



# GOLD PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## NAMPA CHAPTER

### "GOLD FEVER" NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2003



#### **NAMPA CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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**VICE PRESIDENT**.....*ROBERTA MALONE*  
**TREASURER**.....*DEB ANDERSON* 336-6023  
**SECRETARY**.....*DEB ANDERSON* 336-6023  
**NEWSLETTER**.....*DEB ANDERSON* 336-6023

#### **NAMPA CHAPTER CHAIRMAN**

**RAFFLE**.....*WARREN JINDRICH* 343-5179  
**CLAIMS SECRETARY**..... *BOB & BETTY*  
**CLAIMS DIRECTOR**.....*ART CHURCH*  
**EQUIP. MANAGER**.....*BRIAN TATRO* 461-3481  
**POLITICAL AGENDA**.....*AL MALMSTROM* 336-4923

**Nampa Chapter  
 Gold Fever News Letter  
 \$7.50 per year donation**

If you would like to receive a News Letter, you must fill out and return form to any club officer

**Your input is greatly appreciated- Submit articles to anderson558@aol.com**

**GPAA Membership**  
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#### **WEB SITES-E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

**Idaho Miners Coalition:**  
[idahominerscoalition.homestead.com](http://idahominerscoalition.homestead.com)  
**Dredging Information Page:**  
[www.akming.com/mine/study.htm](http://www.akming.com/mine/study.htm)  
**USGS report on suction dredging:**  
[www.ptialaska.net/~marcieak/marciesweb/usgs40mile.htm](http://www.ptialaska.net/~marcieak/marciesweb/usgs40mile.htm)  
**Steven H. Draper's Treasure Hunting, Metal Detecting and Prospecting Page:** [www.treasurehunt.about.com](http://www.treasurehunt.about.com)  
**Outdoor Recreation:** [www.desertusa.com](http://www.desertusa.com)  
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[www.goldminershq.com](http://www.goldminershq.com)  
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**World Gold Council:** [www.gold.org](http://www.gold.org)  
**Antelope Valley Treasure Hunters:** [www.qnet.com](http://www.qnet.com)  
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**Fisher World Treasure Net:** [www.treasurenet.com](http://www.treasurenet.com)  
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**Conservation Asst. Tools:** [www.sonoran.org](http://www.sonoran.org)  
**All Newspapers in every state:** [www.refdesk.com/paper.htm](http://www.refdesk.com/paper.htm)  
**Bureau of Land Management (BLM):**  
[www.blm.gov/nhp/index.htm](http://www.blm.gov/nhp/index.htm)



#### **IDAHO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONTACTS**

**U.S. SENATOR MIKE CRAPO:**  
[WWW.SENATE.GOV/~CRAPO](http://WWW.SENATE.GOV/~CRAPO)  
**U.S. SENATOR LARRY CRAIG:**  
[WWW.SENATE.GOV/~CRAIG](http://WWW.SENATE.GOV/~CRAIG)  
**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MIKE SIMPSON:** 1-202-225-5531  
**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE C.L. OTTER:** 1-202-225-6611

#### **ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS**

**IDAHO GOVERNOR DIRK KEMPTHORNE:**  
[WWW2.STATE.ID.US/GOV/GOCHMPG.HTM](http://WWW2.STATE.ID.US/GOV/GOCHMPG.HTM)

**Presidents Corner.....Brett Williams**

There were about seventeen people at the outing. We are finding gold on this claim and it should get better as we go up the hill . The plan is to work up each draw going down to bedrock then reclaim and move the pond to the next.

Jim Barnett (Jim's Repair Keene dealer McCall) donated some pans and classifiers they were used as door prizes at the potluck . Thanks Jim

There was material left in a pile to be ran by club members . You will need about 100-150 feet of hose to pump out of the creek .

We will be back up in September with as much equipment as we can to find more gold . Common operation Sat & Sun

Sat afternoon Art will be showing how he found the gold on his claim (The Saint) and allowing members to dig a few bucks.

Potluck Sat .

We will not be having an outing at Bob O's this year but plan ongoing back next year Thanks Bob for all that you have done and will do.

Art fond forty acres on Mores Creek open the club is claiming it if we do not want to keep it .We will give it to National .

There will be a map in the members only area go try it out before the meeting looks good for dredging.

See ya at the next meeting

Brett Williams

**Vice Presidents Corner.....Roberta Malone**

Sorry I missed you last month, but I was camping with Mariah and friends at Stanley. It was a nice time. Roger couldn't go then. He went camping early in July when I couldn't get off, because of inventory.

