

THE GOLD PAN NEWS®

July 2010



vol. 11 - # 7

Welcome New Members

Duane Dewsbury
 Wade Jusula
 Dave Feist
 John Bailey
 Joe Christen
 Robert Decker

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

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
 Club Photographer (605) 342-7849

Raffles & Prizes Nelda Thiel
 (605) 923-4059

Treasurer/Membership Director
 Newsletter/Website Andy Goodwin
 Equipment Manager (605) 584-4698

Meeting High-lites

June 19th at Iron Creek, Meeting was called to order at 11:26 am new members and guests were welcomed.

Explained the area to dig on the private Plus Ultra claim at Iron Creek and is ONLY available on June 19 (day of the outing). THANKS Richard and Kathy for letting us dig on the claim!!!

Talked about the NEW Good-One claim on Beaver Creek and will show members the access point after lunch, and that the walk will be steep and dangerous and there will be NO way to rescue stranded or hurt members except by calling Search and Rescue. SO BE CAREFUL, and take a lot of water so you don't get dehydrated. The area this claim is in is very remote and there is NO cell phone service! Contact someone before going and let them know a time when you will be home. PLEASE BE CAREFUL !!!!!

Garnet claim - Bridge washed out, repairs were started but do to the lack of help it is NOT yet fixed ! So until repairs are completed access to the claim is WALKING ONLY! NO ATV's are allowed past the steel posts! We have 2 hidden cameras up and if you get caught on camera driving across the creek you will have your 1st warning and a 2nd offence your membership will be revoked - NO EXCEPTIONS !

Gem & Mineral show - Setup is Friday 25th, If you would like you can help an hour or two on Saturday or Sunday with the Panning Tubs or at the booth.

We are going to try to have a panning demo at Cabela's in July as well as a day at the Rapid City Library at their Drop in Program.

Year-End Party - The VFW in Deadwood was a suggestion - cost per person would be \$16 for a 3 meat choice buffet. Other suggestions that we need to look into are the Senior Center in Rapid City and the Moose Lodge.

Lunch and raffle followed the Meeting...

Large Gold Pickers were won by
 Lou Schmeltzer
 Brida Schlotterbeck



ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS

by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

This time, folks, the title applies appropriately to - all those adventurers who went on our big field trip. And what a trip it was! For those who were unable to attend, here's the rundown.

We met Saturday morning, June 5, at Pistol Pete's in Buffalo, Wyoming, for a filling brunch, then we mounted our trusty steeds - 4wd vehicles - and off we 60 adventurers went, under the guidance of Jim Bridger - er, Roger and Anna Koch. After a wrong turn or two along rugged trails (who cared? - the scenery was fantastic), we arrived at the Amazing Hole-in-the-Wall. We can't begin to describe the beauty. Imagine an incredibly lovely red sandstone wall about 500 feet high, with a small trail winding up to the top - the actual Hole-in-the-Wall. All of this across a pretty, meandering creek, Buffalo Creek. We all took loads of photos and video, and since some members had brought antique rifles of the period when Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid had used such weapons to fend off posses, quite a few of us proudly posed with the guns. It was quite a show, folks.

Once we pulled our excitedly exploring group together, we deployed back to town and the famous Virginian Restaurant for steaks in the manner of the old-time cattle barons. That is all, of us except Ken and Nelda Thiel. Such a lust for adventure burned in their veins, they took off for parts unknown, and nearly ended up there! Ken told me that sometimes when they crossed Buffalo Creek the water washed over the hood of their big SUV.

When I mentioned how delicious the Virginian steaks were, Ken merely noted that Har-dee's tasted good at 10:30 pm! Glad you both survived, folks.

Next morning - another big breakfast at Pistol Pete's - then again mounting our trusty steeds, we were off to the TA Ranch. This picturesque ranch is where the Johnson County War ended. The cattle barons had brought in 50 hired gunmen from Texas with the avowed purpose of wiping out the small settlers of Johnson County. They surrounded and killed Nate Champion and Nick Ray in Kaycee, then headed for Buffalo, only to meet 400 angry settlers, determined to stop them. The gunmen quickly recoiled to the TA ranch where they were besieged by the settlers until they were rescued by the US Cavalry, no less. There are still hard feelings about this entire sorry episode. Our hostess Barbara Madsen regaled us with the entire story, and we got to go into the barn where the gunmen holed up to see the numerous bullet holes still visible in the sides. It was FUN.

After a quick lunch furnished by the ranch, our Argonauts lead by Roger and Anna took us on yet another trip - this time up the amazing Crazy Woman Canyon, where the boulders were something you had to see to believe. Coupled with the rushing water and steep inclines made some of us want to pull out our fishing rods. Back at Hwy 16, the Argonauts went off on their respective ways.

Our sincere thanks to Roger and Anna Koch, of Buffalo, who worked tirelessly to make this trip possible. It was an adventure that none of us will likely ever forget.

Wallace Slattery

Polka-dot gold trips

We all love to go gold hunting, don't we? And we love to show others our hobby, and get them turned on to it. Well, that has happened in spades lately. On May 8 Wally took his gold prospecting class out to the Four Leaf Clover. A great time was had by all of them, and everyone found at least a few flakes. Afterwards Wally took them down to Lew Wight's for "Show and Tell" - suffice it to say that they loved the trip, and several members of the class availed themselves of the chance to purchase Lew's sluices. Incidentally, five new club memberships came from this group.

Then on May 29 Wally took his church group gold digging on Iron Creek. The more they dug, the more gold they started finding - and the more enthusiastic they became. Again, Wally afterwards took them on "show and tell" - this time to Potato Creek Johnny's old cabin ruins and to Tinton. And again, cameras were clicking everywhere.

