

99ER'S NUGGET NEWS

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club

May 2009

Editor: Milah Gano

Quote of the Month: ***"The human race has improved everything except the human race."***

Adlai Stevenson

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Next Meeting:

**GOLD SHOW
MAY 1 & 2**

- ◆ Code of Ethics
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- ◆ Gold Show May 2 & 3
- ◆ Ad for Detectors
- ◆ Cy's African Trip

GOLD PRICES:

As of April 23, 2009

GOLD—\$904.90/OZ.

SILVER—\$12.76/OZ.

Our Website:

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

Greetings,

Welcome Spring!

Just a little note to ask all of you to email me with your email address if you want your newsletter on line.

Also there is **NO MAY SPRING KICK OFF** as usual at Clarence's. However, don't forget about the Gold Show that we are putting on May 2nd from 10 to 7:30 and May 3rd from 10 to 4 pm.

The Spring Kick-off will be June 6 at the Tabor's house in Columbia Heights. The Kick-off will be the usual pot-luck at noon, with games. Feel free to show up at 10:00 a.m. to check out the mining equipment and visit with friends and meet new people before the pot-luck. There will also be a short meeting. Also bring your gold pans and metal detectors to join in the fun.

Our first Libby outing this year will be June 20 & 21st, so be prepared it might get cold in the mountains. After our June outing to Libby we will be back on schedule for our normal outings the second Saturday of every month throughout the summer.

THE RAFFLE TICKETS IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE FOR THE GOLD SHOW AND THE PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED ON SUNDAY MAY 3rd AT 3:00 P.M.

**SPRING KICK OFF AT
CLARENCE TABOR'S
in Columbia Heights
on JUNE 6**

Milah Gano

Email — mallard_g@hotmail.com

Phone: 406-892-1526

R A F F L E T I C K E T

Northwest Montana Gold Prospector Club
\$1.00 each or \$6.00 for \$5.00

*PRIZES: 1/4 oz Gold Nugget, 10 oz Silver Bar,
Set of Bunker Hill Silver Rounds,
and a gift certificate ticket for a massage.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____

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NORTHWEST MONTANA GOLD PROSPECTORS
PRESENTS
GOLD, GEM, MINERAL
and
RECREATIONAL SHOW

May 2 & 3, 2009

RED LION INN AT THE KALISPELL CENTER MALL

SATURDAY 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

***FREE Admission!**

***FREE Gold to the first 50 people each day!**

***Prizes for the "best miner costume"!**

***FREE Seminars!**

***Demonstrations *Vendors *Kids Activities *Pan for Gold**
***Raffle Prizes *Door Prizes *Recreational Equipment**

SATURDAY:

Seminars throughout the day:

- 10:00- Show opens to the public, Meet the Vendors, View the Merchandise and Displays
- 11:00- A presentation by Braxton Walborn and Clarence Taber on how to file a mining claim with samples, forms and timeline charts
- 12:00- Costume Contest Judging. Purchase a lunch from the Red Lion or go out for a bite.
- 1:00- A presentation by Bob Cronholm representing the state of Montana Department of Environmental Quality. ...the reasons or benefits of having a Small Miners Exclusion.... discussion on meeting requirements and compliance.
- 2:00- Planning a successful "Plan of Operation" (POO) required by U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), State Land or Private.
- 3:00- How to make your POO efficient.... Discussion of clearing, conserving topsoil, wet or dry operation, water requirements, equipment size, trommels, sluice boxes, reclamation and bond calculation.
- 4:00- A presentation by Robin McCulloch from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.. Where did the Gold, Silver, Minerals and Precious Stones come from?
- 5:00- A presentation by Ted Antinolli from the Missoula Chapter... The Political Picture for mining in Montana and the U.S.
- 6:00- A presentation by Rivette Minerals on the proposed project at Rock Creek.

SUNDAY:

- *Presentation on Metal Detecting**
- *Jewelry Demos...Silver Smithing, Wire Wrap**
- *Lapidary Demos... Cutting, Grinding, Polishing, Faceting**
- * Rock Identification**

For information call
406-892-4826 406-892-1810 406-253-9540
NWMGP, Box 3242, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

S 22

As reported in our last newsletter, Reid supported S 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act. The bill would have placed millions of additional acres off limits without debate.

S 22 died in the House of Representatives when the Democratic majority called for a vote on the bill under a suspension of the rules. This allowed them to avoid any attempts by detractors to amend the bill, but it upped the requirements for passage to a two-thirds majority. The bill failed to garner a two-thirds majority, falling 2 votes short.

