

99ER'S NUGGET NEWS

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club

March 2009

Editor: Milah Gano

Quote of the Month: *"Before we set our hearts too much upon anything, let us examine how happy they are, who already possess it."* **La Rochefoucauld**

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In Columbia Falls

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GOLD PRICES:

As of February 24, 2009

GOLD—\$964.10/OZ.

SILVER—\$13.86/OZ.

Our Website:

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

Greetings,

As March winds blow,
and snow starts to go
It Gold, Gold, Gold on our minds.

Our April meeting will be the second Saturday of the month, April 11th, Easter is the 12th and it looks like we will need lots of help at our May 2nd and 3rd show in Kalispell, which is being planned as you read this. Our club Spring Kick-Off is always open to the public, May 9th this year. Make sure to attend the Kick-Off and mention it to a lot of friends. Right now there is a lot of interest in gold panning, it is a great reason to be out in the creek, as if we need one. There is always a great potluck at the Kick-Off. More to come in the next newsletter.

After the Spring Kick-Off, in June we will start our gold panning season at Libby Creek. All of our meeting swill be held at the public gold panning area in the gorgeous Mountains that surround Libby. Hurray for summer!

Although our time is too fast to hold,
we take some time to find some gold.
Happy Spring to all of you.

Milah Gano

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Mining Boom May be in store for Upper Michigan

by John Flesher

(taken from ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal Feb 2009)

Michigan (AP) - While digging a well six years ago, the owner of a backwoods camp near the Michigan-Wisconsin line cut into sparkling rock. He showed a sample to a geologist friend, who realized it was laced with zinc.

They and others formed a company that discovered a nearly 2-billion-year-old rock formation encasing precious metals—not just zinc, but also gold, silver and copper. If all goes according to plan, Aquila Resources Inc. will establish a mine on several hundred rural acres near the Menominee River within a few years, president Tom Quigley said.

Companies are exploring at least 14 areas in Michigan's vast Upper Peninsula for possible mine development. The activity suggests that potential revival of an industry that defined the region's economy and culture for more than a century—beginning in the mid-1800s—before gradually fading because of higher operating costs and competition.

Dozens of mines once dotted the peninsula's central and western sections. All that remain are two Cliffs Natural Resources iron ore operations in Marquette County.

"There is definitely a potential for resurgence in mining in the U.P., but to what degree I don't know," said Jon Cherry, a project manager for Kennecott Minerals Co., which plans a nickel and copper mine in Marquette Country. "The low-hanging fruit, the easily identifiable and developed ore bodies are gone. It's harder and more expensive to develop what remains."

Quigley agreed, saying the ore body his group is targeting is a rarity. Although it extends perhaps 1,500 feet down, significant parts are near the surface and one outcrop literally pokes through.

"It's a mystery why this wasn't discovered sooner," he said.

Yet even the possibility of a return to boom times is exciting some residents.

"I'm hoping we'll be back in the mining business," said Shea McGrew, vice president for advancement at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. Michigan Tech began as a mining school but dropped its undergraduate program earlier this decade. The

university is talking with industry representatives about restarting it, McGrew said.

Ted Bornhorst, a geology professor and director of Michigan Tech's Seaman Mineral Museum, said it was too early to predict how extensive a mining comeback could be.

"How many more ore bodies are sitting there that we haven't found yet is the million-dollar question," he said.

Other wild cards—for the short term, at least—are the economic downturn and a steep drop in mineral prices, which had been rising until recently.

A resurgent mining industry also would encounter opposition from environmentalists, who favor a green economy for the region built on tourism and sustainable use of resources.

Kennecott, based in Salt Lake City, has received state operating permits for its Eagle Project. Critics are appealing and likely will sue if they lose.

It's parent company, London-based Rio Tinto Group, said this month it would eliminate 14,000 jobs world-wide and reduce capital investment because of slumping demand for metals. But despite a tighter budget, Eagle Project is moving forward and no staff layoffs are expected, spokeswoman Deb Muchmore said.

"We take the long-term view that society will continue to need metals, regardless of the temporary ups and downs of the market," Cherry said.

Aquila has finished its Menominee County exploration and is preparing to seek permits for what it dubs the Back 40 Project, Quigley said. But the company may have to slow its timetable unless the economy rebounds in 2009, he added.

Opinions are divided in the nearby village of Stephenson, population roughly 800. Here, jobs are scarce and money so tight the public schools operated just four days a week for a couple of years before resuming a normal five-day schedule this fall.

"you can hardly put a football team together because so many families are leaving," said Kevin Parrett, who runs a sports memorabilia shop. "If a mine comes in and starts hiring people, how can you kick on that?"

