



The Douglas Creek Dribble

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



June 8, 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meeting: Tuesday 2 June 2009 at Cloud 9

Club Outing: 10-12 July, at Douglas Creek

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

May Minutes

Ken called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. 45 members were in attendance, 1 visitor and 2 new members were introduced & welcomed. Previous meeting minutes approved. Treasurer's Report: Apr revenues \$366; expenses \$775.52; current balance \$3,852.21

Election of Officers

President - Ken Siders
Vice President - Darryl Adams
Secretary - Don Wegner
Treasurer - Don Ashley
Claims Chairman - Lyle Shingleton
Board of Directors - Pete Somontes
Board of Directors - George Stumpf
Club Store - George & Peggy Stumpf
Raffles - John Eggleston (Barb Blackman /Pam Gibson to help)

Nuggets were purchased (approved at last meeting) by Don Ashley. Special Thanks to volunteers at Denver Gold Show. Ken spoke with Jerry Hobbs (PLP) at the Gold Show re: Forest Service Letter of Intent. Ken Wilcox will follow up and pursue this issue. It is recommended by the Club Officers that members still submit these until further notice.

The Ticket Basket has disappeared. Don Ashley had another one made for the Gem Show. He paid for it and the club approved reimbursement. Hat Pins are available for a casting fee of \$100 and then 25 pins for \$100. An initial order of 25 was voted on and approved.

Bob Morrison made copies of the Questionnaire for Public Servants. These were handed out and the Club Secretary also has extras.

(continued on page 2)

Raffle Winners

LED Flashlights – Ken Siders
Wooden Paddle – Paul Medlock
Scratch Awl – Bill Blackman
3 pack Goggles – MaryAnn Bolenbaugh
Knee Pads – Larry Duvall
Token from Deadwood – Dennis Renison
Nome Gold \$50 Bag – Dallas Lake
Lg Gold Nugget (1.75 grams) – Don Wegner
Sm Nugget – Mark Bolenbaugh
Sm Nugget – Merilee Renison
Sm Nugget – MaryAnn Bolenbaugh

50/50 Drawing (\$80.50) – Barb Blackman

Nametag Drawing – Insulated Lunchbox – MaryAnn Bolenbaugh

GEM SHOW RAFFLE

Gold Nugget- Rich Paiz
.22 Henry Rifle - Rich Richerson
Chuck's Gold Trapper - Ellen Barthmaier

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
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
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

George and Peggy have been busy adding to the Store. Stop by and take a look at the new expanded inventory.

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

Minutes (continued from page 1)

Kid's Fest at Old West Museum will be June 13 from 9 am - 2 pm. We will have a booth and be showing kids how to pan for gold. Volunteers are needed.

At the next meeting (June 2, 2009) nametags will be handed out but will no longer be collected back up at the end of the meeting. Members will be responsible for bringing their nametags to subsequent meetings. Instead of doing a nametag drawing, we will do a door prize drawing that amounts to the same thing. When you sign in on the roster, you will get a door prize ticket. These will be used instead of the nametags for the drawing.

Earl Leighan has some small hat pins for sale, the proceeds going to help those with disabilities. They are \$1 each - please see Earl to purchase these.

The Executive Order banning people over 60 from owning guns turns out to be a hoax - so we can put that one to bed. Thanks for bringing it up though - at least we know now.

On the other hand, House Bill 699 is very real. The companion bill in the Senate is Senate Bill 796. Both are also known as the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009. You can read the text of these bills at

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h111-699> (House version) and <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s111-796> (Senate version).

In addition, another Land Grab is in the works. See the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h111-980>. Even our Democrat Governor doesn't want this one to pass! Then there's the Clean Water Restoration Act: <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s787/text> - basically nationalizing all water resources.

A member asked about the possibility of getting a trailer for the club's dredge. The membership agreed this is a good idea and prices and insurance will be checked on and this will be pursued at the next meeting.
No further business...meeting adjourned.

End

How to Spot Fool's Gold

Introduction

Fool's gold, also known as iron pyrites, is a brass or gold-colored mineral that is easily mistaken for real gold. The early miners during the gold rush often thought they had made a fortune, only to discover their finds were not real gold. While real gold holds monetary value, fool's gold is virtually worthless. The most common United States locations for pyrite are in Utah, Colorado, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York.

Identify the Qualities of Fool's Gold

Step One

Look at the physical properties of fool's gold (also known as pyrite). It is easy to spot the light-yellow color with a metallic luster or brassy look. Real gold is recognized as more gold to silvery-yellow in appearance.

Step Two

Check for the smell of sulfur. Iron sulfide is 47-percent iron and 53-percent sulfur. This iron-sulfide composition gives off sulfur-dioxide fumes that have a distinct odor (like rotten eggs).

Step Three

Get a magnet to spot fool's gold. The iron sulfide in fool's gold will be attracted to the magnet, but pure gold will not.

Step Four

Strike the pyrite (fool's gold) with steel. If it is truly pyrite, it will produce a spark. Pure gold is softer and will flatten.

(continued on page 3)

PROSPECTORS CACHE

Felix Paydirt Gourmet Gold.

2 LB bag of Felix Paydirt \$70 ea.

Contact John Eggleston at 635-0229

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Call Dallas Lake at 307-421-4507.

