



Welcome New Members

Fred & Dianna Davis
 Sam Griner
 Jon Bradshaw
 Mike Bowman



BHPC Officers

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

BHPC Meeting, Oct 18, 2008



The end-of-year hoo-haa was held underground at the Holiday Inn Express in Deadwood. As darkness fell, the last prospectors arrived. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Borden, with 95 members and guests present.

Business:

1. Re-election of Wally Slattery as Vice-President and Judy Farris as Secretary was unanimous by acclamation.
2. Wally announced the recipient of the second annual Spirit of Forrest Award as Andy Goodwin. Andy was cited for his unstinting efforts on behalf of the Club as Treasurer/Membership Director, Newsletter Publisher/Club Website and hauler of the equipment trailer as well. Andy will receive \$100 in cash, a traveling trophy, and will have his name engraved on a plaque.
3. Cabela's is interested in having the Club do panning demonstrations at the store in the summer. They will be carrying prospecting supplies.
4. Work continues on the web page for an on-line store and membership renewal.
5. Reminder: Winter meetings begin in 2009 on January 17 at the Minneluzahan Senior Citizens Center, 5th and New York Streets in Rapid City. There will be no meetings in November and December.

Meeting adjourned.
 Judy Farris, Secretary



Ghost Stories

Black Hills Area
Ghost Towns
by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

Hot Springs

Hot Springs brings back many pleasant memories to me of my early days around the Black Hills, coming from the Chadron and Rushville, Nebraska, areas as we did - it was our usual point of entry.

This picturesque and beautiful little city (Check out the pink sandstone buildings) was founded in the 1880's, largely as a resort because of its warm natural water springs. It flourished for a while as a divorce mill, but lost out later to Reno, Nevada. I well remember when my college roommate got married, someone wrote "Denver today; Hot Springs tonight!" I guess that was pretty popular back then.

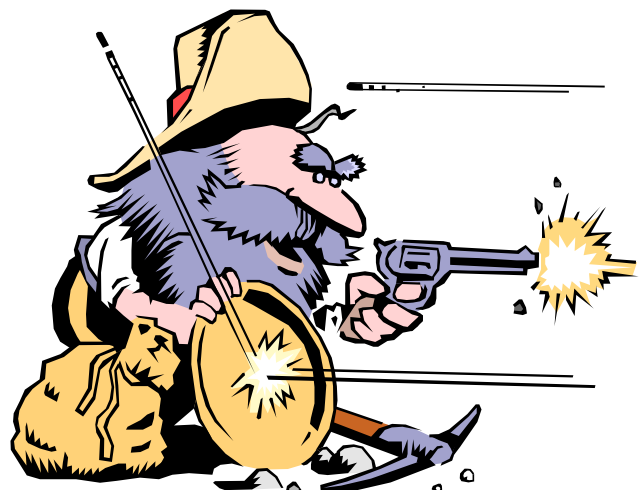
Hot Springs is still home to Evans Plunge (Go there - you'll love it!) with its very warm water and lots of water recreational equipment, including a first-rate slide; the South Dakota Soldiers' Home, and the Veterans Home - all in the same town. And of course it's not that far from Wind Cave National Park and Jewel Cave. Put simply, it's just about an ideal central location to stay to tour the south Hills.

I have many fond childhood memories of Hot Springs. We used to picnic in the very attractive city park - I well remember the goldfish in the warm stream in

the park. With the natural warm water, they could live there year-round. A story from Hot Springs: I had a college friend from there - Duane Smith. To put it simply, Duane was a "character." A pre-med student, he worked during the summer of 1961 in the Hot Springs hospital. One day he took a bedpan, flushed and sterilized it thoroughly until he KNEW it was completely clean, filled it with apple juice and wieners, and drank and ate to his heart's content! As other staff members swooned, finally one MD hollered, "Well, if he's crazy to do it, let him do it!" I think Duane is still living around Hot Springs - would love to see him again.

