

Nampa, ID Chapter GPAA Newsletter

April 2008

PO Box 682 Nampa, ID 83653-0682 www.idahogpaa.com

Presidential Nuggets

Hello Fellow miners,

As we embark on another mining season I just wanted to wish all of you good luck and encourage everyone to be safe and don't do anything that could cost you or someone else their life. Please respect property and claim rights and abide by all laws and rules. I hope we can find several new spots to go mining this year. I know that the motherlode is still out there just waiting for our club to find it. SO go turn over some rocks and shovel some dirt from a completely different spot. That gold is there and we deserve to find it. I will be absent from the next meeting because of the surgery I had on the 16th of April. I hope all goes well and that everyone has a great season.

Rob Forbes

Happy April Birthday

Peter Oakander, Kim Kirkham, Thea
Blausfuss, Darrell Larsen

We wish you the best of
good times and
excellent prospecting
for the coming year

To all who do not wish to divulge their
birthday –
A Very Merry Unbirthday!

Bank Notes

Our treasurer is working out of
state. Financial info will be
posted at the meeting

GPAA Meeting

Tuesday

6 May 2008

7 pm

Snake River Elementary
500 Stampede Dr.,
Nampa

See you there!

Message from your VP

Hello fellow fortune seekers,

I am looking forward to another
great season with our club, and
I hope to get to know some of
you better this year.

Just a reminder about the
Tabletop gas grill we have as a
raffle item. The grill comes with
2 small propane bottles, and a
hose that allows you to connect
the grill to a refillable propane
bottle, like one used on a
standard BBQ or camp trailer.
I have one like this and use it
often while camping. It is a nice
replacement for a full size BBQ.
The tickets are \$1 ea. or \$5 for
six. The drawing will be held in
June at our first outdoor
meeting in the park.

If you happen to have an item
to donate for the regular raffle,
just bring it to the meeting. Your
donation is deeply appreciated.

If you have suggestions for
future raffles or fund raisers for
the club, please talk to me at
our meetings, or you can
contact me at 863-3580.

Also, there was discussion
about acquiring reservations to
a different restaurant for our
Christmas dinner. I know this is
early in the year, but if we want
different accommodations, we
really need to take care of this
early in the year to guarantee
our club will have a reservation.
So, if there are suggestions for
where we would like have our
Christmas dinner, please think
it over and we will have a
discussion at the May meeting.

Thanks, see you in May.

Cary Singleton
Vice President

Thank You From Bill Gardunia

This is a heartfelt "thank you"
from me to you. The recent
raffle to assist Randy and Janet
Evans has come to a close.
The raffle was successful in
accumulating some much
needed funds for this family in
need. Of course, the need goes
on, but you have been a great
help. The raffle was held on
March 11 and the winning ticket
belonged to Lawrence Buys,
from Emmett. Again I would like
to thank you for your support.
Sincerely Bill Gardunia

Nampa GPAA Club Officials

President – Rob Forbes,
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Drawings Dir. – Terry Thomas, 461-1178
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Secretary – Jesse Leib, 989-9670,
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Treasurer – Karin Hunter,
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NAMPA GPAA
Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the President, Rob Forbes.

Visitors and new Members introduced themselves.

The newsletter was emailed and posted on the website. Since hard copies were not mailed some individuals did not read the minutes. However those who had read them had no changes so a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Newsletter was made and seconded. Motion carried.

The Treasurer, Karin Hunter, reported the current balance in the account.

The Vice President, Cary Singleton, reported that the raffles will include better items and there will be a special raffle for a small BBQ with propane donated by Intermountain Gas Company. This raffle will \$2 per ticket and will be drawn at the June meeting. He also discussed some mapping that he can do with his software at work.

Cary also read a letter from Bill Gardunia regarding the raffle for Randy Evans. The letter read as follows:

This is a heartfelt "thank you" from me to you. The recent raffle to assist Randy and Janet Evans has come to a close. The raffle was successful in accumulating some much needed funds for this family in need. Of course, the need goes on, but you have been a great help. The raffle was held on March 11 and the winning ticket belonged to Lawrence Buys, from Emmett. Again I would like to thank you for your support. Sincerely Bill Gardunia

Brett Williams, Claims Director, was not present at the meeting.

The Outings Director, Larry Steele, mentioned that there is still snow in Pioneerville, but Prospectors Paradise was pretty clear. A discussion was had regarding metal detecting. An outing to Spring Shores marina was scheduled for Saturday at 1 PM. Rye Patch Nevada was also discussed as a place to metal detect. An outing will be scheduled.

Old Business: Karin Hunter is working on the litigation issue with the old treasurer. She is trying to gather data of the possible amount stolen. If you are willing to complete the form she has created to estimate your donations to the club for the past few years, please touch base with Karen.

Good and Welfare: Darrel Larsen had a hernia operation

New Business: Chuck Knapp spoke about the Forest Service deal he had which is now being renegotiated April 16th at the Federal Building.

Roger spoke about the Nampa Farmers Market. Three Saturdays are available to us for free. We cannot sale commercial items, but can discuss membership, demonstrate, and sale homemade items.

GPAA dues are discounted right now to \$67.50.

Rob discussed the direction of the club. What would we like to see the club become? An open floor discussion was had. The following are various excerpts from that discussion.

Paul: Any way to buy 1 or 2 claims a year? Rob replied we have never had this goal and probably could if that is what is decided by the club.

Jack: The claim North of been used was turned back this last year.

Chuck has a claim we can metal detect on.

Larry: Anniversary outing at Obermeyer's is a possibility this year. We should have a big outing at Prospectors with heavy equipment. Brett has a bobcat, we could possibly get some use of with money for fuel.

Paul was at the Island 10 days ago. The parking lot may be made into a fire station. We need to see how this may impact us.