Raffle for Public Lands for the People

*For tickets: Contact Jim Lewis via email at
Goldcado1@aol.com*

*or phone (805)485-7513,
tickets are \$1 each or 12 for \$10*

Raffle will be held June 18, 2009

PRIZES ARE

	Approx. Value
160-acre wet claim (donated by Western Mining Claims)	\$7,500.00
Keene 4" dredge, model #4400ph (donated by Keene Engineering)	\$3,000.00
Goldmaster GMT Detector (donated by Whites Electronics)	\$795.95
\$250 gift certificate (donated by Armadillo Mining Supply)	\$250.00
Underwater Dredging-Yuba River print (donated by John Agrella)	\$250.00
Deluxe Blue Bowl Kit (donated by Pioneer Mining Supplies)	\$225.00
Custom Gold earrings (donated by Natural Gold Jewelry)	\$185.00
GPAA Buzzard Special + clean-up kit (donated by GPAA)	\$150.00
Dri-Wash-n-Guard Detailing Kit (donated by Barry & Gina Wetherby)	\$130.00
HystWare Mines and Mineral V1.0 (donated by Gary Hiestand)	\$99.95
Nugget Hunting Essentials, Vols 1&2 (donated by Arizona Outback)	\$60.00

These are good prizes donated for a good cause. We are all in this together.

BIG SKY METAL DETECTORS

Detectors for the Gold Hunter

Minelab 4500

Minelab SD2200V.2

Minelab Eureka Gold

White's GMT

White's TDI

Tesoro Lobo ST

Fisher Gold Bug II

406-253-1678

www.bigskydetectors.com

OUR EMAIL IS UP AND RUNNING

Thanks to Kathie Roe we finally are able to email the newsletter to our club members as soon as it is done. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you please email me and give me your email address so that I can add you to the list right away.

Please email me with your email address at mallard_g@hotmail.com.

Kathie Roe will be posting the newsletters on our web site and I will email them to the members when they are done.

If you do not have an email address, don't worry, your newsletters will come to your address as they have in the past.

Thank you!
Milah Gano

Minutes from NWMGP Meeting April 11, 2009

- ♦ Braxton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- ♦ There were 28 people present.
- ♦ The minutes were read and approved as read, there was no treasures report, Gary is still down south.

Old Business

- ♦ Herb let the club know about the Gold show. We had a meeting at Clarence's to talk about the show and the seminars that will be taking place on Saturday. Herb also let us know that they have gotten some signs painted and up. Braxton told Herb that he had seen them in some different places. The Red Lion will run the show on the reader board also. Allen voiced some concerns that there is almost too much and that the day is too long. We talked about this for a few minutes and then moved on. We all have to remember this is our first year at this and there maybe some things we change next year, but we all have to give credit to the people that are working really hard to put this on. Herb let us know that there are about 16 vendors. Allen also suggested that we try to get the news letter out no later than the 24th of this month.
- ♦ The spring kick off was talked about. Jill asked Braxton to ask the club if we could put the kick off until June 6th. Jill feels that with the show she and Clarence just do not have enough time to get everything in order to have it May 9th. A motion was made by Allen to have the kick off the 6th of June. It was second by Vicki and the club vote yes.
- ♦ Don Roe gave us an update on the newsletter. It is now on the web site. Milah also was able to email it. Milah tried it with a hand full of people. This will save the club a lot of money and time. We need to put in the newsletter a form so people can send us their email address and whether they want it emailed to them or they want to pull it from the web site or mailed to them. We will ask Milah to come up with something sensible she is the one doing this. Thank you Milah and Kathie Roe. Don & Kathie Roe will post the newsletter to our web site and Milah will email it to all those who want it online..

New Business

- ♦ Don Roe told us that the Multiple Use Club contacted him and would like to see us back up at the Forest Expo. This is usually the same weekend as our spring kick off but, we are not doing it that week end. Is there anyone that would like to do this? It is Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Charlie Kins, Jon Van Dort and Rick Lance volunteered to go and do this. What we have done in the past is just show people how to pan and take some of the equipment we use. So it is an easy 2 days out in the woods. If there is anyone else that would like to help please get with one of the guys listed, or contact Braxton for information.
- ♦ Allen let us know that the group Public Lands for the People, Inc. is doing a raffle. The tickets are a \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00. This group works to keep public land public. A list of what they are raffling is in the Mining Journal. Here is the phone number, address and email address you can use to contact them and get tickets. Public Lands for the People, Inc. 3700 Santa Carlotta St. La Crescenta, Ca. 91214-1048, 818-957-1455, Goldcado 1 @alo.com. You return tickets and money to Jim Lewis 655 E. LaLoma Ave, Somis, and Ca 93066. This is a California club but what effects them will get to us some. So if you can help them out by buying some tickets, please help.
- ♦ We had a very special guest with us so Braxton gave the floor to Cy Brass. He talked to us about his trip to Africa.
- ♦ After the talk we had the raffle.



