



If you need to renew your membership please send your \$50 check or Money Order to the Member Director at

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

BHPC Officers

President	Mike Borden (605) 341-0483
Vice President	Wallace "Wally" Slattery (605) 717-1512
Treasury	Dean Duncan (605) 350-6364
Secretary	LuAnn Denke (605) 342-0005
Outings Director	Jeff Geist (605) 722-7018
Raffles & Prizes	Nelda Thiel (605) 923-4059
Claims Safety	Richard Nash
Club Photographer	Michelle Snyder
Equipment & Mechanic	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.

President's Corner

I hope everyone had a excellent Christmas and a great New Years. I hope 2012 is a better year for finding some gold. With the new claims, (Park Placer, and the BF1 claim), and our old stand bys we should have a great year of prospecting. Now along with the digging and panning we as a club need to do some maintenance on a few of the claims. There was some talk of closing the four leaf clover claim do to the digging under the tree roots and the road going down to the dig site is getting very bad. We need to look into getting a better approach into the dig site and use some common sense when working this area. Remember this claim is owned by myself and the Nikolas', and not owned by the club. The claim can be taken away from us at any time by the owners if they are not happy with the way things are being taken care of by our club members. We as a club need to treat these claims as ours and think before we dig. We need to work ALL the club claims with some thought and not just dig and chuck rock here and there, look around and plan things out. If we all use some common sense we should be able to come up with a fix to the problems on the claim.

I am hoping that we can make 2012 one of our best years yet. The GPAA is planning a gold show in August, we have the Northern outdoor expo in February, some ghost town tours, and our group outings that we love so much. We cant forget the 2012 Zortman trip. A few of the people that went last year are chomping at the bit to go again and get some great gold.

So lets gear up for another great year in 2012, and have an excellent year prospecting. May we all find some pickers in our pans and chunks in our sniffers!

Michael Borden
President
BHPC



ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS

by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

WILLIAM GAY

One of the more interesting stories about old Black Hills characters concerns William Gay. He earned a small fortune of \$100,000 selling illegal whiskey to the Indians, even serving time for it. Generally well-liked, he helped found Deadwood, and dressed well, sporting a watch chain made up of gold nuggets big as hickory nuts. He was generous to down-and-outers, and seems to have been rather well-liked generally.

His brother Al and he founded Gayville, one of the early "parts" of what is now Deadwood, and he lived there with his wife.

Therein lay a problem. He shot and killed a man who he suspected of being her admirer, and was convicted of second degree murder. His wife worked hard to get him released, and he moved to Spearfish in 1882, having spent his fortune for legal fees.

The family moved to Castle, Montana, where he may have burned down the local newspaper office over a land dispute. The family was driven away by local vigilantes. In 1893 law officers tried to serve warrants on Bill and his brother-in-law, Harry Gross, for theft.

Over the following months Gay seems to have shot and killed two deputies trying to arrest him. He escaped to California, but two years later was recognized and arrested. Returned to Montana for trial, he was convicted and sentenced to hang.

Although he denied the killings, he was hanged in 1896. There is even an invitation to the hanging in existence. I wonder if I would have attended?

Taken from Bad Boys of the Black Hills - and Some Wild Women, too.

NORTHERN HILLS GHOST TOWNS TOUR

Well, we finally got a Northern Hills ghost town tour! Ghost Towns expert Bill Swanson met our group of 25 intrepid explorers (including a number of guests) Saturday, October 1, at the Exxon station in Sturgis, and after a quick heads-up, away we went.

First stop was in the Fairgrounds in Deadwood, where Bill showed us the famous Discovery Point, the place where gold was first discovered in Deadwood Gulch. Have you seen the statue? Have you read the plaque? Then back to our mechanical mules and off we went above Deadwood, to some of the prettiest scenery in the Black Hills, and some remnants of mining operations. After some confusion as to our direction, we followed a railroad track way (breath-taking and scary!) above Lead to Bald Mountain and Terry Peak. We couldn't see the remnants of Terry, but Bill discussed the town in some detail.

We then toured over to the Wharf mining operation - it was breath-taking, second only to the big cut in Lead from the Homestake operation. Bill showed us the large dark area in the rocks that were the gold ore. We then tried to visit the Terry cemetery, but (darn!) it was locked on both ends.

So we called it a good day.

Our thanks again to Bill for another outstanding Ghost Towns tour.

Can't wait for next spring's !



Black Hills Prospecting Club October 8, 2011 Minutes

Year End Party met at the American Legion on Sat. 10-08-11 with Pres. Mike Borden calling meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. with a big welcome to all and a special thank you to all officers. NEW BUSINESS The first order of business was the nomination for President. Jeff G. nominated Mike Borden (Andy G. seconded) resulting in unanimous approval by members. Mike updated us on the BF1 claim stating he had received the Quit Claim deed in the mail today (10-8-11).

