

# 99ER'S NUGGET NEWS

**Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club**

**July-August 2009**

**Editor: Milah Gano**

**Quote of the Month: "The environment is everything that isn't me."**

*Albert Einstein*

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

### **Next Meeting:**

#### **August 8 Libby Outing**

- ◆ Code of Ethics
- ◆ Greetings from the Editor
- ◆ Gold Prices
- ◆ Weight Conversions
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- ◆ Raffle winners June & July
- ◆ Minutes of June & July Meetings
- ◆ Common Sense in the Camping Area

## **GOLD PRICES:**

As of August 8, 2009

GOLD—\$957.30/OZ.

SILVER—\$14.27/OZ.

## **Our Website:**

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

## **Greetings,**

I am sorry that the July newsletter never made it out. I have been out of town. We went to Prineville and also Madras, Oregon with a side trip to Glass Butte. I acquired a lot of obsidian and other beads and rocks that I will probably have to wait until winter to work with. The summer is going so fast. I attended the July meeting and had a really great time. I seem to be travelling a lot and constantly on the move, if there is anyone out there who would like to take over the newsletter just let me know. I have not been able to get to very many meetings this last year and I don't know when it will get better. Retirement is something else, it allows you to go where the wind blows, I love it.

It seems this year the gold is good. In June some nice pieces were found and in July Jon found a great one, I also heard that at the meeting the gold wasn't too bad. Keep up the great works.

Huckleberries are partially ripe and ready to pick. I have picked some on 2 outings. Libby has some if you go the Miller Creek road. I'm sure there are others around in different areas also.

Milah Gano

Email — mallard\_g@hotmail.com

## **NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER FOR MILAH:**

P.O. Box 433, Lakeside, MT 59922

406-844-3560

### **Raffle Donators and Winners for June:**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DONATOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Picture of Bull Elk	Nancy Miller	Bill Nisiy
Montana Memories	Bill Moeller	Bill Nisiy
Leather Poke & Vile	Wayne Hartly	Mike Rhoads
Top O'Deep	Club	Syvia Huguley
Silver Round	Club	Linda Taylor
Knife	The Rhoads	Nancy Miller
Quilt	The Robinsons	Mike Rhoads

### **Raffle Donators and Winners for July:**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DONATOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Beades	Bill Amiles	Bob
Silver Round	Club	Lori West
Top O'Deep	Club	Sylvia
Gold Pan	Bill	Navonee Ruther
Gloves	Charlie	Larry
Gloves	Charlie	Herb
Set of 3 Leathers Gloves	Roper	Charlie
Picture of Nugget	Mark Stweret	Roper
Window Sticker	Club	Jerry
Fan	Larry Ruthruff	Bill
LED Light	Larry Ruthruff	Marge

#### **COMMON SENSE IN THE CAMP AREA**

With the outing upon us a couple of things to remember is that when you take a camp spot, make sure that you park in a fashion that doesn't take up 2 or 3 sites, leave room for others.

Also when in the public panning area during the outings because of the number of people with pets, keep them leashed at all time, we don't need them running loose crapping on others camp site or running around and under the pot luck area or around the campfire in the evening.

If you can't or don't want to keep them tied up LEAVE them at home.

Have a little common sense.

Allen C.

## **N.W.M.G. P. Minutes for June 20, 2009**

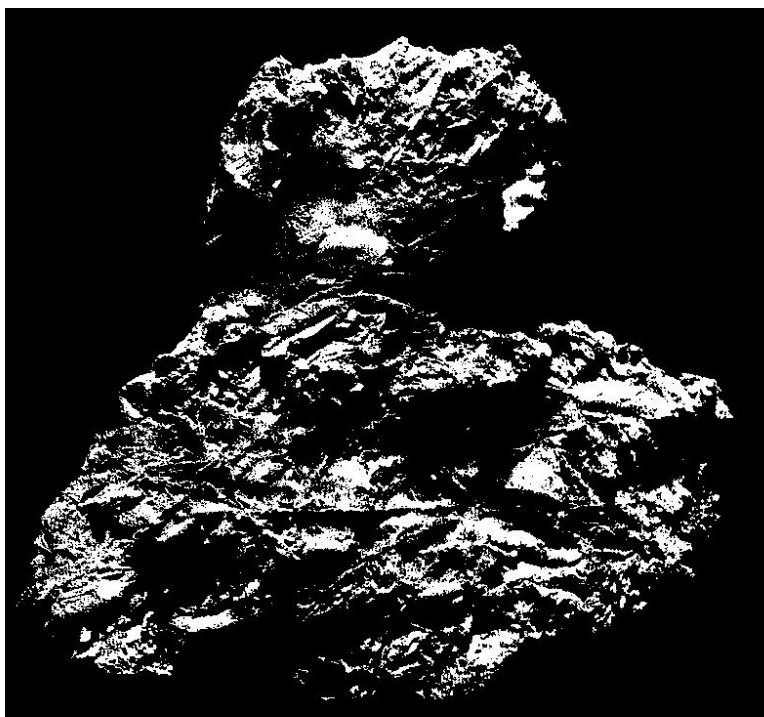
- ♦ Braxton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- ♦ There were no minutes to read and no treasures report because Gary Henry is in Alaska.
- ♦ There were 69 people in attendance.

