



JULY 2012

vol. 13 #6

**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 Mike Borden, Box 386,  
Blackhawk SD 57718**

### 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	
Membership Director	Jeff Geist (605) 722-7018

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

**Attention** FourLeaf Clover Claim is closed to prospecting until further notice. No prospecting at this time. The Southern Gem claim is no longer a BHPC Claim. Stay off. Mike Borden President.

## PRESIDENTS CORNER JULY 2012



Well, I hope that every one had a great month. With all the events and different thing we had going on we sure were busy. Let start with the Ghost Town Tours, to Spokane. I was unable to attend however I had been there before and it is a great place to visit. We had quite a few members attend the tour and I was told they enjoyed the history of the town. The girl scouts from Gillette Wyoming joined us on the 10th of the month at the Garnet claim. The girls had a great time digging for gold. Some of the girls found some gold but most were busy picking out the garnet from there pan. The Gem and Mineral Show was on the 16th and 17th , at the Fair Grounds Event Center. The attendance was not the best, however we drew the attention of just about every person that walked thru the door. We had panning tubs set up to teach panning and had 3 new members join the club. This event brought in about \$800.00 for the club and was a great practice run for the GPAA GOLD AND TREASURE SHOW coming up in August. The Outdoor Woman's Association of South Dakota was up at LEWs claim Saturday the 23rd. I was unable to be there however I was told that a guest was digging in a under cut and It caved in on her taking 6 people to dig her out. This is why we stress that you do not dig or under cut the banks. This could have been worse then a Bruised leg, this person could have died. DO NOT DIG IN A UNDER CUT AREA. This is why we stress this at every outing. When we are out there digging sometimes we are alone and if there is know one around and this happens , well, Just remember that you dig at your own risk and that is why the club has you sign a disclaimer when you join. We are not responsible for injury or accidents. We are still having people dig in the bank at the Garnet claim even though it has been roped off and signs put up requesting that the tailing be placed there. If the undercutting of the bank continues and the plan of operations for the claim is not fallowed anyone digging in this restricted area will face immediate termination of there membership.

**Effective immediately** the Four Leaf Clover is closed until further notice. Now one is to prospect for gold on the claim at this time.

Well, that was a wild month!! Remember we are her to enjoy the wonderful hobby of prospecting. Please follow at the club rules and have fun out there. However BE SAFE!!!

Mike Borden

BHPC President



## **ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS**

by  
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

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

#### **GREAT MUSIC FOR GREAT PROSPECTORS**

You and I grew up with various kinds of pop music, and to us that music will remain special. I find it amusing that the Rock N Roll I grew up with in the late 50's and early 60's is almost unrecognizable by the present generation, but then I have zero concept of their music either.

Music was much appreciated by the early prospectors. They loved to come in and hear various "Perfessors" - educated musicians—do the light fantastique. And every hurdy-gurdy had its "Perfessor" to entertain them. Typical instruments included the piano, drum, violin, and banjo, as well as various brass instruments, most of which we would recognize. And actually, we would recognize a lot of the musical pieces too. Stephen Foster's music was universally played, usually featuring OH SUSANNA, which any prospector could relate to, CAMPTOWN RACES, and of course who wouldn't drop a tear into his beer over JEANIE WITH THE LIGHT BROWN HAIR or BEAUTIFUL DREAMER? And who could not love MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME?

Some of the then-new hits that were making the rounds of the hurdy-gurdies of the 1870's included songs you and I would recognize, including GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK, I'LL TAKE YOU HOME AGAIN, KATHLEEN (ooh, I love that one), CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINY, AND WHERE WAS MOSES WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT.

Then there was the classic, still played (badly) by the Masons every New Year

- OH DEM GOLDEN SLIPPERS.

These songs were guaranteed to get the miners jigging and the hurdy-gurdy girls' short skirts flying as the "Perfessors" ratcheted up the rhythms, and let the miners forget their troubles for just a little while.

