

# Gold Fever G.P.A.A. Nampa Chapter

Monthly News Letter December, January---2002



## Gold Fever Officers Contact Information

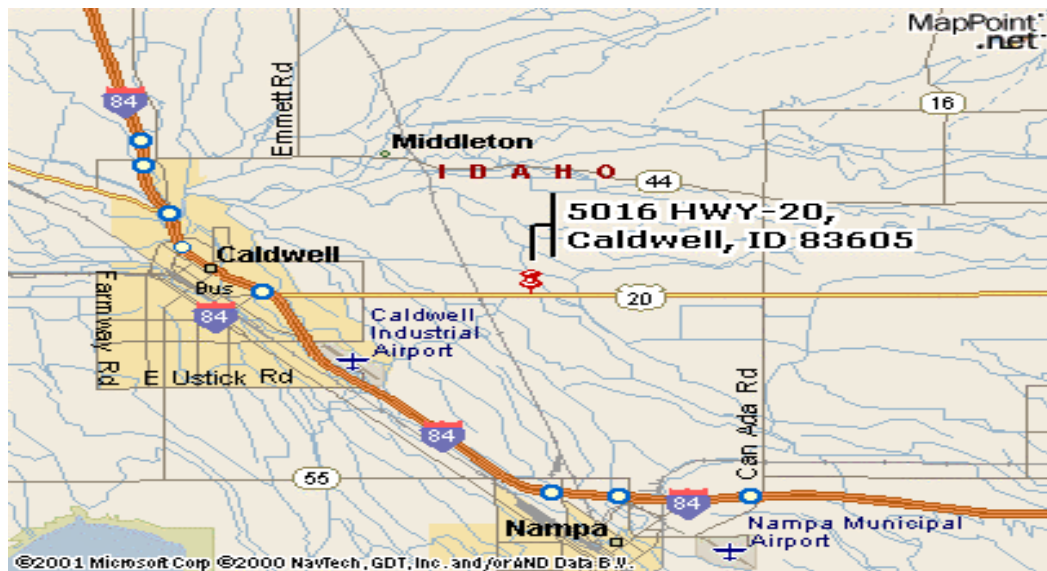
President - Brett Williams - 365.3537      Vice President - Vance Harnden - 365.0931  
Treasurer - Kurt M. Brown - 468.6677      Secretary - Kurt M. Brown - 468.6677  
Raffle Chairman - Warren Jindrich - 343.5179      Equip. Mgr. - Brian Tatro - 461.3481  
Claims Director - Art Church - 365.6712      Political Agenda - Al Malmstrom - 336.4923  
G.P.A.A. Customer service - 800.551.9707

### Meeting Info:

The next meeting will be held at Lakey's  
Cafe in Caldwell, Idaho December 3 at 7:30 pm.

**Come early and enjoy a great meal before the meeting.**

**Lakey's Café 5016 HWY 20-26 Caldwell, Idaho 83605 Ph: 208.455.8654**



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## *September Meeting*

In last months meeting the attendance there was 45 people, in attendance. We would like to thank Kala for helping serve our members at the meeting. We want to thank our visitors James, James, Todd and Kyle for coming to our meeting. Last month's winner of Gold – ? Last month outing was moved to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, due to the weather. Did you take the time to VOTE last month. This is very important for the freedom of our great nation!! To win door prizes, all must be present to win.

### **Club Minutes:**

- All claims are filed
- Brett Williams met with several government agencies at, “ Prospectors Paradise,” to access clubs plan of operation.
- Club will need to have a bond for each claim. These bonds cost approximately \$500.00
  - Gold Fever web site is up, but still under construction:
    - Start thinking about how many outing the club wants for next year.
    - If there are any suggestions for outing next years please e-mail or mail these ideas to Brett, Vance, or Kurt.
    - Blue Bucket outing for next year, members will need to plan ahead for this outing.
- Tuesday December 3 is Gold Fever's annual Christmas party: Dinner is \$10.00 per person.
- Christmas party – There will be door prizes, raffle tickets, and a drawing for the Gold Wheel.
  - Political News - TBA
- Ideas were presented at last month's meeting for fund raising: 50/50 raffle, Garage Sale, out by Lucky's Restaurant, Miners Swap – Late Spring
  - Donations will be accepted.
    - Volunteers will be needed for this upcoming event.
- Gold Fever Major Outing – Brett suggested that Gold Fever change their major out from August to June. We could plan now and possibly have the G.P.A.A. people to come out and film a show.
- As a member, if you want you Gold Fever News latter e-mailed, please send you e-mail address to SMBrown1@msn.com .
  - Don't forget – G.P.A.A. gold show is coming at the end of March 2003. Members will need to volunteer to man the Gold Fever booth.
    - Beginning of next year two officer positions will be open: TBA



