



MAY MINUTES

Meeting was opened by President Bob Morrison with 29 members present and 1 guest.

First order of business was the Elections.

President: Bob Morrison was nominated and he accepted. Motioned & seconded to keep Bob Morrison as President.

Vice President: Lee Beatty was nominated and he accepted. Motioned & seconded to keep Lee Beatty as Vice President.

Secretary: Carl Fisher - declined
Dennis Rennison - declined
Position is open.

Treasurer: Stan Lang nominated and he accepted. Motioned and seconded to keep Stan Lang as Treasurer.

Newsletter Editor: Pete Somontes nominated and he accepted. Motioned & seconded to keep Pete Somontes as Newsletter Editor.

Prize Coordinator: John Eggleston nominated & accepted.

Assistant Prize Coordinator: Bob Bruce nominated & accepted. Motioned & seconded to keep John and Bob as prize coordinators.

Activity Coordinator: Position open

Claims Director: Lyle Shingleton

Assistant Claims Director: Larry Duvall

Motioned and seconded to keep Lyle & Larry as Claims Directors.

New Secretary!

One of our newest members has stepped up and volunteered to take over the duties as Club secretary. Heather Campbell is a member of the U.S. Air Force assigned to the 90th Services Squadron at F.E. Warren AFB. I'll try to get a picture of her for the next issue, until then Welcome Heather!

Treasurers Report - we currently have \$573.39 in checking.

Muddy Creek Claim

Bob and Don are still working on the paperwork for members to complete in order to work the claim. They'll try to have the forms completed by the June meeting. Bob has a sign up sheet for anyone that may be interested in working the claim. Someone will be available in the Douglas Creek area during the prospecting season for members to check in with before they go into the claims, plus this will give the members someone to report any problems to

as well.

Lyle requested that if anyone is going to the Douglas Creek or Lake Creek area between now and mid-June to please report any damage to him.

Members expressed concern that the location of the GPAA claims along Douglas Creek and Lake Creek aren't clearly marked; especially for someone new to the area. Bob requested that Dennis, Lyle and Larry get together and put up some new signs. Dennis has some T-posts he'll donate for the signs.

Phoenix Mine Tour - Colorado

Bob checked further into a possible Phoenix Mine Tour in Colorado. If we have 20 people or more on a tour, the cost is \$9 per person. Less than 20 would be \$10 per person. If anyone is interested in going on the tour, contact Bob.

Outdoor Channel Outing

A meeting was held April 20 & 21st in Casper with the State Director and representatives from all the Wyoming Chapters. Lee Beatty went for our Chapter.

The outing is scheduled for August 25, 26 & 27th at Douglas Creek. Bob will be checking with the State Director about getting committees set up among the Chapters for games & contests, activities for the weekend, setting up vendors, etc.

There will be contests such as pan pitch, speed panning, mucking, largest nugget, best lie and some other unspecified games.

The Outdoor Channel will be present to film the weekend and will be donating prizes.

We will be looking for vendors to act as sponsors and each club is expected to donate for a Grand Prize. No word yet if Tom or Perry Massie will be there.

Bob Morrison and Pete Somontes are checking with the Forest Service to determine what requirements will need to be met to acquire a Special Use Permit. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the weekend.

There will be a fee for attending the outing of \$5 for GPAA members (and their families) and \$10 for non-members.

NOTE: We need a head count of how many members will be going to this outing for the USFS Permit. Please contact any of our officers and let them know if you plan to attend.

Monthly Raffle

Raffle donations: Dale Fisher donated 4 sets of gemstones - garnet, peridot, aqua and amethyst.

Raffle Winners

Tracy McDaniel - screwdriver

George Stumpf - knee pads

Pete Somontes - Pewter miner
John Wagner - \$10 Wendover token
Dennis Rennison - pick
Dale Fisher - small nugget
Tracy McDaniel - 1963 Silver half dollar
John Eggleston - nugget

50/50 \$53.00 - Peter Somontes

Name tag - 2 cut/polished garnets - Steve Mejia

Byron's Sourdough Biscuits

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 3 Tbs. sugar
1/2 cup Crisco 1 tsp. salt
2 cups sourdough starter 1 Tbs. baking melted butter powder

Make sure to feed your sourdough starter and leave out to ferment prior to making biscuits.

