



Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club

P.O. Box 3242

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

<http://www.NWMTGoldprospectors.com>

President	Braxton Walborn	406-756-3711
Vice-President	Herb Robinson	406-892-4826
Secretary	Vicki Walborn	406-756-3711
Treasurer	Gary Henry	406-257-0362

If you know of a club member who is ill or needs help,
Prayer or encouragement, call our interim "Sunshine Lady"
Vicki Walborn 406-756-3711

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

"CODE OF ETHICS"

Any Violation reflects on all of us!

1. Know and obey the laws, rules and regulations pertaining to mining.
2. Respect private property and mining claims of others. Get Permission First!
3. Conduct your mining activity in a manner that will cause minimal disturbance to others.
4. Plan your operation prior to proceeding to ensure minimal environmental impact and erosion.
5. Restore the area to its original or better condition when finished with your operation.
6. NEVER disrupt or damage wildlife breeding sites, even if it's legal to do so.
7. Remove all trash and debris found in and around all streams, rivers, and campsites.
8. Keep your equipment maintained and in peak operating condition.
9. Use extreme caution when using petroleum products around waterways.
10. MINE SAFELY! No amount of gold is worth your life or the life of others.

**CLUB MEETINGS
DON'T FORGET
ELECTIONS**

**January 9,
2010
1:00 P.M.**

**MEETING ROOM
IN COLUMBIA
FALLS**

99ER'S NUGGET NEWS

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club

January, 2010

Editor: Mary Lance

Quote of the Month: A nation of sheep will get a government of wolves.
Edward R. Murrow

IN THIS ISSUE:

Next meeting:

January 9, 2010

Meeting room in Columbia Falls

Greetings from the Editor

Gold Prices

Weight Conversions as per Clarence Taber

Advertisements

-Personals:

GOLD PRICES:

AS OF : December 30, 2009

Gold \$1096.00

Silver \$ 16.86

OUR WEBSITE:

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

**Please send newsletter
information to:**

Ric and Mary Lance

email:

marrick@centurytel.net

address: 550 Neighborly

-Way C. Falls, Mt.

59912

phone: 406-892-1810

cell: 406-253-9335

HAPPY NEW YEAR !! WELCOME 2010

Well, here I am again. I didn't get shot or even shot at. Thank you all for your encouragement. I am really pleased with the amount of information I am getting from you members. I received information from 4 different people this month. That is a record. Did I get some from you?

The Christmas party was great fun. We had good food, good friends, and some not so good weather. The snow kept some people away that we would liked to have seen. It was also my first time at winning a raffle prize. I won a share of gold and it was a nice little piece that I can actually see. And it isn't Ric's gold, it is mine. Maybe I will get the fever yet!!

It was suggested to me to include a recipe in each newsletter. If you have a favorite recipe, send it to me and if it has some interesting history, let me know about that. It can be for camping, from your kitchen, or an old family recipe.

Until next month, stay happy, safe, and warm.
Mary

ADVERTISEMENTS

In stock is White's new GMZ Gold Detector It is a 2 knob, 1 switch 50 khz, silent search detector and will accept all of White's Goldmaster coils and the best deal is it is priced at \$499.95

Find it at

Big Sky Metal Detectors

406-253-1678

Minelab	GOLD	Gold Wheels
Fisher	MISER	Drywashers
Tesoro	Bob and Linda Taylor	Dredges
Garrett	www.goldmiser.com	
	cell 406-293-0555	
566 N. Central		34403 U.S. Hiway 2
Box 2798		Libby, Montana
Quartzsite, AZ. 85346		59923
928-927-7150		406-293-8679

BIG SKY METAL DETECTORS & PROSPECTING SUPPLIES

www.bigskydetectors.com

e-mail jabion@ronan.net

PO Box 488

Ronan, Mt. 59864

406-253-1678

Member update:

Have a good trip Gary and Susie to warmer country.

Members ads will be printed in the newsletter free of charge. Please send them to my email or my home address by the 20th of each month.

Points of interest coming up:

January, 2010 USFWS will present a program for dredging. (I didn't receive confirmation but that is last information I have.)

February, 2010 Jerry Hanson will present a slide show on minerals.

Two Bits Prospecting Supplies

Braxton and Vicki Walborn

twobitsprospecting Supplies@yahoo.com

406-756-9536

2472 Hwy. 93 S.

406-253-6227

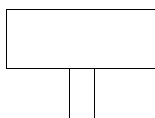
406-253-6200

Kalispell, Mt. 59901

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

LLOYD HAYWOOD
NORMAN FRANK
JACKSON CONNELLY

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE
PLEASE RETURN YOUR BALLOT TO BOX
UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING TO



VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE
3242 C. FALLS IF YOU ARE
CAST YOUR BALLOT

President

Herb Robinson _____

Write in _____

Vice-President

Scott Kershmen _____

Don Roe _____

Clarence Taber _____

Write in _____

Treasurer

Sandy Randle _____

Secretary

Jill Taber _____

Write in _____

Sergeant Of Arms

vote for two

Ric Lance _____

Bob Liston _____

Jon Van Dort _____

Write in _____

GET IT READY NOW!!!

