

THE GOLD PAN NEWS®

AUGUST 2010

vol. 11 - # 8



Welcome New Members

Jim Wood
Duane Pankratz
Brian Beug
John Van Dis
Jason Harter
Charles Blaylock
Brian Meyer
Gary Mallams
Brian Pavelka
Joe Miller

Gem & Mineral Show Raffle Winners

Gold Nugget - Gary Rayhill
Silver Bar - Rebecca Wood
Montana Sapphires - Hallie Brush

BHPC Officers

President	Mike Borden (605) 341-0483
Vice President	Wallace "Wally" Slattery (605) 717-1512
Secretary	Judy Farris (605) 723-4669
Claims Director	Richard Nash
Outings Coordinator	Open
Raffles & Prizes	Nelda Thiel (605) 923-4059
Club Photographers and Membership Director	Dan Radomski Michelle Snyder Andy Goodwin (605) 584-4698
Equipment Manager	Devon Nikolas
Technical Advisor	Ken Thiel

Meeting High-lites

About 35 adventurers showed up at the Garnet Claim on Saturday, July 17. Mike Borden, President, called the meeting to order about 11:30 and welcomed our guest and new members.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike discussed the successful outing hosted by Richard and Kathy Brandiger at their Iron Creek claim the July 4 weekend. Our thanks to them for a wonderful outing, which produced some interesting prospecting and some nice gold.

Mike did note that two club members brought two guests - not wrong in itself, but there were problems:

1. They showed up at 6 am and went right to digging; the outing was scheduled for 9 am.
2. The guests completely abused their status as guests; one man dug 102(!) buckets of dirt, while the other dug about 60. In other words, they used their guest status to gain a lot of advantage from the day.
3. The guests, while claiming they were "newbies" as prospectors, let slip that one guest had been building sluices since he was 12. They also used their own equipment contrary to club rules.
4. Kathy Brandiger had emphasized that we were to show the gold we found, in order to give the Brandiger's a better idea of what lay under the claim. She saw that one guest showed her about 1/4 the gold she had personally seen in his sluice. Needless to say, all this left the Brandiger's with a bad taste in their mouths. Mike emphasized that all of us need to read and understand the by-laws we've been given in our member booklets, and Andy said he will furnish copies of the by-laws to those who request them.

Mike thanked everyone who had helped with the bridge. It is finished and looks like it will withstand a lot of flooding. He also thanked Brian Meyer for the use of the Bobcat. It made a huge difference. Mike said that he had met the ranch owner who lives downstream from our claim. The ranch owner pointed out that he has to give several hundred dollars in fees per year for use of the road. Mike stated that the club will donate \$100 to the ranch owner to help out - good neighbor policy.

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ARGONAUT ADVENTURERS

by
Wallace "Wally" Slattery

Wally Slattery

Yeah, I had a problem getting a hold of the Adventurer I wanted to feature this month, so here goes....

I'm a native of northwest Nebraska, a ranch kid from down there, and my dad had been a gold prospector during the 1930's in the Black Hills. He was always interested in oil exploration and gold prospecting, and so I grew up in that environment. I remember going gold panning with him in the Black Hills as a kid - up California Gulch.

Well, I kinda grew away from it - became a teacher in Nebraska, California, and finally Pennsylvania. I do remember going gold panning in California, but never really had a good chance to do anything with it. I didn't even know there's a GPAA prospecting club in Pennsylvania. But I never lost my interest in prospecting, as my library would show!

I did get into serious metal detecting for old coins and artifacts in Pennsylvania - and loved it. I joined the local metal detecting club, and was very active in it from about 1986 to 2000. My best find there was a 1756 Spanish 2-reales coin which had been counter-stamped "GR" (George Rex [George the king]) by the British for use in Jamaica. Today the coin would fetch upwards of \$2,000 - it is RARE. I gave it to my youngest son, Dave (he was with me when I found it in 1985), and he's terribly proud of it. Incidentally, I found it in a public park in Bristol, PA.

My best prospecting find came in 1994 when I went to visit my parents who were living north of Phoenix, AZ. I called them, told them I was bringing a metal detector, and asked them if I could go gold prospecting with it. My dad contacted "John," a full-time prospector, and

we got together. It was quite an adventurer, which I won't fully relate. Just let me mention that we were chased away from our first site by two hunters who didn't want us to bother their hunting (they had guns and we didn't!). So we went to Turkey Creek west of Mayer. John was "whisking" for gold - whisk brooming the dirt away from the rocks in the dry wash, while I used the metal detector, of course. John found a small nugget, then I found a slightly larger one, then John found a "picker." After that John led me down the dry wash about a mile til we came to a place where the rocks overhung the wash and said, "Dig here, my partner found a nugget the size of a pea here." Right away my detector went off big-time, and John dug up a 2/3 ounce nugget! I'm very proud of it, and have willed it to my oldest grandson.

