

Nugget / January 2009

The Rocker Box

Bob Baldwin– President

Happy New Year!!

There's plenty to talk about. Closest to home for NBP, is our club house. It looks like our Senior Center has finally attracted the public's attention. And even though it took eleven people to replace her, Marian will finally be able to relax and enjoy her life again. Thank you for having the abilities and the conviction to do so much for so many! Most folks wouldn't have carried the ball for so long. Thanks again, Marian. It looks like business as usual for the club house rent. The new managing committee assured me that they wanted all existing arrangements to continue and to utilize the center even more, if possible. We can all help by joining the center.

This next year promises to be interesting. NBP is planning on doing 3 gold shows in March. I should have the details in hand at the January meeting. But it looks like we will be helping with the set up and take down at the Roseburg show, in early March. The same for two Weeks later in Salem and if we can swing it with Nancy, we will be do the Pualup gold show the weekend in between. It's going to really be a challenge, but afterward, when we are older and wiser, NBP will be in a financial position to actively search for a good dredging claim or two. Once we have those in hand then we should be able to relax and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

The board members got together at Jim Harris' home and wood shop. We settled on the changes to be made on the recovery device (Bullet Bob Black Sand Separator) that the club will be making to sell and raffle at the March gold shows. It will be a fine machine, pretty to the eye and boy, do they work good. We did a little test run on some nasty, sticky black sand from the beach and it passed with flying colors. They should sell fast.

With these storms pounding the beaches like this, we need to be out there gathering pretty rocks to polish for the spinning wheels. We are going to need a bunch of them to get us through 3 back to back gold shows. We aren't to fussy. Any pretty rock that is hard enough to polish and smaller than a hen's egg down to marble size, is what we are after. So bring any excess pretty rocks to the meeting and we will get them polished up and ready to go.

While you're out there looking for rocks, keep your eye out for black sand. We all need to pool our knowledge and figure out how to make this beach gold worthwhile. It's out there, we just need to figure out how to recover it.

I hope your holidays were rewarding and let's all make this New Year a fun and positive time. If we all pull hard, it will come easy.

Thank you for your support,
Bob Baldwin

Keeper of Records

Cecilia Lattin– Secretary

No minutes for December, it was party time. If you missed the Xmas Party, you sure missed a good time. As always there was plenty of food and dessert.

Our own little elf Elisabeth Broman greeted everyone at the door with tickets for drawings from Santa's bag. Santa's helper Renee' controlled the ticket jar while Santa Bob handed out gifts.

Our elf Elisabeth checked all the ticket numbers just to be sure if you were naughty or nice.

The outing "Gold Drawing" was won Frank Kaiser, 8.5 grams; Irene Ralph, 5.5 grams; Bob Baldwin, 3 grams and Bob Adams 1.5 grams

Environmentalists Also Target Farmers

For farmers, this stinks: Belching and gaseous cows and hogs could start costing them money if the federal government decides to charge fees for air-polluting animals.

Farmers so far are turning their noses up at the notion, which they contend is a possible consequence of an Environmental Protection Agency report after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that greenhouse gases from motor vehicles amounts to air pollution. "This is one of the most ridiculous things the federal government has tried to do," said Alabama Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks, an outspoken opponent of the fees. EPA officials insisted that the lengthy, highly technical report, which mostly focuses on other sources of air pollution, does not include a proposal to tax livestock. But the American Farm Bureau Federation said, based on federal agriculture department figures, it would require farms or ranches with more than 25 dairy cows, 50 beef cattle or 200 hogs to pay an annual fee of about \$175 for each dairy cow, \$87.50 per head of beef cattle and \$20 for each hog.

The executive vice president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Ken Hamilton, estimated the fee would cost owners of a modest-sized cattle ranch \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year. He said he has talked to a number of livestock owners about the proposals, and "all have said if the fees were carried out, it would bankrupt them." Sparks said Wednesday he's worried the fee could be extended to chickens and other farm animals and cause more meat to be imported.

"We'll let other countries put food on our tables like they are putting gas in our cars. Other countries don't have the health standards we have," Sparks said.

