

99ER'S NUGGET NEWS

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club

June 2009

Editor: Milah Gano

Quote of the Month: “ “Why not” is a slogan for an interesting life.”

Mason Cooley

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GOLD PRICES:

As of May 28, 2009

GOLD—\$959.30/OZ.

SILVER—\$15.13/OZ.

Our Website:

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

Greetings,

Hurray! Summer is finally here. In May I went to the GPAA Gold Show in Butte with Joe Berg, Sandy and Fred Dahl. Saturday the show was well attending with over 1,000 people. Sunday the numbers went down to just over 400. It was kind of a small show at the Convention Center, but it was very enjoyable. A few new vendors were there and some of the same. One of the raffle prizes both days was the Alaskan Gold Panning trip with the GPAA. I tried my best to win one of those trips to no avail. But I did win over \$300 worth of mining equipment, including a sluice, 4 screens, 2 gold pans, a digital scale, crevice tools, rock hammer, folding shovel for the belt, and a few other things. What a haul I made. Donations and special auctions were held for Multiple Use to help protect our mining rights. GPAA did a great job putting on that show. I saw several people from our club there.

I hope our June 6th Kick-Off meeting, that is open to the public, on June 6th is a success. It is a little later than usual, but it will be warmer. We can't use 4-wheelers on our Libby claim before June 15th so our first outing in Libby will be June 20-21. After our June outing the meeting will follow our usual schedule, the second Saturday of every month during the summer. I hope this year will be a good year for finding gold, I look forward to checking it out with all my new gold panning equipment. See you in the hills.

Milah Gano

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Braxton and Vicki's Trip to Butte

By Vicki Walborn

Braxton and I went down to the Butte Gold Show, it looked like it was a good one. Saturday there were a lot of people walking around and they had some good seminars. Sunday we did not make it back to the show. There were some antique stores open, and last year, at the Gold Show, Robin McCulloch told me about a mine tour of an old Butte mine. It did not take us long to find it. If you go up to the World Museum of Mining which is behind Montana Tech, there it is. It cost us \$15.00 for the tour and to walk around the Museum. The tour of *The Orphan Girl Mine* takes about an hour and is well worth the trip. I don't want to give too much away but you are about 64 feet underground. It is about 44 degrees, so bring a jacket. They have some of the old equipment that the miners used from the time they started to modern day. The young man that gives the tours is very good and makes it fun and educational. Some of the buildings around the mine were brought in, but



the head frame and the buildings around the head frame are all the original buildings that the mine and miners used. You can walk around them and see a lot of the old things. There are a lot of things to look at, so plan on being there for about 2 hours. Just a little information about the Orphan Girl Mine. It was operated from 1875 to 1956 and produced over 7,000,000 ounces of silver, that was just 1% of the silver output from all of Butte. The museum has a lot of special events that happen over the summer, so check out their website which is www.miningmuseum.org. Butte has so much history that it really is worth spending some time. It seems like I find something new every time I go there.

I'm sure that there are other places that members have been to that we would like to visit or hear about so if you have the time, write them down and mail or email them to Milah.



*Gold Show May 2 and 3, 2009 at the Red Lion Inn.
Can you guess who these old timers are???*

Thank you to all those who worked at the Gold Show and also a special thanks to those who dressed up. Everyone had a great time, especially those guests who joined us for the day. We had a pretty good turn out.

**Spring Kick-Off will be a potluck at the Tabors again this year,
only it will be held on June 6th.**

At 10:00 a.m. show up and look at some mining equipment if you like

12:00 noon is the potluck

1:00 p.m. a short business meeting

After the meeting let the games begin.

*There will be panning contests, metal detecting contests, kids games,
and lots of fun.*

Bring your whole family and the neighbors to.

OUR EMAIL IS UP AND RUNNING

Thanks to Kathie Roe we finally are able to email the newsletter to our club members as soon as it is done. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you please email me and give me your email address so that I can add you to the list right away.

Please email me with your email address at mallard_g@hotmail.com. Kathie Roe will be posting the newsletters on our web site and I will email them to the members when they are done.

If you do not have an email address, don't worry, your newsletters will come to your address as they have in the past.

Thank you!
Milah Gano

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

WEIGHT CONVERSIONS

USING TROY OZ

GRAMS	OZT	GRAINS	DWT
31.1	1.00	480	20

USING IMPERIAL OZ

GRAMS	OZ	GRAINS	DWT
28.3	1.00	437.04	18.21

CALCULATIONS

TO CONVERT	TO	MULTIPLY BY
GRAMS	GRAINS	15.4324
GRAINS	GRAMS	.0648
GRAMS	OZ (AVDP)	.0353
GRAMS	OZT	.03215

IN OTHER WORDS

There are 31.1 grams in an ounce, or 480 grains, or 20 dwt
Which means that there are 15.4324 grains in 1 gram

HOW THIS HELPS YOU

When you see a nugget on Ebay, that weighs 6.4 grains, and the bid is at \$13.25, you WANT to be able to figure out how much per oz., you would be paying, its simple.