Tools used by African Miners (from Cy Brass)

Raffle Winners for April to follow:

ITEM	DONATOR	WINNER
Top O' Deep	Ralph	Warren Hix
Gold Pan	Allen	Jerry
Print	Don Roe	Jon Bee
Print	Don Roe	Wayne H.
Print	Don Roe	Jerry
Cut Shovel	Gary W.	Ric Lance
Gold Pouch	Wayne H.	Vi Hover
Top O' Deep	Club	Herb
Silver Round	Club	Wayne H.
NRA Knife	Wayne H.	Jim Hover
Light	Herb	Warren Hix

Report on Cy Brass's African Trip

Our club was lucky to have Cy Bras come and tell us about his exciting trip to Mali , Africa before he and Lonnie head to their claims in Alaska.

While wintering in Southern Arizona they attended the Tucson Rock Show where they met Amadou, the man from Africa that sold Cy some rocks that were paid for with gold. Amadou was excited to meet a real miner and asked if Cy could help him and his people with their gold claims in Mali. Cy had to think about this and do some research. He and his friend , Tom had to get several shots, malaria pills and bring their own food, jerky and health bars to keep them going. One suitcase for clothes and one for their food.

It was to be a ten day trip with much crowded into the time but ten days was plenty in this backward, superstitious, poor country. Cy and Tom rented a car and driver to take them to the claim, several miles from the capital city. As they walked into the village and out to the mining area the heat and humidity were high, the bugs swarmed them. As they approached the claims Cy heard a humming sound that got louder and louder. He stopped and realized it was the many Africans talking and working. Hundreds of them, and he and Tom were the only white folk.... kind of eerie!

The dirt has quite a bit of clay so is hard to work. They dig deeper and deeper scooping out the dirt and depositing it at the mouth of the hole. One man came crawling out of one of the holes they were working and when he saw Tom with his white hair he started screaming , guess he thought he saw a ghost. When Cy and Tom screamed back they all had to laugh. Their tools were so primitive, large gourds cut in half and hollowed out were used to dig the dirt. A piece of tree root that looks like the bone from a cows leg with a hole drilled in one end with what looked like a railroad spike was used as a digging tool. Cy brought a few of these to show us. They did not even have shovels or wheel barrels to move the dirt. They took the dirt in the bowls to some ponds they had made and filled with water from the river. Here is where the women would pan it and use smaller gourd bowls for the gold they found. There are about 2 miles of these holes anywhere from 15 to 45 feet deep.

Cy and Tom decided to build them a high banker so went to the best fabrication shop in the city. It consisted of a small , antique buzz box for welding, a small grinder and a hack saw. No gloves or welding hood left the welder blind and a new man to take over within only months. They were able to buy a Honda pump for less than we pay and had the high banker ready to go in about two days. The high banker netted about 1.3 grams of gold in about 2 hours. They use blow trays to separate the gold from the black sand. The buyers sit in a row with their gold scales inside a box so the seller can't see what his gold weighs. Sounds pretty fishy to me. Cy and Tom weighed the gold on their own scales later to see the difference.

They drove 91/2 hours to a mine with the gem stones in a brownish red quartz . It was a very long day with only one hour at the mine and 91/2 hours back to town again. After checking their maps they did not think they had traveled so far. Africa is 4 times bigger than the USA and Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The people walk anywhere from 12 to 45 miles one way with the days supplies on their heads. Superstition, voodoo, ghosts, and lack of hygiene make life difficult and short lived. The average life span for women is only 41, men 46. The women have many children with only a few reaching adulthood. When a child reaches age 7 they become the baby sitter with a younger baby sibling on their back all day, taking it to mom in the gold field to nurse a few times a day. When they hit the age of 11 they go to work in the gold fields. Toilets are extremely primitive and lack any sense of sanitation. The people share a large bowl of food and eat with their hands, no utensils thus resulting in lots of illness and disease. Cy hated to see the children with sores and sickness. He did make lots of little friends with the candy he passed out.

One day the driver had to return to the city after he dropped Tom and Cy at the village. As he did not return until very late Cy and Tom had to stay with one of the natives. They sleep in little round mud and grass huts. Their beds are like troughs filled with peanuts in the shell. With high heat, bugs and stale air Cy did not find the peanut bed very comfortable. He struggled to get comfortable enough to sleep, when he opened his eyes there was a huge 4 inch spider hanging just above his face. One of the natives went out and brought a tree branch and was hitting at them. . Cy counted 7 of them at the end of his bed. Cy says "you're not killing them, you're just making them mad!!!!", Well, Cy spent the rest of the night in the car. You might ask him about the bite on his leg..

I think everyone enjoyed Cy's program on his African trip. Cy wanted everyone to know how important he thought our club is and all the mining clubs like it to keep mining open to all. Cy also reminded us to look at all the rocks on our claims as there may be more valuable minerals there.

"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.

REGULAR CLUB MEETING

***June 6
Saturday
Potluck at
noon***

**Columbia Heights
At the Tabor's**

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
406-892-4826
406-756-3711
406-257-0362

<http://www.NWMTGoldprospectors.com>

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club
P.O. Box 3242
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