Taken from BAD BOYS OF THE BLACK HILLS

### **GIRL SCOUTS A BUNCH OF GOLDDIGGERS**

...And dig they did! Girl Scout Troop 1532, from Gillette, Wyoming, proved to be a real group of hard-working gold diggers June 10, when they met a number of club volunteers at the Garnet Claim. They were adept and quick at picking up the basics of gold prospecting and panning, and were willing participants in the hunt for gold. Although very little gold was found, the girls had a blast finding and storing garnets, and a great time was had by all. Our club volunteers' attitude? Bring them again! We really enjoyed working with these girls and their sponsors, and the hot dogs and treats were very enjoyable. Our thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to make these girls' field trip so memorable.

Wallace Slattery

## **Help!!**

Due to the large numbers of new members in the last year. We are in need of additional volunteers and officers to make this club a success. We are in need of an Outings Coordinator, Equipment Manager, Volunteers to help with set up and tear down of outings, and we will definitely need help at the BF1 Claim for the 40 plus kids that will be coming to pan gold on July 26th and also for GPAA Gold Show in August with set up on the 23rd and the show on 24-26th. If you are interested in helping please send Wally an email at [VPBHPC@gmail.com](mailto:VPBHPC@gmail.com) with "I will help" in the subject line. Our officers are doing our best to keep up, and could use all the help we can get.

Wally & Mike  
VP BHPC President BHPC

# Zortman Montana

A lot of people have been requesting information on Zortman Montana.. Well here it is!!!!

Gold established the community of Zortman. Although gold prospecting took place as early as the late 1860s, it wasn't until approximately 1890 when Pike Landusky and Bob Ormond struck a rich vein that the town of Zortman was born. It was named after Oliver "Pete" Zortman, who with a partner constructed a mill near Zortman that initiated the extraction of low-grade ore from rock.

Many mines were sunk into the mountainsides, the most prosperous being the Ruby Gulch in 1904. It produced as much as \$14,000 per day in gold bullion. In spite of a destructive fire in 1912, the mine flourished until World War I. The mine then shut down until the early 1930s at which time the Little Ben Mining Company was formed and the Ruby Gulch mines were reopened. This mill became the second largest cyanide mill in the world during its time of operation. Approximately 2,000 people resided in the Zortman area in the early 1920s. In 1936 a destructive wildfire swept through the Little Rockies destroying the majority of the mining operation. It is estimated that the mines at Zortman, Landusky and Beaver Creek produced \$125 million in gold before the shut down in 1949.

**John and Candy Kalal** are the owners of the 25 room **Zortman Motel** located at 302 Main with a neighboring Auto Garage. The Deluxe units include Air conditioning, color cable TV, telephones refrigerators, coffee makers. WiFi is also available for all your communication needs. They also have mobile homes for rent for large groups and also have RV site with full hook ups. For room reservations, Room rate, or RV site info, contact John and Candy at 406-673-3160 or 1-800-517-0372 or email them at [Zortman76@mtintouch.net](mailto:Zortman76@mtintouch.net).

There is the **Buckhorn Store** that has all that you will ever need while in Zortman. The prices are very reasonable and they carry most everything from pop, groceries, gifts, sporting goods, ice, gas, oil, and lots of neat stuff. They also have 8 cabins for rent with cable tv, phones, and most with full kitchens. They also have 10 RV sites with full hook ups. Phone 406-673-3162 or 1-888-654-3162.

The miners Club Café is an excellent place to grab your breakfast or any meal at that. They have lunch specials, evening meals served with your favorite beverage. Great food and great prices. Phone 406-673-3516 or the Bar # 406-673-3515

Zortman is a great place to go visit and pan for some gold. Mechanized equipment like Dredges and High bankers are ok. To use the claim make sure you contact John and Candy Kahal and let them know you are part of the Black Hills Prospecting Club. The club has no official date for the Zortman trip, however many are going August 1st through the 15th. So if you are go to Zortman don't be surprised if you run into other members of the BHPC digging for the Yellow Gold of Zortman Montana.



Zortman Jail.



