

# THE GOLD PAN NEWS®

## JUNE 2011

vol. 12 - # 6



### BHPC Officers

President	Mike Borden (605) 341-0483
Vice President	Wallace "Wally" Slattery (605) 717-1512
Treasury	Dean Duncan (605) 350-6364
Secretary	Nyla Potter
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.**

### 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

### Fellow BHPC Members:

We would like to invite the membership to a weekend outing on our Iron Creek claim June 25 & 26. Many of you have been here before, and know how we like to manage the use of this claim by others. As a reminder, please review the club rules which pertain to care of the land, and courtesy to other members, as these are applicable to our guests for this weekend.

Additionally, note the following guidelines as well:

**1--**The prospecting weekend will start at 9 AM Saturday morning with a briefing at 'headquarters'.

**NO EXCEPTIONS!** Any campers, of course, are welcome to set up their camps early.

**2--**All prospectors will sign in at the briefing, and pick up a report sheet to turn in at the end of the weekend, one per miner or one per group--same as last year.

**3--**The outing is limited to club members only--no extra guests.

**4--**Saturday prospecting will end at 9 PM, Sunday at 6 PM.

**5--**Richard would like a report sheet from each miner or group as they leave the claim the final time, whether Saturday or Sunday evening, and a look at your finds!

**6--**All gravels must be processed at the claim with the exception of one five gallon bucket which can be taken home the last day of prospecting.

**7--**Please understand that the invitation to use our claim is only for the days and times above.

Most of you know that last year we had some second thoughts about sharing our claim with the club. However, we feel any problems have been adequately addressed, and we want to try hosting outings on this claim again. We have found the great majority of our fellow club members are respectful and conscientious prospectors, and we truly enjoy the weekends we have spent with all of you.

We look forward to seeing you on June 25 & 26!

Richard and Kathy Brandiger



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

by  
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

### **WILD BILL HICKOCK IN DEADWOOD**

I suspect we all know the story of Wild Bill Hickock - the tough gunmen he faced down or shot, and so on. We also all know the story of his murder in Deadwood. But few of us know what he did in the three weeks spent in Deadwood previous to his death.

Hickock had married Agnes Lake in March 1876, but their honeymoon was short-lived, as Hickock was itching to make his fortune in the storied gold fields of Deadwood. In July 1876 they joined a wagon train heading for the gold fields. Hickock teamed up with White Eye Anderson as his "pard," and the train was soon joined by a very hung-over Calamity Jane. Hickock had nothing special to do with Calamity, and she took up with another caravan anyway. Hickock was having severe glaucoma problems, and was glad to have White Eye guide him around in the evenings. However, ol' Deadeye Hickock practiced his revolver skills every day, proving to be an equally deadly shot with either hand. Upon arrival in Deadwood Hickock picked a camp spot on Whitewood Creek about three miles from Deadwood, and the group were soon busy prospecting. Now you and I know that prospecting is hard work, and Hickock was no longer a young buck - he was 39 years old. Hickock did hear of six Montanans who boasted they would kill them. He faced them down in a saloon, offering them their funerals if they wished. They bugged out, to the cheers of the saloon crowd, and this resulted in an offer of becoming the town marshal from the law-and-order crowd. Hickock asked for time to consider the offer. I suspect that he realized he couldn't effectively handle the job in a rip-roaring min-

ing camp with his almost nonexistent night vision.

On August 2 - his twentieth day in the Hills, he went to Saloon Number 10 to recoup his serious gambling losses. He didn't know it, but he had fired his last shot.

Hickock had to take a stool with his back to the rear door, but he felt he was among friends, so made an exception to his rule just that time. It turned out to be the last time....

We all know how Texas Jack McCall - drunk and thirsting for fame - walked in the front door, sidled along the bar, then sprang behind Hickock and fired, shouting, "Take that, Damn you!" Hickock slumped over, dead. His fascinating career was over.

Hickock was buried in the Engleside Cemetery near his campsite, but three years later he was dug up and placed in his grave site in Mount Moriah Cemetery. Incidentally, he was buried with a firearm or two, and when he was dug up, the party was surprised to find him seemingly petrified! And the firearms disappeared.

I suppose some collector has them - and has kept quiet.

I would have loved to meet Wild Bill Hickock, but then we still have picturesque prospectors today, don't we? I think of Lew Wight, Bob Hamm, Andy Goodwin, and Gordon Van Loenen, among many others....

Wallace Slattery

## MEETING MINUTES MAY 21

Meeting was opened by Mike Borden, club president, about 11:10 am, in a gray drizzle. We had about 50 attendees. The last meeting minutes are on our web site.