The Blue Bowl

A Field Test by Jim Klein

(Taken from Gold Prospectors Magazine)

(July/August 2008 edition)

The Blue Bowl is a device that is designed to separate the gold from your concentrates. It is kind of a secret, because it was invented several years ago but never really got well-known by prospectors and gold miners. Now Frank Sullivan has bought the rights to make the Blue Bowl and has made some fantastic improvements to it. Frank is the owner of Pioneer Mining Supplies in Auburn, California.

Auburn is in the Mother Lode Country in the Sierra Nevada mountains so people there know their gold and the mining and recovery of it. Frank Sullivan is from a family of gold miners. His dad was a contract miner at the hard rock and placer mines around the towns of Grass Valley and Nevada City, California which are not far from Auburn. When he was a boy, Frank and his dad spent all their free time panning and mining the creeks for gold in that part of the Mother Lode country. Auburn itself had its beginnings in the great California gold rush. Frank worked for almost twenty years for Keene Engineering before opening Pioneer Mining Supplies. As most of you know, Keene Engineering is one of the world's largest producers of gold mining equipment for both the professional and weekend miners. Working that long for Keene, you would have to know everything there is to know about finding and recovering gold. So if Frank felt that the Blue Bowl was worth putting his time and money into, he must have felt it was worth it to have a really efficient way to recover the fine gold in concentrates. Some of the things Frank has done to improve the Blue Bowl is to make the bowl itself of higher quality material and then find the best water pump to supply the water to the separator. To help stabilize and make leveling The Blue Bowl easier, he designed a separate kit with adjusters that attach to the bucket. This is sold separately. He also has designed some very nice sizing screens to sift the concentrates before running them through the Blue Bowl. These are nice because it eliminates all the larger small gravels that normally you have in your concentrates from your sluice box, dredge or dry washer. They also work well if you are just panning your material.

The way Frank recommends operating the Blue Bowl is that first you prescreen your concentrates down to 30 mesh. We brought our material down to 50 mesh and it worked fine. He also recommends screening your material into a bucket of water and keeping them wet. Putting a little Jet Dry or similar emergent in the water will break the surface tension and help keep the flour gold from floating off. Set up the Blue Bowl by placing the bowl on top of a standard 3 Vi gallon bucket using the folding legs attached to the Blue Bowl. The leg levelers and clips that are optional make attaching the leveling the bowl easier. Now attach the water pump to the side of the bowl. We placed the bucket in the tub first and filled it up about 3/4 of the way from top before filling the tub. That kept the bucket from floating while trying to set up. Place the water pump between the bucket and the tub to avoid getting trash into your pump from the bucket. Make sure the bowl is level and the water is even with the top of the outer rim of the bowl. Put about a cup of your prescreen concentrates into the Blue Bowl before opening the water pump valve and bringing water into the bowl. This is the fun part. Trying to get the right amount of water flow to separate the gold from the other material is a little tricky without losing any of the really fine gold. You won't actually lose any of the fine gold because it goes into the bucket and you just have to rerun it again to recover it. Once you get the hang of it and it only takes a few minutes, it is quite simple to operate. The recovery of the fine gold was excellent and sure beats the heck out of panning all those concentrates and the gold sure looks pretty on the bottom of the Blue Bowl.

The kit we tested was the FMDK which included the following:

Tub	Bucket
Blue Bowl	30 mesh screen
50 mesh screen	100 mesh screen
12 volt submersible pump	
Leg levelers and clips	
2 sniffer bottles	
Gold Pan	

The FMDK kit is priced at only \$209.00 and we think that is a real good deal. The Blue Bowl worked very well and we recommend it highly.

UPDATE FROM THE SHOW COMMITTEE

Herb found the Red Lion will only charge us \$500.00 for the whole weekend. This is a very good place to have it. Braxton and Herb went to look at it and there is room for the vendors and room for the seminars. The committee agreed that this is the best bang for our buck.

We talked about the date. The second weekend of April will not work because it is Easter weekend. The committee agreed to move the dates to the first weekend of May. These dates are May 2nd and 3rd.

Herb has a list of the vendors and will call and let them know the dates. We agreed on \$80.00 for the first table and \$40.00 for the second table.

There will also be a costume contest on Saturday.

This is going to be a 2 day event. The committee will need all the volunteers it can from the club. We thank you in advance.

If there are any questions please call Herb, Gary, or Braxton.

Reserve these dates

- May 2nd and 3rd -

For the Gold Show

We will need lots of help to put this on.

**It is our show, and it can be fun
and rewarding to help out.**

Let's get together to put this on.

See you there!!