Roger and I went to Prospectors Paradise and did really well. Then we stopped by Harold and Gloria's to run it through his blue bowl.

Mariah has not time for "Gold Mining" since schools starting soon.

Here is a little humor to brighten you day: Manufacturers announced today that they would be stocking Americas shelves this week with "Clinton Soup" in honor of one of the nations most distinguished men. It consists primarily of a weenie in hot water!!

Good Luck Finding Gold!!  
Roberta Malone

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**Jim Barnett**

## Secretary Notes:

Sorry I was unable to attend the August meeting.

August 21<sup>st</sup> Brett Williams called for an Officers open meeting. We meant at Lakey's Café, at 7pm.

### Attending:

Brett Williams, Roberta Malone, Debbie Anderson, Warren Jindrich, Betty Miller, Robert Forbes, Don Fridrich, Art Church, Harold Hackworth, Darrel Larsen, Tim Thompson, Greg Nyland, and Michael William.

### Objectives:

Relinquishment or Quitclaim Deeds; The club now has 8 names on our claims. Six of these members have not attended a meeting in over a year. Brett purposed we take these names off and replace them with Officers names only.

### Outings:

We discussed and decided where and when our outings will be for the following year. ( You will find this list in the newsletter). Roberta will check on all permits needed.

### By -Law Amendment:

Amend to include \$250.00 that can be spent with 2 or more Officers verifying it.

### New Claim:

Permission granted to buy Mores Creek claim. Will put in front of members at next meeting. Claim will be turned over to National if members choose not to own claim.

### New Equipment:

Art Church purposed to purchase a back hoe. Will be put in front of members at next meeting.

### Raffle Prizes:

Warren will look into buying Raffle prizes at GPAA National Store

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Thank You, Secretary/Treasure - Deb Ander

## Treasury Report:

Beginning Balance: \$1342.26

### Expenses:

Brett Williams	214.00
Door Prizes	30.16
Outing Supplies	110.47
<b>Sub Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$354.63</b>

### Income:

Raffle	330.00
50/50	32.00
Membership	7.00
<b>Sub Total Income</b>	<b>\$369.00</b>

Ending Balance: \$1356.63

### YOU KNOW YOU ARE IN IDAHO IN JULY WHEN..

The birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground.

The trees are whistling for the dogs.

The best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.

Hot water now comes out of both taps.

You can make sun tea instantly.

You learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.

The temperature drops below 95 and you feel a little chilly.

You discover that in July it only takes 2 fingers to steer your car.

You discover that you can get sunburned through your car window.

You actually burn your hand opening the car door.

You break into a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 a.m.

Your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"

You realize that asphalt has a liquid state.

The potatoes cook underground, so all you have to do is pull one out and add butter, salt and pepper.

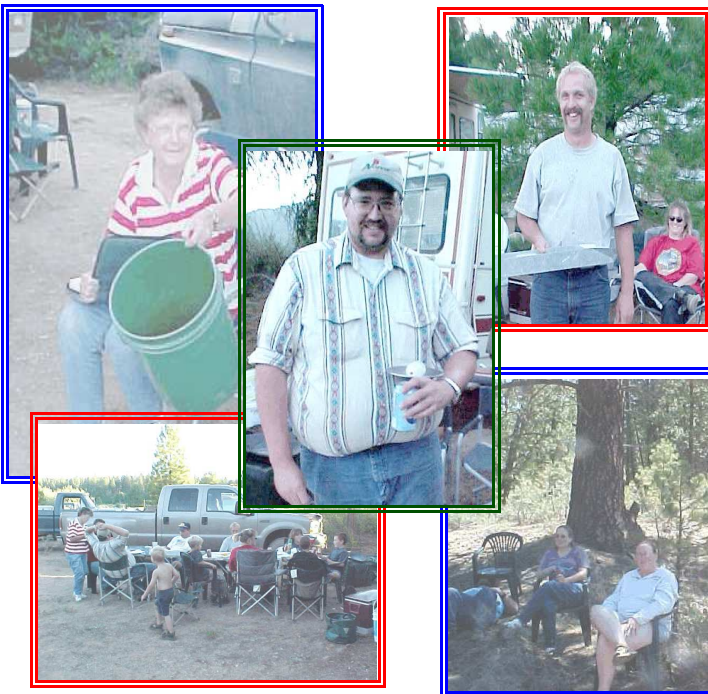
Farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs.