Wallace Slattery

To the reader: I've largely run out of ghost towns that bear writing about, in my book. So I guess I'll start telling real "ghost stories" about the hills - stories of the olden days. If you know any, you might share them with me, and I'll try to get them to the rest of our readership.



Ghost Town Tour yields no Ghosts, but Lots of fun

You just have to know that word about Bill Swanson's ghost town tours is getting around - "It's a must tour." Every trip has more people turning up. I counted almost 45 people in the Saturday, October 4, trip, and all of them were clearly looking forward to a fantastic tour. They would not be let down.

The starting misadventure, however, almost undid the entire endeavor. Turned out that Hill City was closed down because of the Crazy Horse Marathon. After some grumbling and threading through the street labyrinth of Hill City, however, we finally got organized and out of the town onto Deerfield Road. I just have to tell you that we greatly appreciated Gordon Van Loenen towing along the porta potty - it came in for some serious use. Robin Sager drew a huge laugh when she said our caravan looked like a redneck funeral - with everyone following the porta potty!

Our first stop was some amazing sand caves. During the 1940's and '50's a large sandstone hill was mined, and the sandstone blocks pulverized into high silicon-base sand. Bill pointed out a number of interesting features, including fossils in the ceiling. It was noteworthy that some large blocks had fallen from the ceiling, but fortunately all of us got out alive.

Next we stopped by the Reynolds Prairie Custer camp site, marked by a white sign. Bill quickly recounted the Custer tour of the hills in 1874, and noted that one howitzer had been abandoned by the expedition, never to be found. Many of you remember Cyndie Hall-McGee, tragically killed in a traffic accident about two years ago. She told Don London and me that she was sure she knew where it was hidden, and she looked forward to finding it. Well, for now it will remain hidden. Bill also told the story of Native Americans killing off a group of French explorers in the 1840's and taking their jar of gold and hiding it some-

where above the Reynolds Prairie. Another tale of lost treasure.

The Yellowbird mine used to be extremely imposing, but Bill noted that the Forest Service, in its infinite wisdom, tries to remove all signs of occupancy, but managed to lift up a large tractor or truck tire some 50 feet and leave it on the surface. The mine site was still fun to look at, and people were engaged in liberating ore samples all over the ground.

Off we went to the Myersville site, southwest of Rochford, scene of some abundant placer mining and some lode mining in the early years. We were taken aback to learn that the old safe - a noteworthy landmark - had evidently been removed or stolen. However, the large leaning house was still there in all its glory, and the old stamping mill and mill sites were there - very interesting.

Next we drove through Rochford, one of the best ghost town sites in the Black Hills, past the Glory Hunter claim and down to Mystic. Bill sketched in his encyclopedic detail the large amounts of dredging that happened there along Castle Creek, along with the amazing history of the railroads that went to and through Mystic.

It was a fabulous trip, folks, If you weren't there, you missed a treat. Your only consolation is that there will be more trips - just resolve to make the next one! And our most grateful thanks to Bill Swanson for another outstanding ghost town tour.

Wallace Slattery

Some Photos on Next Page

Weight Conversions

	1 Troy (Ozt)	1 Imperial (Oz)
Grams	31.0	28.3
Grains	480	437.04
Dwt	20	18.21

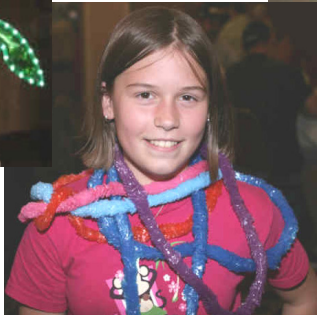
Converting Calculations

Convert	to	Multiply by
Grams	Grains	15.4324
Grains	Grams	.0648
Grams	OZ(AVDP)	.0353
Grams	Ozt	.03215

October 4th Ghost Town Tour



2008 Year-End Party



Drawings for prizes:

Door prizes

There were several small prizes from Cabela's and Great Western Bank. The following individuals won larger prizes:

\$25 gift cards:

Red Lobster: Nelda Thiel, Sally Olson

Olive Garden: Toni Curren, Linda Babcock

Applebee's: Pam Goodwin

Gold Nuggets: Ben Stover, Richard Markovich, John Thomas, Kathy Brandiger

Gordon's classifier bucket O' prizes [you had to be there to appreciate this!]: J. J. Reed

Scheel's gift cards: \$10 - Wally Roshau;

\$5 & vial of gold - Chuck Waldner

Plate caddy: Linda Smith

Windup flashlight: Jeff Boyda

High-card game

2 - one day passes to Lew Wight's claim:
won by Mike Denke

Brown Bag Raffle

Surprise bag #1: Jim Olson [who was thrilled to find a beautiful rock decorated with gold in the bag]

Surprise bag #2: Nick Babcock [I have no idea what he found, but it sounded like it was funny]

Highway Emergency Kit: Norm Eide

Freddie Kruger Butchering Set: Tom "Melon

Head" Cieslik. Don't ask. He said he's Irish!

Ladies Tool Kit, tastefully done in pink: Lisa Wilson

Really good-looking Eagle knife: Pamela Frantz

Mosquito Repeller, cordless and portable:

Nicole Nothem

Ratchet tiedowns, to hold the emergency kit to the truck roof: Norm Eide

Torch screwdriver: Ellen Waldner. So you can see what you are doing.

Black & Decker battery screwdriver: Mark Rowland. For when you don't need to see what you are doing.

Bit set: Sally Olson. For a screwdriver, not a horse.

Mosquito Repellent Solar/Battery Light: Katrina Vick

Necklace, really pretty, with genuine imitation diamonds: Katrina Vick

Nick Pick: Jim Olson - A pick on a stick ask Jim to show it to you sometime.

Mega Raffle

1889 Grabill Print of miners panning: Tim Boren

Green field jacket: Steve Vick

Masterlock tiedown kit: Judy Roshau

1200 wt generator: Janice Houston

Folding chair: Wally Slattery

Oak display case: Bob Hamm

Mini Highbanker: Tim Boren

Registered arrowhead: Norm Eide

8.1 gm. Gold nugget: Andy Goodwin

Nugget necklace, 8.2 gm from Rich Hill in AZ:
Mark Rowland

Gold Split, in order drawn:

Bob Hamm

Martin Houston

Vern Pinz

Mark Rowland

Wally Roshau

Martin Houston

Vern Pinz

Dean Johnson

Richard Morgan

Vern Pinz

Becky Daly

Deron Strohfus

Gordon Van Loenen

Becky Daly

Linda Smith

Vern Pinz

Al Blakely

Mark Rowland

Bob Hamm

Martin Houston

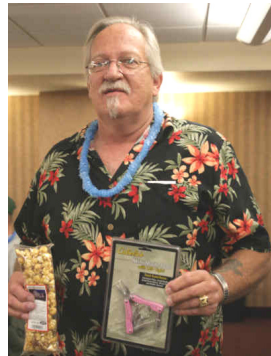
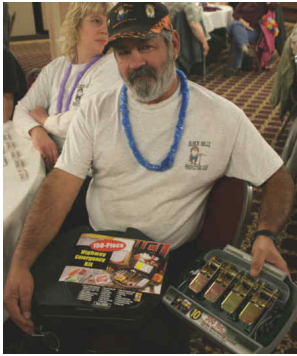
Wally Roshau

Becky Daly

Mark Rowland

Bob Hamm

Brown Bag Raffle Prize Winners



You can see all the photos from this year on our website.

www.blackhillsp Prospectingclub.com

Gold Split Winners



MEGA Raffle Prize Winners



You can see all the photos from this year on our website. www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com

Door Prize Winners



High-Card Prize Winner



Renew Your Memberships

December 31st is approaching fast!

