

Coker Creek G.P.A.A. Newsletter

February 2009

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Presidents Report

By Tim LeGrand, President – Coker Creek GPAA

I would just like to say hello to all of our **160+ members of the Coker Creek Chapter of the G.P.A.A.** Yes, we have broken the 160 mark on the roster now.

I have some big news for you in this issue. Not a new property yet, but there are other important issues that are facing us all. Please read and find out more.

My goal is to see over 100 people at the meetings. That looks possible at this point.

I can't do it without your help – BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

March 21, and April 18th, are going to be great meetings. Please be there.

I am not sure if the prospecting store will be able to open back up in April or not, at this point. Things are not looking good. The economy is making the hit on peoples budgets, and hardly no dredges are being ordered. Without several dredge sales, we can't reopen. Time will tell. If not, remember, we will still have products on our site. Perhaps we will be able to open next year, if not this year.

**Next Meetings: March 21st, and April 18th!
BE THERE!**

Financial Report

Our chapter funds are now up to: \$735.00

This is a great step towards our kids day fund.

We are going to be getting an outhouse for the property starting in March also.

Thank you for your support!

Action Alert!

Step up, or we could be phased out!

Please watch the chapter forum and get involved in upcoming National Forest Clean up Days!

The rangers are doing an impact study on the affects of the creeks due to the large increase in prospectors. This, and the last 2 years drought, have taken their toll on Coker Creek, especially in the Doc Rogers Field area.

They are considering limiting, or closing sections on us. We need your help.

Watch the forum and get involved, **BEFORE** it is too late!

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February Board Meeting Notes

Our annual board members meeting, was pretty productive. We came up with this years calendar of events and activities for the chapter. We now have the calendar printed and available both in this newsletter, and separately at the meetings.

All but one member was available for the planned date. We had a good meal, and meeting. Members discussed things that others have brought up, and we tried to implement as much into this year as we could.

We have planned the following for the chapter; More details are on the calendar.

March – Meeting at the Ruitan Club.

April – Meeting, and gold pan races at Rooster Ridge. Chile meal also.

May – Meeting, and Common dig weekend, at Rooster Ridge.

June – Kids Day!

July – Meeting at Ruitan Club

August – Outing to Heather Grove mine, in Marion NC.

September - Meeting at Ruitan Club

October – Gold Festival – No Meeting this month – We need volunteers!!!

November – Pitch In, Meeting at Ruitan Club

December – Pitch In – Meeting and Christmas Party at Ruitan Club.

January 2010 – Board members planning meeting. No group meeting.

February 2010 – Meeting at Ruitan Club – Calendars available.

We discussed the website for the chapter, and we will be getting the new name this month, and moving contents into the new site. The old name will still work, but as soon as the new name is up and running, we will start sending people to it, from the old site.

We are not sure yet, if the current forum will be able to be moved over. We all agree that we want a more modern forum that emails out replies to posts, if you subscribe, so you are notified if someone replies to you, in your post. We will start from scratch if we must, but we will try to at least keep this as an archive forum.

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Water Report

Coker Creek, and others were actually flooded out of their banks in January for 3 or 4 days. We had some good rain, and that moved a lot of gold around. We have been getting good gold reports from all over. Doc Rogers, Wild Cat, Rooster Ridge, and the Lower Falls area of Coker Creek.

With gold hitting the amounts it is lately, the rangers have seen more people in the last couple of months getting permits than they have in the last several years combined! **Over 200 permits were issued in 2008.** This has caused some large concerns at the ranger station. Please read the forum for more info.

Happy Panning!

Do Your Part!

As a club member, it is up to all of us, to make sure the club is doing well, and can continue to do well in the future. **We need to be seen involved with community clean up projects, in our chapter shirts!**

When we have a meeting, **please show up**, be heard, support the chapter with the raffles, and **make friends**. Find a buddy to hit those remote areas with so your not going out alone.

On work days, show up! Bring your gear to prospect, but we will have set work hours for work days. We will have at least one mandatory work day per year. We wont work you to death, but if we want more properties then we have to take care of them to keep the land owner happy. We need to get a good referral from our current lessor, so we can get more properties this year. Keep Them Happy!

If you have an item, that you think could help the club in the raffle, Please bring it in to the meeting. We can always use things for the raffles. Anything that can be used for camping or prospecting usually do well.

Thank you for your support!

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Watch the web site

We will be moving the site to it's new home this month.

<http://cokercreekgpaa.com> Will be the new website address by March 1rst (I hope)

Our website is currently at: <http://tnchapter.rdcss.com>

Thank you again to the Harvey's for their support over the years!

NEWBIES CORNER

Welcome to you all!

I would like very much to meet every one of our new members at our meetings.

Don't be shy, walk up to me and say hello!

I want to meet you, and answer any questions you may have personally. Others are there to talk to as well. Asking questions is how we help each other.

We are trying to make sure we get out with new members to the creeks after the meetings to prospect. Usually panning and sluicing. Dress for the weather, and come on out.

It is a great time to get hands on help to get you going in the right direction. We help with panning, sluicing, dredging, and how to read a creek, to find where gold should be at. All hands on!

Come on out and join in on the fun.

Remember, if you need any information at all, please email or call. Ask on the forum, ask at meetings.

We are all here to have a great time, so let's have a great year! Find people to prospect with and learn from. You will be glad you did.

Do not use a sluice box in the National forest without the dredge permit. It is needed for a sluice box, rocker box, and dredge, in the Monroe Co. Sections. The permit is free, just call the Tellico ranger station and they will gladly mail it to you. It is not needed for sluicing in Polk Co.