



THE GOLD PAN NEWS

February 2008

vol. 9 - # 2



Welcome New Members

John Medina
Marty Andrews
Matt Wong & Nichole Glance

THANK YOU for your Donations!

Paul Ekstrom
Charles "Al" Blakley

BHPC Officers

President	Mike Borden 341-0483
Vice President	Wallace "Wally" Slattery 717-1512
Treasurer/ Membership Director	Andy Goodwin 584-4698
Secretary	Judy Farris 723-4669
Claims Director	Richard Nash
Outings Coordinator	Frank Garcia 754-6024
Raffles & Prizes	Nelda Thiel 923-4059
Club Photographer	Dan Radomski 342-7849
Newsletter/Website Equipment Manager	Andy Goodwin 584-4698



BHPC Meeting, January 19, 2008



The meeting was held in the Celtic Hall at the Central States Fairgrounds. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Borden, with 39 members and 3 guests present. Four new members were present. **Old Business**

1. Mike summarized the year-end party. All prizes were claimed. The Spirit of Forrest traveling trophy, a miner on a rock, was presented to Gordon Van Loenen. His name is also engraved on a plaque.

2. Garnet map was discussed. The map in the November newsletter [and on the website] is a preliminary representation of the claim and areas to be worked or not worked. It cannot be finalized until spring runoff determines the flow of the stream. On the map, coming down hill from the meeting area, first are the steel posts, then the footbridge. The section in the lower right fits on top of the map on the upper left of the page. Members must abide by the map sections.

Tailings can NOT go back in the creek. They must go in the designated area. Signs will be posted on site. Every attempt is being made to abide by USFS rules. **New Business**

1. USFS want to meet with BHPS regarding the type of equipment used on site. This show-and-tell will let us educate the Forest Service Rangers about the equipment we use and what the associated terminology refers to, for example, 'dredge'.

2. Mega Raffle 2008. Suggested items included 'Mine Lab detector, or trips to Vegas, Mother Lode, or Alaska. Suggestions are welcome.

3. Mike asked for input for community service projects that the club can do.

4. Input is needed on possible out-of-state trips.

Vice Presidents Report: Wally will be teaching a prospecting class in Whitewood April 3, 10, and 17 through community education.

Treasurer and Membership Report: As of Friday, January 18, there was \$4816 in the bank. Not including today, we have 96 paid renewed memberships.

Outings Coordinator Report: Outings will be managed much as last year, including donations of food and time in helping with setup and takedown. Lew Wight asked for help keeping trespassers off of his claim. If you are in the area, as to see CURRENT [gold] badges. Please notify him about trespassers. Take license plate numbers. Do not confront trespassers, but report to Lew, club officers, or sheriff. **Reminder:** wear badge so it can be seen at all times. The gold badge is for this membership year.

Gordon Van Loenen made a moving acceptance speech. Wally Slattery demonstrated the 'Gold Grabber' portable aluminum sluice. Next meeting: February 16, at Celtic Building. Be sure to check website for any other news. Meeting was adjourned.

Judy Farris, Secretary



Ghost Stories

Black Hills Area
Ghost Towns
by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

ROCKERVILLE

You were waiting for this one, weren't You? All the times we've gone through Rockerville on our way to the Garnet Claim, and still no story about the little town. Well, wait no longer - here it is. And it's one of the more interesting ghost towns in the Black Hills.

What you see now is largely a reconstructed ghost town put together for the tourist trade, but in the 1870's Rockerville was a rip-roaring mining town that would have done justice to the wildest Hollywood films. Rich gold placer deposits were discovered there in late 1876, and soon the place was full of wild-eyed prospectors. Only problem - there was little or no water to process or sluice the dirt.

In 1878 the Black Hills Placer Mining Corporation was formed to construct a 17-mile flume from a dam on Spring Creek near Sheridan. But when the flume was completed, it leaked horribly. So a wagon load of manure was dumped into it every morning to seal the leaks - which could have not endeared the water from the flume to the miners. The company produced about a half-million dollars (1876) of gold, but mismanagement meant that the company must fail. After that there were two other efforts to build a successful flume - without success.

By 1880 Rockerville had a hundred buildings and upwards of 1,000 miners. There was a surprising amount of litigation among the early settlers; one of the best stories is of a miner whose case was being considered by a jury. To assist their deliberations he sent them a barrel of whiskey; by the time they had finished "deliberating," he had cleaned the gold out of his claim and departed! Eventually the gold production fell off and the miners departed. By the 1930's there was just a gas station. Although there have been "reconstructions" of a ghost town for the tourist trade, along with various enterprises to catch the tourist dollar, these have not been favored by fate, and there is little going on around the town today. Too bad - it deserved a better end. Perhaps our club's activities will encourage further gold prospecting - and greater success in the future.

Wallace Slattery

January 19th 2008



Congratulations to
Gordon Van Loenen
First Proud Recipient
of the Spirit of Forrest
Traveling Award !

If you see a club member going out of their way to help with club activities or sharing their prospecting knowledge or helping new members to get started prospecting, let one of the club officers know who they are so they might be nominated to win the award next !

Who Knows It Could Be YOU !



Around the Potbelly Stove - Spirit of Forrest Award



Acceptance Speech by Gordon Van Loenen

Just being nominated for this award is an Honor; but to win the draw was providence. Andy being a good son, desires to Honor his fathers' memory and to pass on the prospecting heritage that Forrest left. Cyndie Hall-McGee having left the prospecting trophy. The officers merged the two together and came up with the Forrest Goodwin Heritage Prospecting Award (a.k.a. The Spirit of Forrest Award)

I am very honored my name is first to be honored with the Goodwin name and there are those who stand behind supporting the prospector whether or not they like prospecting. To these we give special thanks for putting up with us.

One of the things that I remember about Forrest, he was always on the go. You couldn't see Forrest for the trees and yet when Forrest was in front of you his presents held your attention where you couldn't see the trees for Forrest.

Someone was wise to decide passing on the award from year to year as is heritage is passed on. There are three types of prospectors: Past, Present, and Future.

Past: Forrest and Cyndie were friendly, courteous, kind and worked for and with the people on prospecting and the Club. Both are and will be missed.

Present: Those who work for and with members sharing what they have and have learned.

Future: Those who will benefit from the past and present prospectors' prospecting heritage.

Here is a short story that I would like to share.

There was a reporter going down a road and noticed four men working together laying stone in a field on a foundation, and went over to get a story. The reporter asked the first man; what his name was, what position he held, and what he was doing. The man said: My name is Matt, Apprentice Mason and I'm just laying stone on the foundation. The reporter asked the second man the same question. The man said: My name is Mark, Mason and I'm just laying stone walls on the foundation straight and true. The reporter asked the third man the same question. The man said: My name is Luke, Master Mason and I'm just laying corner stone on the foundation of this new temple. The reporter asked the fourth man the same question. The man said: My name is John, Forman and I'm just working with these men laying stone on a good foundation to build a Temple where all are welcome to work and play together giving thanksgiving, praise and worship to the Creator and provider of all things, who give wisdom, knowledge and understanding on how each of us can build our own temple working for and with each other one step at a time. Who knows they may have all been fishermen.

So the next time you're down on the stream and someone asks what you are doing? Smile and go to your own temple and remember this story and say: I'm just panning for gold in the stream, would you like to learn how?

Like Paul Harvey would say: AND NOW --- YOU KNOW--- THE REST OF THE STORY.

Or that's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Hi, My name is Gordon Van Loenen. Prospector, and I'm here just to receive the Spirit of Forrest Award for 2007.

THANK YOU !!!



Black Hills Prospecting Club
c/o Andy Goodwin
11228 Cougar Ct
Lead, SD 57754

ALSO VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com

Our Next Meeting
will be...

Regular Winter Meeting

Date: Saturday, 16th

Place: Celtic Cub (Rapid City Fair Grounds
west side of the Soulé Building)

Time: 10 AM

FEBRUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	