

THE GOLD PAN NEWS®

June 2010

vol. 11 - # 6



Welcome New Members

Rodney Furman
Christ Stang
Chris Winchowski
David Hurd
Paul East
Russell Ochsner
Jerry Olson
Mike Olson
Jason Martz
Joseph Reinart
Larry Howell
Russ Roots
Rick Olson

Meeting High-lites

Rain, go away! It didn't! To the best of my recollection, spanning nearly 6 years in the club, this was the first time we've been rained upon during our meeting. But we still had about 40 hardy Argonauts show up, bringing plenty of enthusiasm.

President Mike Borden started the meeting about 11 am, noting that we have 6 new members since last meeting. Welcome!

Old Business: Mike stated that our Iron Creek outings have been delayed until June 12 and 19 because of snow in the upper elevations. Also, the last weekend of June we have the Gem and Mineral Show, and we will be there, of course. And Cabela's will host our gold panning presentations sometime late June or early July. More details later.

Wally Slattery said that this coming Wednesday, May 19, the 7th grade of Spearfish Middle School will have its outing, and Wally, along with Andy Goodwin, will teach them some basics of gold prospecting and panning. This was a highly successful outing last year. Also, Wally's prospecting class will take its field trip to the central Black Hills next Saturday - either the 4-Leaf Clover or on Lew Wight's claims.

Wally then talked about our June 5-6 Ghost Towns outing. We have about 55 people promised to come. Wally will put out further information regarding the trip this week, including emails, the club website, and in our newsletter.

New Business: Mike talked at some length about the State's policy that we need to fill our holes when we dig. It is concerned that put something - brush or hay bales - to control erosion. In the future we will bring a trac-hoe to the Garnet claim and conduct further reclamation.

We also sang Happy Birthday to Michelle Snyder - her 14th! A number of nice prizes were won by happy club members, including gold pickers and a nice silver gram.

Our thanks to the club members who cooked up the hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as those who brought enough food to make a fine meal.

Wallace Slattery for Judy Farris

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 Club Photographer	Dan Radomski (605) 342-7849
Raffles & Prizes	Nelda Thiel (605) 923-4059
Treasurer/Membership Director	
Newsletter/Website	Andy Goodwin
Equipment Manager	(605) 584-4698



**ARGONAUT
ADVENTURERS**
by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

**GHOST TOWN TOUR -
FINAL DETAILS**

Folks, the bad news first. We can't go to the ancient Indian medicine wheel. It is buried in snow until the end of June. So we'll largely end the tour at the T-A Ranch. I will point out that there are a number of places to visit in the area, including the Jim Gatchell Museum in Buffalo - one of four certified museums of the West in Wyoming, and highly rated. Or people can visit Ft. Phil Kearney near Sheridan - just north of Buffalo. This was the focus of the Red Cloud War of 1866 - 68, and extremely interesting - I know for a fact. And the famous Fetterman Party was wiped out by Red Cloud's forces just north of Ft. Kearney, presaging the Custer massacre by almost a decade.

Now the good news: The rest of the trip is ON! We will visit the Hole in the Wall and the T-A Ranch. And we will eat at the Winchester Steak House Saturday night.

THE ITINERARY:

JUNE 5:

10 am: Brunch at Pistol Pete's.

DIRECTIONS: From I-90 going west - first exit into Buffalo, turn left (west) onto Highway 16 into Buffalo to Main Street. Turn right (north) on Main Street 1 1/2 block to Pistol Pete's on your left. From I-25 going north - Take second exit into Buffalo, head west. When you arrive at Main Street, turn right about 1 1/2 blocks to Pistol Pete's on your left.

Tell the waitress you're with the PROSPECTING CLUB GROUP.

11:30 AM: Meet at Pistol Pete's for caravan to Hole in the Wall.

WHAT TO BRING: 4WD vehicle (we'll car pool those who don't have one), old cowboy clothes, Old West rifle (EMPTY), WALKIE TALKIE (if possible), binoculars.

5:30 pm: Dinner at The Winchester on East Hart Street (Highway 16) across from Motel 6. Again tell the hostess you're with the PROSPECTING

CLUB GROUP.