Wally's report:

1. The prospecting class is over, except for the field trip, which will be held tomorrow, May 22. It was the usual big success, with 15 members.
2. Wally and Andy taught gold panning to the Spearfish 7th graders on May 8. The kids loved it, and hated to see it end.
3. Wally talked about our plans to work with Fred Romkema, state representative, to gain an exemption from state over-regulation for small and recreational miners. Wally proposed and moved to form a committee to work up a proposal to present to Romkema to this purpose, of the following club members: Mike Borden, Wally Slattery, Andy Goodwin, Gordon Van Loenen, Bob Hamm, and Jeff Geist. The motion passed unanimously. It was also mentioned that the Tea Party legislative liaison will work with us in this matter. Mike mentioned to the club that ATV operators in the back country in the Hills must now purchase a \$25 sticker, purchased at US Forestry offices. Mike also mentioned that Ranger Steve Pischke has been replaced by a new ranger named Haas.

Andy's report: We have two new members and two renewals. Also, those with email addresses will receive both an email and a snail mail newsletter.

Mike noted that since we are back in the GPAA we should redo the member booklet and maps to GPAA claims. Mike also reminded members that although we can come as a club to GPAA claims, that does

not give our club members access as individuals, unless they are also GPAA members. Mike also said that we will shortly stake out a new claim in the northern hills, depending on the weather.

Richard Nash's report: Richard warned us to be careful with overhangs either by trees or dirt and rocks. It is best to knock down overburden as much as possible for safety's sake. That dirt can be profitably sluiced. Because of the conflict with the Gem & Mineral Show, our next meeting date has been moved up to June 11, on Richard Brandiger's claim on Iron Creek. We will also have our Ghost Town tour June 4, probably on the Calumet Mine that has been so popular in the past. Richard also wants us to pick up our trash on his claim - please don't leave it behind.

There is discussion about having a club outing to the Zortman area in Montana in early August. It was a marvelous place to prospect back in 2004.

Treasurer's report: We have about \$6,023 in the treasury.

Randy Noll said if we have problems with bureaucrats we can send our information to Public Lands for People, whose lawyers will handle it. He passed out postcards containing the information.

After the raffle, we had an outstanding barbeque prepared by Jim and Sally Olson. It was delicious, folks!

Wallace Slattery  
for Nyla Potter

## Around the Potbelly Stove - Tip of the Month



From Gold Fever Prospecting:

### **GOLD PROSPECTING TIPS**

1. Tie a few feet of fishing line to some small lead weights and affix balloons to the line. Set it loose down the river and watch where the weights settle - that's a good place to start your hunt for gold.
  
2. In and around hills of shale rock (common in many parts of the Black Hills - W.S.) carry a bucket and digging tool. Scoop out clay and soil trapped between the shale layers into your bucket and carry it to a stream to sluice. Shale hillsides act like a sluice to trap the gold as water runs down the hill!

Wally Slattery

If you have a story or prospecting tips send them to Andy and he will put them in the next issue !

### **OUTING DATES:**

Ghost Town Tour

June 4th

Meet at Stamper's in Rapid City on Hwy 16 on the way to Mt Rushmore it will be at the giant cowboy on the right side of Hwy 16

Bring your lunch

Gem & Mineral Show

June 18th - 19th

Iron Creek

June 25th - 26th

Bring your lunch

Directions to Iron Creek Lake Intersection

From Rapid City go West on I-90 to Exit 8 on the west side of Spearfish and head south. McGuigan Road turns into Tinton Road (FS 134) a couple miles south. After traveling about 13 miles south till you get to the Iron Creek Lake intersection of FS 134 & FS 222 Here you will see the BHPC Arrow Sign pointing the way to the Outing.



# May 21st Outing at the Husker



Randy Noll GPAA State Claims Director for South Dakota

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

[www.blackhillsp Prospectingclub.com](http://www.blackhillsp Prospectingclub.com)

**A Very Special  
THANK YOU  
to  
Jim and Sally Olson  
for the Incredibly Awesome  
BBQ**



This outings Raffle Winners





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 Outing  
 will be...

**Ghost Town Tour**

Date: June 4th  
 Place: Meet at Stamper's  
 Time: 9 am

**Gem & Mineral Show**

June 18-19 Fair Grounds in Rapid City

**Regular Monthly Outing**

Date: June 25th - 26th  
 Place: Richard & Kathy's Claim on Iron Creek  
 Time: 9 am

**June 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
26	27	28	29	30		