**SECRETARY'S REPORT**  
**June, 2012**

**Do to other events there was no official meeting the month of June.**

**Treasurers Report as of June 26th was .**

**\$5502.20**

**Attention**

The Four Leaf Clover Claim is closed to prospecting until further notice. No prospecting at this time. The Southern Gem claim is no longer a BHPC Claim. Stay off .

Mike Borden  
President.



Michelle can Pan for gold and change a tire. **WOW!**

Girl Scout troop from Gillette Wyoming at Garnet Claim Sunday June 10th.



**Ghost town tour.**  
**Spokane. SD**

The town formed around a mine that was started in the 1890's, supplying lead, zinc, and gold. The mine buildings, schoolhouse, water tower, miners' cabins and other interesting sites make the visit an enjoyable one. Begun in 1890, the mine produced lead, zinc, gold, silver, hematite, graphite, beryl, mica, and copper. The mill is still standing and it alone is worth the visit.



**Bill Swanson and the gang.**



**This is one of the houses that are still there in Spokane.**

## Around the Potbelly Stove - Tip of the Month



### Heard around the old potbellied stove:

Why is quartz so commonly found with gold? The same geological process that made gold also made quartz. Incidentally, quartz is commonly found with gold, but gold is usually NOT found with quartz.

Do you have problems with iron oxide mixed with gold? Here's a home remedy (not from Mom): Put your problem gold into a small bottle; add some water, a couple of drops of dishwashing detergent, and 10 drops of liquid ammonia. Shake for 1/2 hour. The gold should come out iron oxide-free.

Have you ever considered why gold prospecting is such great sport?

1. You are outside enjoying clean air and Mother Nature.
2. You are getting some serious exercise.
3. It's a great family event.
4. You learn a lot about how nature and gravity work.
5. You get the thrill of a treasure hunt.
6. It is comparatively cheap to go out.
7. You will probably find some gold!

### You Shoulda, Oughta Been There!

At the new Ghost Towns Tour, that is. And those lucky 30 souls who went will back me all the way. We met at Stampers on June 9, and Bill Swanson, our well-known Ghost Towns historian, soon got us sorted out and on our way. First stop was Hayward, over by Rushmore Cave, where Bill pointed out what a large, active Gold Rush town it had been. Bill told us about how it was supposedly the county seat for Custer county, only to learn that it was in Pennington County. The Haywardites wouldn't give up the records, so some Custer men went over, got them drunk, and absconded with the records!

Then on to Harney, where Bill took us to the graveyard. It is NEAT, and HIDDEN up on a hillside. The interesting thing is that Laura Ingalls Wilder's uncle and cousin were buried there. Bill then stopped off at an old, open pit mica mine. It was amazing and beautiful, and everyone was running around snapping photos, and collecting quartz and tourmaline.

We then went over to Spokane, a ghost town built around the Spokane Mine. The mine - and Spokane - closed down in 1942 because Congress, in its great wisdom, closed down all mining activities that weren't directly tied to the war effort. There are a number of fascinating old buildings around Spokane, including the boarding house, the 3-hole toilet (yep!), the meeting house/school where Susan B. Anthony spoke, the dynamite bunker, and the old superintendent's house. And Bill also took the group to the gravesite of a prospector who was murdered in the early 1900's. Bill also related the story of the man who was arrested by a law officer. The man asked if he could get his coat. Of course, the officer, said. The officer sat down to await the man's return. He never saw him again!

The fun we had is illustrated by the fact that we started the tour at 9 am, and never finished until well after 2 pm. Bill, I know I always say it, but you outdid yourself - again! And folks, come along next time. You will love it!

Wallace Slattery



Black Hills Prospecting Club  
c/o Mike Borden  
P.O Box 386  
Blackhawk SD,57718

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

Our Next Meeting  
will be...

### Summer Meeting

Date: July 21  
Place: Garnett Claim  
Time: 10 am  
Bring your lunch!!!

July 26th  
Bf1 Claim and Calumet mine  
Church Kids Outing  
8 AM

## JULY 21

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	31				