



P.O. Box 3242, Columbia Falls, Mt 59912

Raffle Tickets will be available at the next meeting. Please take a few packs and sell them to your friends.

**Next Meeting is February 11, 2012**

The meeting is at the Tea Kettle Room the address is 235 Nucleus Ave Columbia Falls.

**GOLD SHOW RAFLE  
TICKETS**

Fisher Gold Bug Pro, 4oz Silver Replica  
\$100.00 Bill  
3.4 gr Gold Nugget from the Clubs Claim in  
Libby  
\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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January 14, 2012 Meeting NWMGP

43 members in attendance

The meeting was called to order by Dale Evans, President.

The minutes to the November meeting were read by Secretary Ron Maupin and approved.

The treasures report was read by Sandy Randall and approved.

Old Business:

Raffle tickets for the May Gold Show are available. Please take some to sell to your friends, buy some to support the club. Tickets can be purchased by sending money to the club and the tickets will be made out for you. Also tickets are available in the newsletter. If newsletter tickets are sent in, the name and phone number is then transferred to official tickets to maintain consistency. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. There are 6 tickets to a packet.

The club is still looking for a dump truck. If you find a dump truck, check it out, test drive it or let Dale, Ron or Braxton know so it can be checked out.

The May Gold Show is May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Insurance is included in the lease cost. 4 vendors have reserved tables so far at this time. The club has increased the entrance fee to \$2.00.

Volunteers are needed for the show.

Bob Liston is selling club pillows for \$25.00 each. Money goes to the club. Please take a look at these pillows, they are really nice. Buy one to support the club.

Elections for officers were held and the ballots counted. Results are:

Dale Evans, President.

Braxton Walborn, Vice President.

Sandy Randall Treasure

Ron Maupin, Secretary

Gary Wilmes Sergeant of Arms

Bill Moeller Sergeant of Arms

(\*\* Officers for 2012)

The club discussed the need to purchase more silver rounds. Allen Corneliusen at a previous meeting had mentioned purchasing ½ oz. silver rounds. Vicki Walborn will email Allen and see if he can get us the rounds and at what cost.

New Business:

Ric Lance is recovering from his surgery that he had last year. Ric has donated a lot of his time to the club and has volunteered for many jobs. He was very busy last summer and did not renew his membership. The club would like to keep him as a member and as a show of appreciation the club voted to give Ric a one year membership.

The Creston Auction may be a good place to look for a dump truck.

Don Roe also will check on the State Auction for dump trucks.

Vicki spoke on the spring kickoff. It will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> this year at the residence of Braxton and Vicki Walborn. Activities include a club meeting, pot luck lunch, games for the kids, panning contest and metal detecting contest.

If anyone has any stories that they want in the newsletter, please send to Vickie Walborn.

Bob Posser had a truck accident around Clinton; he is home and doing better.

The club outing events at Libby Creek were discussed. Fridays are usually the set up day for the trommels, water pumps, and digging of dirt. Saturday is work the trommels starting around 8:00, break for lunch, club meeting at 1:00, and go back up the hill to run dirt until 4:30-5:00. Pot Luck supper at 6:00 with gold split after the pot luck. Sunday is the club breakfast then up to the trommels to shovel dirt until Noon. The gold split for Sunday is usually at 1:00. Suggested items to bring: Shovel, gloves, water, hat, rubber boots, and bug spray. Rain gear may be something else to add to your list. The club holds outings whether there is sun, rain or snow.

Goodies at the meetings, cheese, crackers, sausage, and cookies cost the club 40.00 to 60.00 each month. Proposal was made to make the goodies a pot luck event with the members bringing in something to share. This will also save the club money. Motion made and approved. So at the next meeting, bring some goodies to share.

