

# THE GOLD PAN NEWS®

## March 2011

vol. 12 - # 3



### Welcome New Members

Ron Holly  
Randy Oberle

 **Happy**  
**St. Patrick's Day!** 

### BHPC Officers

President	Mike Borden (605) 341-0483
Vice President	Wallace "Wally" Slattery (605) 717-1512
Treasury	Dean Duncan
Secretary	Nyla Potter
Claims Director	Richard Nash
Raffles & Prizes	Nelda Thiel (605) 923-4059
Club Photographer	Michelle Snyder
Equipment Manager	Devon Nikolas
Membership Director	Andy Goodwin (605) 584-4698

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

### Feb 26th 2011

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

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





## **WILD & WOOLY DAYS IN THE OLD BLACK HILLS**

by  
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

Source: Rosyinn

We all love to tell stories about lost treasure, don't we? Well here's a true one that has never been found.

In the early days gold was shipped out of the Black Hills by stage line. Needless to say, these were prime targets for stagecoach robbers. The mines attempted to protect their gold by (1) casting it into 200-pound ingots, extremely difficult to move, and (2) shipping it in the Monitor, an armored stagecoach.

Lame Johnny was a ne'er-do-well who was known for horse theft and stage holdups. In the fall of 1878 the Monitor was held up at Canyon Springs, a stage stop about 37 miles south off Deadwood. Five gunmen took over the stage stop and waited for the Monitor. After a bloody shootout with the guards, the gunmen took the stage into the woods, where they worked two hours to open the strong-box. They took off with \$3,500 in currency, \$500 in diamonds, a lot of jewelry, and 700 pounds of gold. The ingots were loaded onto a two-wheel cart, and the tracks set off to the East through the Hills.

As news spread of the holdup, posses took off, following up various leads. As a result, the stage line announced that 60 percent of the loot had been recovered, although not the two big ingots. About this time the law caught up with Lame Johnny and sent him on the Sydney-Deadwood stage northbound. Unfortunately for Lame Johnny, a mob caught him near Buffalo Gap, and threatened to lynch him if he didn't fess up to where the gold was hidden. He didn't fess up, they did hang him. Lame Johnny was buried about eight miles north of Buffalo Gap, complete with shackles. Later, the body was dug up and his shackles

and shoes were removed. The shackles are now in the South Dakota State Historical Museum in Pierre. His shoes were put on display in a store, but the store burned down - end of shoes. A secret cave in a box canyon was found in the 1960's that is believed to have been his hideout.

Johnny's head stone (wood) read:

Pilgrim Pause!

You're standing on

The molding clay of Limping John

Tread lightly, stranger, on this sod.

for if he moves, you're robbed, by God.

One by one the other bandits were caught and hanged. Incidentally, Johnny now is headless in his grave. Someone stole his head!

There are few clues about the buried gold: The treasure is said to be buried off U S 85 near the old Canyon Springs Stage station, in Beaver Canyon about 37 miles south of Deadwood.

200 pounds!

Wallace Slattery

### **Come visit our booth at the Northern Plains Ultimate Outdoor Exposition**

March 11, 12 & 13

Rushmore Plaza Civic Center

Rapid City, South Dakota

Hours:

Friday, March 11

Noon to 9pm

Saturday, March 12

10am to 9pm

Sunday, March 13

10am to 4pm

Admission:

Adult: \$6.00

Child 5 to 15: \$3.00

Seminars:

Friday, 3PM - New Trail System by the Forest Service

Sunday, 11AM - Gold Prospecting

## Secretary's Report

February 26, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Mike Borden, President. We greeted the new club members, Randy and Angela Oberle, along with several guests. There was standing room only!

Mike noted that the newsletter contains the minutes from the last meeting.

Vice President Report: Wally Slattery told the club members that the Community Education class has been filled for April. He mentioned that we are hoping to get into the Calumet Mine for the June Ghost Town outing. He told of the gold panning classes held with 120 enthusiastic 4th graders at the Belle Fourche South Park Elementary school. He finished by reading his letter to State Representative Fred Romkema asking for legislation exempting recreational and small prospectors from state environmental regulations, and added that Romkema seems very intrigued by this, and that all parties intend to pursue this important matter.

Andy Goodwin, Membership Director, noted that we now have 158 paid memberships, including 6 new ones.

Richard Nash, Safety Director, asked people to stay out of tunnels created during prospecting on our claims. He also warned people that there are too many rattlesnakes at the Garnet claim. If people see one, they are to STAY AWAY from it, and call one of the club officers over, who will kill it. Also we are to observe the No Digging signs.

OLD BUSINESS: The Sports Expo will be held March 11-13. Wally will give a prospecting seminar that Sunday at the Expo. We are still working on rejoining GPAA. We have tried to confer with Nancy of the GPAA without success, but will give it another try. Mary Dun-

can, our new treasurer, led some discussion on filing a non profit 501 paper for tax purposes; we may become an LLC for liability purposes.

NEW BUSINESS: Our outing schedule includes: April 16 - Garnet; May 21 - Husker or a new claim; June 18 - Iron Creek; July 16 - Garnet or new claim; August 20 - Iron Creek or Lew's.

Mike read a letter from the Haberstroh's, thanking us for the \$200 donation, and asking us to find an old county map showing that road as a county road.

Mike also discussed the new Gold Screw, presenting it as a sophisticated and effective gold processing machine. We can't wait to try it!

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have \$4,864.59 in the treasury, while spending \$1,600 last month. Mike mentioned that we will donate a day's prospecting for auction at the Sports Show - Wally will take a family gold prospecting.

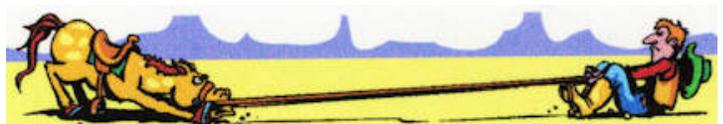
QUESTIONS: Beaver Creek claim is still being worked on, trying to find a better way into it. We also don't have much information about ATV stickers, but know that the Spearfish Forest Service office has stickers for sale.

Bill Swanson gave another outstanding presentation on Ghost Towns, complete with both old and new photos of buildings - this time about Two Bit, near Deadwood. Thanks again, Bill!

A number of nice prizes were won by participants, including a NICE METAL DETECTOR, won by LuAnn Denke! Congratulations!

Meeting adjourned about 11:45 am.

Wallace Slattery for Nyla Potter





Black Hills Prospecting Club  
c/o Andy Goodwin  
11228 Cougar Ct  
Lead, SD 57754

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

Our Next Meeting  
will be...

### Winter Meeting

Date: March 26th

Place: Cabela's in Rapid City

Time: 10 AM

## March 2011

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	<b>26</b>
27	28	29	30	31		