The cows are giving evaporated milk.

Ah, what a wonderful place to call home.

**Count your blessings-Smiles are contagious**

**Thank You, Clayton Perkins**



**TOMATO COMPANY.....**An unemployed man is desperate to support his family of a wife and three kids. He applies for a janitor's job at a large firm and easily passes an aptitude test. The human resources manager tells him, "You will be hired at minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour. Let me have your e-mail address so that we can get you in the loop. Our system will automatically e-mail you all the forms and advise you when to start and where to report on your first day.

"Taken back, the man protests that he is poor and has neither a computer nor an e-mail address. To this the manager replies, "You must understand that to a company like ours that means that you virtually do not exist. Without an e-mail address you can hardly expect to be employed by a high-tech firm. Good day." Stunned, the man leaves.

Not knowing where to turn and having \$10 in his wallet, he walks past a farmers' market and sees a stand selling 25lb crates of beautiful red tomatoes. He buys a crate, carries it! to a busy corner and displays the tomatoes. In less than 2 hours he sells all the tomatoes and makes 100% profit.

Repeating the process several times more that day, he ends up with almost \$100 and arrives home that night with several bags of groceries for his family. During the night he decides to repeat the tomato business the next day. By the end of the week he is getting up early every day and working into the night. He multiplies his profits quickly.

Early in the second week he acquires a cart to transport several boxes of tomatoes at a time, but before a month is up he sells the cart to buy a broken-down pickup truck. At the end of a year he owns three old trucks. His two sons have left their neighborhood gangs to help him with the tomato business, his wife is buying the tomatoes, and his daughter is taking night courses at the community college so she can keep books for him.

By the end of the second year he! has a dozen very nice used trucks and employs fifteen previously unemployed people, all selling tomatoes. He continues to work hard. Time passes and at the end of the fifth year he owns a fleet of nice trucks and a warehouse which his wife supervises, plus two tomato farms that the boys manage. The tomato company's payroll has put hundreds of homeless and jobless people to work. His daughter reports that the business grossed a million dollars. Planning for the future, he decides to buy some life insurance. Consulting with an insurance adviser, he picks an insurance plan to fit his new circumstances. Then the adviser asks him for his e-mail address in order to send the final documents electronically. When the man replies that he doesn't have time to mess with a computer and has no e-mail address, the insurance man is stunned, "What, you don't have e-mail? No computer? No Internet? Just think where! you would be today if you'd had all of that five years ago!" "Ha!" snorts the man. "If I'd had e-mail five years ago I would be sweeping floors at Microsoft and making \$5.15 an hour."

**Which brings us to the moral: .....** Since you got this story by e-mail, you're probably closer to being a janitor than a millionaire. Sadly, I received it also.

**Thank You, Gene Klefman**

## Prospecting Basics

When Howard Carter broke through the wall of King Tut's tomb in 1923, he saw "wonderful things", which would prove that man had been chasing the glitter of gold for thousands of years. It's not quite as hard a hobby as it used to be, and the chances of a find like Carter's in North America are pretty much non-existent, but it is still a fun hobby enjoyed by thousands of enthusiastic weekend miners.

Before you grab a shovel and head out to the hills, it helps to understand some of the basics about what you're looking for. Gold is a mineral, 58th on the table of 92 elements, in terms of abundance. Normally yellow in colour, it ranges through silvery-yellow and orange-red, due to impurities in it, such as copper. To find a purely gold nugget is extremely rare. You are more likely to find it in flakes, or as part of a vein of quartz rock, or part of a conglomeration of rock and other materials formed thousands of years ago.

Pure gold, is one of the most easily molded metals on earth, capable of being beaten into onion skin thick sheets of metal, or stretched into nearly invisible wires that don't break in the making. However, it's most valuable property to the prospector, is its weight. The only minerals heavier than gold are iridium, osmium and platinum. Gold's weight makes it ideal for panning, and brought about the invention of the sluice box in the early 1800s, a long trough-like construction in which gold-laden crushed ore was dumped, then washed with high pressure jets of water, forcing the lighter particles down to the end of an elevated trough, and dropping the heavier bits of gold into the ladder device which ran down its middle.

For the amateur prospector, panning for gold is not only the simplest method, to start out with, but it also holds the romance of the first gold rush. You can even start where they did. While most gold mines and fields were generally considered to be "empty" and abandoned many years ago, as long as they are on public property, you have the freedom to stick your pan in and try your luck. Some geologists estimate that as little as 10% of the world's gold has been uncovered to date, and that those areas which appear to be "tapped out", may actually have underground reserves that emerge over time and with shifts in the earth and water courses.

