

N.W. MT GOLD PROSPECTORS

NUGGET NEWS

May 2011

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Our first outing will be June 18 and 19 at our claim on Libby Creek. So pack up your gear, bring your pan, shovel and bucket. Bring something for the Sat. evening potluck, bring your lunch and drinking water. Dress for all weather and we will see all of you there.

Gold Prices:

As of May 27, 2011

Gold: \$1533.50 Up \$14.10
Silver: \$37.78 Up \$0.59

To receive the newsletter on e-mail contact our e-mail address with subject "Newsletter" and include your name.
taber@aboutmontana.net

Hi Folks,

It has been a great month for the prospectors. We had a very successful Gold Show at the Fairgrounds and I think everyone had fun at the Spring Kick Off.

The Gold show was well attended and went really well. A big thank you to all of you who helped make it happen. A huge thank you goes to Ric Lance for heading up this project. The profit from this show was \$2735.10, a little better than last year in spite of the economy. We had 718 adults come through the doors, we don't have a count of the kids but received seven new memberships. We sold lots of raffle tickets, talked with many people interested in the club. The kids colored lots of pictures and the panners were pretty busy at the tubs. We gave away many door prizes, thank you to all who donated prizes and Billy's bird houses were a big hit. The one third ounce gold nugget was won by Tom and Rita Wortley from Glenns Ferry, Id. The one pound silver round was won by Darrell Stoner from Whitefish. The GMZ White's Metal Detector was won by Susan Eshbaugh of Missouri. The Geode miner was won by Sandy Randall. CONGRATULATIONS to all of the winners. Many hands made quick work of the clean up on Sun. PM, again thank you to all who helped. Most of the vendors seemed pleased with the results even though sales were a little slower on Saturday. All in all the show was a success and enjoyed by all.

Our NWMGP Spring Kick Off was held at Vicki and Braxton Walborn's place west of Kalispell after 15 years being held at the Taber's. The weather cooperated with sunshine for most of the day. There were about 60 people in attendance with a delicious potluck at noon. Those potluck cooks get better every year! Clarence lead a brief meeting followed by Fred Hodgeboom informing us on some of the political problems we are facing. The drawing took place for the non winning raffle tickets from the past year. The winners were Ron Maupin, Brock Wiebusch, Billy Mohler and Gary Wilmes. The metal detector contest was well attended and started with the kids contest. Winning the adult contest was Brent King in first place, Billy Mohler took second and third was Ray Miller. There was great enthusiasm at the trough in the panning contest. We had to do three runs on the adults for an exciting pan off won by Ron Maupin, second was Geo Johnson and third was Billy Mohler. Two teams participated in the relay panning contest.... I think the winning team was stacked Ron M., Clarence Taber, Sandy Randal, Billy M., Geo J., and Darrell Briles won but I think a good time was had by all.

Hopefully our summer will have better weather for some fun filled outings. See you there. Jill

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

Meeting for 5-21-11 NWMGP

Spring Kickoff---57 people attending.

Clarence thanked Vickie and Braxton for sponsoring the kickoff this year.

Sandy Randall updated the club on Gold Show Income. Income--\$5,668.00 Expenses--\$2,932.90. Net Income--\$2,735.10. The 2010 Gold Show Net Income was \$1,878.00.

Sandy also thanked those members who worked on the gold show. These members are Ric Lance, Don Roe, Gary Wilmes, Gary Henry, Jon VanDort, Charlie Kins, Bob Liston, John Lyons, Mary Lyons, Clarence Taber, Jill Taber, Vickie Walborn, Braxton Walborn, Jon Kraus, Ida Middleton and Billie Moeller. Thanks to everyone who helped out this year.

A short meeting was held and Clarence Taber, President, brought the meeting to order.

The first outing will be held June 18th and 19th at Libby Creek.

A list was formed of members that will help to get the oil changed in the pumps, and work done on the dump truck. So far the list has these names. Dale Evans, Ric Lance and Billie Moeller.

Fred Hodgeboom talked on the Wilderness Bill. The government wishes to expand the wilderness areas. There will be no logging, mining etc. To get more information on the bill and how it will affect you, you may contact Fred Hodgeboom.

A motion was made to give a Life Membership to Billie Moeller. This was seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Winners of the nonwinning ticket raffle:

Vial and gold—donated by the club (from the black sands) won by Ron Maupin

Vial and gold—donated by the club (from the black sands) won by Brock Wiebusch

Top O' Deep —donated by the club won by Gary Wilmes

Afghan—Donated by Sue Stevens won by Billie Moeller.

Gloves—won by Suzie Henry

Darrell Briles brought some items that he had for sale. Darrell had one Tommy Knocker that was left and it was auctioned for \$45.00.

Kids Metal Detecting Contest—1st place Zac King won the Ladderball. 2nd place Gatlin Schiele won a water bottle fanny pack, 3rd place Anna Schiele won the PB 2700 Water Gun, and Justis Meyer and Nicholas Landowski each won Bubble Makers.

Adult Metal Detecting Contest had 15 people trying to find the most items. The big winners are Bent King 1st place he won a camp table, 2nd place was by Billie Moeller and he won a camp chair. And 3rd place was Ray Miller and he won a water jug.

Panning contest was won by Ron Maupin, 2nd place was Geo Johnson, and 3rd was Billie Moeller.

