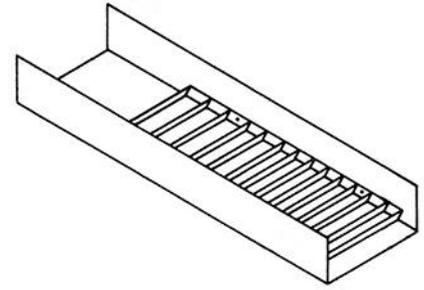




444 Winchester PMB 12-D,  
Roseburg, OR 97470



**THE SLUICE BOX**

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**April 2017**

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DCPA meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 pm. The Board of Directors meeting is at 6:00 and open to all members.

Dues are \$12 per year for single or family. All members need to attend at least 4 functions (meeting, outing, gold show, picnic, etc.) to qualify to mine on our claims unless it's an official outing.

**Sunshine:** If you know of anyone who is ill or has had a death in the family, etc., let me know so I can send them a card. Nick: 541-993-2372 or [houseofgall@gmail.com](mailto:houseofgall@gmail.com)

**From the Meeting:**

- Called to order by President Gary Sturgill at 7:00 PM.
- Old business read and approved
- Treasurers report given – a more accurate count will be at the next meeting
- Picked up 20 new members at the gold show!
- Outing to Island Creek announced
- Gary announced that the Board is beginning the process of forming a Gold Show Committee to handle the next event. If anyone is interested please talk to a board member!
- Gary let the club members know that he's been super busy with everything he's involved in besides being President of our club, and he needs some time to catch up and get more than 3 hours of sleep a night. He does not plan to run for President next year; and has

already talked to whom he'd like to see as his successor, to see if there is interest – and there is.

- Even though the turnout to the Gold Show was low, those who did attend were spending money, and the vendors were happy with their sales volume.
- Randy Waters from Gold Beach let us know that a fella told him recently that he threw brass nuggets out onto the beach at Nesika. Watch out!
- Our June BBQ fun day is coming up on us quickly. The meeting is on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, at 10 AM at the Fairgrounds down at the park by the river. We'll have family games and all kinds of fun. If you have a metal detector, bring it! Mark your calendars!
- May 13<sup>th</sup> is our Cow Creek claims cleanup. Bring your yard tools as we'll fix up the trails, remove debris, etc. We'll have time for some prospecting in the afternoon.
- Some folks weren't aware of our 4 meetings/hosted outings rule to be able to mine our claims alone, so here are the rules as stated in the beginning of the newsletter (and our other documents): *“All members need to attend at least 4 functions (meeting, outing, gold show, picnic, etc.) to qualify to mine on our claims unless it's an official outing.”*
- Break
- Door prizes given
- Raffle items drawn
- Meeting adjourned

### **Claims:**

No new news.

### **Outings:**

The outing this month was to Island Creek. 8 souls showed up on a beautiful day to find that Cow Creek gold. A big thanks goes to Vice President Robert Krewson for taking a roster and the pictures, since Sandi and I went and ran off to Reno for the week (more to come on that in the Education section).



## **Treasure Hunt:**

Stay tuned!

## **Legislation:**

The Galice Mining District meetings are the place to find out information on the latest legislation and lawsuits regarding mining, and someone from DCPA should step up and attend these meetings.

Galice covers Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties.

The potluck starts at 5:30. The next business meeting is Friday, May 5th, 2017 @ 6 PM

The location is the Redwood Grange at 1830 Redwood Avenue Grants Pass OR 97527. If you are interested in going, contact Nick Gall. More information about this mining district can be

found at <http://galicemining.x10.mx/>

## Education:

### The W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum, By Nick Gall

Earlier this year, Sandi and I decided we needed a short get-away. One of our options was Reno, NV. It's easily reachable by car from Roseburg; the weather over passes should be good that time of year, and Sandi had never been to Nevada before. So, we settled on that for a trip in April.

There's so much more to Nevada than Reno, Las Vegas, and them one-armed bandits and blackjack tables. We're not big on throwing money away, so we were quick to come up with a list of attractions to visit while we were there. My eyes lit up when Sandi mentioned the W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum. I just knew they'd have all kinds of information on the history of mining, mineralogy, plus raw gold on display there.

Not only did they have raw gold on display, but I bet they have every single mineral on Earth on display! It must have taken us 2 hours to browse it all. I found the 6.3 oz. nugget below in a display case in their basement. Believe you me, I'll be heading to Copper Canyon with my metal detector at the earliest opportunity. I also saw a sample of gold in serpentine from near here, and immediately remembered our very own resident old-timer, Digger, telling me about serpentine on our Red Mine #9 claim. He said when you start getting into the serpentine, the gold is near.

The next time you're heading through Reno, see if you can carve out a bit of time to visit it. If you have kids with you, take them. It's located pretty much in the middle of the University of Nevada, Reno campus.



I plan on uploading all pictures taken that day to our Facebook group, soon.

## **Kerby's Corner:**

We've got an exciting article from Kerby this month. I was so stoked after reading it I wanted to pack up the truck and go take a look for myself!

