



The Douglas Creek Dribble

Cheyenne Chapter GPAA
P.O. Box 234
Cheyenne, WY 82003
www.cheyenneGPAA.com



May 1, 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meeting: Tuesday 5 May 2009 at Cloud 9

GPAA Show 2-3 May 2009, National Western Complex, Denver

Cheyenne Rock & Gem Show 16&17 May 2008

Club Meeting: Tuesday 2 June 2009 at Cloud 9

Websites of Interest

BLM online mining claims: geocommunicator.gov

U.S. Forest Service, Medicine Bow: fs.fed.us/r2/mbr

Denver Museum of Nature & Science: dmns.org

Wyoming State Geological Survey: wsgs.uwyo.edu

Legends of America: legendsofamerica.com

Wyoming Tails & Trails: wyomingtalesandtrails.com

Nome Gold: oldgoldmel@Charter.net

April Minutes

Ken Siders called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, with 34 members and 5 guests in attendance. Visitors Paul Medlock, Roger and Sheila Fisher, and France and Dee Stinchcomb were introduced and welcomed.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved. The club secretary reported on correspondence received. The Treasurer's report was given; bank balance is currently \$4,261.70.

Nominations were taken for Officers and Directors. The following nominations were received:

- President:** Ken Siders (accepted)
- Vice President:** Darryl Adams (accepted)
- Treasurer:** Don Ashley (accepted)
- Secretary:** Don Wegner (accepted)
- Claims Director:** Lyle Shingleton (accepted)
- Board of Directors:** Peter Somontes (accepted)
- Board of Directors:** George Stumpf (accepted)

With only one nomination for each position a motion was made to accept the nominations as they stood and forego the election in May. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership. **No election will be held at the May meeting.**

Questions were brought up about the club's equipment and the club's library. Don Ashley has volunteered to store all of the club's equipment so that it's all in one place. A list will be made and posted on the website. Don Wegner has received a box of items and is going to do an inventory of all library items, and this list will also be made available on the club's website.

A list of demonstrations/instructors was started for our upcoming July outing. If you

are interested in doing a demo, or would like to see a demo of something, please bring it up at the next meeting so we can get the schedule finalized.

Ken also reminded members once again to tell the GPAA that you are members of the Cheyenne Chapter when you renew your membership, so that we get credited properly. He also reminded the membership that we need volunteers for the Gem & Mineral Show and for the Gold Show in Denver.

Ken Wilcox recommended that the club get involved with PLP. This was voted on and approved. Ken will be the contact person for the club.

Ken recommended an expenditure of \$500 to purchase gold nuggets for our monthly raffles. This was voted on and approved, and Don Ashley will purchase the nuggets.

No further business being presented, the meeting was adjourned. *End*

Raffle Winners

- Meteroite (donated by Lyle Shingleton) – Madeline Shappel Stan Lang
- Gorilla Tape – Ken Siders
- Little Wizard – Dee Stinchcomb
- 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar (donated by Rich Richerson) – Bill Blackman
- 1978 Kennedy Half Dollar (donated by Rich Richerson) – Paul Medlock
- Swivel Flashlight – Rich Richerson
- 7 pc Tweezer Set – Maryann Bolenbaugh
- 1.88 gr Gold Nugget - Maryann Bolenbaugh
- Scratch Awl – Bill Rhodes
- Wood Sign Blank – Bill Blackman
- 50/50 Drawing** - \$70.50 Darryl Adams
- Nametag Drawing** – 1oz Silver ingot – Don Ashley

CLUB OFFICERS

- President:** Ken Siders
- Treasurer:** Don Ashley
- Board Members:** Peter Somontes, George Stumpf
- Newsletter:** Peter Somontes
psomontes@Yahoo.com
- Ast. Claims Director:** Larry Duvall
- Activity Chairman:** Bear Gibson

- Vice President:** Darryl Adams
- Secretary:** Don Wegner
- Claims Director:** Lyle Shingleton
307-742-5038
- Prizes/Raffles:** Bob Bruce & John Eggleston
- Store:** George & Peggy Stumpf

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China's gold reserves top 1,000 tons

Weekend • April 26, 2009

China's gold reserves rose 25 percent from 2003 to 2008, state media said, reporting that Beijing now had the world's fifth largest holdings of the precious metal.

China had 1,054 tons of gold by the end of 2008, up 454 tons from the 600 tons that it said it had in 2003, the last time it reported its reserve figures, Xinhua news agency said in a report Friday.

The new figures, released by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, has been reported to the International Monetary Fund, Xinhua said. China has adjusted its gold reserve holdings twice since 2000, raising the holdings from 394 tons to 500 tons in 2001, and to 600 tons in 2003, Hu Xiaolian, head of the administration, told Xinhua.

China holds the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, which stood at 1.954 trillion dollars at the end of March, up from 1.946 trillion dollars in December, official data showed.

On Friday, gold prices raced higher on concerns about the US economy and strong Chinese demand.