1st place team panners—Ron Maupin, Billie Moeller, Geo Johnson, Clarence Taber, Darrell Briles and Sandy Randall.

From Charlie Green's book Montana Memories

From the trail through the Coram Valley, two trails branched to the South Fork River Valley. One at Lake Five went through the pass north of Haystack Mountain, down to Emery Meadows, continued around what was known as the "Trough", past Great Northern Mountain and from there up the valley along the river. A cut-off left the valley trail near where Martin City is located and joined the other trail at Emery Meadows.

This was one of the routes used by the Flatheads and Kootenai Indians on their annual trips to pick berries, hunt, and fish in the South Fork Valley. Other trails these Indians used to enter the valley led from the Swan.

Back to our story, Martin said the man stopped at their cabin late that fall. He told of finding a placer prospect on a creek up the valley and of plans to return the next year with help to develop it. The man had several hundred dollars worth of gold dust and before leaving for Butte the next morning, paid Martin for wintering his pack horse.

About the first of May he and two other men came in one evening all



Haystack Mountain.

mounted, and trailing a 6-horse pack string loaded with groceries, tools and other supplies needed to build a cabin and to work the claim. Before leaving the next morning, they told Martin they planned to be out about the middle of September and would stop by.

Nothing was heard from the prospectors over the summer, but late in November, Martin said one of the men came to their cabin late one night. He was afoot, starved and badly hurt with an arrow in his back. He related a harrowing tale of combat with a Blackfeet hunting party at their cabin on the prospect. He told of this being on a dry creek bed, of their building a cabin, ditching water from the main creek back into its old channel, setting up a long tom and their recovering several thousand dollars of placer gold.

It was a long busy summer, and they worked from day light until dark every day. The wounded miner told of his wanting to shut the operation down a month before, but his partners refused to quit and, as long as the weather was good, they were adding more ounces of gold to their cache in a hole in the dirt floor of the cabin each day. Three days before, disaster had struck their camp. Their horses strayed at night and this man went after them the next morning. He tracked them down to an Indian camp, at what was later to be called Dry Parks, and the warhoops had all nine of their ponies in their corral with a guard watching them. When he tried to free his horses, the guard shot at him. Having his rifle with him, he killed the man. Then all hell broke loose and even though there were about twenty braves looking for him, he got away on foot and made his way back to the cabin to warn his partners.

The Indians had no trouble tracking the horse trail back to the cabin and, before the prospectors could get away, they had the place surrounded. All that afternoon they held the cabin under seige, and a hail of arrows and bullets came at the men whenever they showed themselves. The men feared the Indians would burn them out, so they decided to flee during the night. Rather than all leaving together, they decided their best chance would be to steal away in different directions. They divided the gold as well as they could in the dark, and each with his rifle slipped into the woods after midnight.

This one miner was the only one who made it out. He told Martin the Indians refrained from using their rifles to avoid revealing their positions and attacked the refugees with knives and arrows. He was certain the other two men didn't get fifty feet from the cabin before they were downed, but said he crawled away on his hands and knees. One buck shot several arrows at him and hit him once, but he kept going until daylight, heading west over the mountains. The weather favored him with but little snow, and 2 nights later he made it to the Martin cabin. Once over the mountains and down in the valley he could have secured aid from other farmers, but he traveled at night and passed them by, for his poke of gold was too valuable and visible.

He spent several days at the Martin's cabin, where Mrs. Martin removed the arrow and nursed him back to health. In his account of the summer's events, he never mentioned where the placer was located, but he promised Martin he would be back the next spring and take him to to share the find. The man never returned and it was learned later he had died from the effect of the wound. Martin said the man told him he had about \$6,000 in gold when he left the cabin, but it was so heavy he had cached about half of it a short distance from the cabin while fleeing from the Indians.

Senator Tester's Bill

Senator Tester brought his wilderness bill, S268, in front of the Public Lands and Forest subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee on Wednesday, May 25th.


Sherm Anderson from Sun Mountain was invited to provide testimony in favor of the bill and Wally Congdon, the fellow that fell off his horse a few years ago and cracked his head, was invited to testify in opposition to the bill. The committee was surprised to find that Mr. Congdon, representing the Montana Cattlemans Association, testified in favor of the bill. CBU is confident this action by Mr. Congdon and the Cattlemans Association was orchestrated by Senator Tester.

The subcommittee is accepting additional written testimony on S268 until June 4th. CBU encourages everyone to submit your testimony to the committee before this date. Send your testimony to all of the following staff member links of the committee and request that it be made part of the record.

Frank Gladics: frank_gladics@energy.senate.gov
Scott Miller: scott_miller@energy.senate.gov
David Brooks: david_brooks@energy.senate.gov
John Tester: D.C. 202-224-2644; Local 406-257-3360
<http://tester.senate.gov>

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P.O. Box 3242
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Remember to renew your membership dues, \$50 for a family membership.
Mail to Northwest MT Gold Prospectors, P.O. Box 3242
Columbia Falls, MT. 59912

Next Outing June 18-19
Take Hwy 2 West about 70 miles from Kalispell, 12 miles from Libby, Cross Libby Ck, take Rd #231 to the left about 12 miles. Stay on the main road. When you come to the Y after the second bridge approximately 9 miles take the left, not the right to Bear Ck. About 2 ½ miles take a left at the Howard Lake sign over a small bridge and short distance to Public Panning area where we camp.