LODGING: Again these caught my eye:

Camping Facilities:

BIG HORN MOUNTAINS CAMPGROUND 307-684-2301

8935 Hwy 16 West # 108

INDIAN CAMPGROUND 307-684-9601

666 Hart Street

Motels:

SUPER 8 307-684-2531

665 E. Hart Street

COMFORT INN 877-477-8005

65 U S 16 E.

MOTEL 6 307-684-7000

100 Flatiron Drive

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS 877-477-8005 (Same as Comfort Inn)

106 E U S Highway 16.

You need to contact them ASAP to get your reservation in.

June 6, 2010:

8 am: Breakfast at Pistol Pete's (note time difference from BRUNCH on Saturday).

9:30 Trip to T-A Ranch. What to bring: Comfortable clothes, cameras SOMETHING TO DRINK (non alcoholic), \$6 for lunch at T-A Ranch, nominal fee for talk.

NOTE: Vegetarians - talk to Anna Streeter Koch for advice on getting a "veggie" sandwich.

PM: On your own! - you might include Jim Gatchell Museum and/or Fort Phil Kearney and the Fetterman Massacre site.

Well, that's it, folks! If you have further questions, call me at 605-717-1512. It's going to be spectacular - a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

See you there.
Wallace Slattery

PS TO THE HOLE-IN-THE-WALL TOUR

This morning I got word from Sheri Gould, over in Buffalo, that Motel 6 is offering a special discount to our field trip members for June 5:

ROOM - \$56.09. In other words several members of your party can stay the night for \$56.09 plus tax, etc. Just wanted you to know. I am planning to take advantage of it!

Wally

May 15th Outing at the Garnet



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

www.blackhillsp Prospecting Club.com



Mike found this article in the Black Hills Press (April 16th 1977)

Black Hills placer miners still finding gold

By Steve Nelson
S.D. Division of Tourism

Horatio Ross, the man who discovered gold on French Creek in 1874, may have been the first placer miner in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He certainly wasn't the last.

Within the five years after 1874 miners in the Black Hills Gold Rush took nearly eight million dollars worth of gold in their copper pans. (Potato Creek Johnny found a nugget as big as a candy bar near Deadwood.) Then gold panning became rare as deep mines went after the yellow metal.

The 1930's saw a resurgence, as gold panners again converged on the Black Hills, driven by hard times elsewhere. Scores of people sought a living out of the gravel bars and gold beds, reworking virtually every stream in the 100,000 square miles area. Some made good money, but most were lucky to pan enough to buy beans and coffee.

Today placer miners can still be found working the creeks and streams in the Hills. They may not sport grizzled beards, gnarled hands, and the ability to "spit tobakky 30 foot across Duck Creek," but they are just as adventurous as the prospectors who stampeded to the Hills 100 years ago. Goldpanners bent on making a living were apt to leave behind the marginal deposits and stick to the good stuff. That leaves room for today's amateur, who may have gold fever just as bad as the 19th century miners.

Amateur or not, it's wise to pay attention to the lessons of the early goldpanners. There's only one way to locate gold -- trial and error. But some armchair research before bending your back will improve your chances of finding gold immeasurably.

Helpful aids

Study maps of the Black Hills. Go to the library and check out books dealing with Black Hills ghost towns, gold mines, history, prospecting, geology. From the comfort of your living room, your armchair prospecting will soon convince you there are two or three specific sites you just have to try.

Talk to local folks when you arrive. Many of these will tell you where others have found gold, and where it's likely that you can still find some.

There is still plenty of placer gold lying in streambeds throughout the Black Hills. (Placer gold is

gold which has eroded from ore.) But beginners will find it's best to concentrate on flowing streams in an area which historically has produced gold. Some of these gold-bearing waters are Little Spearfish Creek, Annie Creek, Castle Creek, Rapid Creek, Iron Creek, Boulder Creek, French Creek, and the headwaters of Spring Creek, Box Elder Creek, Little Elk Creek, and others. Your forebear prospectors found gold in these streams, so there's no reason you can't.

Note one warning: don't be a claim jumper. Most of the Black Hills -- the 1.4 million acres of the Black Hills National Forest -- is public land. But both private and company mining claims still exist in the Hills. Either be certain you're on public lands, or ask permission to enter private lands.