By late Friday on the London Bullion Market, gold jumped to 909 dollars an ounce from 870.50 dollars the previous week. — AFP

End

CLUB STORE

Coffee mugs \$ 5.00
Green Embroidered T-shirt \$16.00
Screen Printed T-shirts \$10.00
Mesh caps \$ 7.50
Embroidered caps \$12.00
Green gold pan \$10.00
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1/2 oz. vial \$.35 ea. or 3/\$1.00
1 oz. vial \$.40 ea. or 3/\$1.00
Snuffer bottle \$ 3.00
10" Black pans \$ 8.00
12" Black pans \$10.50
KITS
Black pan, sand, vial, snuffer \$15.00
Green pan, sand, vial, snuffer \$17.00

The Store will be open at the next meeting. See George or Peggy Stumpf.

Fate of Gold E. Locks decided by sixth-graders

04-25-2009

JENNY MICHAEL, Bismarck Tribune

Had investigators in Fairyland given a harder look into Rapunzel's whereabouts when Babe E. Bear's porridge disappeared, sixth-graders from Grimsrud Elementary would have had an easier time deciding the fate of Gold E. Locks.

As defense-attorney-for-the-day Mindy Schwarz pointed out, Babe E. Bear only got a momentary glimpse of the little girl sleeping in his bed, and Rapunzel's yellow tresses are almost indistinguishable from those of Gold E. Locks.

Two juries heard the case in Burleigh County Courtroom 304 at 10 a.m. Friday; one found Gold E. Locks guilty of theft of property for stealing porridge while the other jury was hung on a five-to-two vote.

More than 1,000 sixth-grade students in Bismarck and Mandan participated in mock trials in the case of Gold E. Locks as part of the Big Muddy Bar Association's annual Law Day events.

Law Day has been celebrated on or around May 1 every year since President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed the national event 51 years ago. The day was designed to remind Americans of their heritage of liberty under law and alert them to the role that they play as citizens in protecting and preserving their freedoms.

Zachary Pelham, an attorney at Pearce & Durick and the Law Day chair for the Big Muddy Bar Association, said court officials cleared the dockets in Burleigh and Morton counties on Friday to accommodate the students from Bismarck and Mandan public and parochial schools.

In each class, teachers helped volunteer attorneys select eight students for speaking roles. In Kate Skibicki's class from Grimsrud Elementary, Mindy played the defense attorney, Dempsie Beckers was the judge, Alex Szarkowski was the prosecutor, A.J. Haan was the court reporter, Allie Moss was Gold E. Locks, Ethan Luck was Babe E. Bear, Brandy Myers was Mom A. Bear and Beau Kary was Pop A. Bear.

The students read from scripts to present the case of Gold E. Locks, who was accused of stealing Babe E. Bear's porridge. Her defense was that no one saw her in the house, and the Bear family had invited her in by leaving the door open.

As each member of the Bear family took the stand, the court reporter asked them to "raise your right paw." Then, they walked through their parts in the classic story.

At the end, the students who were not

given speaking roles were tasked with determining whether Gold E. Locks was guilty or not guilty. Skibicki separated the 14 students into two juries of seven.

While one jury came up with a unanimous guilty vote, the other jury wasn't so sure. Rapunzel certainly could have been mistaken for Gold E. Locks, several said, while two stuck to their guns that Gold E. Locks was the eater of the porridge.

Before, during and after the trial, John Grinsteiner, a judicial referee, and Joe Heringer, an attorney at American Trust Center, explained the role of the courts and the legal system and answered questions. Pelham said attorneys also volunteered to speak to fifth grade classes for Law Day.

"It's an opportunity for lawyers to give back a little bit," he said. End

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Gold Reserve Act is passed January 30, 1934

The value of American currency ping-ponged up and down wildly throughout the Great Depression. However, on this day in 1934, the House looked to put a halt to the vacillation by passing the Gold Reserve Act. The adoption of the act gave President Franklin Roosevelt license to peg the value of the dollar within a range of 50 to 60 cents in terms of gold. Roosevelt took swift action: the next day he announced that the dollar would be worth 59.06 cents, while gold would be valued at \$35 per ounce. The Gold Reserve Act also paved the way for the "nationalization" of gold: as per the legislation's mandate, the various Federal Reserve banks handed control of their gold supplies, including all coins, bullion and gold certificates, to the U.S. Treasury. The U.S. Treasury shuttled a good chunk of the gold to a well-protected spot in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

End

WSGS Gemstones Group

Wayne M. Sutherland

Gemstones, Metals, and Economic Geology Specialist

A gemstone is any mineral that is attractive enough, after being cut and polished, to be used for personal adornment. The modifiers precious (gem) and semi-precious (near-gem) are used to distinguish more valuable stones from less valuable stones relative to prevailing markets.

Wyoming hosts some of the best rock exposures in the world, with geologic units ranging in age from early Precambrian (Archean) to Quaternary. These rocks derive from a wide variety of geologic environments including sedimentary, volcanic, igneous intrusive, and metamorphic.

