

THE GOLD PAN NEWS®

JULY 2009

vol. 10 - # 7



Welcome New Members

Keith Harmon
Ed Wheeler
Russell Gross
Ronald McMullen
Dennis Dohrman
Bob Casey
Gary Bergman
Brandon Oothoudt
Jim Van Hout



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, June 20, 2009 held at the Plus Ultra claim on Iron Creek. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Borden, with ___ members, including ___ new members, and ___ guest present.

Secretary: Minutes approved as published.

1. Richard explained where to find gold on the Plus Ultra claim.
2. Dan R. is in MS with his mother, who is not well. Wally S. is in PA visiting family.
3. Treasurer/Membership: Membership continues to grow. \$2100 in bank. Club purchased chain saw to use on 4-Leaf etc. Mike purchased about \$550 in supplies. He will be seeing if we can put supplies into store in Keystone to sell.
4. Gem & Mineral show June 27, 28. Setup on Friday 26.
5. Next outing: Garnet July 3, 4, 5. Jim and Sally Olson will roast pork, beef, and chicken on July 4. Cost: \$4 per person. This will also be the metal detecting outing postponed from earlier.
6. July 18: Rapid City Club for Boys at 4-Leaf. August 15 outing: Boy Scouts at 4-Leaf.
7. Mega Raffle: might have \$500 gift certificate at Cabela's and maybe a generator or maybe might want to sell mega-affle tickets on new ATV, that raffle might run 2 years and maybe charge \$5 per ticket.
8. Mike has forms to be filled out if you want to bring a youth group to an outing.
9. Need to increase food donation at outings to \$2 per adult, \$1 per child.
10. Need, for each outing, volunteers for cleanup and volunteers for cooking, and for setting up and taking down canopies and tables.
11. Reminder: if you pack it in, pack it out.
12. Loud round of applause for the Port-a-Potty King.
13. Will be a new claim- the 'Good-One'. More to follow.

Meeting adjourned.
Judy Farris, Secretary

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. This includes the Plus Ultra.



ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS

by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

Nick and Jeanine Nikolas

During the summer months at our club meetings, you will notice club members treating a certain couple with an extra measure of respect. For good reason! Nick and Jeanine Nikolas have been around since our club started, have extra deep gold prospecting experience, and to top it all off, Jeanine was our first club president!

But first a little biographical background: Nick is originally from Iowa and Jeanine hails from Pittsburgh, PA. Both career Air Force personnel, they met and married in New York state. Later on they were living in the Los Angeles area when they began thinking about where to live when they retired. Nick mentioned he might live as far east as Rapid City, where he had relatives, and the die was tossed in 1971 - right before the famous Rapid City flood!

One night Nick was watching TV and commented that he had watched a gold prospecting show, conducted by George Massie, and he'd like to try that - it looked like a lot of fun. They prospected in the Black Hills for years, and even went to Nome, Alaska, in 1991 or 1992. They were disappointed in the amount of gold they

were recovering along the Nome ocean beach, not realizing that the silvery stuff in their sluice was mercury-coated gold, which they were throwing away!

When the Black Hills Prospecting Club was started in 2000, the club needed a president. Jeanine consented to become president - for one year. She loved the experience! She reminisces about the plaque that one fellow made for her in appreciation, and the auctions of prospecting equipment that they used to hold during lunch periods.

You won't find the Nikolas at our club sessions during the winter months.

They're down in Arizona out of Stanton, where they prospect while we are sitting around the fire. Nick detects with his Minelab 2200 (he swears by it) while Jeanine cleans the gold - what a way to live!

Their best find? Get this: last winter Nick was running the back hoe on the claim while his partner was detecting. The partner got a good signal and suggested it sounded deep, so Nick ran the digger over the spot. Eventually they dug out a - 19 ounce nugget - a stunner! In the photo it looks to be 2/3 the size of a 12-oz Coke can - and it's gorgeous! If you meet them at our club meetings, stop by and pick their brains about detecting. They're very approachable and have a lot of knowledge they will happily share about prospecting. You won't regret it.

Wallace Slattery

Beyond Superlative - Our Trip to the Calumet Mine

What does one do when one runs out of superlatives? Just go "Wow!" And that is just how I felt after our latest trip to the Calumet Mine, sponsored by Bill Swanson and hosted by Gareth Patton. Gareth's direct ancestor found the Calumet Mine in 1875, ahead of its being taken over by the United States, and it has remained in the family ever since. The weather may have been cool and misty, but the trip itself was sunny and warm - or so it seemed. But that is how things turn out when you're having so much fun. Gareth greeted us at the foot of the mountain, then after Bill gave his usual highly informative introductory speech, we were off! Up the mountain we went, stopping to explore the obligatory 1,000-foot adit, complete with sulphur-smelling rocks and the perennial climb over rocks on hands and knees to get to the back of the tunnel, along with the side-tunnel excursion.

After a quick bite to eat, we stopped at the drift where we find the ore samples. They were everywhere! Dean Duncan made the prize of the day, finding a \$600 piece of turquoise in a large ore sample. But there were gold flakes, copper ore, nice pieces of jasper, and cobalt turning up too. And more turquoise was also found.

To the top we went, where we entertained ourselves throwing rocks down

the enormously deep shaft, and finding more ore samples. That is where I found personal prize of the day, with an ore sample complete with at least one gold flake, along with more flakes, either of copper or gold, along its side. I could hardly have been more satisfied. The afternoon was occupied with more exploration of the mountain, and Gareth tells us to come again - he has more to show us. I believe him. Our thanks again to both Gareth and Bill. That Calumet trip is always the highlight of our club outings, I think - at least until the next Calumet outing!

Wallace Slattery

7th Grade Class Had A Great Time!

----- Original Message -----

From: Paula Farley

To: Wally Slattery

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2009 1:11 PM

Subject: FYI

Just wanted you to know that the kids have been writing in their journals about the Ranch A trip and it keeps coming up that they really liked your station as you made it fun!!! Thanks for doing that on such short notice!! Seems like you were the star!!

June 20th 2009 - Iron Creek



Nugget Winner for June 2009



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

www.blackhillsp Prospectingclub.com

July 3 - 4 - 5

- 3rd - Dig your own dirt / Watch Mt Rushmore Fireworks from hill top
- 4th - Common Dig / BBQ / Official Meeting / Annual Metal Detecting Hunt
- 5th - Dig your own dirt

Please bring items to go with the BBQ on the 4th
Beans - Salads - Deserts - Pop

July 18

Special Outing for the RC Boys Club

August 15

Outing at 4-Leaf Clover with 2 Scout Troops

Ghost Town Tour - June 6th @ the Calumet Mine



Photo of Lew Wight - Last months issue at time of printing the article about Lew we didn't have a photo so here it is.



Jim Bellman Memorial Donation

Three weeks ago, while we were at Lew Wight's place, Lew introduced us to John Bellman, Jim's brother, who was in the area to finish Jim's affairs. You remember that Jim was tragically killed in a trailer fire near Mystic last winter. In behalf of Jim, John donated a \$150 check to the Prospecting Club. He further noted that Jim had always spoken highly of our club, and had said he would like to help it out. I think we officers will probably find a special use for that check - in memory of Jim, whom we all knew and liked greatly. Our thanks to Jim's family for thinking of us even in their time of real loss.



Wallace Slattery



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...

4th of July Outing

Date: 3rd & 4th & 5th
Place: Garnet Claims
Time: 4th 9AM

Special Outing

Date: 18th
Place: 4-Leaf Clover
Time: 9 AM

July 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	