Don't hesitate to take your friends and family gold prospecting, folks. They will love it, and then they often enroll in our club.

Wallace Slattery

Cost of Lunches at Outings

We have no choice but to increase the cost of outing meals due to the rising cost of items that we have to purchase such as meats, buns, condiments, plates, napkins, forks, grills and propane for the grills and in the past we have not broke even on the cost.

When individuals bring covered dishes, snacks or drinks it reduces the cost that the club has to spend.

We are going to try this for the month of JULY. If you bring a food item, enough for the group to share you can get a \$1 off your lunch ticket.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

BHPC Officers

Outings In July

For the 4th of July we are invited to the Plus Ultra claim on Iron Creek for the weekend and there will be Burgers and Brats so we need salads, desserts, pop & bottle water. People can also go to the Good-One claim from here if they feel up to it.

Richard and Kathy want a Follow-Up outing July 10 & 11 on the Plus Ultra this will be bring your own food weekend. Please remember the club has been invited to this private claim for these two outings and is NOT available any other time to dig on. Let's all do our best to keep things clean so that we might be invited back for another outing.

The Regular outing July 17th it will be at the Garnet and we'll have Burgers & Hot dogs so we need salads, desserts, chips, pop & bottle water.

Any questions please contact one of the Club Officers.

Photos From June 19th



You can see all the photos from this year on our website.
www.blackhillsp Prospecting Club.com



Here's a gold panning recipe

If you want to go gold-panning, remember that nature has done the hardest part of your work for you. She's eroded her treasure from gold-bearing ores and concentrated particles of free gold throughout the streambeds in South Dakota's Black Hills.

Gold is a very dense, heavy metal, just like lead. Keep that in mind during your prospecting. Find a fast-moving stream, look for places where the current suddenly diminishes, allowing gold to settle out, then use your common sense.

In streams that flow on bedrock, the gold will be trapped in holes, pickets, and other irregularities in the bedrock. Where the water runs through boulders or layered rocks, use the sand and grit from the crevices. In riffles, try the creekbed material at the uppermost riffle. At just about every location, placer gold is likely to be hidden in the bottom-most layer of gravel in the streambed.

When you've found the spot, start panning. It's a simple process of elimination.

Heap your pan full of placer gravel dug from likely places listed above. Flood the pan with water, submerge it, and let it sit on the bottom of the creek. With your hands, stir and swish the gravel around in the pan. Leaves, sticks, humus, pine needles and mud will float up out of the pan and drift away in the current.

Next rinse off all rocks bigger than an inch in diameter and pitch them out of the pan. Make sure the mud and grit stuck to the rocks falls into your pan.

Now hold the pan level and shake it vigorously from side to side. Any gold will sift its way to the bottom of the pan. Then face the current and tilt the pan about 30 degrees so the water flows in. Continue shaking the pan from side to side and gravel will begin to sift out over the lip of the pan and be carried away.

If larger stones refuse to wash out of the pan, pick them out with your fingers

and discard them (after making sure you're not pitching away a nugget). Continue panning until you're down to a couple tablespoons of material.

This is your "pay dirt." Typically, it will be mostly fine black sand, and often it will contain bright red garnets about the size of match heads. And with a little luck, gold! (The garnets, unless quite large, and without flaws, are worthless.)

Its appearance

Drain practically all the water from your pan, and give it a gentle swirl to spread your paydirt out thinly over the bottom of the pan. If there's any gold, you'll see it. It looks like what you think gold looks like -- shiny, metallic, and bright yellow-gold in color. It does not tarnish and it won't be stuck to other materials. It will be 100 percent pure gold.

"Nuggets" are bigger than one-half inch. "Pea gold" is the size of a pea. "Fish" are flat, elongated flakes. "Flakes" are thin, flat wafers that vary from pin-head size and up. "Gold dust" is just that -- pure gold sparkles about the same size as household dust. All of them are called "colors."

As you examine your paydirt, think small. Nuggets and pea gold are extraordinarily rare these days in the Black Hills. Think one-quarter inch and smaller. Most placer gold in the Hills occurs as fish, flakes and gold dust. Use tweezers or the tip of your little finger to remove gold from your pan and cache it safely in your "poke" (a small glass vial works just dandy).

Just about any jeweler can verify whether or not you've found the real McCoy, gold. But there are a couple of on-site tests you can try. First, gold is shiny -- whether it's wet or dry -- which makes it easy to differentiate from yellow rocks. Second, gold is very soft. (Remember in the Western movies how everybody always bit a \$20 gold piece to see if it was real?) With your fingernail, you can dent or bend a gold flake. It's unlikely that your fingernail will break it in two, and if the flake shatters or crumbles, it wasn't gold in the first place.

From start to finish, it takes an amateur about 10 minutes to process a pan of placer gravel. But it's a long 10 minutes, squatting or bending over in the creek with icy waters washing at your feet. During the 1876 Black Hills gold rush, 50 pans was considered a day's work for a seasoned miner. And not every batch of gravel "pans out" for the prospector -- either then or now.

Article #2 from Mike

If you have an interesting prospecting story from old newspapers send them to Andy and they might be featured here.



MODERN GOLDPANNERS work the Black Hills of South Dakota in traditional style. The creek may be chilly, but that's no deterrence compared to the lure of gold. These panners have not only persistence, but good equipment with rubber boots and full-sized pans for washing creek bottom soil. (S.D. Tourism photo by Tom Murphy)



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: July 4th
 Place: Iron Creek
 Time: Starting 9 - 10 am

Iron Creek Follow-Up Outing

Date: July 10 & 11
 Place: Iron Creek
 Time: Starting 9 - 10 am

Regular Monthly Outing

Date: July 17th
 Place: Garnet
 Time: 9 am

July 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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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