Minutes from NWMGP Meeting February 14, 2009

- ◆ Braxton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- There were 27 people present
- The minutes and the treasures report were read and approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS

- Herb gave the club an update on the show. He has found a few places that we could have the show at. The Expo Building at the fair ground is \$800.00 a day, and the Country Kitchen is \$400.00 a day, the Outlaw is \$400.00 a day and has more room in it then the Country Kitchen.
- ◆ The club voted for the show to be the meeting weekend which is the second weekend of April. We also talked about if we wanted dinner or not. The Outlaw would let us do our own dinner. Venders were talked about at this time. Ralph and Allen charge \$175.00 a table and the Rock show people charge \$15.00 a foot. Herb let us know that he has talked with the ATV dealers and they would be interested in coming . The Sunlight mine has shown some interest in coming also.
- ◆ We need to make sure we have enough to keep the interest up for a two day event. Herb and the club are pretty sure we can do this.
- ◆ Herb and Debbie have gold leaf that they are going to put into little bottles to hand out to the first 50 or 100 people that come in the door. We also will need to have a few other thing to hand out for the door prizes (these are different from the things that we will be raffling).
- ◆ We may want to have 2 banners made to hang for advertisement. Fred made the suggestion that we get some plywood and put some signs in the backs of some of the members trucks. Insty print will also make some for free for us, we also talked about the radio and the newspaper.
- ◆ It was asked if we were going to charge to get in? This was tabled until we got a little more information about the show.
- ◆ We talked about a list for the seminars for the show. This was also tabled until we have more information.
- ◆ Fred D. made a motion that the Show committee be allowed to make the decision for the show without having to wait for a meeting. This was seconded and then voted on . This was passed.
- ◆ There was a break.
- ◆ The window logos that Allen had made were talked about. Allen will just keep them on his table and all that want one can buy one from him . When they are gone the club can then do what they want with them.
- ◆ There will be a wolf protest at the Fish and Game building on February 26th and the 27th look for the detail in the Mountain Trader. There will also be something at Scotties. Rick and Mary Lance will look into getting a form letter together for us that we can put in the newsletter, so when we need to sent it to the Senators and the congressmen to let our opinion known. This way our letters will get noticed. Thank you Rick and Mary.
- ◆ Allen C. asked if we would consider moving the Spring Kick off. This was talked about and we had tried this before because of the Forest Expo and it just didn't work. It will stay the second weekend of May.
- ◆ Braxton asked the club if they were working on their ideas for the blacksand or concentrate separation. Everyone was a little surprised because they thought this was a joke. This is no joke. There will be prizes for 1st , 2nd and 3rd places. You have until the Spring Kick off.

(To be continued)

GOLD HUNTING DETECTORS

Minelab GPX 4500	\$4999.95
Minelab Gpx 4000	\$2999.95
Fisher GB2	\$764.15
Tesoro Lobo Super Traq	\$679.15

Other brands available,
shipping prices will be added to above costs
other prospecting supplies available at:

Big Sky Metal Detectors
406-253-1678
www.bigskydetectors.com

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)

(Minutes continued from previous page)

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ The dump truck needs a new head gasket. We need to have some people to work on this. Herb, Rick, Bob L. said they would do that and Wayne said they could use his garage. Braxton can still get us good prices on the things we need. Rick has a 12 volt fan for the truck. We can also look at the master cylinder at this time.
- ◆ The club is down to 4 silver rounds. No one is selling them in less than 300 silver rounds at just a little over spot which is \$13.49. We can still buy them, but they are \$18.00 a piece. This price is going up all the time so we need to move soon. IS THERE A FEW OF US OUT THERE THAT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GOING IN WITH THE CLUB??? If you are, please contact Gary Henry ASAP!!!!
- ◆ Do we want a silver bar for the raffle? This was talked about and a motion was made to have the club purchase a silver bar for the raffle. This was seconded and the club voted yes.
- ◆ Gary H. brought up that it cost the club about a \$1000.00 a year to send out our newsletter. Allen C. has volunteered to update the web site and to post our newsletter on the site. There was a lot of discussion about this. The motion was made to have the newsletter posted to the web site and then, the people that do not have computer access, their newsletter would still be mailed to them. This motion was seconded and approved. If Kathy does not have time to update the site and put the newsletter on for us each month Allen will be asked to do this.

Gary Henry made a motion that the meeting be adjourned so we could have the raffle.

Raffle Winners for February to follow:

ITEM	DONATOR	WINNER
Spot light	2 Bits Prospecting	Butch S.
Top O" Deep	Club	Joe B.
Silver Round	Club	John C.
Top O' Deep	Gary & Suzie Henry	Braxton W.
Knife	Wayne H.	John C.
Huckleberry set	Robinsons	Bob L.
Dog Bird House	Robinsons	Delano A.
Candy Heart	Robinsons	Joe B.
Cup	Bob L.	Shay
Scoop	Sandy R.	Delano A.

"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.

REGULAR CLUB MEETING

March 14
Saturday
1:00 P.M.

Columbia Falls
Community Center
On
Nucleus Ave.
Columbia Falls, MT

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
	406-756-3711
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