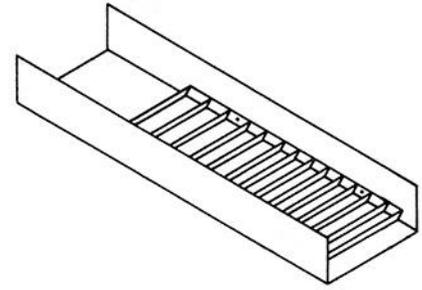




Prospectors Association

444 Winchester PMB 12-D,
Roseburg, OR 97470



THE SLUICE BOX

March 2015

DCPA meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Pine Grove Community Church, 1729 Buckhorn Road, Roseburg, OR 97470 at 7:00 pm. There is an optional potluck starting at 6:30. The board meeting is at 6:00 and open to all members.

If you are not already receiving this by e-mail or off the website, send a request to wrevens@yahoo.com and I'll add you to the DCPA Member List.

From the Meeting:

Membership: So far we only have 15 paid members. Your dues are due by the end of the month. After that we drop you from the roster. I will have membership cards at the next meeting for folks paying their dues and those who already have. New members need to attend at least 4 functions (meeting, outing, gold show, picnic, etc.) to qualify to purchase claim cards at \$5 each. This allows you to cross claim a 25 foot radius area on a claim that's yours exclusively to mine for that year. I will have them available soon.

Claims: With all the rain we've been having there were some risks of landslides out Cow Creek way. So far there was only one reported.

Raffle: Floyd Jenkins is in charge of our raffle. We had lots of goodies and the 50/50. Thanks Floyd for all that you do!

Outings: Gold: We went out to "Read the River". Unfortunately the water was down so it had to be done in reverse. We started with the area around the Visitor's Center in Roseburg. The second one was at the confluence of Looking Glass creek and the South Umpqua river on Highway 42 from Winston. The third is known as Coon Hollow on Hwy 99 south of Roseburg Lumber's mill in Dillard. The fourth spot was an area on the South Umpqua a bit north of Dole Bar. All four are "Open to the Public" areas.

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Apparently Gary had something to do in the afternoon and changed the time to 8:00 am. I sent an e-mail out but I don't think everyone received it in time. I'm sorry for the confusion! In the future, it wouldn't hurt to check with him to make sure nothing has changed; Phone: 951-850-1582 or auseker66@yahoo.com If you can't get ahold of him, contact me.



Group on the confluence of Looking Glass Creek & South Umpqua River

For more photos of the outing visit my Facebook page here:

https://www.facebook.com/walter.evans.7/media_set?set=a.10152848426877054.1073741960.751307053&type=3

Saturday March 14th is Beach Mining at Whiskey Run! We will meet everyone at the Dairy Queen in Winston at 8:00 am. You can bring your metal detectors if you want but I really haven't found more than beer bottle tops. Winter is the best time to go.

Metal Detecting: Mike Eschelmann will be taking us to an old Hydraulic Mining area north of Glendale to detect for gold nuggets. The date is Saturday May 2. The rendezvous point is the McDonalds at the Riddle Exit 103 at 9:00 am. A few of us will be making a scouting trip up there before hand to make sure there's access, etc.

There will be another one (outing) on the 30th, most likely to Whistler's Bend Park. They have grass, campgrounds (which should not be occupied yet) and the river. You will need your Douglas County Parks permit to metal detect there. You can also pan if you don't have a metal detector.

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They also gave me a link to this pdf file:

http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/NAV/docs/recreational_use_waterways.pdf

It's entitled: **“THE PUBLIC’S RIGHTS TO USE OREGON’S WATERWAYS FOR RECREATION”**.

Its contention is that the state controls what's under the water and that which could be underwater up to the high water mark. That's providing you don't have to cross private land to get there. Much of that is based on the “Navigable” waterway aspect. The e-mail talks of studies but the verbiage in much that I've read on the Internet speaks of what was “Navigable” at the time Oregon became a state and for the purpose of commerce. Currently the only two “Navigable” rivers are the Columbia and the Snake. Towards the end it talks about permission by the DSL which could be interpreted to mean a permit. There are several things to consider:

Who actually owns the land?

How did they acquire it?

Who owns the mineral rights?

Is the river considered navigable?

I spoke with Gary Sturgill about this and he suggested we get really organized, go to a meeting prepared and with a lot of people to state our case. We most likely will not be able to “High Bank” or even sluice because of the need to dig holes. However, we might convince them to allow dredging.

Rights under the 1872 Mining Act and subsequent revisions: “Open to the Public” areas are not covered under this Act unless they are also open to Mineral Entry which means you can file a claim on them. If you are prospecting on land that is claimable or if you own a claim or belong to an association (DCPA, GPAA, WVMA, BMOA, etc.) who owns claims that can be mined, then you have a legal leg to stand on.

I spoke with Kerby Jackson recently of the Galice Mining District recently. He explained that the only reason Bradon Rinehart won his appeal in California is because he was mining on his own **Federal Mining Claim**.

Island Creek: To the best of my knowledge this area is still open. The BLM was to determine by April whether they were going to close it to drive in traffic.

BLM Budget: The BLM has submitted their budget to the Federal Legislature. In it they're requesting some changes. They asked that more land be set aside for “Conservation Purposes”. They'd like to raise the Filing and Maintenance fees for claims as well as do away with the Small Miner's Waiver that allows you to do maintenance work in lieu of paying the money.

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Worst of all, they want to start a leasing program and also charge Hard Rock Miners royalties on the gold they mine. These things are all listed under “Hard Rock Mining Reform”. However, they can’t raise fees and cancel the waivers on hard rock claims only. We can expect it to affect placer claims as well.

The 1872 Mining Law gave us certain rights by an Act of Congress. According to Hal Anthony who is a miner, radio talk show host and mining rights advocate down in the Grants Pass area, it cannot be revoked. However, Congress created it and they can change it; especially through things like BLM budgets.

Highlights of the proposed budget can be read here:

<http://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2016/highlights/upload/BH007.pdf>

The part concerning mining claims can be found on page 6.

Miner’s Mall:

This will be a monthly classified advertising area for members who want to sell prospecting and mining equipment. This is for members only. No retailers please. I will approach the board about selling business card size ads for vendors. However, if you’re a vendor and the item is used, I don’t see why I can’t post the ad. E-mail them to me: wrevens@yahoo.com Send photos if you like. I’ll try to get them in.

For Sale: Used White’s DFX Coin & Relic Metal Detector with rechargeable battery, \$450.00
Paul Demers @ 541 673 5625

For Sale: Slightly used Minelab 705 General Purpose Metal Detector \$625 Tom Bohmker,
Cascade Mountains Gold @ 503-606-9895. email: cascademountainsgold@gmail.com.

For Sale: Slightly Used Desert Fox Spiral Wheel, \$250.00; Walt @ 541-315-2030 (selling this for Bob Pace)

For Sale: Used small Keene high banker, foldable and portable with an electric motor/pump and no hoses, \$250; Stephen Trout @ 541 391 2406 in Elkton.