

N.W.MT GOLD PROSPECTORS

NUGGET NEWS

September/October2011

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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 -Charlie
Kins

406-253-4290

Sunshine Lady-Vicki Walborn

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Our next meeting is
November 12th

Gold Prices:

As of October 14th

Gold: 1661.50

Silver: 31.57

Hello to All,

So as many of you may know we go down to Bannack Days. Will this year was no different. We had a great time! Gunfight at the salon, stage coach robbery, and this year woman got the right to vote put in the Montana constitution. There were lots of good food vendors and displays. If you want more information just type in Bannock, Mt and it will bring up their web site with all the information you would need.

Braxton always has some new /old place to take us. This year it was a little town named Comet.

There were 3 principal mines here, the 'Comet', the 'Gray Eagle', and the 'Rumley'. The comet was discovered by John Russell in 1862. Comet did have a post office. In 1880 according to the Helena Weekly Herald the Comet shaft was 155ft deep and a tunnel running off it 600ft through a 12 foot body of ore. From what I've read it looks like they got galena, lead, lime, gold and silver from the mines in this area, During the time frame of 1891-1892 the mine employed 40 miners and 35 top men at a wage of \$3.50 to \$3.00 a day. When silver crashed in 1893 the mine was closed as a result all but 5 men were laid off. A year later the mine was reopened. With equipment getting old and worn out accidents started to happen. New equipment and repairs were done but the mine never did reach its full potential.

There are still a lot of the buildings there. The book I read (after the trip) said it is all on private property but we walked around and saw no signs posted. I'd say if you go down, just like very where else be respectful and there should not a problem.

If you have a favorite ghost town let us know about it. Montana is full of mining history, get out and enjoy it. If you want to read more about Comet the book Ghost Towns and Mining Districts of Montana by Terry Halden is where I learned more.

Wayne Hartly grandson got a hold of me. If you have old news letters please make a copy of it and send to Dustin Hartly P.O. Box 1558 Carlin, NV 89822.

Hope to hear from some of you soon.

September 10, 2011

Meeting of the Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors

39 members in attendance

Meeting called to order by President Dale Evans

August Minutes read by Ron Maupin, approved.

Treasurers report read by Sandy Randall, approved.

Old Business:

Discussed Kids working on the hill. It is felt that for the majority of the time the kids do well and shovel into the trommels. The idea of the kids having their own high banker was discussed, and if it is needed the kids will be set up with a trommel to work with.

Clarence Taber gave an update on Marshal York's fundraiser. \$2,200.00 was raised.

Dale Evans discussed alcohol on the claim. It is a policy of the club to prohibit alcohol on the clubs claim. This is not limited to outings. Alcohol is prohibited on the claims at any time.

Try not to undercut the banks when you're digging. We do not need anyone getting hurt.

There was a near miss during the morning with the dump truck. You need to watch yourself and others around you.

The dredging went very well this year and the members got some good gold. There have been no concerns as of yet.

Nominations were asked for. No new nominations.

Discussed clean-up after the outing. Everyone help to bring the equipment down and load in trailer before leaving. If everyone helps the job goes faster.

The gold show was discussed. Ric Lance declined setting up the show this year. Sandy Randall addressed the club and gave insight into what is needed to set up the show. It does require a lot of work and Ric had done the majority of the work in the past. Some of the jobs that need to be done: Insurance for the gold show, Fairground rental including tables and chairs, advertising, ticket purchases and sales, vendor notification, setting up the tables for the vendors, is some of the jobs. The tentative date for the Gold Show is April 28th and 29th or May 5th and 6th. The club needs volunteers to help set up the gold show. The major prizes have been purchased for the Gold Show.

New Business:

The dump truck needs a new clutch. The idlers on the newer trommel need to be fixed. The club needs to consider building more trommels. The club is using club member's trommels at this time as well as club trommels.

Clarence spoke to the club. He thanked everybody for the years of enjoyment in the club.

Raffle:

Gloves donated by Bill Moeller won by Gary McHenry

Mixed nuts donated by Bill Moeller won by Braxton Walborn

Sucker bottle donated by Sandy Randall won by Kay Mellon

Bird house tree donated by Mike and Ann Rhoads won by Penny Van Dort

Coffee Cup donated by Lee Boyd won by Bill Moeller

Shovel donated by Charlie Kins won by Ron Maupin

Crucible donated by Deb Robinson won by Ron Maupin

Miners Hat donated by Deb Robinson won by Anne Rhoads

Tray donated by Deb Robinson won by Gretchen Marsh

Silver Round donated by the club won by Braxton Walborn

Lunch Bag donated by Roper won by Harm Torn

Wheel castors donated by Roper won by Patti Curtiss

4 Buffalo Nickels donated by Bob Liston won by Joe Kilman, Gary McHenry, Shirley Mc Henry and Don Roe Jr.

Bowl donated by Charlie Kins won by Bob Liston

Mixed nuts donated by Bill Moeller won by John Slesar

A recent NWMGP club outing on their claims at Libby creek proved fruitful for a number of detectorists as well as those in the common operation. I was using the Gold Bug 2 with 6" coil to lay claim to these 44 little pickers. It took a little bit of dirt moving but it was fun. The largest weighed a whopping .258 gram with the smallest weighing in at .008 gram. There was a new guy up there that had never found a nugget so I showed him the detector and how to use it and let him have a try. His 1st target was a little picker and now he is hooked, as a matter of face I think he now owns a nugget machine. Other detectorists were also lucky in finding some gold. The common operation had some nice splits also. Although I was only to make one outing this summer it was a blast, not in just getting the gold be seeing old friends and meeting new ones and of course the pot-luck had some tasty dishes served. Thanks to all.

Allen



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Recovery of Lost Items

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 Ronan, MT 59863

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 Cell 406-253-1678
 E-mail jabia@ronan.net

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Loader • Excavator • Dump Truck
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24 Taber Lane
 Columbia Falls, MT 59912

(406) 892-3722
 (406) 261-9326

**GOLD MISER
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 SUPPLIES**

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 Libby, Mt 59923

(928)927-7150 566 N.
 Central / Box 2798, Quartzite, AZ
 85346

Two Bits Prospecting Supplies

Braxton & Vicki Walborn

406-253-6200 2472 B Hwy. 93 S.
 406-253-6227 Kalispell, MT 59901

We now have a full time employee at the shop.
 We now have someone at the shop Mon-Friday 9 to 6

NWMGP Meeting October 1st

27 in attendance

The meeting was called to order by President Dale Evans. The minutes of the September meeting were read by Secretary Ron Maupin, and approved by the members. The Treasures report was read by Treasurer Sandy Randall and approved by the members.

Tickets for the May Gold Show 2012 raffle will be available on Monday October 3rd.

Dale reports that two dump trucks were looked at. The first one is \$1,900.00 and the second dump truck is \$2,500.00, without power steering. It was decided to look at and test drive the first truck and if it looked good to purchase the first truck. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

Trommel motor from Russ Pierce was offered to the club for \$100.00. Motion made to buy the pump, second and approved.

Ray Miller has an 11 hp motor for sale. We could put a new pump on it for a back-up for the hill pump. He is asking \$100.00 for it. Motion to buy the pump was made, seconded and approved by the club.

Most of the reclamation on the claim was done today. Discussed if the members wanted to have a dig on Sunday until noon or when the dirt is gone. Also, pick up any trash you might see and make it look

presentable for the end of the year. Dale also made a point that any reclaimed areas are off limits to any prospecting, including metal detecting.

Concerning the winter meetings: The folks who run the hall where the meetings are held were emailed. Sandy has not had a return email at this time. The meeting place will be printed in the newsletter.

The claims will be closed to motorized vehicles October 15th. You can still walk in and carry your equipment if you still want to work the claim.

Ken Krause from Wisconsin came out to Montana to hunt moose. He will join the club for the afternoon common operation.

New members David and Judith Kitts were introduced.

Raffle

Shovel donated by Ron Maupin won by Gretchen Marsh

Bag of Nugget donated by Ron Maupin won by Braxton Walborn

Hammer donated by Gary Wilmes won by Roger Watson

Montana Pin donated by Sandy Randall won by Don Roe Jr.

Crucible donated by Deb Robinson won by Gary Wilmes

Buffalo Nickel donated by Bob Liston won by Ron Maupin

Flies for fishing donated by Bill Marsh won by John Slesar

Silver round donated by the club won by Sandy Randall

Crystal donated by the club won by Bill Moeller

Crucible donated by Deb Robinson won by Ron Maupin

Buffalo Nickel donated by Bob Liston won by Brock Weibusch

Stock Certificate (antique) donated by Deb Robinson won by Gary Wilmes

With the arrival of fall and winding down of the gold season (high banking, dredging) it's time to winterize those engines. So what do you plan to do with this small engine-powered equipment until you need it until then? Are you just going to throw a plastic cover or old bucket over the engine and let it ride out the winter where it sits? If you are not concerned about getting the longest service out of your equipment or don't mind possibly having to take the carburetor apart in the spring to unstop the jets, then don't worry with winterizing. However, if you do want to get the longest life and best service out of your small-engine powered equipment, there are several steps that you can take at the end of the season.