So the cold weather is upon us and the gold fields are covered in snow. Get your stuff ready for spring. These are a RUBBER MAID OR TOUGH TOTE trunk that you can get at Wally World or Hardware store that will do the trick. It is a hinged hard rubber of indestructable plastic box that is lockable and is easily carried on the back of a 4-wheeler, trunk of a car, or can be hand carried if not going too far. What I have in mine is 3 gold pans, a small clean up pan, a 1/8th and 1/2 inch classifier, a small dishpan tub, Eastwing rock hammer, 3lb hand sledge, 2 rock chisels(each different), long crevasse tool, 2 pry bars, a 1964 GI folding trenching shovel, neoprene knee boots and gloves, elbow-length rubber gloves, sucker bottles, asst of vials, blk sand magnet, handtowel, knee pads, and a small note pad. With this-set up you don't have to spend time looking for anything when you want to go on the spur of the moment as everything is in the tote.

Don't forget your GPS and camera.

When I go out to any area or new area I throw the trunk in the truck and know that everything I need is there, I also take a number of the small 2 gallon buckets to carry samples back home, and after taking samples I take a GPS reading of the spot and put it with the name of creek or drainage on a piece of paper and put it in the bucket. When I get home to pan the samples, I know where each one came from by looking at the note in the bucket.
Have fun and we'll see you in the gold fields next spring.

Allen C Big Sky Metal Detectors
Ronan, MT 406-253-1678
www.bigskydetectors.com

Ray & Bubba (Arkansas mechanical engineers) were standing at the base of a

flagpole, looking up. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing.

'We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole,' said Bubba, but we don't

have a ladder.' The woman took a wrench from her purse, loosened a few

bolts, and laid the pole down. Then she took a tape measure from her pocket,

took a measurement, announced, 'Eighteen feet, six inches,' and walked away.

Ray shook his head and laughed. 'Ain't that just like a woman!

We ask for the height and she gives us the length!'

AND NOW FOR THE PROMISED WORD FROM HARRY

Ric, Mary and All,

Sorry I haven't replied sooner, but the prospecting life keeps Maureen and me pretty busy. When we arrived at our winter retreat in Dolan Springs, Estelle Hunt had already cleaned all the nice nuggets out of Gold Basin except for one tiny 1/3 gm. nugget that I worked out of his golden garden on my first day in Gold Basin. Maureen found 5 meteorites that totaled 150 gms. I found a 133gm. one that she overlooked. On Dec 2nd, we left for an outing in memory of our good friend, Jim Smaller at Franconia. The first day Estelle found a whopper of a meteorite. It overloaded both Allen's 500gm. scales. We still don't know the weight. There were three large meteorites found that day, all over 500gms. We all enjoyed a great potluck in the evening around a campfire as there was a stiff cool breeze.

The next day Maureen, Estelle and I went out again. In the early part of the day I found a 333 gm. chondrite. My biggest so far in the Franconia area. Maureen found two small irons and a 86 gm. chondrite. Estelle found a pocket full of irons and chondrites. I was headed back to the ATV and my detector screamed at me again. Before me, in between a couple large rocks, I lifted out from its hiding place a large chondrite. This one also overloaded Allen's 500 gm scale. What a great weekend of meteorite hunting!

That night a high wind and rain canceled our detecting at Franconia. We are camped for the present time a mile off the Mexican Border getting some dental work done in Algodones, Mexico. Will keep you all posted on our winter fun.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND GOOD NIGHT.
HARRY AND MAUREEN

CYPHERING THE COST OF GOLD

By Clarence Taber

1 OZ. UNPURE GOLD (18 carat)

20 pennyweight = 31.103 grams = 480 grains

Calculate 6.203 grams of 18 carat gold working in grams
pure gold is 24 carat, to calculate the % of gold divide carats
by 24. If the given price of gold today is \$1112.00

example A gold at 18 carat

$\frac{18}{24} = .75$ pure gold = 75%

24

I take 75% of 1,112.00

$.75 \times \$1112 = \834.00 value per ounce

$\frac{834}{31.103} = 26.81$

31.103

$6.203 \times 26.81 = 166.39$

calculate\$12.52 worth of 18 carat gold

12.52 divided by 26.81 = .467 grams

1 OZ. PURE GOLD (24 carat)

20 pennyweight = 31.103 grams = 480 grains

I prefer grams because my old balance scale weighs to .001 grams

Use any pennyweight, grams or grains in the same manner
given

price of gold today \$1112.00

calculate (1) value of 6.203 grams of pure gold

(2) how much would \$12.52 worth of gold weigh

$\$@ \text{ gram} = \frac{\$1112}{31.103} = 35.75$ per gram

31.103

solving: (1) $\$35.75 \times 6.203 = \221.77

(2) 12.52 divided by 35.75 = .350 grams

RECIPE

GRAPE SALAD

Mix: 8 oz. Cream cheese
8 oz. Sour cream
½ cup sugar or Splenda
1 tsp. Vanilla
½ tsp. Almond extract
Stir in 3-4 pounds red seedless grapes

This is also very good with 3 red, 3 green apples and pieces of cut up Snicker Bar.