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## November Meeting

- A. President to bring the meeting to order.
- B. Introduction of any new members or visitors.
- Reading of Club's finances.
- D. Announcement of next club meeting.
- E. Old business.
- F. New business.
- G. Announce next meeting date / time.
- H. Adjourn regular meeting.
- J. Club raffle.

## Upcoming Gold Fever Outing

- A. When: Saturday
- B. Where: Goat Farm  
(Burnt River, Oregon)
- C. November 9, 2002

## Gold Fever Bulletin Board

### RECOVERED TREASURE

### The world's largest Gold Rush relic, an 80-pound gold brick, comes home

**San Francisco** -- Years ago, Bob Evans searched the floor of the Atlantic Ocean for lost gold. Yesterday, his quest was more humble. He desperately needed a simple screwdriver to open the case holding his greatest find: an 80-pound gold brick worth an estimated \$10 million.

The geologist and chief caretaker of the world's largest Gold Rush relic was rushing to install a tiny bulb to highlight it -- one of the final preparations before the "Ship of Gold" exhibit opens today at the California Historical Society.

It's a kind of homecoming for the glistening ingot, which was minted in 1857 on Montgomery Street, a few blocks from its Mission Street home. Now it is bolted down, attached to high-tech alarms and protected by armed guards.

Back then, it was stamped with its then-value of \$17,433.57 and loaded along with three more tons of gold onto a cargo boat. The entire treasure was lost off the coast of the Carolinas when the steamship Central America was shipwrecked en route from Panama to New York City.

More than 450 passengers and crew perished, and the treasure sank more than a mile to the bottom of the sea, where it stayed until Evans and fellow rare-coin enthusiasts found it in 1988.

"I drew a lot of inspiration from the 49ers and miners that came out West to explore and find a treasure," Evans said. "I was basically re-finding the gold they had found."

And while the exhibit has toured the country for the last year, there is a special charm in displaying it to San Francisco, he said.

"Bringing it back here is a real thrill, because this is where it originated," Evans said.



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Nicknamed "Eureka," the 10 1/2-inch-long brick sits on crimson velvet inside a binnacle -- a brass pedestal with a glass top that ordinarily houses a ship's compass. It also has a circular handrail around the outside, which Evans said he likes because, "it gives people something to hang onto while they drool over the bar."

Tourists Susan and Don Naschert, of Peoria, Ill., weren't exactly drooling, but they were definitely impressed.

"It's fascinating this is here," said Susan Naschert, who appreciated the chance to see such an important part of California's history up close and personal.

She was particularly intrigued by the rust and limestone that discolored the lower part of the brick.

Evans explained that he could have cleaned it -- like most of the rest of the bricks -- but he preferred that it look the same as when he found it.

"I like it that way," he said.

There are four portholes in a 50-foot-long section made to look like a portion of the Central America's hull, each filled with recovered gold coins and bricks ranging from 5 ounces to 80 pounds. A stack of \$20 coins is also displayed, just as it was on the sea floor, in a tank of water and covered with sediment. A single gold coin sparkles on top of one stack for contrast. There is also a room arranged to look like a goldsmith's workshop, where nuggets of gold were fashioned into bars.

In all, the gold displayed is worth nearly \$20 million, and is only a fraction of the \$100 million of gold recovered. More than 5,000 of the 7,000 coins that were found have been sold, said Donn Pearlman, a spokesman for the California Gold Group, which bought the collection after several years of legal wrangling with insurance companies over ownership.

Even so, Evans said, it was definitely worth all the time and effort it took to recover the gold and create the traveling exhibit.

