



# GOLD PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## NAMPA CHAPTER

### “GOLD FEVER” NEWSLETTER

JULY 2003



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 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**

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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 dredgiPRESng:**  
[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)  
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**Gold Miners Headquarters Publications Resources:**  
[www.goldminershq.com](http://www.goldminershq.com)  
**Mineral and Gemstone Kingdom:** [www.minerals.net](http://www.minerals.net)  
**Steve’s Mining Journal:** [www.akmining.com](http://www.akmining.com)  
**Original Sixteen to One Mine:** [www.origsix.com](http://www.origsix.com)  
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**All Newspapers in every state:** [www.refdesk.com/paper.htm](http://www.refdesk.com/paper.htm)  
**Bureau of Land Management (BLM):**  
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#### ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

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

The summer heat is here so go cool off in the creek with your favorite dredge.

The Web site is up and running [www.idahogpaa.org](http://www.idahogpaa.org) and looks great thanks Don.

We should have claim maps in the member's only area soon.

The outing last month was a lot of fun about a dozen people showed up and we found some good color.

Next Outing is going to be at Prospectors paradise Aug 8,9,10 Snake River and Portland Chapters invited we will have a common on Saturday using my Tromel. Bring your high banker and dredge with permit to work on your own. Fee will be \$15 family \$ 10 for individual.

We will have a piece of equipment to move some dirt four wheelers with trailer's will help with this we also need some help pulling a couple of toilets up on Friday and back on Sunday .Panning contest @ 1pm, Pot luck Saturday at 6pm bring a side dish raffle and action to follow bring item to donate if you can. Pancake Breakfast Sunday at 7:30am

Next meeting will be in the park bring a side dish and some good mining stories .May the bottom of all your pan's turn yellow.

Brett Williams



**Secretary Corner**

Fun was had by all at last months meeting, so we voted to do it again at our August meeting.

We also elected as outing coordinators Rob Forbes, Greg Nyland, Harold Hackworth and Darrell.

Thanks to all who brought food and join in on the drawings.

Also thank you to the bidders for all the competition.

Roger Malone donated a wooden high banker and Dewayne Davis of D.P. co donated a gold dipped rose. Sorry if I missed anyone.

**Secretary Corner done by Michael Williams.**

**Thank You Michael for standing in for me while I was unable to attend. JOB WELL DONE!**

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**GPAA NAMPA CHAPTER  
OUTINGS 2003**

**AUGUST - YANKEE FORK SALMON**

**NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> - GOLD FARM**

**DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SECRETARY CORNER.....DEB ANDERSON**

Sorry I was unable to attend the July Meeting. Will see you all in August.

**TREASURY REPORT:**

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$1414.43</b>
OUTING SUPPLIES	-\$70.46
MEETING REFRESHMENTS	-\$141.28
MEETING RAFFLE	-\$80.43
WEBSITE	-\$149.00
<b>SUB TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>- \$441.17</b>

NEWSLETTER	\$22.50
50\50 DRAWING	\$24.50
RAFFLE	\$125.00
GOLD NUGGETS	\$60.00
AUCTION	\$137.00
<b>SUB TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$369.00</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1342.26</b>

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says, "Slim, I'm 73 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?"

Slim says, "I feel just like a newborn baby." "Really! Like a newborn baby!?" "Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants."

**Live to be 80.....**I recently picked a new primary care physician. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age.

A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?"

He asked, "Well, do you smoke tobacco or drink beer?" "Oh no," I replied, "I've never done either."

Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks, greasy food and barbecued ribs? I said, "No, I've heard that grease and "red meat" are very unhealthy!" "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun?" he asked.

"No, I don't," I said. He said, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or

fool around?" "No," I said, "I've never done any of those things."He looked at me and said, "Then why in the hell do you want to live to be 80?"

**Alarming Statistics**

A. The number of physicians in the U.S. is 700,000.

B. Accidental deaths caused by Physicians per year is 120,000.

C. Accidental death per physician is 0.171(U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services)

**Then think about this:**

A. The number of gun owners in the U.S. is 80,000,000 (yes, eighty-million!).

B. The number of accidental gun deaths per year (all age groups) is 1,500.

C. The number of accidental deaths per gun owner is .0000188.

Statistically, doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners.

**FACT: NOT EVERYONE HAS A GUN, BUT ALMOST EVERYONE HAS AT LEAST ONE DOCTOR.**

Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. We must ban doctors before this gets out of hand. As a public service, I have omitted the statistics on lawyers for fear that the shock could cause people to seek medical attention.



**O**ne day, three men were hiking and unexpectedly came upon a large, raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea how to do so. The first man prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river."

**POOF!!** God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, after almost drowning a couple of times.

Seeing this, the second man prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength ... and the tools to cross this river."

**POOF!!** God gave him big strong arms and legs and a rowboat, which he was able to row across the river in about an hour, after almost capsizing the boat a couple of times. The third man had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools... and the intelligence ... to cross this river."