To a mixing bowl add flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Stir together using a fork. Cut in the Crisco until the mixture is like coarse meal with no lumps larger than a green pea. Using a fork stir sourdough starter into the mixture until dough comes together.

Generously flour a large cutting board or smooth countertop. Scoop the dough out of the bowl and put it on the floured surface. With the palm of one (or both) hands, press down on the dough and push it away from you. The dough will stretch into the shape of an oval. Next, lift the far end of the oval and bring it towards you, so it resembles a thick taco shell with the opening facing towards you. Then, rotate the dough a quarter turn and repeat the process, gently pushing, folding and turning, about 10 times. Cut dough into halves then cut each half into 9 equal sized pieces. Roll each piece of dough into a ball then dip in melted butter and place in a greased 14" Dutch oven, 11 around the outside edge, 6 in an inner circle, and 1 in the middle. Try to leave a 1/2" space in between dough balls.

Place lid on Dutch oven and let biscuits raise for 20-25 minutes.

Bake using 12-14 briquettes bottom and 18-20 briquettes top (400° F.) for 20-25 minutes until golden brown.

NOTE: For even browning make sure to turn the oven and lid 1/4 turn in opposite directions every 5-10 minutes.

Serve warm. Yield: 18 biscuits

For more great Dutch Oven recipes visit Byron's web page at: [Http://papadutch.home.comcast.net](http://papadutch.home.comcast.net)

AML Dangers

Seventeen people died in abandoned mines in the United States in 1999. In Wyoming, hunters, hikers, cave explorers and other recreationists who use public and private lands are at risk of death or serious injury. The Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML) has cataloged many abandoned mine sites in Wyoming. However, many more sites exist in remote areas, or on private land. Anyone who observes an abandoned mine is encouraged to report the site to AML at 307-777-6145. Exact location and access routes will be especially helpful. **IF YOU ENCOUNTER AN ABANDONED MINE, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER!** Many of the dangers posed by these sites are not readily seen, or cannot be seen at all.

Horizontal openings: The mine opening (known as a portal or adit) may seem stable, but rotting timbers and unstable rock formations make cave-ins a real danger. The darkness and debris in old mines make identification of the hazards difficult.

Vertical shafts: These can be hundreds of feet deep. At the surface, openings can be hidden by vegetation or covered by rotting boards or timbers. Inside old mines, shafts can be camouflaged by debris, or hidden by darkness in the mine.

Explosives and toxic chemicals: Blasting caps, dynamite, and chemicals were often left behind when the workings were abandoned. Explosives become unstable with age, and can be detonated by the vibration of footsteps. Abandoned chemicals such as cyanide, arsenic, mercury and other deadly toxins may be present in leaking and deteriorating containers.

Dangerous gases: Lethal concentrations of methane, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide (to name a few) may accumulate in underground passages. Oxygen deficient air may cause suffocation. People have died within a few feet of the mine openings.

Water: Impounded water may be highly alkaline or acidic (resulting in skin burns), as well as deep and cold (contributing to hypothermia).

Spoils (rock and dirt) piles: These loose piles can collapse or slide, burying an unsuspecting victim.

Equipment and buildings: Abandoned surface structures and old mine equipment may collapse on bystanders

Highwalls: These are the excavated vertical cliffs in surface pits and quarries. They can be unstable and prone to collapse. Highwalls may not be visible from the top, presenting a danger to off road drivers

Radon: Radon is a natural radioactive decay product, and is known to be a factor in some lung cancers. Radon can accumulate in high concentrations in poorly ventilated mines.

Wildlife: Rattlesnakes, bears, mountain lions and other wildlife frequent old mine sites.

Disorientation: There is no natural light inside of mine workings. Many workings meandered randomly as miners followed an ore vein. It is easy to become lost and disoriented in a maze of mine workings, especially if lighting equipment fails.