I love this club! It means a whole lot to me. I joined it immediately after retiring in Pennsylvania and moving out here in 2004. You members are a great lot, and I am delighted to know you. Keep up the good work - you are a special breed. If I haven't met you yet, come up and introduce yourself. I'm wearing the big sombrero with the rattlesnake skin hatband.

Wallace Slattery



**Meeting Hi-Lights
continued from page 1**

NEW BUSINESS

The next outing will be held again at the Garnet. The club will bring the trommel. The club, facing rapidly rising expenses, needs to raise membership dues starting next year to \$50. In other words, new members will pay \$150, and returning members will pay \$50. Voted upon and passed unanimously. The club is having problems with costs when it furnishes hot dogs and burgers. There was a lot of discussion about this, but the general consensus seemed to be that we should bring our own lunches next year. Dan Radomski has resigned as Outings Coordinator. Our sincerely thanks and best wishes to Dan; we hope to see you next time at our outing!

There was some discussion about dropping the Outings Coordinator position, and the best guess is that we will leave the position unfilled. There is also a suggestion that it be combined with the position of Claims Director. Judy Farris, club Secretary, has stated that she will not continue in the position, therefore we will be looking for someone to fill her capable shoes. Anybody?

Mike noted that the club has received word that Becky Daly, club member has just passed away from cancer. Our sincere sympathy to her family, and the club will send a card.

Vice President Report: Wally reported that the next day we will host Outdoor

Women of South Dakota - about a dozen women - at the Garnet Claim.

Year End Party: there was a lot of discussion about it. Jim & Sally Olson have agreed to cater it the second weekend of October. Jim will furnish the club with a per-person estimate shortly. He tentatively estimated he could furnish a good strip loin meal for about \$18 per person. Our location is yet to be decided.

Nelda Thiel held our raffle, and a lot of nice prizes were won, per usual.

Wallace Slattery
for Judy Farris, Secretary

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

Photos From July 17th & 18th



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

www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com

Outdoor Women of SD
Outing at the Garnet on the 18th



More Info

Gem & Mineral Show June 26 & 27

A quote from the RC Journal (Sunday June 27, 2010 Issue)

""Besides looking over the displays of agates, fossils and minerals, Jack Armstrong, 12 years old, of Rapid City was enjoying the many activities for youths at this year's show. "My favorite is the panning for gold," he said. ""

We will be having a panning demo at Cabela's in Rapid City August 6 & 7
6th - 8am setup
7th - 9am

We want to thank CreTex West of Rapid City for giving us the two 15" concrete pipe to fix the foot bridge at the Garnet.

We also want to thank Brian Meyer for bring his Bobcat and fixing the foot bridge and making the new trail to the dig site at the Garnet and Welcome to the Club!!

Gordon is looking for a responsible person the take over the Port-a-potty job. You should have a pickup and be able to get the potty to the outings the day before or early morning of the outings. Contact Gordon or a club officer at one of the outings if you need more info.

Group Native Elements	Composition Au	Hardness 2½-3
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GOLD

Crystals form as cubes or octahedra, but distinct examples are rare. The usual habits are as grains, flakes, nuggets, and dendritic masses. The bright, rich yellow color is resistant to tarnishing. Gold is often rich in silver, when it is paler in color. The streak is golden-yellow. Gold is opaque, and its luster is metallic.

- **FORMATION** Forms mainly in hydrothermal veins, often associated with quartz and sulfides. It also occurs in placer deposits of unconsolidated sand, and in sandstone and conglomerate. It is possible to find alluvial gold in grains or nuggets, in stream beds. Panning for gold by sifting the sediment is an age-old method of looking for this rare and valuable mineral. Gold can be confused with pyrite and chalcopyrite at first, but only a few tests are needed to identify it.

- **TESTS** Insoluble in all single acids; soluble in aqua regia.

SG 19.3

Cleavage None



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

ALSO VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.blackhillsprospectingclub.com

Our Next Outing
will be...

Regular Monthly Outing

Date: Aug 21
Place: Garnet Claims Area
Time: 9 AM

August 2010

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				