



Washington Prospectors Mining Association

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

**Washington Prospectors
Gold, Gem and Mineral
Show February 2024**

**Special Guests-
Gold Rush TV Shows
Carlos Miner
James Hamm
Wendell Malmberg**

**Hourly Door
Prize Draw-
YEE HA!**

**There's GOLD in
them there Hills!!**

**Learn where to
find Gold
And How to Get it!**

Lectures

**Buy Your
Prospecting
Gear**

**Buy Gold, Silver
Gemstones
& Jewelry**

Admission is \$5.00, 13 and under are FREE with adult

Evergreen State Fair Grounds (Bldg 600) - Monroe, Washington

**Saturday February 17th, 9am to 5pm
Sunday February 18th, 9am to 4pm**

2024 WPMA Gold, Gem, and Mineral Show! Mark your calendars for this incredible event!

Please share on your social media as well! We always have a great turn out!



Club officers for 2024

As you know, we voted on our club officers for 2024.

The elected are as follows:

President - Lee Lunday
Vice-President - Matt Hendricks
Treasurer - Bruce Fierke
Claims Officer - Gary Suoja
Recording Secretary - Peggy Shashy

Board Members for 2024:

Past President - Gary Cantrell
Newsletter Editor - Mindy Sparks

We are looking for volunteers for the following board positions: Membership secretary, claims assistant, treasurer's assistant, activities chairperson, geologist, webmaster. If you have any desire and/or are gifted in these areas, we would love your help to serve on the board with us! Just contact Lee at lee.lunday@hotmail.com

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ATTENTION: SULTAN RIVER CLAIMS CLEAN-UP and trail maintenance weekend Dates TBA - sometime in March or April (weather permitting)

Message from Lee -

All, I have just posted a document from the Claims Officer Gary Suoja. This is concerning the Sultan River Claims. If you have equipment down on the Sultan and it is not operational it needs to be repaired or removed. We are also going to be changing our lock on the gate at Sultan Basin Road next month. Please read the document and if you have questions or concerns please let me or Gary Suoja know.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

SULTAN RIVER LOCK CHANGE January 2024

THE LOCK ON THE SULTAN RIVER GATE WILL BE CHANGED AS WEATHER PERMITS BY JANUARY 31, 2024. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO TURN IN OLD KEY AND CLAIM PACKAGE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31 OR THE FIRST SCHEDULED WORK PARTY ON THE CLAIM AND IF YOU DO NOT YOU WILL

FORFEIT YOUR \$50.00 DEPOSIT. WE WILL BE RENEGOTIATING AN ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH DNR AND BLM TO THE RIVER CLAIMS. CURRENT AGREEMENT IN YOUR PACKAGE EXPIRES MARCH 2024. WE WILL NEED TO HAVE CLAIMS CLEANED OF DEBRIS TO RENEGOTIATE. 1. THERE WILL BE "TRASH" REMOVAL OF ALL DREDGE COMPONENTS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND ALL OTHER MINING EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS LEFT IN, ON OR NEAR THE RIVER AFTER LOCK CHANGE. ANYTHING LEFT WILL BE CONSIDERED ABANDONED AND TREATED AS "TRASH" OR WPMA PROPERTY TO BE JUNKED, TOSSED, REMOVED OR SOLD. 2. IF YOU HAVE A CURRENTLY ISSUED KEY AND EQUIPMENT ON THE RIVER YOU WILL NEED TO REMOVE IT BEFORE LOCK CHANGE OR REGISTER THE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL WITH THE CLAIMS MANAGER IN WRITING - SPECIFYING THE EQUIPMENT AND ITS LOCATION. ANYTHING REGISTERED BUT NOT LOCATED WHERE INDICATED IS SUBJECT TO #1 ABOVE. 3. THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACTIVITY IS TO CLEAN UP CLAIM SITES AND ARRANGE ANOTHER 5 YEARS OF ACCESS. BECAUSE OF THE LOCK CHANGE YOU WILL LOSE ACCESS TO THE SITE AND YOUR EQUIPMENT UNLESS YOU ACT.

NEW KEYS: BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR WORK ON TRAILS, ACCESS ROAD AND TRASH PICKUP - OBTAINING A NEW KEY WILL REQUIRE PARTICIPATION AT A WORK PARTY IN THE SPRING. THE WPMA WILL TRY TO MANAGE AT LEAST 3 WORK PARTIES BEGINNING IN LATE MARCH OR APRIL 2024 ON THE SULTAN CLAIMS. KEYS WILL ONLY BE ISSUED AT THE END OF A WORK PARTY. NO WORK - NO KEY. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF KEYS WILL BE SIMILAR TO CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AND SUBJECT TO FINAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH BLM AND DNR. IN ADDITION, THERE IS CONSIDERATION OF INSURANCE REQUIREMENT FOR A HELICOPTER LIFT OUT IN THE EVENT A MEMBER IS INJURED, ILL OR OTHERWISE UNABLE TO GET OUT OF THE CLAIM. THE INSURANCE BEING NEGOTIATED IS APPROXIMATELY \$75 PER KEY HOLDER AND IS GOOD ONLY FOR THE MEMBER PURCHASING. WE WILL HAVE MORE DETAILS TO COME.

WPMA MEETINGS

WPMA meets on the second Wednesday of each month in Mt Vernon at the Round Table and the third Thursday in Kent at Dennys until further notice. We may be moving the Kent meeting at some point shortly but no decided location yet. We are going to try and get our board meetings moved to an online platform like Zoom, Teams, or Google Meets. This will begin after the Gold show.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please be patient as we process membership renewals. We understand it is taking a while to receive confirmation. We are working to speed up the process. Thank you for your understanding. We have welcomed many new members this past year and are catching up on our end. Here is a link to our website if you have any questions.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

BIRTHDAY DIG with RICK ASHE!

Saturday's "Birthday Dig" was epic! Even the snow couldn't stop them from having a good time! "I haven't cleaned up but the quick look was really nice." Rick said.

“TwentySix people total came throughout the day. The trail is now cut through! We moved a lot of material. I want to thank everyone for coming out. We will do this a lot more often. We had some new friends come out and are stoked about joining our club to go on more digs with us. We had lots of gold and lots of smiles. Even James Hamm from White Water Gold Rush showed up to come with us for the day! What an amazing group we had. We made sure to get everything clean and packed out! You guys Rock!”