A brief examination of the Wyoming State Geologic Map gives even the casual observer an appreciation for the diversity of Wyoming's geology. Varied geology and excellent rock exposures make Wyoming a great place to explore for and collect gemstones and interesting rocks. The best known of Wyoming's gemstones is nephrite jade or Wyoming Jade, which is the Wyoming State Gemstone. Wyoming also hosts diamonds, corundum (including sapphire and ruby), opal, peridot, iolite (gem-quality cordierite), and numerous quartz family gemstones such as agate, petrified wood, and quartz crystals.

The collection and marketing of small quantities of gemstones and unique geologic materials is not tracked in Wyoming. Amateur collectors, prospectors, semi-professionals, and professional dealers sell these materials primarily at gem and mineral shows, in local jewelry and rock shops, and over the internet. These mineral commodities include nephrite jade, ruby, sapphire, iolite, kyanite, opal, quartz, jasper, many varieties of agate, satin spar, and labradorite. Kimberlite, lamproite, and other rock specimens are sold under similar conditions. Exploration for commercial gemstone deposits has increased in recent years, and has focused on diamonds, iolite, ruby and sapphire, opal, and jade.

Southern Wyoming Gold Districts

Douglas Creek District

The Douglas Creek district in the central Medicine Bow Mountains includes all placer deposits along Douglas Creek and its tributaries, from Rob Roy Reservoir southward for six miles to below Lake Creek. Gold was discovered in Moore's Gulch, a tributary of Douglas Creek, by Iram Moore in 1868. Lode gold discoveries in both the New Rambler and Keystone districts resulted from placer gold being traced upstream to its primary sources. Heavy placer activity along the creek included elaborate hydraulic ditches in use by 1876. Resurgent placer activities during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s used gasoline-powered draglines and floating washing plants. Gold recovered from gravels up to 20 feet thick varied from 890 to 960 fine, with some silver and traces of platinum. Currey estimated total gold production from the Douglas Creek placers at about 4,000 ounces. The Douglas Creek district remains a popular area for continuing small-scale placer mining.

Centennial Ridge District

Placer gold, discovered in gravels along the Middle Fork of the Little Laramie River, led to the organization of the Centennial Ridge mining district in the east-central Medicine Bow Mountains in 1876. Placer activity was followed by several lode discoveries including the Centennial mine. A new wave of prospecting and development followed the 1901 discovery of platinum associated with copper ores at the New Rambler mine five miles to the southwest. Structural fabric within the district is generally northeast-trending and parallel to the Cheyenne belt. Lode mineralization includes foliation/schistosity parallel gold-bearing quartz veins in biotite and hornblende gneisses and schists, and gold-platinum fracture-filling and replacement veins in shear zones and faults cutting the gneisses and schists. Sulfides and arsenides accompany gold-platinum in the fracture fillings. Sulfide-rich zones, dominated by pyrite and occurring in mafic host rocks, usually accompany the richest ores in the district. Actual production from the Centennial Ridge district is unknown. However, the Centennial Mine produced an estimated 4,500 ounces of gold.

New Rambler District

The New Rambler district, just west of Douglas Creek, is located near the south edge of the Cheyenne belt along the Rambler shear zone, an east-trending branch of the Mullen Creek-Nash Fork shear zone. The Rambler shear zone, numerous local northeast-trending shears, and a few northwest-trending faults cut foliated granodiorite, the younger Rambler Granite, and the distorted northeast extremities of the Mullen Creek mafic-ultramafic complex. Primary copper sulfides and gold occur in quartz veins, as fracture fillings, and in zones of brecciation. Significant secondary mineralization, found only in the New Rambler mine, often assayed more than 35% copper. The New Rambler mine first opened as a gold mine in 1870. Copper was discovered in 1900 at a depth of 65 feet, and platinum within the covellite ore was discovered in 1901. Estimated production from the New Rambler mine totaled 171.3 ounces of gold, 1,753,950 pounds of copper, 950 ounces of platinum, and 16,870 ounces of palladium (Hausel, 1997). The New Rambler area is now considered an attractive target for platinum group metals exploration.

Sierra Madre / Encampment District

The Encampment mining district in the Sierra Madre mainly produced copper after its discovery in 1874. However, gold and silver were significant byproducts of copper mining (Hausel, 1986, 1989, 1997). The Encampment (also known as the Grand Encampment) district includes the entire Sierra Madre in south-central Wyoming and extends into Colorado. The district is bisected by the east-trending Mullen Creek-Nash Fork shear zone, which is more than one-half mile wide in places. A 1988 estimate of unmined ore included 928,500 tons of 6.5% copper containing 116,800 ounces of gold (Hausel, 1997). Current high metals prices have sparked re-evaluation and exploration of the Ferris-Haggarty and adjacent areas.

Although gold was always secondary to copper in the Encampment district, amateur prospectors still search the Sierra Madre for gold.