If you are in an area known to have had gold strikes or deposits, choose a promising stream. Don't forget that you have to get right into the water to scoop up dirt from the bottom. Panning/washing can be done from the bank, but you have to get to the dirt, first. Make sure you bring high rubber boots or hip waders, and thick socks. Avoid the most common mistake of scooping the surface dirt off the stream bed. Remember, this is moving water. The gold hasn't been lying there waiting for you. And...remember the weight. Gold has a specific gravity of 19.2. This is the comparison between what a material weighs, when compared to the same volume of water. Most materials gold is found with have specific gravity of 7 or less. That means any gold in that creek has sunk down into the mud. But years of fast moving water shifts the mud and the gold. So find a slower part of the waterway to make your first retrieval of dirt. It's far more

likely that small nuggets or flakes have fetched up against something solid such as rocks, natural dams, or other obstructions.

The pan you bring can be as simple as a metal cake pan, as long as it has a “lip” or raised edge. If you browse the mining supply sites, you’ll find a bewildering array of pan sizes and styles, although most shapes follow a roughly conical design, with a smaller flat bottom, and the sides extending out to a wider top, the better to swirl your pan contents without losing them. You might prefer a dark coloured pan, to help you find any potential sparkles.

Once you have your pan half full of dirt, lower it under the surface of the water, in a stiller area of the stream, and start moving it in a circular pattern, so that the water and dirt swirl around the pan. You’ll see that the lighter elements rise up and float out on the surrounding water. Be sure not to raise the pan out of the water while swirling, or you chance losing some of the heavier elements, which should be sinking to the bottom of the pan. After some dedicated swirling, you’ll find that you’re down to a few essentials. Now you can take the pan out of the water, remove any rocks or pebbles, possibly pick out some promising bits to store in small containers or bottles, and you can try your luck again. A handy item to bring, is something to pick up flakes of gold with, such as a turkey baster, or other small suction device, which can transfer the flakes from the pan to a container.

If you’re getting a little cold in the water, take a look at the bank along the stream. Is it deep? Is there quite a section showing above the water? Don’t pass up the opportunity to look where the water once flowed. Dig into the bank, fill a bucket with dirt, and go back down to the water’s edge, and swirl a few panfuls without having to wade. You never know when you’re going to strike it lucky!

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### The Gold Rush That Changed America

At the time of the great California gold strike in 1849, there was an expression in common use, meaning the ultimate thrill, the symbol of exotic achievement. And it all came from travelling circuses, which had begun to display the very rare elephant. As the tale goes, a farmer heard that a circus had come to town, and it had one of the beasts. He set off with a cartload of vegetables for the market, and encountered the circus en route. He was thrilled, but his horses less so. The cart was overturned, the vegetables destroyed. The farmer declared he didn’t care, because “he had seen the elephant.”

The man who would indirectly be responsible for bringing the “elephant” to California in 1849, was a Swiss immigrant, John Sutter. Not far from the small port of San Francisco, he built his own fort, bought livestock by the thousands, and hired immigrants to work his ever-expanding enterprises. In January of 1848, this included a sawmill, located on the American River. The mill architect, James Marshall scuffed up some yellow rocks with his boot. Then some more. And more. Worried that they were what he suspected, Marshall

hot-footed it for Sutter’s Fort, where he and Sutter tested the ore by the crudest of methods, and found it to be gold. Neither one of them was happy.

With completion of the mill in peril, not to mention the rest of Sutter’s fiefdom, they agreed to keep the find quiet. The veil of silence lasted for two weeks until the overseer of some workers sent to the location of the find, returned to the fort with nuggets given to him by the camp cook’s children. The secret was out. But strangely enough, no great influx of fortune hunters occurred.

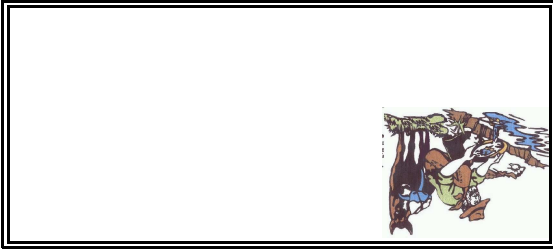
It would take an enterprising San Francisco merchant, Sam Brannan to set off the flood. He ran through the streets of San Francisco, waving a bottle of gold dust and shouting the news of Marshall’s find. But not until after he had bought up every mining tool he could lay hands on. A metal pan that sold the week before at twenty cents, now cost fifteen dollars. In one week, Brannan netted \$36,000 and would soon become the richest man in California. Alas, poor John Sutter. His mill would never be completed. Parts of it were even stolen. His large tanning factory lay silent, skins rotting in piles, half cured ones left in their tanks by workers who fled in search of the promised fortune that lay waiting.