First, change the oil. As a four cycle gasoline powered engine runs, the oil not only lubricates the moving parts, but it also cleans the internal surface of the engine cylinder and pistons. The oil collects acid, water, metal particles, and other foreign materials that form sludge in the engine. If oil with the contaminants is allowed to stay in the engine over the winter, deterioration of internal

engine parts and seals can occur. Replace the old oil with fresh oil of the proper viscosity. Your owner's manual will indicate the proper oil, usually it will be SAE 30 or 10W30. Two cycle engines on chain saws and string trimmers do not have an oil sump to drain because the oil is mixed directly into the gasoline.

Next check the air filter. The end of the season is a good time to change or clean the air filter especially if it has not been done during the season of use. About 10,000 gallons of air are consumed in the combustion process for every gallon of fuel used by the engine. The air filter cleans abrasive dust and dirt out of the air prior to entering the engine. A dirty air filter can restrict the air flow and cause the engine to run rich. Foam filters need to be re-oiled after cleaning. Use the same type of oil as was used in the crankcase. Also, check the spark plug to assure it is not fouled and that it is properly gapped.

Fuel is another area of concern for both four and two-cycle engines. There are two approaches to winterizing your small engine when dealing with the gasoline left in your fuel tank at the end of the season. One approach is to drain the fuel out of the gas tank and then start and run the engine to get all the fuel out of the fuel lines and carburetor. If fuel sits for a long time it ages and residues can form that may plug the small fuel jets in the carburetor. Removing the gasoline eliminates this problem. After running the engine out of gas and letting it cool, take the spark plug out of the cylinder and squirt or pour about a tablespoon of oil into the cylinder. With the spark plug wire off, slowly pull the starter cord or use the starter to turn the engine over a couple of times to distribute the oil over the internal surfaces of the cylinder and piston.

The other option in dealing with fuel is to put a gas stabilizer into the gas tank. A gas stabilizer will keep the gas "fresh" for up to two years if it is added to the gas right after it is purchased or for one year for a two cycle gas/oil mixture. With a freshener in the fuel, it is not necessary to drain the tank or get the fuel out of the carburetor. It is, however, necessary to run the engine a couple of minutes to be sure that the "freshened gas" gets into the carburetor. This procedure is simpler and is especially good if you have a metal gas tank. A full metal gas tank will keep moisture out of the tank and prevent rust from forming on the inside of the gas tank. The rust particles act as abrasives inside the engine.

This is also a good time to lubricate and throttle cables. Use lubricants such as WD-40 or silicone - using oil will cause dust and foreign material to stick to the oil and possibly damage bearings. Cleaning the outside of the engine area are also important. If oil and grass have accumulated on the engine the cooling efficiency especially for an air-cooled engine is reduced. Most small engines are air-cooled. Caked dirt and oil can trap moisture and cause rusting of metal and lead to reduced service life. Finally, store your small engines inside if possible, but if you must store them outside, cover them loosely with a waterproof cover so that air can circulate underneath. Be sure to properly anchor the cover.

If you will be using your small engine during the winter you should consider using a "winter" oil. This is indicated on the oil container with a "W" included in the viscosity label such as 10W30. Check your owner's manual for the proper winter oil recommendation. A lighter viscosity oil such as 10W30 can improve operation in temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. If you properly winterize your small engine you will be rewarded next spring with an engine that should start by the third pull!

Submitted by Allen
info from the internet

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors
Treasurers Report for September 2011

Balances Forwarded:

Cash Drawer	\$95.00
Valley Bank - Checking	\$4,974.55
Valley Bank - Fundraising	\$576.10
Whitefish Credit Union	<u>\$1,004.79</u>
Total	\$6,650.44

Income:

Merchandise	\$0.00
Club Raffel	\$177.00
Memberships	\$150.00
Interest Credit Union	\$0.00
Interest Fundraising	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total	\$327.00

Expenses:

Filing and postage	\$124.29
Kalispell Copy Newsletter	\$166.80
Sept outing expenses-fuel,food, dig, skidsteer	<u>\$2,145.23</u>
Total	\$2,436.32

Ending Balances:

Cash Drawer	\$95.00
Valley Bank - Check book balance	\$2,865.23
Valley Bank - Fundraising	\$576.10
Whitefish Credit Union	<u>\$1,004.79</u>
Total	\$4,541.12

<p>Christmas Raffle Gold Splits \$1.00 Each 6 for \$5.00</p>	<p>Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone Number: _____</p>
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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 will be November 12th at the same location in Columbia Falls, Mt. If you need directions please call.