**POOF!!** God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, then walked across the bridge.

## HOW TO GET GOLD OUT OF BLACK SAND WITHOUT MERCURY.....By Tom Ashworth

There have been many questions about how to get gold out of black sand. I thought I would post a method that I use on cleaning up on my 6" Dredge. I clean up the top of my sluice box everyday and the rest of the sluice box when it is needed. One problem I see with a lot of new miners is they clean up too often and this takes away from the time they could be dredging and finding more gold. If you have the sluice on your dredge set up so that the gravel is not getting too full between the riffles and not running so fast that it sweeps the riffles, then once a day clean up is all you should need on most store bought dredges. The perfect set up for the sluice is so you have about one quarter inch of carpet showing between the gravel of the middle riffle of the sluice and the one below it. Now dredge all day.

After dredging all day I empty my dredge into a large wash tub. I then screen those concentrates using a 20 mesh screen into a 5 gallon bucket. I then pan the concentrates that did not go through the 20 mesh screen while down at the river (looking for nuggets of course). Any gold found in the concentrates that were too large to fit through the 20 mesh screen, I put in a vial. I then put a shovel sluice (a Keene or Le Trap sluice works well) inside the dredge sluice so that the shovel sluice is close to the header box or jet flare (Note: This only works on 5" and larger dredges). I use a modified Keene A-52 sluice. It has some NoTrax matting glued in the top to catch fine gold. I then start the engine on the dredge at idle so the water runs down the shovel sluice. I adjust the engine so that the water flow is swift enough to wash out light sand and still save all of the black sand and gold. The output of the shovel sluice goes back into the dredge sluice and there are still several riffles in the dredge sluice that will catch any flour gold that happens to escape (this will remain until the next time I dredge). I then scoop the concentrates that I screened into the shovel sluice. When all concentrates are ran. I then empty the shovel sluice into a 5 gallon bucket. I then have <20 mesh extreme concentrate.

To do the final cleanup I use a panning wheel and a micro sluice. You can also pan down to get to the last of the impurities. These impurities usually consist of a small amount of black sand, a few iron rocks, and pieces of lead.

There are many ways to go about doing this final cleanup. Personally, in general cleanup I like to stay away from the use of mercury, as there is a faster way without it. I also like to stay away from the use of nitric acid because it's usually not needed either. There are times when the use of mercury and nitric acid can help speed things up. Usually though, I can do the final cleanup without them.

### Here's one quick procedure to do the final cleanup;

(1) Dry out the gold by pouring it into a metal pan and heating it over a stove outside. Don't get it so hot that any pieces of lead which are still with the gold will melt. Heat it up just hot enough to dry it out. It is a good idea to stay upwind anytime you put gold in a pan and heat it up. Mercury attaches itself to gold in different amounts. Often it's there but you can't see it. When heating the gold to certain temperature, the mercury vaporizes off. These vapors are very dangerous. So it is good practice to

heat your gold outside and downwind of you, even when heating it up just enough to dry it out. Also, the pan you use for heating up gold during cleanup should be used only to cleanup, not for cooking. I use a portable hot plate for this.

(2) Once the gold is dry, bring it inside, out of the wind, and pour it onto a piece of clean paper. You can now pick out the larger impurities from the gold with tweezers.

(3) Now a magnet can be used to extract most of the remaining black sands for your gold. I use a super magnet, but I used to use the Keene Gold Magnet. The Super Magnet is just larger.

(4) By lightly blowing over the gold, you can finish extracting the rest of the impurities. If you can locate a very fine screen you can use it to separate the smaller pieces of gold and impurities from the larger ones just after drying it out. This speeds the process up a bit.

(5) Put your gold back in the metal pan, take it outside and heat it up, hotter this time, in order to vaporize any further mercury for the gold. This will bring your gold back to the basic deep rich beauty which we love.

(6) Now you can put it in a bottle. If you want to sell it keep it dry, but if it is for show put water in the bottle to keep it beautiful. The water will also prevent the glass vial from breaking due to the weight of the gold.

**GOLD CHARACTERISTICS** Gold is a mineral and is recognized in the same way you want to identify all rocks or minerals. Identification should be made with the following physical properties of rocks and minerals: color, luster, crystals, hardness, cleavage, specific gravity (weight), and fracture. If you do not understand these terms I have included them in the glossary link.

The color of gold is normally yellow but may be silver-white to orange-red, depending upon the impurities present. Gold is almost always found with some impurities, usually silver, copper and iron. It is a metallic element and has a dull to shiny luster. The chemical symbol for gold is "Au". This symbol comes from the Latin word "aurum" which means "shining dawn". Gold has a hardness of 2.5-3 on the Mohs scale of hardness. Gold is not usually found in crystal form, even though it crystallizes in the isometric system, normally forming octahedral crystals, it usually is seen as irregular plates, scales, and masses rather than as crystals. Gold is a rare native mineral ranking 58th in abundance among the 92 natural elements.

