

THE GOLD PAN NEWS[®]

JUNE 2009

vol. 10 - # 6



Welcome New Members

Billy Joe Ellington	Dean Skoglund
Ron McLain	Brandon Webb
Carol Brookens	Tim Griffin
Robert Vanthuyne	Richard Lauck
Mike Schmeltzer	Patrick Feist

Coming events:

June 6	Ghost Town tour
June 20	Iron Creek Lake Intersection
June 26-28	Gem and Mineral Show, Rapid City
July 3-5	OUTING at Garnet
	>NOTE DATE CHANGE<
July 18	unofficial dig somewhere
Aug 15	OUTING 4-Leaf, with Scouts
Sep 19	OUTING >open<
Oct 3	YEAR END PARTY Deadwood
	>NOTE DATE CHANGE<

BHPC Officers

President	Mike Borden (605) 341-0483
Vice President	Wallace "Wally" Slattery (605) 717-1512
Secretary	Judy Farris (605) 723-4669
Claims Director	Richard Nash
Outings Coordinator	Dan Radomski (605) 342-7849
Club Photographer	
Raffles & Prizes	Nelda Thiel (605) 923-4059
Treasurer/Membership Director	
Newsletter/Website	Andy Goodwin (605) 584-4698
Equipment Manager	



BHPC Meeting, May 16, 2009 held at the Plus Ultra claim on Iron Creek. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Borden, with 56 members, including 4 guests present.

Secretary: Minutes approved as published.

Treasurer: Account balance \$3390

Membership: Three new members from Wally's class, 1 from the Sports Show, and one from the internet. We have over 500 members.

Vice President: Wally took his ESL class to Lew's claim. Andy and Dan assisted. It was a success. On this past Thursday, Wally and Andy demonstrated panning to 150 7th grade students from Spearfish. The outing was at Sand Creek, and the students were divided into 7 groups, with 6 other presenters doing other topics. The students received small bags of dirt with gold in them.

Claims: Richard reminded every one to pack out what was packed in, including cigarette butts.

GPS coordinates will be added to maps in the next booklets.

Nelda is back, wallets were emptied, and many tickets were purchased.

Old Business

1. Legislative Action Committee has not met. Anyone interested in assisting, contact Mike.
2. The Miners Keystone C Mart will be purchasing club supplies for resale at that location.

New Business:

1. Please check the booklet for general rules for prospecting, and prospecting etiquette.
2. The gold split was explained. If a member has worked a dig with club equipment, and is entitled to be in the drawing, they need to send the wooden nickels to Andy, or notify him, and any winnings will be sent to the member.
3. October 3 was suggested as the date for the year-end party, so the snow birds can leave early. Do they know something we don't?? Are they secret contributors to the Farmer's Almanac??? Beware, the flakes are coming!!!

Meeting adjourned.
Judy Farris, Secretary

Richard Brandiger, our host for the outing, explained his involvement with the Plus Ultra claim. Access to the claim is by specific invitation only. If there is sufficient water flow later in the year, another outing at the claim may be possible.

REMINDER: The claims on this stretch of Iron Creek, running from FS 134 to US 14A, are privately held. **NONE** of them are open to the public or to club members without specific invitation from the claim holder.

Many of our prospecting club members sometimes enjoy a day on Lew Wight's claims, paying him a small amount for a very enjoyable, educational day gold prospecting under his tutelage.

Due to some changes in claim ownership, people wanting to work on his claims should go directly to Lew's place. He will set you up from there. Directions? From the northern Hills turn south from the Rochford Road onto the Mystic Road, travel about 5 1/2 miles. When you see a lot of buildings and equipment on the east side of Mystic Road, turn right into his place - it's a living museum.

From personal experience, I can tell you that you will have a great time, and learn a lot about prospecting, sluicing, and gold panning.

Wallace Slattery

GHOST TOWN TOUR - JUNE 6th - CALUMET MINE

We plan on meeting at **STAMPERS** at 9am. We will give people till 9:30-9:45 to arrive, then we'll caravan out Hwy 16 to the mine.

ATVs or 4 wheel drive vehicles with **LOW** range are preferred as the trails are steep.

If you don't have this kind of transportation you are welcome to hitch a ride with someone. Don't miss out on this incredible outing! This will be our third trip to the Calumet Mine. It is truly one of the most amazing sites in the Hills!

Don't forget to Bring Your Own Lunch and plenty of Water!

You can get dehydrated especially if it is a hot day!