Usually, if you're in an area of someone's claim, an assessment notice must appear nailed on a post or tree at the claimsite. But the only foolproof way to be sure is to ask someone who lives nearby.

Placer mining demands a certain amount of equipment, for instance a gold pan. Gold pans come in three sizes, with 9 - inch, 12 - inch,

and 15 - inch diameters. The casual panner should opt for the 15 - inch size. It will take the job from start to finish just as well as the little ones, but it lets you begin panning with a great deal more raw gravel.

Gold pan outlets

Some outlets which sell gold pans in the Black Hills are Duhamel's Trading Post, Rapid City; Coast to Coast Hardware, Custer; Wagon Wheel Trading Post, Hill City; Katon's Korral, Deadwood; Deadwood Gulch Art Gallery, Deadwood; and Wall Drug Store, in Wall, 50 miles east. The average cost of a 15 - inch pan is \$3.50.

You'll need a shovel, preferably of the spade type. You could carry a small pick, but don't overload; fresh air might be the only treasure you'll take out of your mining expedition.

Finally, get an old, dusty miner's hat. (You can't look like a prospector without that hat.)

If you feel uncertain about panning technique, get some practice at a commercial panning area. The Bobtail Placer Mine, between Deadwood and Lead, is one good place to start. There, for \$2, you can get a quick lesson in how to pan gold, and a visual demonstration of what gold flakes or a small nugget looks like. In your panning you'll use the current of the stream to wash your material, but the Bobtail will also show you the more sophisticated technique of using a sluice box. Once old - time miners had staked their claim, they generally placed sluice boxes in the stream in order to work more gravel.

Another commercial placer mine is in operation at Rockerville Goldtown, 12 miles south of Rapid City on Highway 16. The fee there is \$1.50 per person.

With your training completed, head for the backcountry. Roam along the creeks. You'll find magnificent scenery, and the fresh air of the outdoors. And if you have the exhilarating experience of finding color shining in your gold pan, it's guaranteed you'll be infected with gold fever. With just a little luck, you'll go home with some native gold as a memento of your prospecting trip.

Even if things don't pan out, you can always set your gold pan on the mantlepiece, where it's sure to stimulate conversation and tall tales about your prospecting days in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



GOLD RUSH PROSPECTOR -- "Potato Creek" Johnny Perrett, one of the most famous prospectors in the Black Hills, was called so because he once had the luck to find a five - inch long gold nugget on Potato Creek. The prospector used various methods of gold mining, but his acknowledged favorite was his gold pan. A replica of Johnny's nugget can be seen at the Adams Memorial Museum in Deadwood, S.D. (S.D. Tourism Photo)

Next month article #2

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

Wally teaches the entire 7th Grade class from Spearfish about prospecting!

There were around 150 kids in 7 groups of about 20 students each.



The next Regular outing will be **June 19th** at the **NEW Good-One** claim on Beaver Creek. We are having this outing here so we can get our paper work done and explore the claim as well as the route to access the claim.

(There will be a lot of walking involved, DO NOT expect to drive right to the claim) You can use Pans, Sluice Boxes & Metal Detectors

Take I-90 to exit 8 and follow the Tinton Road (FS-134) until you see the BHPC Arrows follow the arrows to the meeting area.

The club will supply Burgers and Hot Dogs.

We need people to bring Salad, Chips, Pop, Desserts.

Questions about what to bring, contact one of the Club Officers

The Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society will host its 30th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

The Club will have a booth at the show again this year and Setup is on Friday the 25th and the show opens Saturday the 26th.

Place: Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, SD (on the 5th street side)

Times: Saturday 9:00-6:00

Sunday 10:00-4:00.

Prices: Admission is \$3 for adults,

Children 12 and under free and a discount for seniors.

Come join the fun at the Children's Corner, Silent Auction, vendor booths, exhibits and displays. A variety of programs will be offered both days.



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 Outings
 will be...

Ghost Town Trip

Date: June 5 - 6
 Place: Buffalo, WY
 Time: See page 2

Regular Monthly Outing

Date: June 19th
 Place: GOOD-ONE (see page 5)
 Time: 9 am

Gem & Mineral Show

Date: June 26 - 27
 Place: Rapid City Civic Center
 Time: See page 5

June 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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