Mine Fires Areas: Mine fires create surface hazards in abandoned coal mine areas. As fires burn within the seam, fissures can open to the surface delivering deadly gases into the atmosphere. The area around the fissure may not be capable of supporting the weight of a human or vehicle, and may collapse into the burning coal or the mine void.

STAY OUT! STAY ALIVE!

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Abandoned Mine Land

NORTH TO THE YUKON

We've all heard the cry "North to Alaska"; in 1897 that cry was "North to the Yukon!" Gold had been discovered in the rivers and streams around Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada.

Saying you were headed to the Yukon was easier said than done. The trip usually started in Seattle headed north on

a steamship. From there a prospector had three choices to reach Dawson City. The first, and most expensive, was a paddle wheel steamer from the mouth of the Yukon River in Alaska.

The second choice was overland via the White Pass Trail. White Pass was a nightmare, narrow, steep and covered with ice it was deadly for pack animals. Over 3000 pack animals died on this trail earning it the nickname "dead horse trail."

The third choice was also overland from Skagway, Alaska over the Chilkoot Pass to Whitehorse and the Yukon River. Chilkoot Pass was only slightly better, the last half mile having an altitude gain of 1000 feet. Steps had been carved in the snow and ice allowing men to climb to the top, but pack animals could not make the ascent. This required the prospectors to carry their supplies up the steps, cache them at the top, turn around and go back down for more supplies. The Royal Canadian Mounties required each person to carry enough supplies to last them for a year, almost a ton per person! Both passes delivered you to Bennett Lake and the town of Whitehorse where you would have to build a boat to carry you 500 miles downriver to Dawson City. Almost 100,000 men and women set out for Dawson City, 30,000 actually arrived. Most turned back at the passes, some died in the rapids of the Yukon River, some just disappeared in the wilderness.

Those that made it found all the gold bearing creeks had been claimed by the locals. Some were hired on by the owners to work the claims, others went home. The work was hard since the gold was located in permafrost sometimes 10 feet below ground level. They had to first melt the ground and then run the soil through a sluice. This could only be done in the short summer since winter temperatures often reached -60 deg. F. The only ones to get rich were the merchants and saloon owners.

This is a list of 'recommended' supplies;

Chilkoot Trail 1898 Supplies

McDougall and Secord Klondike Outfit List (clothing & food):

- 2 suits heavy knit underwear
- 6 pairs wool socks
- 1 pair heavy moccasins
- 2 pairs German stockings
- 2 heavy flannel over shirts
- 1 heavy woolen sweater
- 1 pair overalls
- 2 pairs 12-lb. blankets
- 1 waterproof blanket
- 1 dozen bandana handkerchiefs
- 1 stiff brim cowboy hat
- 1 pair hip rubber boots
- 1 pair prospectors' high land boots
- 1 mackinaw, coat, pants, shirt
- 1 pair heavy buck mitts, lined
- 1 pair unlined leather gloves
- 1 duck coat, pants, vest
- 6 towels
- 1 pocket matchbox, buttons, needles and thread comb, mirror, toothbrush etc. mosquito netting/1 dunnage bag
- 1 sleeping bag/medicine chest
- pack saddles, complete horses
- flat sleighs
- 100 lbs. navy beans
- 150 lbs. bacon
- 400 lbs. flour

40 lbs. rolled oats
 20 lbs. corn meal
 10 lbs. rice
 25 lbs. sugar
 10 lbs. tea
 10 lbs. baking powder
 20 lbs. salt
 1 lb. pepper
 2 lbs. baking soda
 1/2 lb. mustard
 1/4 lb. vinegar
 2 doz. cans condensed milk
 20 lbs. coffee
 20 lbs. evaporated potatoes
 5 lbs. evaporated onions
 6 tins/4 oz. extract beef
 75 lbs. evaporated fruits
 4 pkgs. yeast cakes
 20 lbs. candles
 1 pkg. tin matches
 6 cakes borax
 6 lbs. laundry soap
 1/2 lb. ground ginger
 25 lbs. hard tack
 1 lb. citric acid
 2 bottles Jamaica ginger