"When I see the wonder in their eyes as they view the gold, it brings back all the thrill I had when I first saw it," he said. "It is truly the stuff of dreams.

"We're all taught about gold and sunken treasures in stories from our childhood. It's ingrained in our culture, and to have actually gone out and found it -- that's a dream come true."

The exhibit will be on display through Feb. 11 at the California Historical Society, 678 Mission St., San Francisco. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$3; \$1 for students and seniors.



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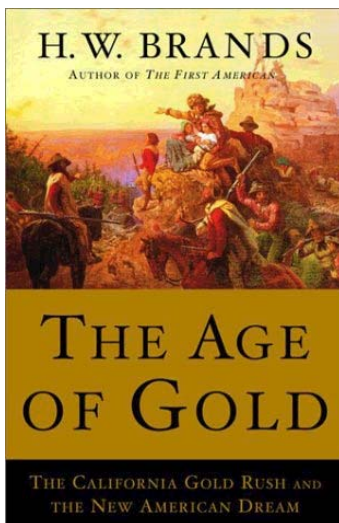
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## Gold Fever Book to Read

Book about Gold in America:  
The Age of Gold.

The gold rush of 1848, says Brands, was a watershed in American history, helping mold the country into its modern shape, transforming the wilderness and pushing the country into civil war. Noted biographer Brands (his life of Benjamin Franklin, *The First American*, was a Pulitzer finalist) makes good use of a sparkling cast of characters: George Hearst, Leland Stanford, Levi Strauss, even William "War Is Hell" Sherman, all raced to California to make their fortunes. For most of the hundreds of thousands who flocked to California, though, life in the mines of the Sierras was hard and rarely paid off. Yet the hopeful kept coming not only from the East but from around the world, with profound implications for California and the rest of the country. The question of statehood would California be a slave state or free? accelerated the onset of the Civil War, says Brands. He believes the gold rush changed the national psyche, pulling the country away from a Puritan ethic of "steadiness and frugality" and toward a new American dream of "instant wealth," the fruits of "boldness and luck." With solid research and a sprightly narrative, Brand's portrait of the gold rush is an enlightening analysis of a transformative period for California and America.



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## Gold Fever Reports

Bureau of Land Management

# Mining Terms

Alluvial Or Bench Deposits - An alluvial deposit is an ancient river-washed rock and gravel bar that may be thousands of feet from the nearest stream, creek, or river. Alluvial (or bench) deposits contain untapped potential for finding gold because such areas have never been worked before. The [hydraulic giants](#) generally worked alluvial deposits.

Bucket Line Dredge - Unlike the modern, small-scale dredges; a bucket line dredge was very large. Instead of sucking up water and gravel through the use of water pressure, the bucket line dredges would scoop it up and run it through a long sluice box. Only 10 cents of gold was needed for each square yard of material to make a profit back when these dredges were common in the 1890s and on into the early 1900s.

Coyote - The process of digging in river-borne gravel's by tunneling until bedrock is hit. The tunnel is dug in hopes of finding a rich bedrock deposit deep in the gravel bar.

Dredge - A common piece of mining equipment today, the dredge sucks up dirt and gravel from within the streambed by the use of water pressure. The use of a water pump and a network of hoses operate the dredge. Dredge hose sizes can be anywhere from one inch in diameter to 20 inches or more.

Drift - In mining, a drift is defined as a horizontal passageway that is excavated along a rich vein of ore. Hard rock mines usually use drifts to obtain the rich ore, though; some hard rock mines are open pits.

Dry washer - This was a common desert mining tool. The dry washer is like a high banker but lacks the need for water. A dry washer operates by the use of wind. The light junk material is blown off the top of the sluice in the dry washer and the gold stays on the bottom. The sluice riffles in a dry washer are backwards for better recovery.

Flour Gold/Gold Dust - Gold that is so fine that it looks and feels like flour or dust. "The bread and butter of prospecting." Nuggets are just a bonus.

Flumes - Flumes are like sluice boxes, they do not have riffles though and are used solely to transport water in areas where a ditch would be impossible (Cliffside, rocky hillsides). Two flumes were built in the construction of the China Ditch.