The farm groups say the fee would apply to farms with livestock operations that emit more than 100 tons of carbon emissions in a year and fall under federal Clean Air Act provisions.

EPA officials said the agency has not taken a position on any of the matters discussed in its response to the Supreme Court ruling. And John Millett, a spokesman for EPA's air and radiation division, said there has been an oversimplification of the EPA's document "to the point of distortion."

"EPA is not proposing any type of tax on livestock," he said.

The EPA briefly mentions "raising livestock" in its report on ways to regulate greenhouse gases under the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Paul Schlegel, director of public policy for the American Farm Bureau Federation, said it determined the possible fees that could be imposed by using Agriculture Department statistics on the amount of greenhouse gases that come from livestock and applied it to the EPA's permitting rules.

Farmers from across the country have expressed outrage over the EPA report, both on Internet sites and in opinions sent to EPA during a public comment period that recently ended. Many call it a "cow tax" and say the EPA proposed it.

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The fee would cover the cost of a permit for the livestock operations. While farmers say it would drive them out of business, an organization supporting the proposal hopes it forces the farms and ranches to switch to healthier crops.

"It makes perfect sense if you are looking for ways to cut down on meat consumption and recoup environmental losses," said Bruce Friedrich, a spokesman in Washington for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

"We certainly support making factory farms pay their fair share," he said.

U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, a Republican from Haleyville in northwest Alabama, said he has spoken with EPA officials and doesn't believe the cow tax is a serious proposal that will ever be adopted by the agency.

"Who comes up with this kind of stuff?" said Perry Mobley, director of the Alabama Farmers Federation's beef division. "It seems there is an ulterior motive, to destroy livestock farms. This would certainly put them out of business."

Whiskey Run

Gold-bearing black sands can be found from California's Gold Bluff north to Washington's Gray's Harbor. Oregon's South Coast contains the highest concentration of these [auriferous](#) sands, darkened by magnetite and other heavy minerals like chromite, zircon, and platinum. These minerals were carried to the ocean by the rivers that drain the Coast Range. Waves deposited the heavier minerals on the beach while lighter sands, composed primarily of quartz and feldspar, were swept back to sea.

One of the richest deposits of auriferous sands was located several miles north of the Coquille River at the mouth of Whiskey Run Creek. John and Peter Groslius, two brothers of French-Canadian and Indian descent, are generally credited with discovering this deposit in the winter of 1852-1853. Word quickly spread and by 1854 there were hundreds of men working the sands around Whiskey Run in search of gold. The miners quickly constructed a ramshackle village—named after Virginia emigrant John Randolph—complete with saloons, stores, and restaurants. Randolph's boom was short lived, though. A massive storm obliterated the black sands during the winter of 1854-1855. "The great sea," historian Elwood Evans wrote in 1889, "that had deposited untold wealth upon its shores in the previous season, with its usual capriciousness removed it all the following winter."

Although Whiskey Run was no longer productive, other South Coast beaches continued to offer rich diggings, including those at Ophir, Pistol River, Port Orford, and the aptly named Gold Beach. Commercial beach mining continued until World War II, when the federal government halted gold mining in order to focus on minerals needed for the war effort. Most of the South Coast's gold mining operations did not reopen after the war. Although no longer commercially viable, the South Coast's black sands still attract recreational prospectors hoping to strike it rich.

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

NBP Outing Schedule for 2009

January 17—Beach outing

February 21— Rubber Duck

March — Gold Shows, 13-15 Roseburg, Or,

20 -22 Pualup, Wa., and 27-29 Salem, Or.

April 18 &19— Squawfish
May 16—Graves Creek
June 20 &21—Squawfish
July—Coos County Fair
August 22 & 23—Sixes River
September 19 &20— Foster Bar
October 17—Metal Detector Hunt
November21—Rubber Duck
December— Xmas Party

The outing committee of Frank Kaiser, Larry Broman, Bob Adams and Desi Rains are open to any and all suggestions. Please contact any member of this committee if there is somewhere special you would like to go or any outing that you would be willing to host.

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