### **Old Business:**

- ♦ This was a very informal meeting. Braxton had us introduce our self because there were so many new people there. We had two from Texas and one from Florida. It was sure great for us to all be together. We need a cookie Monster. This is really a pretty easy job. It is just making sure that there are paper plates, knives, forks, spoons, napkins and water for the outings. There were no volunteers for this job. Please everyone think about this and let one of the officers know if you can do this over the summer.

### **New Business:**

- ♦ Clarence talked about the dams for the ponds up on the hill. It is really important for us to try to keep these dams in place. It also makes it easier for them to clean out the pond. If you see them starting to go stop and try to put them back. Sandy Randle had a tarp that she donated to the club if we needed it. There was a suggestion of maybe having the ponds dug after the outing. This was tabled until the next outing.
- ♦ Herb asked the club if we still wanted to do the booth at the Rock Show. There were a few volunteers for this. They are Bob, Rick, Herb and Debbie if they are here, Sandy Randle, and Jon VanDort. If there is anyone else that would like to do this it is July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ♦ One of the members asked if they could bring up a piece of equipment to move rock and clean up some of the over burden up where the equipment sits. All he wanted in return was to be able to dig some dirt. The piece of equipment he has would not be able to dig that much dirt because the ground is very hard. He also would let anyone who was there be a part of this. There was a lot of discussion about this and Braxton finally tabled this until next meeting.
- ♦ Bill Moeller brought up that we need to think about what we are going to do about the water. It took about two to three days to get water up to the holding ponds. Braxton said he would look into this and let the club know if he found out anything. If there are any suggestions please let one of the officers know or bring it to the meeting next month.
- ♦ The last thing is Don Roe wants everyone to remember that if your name is on the list for the gold split that you have to work, and that does not mean you have to work all day long with no brakes. Just remember you are not the only one on the list and everyone is aware.
- ♦ Braxton adjourned the meeting so we could have the raffle and get back up on the hill.



The internet  
says over  
5 pounds of  
Tom's Baby  
is still  
missing.

***"TOM'S BABY" GOLD NUGGET***

*Understanding grains, grams and dwt (penny weight) and Troy Oz.*

## **WEIGHT CONVERSIONS**

### **USING TROY OZ**

GRAMS	OZT	GRAINS	DWT
31.1	1.00	480	20

### **USING IMPERIAL OZ**

GRAMS	OZ	GRAINS	DWT
28.3	1.00	437.04	18.21

### **CALCULATIONS**

TO CONVERT	TO	MULTIPLY BY
GRAMS	GRAINS	15.4324
GRAINS	GRAMS	.0648
GRAMS	OZ (AVDP)	.0353
GRAMS	OZT	.03215

### **IN OTHER WORDS**

There are 31.1 grams in an ounce, or 480 grains, or 20 dwt  
Which means that there are 15.4324 grains in 1 gram

### **HOW THIS HELPS YOU**

When you see a nugget on Ebay, that weighs 6.4 grains, and the bid is at \$13.25, you WANT to be able to figure out how much per oz., you would be paying, its simple.

Take the price of the gold \$13.25 and divide it by the weight (in grains) = \$2.07 per grain

Now multiply \$2.07 x 480 (grains in an ounce) = \$993.75 (per OZT)

# "TOM'S BABY"

## *Colorado's Largest Specimen of Gold*

*(Taken from Jack A. Murphy's article  
in the Lapidary Journal, May 1975)*

"Tom's Baby," the largest reported specimen of crystallized gold ever found in Colorado was missing for over 80 years. The disappearance and fate of the eleven troy pound gold, which was found in 1887, near Breckenridge, Colorado, had been the subject of speculation for years.

The Victoria Mining Company was owned by two local wealthy businessmen, who leased to local miners and businessmen with a stipulation that all "free gold" found would be delivered within a day's time to Mr. Ware's office in Breckenridge.

On July 22, 1887 Tom Groves and Harry Lytton were leasers working the Fuller Placer on Farncomb Hill. They struck a pocket of gold nuggets from which they, in four hours, removed two hundred and forty-three ounces and nine pennyweights of gold. The largest nugget, when taken out, weighed fully one hundred and sixty ounces, two pieces were broken off, leaving the nugget weighing 136 oz. 5 dwt., which is, we believe the largest nugget ever found in the State.

How did this large piece of gold acquire its name—"Tom's Baby?" When the big nugget of gold was found on Saturday afternoon by Tom Groves and Harry Lytton, Tom was so elated and fondled the find so affectionately that the boys declared that it would probably be a long time before "Tom's Baby" will be retired as Colorado's big nugget.

After the cleansing process, Tom's Baby was sent to Denver on July 28, 1887 where its history soon became obscure. It was supposedly displayed in many location around the state and country.

By January 13, 1955 an article summed up the opinion of the disappearance of gold by saying "The cloak of Colorado History and the dim light of time, keep hiding the fact that somebody kidnapped "Tom's Baby."