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Lou Lopez 778-8434

Visit Yesterdays on Foxfarm Rd.

**Nome Gold! Marvin & Mel Terry at
www.oldgoldme@Charter.net**

1-877-666-3465

To have your ad placed here Email Peter
Somontes at psomontes@Yahoo.com or
see me at the meeting.

Your ad will also be on the Chapter
website.

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This sand pump actually really works. It has a diaphragm check valve built into the bottom cap. This allows you to suck gold and sand from under a rock in a stream and transport it to your bucket or sluice without losing any of your sample. It will suck sample out of a three foot deep hole and not lose any of your gold. I also have a crevice tool that goes on the end of the "Gold Trapper" and extends it a little over a foot to let you suck out cracks in bedrock or work your way through big rocks in the bottom of a hole.

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David Fortney
Gold Plating Specialist
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(HOME)

Fool's Gold (continued from page 2)

Step Five

Look closely at the face of the fool's gold (pyrite) crystal. It is most commonly striated, but it can also develop as coarse granules that are easy to spot.

Step Six

Test for fool's gold with a ceramic tile. Scratch a real gold nugget on the tile, and it will leave a yellow-gold streak. If the nugget is fool's gold, it will leave a greenish-black streak.

Step Seven

Scratch the metal to determine the hardness. Real gold can be cut, but fool's gold has a brittle hardness and a specific gravity of five.

Step Eight

Compare the shape of the gold. Real gold is most common in nuggets or small sheets while pyrite is most often found in cubes or octahedrons.

Law allows guns in parks

By MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press writer with staff reports

WASHINGTON -- Not so fast, gun owners. A new law allowing loaded guns in national parks and wildlife refuges will not take effect until next year, the Obama administration said Friday. President Barack Obama signed the gun law without comment Friday as part of a measure creating new rules for the credit card industry. A spokeswoman for the Interior Department said that because the credit card law won't take effect until nine months after it is signed, the gun measure also will be delayed.

Spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff said the Interior Department will follow Congress's directive and put the new firearms law into effect in late February 2010. Until then, rules adopted under the Reagan administration will remain in place. The rules severely restrict guns in the national parks, generally requiring that guns be locked or stored in a glove compartment or trunk.

"As Interior prepares to implement the new law, the department will work to understand and interpret its implications for our national parks and wildlife refuges, with public safety and the safety of our employees as our foremost consideration," Barkoff said. "For the time being, the current Reagan administration regulations governing possession of firearms in national parks and wildlife refuges remain in place."

The Interior Department's decision drew immediate criticism from Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., the chief sponsor of the gun measure. Spokesman John Hart said Coburn will offer the gun amendment to other bills in order to implement the decision as quickly as possible.

Hart said Coburn was confident the amendment would be approved again, noting that the measure received support from 27 Democrats in the Senate, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

The measure, adopted by wide margins in the House and Senate, allows licensed gun owners to bring firearms into national parks and wildlife refuges as long as they are allowed by state law.

Hart said Congress clearly intended for the law to take effect soon, adding that Coburn was disappointed the law apparently will not be in place this summer, when national parks are most crowded.

(continued next column)

Guns (continued from previous column)

Bryan Faehner, associate director of the National Parks Conservation Association, applauded the Interior Department's decision.

"We are pleased, because that provides more time that our parks will remain safe and free from shotguns, rifles and semiautomatic weapons," Faehner said.

"We hope that the American public and members of Congress will have more time to understand the far-reaching repercussions of this outrageous and disturbing law that has nothing to do with credit cards and will only put park visitors at risk," Faehner said. Faehner called national parks among the safest places in the country. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, there were 1.65 violent crimes per 100,000 national park visitors in 2006, far below the national average for violent crime.

Coburn and other lawmakers countered that parks are not crime-free and that the law would help law-abiding people fight human and animal threats.

Wyoming's all-Republican congressional delegation voted for the amendment and issued a press release Friday praising its passage into law.

"The constitution has spoken. No political party in Washington is above the Second Amendment. It is a good day for gun owners, especially gun owners in Wyoming," said U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi.

"Washington has forced inconsistent federal land gun laws on the states for far too long." Washington, D.C. gun policies just don't work in Wyoming. "This legislation has put gun regulations back in the control of states where it belongs," said U.S. Sen. John Barrasso.

"Common sense and the rule of law have prevailed," said Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo. "I am pleased this overwhelmingly bipartisan effort was signed into law so quickly. Thankfully, the power to govern firearm possession on Park Service lands now goes back to state and local laws instead of unelected bureaucrats and anti-gun activist judges."

The vote allowing guns in parks was a bitter disappointment for gun-control proponents, who watched as a Democratic-controlled Congress handed a victory to gun-rights advocates that they did not achieve under Republican rule. Democratic opponents blamed the National Rifle Association, which pushed hard for the gun law.

Republicans said gun owners simply want to exercise their Second Amendment rights. The GOP called the current policy confusing to those who visit public lands, noting that merely traveling from state-owned parks to national parks meant some visitors were violating the law.

Obama did not mention the guns provision during a signing ceremony for the credit card bill. A White House spokeswoman referred questions to the Interior Department.

End