

# THE GOLD PAN NEWS®

## November 2010

vol. 11 - # 11



### Welcome New Members

Kevin Hoerner  
Curt Taylor  
James Nehl

A **Special Thanks** to **Bill Dore**  
for helping Wally with all of the  
Prospecting Classes,  
"Thar's Gold in them Thar Hills"

### BHPC Officers

|   |  |
|---|--|
| President                                 | Mike Borden<br>(605) 341-0483              |
| Vice President                            | Wallace "Wally" Slattery<br>(605) 717-1512 |
| Treasury                                  | Dean Duncan                                |
| Secretary                                 | Nyla Potter                                |
| Claims Director/<br>Outings Coordinator   | Jeff Geist                                 |
| Club Photographer                         | Dan Radomski<br>Michelle Snyder            |
| Raffles & Prizes                          | Nelda Thiel<br>(605) 923-4059              |
| Equipment and Mechanic                    | Devon Nikolas                              |
| Membership Director<br>Newsletter/Website | Andy Goodwin                               |

Please contact the club officer for the type  
of question you have to get the best  
possible answer.

### President's Corner

Thank you to all who donated your gifts and time to the club

Anagnostopulos, Lou  
Boren, Tim  
Brandiger, Richard & Kathy  
Cabela's in Rapid City  
Dore, Bill  
Farris, Judy  
Frantz, Steve  
Geist, Jeff  
Goodwin, Andy  
Houston, Janice  
Meyer, Brian  
Nash, Richard  
Nikolas, Devon  
Nikolas, Nick & Jeanine  
Noll, Victoria  
Noll, Randy  
Pinz, Vern & Norma  
Radomski, Dan  
Rowland, Mark  
Schaeffer, Stacey  
Schmeltzer, Lou  
Skoglund, Dean & Nancy  
Slattery, Wally  
Snyder, Michelle  
Swanson, Bill  
Thiel, Ken & Nelda  
Van Loenen, Gordon  
Wight, Lew

I may have missed some however we greatly appreciate  
your help and support to the club.

Mike Borden  
BHPC President



# ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS

by  
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

## Don Hamm

I don't remember writing up a father-son duo before, but there's always a first time. You may remember my Bob Hamm article, so here's one about his son, Don.

Don first became interested in gold prospecting when as a 4-H-er he used to go gold panning on his father's claim back of their pretty homestead in the eastern Hills. He says they found some color, too. His best recollection is of finding a gold dice-shaped cube on the road through the area - evidently lost by some person while traveling on the road.

Don got more "into it" in the 1980's, when he and his dad built a trommel. They tried it in the canyon behind his Dad's and found gold; then they moved it onto a property where they had leased mineral rights near Custer. They went to work with heavy equipment - and then their partners left them. They continued to work, removing the overburden, and found a lot of gold - 50+ ounces! They also sold their washed gravel, finding a good market for it. Then the new owner upped their lease payments, so they closed out, after having broken even.

Don loves to talk about it! He also tells

me he has hopes that his dad and he will be able to get back onto that property and "doing things right." He says he knows the present property owner well, and hopes to work out a satisfactory deal. Good luck to you, Bob and Don! Personally speaking, I can tell you that both father and son are great to take gold prospecting. They are both knowledgeable and enthusiastic, and can carry on a good day's work. My best wishes to them both.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have basically decided to end the ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS with this issue. I'm sure there are other people I could have written about, but it's time to move on, so my apologies to anyone I may have left out. Next issue will start a new column - something having to do with lore of the Black Hills and the Gold Rush. I haven't decided what to call it yet - anyone have a suggestion?

Wallace Slattery

## REMINDER !!!

Don't forget to renew your memberships! If you renew before 12/31/2010 you get \$10 off ! If you renew after Dec 31st the price is \$50.

We will be using the same photos for your ID cards so unless you want to change the photo or didn't have one on your ID there is NO need to send a new one.

## **GHOST TOWNS, GERMANS, AND GOLD**

THEY CAME, THEY SAW,  
THEY CONQUERED....

Our hearts, that is. I can scarcely remember having such a great time or meeting such an enjoyable group of people as we hosted October 3 when about 40 of our club members met with 13 German tourists from Rapid City's sister city, Apolda, along with 5 hosts from Rapid.

The fun started when we met them, and they discovered that some of our club members could speak excellent German. It was almost as if we were meeting a bunch of long-lost relatives.

After introductions all around, Bill Swanson, our distinguished Ghost Towns expert led the caravan to the Empire Mine. It was fun! Because of the steep hills, we divided the tourists up among our 4wd vehicles - a chance to get acquainted - and off we went. I think some of the tourists were saying, "Mein Gott," as we traversed some of the slopes. Bill showed us around the fascinating Empire Mine, along with a couple of other deep mineshafts in the area. We inspected a huge (12 ft. diameter?) hopper bottom and an old miner's dugout. The tourists were taking things in all wide-eyed, and asked me why Bill was going "heeled," so ol' Wally spun some tall tales about the wild animals in the area! After that the tourists seemed to find our company even more interesting - they really wanted to stay close to us - ha! After pictures all around, Bill and most of the club members took their leave and we had lunch.

