



The Keystone Chronicle

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



December 1, 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meeting: 6 Dec 2011, 7 PM, American Legion Post 6

Club Meeting: 3 Jan 2012, 7 PM, American Legion Post 6

Club Meeting: 7 Feb 2012, 7 PM, American Legion Post 6

Websites of Interest

BLM online mining claims:
geocommunicator.gov

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

Wyoming State Geological
Survey: wsgs.uwyo.edu

Legends of America:
legendsofamerica.com

Wyoming Tails & Trails:
wyomingtailesandtrails.com

Public Lands for the People:
www.plp2.org

Cheyenne GPAA website:
www.cheyennegpaa.com

GPAA website:
www.goldprospectors.org

Wyoming State Museum
womuseum.state.wy.us

November Minutes

Ken Siders called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Club officers and Board Members were in attendance at the meeting. There were a total of 31 in attendance. There was one Visitor /Guest introduced and welcomed, Walter Westover.

The treasurers' report was given. No correspondence was received, and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Irina Zhorov from the Wyoming Public Radio gave Ken the website for the broadcast. Ken did not know how long it would be available.
http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wpr/news.nwsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1862006

A thank you to all who helped out at the "Ghosts of the West" at the Old West Museum on October 22 and the State Museum on October 28.

The ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal gives Legislative and Regulatory Updates. One of the items was a bill in the House that would prevent the department of Interior from extending a temporary ban on mining claim filings around the Grand Canyon. The other item was that President Obama recommends additional fees and taxes on miners, changing claims to leases. It was stated that this didn't have a very good chance of passing out of the committee. The last one was about the PLP filing a motion for preliminary injunction against State of California to reopen suction dredging. The pan was passed for donations to the PLP. \$31.00 was collected.

Pete spoke about the Newsletter, and went over the article about the ATM gold dispensing. Ken Siders asked for suggestions for this year's Christmas fund recipient. There had been two suggestions last month. One was the Saint Joseph's Church Food Pantry, and the other one was the Wyoming Tribune Eagle Empty Stocking Fund. A suggestion was made that we donate the fund to the American Legion as we did last year. A vote was taken and the fund will be donated to the American Legion.

Ken explained that the club has had Nome Gold Bags donated in the past and at this time the chapter is going to purchase ten bags at \$50.00. Those in attendance agreed that we should purchase them.

The Christmas dinner and meeting will be on December 6 at 7:00pm. A sign up list was passed around and the members stated what they

would bring. The Chapter would provide plates, utensils and drinks. The following is a list of what the members wrote down: Ham, Turkey, Bread and Spinach Dip, Jalapeno Corn Bread, Jell-O salad, Macaroni Salad, Pasta Salad, Cocktail Sausage, three relish/vege trays, chips and dip, fruit tray, pies, cheesecake, cake and a Red Velvet cake.

The store will be open at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is December 6, 2011 at 7:00pm

Tickets were drawn for the general and attendance raffles; and the 50/50 drawing.

November Raffles

General Raffle:

Prospector, Mule, and Paddle – Jeb Jordan
Tent – Bob Morrison
Copper Nugget – George Stumpf
2 sand bags – Rob Bruce
Tool Kit – Rob Arey
Colorado Gold Ore – John Eggleston
Loop – Ken Parker
1 oz. Silver Bar – Rich Bensen
Outdoor channel mug – Ken Siders
Nome Gold – Ken Parker
Gold nugget .98 grams – Paul Gregg

Attendance Raffle:

Secrets of Gold book – Jeb Jordan
Key Chain – BB Rhodes
Pocket Knife – Cassi Coblentz

50/50 Raffle:

Juanita Benson

End

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Classifiers #20	\$23.00
Classifiers #4	\$23.00
Classifiers #1/2	\$10.00
1 1/2" gem jars w/tray	\$10.00
1 1/4" gem jars w/tray	\$10.00
1 3/4" gem jars w/tray	\$10.00
1 1/4" gem jars	\$ 0.75
1 oz plastic vials	\$ 0.50
1 oz glass vials	\$ 0.40
1/2 oz plastic vials	\$ 0.50
1/2 oz glass vials	\$ 0.40
Colorado Gold Concentrates	\$ 7.00
Gold & Quartz Concentrates	\$11.00
Mesh Baseball Caps	\$ 7.50
Clay Gone	\$10.00
Coffee Mug	\$ 5.00
Crevice Tool	\$10.00
Small Funnel	\$ 1.00
Gold Concentrates	\$10.00
Chuck's Gold Trapper	\$75.00
GPAA Donkey	\$10.00
Magnets	\$11.00
Tom & Perry Mini Sluice	\$20.00
14" Green Pans	\$10.00
Picks	\$ 1.00
Scoops	\$ 7.00
Single plastic loupe	\$ 2.00
Snuffer Bottle	\$ 3.00
Snuffer/vial/Tweezers	\$ 8.00
Suction Tweezers	\$ 0.25
T-Shirt (adult)	\$12.00
T-Shirt (kids)	\$10.50
Tweezers	\$ 5.00