### Despite Questionable Beginnings Rich Discoveries Were Made On Silver Creek

*Ten miles south west of the old mining community of Galice, from its source high in the mountains, Silver Creek races its way to the point where it meets the Illinois River.*

*Even considered to be very remote in this day and age, Silver Creek is so isolated an area that organized mining did not get its start until 1878, over twenty five years after the discovery of gold in Southern Oregon. On June 14th of that year, the miners of Silver Creek organized their first mining district, establishing their jurisdiction from headwaters to mouth and electing M.F. Alcorn as Chairman, M. Baughman as Secretary and A.C. Tatum as Recorder. The district did not adopt any laws until another meeting on September 4th. On December 20th, yet another miner's meeting was held at Silver Falls, those in attendance agreeing to form a second district which was to be known as the Lower Silver Creek Mining District and taking in all of the North Fork of Silver Creek, as well as everything below Silver Falls. Their jurisdiction was to be governed according to the Mining Act of 1872 and Charles Brown was elected Chairman, with David Harris as Recorder.*

*Within a month of the formation of the Lower Silver Creek District, Jacksonville was abuzz with news of Silver Creek, but there was too much snow to allow for safe travel. By February 28th, 1879, the way in was open and the miners began to pour in. By April, over 75 men had arrived and were hard at work. Despite some temporary excitements about good daily wages and also the discovery of a three ounce gold nugget, by October 3rd, the excitement began to die down and most of the claims on Silver Creek had been abandoned.*

*According to local lore, it is said that Silver Creek took its name from "a pretended discovery of silver", as A.G. Walling put it in 1883 and the historical record clearly indicates that much of the early excitement around that area was probably generated by promoters looking to make a fast buck off of miners who were always looking for greener pastures.*

*For the next two decades Silver Creek remained largely ignored until a blacksmith from Galice named Roy Metz made a rich discovery of placer gold just above Silver Falls. The rich placer deposit he located was 500 feet wide and three miles long! It was thought that this property had once been in possession of Thomas Thoss, one of the early owners of the famous Old Channel Mine at Galice. The discovery was so rich that a man named Harry Hawkins, who owned a boarding house in Merlin, could not resist the temptation to high grade the claim. Like most of the men in Galice at the turn of the century, Roy Metz wore a Peacemaker on his hip and one day, he ran into Harry Hawkins and confronted him. When Hawkins denied that he had been jumping the claim, Metz promptly drew his revolver and began to shoot into the ground around his boots. As the late Orval Robertson recalled it in his memoirs nearly 70 years later, "Hawkins was picking up and laying down awfully fast as he headed for the woods at the edge of Galice. Metz later told me he never had any more trouble with Hawkins high grading his claim." By 1916, the mine was in possession of two miners from Colorado named Docker and Walker. The two quickly realized that the mine was unique in that the richest portion of the deposit had originated from a massive landslide that had slid into a wide canyon. As normal placer mining methods were not likely to work, they decided to develop one of the most*

*unique mining operations in the world and drove a tunnel over 700 feet through the side of a hill to access the deposit at the bottom of the canyon. Despite the work and expenditure involved, their idea worked and they soon reaped the rewards of thousands of ounces of gold over the next decade.*

*Meanwhile, just upstream of Metz, a hydraulic mine known as the Cobel and Hansen, was also being operated by a miner named Baker at a great profit.*

*Also nearby, the partnership of Brazill and Robinson had also made a rich gold discovery on Silver Creek.*

*In December of 1908, Patrick Clark, a millionaire from Spokane toured a copper prospect on Silver Creek owned by a Grants Pass businessman named Mangum. Clark had a reputation as a very knowledgeable miner and while he did not think that Mangum's copper prospect was anything special, he did notice some of the biggest mineralized dikes he had ever seen about three miles downstream of the Metz property. Opposed to investing in the prospect, he instead convinced Mangum to file four lode claims on the ledge, as well as two placer claims.*

*By late September of the following year, Mangum and his son, as well as William Stock, all of Grants Pass, had driven three tunnels into the mineralized ledge and formed a company named after their new mine. They called it "Old Glory" and the mine quickly became one of the top producing mines on the West Coast, being so rich that the mine turned out over ten thousand ounces of gold over the next few years, tons of copper and contrary to early reports that there was no native silver on Silver Creek, a large quantity of silver as well!*

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## **Miner's Mall:**

This will be a monthly classified advertising area for members who want to buy or sell prospecting and mining equipment. This is for members only. No retailers please. However, if you're a vendor and the item is used, I don't see why I can't post the ad. If you have an ad in here and the item has sold, or you know the person and know it has sold, please let me know.

E-mail them to me: [houseofgall@gmail.com](mailto:houseofgall@gmail.com) Send photos if you like. I'll try to get them in. If you don't have e-mail then call me at 541-993-2372.

**Used Equipment:** Slightly used Whites VX3 Metal Detector with coil cover: \$959; New Minelab X-Terra 505 Metal Detector with Koss UR30 headphones, Pro-Pointer pin pointer, 9 inch 18.75 kHz mono coil plus finds pouch & baseball cap: \$800. Walt @ 541-315-2030