Hard Rock Mine - A hard rock mine is a tunnel that is dug into solid rock for the sole purpose of finding valuable or precious rocks, minerals, or metals. Gold originates deep within the earth in places called [Pockets](#). The pockets are filled with gold, heavy ore, and quartz.

High banker - A high banker is a sluice box with mobility. Instead of being put right in the creek like a sluice, the high banker uses a water pump to transport the water into higher and sometimes richer placer reserves. In addition to the ability to go just about anywhere, the high banker also is able to run more material in less time than the sluice, and these characteristics make the high banker a common modern day mining tool. [Hydraulic "Giant" or Monitor](#) - The fire hose-type nozzles that sprayed huge amounts of water on hill sides to recover gold out of them.

Long Tom - Similar to a sluice box, but longer and skinnier.



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Mother Lode - Every miner hopes of finding their own "mother lode" or source of the gold that's laden in the rivers. A mother lode is where the gold is trapped inside veins of quartz on mountainsides. The erosion of land causes the gold to break away from this source and eventually wash down into the river. The larger the pieces of gold being found in the river, the closer one are to the mother lode. Mother lode also refers to the vast area in Central California where gold was found. It was called the mother lode, because the whole area was a source, not just a small target area.

Open Pit Mine - In search of rich veins of quartz, open pit mines are common today. Because of the danger associated with drifts, open pit mines are dug from the ground down and are never tunneled. They can be best described as, "A big hole."

Ore - Any natural combination of minerals, where especially one from which a metal or metals can be profitably extracted. Commonly a mixture of one or more of the following: quartz, gold, copper, silver, sulfur, iron, and nickel.

Pack train - Pack trains were used to transport the bare necessities to miners and loggers in the 19th century. They usually consisted of 5 or more horses or mules and a few men.

Placer Mines - Placer Mines are in the categories of mining through the use of water. It involves mining gold that has been washed away from its motherlode (or source) and deposited in small cracks, holes, or sand bars in the mainstream of a river. Some Placer Mining involves working bench gravels. Hydraulic giants take advantage of the bench deposits and recover gold from these ancient river-borne gravels.

Pocket - In mining, a pocket is defined as a cavity filled with ore, or a rich deposit of precious metal.

Prospect - Can have many different definitions to a miner. A prospect could be a hope for or anticipation of making a profit in mining. It can also mean to search for gold. Another definition can state it as meaning a place where a mineral deposit is sought or found.

Rocker Box or Cradle - Like a sluice box the rocker box has riffles and a carpet in it to trap the gold, and it was designed to be used in areas with less water than a sluice box. The process involves pouring water out of a small cup and then rocking the small sluice box like a cradle, thus the name rocker box or cradle.

Shaker Table - Shaker tables are like giant gold pans. An engine drives a belt that vibrates a huge bucket. Instead of the junk material being separated from the gold, the gold is separated from the junk. The vibration of the bucket causes the gold to settle to the bottom, the junk goes into a small classifier and is dumped out into a tailing pile.

Sluice Box - A long, narrow, wood or metal artificial channel that water passes through when put in a creek or stream. Nineteenth century miners used and twentieth century miners still use sluice boxes to separate the dirt and junk material away from the gold. Gold, the densest metal known to man, stays in the sluice box because of its heavy weight.

Sourdough - A highly experienced miner who has prospected for many years.

Stope - A step-like excavation formed by the removal of ore from around a mine shaft.

Tailing Pile - Gravel, dirt, and rocks with no gold. Whatever is left behind from mining activity. Occasionally, a gold nugget can slip out of a mining classifier or piece of equipment and end up in the tailing pile, but in modern sluice boxes most of the gold never makes it to the tailing pile.



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Gold Fever G. P. A. A.  
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## Golden Updates

**Upcoming Event: Christmas & New Year Holidays**

**Contact: Be thankful for another great year to come!!**

**Special thanks to:** BLM web page; [www.gold-eagle.com](http://www.gold-eagle.com); [www.amizon.com](http://www.amizon.com);  
[dgl.microsoft.com](http://dgl.microsoft.com); [www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com); [www.accem.org](http://www.accem.org).



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