Submitted by Mary Lance

RAFFLE WINNERS

FOR SPLITS OF GOLD

CHARLIE KINS	MARY LANCE
DON ROE	GARY WILEMS
DEAN KRATZ	BROCK WIEBUSCH
BILL MOELLER	WAYNE HARTLEY
GENE AUGER	

FOOD DRIVE DRAWING

NUGGET	BILL MOELLER
MEMBERSHIP	JOHN VAN DORT
DONATED BY ALAN C	

SOPHIE LAKE COOT

from the journals of Don Kervin

May 24, 2001 Sophie Lake, Northwest of Eureka, Montana

Sitting on the beach, relaxed, watching nothing in particular, when suddenly out of the corner of my eye I catch the movement of a large bird flying about fifty feet off the water from my right to my left. Turned out to be an adult bald eagle. (p. 127) and he had his eye on an American Coot. (p. 151) As it turns out, the Coot had its eye on the eagle as well. Big, bad Eagle made his swoop, talons out, and just as he was about to catch his meal, Old Coot crash-dived and Old Eagle closed his talons on water. Old Eagle started to ascend and banking into a turn at the same time, obviously to make another pass, Old Coot popped to the top like a cork with his head swiveling like a periscope on a submarine. He spied Eagle making his descent for another try and crash-dived again just in time. This time Eagle banked the other way and made a shorter ascent, descended quicker, and came within a hair's breath of catching Old Coot. Richard, Nevada, and I were sure Old Coot had met his maker in Old Eagle's talons. Not to be. Again Eagle missed, flapping his wings to gain altitude and banking to make another try, Old Coot popped to the top again with his head on a swivel. Coot seemed to like to have his backside pointed towards the point of attack. Again Old Eagle, now visibly tired, knowing he was beat, knowing he should give up but too proud to do it, continued on until he was just too tired to go on. Meanwhile Old Coot seemed to be getting stronger and if I didn't know better, seemed to be enjoying making Old Eagle angry and tired.

Well, Old Eagle very tiredly flew into a tree about one hundred yards from Old Coot. I'm sure Eagle wanted Coot to try to fly off to try and catch him in the air. But Coot wasn't having any of that either and went about his business with one eye, I'm sure, on Old Eagle. After a time, Old Eagle gave it up entirely and was last seen circling high over a field quite a ways from the lake.

THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD—SOME FAMOUS PROSPECTING PARTIES—THE EARLY MINING CAMPS

We now come to the second great epoch in Montana's history—the discovery of gold. This tremendous event came about quite by accident and in its circumstances was not unlike the finding of that precious metal in California by James W. Marshall in 1848. To Francois Finlay, known as “Benetsee,” a mixed-blood of Scotch and Indian antecedents, probably belongs the honor of the first discovery of gold within this state. Finlay was an itinerant trader among various tribes from British Columbia to California. He dealt in “trinkets, beads, fancy colored cloths, powder and lead and very probably whiskey and rum” which he exchanged for furs and buffalo robes. The trade seems to have been profitable in Finlay's case as in most others, for it is said that he acquired a large herd of horses in California which he brought with him to the Rocky Mountains.

Having thus become somewhat independent he chose for a home a pleasant spot in old Deer Lodge county, where he went to live sometime prior to 1850. His place was located on “Benetsee Creek,” afterwards known to fame as Gold Creek. In this quiet retreat Finlay felt safe from the raids of the Black-feet and with his ranch as a base of operations he industriously carried on his trade to the coast. After one of these trips to auriferous California, Finlay came home infected with the “gold fever” which had raged around him in the camps of the West. This was in 1852. He looked about him over his own

adopted land and was “impressed with the remarkable resemblance, not only of the country in general but particularly of the gravel and sand bars along

Gold Creek, to those he had seen gold washed from

in California.” Finlay at once set to work. He obtained a pan and washed the gravel as he had seen it done by placer miners. At last, after some perseverance and many efforts, he found fine particles of something which resembled gold. He continued his work, without quick-silver, and under many difficulties, until he had accumulated “about a teaspoonful” of the yellow metal. Finlay took this sample to Angus McDonald, chief

factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, at the post which was about twenty miles south of Flathead Lake. McDonald was not an expert miner but he believed the yellow dust to be gold, purchased it and sent it to one of the company's posts to be passed upon. It proved to be a fine quality of gold.

Angus McDonald backed Finlay to the extent of furnishing him a month's provisions and such tools as could be procured; in other words, to use the expressive western vernacular, he “grub-staked” the prospector who, in turn was to deliver the fruits of his toil to McDonald. The gold dust thus procured was about two ounces. Finlay was a better trader than a miner and McDonald did not consider the discovery of sufficient importance to pursue. Moreover, the Hudson's Bay Company discouraged the development of mining in that section.

Major John Owen of Fort Owen also heard of the find of gold about this time but he, too, considered it a mere passing excitement and thought of it no more. Further development was dropped for several years.

There are three different accounts of the original gold discovery in Montana.