Take the price of the gold \$13.25 and divide it by the weight (in grains) = \$2.07 per grain

Now multiply \$2.07 x 480 (grains in an ounce) = \$993.75 (per OZT)

Gold mining in the last depression

Hello fellow goldbugs:

My name is Ross Purviance, my wife Deidre and I belong to the prospectors club. We live in Libby Montana at the base of Crazy Man mountain. I am retired now, but when we lived in California 60% of all our income was from Gold mining.

There are many stories of Gold that was just never sought out, because it was just too obvious. Because of my full time work as a Well Driller in the mother lode region of California, we found a lot of undiscovered gold just waiting for the prospector.

Lets start with my grandfather Bruce Purviance, he was a Blacksmith in Bellota California. Times were rough before my father was born in 1918, so grandpa built a well drilling rig out of old truck frames. This endeavor proved out real good, by 1928 he was doing real well. Then the great depression hit, there was no work, no money for anything. My grandparents family had 4 boys and 2 girls at the time, had 5 acres of river bottom land next to the Calaveras river to farm and nothing to look forward to.

As this story was told to me by my father and uncles this is how our family became infected with the gold fever and survived the depression. While working the fields with mules, my grandfather, father and uncles took a break by the Calaveras river. While eating, all the boys were talking about dredge tailings and fortunes made by the dredges that had been through there. That sparked a thought in my grandfather and he thought how to get through the depression. He would be a miner and everything would be OK. Well Grandma thought he lost his mind! Grandpa went to his blacksmith shop and started building a trommel. My Father told me it was 4 foot in diameter and 16 feet long. The gear works ran on an old dodge truck frame and the engine from the truck ran the trommel. The water needed for the operation came from the Calaveras river, but it was down about 10 feet. Pumps were hard to come by then, so Grandpa traded potatoes for an old engine driven compressor that came from one of the hardrock mines. This system fed through an eductor and supplied all the water for the operation.

The Mining of the Calaveras river by the dredges took only the easy pickens that the dredge could get at and stay in the main channel, so grandpa and the kids worked the sides of the river that were untouched or virgin ground. At the start, the whole operation was fed by 4 young boys with picks and shovels and wheelbarrows, soon after lots of color started showing and the operation was making money. Grandpa used some of the gold money and bought a Best tracklayer tractor with a bulldozer, then with the tractor he built a feeding ramp for the trommel.

This operation was a success and the amount of gold left by the old dredging operation started a small gold rush on the Calaveras River. My grandfather had several thousand acres under lease so it did not affect him.

During the 1930's through 1939 this was the only income for the family. The family plot of 5 acres provided potatoes, feed for cows and vegetables for canning.

Around 1939 My Grandmother wanted to move to a small town, closer to schools and church activities. So in 1939 the old 5 acre homestead was vacant. My father and uncles would come up to the old 5 acres after WW2 and pan for gold, picnic and talk of the depression days and gold mining.

When I was about 6 or so my grandfather took me up to what we called the mine and taught me how to pan, that experience and the other skills he taught me gave me the direction for my life, both in mining and Martial arts.

Our family was very lucky to survive the depression and they were lucky to be successful in mining to. Later in life and after I left active duty, when we would go to work on one of the drilling rigs the first thing we made sure we had was several gold pans. We did not have plastic pans, just the old steel ones that I prefer today.

More next month about some of the buried streams we discovered while drilling water wells in the Mother Lode.

Ross Purviance

Ross Lives in Libby and builds gold equipment in his machine shop and also is the Grand Master of Savate At Libby Combined Martial Arts and can be reached at tarbo@frontiernet.net

"CODE OF ETHICS"

Any violation reflects on all of us!

1. Know and obey the laws, rules and regulations pertaining to mining.
2. Respect private property and mining claims of others. *Get Permission First!*
3. Conduct your mining activity in a manner that will cause minimal disturbance to others.
4. Plan your operation prior to proceeding to ensure minimal environmental impact and erosion.
5. Restore the area to its original or better condition when finished with your operation.
6. NEVER disrupt or damage wildlife breeding sites, even if it's legal to do so.
7. Remove all trash and debris found in and around all streams, rivers, and campsites.
8. Keep your equipment maintained and in peak operating condition.
9. Use extreme caution when using petroleum products around waterways.
10. MINE SAFELY! No amount of gold is worth your life or the life of others.

Spring—Kickoff and CLUB MEETING

**June 6
Saturday**

*Potluck is at noon
Meeting is at 1:00 p.m.*

**Columbia Heights
Tabor's Home
Follow signs from
RBM Lumber**

[NWMTGoldprospectors.com](http://www.NWMTGoldprospectors.com)

If you know of a club member who is ill or needs help,
Prayer or encouragement, call our "Sunshine Lady",
Evelyn Grant at 406-892-3298

President	Braxton Walborn
Vice-President	Herb Robinson
Secretary	Vicki Walborn
Treasurer	Gary Henry

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