#### Raffle:

Bread Box donated by Deb Robinson won by Lee Boyd  
Amethyst donated by Bill Moeller won by Jon Van Dort  
Gold pan donated by Bill Moeller won by Jon Van Dort  
Towel donated by Ida Middleton won by Bob West  
Bag donated by Ida Middleton won by Brock Wiebusch  
CD Game donated by Charlie Kins won by Dale Evans  
CD Game donated by Charlie Kins won by Sandy Randall  
Silver Round donated by the club won by Ron Maupin  
Belt Buckle donated by Ron Maupin won by Bill Moeller  
Miner Pin donated by Sandy Randall won by Don Roe  
Pot Holder donated by Ida Middleton won by Jodi Smith  
Pot Holder donated by Ida Middleton won by Gary McHenry  
Hardware Caddy donated by Bill Marsh won by Sue West  
Wrench's donated by Les Bringer won by Ron Maupin



			Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors		
			Treasurers Report for December 2011		
Balances Forwarded:					
	Cash Drawer				\$95.00
	Valley Bank - Checking				\$657.09
	Valley Bank - Fundraising				\$576.25
	Whitefish Credit Union				<u>\$1,004.79</u>
	Total				\$2,333.13
Income:					
	Merchandise				\$0.00
	Interest Fundraising				\$0.00
	Gold Split Raffle				\$321.00
	Memberships				\$100.00
	Interest Credit Union				\$0.00
	May gold show raffle				<u>\$0.00</u>
	Total				\$421.00
Expenses:					
	Kathy Roe, Web site				\$89.82
	Kalispell Copy Newsletter				\$0.00
	Braxton Walborn Postage				\$88.00
	Kalispell Copy Newsletter				<u>\$0.00</u>
	Total				\$177.82
					=
Ending Balances:					
	Cash Drawer				\$95.00
	Valley Bank - Check book balance				\$900.27
	Valley Bank - Fundraising				\$576.25
	Whitefish Credit Union				<u>\$1,004.79</u>
	Total				\$2,576.31



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## Info from the internet

Prospector's Lost Mine FLATHEAD COUNTY – It was a bitterly cold afternoon in 1898 when two brothers stumbled into an abandoned mining camp while hunting near the Peak of Columbia Mountain, elevation 7,169'. Lost to history are their names, but their story, and what they witnessed, remains well preserved in local legend. The camp consisted of a half-collapsed cabin with a dirt floor and rock fireplace. Outside, a lean-to containing a hand-built forge, an anvil, pieces of rusted drill steel, and hand tools with their wood handles rotted away were found near piles of bull quartz studded with wire gold near the front of the cabin two skeletons, one of a man, the other of a grizzly bear, were discovered. Next to the man was a rifle "of early vintage" half-buried in the dirt with its stock rotted away. The brothers concluded the unknown prospector had met his death while in a battle with the grizzly, and that he must've gotten off at least one shot that proved fatal to the bear. Hoping to learn the man's identity, the two searched for anything that might provide a name, but found nothing. They observed new growth trees aged 20 to 30 years growing from the cabin's dirt floor, and a frying pan with its bottom rusted out sitting atop the fireplace. Based on the rifle's age and the condition of the camp, the brothers concluded the camp hadn't been occupied for roughly 60 years. This put the unknown prospector there in the late 1830's or early 40's. By following the creek a short distance they found an old mine. It appeared the prospector found color in the creek, located its source above bedrock along the creek bank, and tunneled horizontally into the bank. He had opened a tunnel of unknown distance and placed support timbers. But the timbers had rotted, resulting in a cave-in that nearly buried all evidence by now the sun was setting and snow had begun. A nighttime descent from the mountaintop was too dangerous. Having no axe to build a shelter, the two built a fire and spent a miserable night under a large tree, burning wood from the cabin to keep the fire going. They wondered if anyone in town had ever heard of the prospector. How did he haul heavy items to this mountaintop when no roads or trails existed? How much gold had he taken out of the mine, and what remained? And where did he hide his gold? At daylight the two packed the finest ore samples into their packsacks for the return trip. A foot of fresh snow had fallen, making it a slow descent. They reached home exhausted, hungry and cold. Later they crushed the ore samples and recovered \$90 in gold. They asked around, but none of the old timers seemed to know anything about the unknown prospector. Knowing they'd found a very rich gold mine, the brothers made plans to return in the summer. But when they returned they could not relocate the site. For decades they continued to search, but all efforts failed. Today, its exact location remains a mystery. Columbia Mountain is in the Doris Creek country of northwest Montana, less than 4 miles south of Hungry Horse and less than 5 miles southeast of Columbia Falls

One of the Walborn trips took us to a little ghost town called Coolidge. We didn't even know that it was there. Coolidge was a small town created by an ex politician. It was also located at Montana's final and largest silver development, this lasted 2 decades

The Elk Horn Mining District sits at 7,000 to 8,000 foot elevation, were the head waters of Bannock's Grass Hopper Creek flow. The silver was first found in 1872, there were dozens of mines that ran off and on.

