

# Nampa ID Chapter GPAA Newsletter

17 February 2009

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

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## PRESIDENTIAL NUGGETS

Hello Fellow Prospectors,

It is with great pleasure that I write you and tell you that we have been blessed with some additional property to go mining on. Thanks to Tom and Deb Ashworth, I am able to inform you that the Nampa Club has three new mining claims --- claims that are proving to be very productive, with reports of gold the size of footballs. OK, not really, but they have a long history of producing very good gold. We will be updating the Mining Guide accordingly in the next few months. I will be announcing the exact location of the claims at the March meeting, so you had better be there.. We also have a very exciting summer planned for outings. Larry Steele will be informing everyone as to what is on the horizon. Get ready to have a great, and I mean GREAT, mining season this year.

We had a great time at the last meeting thanks to Karin and her guests from the Gem Club in Boise. Charley McCreath and Joe Neilson talked about the gems and minerals found in and around the Boise basin. They had some beautiful specimens on display and we really enjoyed their talk. I hope that we can have them back in the future for more show and tell. So tell all of your friends and neighbors that we only have room in our club for one to two hundred more members and the spots are going fast.

See you all at the next meeting,

Rob

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 3rd, 7pm, in the Snake River Elementary School cafeteria.

THIS WILL BE A FUN MEETING!!

## **VICE PRESIDENTIAL NUGGETS**

Our February meeting was excellent. The turnout of visitors and signing up new members to the club was very encouraging to me. Also, having the two gentlemen from the Boise Gem Club give a presentation on the various gems and minerals found in our area was very useful and informative. Thank you to Karin for arranging this presentation.

At our next meeting in March, we are planning on giving a presentation that will benefit our new members and visitors. We have done this in the past, and I felt this would be a good idea since there are now so many new members who have lots of questions about what equipment they will need to help them find that yellow stuff we all enjoy searching for. So here are a few examples of what to expect:

1. We will bring in various tools and equipment to demonstrate.
2. Discuss dredge permits requirements.
3. Give tips on how new miners can acquire equipment and stay in their budget.
4. Simple items you will need in the field that you may already have around the house.
5. Give introductions to members who sell prospecting equipment.

We will spend about an hour on this presentation, and if more education is required, we can continue this at the April meeting.

In April, I want to plan on giving panning demonstrations, and educate ourselves on the process of acquiring new mining claims.

If any of you have recommendations on what you would like to see at our meetings, please let us know.

I look forward to seeing you in March.

Cary Singleton  
Vice President

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Deposit:	\$654.00
(30 Memberships @ \$12; 2 Mining Guides @ \$30; 1 Donation @ \$8; Raffle Proceeds of \$226)	
Disbursements:	\$106.84
(\$66.84 to Cary Singleton for Raffle Items; \$40 to the Nampa School District for room rental)	

## **MINUTES - FEBRUARY MEETING**

Nampa Chapter GPAA  
3 February 2009 Meeting  
Snake River Elementary

It was great to see so many new faces this evening! President Rob Forbes opened the meeting by asking the new members and guests to introduce themselves.

Tom Ashworth and Rob have been working on some claims for the club. Information should be available by next meeting. If anyone finds an area the club might be interested in, please contact Rob.

Outings Director Larry Steele said we will be meeting at the Marsing bridge - not the Walters Ferry bridge - this Saturday at 11am. Outing for March will be to Grimes Creek. The outing in April will be to Placerville / Prospector's Paradise and also to the acquired land claim Ophir Creek.

Treasurer Karin Hunter is looking into another meeting place for the club. College of Idaho's charge will be around \$30.00 for 2 hours. If anyone has another suggestion, please contact a club officer.

We need to decide by April. Summer meetings at Lakeview Park are also up for discussion.

Rob brought the Club photo album for folks to view.

Jim Schneider has 2 metal detectors to sell: \$250.00 for a Whites metal detector. Make a bid for a 1975 vintage Garrett Cache Hunter. Contact him at 939-5313 / home or 272-1888 / cell.

Cary Singleton mentioned that the club is now having refreshments of juice and cookies after the meetings. Please feel free to contribute.

Carey suggested putting together gold club photos into a calendar to use as a fund raiser.

Meeting adjourned.

Boise Gem Club members Charles McCreath and Joe Nielson were our guest speakers for this evening. They opened our eyes to other rocks besides gold that may show up in our gold pans and sluice boxes.

The raffle was held. Michael George won the door prize.

Respectfully submitted, eo for jl

### **2009 Calendar Year Memberships are due!**

Thank you to all who have renewed, and WELCOME to our NEW members! Membership entitles you to the Newsletter and a Membership Card and puts you in good standing with the club.

For renewal and membership, see Karin (Treasurer) at the meeting!

### **NEXT OUTING**

Saturday, March 7th

Outing is planned for Grimes Creek, depending on roads and weather.

Outings Director, Larry Steele, is checking it out before the meeting!

## **LOST BLUE BUCKET MINE**

(This article was copied from the following website: [www.lostgold.us/html/oregan1.html](http://www.lostgold.us/html/oregan1.html).)

Bluebucket

There are at least a dozen versions of the story of the Lost Blue Bucket Mine that I am aware of. Most of them agree on certain essentials - the first one being that it was not a mine at all.

Covered wagons and their accessories were pretty much identical. In order to denote ownership, pioneer families painted all their equipment the same color. This practice was the field-expedient substitute for stencils or name tags. The Blue Bucket Mine legend grew from a single bucket from a covered wagon in which a child or children collected interesting pebbles which turned out to be nuggets of pure gold. The gold was found in an area where a wagon train that had become lost while searching for a shortcut to Oregon stopped for water.

From this point on, the stories diverge in so many directions that an entire book could be devoted to examining them. However, since one line of stories in particular led to the discovery of gold at Griffen Creek and the start of the Oregon gold rush, I present the essentials of those stories here.

In the summer of 1845 half a dozen wagon trains totaling 300 wagons were gathered at Fort Boise, Idaho, in preparation for the final trek along the Oregon Trail. The wagon masters for all these trains were approached by a man named Stephen Meek who offered for \$5 a wagon to lead them through a shortcut that would shave 200 exhausting miles off their trek. All or most of the wagon masters agreed to follow Meek into the wilderness where he promptly got them lost. Safe drinking water became a serious problem, and people began to die. By this time, in most versions of the story, Meek had already been killed by the outraged pioneers. How many others died depends upon the story, but in all stories (of this line) the pioneers were given a temporary reprieve by a desert cloudburst. The cloudburst turned a dry wash into a stream where the wagon trains camped for the night. It was at this location that a little boy whose sister had died en route collected the golden pebbles in his blue bucket. It was here also that his much aggrieved mother murdered her abusive drunkard husband by driving his nail through his head as he slept. So many had died en route that no suspicions were aroused when the camp awoke the next morning to find her already heaping a mound of stones upon his body. Much later, when it was discovered that the attractive pebbles collected by her son were gold, the mother was understandably vague about the area where they came from.

There are many other stories, but this is the one that Henry Griffin was following when he discovered gold on October 23, 1861 along the Elk Creek that would eventually be re-named after him.

The story is also at least partially confirmed by the journal of a member of the original wagon train. According to that journal three persons died on three consecutive days starting the day after the life-saving cloudburst. Earle Stanley Gardner, in his search for the gold, found three graves about 12 miles apart (the right distance) ending in the area between Rabbit Creek and Foley Creek. He did not find the gold, and it is not recorded if one of the skeletons had a nail through its head.

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