Should we drop the GPAA charter?

We would need to look into becoming a non profit corporation

Liability protection

Do we have board indemnification insurance?

How many GPAA members? 28 in attendance

How many visitors found us through the GPAA? 5 tonight

Tom Ashworth suggested tabling this discussion. He will lead a committee to investigate. Ray Bixler will assist.

Jesse will investigate new hats and shirts.

Bill will coordinate a panning demonstration. Should we do Outpost Days in Murphy? What about Kuna Days?

Dan gave a demonstration of inexpensive mining equipment to get started in prospecting.
Next Meeting is May 6th.

Meeting was adjourned and the raffle was held.

Respectfully submitted,
Jesse Leib

How to Sluice

Step 1: Getting Setting Up

After you have located a promising deposit of gold-bearing gravel, walk along the stream bank and look for a place where you can set up your sluice box. You should search for a spot where the current is moving quite swiftly. Once you find such a place, set your sluice box directly in the current so that the box is filled with water almost to the top. You can often compensate by placing the sluice box so that the upper "input" end is slightly higher than the lower "discharge" end. If the sluice box is somewhat unstable in the current, position a few rocks around the outside of the trough to brace it. Sometimes you will not even need the "rock brace," as the first few buckets of gravel placed into the sluice box will provide just enough stability to weigh it down.

Step 2: Feeding the Sluice

Feed your gold-bearing gravel into the upper portion of the sluice box in carefully regulated amounts. Do not, under any circumstances, dump a large amount of gravel into the sluice box all at once! The gravel must be fed at a pace that will not overload the riffles. How can you tell when the riffles are overloading? It is simple. If you cannot see the uppermost "crest" of each riffle bar at all times, you are feeding the gravel too fast. Back off a bit. The use of a 1/4 inch classifier screen to prescreen material before dumping into the sluice box can save much time and effort. The penalty for overloading your riffles often results in lost gold! Each time a new load of gravel is dumped into a sluice box with overloaded riffles, any gold in that gravel will wash right over the material that is clogging your riffles and out the discharge end of the box.

Step 3: Check the Sluice for Values

It is a good idea to periodically check the sluice box for values that may have been recovered. The black rubber matting is designed to make a quick inspection during the sluice operation. Gold can be spotted instantly on the black matting while the sluice is being fed. This helps to determine where the gold values may be the most plentiful. Remember, don't overload your riffles!

Step 4: Tending the Sluice

After dumping each load of gravel into the sluice box, check the riffle section for large waste rocks that may be lodged in the sluice. Flick these rocks out of the riffles with your fingers. When large rocks are allowed to rest in the riffle section they will cause the current to wash out all the concentrates from the immediate area of the rock. If a rock is lodged in the uppermost portion of the trough, the washed out concentrates will merely settle in the next few riffles down. But if the washout occurs at the lower end of the trough, the concentrate may flow out of the sluice box altogether. As one can see, it pays to keep an eye on those waste rocks! And one more thing, don't forget to shovel away the tailings which will periodically build up at the discharge end of the sluice box. If you don't the tailings will back up into the lower end of the sluice trough, burying some of your riffles.

Step 5: Performing the Cleanup

When your riffles have accumulated black iron sand in amounts extending more than halfway downward to the next lower riffle, it is time to perform a cleanup. Carefully lift the sluice box from the current keeping it as level as possible. Now carry it over to the stream bank (watch your footing on those slippery rocks!) and set it down. Remove the sluice's riffle section and screen and set it aside, exercising care not to shake off any gravel adhering to it. Roll up the matting which lines the bottom of the sluice box trough and thoroughly rinse off all the concentrate. This should be done with the matting safely contained in a gold pan or deep bucket if possible. The use of a bucket may prevent any loss of all gold that could occur when attempting to rinse out the matting in a gold pan! Next, examine the empty sluice box trough.

Gold has a tendency to work its way beneath the matting which often lies at the bottom of the trough. You may be surprised at the amount of "color" that can accumulate there. Check to see if there is any fine silt clinging to the bottom, rinse all of it into your concentrate bucket.

Finally, pick up the riffle section itself and rinse any adhering gravel into the concentrate bucket. The sluice box cannot be considered "cleaned" until each and every part has been thoroughly rinsed.

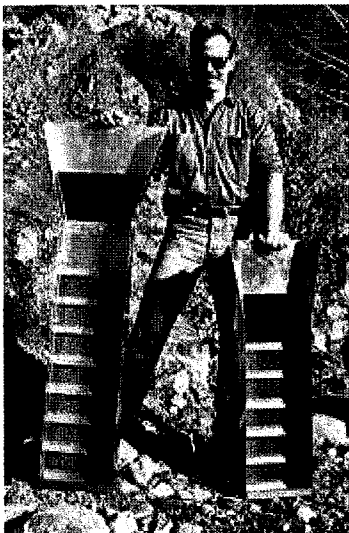
Step 6: Getting the Gold Out

And now for the final step. This is the one you will certainly enjoy the most. The act of panning out your concentrates to get the gold. I hope your run was a profitable one!

Summing Up

By the time you get to Step Six, you will have processed several hundred pounds of gravel, far more than the average person could ever hope to hand-pan during a daily outing. Using a sluice box of the type shown, you can also work this much gravel. All you need is a sturdy shovel, a couple of good buckets to carry gravel to the creek, and if your fortunate, a mining partner to feed the sluice box while you dig gravel, and a solid desire to get that gold.

Happy sluicing!



Among the more popular sluice boxes in use today are these two lightweight aluminum models from Keene Engineering. The A51 Mini Sluice (right) weighs in at seven pounds, while the larger A52 Hand Sluice tips the scales at eleven pounds.

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Nampa, ID Chapter GPAA

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