In researching the lost piece of history the only identified specimen found was a small piece of gold wrapped in a silk-lined ring box, labeled, "Gold from 'Tom's Baby'."

It was discovered that in 1966 the display was moved from the main geology hall to the new mineral hall. Several pieces from the collection were removed and placed in a safety deposit box in a downtown Denver bank. After examining all the pieces in the box, down at the bottom, wrapped in 1929 newspapers were the three large specimens that had been seen in a 1912 photograph that could not be identify. These remarkable pieces were very heavy

and consisted of intergrown masses of crystallized gold leaf in a dark reddish matrix. None of them weighed eleven pounds, and for the time being they were satisfied that they had at least accounted for all the gold in the Campion Collection.

The day of the second visit to the bank was February 8, 1972. It was found that the three large specimens might have some bearing on the story. One of the trustees then picked the largest and the smallest of the three pieces and the two joined together perfectly along a broken edge. They were quickly weighed them (in troy measurements); the large one was 77.96 ounces, the smaller 24.45 ounces, making a total of 102.41 ounces, or eight and one-half pounds. The two combined pieces measured over six inches from side to side, and over ten inches from top to bottom. The "slab-like" shape was from one to three fourth inches thick.

Rev. Fiester arrived at the bank, and when he saw the combination of the two pieces he declared, "that's it, that's it, that's Tom's Baby!" Comparisons were made with the engraving. The size and general configuration of the pieces matched so well that they were convinced that they had found the missing gold.

There was obviously a third piece missing which would account for the 33 ounces difference with the original reported weight of 136 ounces. We still had the other piece that had been stored in the safety deposit box, and it weighed 22.8 ounces. We searched and found a 2.3 ounce specimen that perfectly joined a broken edge of the 22 ounce piece, thus totaling 25.1 ounces. Then another discovery. This specimen was identical to the photograph in the Colorado State Historical Society Library. It seemed as though all missing specimens had been accounted for, except the 25 ounce specimen still did not fit into the 102 ounce piece. We could not logically conclude they were both part of "Tom's Baby." Was there a 33 ounce specimen still unaccounted for?

Everyone that inspected the reconstructed gold felt sure that the remnants of "Tom's Baby" had been found. Why the specimen was broken was not known. One explanation may be that it was cleaned again when it reached Denver. This cleaning was typically done in acid to remove the matrix and reveal the finely crystallized gold. This could have weakened the specimen causing it to break into at least three main pieces.

The pieces were left at the bank until a special display safe was completed in 1974. It was then returned to the museum and the two broken pieces were carefully re-joined. The edges fitted so closet that it is difficult to see the broken contact. The specimen was then placed on public exhibit on June 8, 1974, in the "minerals of Colorado" section of the mineral hall at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

## N.W. Montana Prospectors Minutes for July 11, 2009

- ♦ There was no treasures report Gary is in Alaska
- ♦ The minutes were read and approved
- ♦ There were 36 people present.
- ♦ Braxton called the meeting to order.

### Old Business

- ♦ We had tabled the discussion on the request that Gene Auge had made to bring up a piece of equipment at the last outing. Gene is aware of the problem with the ponds. He wants to work just like Wayne and loosen dirt and then haul up the dirt in buckets and then bring down some of the rock, that seems to be an ever growing problem.
- ♦ There was a little more talk and the club agreed to let Gene come up and work for three days, then we would look at the area and make a final decision about increasing the days or not. Gene wants everyone in the club to know that they are all welcome to go in when he is there.
- ♦ The dams worked pretty good this time around. We all just need to keep on eye on them and if we see them starting to go, get some help and put some rocks in them.
- ♦ Braxton let us all know that he got the dredge permits signed and ever thing is good to go. There is a list of rules that you need to follow, so read them and please follow them. If not you could be asked to leave the club. There is a copy of them at the Gold Miser in Libby. Just so you know one of the big don'ts is—*no digging in the banks*.
- ♦ Herb reminded us about the Rock Show, any and all help is welcome.

### New Business

- ♦ Braxton reminded everyone to stay out of the ditch's up top.
- ♦ Braxton reminded everyone that Nominations were coming up and to start think about who is going to run.
- ♦ Braxton closed the meeting. We had our raffle.



*Largest Nugget at June meeting  
in Libby.*



*Gold split for June.  
Split 55 ways, which was the largest split to date.*

## ***Looking for Gold ?***

***Minelab prices as follows***

GPX4500 **\$4995.95**--Retail \$5995.00

SD2200V.2 **\$1798.95**--Retail \$2495.00

Eureka Gold **\$998.95**---Retail \$1250.00

X-Terra 705 **\$698.95**---Retail \$950.00

Big Sky Metal Detectors

406-253-1678

## "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 MEETING

***August 8  
Saturday***

**Libby Creek  
Public Gold Panning  
Area**

**NWMTGoldprospectors.com**

If you know of a club member who is ill or needs help,  
Prayer or encouragement, call our "Sunshine Lady"  
Evelyn Grant at 406-892-3298

President	Braxton Walborn
Vice-President	Herb Robinson
Secretary	Vicki Walborn
Treasurer	Gary Henry

406-756-3711  
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