

THE GOLD PAN NEWS®

MAY 2009

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Welcome New Members

Tim Nopens
Brian Schwanke



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 Club Photographer	Dan Radomski 342-7849
Raffles & Prizes	Nelda Thiel 923-4059
Treasurer/Membership Director Newsletter/Website Equipment Manager	Andy Goodwin 584-4698

GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY

That is how it was at our outing on April 18 on the upper Garnet claim. The weather was cool, wet, and got cooler and wetter as it went on. But we had about 20 die-hard prospectors there, along with Michael DuPre, news anchor for local NBC station Newscenter 1. After introductions all around, Michael went to work interviewing Andy Goodwin, Dan Radomski, Mike Borden, and Steve Frantz, and Wally Slattery. He also filmed us in our gold digging and panning. We collected some nice gold, put it into a vial, and presented it to him. He really enjoyed himself, and says he wants to go gold prospecting again with us this summer.

Michael gave an excellent presentation on our club Sunday night and Monday morning news TV after the "dig," and we received a number of inquiries about joining the club afterwards. There was a short, informal meeting late in the morning, and Mike mentioned that we will be in the gem & mineral show again this summer. Wally mentioned that his gold prospecting class is off to a great start, with 14 enthusiastic class members. With the weather turning colder and wetter, most members pulled out early in the morning. We look forward to a much nicer outing in May!

Wallace Slattery



ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS

by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

Gordon Van Loenen

This month's story is about an Argonaut who has influenced so many of our lives in the club with his enthusiasm, kindness, and willingness to help - Gordon Van Loenen.

Gordon was actually born and raised in the Denver, Colorado, area, although his father worked for Homestake Mining in Lead during the Great Depression. His father once brought home from the mine a piece of high-grade ore, which Gordon's sister still has (My understanding is that the mine used to allow miners to bring home extra-rich ore samples from time to time). Gordon was always interested in prospecting, and spent time looking for uranium during the uranium boom of the late 50's and early 60's.

Working as an asbestos worker, Gordon was living in California when he attempted to join the GPAA. He couldn't understand why he didn't get his membership credentials - until he saw on TV that George Massie, founder of GPAA, had just died. Gordon did get his credentials eventually, and spent time prospecting in California. In 1994 Gordon and his wife Sandy moved to Custer, and he was soon out at the Marianne GPAA claim where he found

his first South Dakota gold - he was hooked! He tells me he also prospected at the Migg claim and got about the same luck the rest of us have had there - zero.

In 1999 Dennis Shipley (see last month's article) sent out a letter to Black Hills GPAA members setting up a meeting to form the Black Hills Prospecting Club. Gordon went to the meeting, picked up a few prospecting items, and became a founding member of the club. There were about 35 members then - compare that to the approximately 500 members of today's club!

Gordon's most memorable prospecting experience? The club outing to Zortman, Montana, in spring 2004. Gordon says they found 3 ounces of gold in 4 days, basically dredging. Hmm... Gordon is not only extremely helpful with new club members, but he is always inventing something to make prospecting more helpful and do-able. At our last club meeting he demonstrated a complete prospecting kit that goes into a bucket. And he has more ideas on the way.

I can personally thank Gordon for taking me under his wing early in my career in the club - he taught me so much, always in his kind way. Perhaps that stems from his dedicating his life to the Lord when he was only 8 years old. I - and many others - are extremely grateful to Gordon the way he has mentored us in the field.

Wallace Slattery

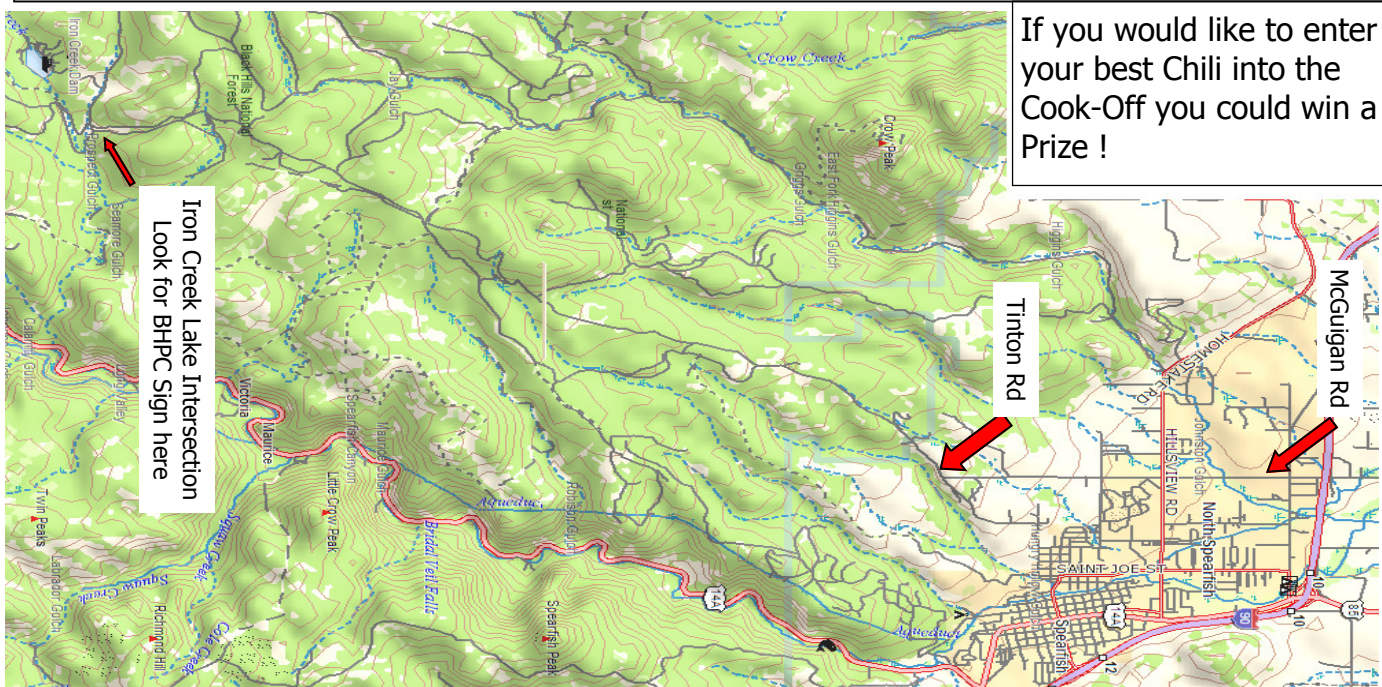
April 18th Photos



Directions to Iron Creek Lake Intersection

From Rapid City go West on I-90 to Exit 10 in Spearfish, Turn Left on McGuigan Rd. Follow McGuigan Rd to Tinton Rd (FS road 134) Stay on the Tinton Rd (FS134) till you get to the Iron Creek Lake intersection of FS 134 & FS 222 Here you will see the BHPC Arrow Sign pointing the way to the Outing. This is where the May 16th Outing/Annual Chili Cook-off is planned for.

If you would like to enter your best Chili into the Cook-Off you could win a Prize !





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 Outing
will be...

Regular Monthly Outing

Date: May 16th

Place: Private Claim Near Iron Creek Lake
(see inside for directions)

Time: **10 AM**

Annual Chili Cook-Off

A-L Bring Chips or Crackers

M-Z Bring Desserts

Enter your Best Chili - you could WIN a Prize !!!

May 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						