Progress is being made in rewriting our By-Laws and Membership booklet. Wally updated members about the issue of exempting small miners from Dept. Environmental Natural Resources (D.E.N.R.) and legislator Fred Romeka. A future trip to Pierre is possible. Lew Wight addressed members extending an invitation to his Mystic place. Lew reported that prospectors have been harassed and stated his objection to Forest Service persons telling guests to leave the Black Hills. A question of a 14 day time limit was discussed. Clarification is needed on this. Lew presented the 1st Annual Glory Hunter Miner of the Year Award to Wally Slattery (a statue of a miner). Lew directed Wally to affix this to his truck as a hood ornament. Randy from G.P.A.A. announced that he has cards to hand out describing Public Lands for People. Instructions given were to get the badge number, etc. from anyone being harassed. Mike expressed a need for all head people to agree on requirements. Discussion continued on problems with Forest Service harassment. Another member stated that they must move 5 miles from their spot. There are plans to get together on this so it is in black and white. Nelda thanks all members, etc. who have made donations for our drawings. Mike announced plans are in place for another Zortman MT trip as there were tremendous positive feedback stories. Estimated cost = \$

75.00 p/day to rent a trailer. Dan Radomski was presented with the Spirit of Forrest Goodwin Award for his outstanding service to our club for many years as a faithful Photographer, etc. NEXT MEETING: 3rd week of January 2012

WINNERS 1970's Theme Fashion Show winner = Mr. Larry Howell. Live Auction: Rock Tumbler @ \$ 35.00 = Rita Hansen; Metal Prospector @ \$ 15.00 = Cosette Mau; Spiral Pan @ \$ 185.00 = Gary Mau; Dry Washer @ \$80.00 = Lew Wight; Falcon Gold Probe @ \$50.00 = Dale D'Angelou Other Winners including the Chinese Raffle and the Mega Raffle: Wolf Plates = Butch Gibbon; Solar Mosquito device = Bob Hamm; Tool Holder = Monica Sprafke; Clock = Butch Jibben; 4 point Power plug = Mike Borden; Knife = Joe Miller; Earrings = Nelda Thiel; Gold Panning Plate = LuAnn Denke; Print = Randy Noll; Knife = Dean Johnson; Statue of Mule Miner = Dean Johnson; Ant Sculpture = Sally Olson; Screwdriver Set = Mike Denke; Tools = Jim Olson; Rock Tumbler = Jim Olson; Eagle = Dean Skoglund; Knife = Tim Borg; BBQ Grill = Ken Thiel; Knife = Gary McLaughlin. Eagle Knife = Ron Ronenberg; Pan with accessories = Linda Babcock; Metal Detector = Nick Babcock; Knife = Richard Nash; Nugget = Lynn Snyder; ATV Bag = Linda Babcock; 1 oz. Silver = Ron Ronenberg; \$ 50.00 Gift Certificate/Cabela's = Mike Cogley; \$ 100.00 Gift Certificate/Cabela's = R. Wayland; Nugget = Patrick Ewalt; G.P.S. Unit = Jim Olson; Sluice Box = Randy Noll; Gold Fever DVD Set = Lyle Brabazon; Nugget = Richard Morgan; Fire Pit = Wally Slattery; Deer Knife = Jim Olson; Clean Up Kit = Brian Pavelka; 5 oz. Silver piece = Lew Wight; Knife = Jeff Geist; Hand Sucker = Delaine McLaughlin; Nugget = Brian Pavelka; \$ 100.00 Gift Certificate/Cabela's = Dean Skoglund; Nugget = Jim Olson; High Banker = Bailey Beauchamp; Nugget = Gary Mallams.

LuAnn M. Denke

Around the Potbelly Stove - Tip of the Month



Gold-indicating plants

Has anyone besides me heard of hunting for plants to locate gold deposits? I have heard that certain plants grow over gold deposits, and their location can be used to locate said gold. I looked it up on the internet and could only find a reference to the Alpine pennycress, a small herb with white flowers, which is reputed to grow on gold deposits. It also grows in the Rocky Mountains. But I am positive I've read about another plant that is a dead giveaway for gold deposits. Anybody?

My take on a couple of gold-processing machines I've fielded a number of questions on gold spiral bowls and the Gold Exorcist recently, so here's my take (for what it's worth!) Other people are welcome to differ, of course:

Spiral Bowls work GREAT in the showroom. But in the field my experience says they tend to (1) break down and stop rotating, and (2) clog up (become overwhelmed) when fed more concentrate than the small amounts they can process. I did see one work very well years ago. The prospector fed it fairly small amounts of concentrate and it did a nice job of gold separation. Personally, I think I can do about as well separating the gold in my pan by hand.

The Gold Exorcist works very well, AS LONG AS THE MATERIAL IS BONE-DRY AND IT IS CLASSIFIED FINE (1/4 inch or less). Under those conditions it will separate out the gold nicely. I'm taking mine to Arizona this week. My buddy and I plan to throw the dug dirt where the sun can dry it, then

process it through the machine. Incidentally, Nick Nikolas was suggesting that the dirt be processed through any dry washer two or three times to dry it completely - something I intend follow up on.

Well, there you have it. You are welcome to disagree, but this is based on my personal experience.

And remember: it is illegal to use any machine with a motor or engine anywhere in the Hills unless you have gone through a lengthy and expensive process through the DENR.

Wallace Slattery

More Info

Thanks to Paul Gates for the VERY Generous Donation !!!

We want to thank Nancy Skoglund for the beautiful quilt !!!

Thanks to everyone that donated items for the Year-end Party!

February 10 - 11 - 12, 2012
Will be the Northern Plains Ultimate Outdoor Expo at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. For more info go to www.npoutdoorexpo.com

GPAA plans to have a Gold Show in Rapid City on August 25 - 26, 2012.
More info to come....

2011 Year-end Party