Everyone's membership is from Jan 1st to Dec 31st.

If you would like to renew your membership please send \$35 to

Black Hills Prospecting Club

c/o Andy Goodwin

11228 Cougar Ct

Lead, SD 57754

Please make your check or money order out to Black Hills Prospecting Club

Thank You!

Note: We do not pro-rate the renew price any more.

It is \$35 any time through-out the year.

Around the Potbelly Stove - Tip of the Month



The Thoen Stone

On March 14, 1887, Louis Thoen and his brother were working in a rock quarry on Lookout Mountain near Spearfish, SD. Louis found a flat sided piece of sandstone with the following message carved into it...

"Come to these hills in 1833 -- 7 of us -- Delacompt -- Ezra Kind -- G.W. Wood -- T. Brown -- R. Kent -- Wm. King -- Indian Crow -- all dead but me, Ezra Kind -- killed by Indians beyond the high hill -- Got our gold. June 1834 -- Got all the gold we could carry -- our ponies all got by the Indians -- I have lost my gun and nothing to eat and -- Indians hunting me."

Many people thought the stone tablet was a hoax planted by someone to gain attention. People wondered why a man, who was being hunted by Indians, would take the time to carve a message into a rock. A message that had a good chance of never being seen.

Later in 1887 a Spearfish resident, John Cashner, took a trip back east and made the first in a series of discoveries that went far in authenticating the stone. He told the story of the Thoen Stone to the Detroit Free Press which ran an article on the discovery. Harvey Brown, Jr. of Troy, Michigan read the newspaper article and contacted Cashner. He thought that T. Brown might be his half uncle, Thompson Brown, who headed west in 1832 with another man. He had never been heard from since.

Five names on the tablet -- T. Brown, R. Kent, Wm. King, Indian Crow, and Ezra Kind -- have all been confirmed as belonging to men who headed west in the 1830's, never to be seen again. R. Kent had sent a letter back east saying that he had "found all the gold he wanted" and would be heading home soon.

Interviews with miners from the Black Hills gold rush revealed that rusted picks, shovels, and the remains of a sluice box had been found several feet below the existing surface of the stream bed. The gold rushers were shocked to discover what appeared to be the remains of a long abandoned mining camp.

Interviews with Indians have confirmed that several groups of miners were killed in the early 1800's to keep the white man from learning of the rich gold deposits in the Black Hills. It therefore stands to reason that the Indians either dumped or hid the gold that Ezra Kind and his companions had when they were "killed by Indians beyond the high hill."

In any case, it's not hard to imagine Ezra Kind running from the Indians -- alone, unarmed, hiding by day and moving by night. On a piece of wet sandstone he carves his name and those of his comrades, hoping that someday it may be found so that their families would know their fate.

The original Thoen Stone sits today in the Adams Museum in Deadwood, SD. On a hill north of Spearfish a monument displays an enlarged replica of the stone tablet. To the east of the monument, you can view Lookout Mountain where the Thoen Stone was found. To the west is Crow Peak which many assume to be the "high hill."

Treasure hunters are still looking for what was for seven men on ponies "all the gold we could carry."

Author Unknown

Thank You for Your Donations

Cabela's in Rapid City

Variety of Items

Great Western Bank

Variety of Items

Mike Trudeau

Mult-Pocket Vest for Metal Detecting

Gordon Van Loenen

Bucket Classifier filled with goodies

Glory Hunters Gold Mine

Lew Wight

2 - One Day passes to work on the Glory Hunter Claim

Scheel's Sporting Goods in Rapid City

\$5 Gift Certificate

\$10 Gift Certificate

South Dakota Popcorn Co. Inc. in Sturgis

Variety of Items





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...

Winter Meeting

Date: Jan 17th 2009
Place: Minneluzahan Senior Citizens Center,
 5th and New York Streets in Rapid City
Time: 10 am

January 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	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	30	31