



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS  
ASSOCIATION  
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor Penny Esplin

**\*PRESIDENT- Troy Ray\***

**\*VICE PRESIDENT- Christoph Schmidt\***

**\*TREASURER- Penny Esplin\***

**Meeting Minutes from December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

**Attendance:** There were 12 of us present.

-We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the church again. Finally! It is nice because it is *indoors* and has tables, chairs and a kitchen, so we can have coffee and snacks. And a table for us to set out the raffle prizes and treasures we bring.

**Secretary's Report:** Nothing reported.

**Treasurer's Report:** Our checking account looks good. We received a check for \$57.82 from Joe and Claudia to reimburse us for 2023 paperwork for their Jeeter's claim. They are the owners of this claim and access is permitted only if they give permission. More on this later.

**Membership:** It is time to renew your membership for 2024. Please bring a check or cash for \$30.00 and give to Terrie (treasurer).

**Claims:** Don Esch is now in charge of taking care of our claims paperwork. All official paperwork for 2023 has been completed and is up to date.

**-Here is some information regarding official/mandatory claims paperwork:**

The **Maintenance Fee Waiver Certificate** is due BEFORE September 1<sup>st</sup> for any claims and the **original** must be sent to BLM, and the envelope must be **time stamped (postal record Certified Mail /Return Receipt-)** and mailed before **Sept 1<sup>st</sup> every year**. There is no fee. A copy needs to be made for our own files.

The **Affidavit of Annual Assessment Work** shows that we have done the maintenance on our claims for that year, proving who, what, where and when it was done so we don't have to pay

a maintenance fee; thus, the waiver. And that paperwork has to be done BEFORE December 31<sup>st</sup>. It must first be **notarized** and taken to the **county clerk** (of whatever county the claim is in) and **recorded** with that county. The fee for that recording is \$16.00, some counties the recording fee is \$26.00. Copies must be made, but this time WE keep the original. Enclose a check to BLM for **\$15.00** (recording fee), then sent **Certified Mail/Return Receipt to BLM**, before the end of the year (Dec 31<sup>st</sup>), every year.

We can discuss at a later time, the process of locating a claim; the paperwork and details required, etc.

-We discussed combining some of our outings with WVM; like the Miner's Meadow camp trip.

-Penny was asked to look through our earlier files and try to find anything written up for our club regarding **By-Laws**. Do we even have By-Laws for our club? (I tend to think not).-If we do, we **need to hold a Board Meeting** to update it, along with several concerning issues.

-And, we need to update and **finalize** our **Membership Packets** and print them up to issue to members. (**Board Meeting**)

-It was discussed that we need to have several blank Quit Claim forms on hand and print up some of our own Maintenance Work forms. Thereby keeping track of any maintenance work done by our members when visiting a club's claim.

-Also, print up some Millennium Diggers Association **application forms**.

**Raffle:** We had a raffle, there were lots of great items for prizes on the table. Each ticket is only \$1.00, so you can purchase \$1.00 worth or \$20.00 worth, or many tickets to raise the odds of the winning raffle ticket being drawn with your number!

We will be holding a Raffle Drawing at each of our meetings, so please search your garage, basement or storage for **prizes to donate to our Raffle Table!** Please use some discretion when choosing what to bring. At least, bring it something that you, yourself would (at one time) be happy to win! No old mildewed rubber bath mats or ragged teddy bears! We ARE miners, after all. Think **rocks**, treasures, useful things; tools, gold pans, camping supplies, gold bearing dirt!!!! (Delmon always has an array of neat things).

-The **membership dues and our raffle are our only source of income for our club**. We use that money to keep our claims legal! And, should the chance come up, maybe even purchase a claim!

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

**Proposed Outings:**

-**Joe Coda’s Rock Palace** in Lebanon. Many HUGE piles of all kinds of great rocks! You really must go and experience his place. And if we let him know when we’re coming, he likes to start up his BBQ under the covered patio by the pond. It is a fun time, rain or shine!

-**Clackamas River:** Many sites along this river to look for pockets of Siderite (rock mineral) and other neat stones in some of the road cuts by Fish Creek Road and Memaloose Road.

-**Ripplebrook (Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas River):** Many sites along this route; old mining activity, old dump sites (from the building of the aqueduct system and the mining, both coinciding from early 1930’s), petrified wood (many sites), fishing at Harriet Lake, there’s more....

-**Tilamook State Forest** (Wilson River) to look for **Augite Crystals** (rock mineral)

**Metal Detecting:**

-Stayton Pioneer Park? Sublimity Parks?

-Bryant Park in Albany

-Freeway Lakes (3 Lakes) south of Albany by I-5. There’s an older spot by one of the lakes that is more secluded with 2 ancient picnic tables (now broken and overgrown with moss). Must have been a favored place back in the day? Worth a check.

**Fossils:**

-Cottage Grove -Row River Road. -Beautiful fern fossil imprints.

-South River Road by railroad tracks. Ancient marine fossil beds, the railroad cuts right through them.

**River Rockhounding:**

-Willamette River Greenway on the east side of the river, 1 mile south (upriver) from Wheatland Ferry.

-Rice Museum in Hillsboro- Excellent rock collection, worth the trip!



**And that is that!**

**Our Next Meeting Is Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup> At 7:00**