Then off to Lew Wight's. I wondered why the tourist vans were lagging behind, only to learn that poor Steffi (tourist) had gotten car-sick. Well, we still made it to Lew's, and with typical German energy the tourists were soon organized and hard at work digging up the

placer deposits in Lew's rich new claim. Then off we went to sluice their dirt. Incidentally, there evidently isn't a German word for "Sluice," so "sluice" it was. The dirt was rich in gold! Soon there were delighted Germanic expressions from all around as the tourists saw the yellow gold in the sluices and gold pans. And they were all running around showing off their "pokes" - er - vials.

The meeting came to an end and the tourists high-tailed it over to Moonshine Gulch in Rochford for country music, Budweiser beer, and meals. And it was regretfully over, ending with hugs all around.

Julianna, Elke, Steffi, Dirk, Philip, Lars, and the rest of you, you are all SO WELCOME to come back. They are a remarkably delightful group of tourists. Now I want to visit them in Apolda! And our deepest thanks to Bill Swanson and Lew Wight for your outstanding job of hosting them. You were a huge hit. And a real tip of our western hats to Gordon Van Loenen, Dean Duncan, Lew Schmeltzer, Don Hamm, and Devon Nikolas for really pitching in and helping with all the sluicing and panning (If I missed anyone, it was completely inadvertent). Without your help it would have been a far more difficult task. Also, kudos to Stacey Schaeffer for putting it all together - it ran very smoothly, Stacey. It was FUN! Come back some day, bitte!

Wallace Slattery

# GHOST TOWNS, GERMANS, AND GOLD Photos from the Outing



## 2010 Year-End Party



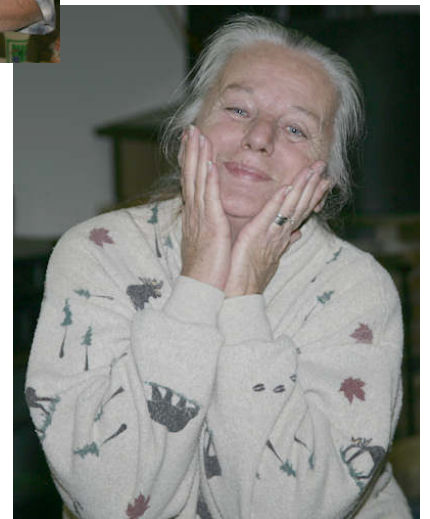
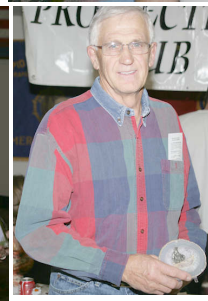
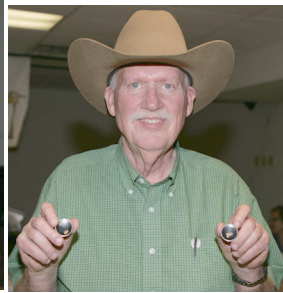
## 2010 Year-End Party Continued



## Year-End Party Prize Winners

Al Blakley  
 Al Ruckdaschel  
 Ann Hamm  
 Antonette Koch  
 Bob Jelliffe  
 Breckin Meyer  
 Brian Meyer  
 Brian Pavelka  
 Darcey VanHout  
 Dean Duncan  
 Delaine McLaughlin  
 Devon Nikolas  
 Dottie Johnson  
 Elizabeth Valdez  
 Enola Snyder  
 Gary McLaughlin  
 Gordon Van Loenen  
 Gracie Kusters  
 Jan Miller  
 Jeff Boyda  
 Jena Geist  
 Jim Knutson  
 Joe Miller  
 John Van Dis  
 Kathy Brandiger  
 Kelsey Snyder  
 Ken Thiel  
 Keri Geist  
 Lew Wight  
 LuAnn Denke  
 Mark Rowland  
 Nancy Reinart  
 Renee Pansch  
 Richard Brandiger  
 Richard Nash  
 Rita Hanson  
 Roger Johnson  
 Sam Sprafke  
 Sandy Howell  
 Shane Flaskamp  
 Tim Boren  
 Tom Cielik  
 Tom Fonck  
 Wally Slattery

Note some people won more than one prize



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

[www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com](http://www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com)



Black Hills Prospecting Club  
c/o Mike Borden  
6317 W Elmwood  
Black Hawk, SD 57718

ALSO VISIT OUR **WEB SITE AT** [www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com](http://www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com)

Our Next Meeting  
will be...

### Winter Meeting

Date: Jan 15th 2011

Place: Cabela's in Rapid City

Time: 10 AM

### REMINDER !

Renew your memberships before  
Dec 31st and get  
\$10 off the Regular cost of \$50

## January 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |