the State Capitol: (In Opposition of Senate Bill 3): Don reported we could have had a better turnout, but the weather was so nasty. Outside, we had quite a few senators come down and speak at the podium for us. Julie Hatch (district 10 here in Salem) had some real positive things to say in support of the miners; her family also own mining claims, so she knows about the fight we're in. All of the republicans are on our side.

Outside we had Howard Conner, he brought his 4 inch dredge. A special attraction was the display the Willamette Valley Miners had set up inside the lobby, with posters and smaller units set up that people could play with. The posters were real informative and a lot of people stopped to look and ask questions. Several WVM members were there to answer their questions and provide factual information as well as several pages of info regarding the fight we're in. It was a real nice set up and attracted a lot of interested people who left there better informed than before.

Also, Armadillo Mining showed up and set up their booth selling raffle tickets for the half pound of gold and providing information. The rally would not have been complete without them. All in all, the rally went real well, even with the bad weather, it was a fairly good turnout.

Senate Bill 3: Scheduled for a work session, the Agricultural and Natural Resources committee on Mon March 27th. Physical bodies present at the hearing make a huge impression to these people. Chuck advised us that telephone calls, actual letters mailed or letters written (emailed) to your senators urging them to “Please Vote No on Senate Bill 3”, using your own words, writing each a little different so as to not come across as a “form letter”. This type of message sent speaks louder than the 3 minute testimony we’re allowed during the previous hearings.

Don mentioned a key piece of info is at the beginning of each letter we need to write: “Please put this into the file of (whatever bill you are addressing)” Then it becomes public record.

Don told us amendments to SB3 are being made that will tone down the severity of the bill. He is not quite sure of what will be changed, but it won't be a complete moratorium on all the tributaries and upland streams.

To keep track of the legislative hearings, committees and work sessions, google Oregon Legislature Information System (OLIS) on your computer and it will show you the upcoming schedules, the bills by number, also the recent work sessions and their outcomes.

Treasure’s Report: Claudia spoke for Joe, the treasury is looking good, especially with the addition of membership dues paid. Tammy made a motion to accept the treasury report, Terrie seconded, motion passed by all.

MMAC Update: Claudia gave us the recent MMAC reports and she quotes: “Once an MOU between BLM and the mining district is in place, BLM cannot break it. It is a contract between them and miners negotiated by legislative action. Unlike other MOU’s that BLM might have with the timber industry, or the forest service, or environmental groups, this is in the legislative order that we have to have. With that, BLM will only have the authority over: filing of location notices, recording of all relevant mining records, documenting yearly amounts of labor per mining claim. Everything else will be under the mining districts themselves..... Only BLM will have authority of the mining industry; the forest service and state and federal agencies will not have any authority over mining industries.....MMAC will be in charge of training the mining districts to maintain the required consistency between BLM and the mining districts in regard to the Memo of Understanding, they are the only ones in that bill that will serve that function. Mining Districts are LOCAL-Governmental Agencies, therefore they cannot organize as a Limited Liability Company or a Corporation, to do so would be putting the mining district under state regulation. They actually will be run like a government agency, they will have jobs to do that the BLM and other agencies are doing now. Those tasks will be part of the mining districts. A non-profit association cannot legally own any mining claims. Because as an association, owning a mining claim automatically makes you “for profit”, according to the 1872 mining law. To refer to any mining group as a “club” insinuates “recreational” which means “not-for-profit”. They would not be covered under the protection of MMAC.”

To whoever has purchased a Silver or Gold Membership with MMAC and has not received their membership packet from them, please get a hold of Claudia and she will help you with that. claudia.wise@mmacusa.org

Penny asked about the MOU with BLM and when it will be initiated. Claudia replied that part is going through this year, through the US Senate and it will go through both the Senate and the House committees by April, and then it will go out for a full vote, and they said it will happen before the end of summer. Then it has to be signed by the President (Trump). (She doesn't think that will be a problem).

Not everything she has on her list of pending bills are for this year, some are scheduled for next year. (She had a long list).

JOIN MMAC to Support All Mining Districts and get Pro-mining Bills through Federal Legislature
www.mineralsandminingadvisorycouncil.org/USDMM-store.html

Millennium Digger Members can support MMAC with a Silver Membership of \$30.

Break Time:

Claim Report: Claudia We thought we had it all figured out, as far as the recent Quartzville claims (M.Digger's new claim Golden Digger, Claudia's new claim and George's new claim, all in close proximity, location notices filed same time). We each received a letter from BLM, an "Interlocutory Notice" stating the location notices we filed were not in accordance with their requirements. Meaning that BLM wanted our "legal description" on our location notices to be mapped out in "metes and bounds". Our claims are situated in "lots" according to the original boundaries.

Claudia and Penny met with Janet Myers, the mining consultant at the BLM office here in Salem. She was a most helpful official! She used to work in cartography and mapping, so she knew just what we needed help with. She was so, so helpful! She brought us out a close up map of the original lots and patented claim boundary posts from way back when. It gave us the bearing points we needed to start from.

Then we got each claim recorded again with Linn Co. clerk and sent back to BLM by return request certified mail. So all appears to be a-ok. And we are GOOD NOW!

Claudia had a copy of the Location Notice for the Golden Digger for anyone to come look at. Tammy wanted to know when members would get an email sent out with the new claim packet with directions to all our claims. Claudia said she was still waiting for the snow to clear before she can actually map out the actual mileage and easy to read directions to our newest claims.

So far, the M. Diggers now own **5 claims: 2** on the Little N Fork of the Santiam in **North Santiam Mining District:** the "**Jeeter Claim**" and the "**Golden Crown**" (new); **1** on Dry Gulch Creek in **Quartzville Mining District:** the "**Golden Digger**" (new); and **2** on Brigg's Creek in **Waldo Mining District:** "**Fossil Flats**" and "**DT#1**".

All of these will be included in the pending new membership packet. We are ready and hungry for it! THE MEMBERSHIP VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO POSTPONE SENDING THE CLAIM PACKET OUT UNTIL THE NEW CLAIMS WERE INCLUDED.

New Business:

Don talked about leading a trip over to to **Succor Creek on May 18th**. He is Vice President for Willamette Valley Agate and Mineral Society (WAMS) and this field trip is originally set with WAMS members. He talked about "insurance" coverage for anyone that comes along; they don't have anything written up for that. "It's kind of hard to sue yourself as a club member".. Tammy mentioned "have them sign a waiver". But Don said that actually puts them (WAMS) more in the wrong if they do get sued, because that means they are "accepting responsibility". Don said he doesn't mind if anyone else wants to come along on these trips, he has no problem with that. He wouldn't broadcast it to us at our meetings if it were otherwise!

Don says the plan is to go look for thunder eggs on **Friday, May 19th**, Saturday go looking for jasper and on Sunday go look for Graveyard Point agate. Ken said that may be early enough in the season there would more likely be snow. Don is the contact person for this trip. We can discuss it more thoroughly during April's meeting.

-March 25th and 26th GPAA Gold and Treasure Show at the Portland Expo Center

-Wes and Tammy will be hosting 2 outings to **Beverly Beach**. The first one is on **Saturday April 8th. Meet in the day parking lot at 10:00 am.** The second one is scheduled for October. More info on this later.

-April 14th 15th and 16th: The River of Gems Rock Show in Rickreall, Polk Co fairgrounds. Hosted by Willamette Valley Agate and Mineral Society. Don Esch will have a booth there, and WVM has a hands-on panning for gold activity. Lots of fun!

-IMPORTANT TO COMMIT! Memorial weekend- May 26th thru May 29th: Sunstones –contacts? Penny will be the contact person for this outing. Her cell number is 503-508-6582, and home phone is 503-588-9251. She plans to send out a map of how to get there and where we will be camping. More detailed info on this is pending. We will talk more on this at April's meeting.

-Claudia has reserved **Miners Meadow on Quartzville Creek for June 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th for all Millennium Diggers** members to get together for a **camp out and potluck and walk our new claim, Golden Digger.**

-Please email any and all ideas for outings to our email address, we can really use your input: milleniumdiggers@yahoo.com (note there is only one 'n')

-Penny wants to remind everyone that the trommel is parked at her place, with a working motor (in garage).

Rocks or Treasures “C and D”: George brought in 3 sets of excellent quartz Crystals he found as a kid living in Idaho, in Squaw Valley which is west of Priest Lake. The material he was digging in was off a ridgeline composed of rotten granite. The crystals were really large, about an inch across and a couple inches tall, some in clusters. He says he's got more that are even bigger. The area they came out of had lots of mica in schist. Very neat! Years later he went back looking for the site, but the forest service had torn up the road and there wasn't anything recognizable. He said on the other side of the mountain, he heard people had found smoky quartz with tourmaline and some yellow crystals of some kind.

George's folks also owned a uranium mine on the east side of Priest Lake. Had about a hundred feet of core drill, then drilled maybe 3 or 4 feet through hard granite then into about 4 feet of uranium ore, and that made the Geiger counter jump like crazy. One end of the vein was low grade uranium and the other end was “pitchblende”. It ran the Geiger counter off scale for uranium ore. ***Pitchblende is a radioactive, uranium-rich mineral and ore. It has a chemical composition that is largely UO_2 , but also contains UO_3 and oxides of lead, thorium, and rare earth elements. It is known as pitchblende due to its black color and high density. It is also commonly referred to as Uraninite.*** wikipedia

George told us, “To tell you how dangerous it is, I had 2 classmates that got a uranium mine in Montana. And what they did is they would dig out the uranium ore by hand and take it into a shack and put it on a conveyer belt that ran underneath a UV light and pick out whatever glowed fluorescent from the UV light and put it in a separate bin. Well they lost both of their arms to start with and then they died. My dad died of cancer, my mother died from a rare blood disease and I've already lost half of my calf on my right leg to cancer. And the other two parties that worked with my folks, both of them died. So it's some pretty bad stuff.” He said he and his dad found another uranium deposit in Spokane. He drove by there one day and now there's a house sitting right on top of that deposit! Radon gas. Uranium is really pretty prevalent, but nobody goes out at night with a UV light and Geiger counter anymore.

Don found a new thunder egg deposit while he was down in Arizona. Down there they are referred to as “thunder eggs” but he calls them “geodes”; because these are hollow and lined with beautiful amethyst Crystals.

Penny brought light blue Celestite (*strontium sulfate*), a specimen of bright green Cavansite (*calcium vanadium silicate*) from Owyhee Dam, a native Copper specimen in Dendrite crystal form, a nice crystal specimen of Danburite (*calcium borosilicate*), a piece of Coke found on the railroad tracks up by Fields, an old RR work station southeast of Oakridge. ***Coke is a fuel with few impurities and a high carbon content, usually made from coal. It is the solid carbonaceous material derived from destructive distillation of low-ash, low sulfur bituminous coal. Cokes made from coal are grey, hard, and porous. While coke can be formed naturally, the***

commonly used form is man-made. The form known as petroleum coke, or pet coke, is derived from oil refinery coker units or other cracking processes.

Coke is used in preparation of producer gas which is a mixture of carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen (N₂). Producer gas is produced by passing air over red-hot coke. Coke is also used to manufacture water gas. Wikipedia

Penny also brought home grown crystals of Chalcantite (copper sulfate). Upon first sight, it looked like "Tidy-Bowl Crystals". It was the same color blue and looking like it could be water soluble, crushed some up and dissolved it in boiling water. As it cooled, and the water evaporated, crystals grew. Later on, found this to be a copper mineral, and very poisonous. It has been found growing on the support timbers of certain copper mines, where it grows as a "sublimate" of the copper enriched water as it evaporates and the crystals creep up the sides of the timbers.

Yvette brought in some various Crystals, some she found and some she bought: Citrine and some cut quartz, some Cabochons she inherited from her granddad, he used to make jewelry. A sample of petrified wood, some agate, jasper. And garnets and two little diamonds. Very nice!

April's Letters "E and F"

Penny had an update on Marlea: Called her a week ago on her birthday. She's been at home, Sherry has been staying with her. She's been super weak, it's taking a while for her to gain strength because it has been so hard to swallow any food. But, she's slowly on the mend. She is still under "quarantine", so she's real susceptible to any germs. Please give her a call and brighten her day!

Volunteers to bring Snacks for next meeting? Richard volunteered.

Ken mentioned that Joe Greene was on International TV along with Joe Martori. You can watch it on **You Tube**. **Look up "Emerald Planet" March 12th**. The first half is with Joe Martori and is about lode mine reclamation, and their best management practices. The second half is with Joe Greene, and he talks about small scale suction dredging using the best management practices; keeping the quality of the local environment in prime condition. This would be a good one to watch at one of our meetings.

Chuck said there is a guy he knows from Portland, a flint knapper, **Bill Krause**, he does presentations and yes, he would come down here and give us a presentation on flint knapping. We all agreed and Chuck will talk to him and set up a date.

Also, **Howard Conner's** name was brought up that maybe he would come and give us a talk about emergency preparedness. He's been here before, a few years back, and his talk was of major importance and he had so many facts and ideas worthy of hearing about.

And how about the explosive expert? He was a blast! And lots of good information and personal stories and experiences he can refer to.

Raffle Drawing

Meeting Adjourned

OUR NEXT MEETING IS Thursday April 27th @ 7:00pm Be There!

Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

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