People began to trickle, then flood in from all over America. Some would walk or travel by horse, four months across the country, while others endured the horrors of a six month ride by boat around the tip of South America, often paying up to \$500 for the last leg of the journey to San Francisco. Those who crossed America also paid the price, in more ways than one. The last few hundred miles was dry, arid territory, with a lack of water, the worst problem. Enterprising residents trotted out with barrels and pails, selling a glass for a \$1, and at times as much as \$100. Those without the money, were left to die of thirst.

When they finally got to mining in California, men who made \$1 at home, were making as much as \$25 a day, but due to the extortion in pricing the most basic of goods, it sometimes was only enough to pay for a meal. Women also became valuable commodities for whatever skills they offered, since they were in such short supply as well. California, which had become a state in early 1849, had no truly organized government, leading to settlements, camps and towns full of rowdy, uncontrollable men who became bitter and frustrated.

Scavenging of the surface finds, or placer deposits lasted only a short time, forcing men to turn to the sluice boxes, and more panning. In 1852 hydraulic mining would make its mark at American Hill, in Nevada. The year 1853 saw several upheavals in the life of gold seekers, with underground mining of buried river channels near Forest Hill, Placer County and the discovery of high yielding placers near Columbia, one of the largest cities in the state. The California shine of gold was tarnishing for some prospectors, and a large exodus occurred when gold was discovered in the Fraser Valley, in British Columbia, Canada.

It was all over but the shouting, in 1864. Surface and river placers were empty. It would take more work and hydraulics to dig deeper for the elephant in veins underground.



G.P.A.A. Nampa Chapter  
4403 Alpine  
Boise, Idaho 83705  
Gold Fever Newsletter



**G.P.A.A. NAMPA CHAPTER**  
**Lakey's Café (5016 Hwy 20-26 Caldwell)**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> Tuesday of the month - 7:30pm COME JOIN THE FUN!**

## GPAA NAMPA OUTINGS

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SEPTEMBER 2003 SAT. 6<sup>TH</sup> - SUN. 7<sup>TH</sup> • Prospectors Paradise Claim • Placerville, Idaho  
(Sat. afternoon will be hosted by Art Church at The Claim • Panning and Dredging instruction)

OCTOBER 2003 SAT. 11<sup>TH</sup> - SUN. 12<sup>TH</sup> • GOAT FARM CLAIM • Burnt River • Derky, OR  
(Rough terrain • Will cross river with equipment)

NOVEMBER 2003 SAT. 8<sup>TH</sup> - SUN. 9<sup>TH</sup> • GOAT FARM CLAIM • Burnt River • Derky, OR  
(Rough terrain • Will cross river with equipment)

\* DECEMBER 2003 TUESDAY EVENING • CHRISTMAS PARTY • Lakey's Café • Caldwell, Idaho  
(Election of President)

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JANUARY 2004 • NO OUTING

FEBRUARY 2004 • NO OUTING

MARCH 2004 SAT. - SUN. • GOAT FARM CLAIM • Burnt River • Derky, OR  
(Rough terrain • Will cross river with equipment) (date to be announced)

APRIL 2004 SAT.-SUN. • Ben Used Claim • Centerville, Idaho  
(date to be announced)

MAY 2004 SAT.-SUN. • Prospectors Paradise Claim • Placerville, Idaho

\* MAY 2004 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND • Blue Bucket Claim • Oregon  
(This is a paid outing)

\* JUNE 2004 • Salmon River Club Outing  
(date to be announced)

JUNE 2004 SAT.-SUN. • Prospectors Paradise Claim • Placerville, Idaho  
(date to be announced)

JULY 2004 SAT. 10<sup>TH</sup> - SUN. 11<sup>TH</sup> • Ben Used Claim • Centerville, Idaho

\* AUGUST 2004 SAT.-SUN. • ANNIVERSARY OUTING • Bob Obermyer Claim  
(date to be announced)

\* POT LUCK'S

(ALL OUTINGS ARE THE FIRST SAT. AND SUN. AFTER THE CHAPTER MEETINGS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.)