<-- OUTING UPDATE -->

The outing on **JUNE 20th** has been changed from the 4-Leaf Clover to Richard Brandiger's Claim on Iron Creek, same place we were on May 16th. Richard talked to Mike and because there is still a good flow of water he has invited the club back for another Dig. Bring something for the Pot-Luck



ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS

by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

LOU WIGHT

Now here's an Argonaut we ALL know. And he's certainly one of the most colorful hombres, with his western get-up, southern drawl, and some of the best claims in the Hills. I first met Lou about four years ago, and this has been a friendship that has benefited me immensely.

First a quick biography: Lou was born in Richmond, Virginia, on Government Road, home of many outstanding southern monuments from the Civil War period - and he's always proud of his southern heritage. At the age of 11, he found himself on the streets, working at various jobs to keep body and soul together. Incidentally, he worked for Mel Fisher as a diver - remember Fisher's discovery of the fabulous *Atocha* Spanish treasure galleon? When he was 18 years old, he joined the Coast Guard, where he worked in Underwater Demolitions. He was trained as a sniper, and spent the early 60's in Vietnam, before it was an official war. Lou also got his GED during his Coast Guard years.

After his service stint he moved to Hawaii, where he opened the only foreign car repair business in Hawaii. After various adventures there he moved to Georgia. By then he had collected over 200 historic antique guns, which he started selling at gun shows. He came to the notice of some high-level Texas collectors because of the quality and provenance of many of his firearms. One thing led to another, and Lew

helped form the Colt Collectors Association of America, serving on the board of directors.

Well, how did Lew get into gold prospecting? In 1993 he decided to go "biking" through the Rockies. When he got to the northern Rockies a friend told him to go check out Sturgis, - his kind of town. There a friend told him of the Mystic area; Lew moseyed over there, and was in love. He bought a friend's claim and set himself up in business.

Lew is as knowledgeable a man in gold prospecting as I know. And he knows those central Hills like the back of his hand. A ride with him is like an open-book history lesson - "Such and such a mine is over there; that claim was owned by Dutch Henry," etc. Add to that his philosophical nature, and you have a real original, someone I go out of my way to make sure newcomers to the Hills meet.

Not that Lew's life has always been easy. His lady, Mack died last summer, and then his sidekick, Jim Bellman, died tragically in a camper fire this past winter. But he keeps his upbeat mood, and is as enthusiastic about gold prospecting as he was when I first met him.

Lew's best find? The philosopher in him comes out: "The hobby that reaches you!" If you have some time on your hand this summer, visit Lew's place just south of Mystic - just go down the southbound road until you see all sorts of mining machinery on your left. Lew's place is on the right! For just \$25, Lew will teach you things about gold prospecting that you didn't know existed, and you'll enjoy every minute of it! And I'll guarantee you will find some nice gold.

Wallace Slattery

A BUSY MONTH

Sometimes there are too many activities to really detail what happened. That is what happened this month.

First, Wally Slattery and Andy Goodwin took the 14 Prospecting Class survivors (ha!) out gold prospecting on the Glory Hunter claim May 2. Everyone had fun, and everyone found gold. We also enrolled three new members from the class.

Then May 9 We took the English as a Second Language students out to one of Lew Wight's new claims (new to us) just southwest of his place. It looked quite good, with a lot of gravel beds on top of vertical formations, and the kids found some NICE gold. One girl who got nothing two years ago, when Wally accidentally tipped over her pan of concentrate, got the best gold of all, so maybe there is some justice in this world. We went home exhausted but happy, of course.

Then Thursday, May 14, Wally and Andy joined the Spearfish 7th graders at Ranch A, on the Wyoming side of the border to teach gold panning! The 150 or so kids were divided into seven groups of about 20 students each, moving from station to station for about 1/2 hour each station. It was a riot! The kids were enthusiastic, and we don't know who had more fun - the kids or the teachers. Again, all the kids who panned in the tubs found gold (gold bearing gravel from the Garnet claim) and enthusiasm was bubbling high.

At our club meeting this past Saturday, Wally was telling about the trip, when a club member noted that his friend, a father of one of the kids, told him that gold panning is all the boy wanted to talk about afterwards! Well, isn't prospecting something we want to teach our kids??

Wally and Andy have been invited back for next year; Wally told the teachers that if he doesn't show up, they should check the obituary columns! We all had a blast.

Below: ESL Class Outing

Wallace Slattery



Photos From Outings



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

www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com





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...

Ghost Town Tour

Date: June 6th
 Place: Calumet Mine
 Time: 9AM
 Meet at Stampers @ 9am then caravan to mine
 Bring your own Lunch !

Regular Monthly Outing

Date: June 20th
 Place: Iron Creek Lake Intersection
 Time: 10 AM

June 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				