PROSPECTORS CACHE

Felix Paydirt Gourmet Gold. 2 LB bag of Felix Paydirt \$70 ea.
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Wanted: 1 1/2" Proline High banker/Dredge combo.
FOR SALE: 852 Sluice:\$60.
 2 1/2 inch floating dredge, needs new intake hose and foot valve: Asking \$1000
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For Sale: Whites MXT Metal Detector; Whites DD Gold Coil/MXT; Whites 12011 Pinpoint; Whites Headphones E Series. New in Box. Paid over \$1000, Sell all for \$850
Lou Lopez 778-8434

 Visit **Yesterdays** on Foxfarm Rd.

Nome Gold! Marvin & Mel Terry at www.oldgoldme@Charter.net
1-877-666-3465

For Sale: Wet suit, XL, one piece, hood, gloves, booties. \$100
Cort Schaible 635-4810 Cell: 286-5335

For Sale: MAX II 800T 6 Wheel ATV, Kohler 624CC 20 HP, T20 Skid steer trans, WT 700lbs, Asking: \$2,000, Originally \$8,500 NADA \$2,180-\$2,870
Don Ashley 307-220-8751

 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.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ken Sidors
 Phone: 307-514-0033
Vice President: Ken Wilcox
 Phone: 307-322-3126
Treasurer: Peter Somontes
 Phone : 307-529-0266
Secretary: Denise Hubbard
 Phone: 307-631-5453
Board Members: Don Ashley
 Phone: 307-220-8751
 George Stumpf
 Phone: 307-632-9945
Claims Director: Mark Bolenbaugh
 Phone: 307-638-7152
Store: George & Peggy Stumpf
 Phone: 307-632-9945
Newsletter: Peter Somontes
 Email: psomontes@yahoo.com
Prizes/Raffles: Eldeana Van Kirk
 Phone: 307-421-7398
Activity Chairman: Shari Baird

October Raffles

General Raffle:

- Sun Shade – Lorrie Ashley
- Nugget – Keeda VanKirk
- Water tank-Ray McGehee
- Water bottle – Mark Bolenbaugh
- Bungee Cord – Anne Nichols
- Magnifying Glass – Pamela Frantz
- Rope – Paul Gregg
- Tarp – Steve Frantz
- Nome Gold – Mary Anne Bolenbaugh
- Nugget – Don Wegner
- Soap – Jeb Parker
- Light – Don Wegner

Attendance Raffle:

Three prizes of a whistle, survival card, and hand cream were given away.

50/50 Raffle:

\$81.00 – Gary Madsen

End

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October Minutes

Ken Siders called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Club officers and Board Members were in attendance at the meeting. There were a total of 46 in attendance. The 3 Visitors/Guests were introduced and welcomed. They were Brent Wickham, Micah Graham, and Shawn Graham.

No treasurers' report was given; Pete Somontes was unable to attend the meeting. No correspondence was received, and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Irina Zhorov went to the GPAA claim on Douglas Creek with Mark Bolenbaugh, Ken and Elnora Siders. When Irina finds our when the show will air, she will get us the date and time.

The "Ghosts of the West" at the Old West Museum will be October 22 at 10am. Our chapter was to meet at 9 am. The State Museum has their Halloween event set up for October 28. Pete Somontes will be there from 4pm to 7pm, setting up between 3pm and 4pm. Anyone who would like to help is welcome.

Ken Siders asked for suggestions for this year's Christmas fund recipient. There were two suggestions given. One was the Saint Joseph's Church, and the other one was the Wyoming Tribune Eagle Empty Stocking Fund. Suggestions for which recipient the fund will be given to will be discussed and voted on at the November meeting.

A reminder that the American Legion Snack Bar provides hamburgers for sale before our meeting each month, come early and enjoy.

The EOMA Gold Show next year will have for the drawing 6 ounces of gold. Information about the gold show and the drawing can be found at www.eoma.org. This website will give you information about the ongoing dredge permit litigation and the big gold drawing.

Mark Bolenbaugh gave us an update on the Wilderness Bill and Salazar is still pushing the wilderness designation for areas. New Mexico, California, Nevada, Utah, and Idaho have all been designated as areas to be looked at by Salazar. This bill could possibly make it that a person would only be able to pan on a claim and nothing else. Our chapter is urged to follow The Wilderness Bill and what Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is doing.

The Westminster GPAA Idaho Springs will have an outing on Saturday, October 8th, beginning at 10:30am and has invited our Chapter.

The Casper Chapter has started and is getting through the paperwork. They have had three meetings with an average of 30 in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Tickets were drawn for the general and attendance raffles; and the 50/50 drawing.

End

Abandoned Mines=DANGER!

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.