William R. Allen who was Montana's lieutenant governor in 1908, and had worked for Marcus Daily (who was one of the Copper Kings) founded Coolidge. W.R. Allen quit politics permanently to establish his dream of the Boston-Montana Development Corporation. Things really started to move when W.R. got the railroad in. This was when the heavy equipment was able to come in to build the mill; this took 3 years and \$1 Million. The largest silver mill Montana had seen could process 750 tons of ore daily with a Mineral break down of 15% lead, 4% copper, 25-30 ounces of silver and \$3.00-\$4.00 in gold per ton. Mill, mine, railroad, and town took \$5 million to build that would be \$41.6 million in our money.

The tunneling operations for the mine were started. It was said that the tunnels at Elkhorn showed better return than the mines at Butte. It was said that some of the rock looked identical to that of Butte, but with higher grade ore.

There were many men working at the camp with a wage of \$3.50 to \$4.75 per day. There were also many more that were living in tents just hoping to get on one of the many building projects

Coolidge at one time had electric lights and telephones, but most of the boarding house was without running water. I remember right along the main street there was this double settler out house. The only store was a company store where you could buy pans, shovels, flour and so on. There were no saloons or churches. The school opened in 1918 with 20 students. It now sits in the creek.

Just as everything was being completed the national economy took a dive and silver prices plunged. The mill only operates to capacity. There was only three months in 1922-1923 and only four months in 1925 that were recorded. It only handled 52,385 tons of ore from 1921 to 1925. It operated another 5 times through 1953. Its total production was just \$375,000.

Then in 1927 the Montana Power Company dam failed and took out twenty miles of railroad and several bridges of the Boston Montana's railroad. It never really recovered.

There are only a few buildings left and all that is left of the grand mill is its footings. We were very lucky to meet some people that had been there before the mill was taken down. They show us pictures and told us about the upper mines and town which at that time we could not get to.

You do have to walk in to Coolidge but it is worth the walk. The only thing I wished for was to go back in time for just a minute or two to see what it looked like back in its hey day. If you would like to visit Coolidge just give us a call and we can tell you how to get there.



# N.W.MT GOLD PROSPECTORS

President

Dale Evans

406-291-5610

Vice President Braxton

Walborn

406-756-3711

Secretary

Ron Maupin

406-293-5322

Treasurer

Sandy Randall

406-212-7415

Sergeant of Arms

Bill Moeller

406-293-8272

Gary Wilmes

406-257-2705

Sunshine Lady

Vicki Walborn

406-756-3711

Editor

Vicki Walborn

406-756-3711

[nwmgpn1@yahoo.com](mailto:nwmgpn1@yahoo.com)

[Next meeting is :](#)

[February 11, 2012](#)

[As of : January 31,2012](#)

[Gold \\$1739.40](#)

[Silver \\$33.30](#)

January 2012

Prospectors,

Well it looks like winter has finally gotten here. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I hope that your stocking were filled with prospecting stuff and not coal.

Sandy Randall became a grandma. Congads!!!

To let the club know we found a dump truck! It is in very good shape. If you have question about it please call one of the board members and they can let you know all about it.

Montana for Multiple Use is looking to renew its self. It's expanding the causes it champs. This year is an election year so they are putting together voter forms open to all. The lost of freedoms starts at the local level. They are looking to increase membership and its voice. The meetings are open to the general public and membership. Their meetings are the second Tuesday at 6:0p.m. at the West Valley Fire Dept. on Whitefish Stage Road. They might just champion your interests, hunting; fishing, ATV, snowmobilers, hiking, mining and even you own private property rights. For more information write: MFMU P.O. Box 2509 Kalispell, Mt 59903

The following are the winners of the Christmas raffle:

Don Roe

Patti Curtes

Bob West

Sandy Randall

Tim Altschwager

Gary Wilmes 2 Vials

Russell Pierce 2 Vials

Geo Johnson 2 Vials

Tommy and Reta Wortley were the big winners with 3 vials of gold, one of which was the #1 picker.