From Adventure Learning Foundation at www.questconnect.org

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

WEIGHT CONVERSIONS

	1 Troy (Ozt.)	1 Imperial (Oz.)
Grams	31.0	28.3
Grains	480	437.04
Dwt	20	18.21

Converting Calculations

Convert	To	Multiply By
Grams	Grains	15.4324
Grains	Grams	.0648
Grams	Oz. (AVDP)	.0353
Grams	Ozt.	.03215

PROSPECTORS CACHE

Felix Paydirt Gourmet Gold. Club member
 John Eggleston is taking orders for the 2 LB bag

of Felix Paydirt. John orders a case of 10 bags at a time and receives one free bag which the club uses as a raffle item. The bags are \$45 (\$40+\$5 Shipping).

If you would like to order a bag or two,
Contact John at 635-0229

Quartz epidote crystals hand dug from the Fox Park area. Each crystal has been hand dug, polished and mounted in either a pair of earrings or as a necklace. Buy separately or buy them as an earring/necklace set.

Assorted styles available. \$10-15.
Call Louise Morrison 632-7895,
Lmrr3964@aol.com

For Sale: White's Metal Detector w/power pack and case.

Call Bob or Louise Morrison, 307-632-7895

Center latch louvered tailgate. Fits late model Chevy or GMC, cost \$313, sell for \$150. Front mount receiver hitch. Fits most late model trucks & SUV's, half price, \$50.00
Call Francis Oline, 307-634-1133.

Wanted: 1 1/2" Proline Highbanker/Dredge Combo

Call Dallas Lake at 307-214-5619

LDMA Membership - sells for \$3500 at the gold shows - all that's needed is to get it transferred to your name \$2000(buyer pays \$400 transfer fee) or \$2400(Mike pays the fee).

Call Mike Hayes (307) 640-4378

2" Proline Floating Dredge, \$750

Call Dallas Lake at 307-214-5619

If you have items for sale, contact Peggy Stumpf at 307-632-9945 or email her at circlestar@Yahoo.com OR email Peter Somontes at psomontes@Yahoo.com to have your ad placed here.

Your ad will also be on the Chapter website.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Bob Morrison

Vice President: Lee Beatty

Treasurer: Stan Lang

Secretary: pending

Newsletter Editor: Peter Somontes

Claims Director: Lyle Shingleton

Prizes/Raffles: Bob Bruce & John Eggleston

Store: Ann Lang

Activity Chairman: vacant

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Cheyenne Gem Show: May 20 - 21, Holiday Inn, Cheyenne

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, June 6, 7pm, Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holiday Inn, Cheyenne

July 8 & 9 - Douglas Creek Outing

August 25-27 - Outdoor Channel Outing, Douglas Creek

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Wyoming Geological Survey
www.wsgs.uwyo.edu

The Perth Mint of Australia
www.perthmint.com
Click on 'Natural Gold Nuggets'
then click on 'About Nuggets and
Gold' for some interesting facts.

Garmin GPS products go to
www.garmin.com

Magellan GPS products go to www.magellangps.com

My website www.geocities.com/psomontes/

Smoky Mountain Knife Works
www.smokymountainknifeworks.com
www.KnifeForASoldier.com

Rocky Mountain National Park www.nps.gov/romo/index.htm

USFS Cabin Rentals www.fs.fed.us/recreation.reservations

National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) www.nols.edu

CLUB STORE

Coffee mugs \$ 5.00
Green pocket T-shirt \$16.00
Other color pocket T-shirts \$10.00
No pocket T-shirt \$ 9.00
GPAA mesh caps \$ 7.50
Chapter caps \$12.00
Green gold pan \$10.00
Black gold pan \$ 8.00
Classifier \$10.00
Scoop \$ 7.00
1/2 oz. vial \$.35 ea. or 3/\$1.00
1 oz. vial \$.40 ea. or 3/\$1.00
Suction tweezers \$.40
Snuffer bottle \$ 3.00

KITS

Black pan, sand, vial, snuffer \$15.00
Green pan, sand, vial, snuffer \$17.00