Along with its yellow color, the most distinguishing attribute of gold is its weight. Weight of minerals is the term specific gravity. Specific gravity is the weight of a substance compared to water. The specific gravity of pure gold is 19.32 times the weight of an equal volume of water at 63.5° Fahrenheit. A cubic foot of pure gold weighs 1,464.17 Troy pounds. The only minerals that are heavier than gold are iridium, osmium and platinum. It is at least six times as heavy as any of the rocks usually found with it. The weight of gold allows prospectors to remove it from other closely related materials. Most of the equipment used to separate gold from the materials that are associated with it was based on this difference in weight. The atomic weight of gold is 197.2 and its atomic number is 79.

**CONTINUED.....**

**CONTINUED.....**Malleability is another identifying characteristic of gold. Malleability is the ability of a mineral shaped into different forms or shapes. Pure gold is one of the most malleable of all metals. You can flatten it into very thin sheets, or drawn into very fine wire without breaking. It is also one of the most ductile or stretchable minerals. One Troy ounce of gold will stretch into a wire over 60 miles long.

Gold is one of the most stable elements on earth. It forms very few compounds. Seawater, for example, can destroy or decay most other metals except for Gold. The melting point of gold is 1945.4° Fahrenheit (1063° Centigrade). It will not dissolve in most acids except aqua regia (a mixture of hydrochloric and nitric acids), cyanides and a few more. It is for these reasons that gold is known as a noble metal.

**FOOL'S GOLD.....** What exactly is fool's gold? It is any mineral that can be improperly or wrongly identified as gold. The minerals most often mistaken for gold are pyrite, chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite, marcasite and biotite. Pyrite is the mineral most often called fool's gold. Pyrite is iron disulfide and is often found with substantial amounts of nickel and cobalt. It has a similar appearance to gold, but it is much lighter. It has a specific gravity of 4.9 to 5.2 and it is very brittle. Pyrite is identified by its lower specific gravity, or weight, and the fact it will fracture due to how brittle it is. Chalcopyrite and phryhotite are not as common as pyrite. Both have a dark streak and are lighter in weight and harder than gold. Neither of these minerals commonly occurs in crystalline form and most often found as irregularly shaped masses. They both tarnish easily, going from bronze or brassy yellow to yellowish or grayish brown. Biotite is basic potassium, magnesium, iron, and aluminum silicate (mica group). These are usually the very light minerals that shine in your gold pan. Biotite has a specific gravity of 2.8 to 3.4. These flakes, because of their lightweight and flat shapes, are often concentrated in quiet eddies and along sandbanks. Flakes of biotite are the most common forms of fool's gold.

**OCCURRENCE.....**Gold is widely dispersed throughout all igneous rocks. It also occurs in the seawater in small amounts. Gold can be found in at least forty of the fifty states, but it is only found in commercial quantities in twenty-two of the states. It may be possible to find gold in a new area, but it is probably best to look for gold where it is known to exist. The gold bearing areas extend from North Carolina where gold was first discovered in 1540, Georgia in 1828, Alabama in 1830, to Western states and Canada where gold was discovered soon after 1848. I believe that the first discovery made in the United States was made by Hernando De Soto in 1540 in the Valley River in Cherokee County, North Carolina.

There is plenty of gold in the southern Appalachian states to keep us all busy. If you are a greenhorn, you may as well do your prospecting, as close to where you live as possible, so look for areas where excessive travel is not required, this is to keep expenses down to the hobby level.

**PRODUCTION.....**Total world production of gold was estimated at 3 billion ounces, you would be able to put that amount of gold in a room that is 55' wide x 55' long x 55' high.

Thomas Jefferson's in of wrote about gold in Virginia in 1782. The total gold production of the United States has been roughly 310 million troy ounces. Placer gold was the primary objective of the old timer. The first verified lode mine in the United States was the Barringer Mine in Stanley County, North Carolina in 1825. The first verified gold mine in the United States was the Reed Gold mine in Cabarrus County, North Carolina in 1799. It started as simple placer mining and eventually the lode was found.

The largest gold producer in the United States is the Homestake Mining Company open pit mine at Lead, South Dakota. Kennecott Copper Corporation's open pit copper mine at Bingham, Utah, is also a large domestic producer of gold. These are very large operations that have tremendous amount of financial backing. Most of us are not interested in the large producers. The small placer operations are what most of us are interested in. I must inform you that roughly 12 percent of the gold produced came from placer deposits, so we can not even compare to the big mining companies.

**USES.....** The demand for gold is increasing every year, and it was one of the firsts metals used by man. It's mainly used by governments as a standard to base their financial system. Gold coins were minted, but now gold is kept in reserve in bars in Fort Knox, Kentucky, as support for economic conditions by the United States government. Gold is also the standard of exchange in international trade. Nearly half of all gold ever mined is stashed by governments and stored in government vaults. But in recent years the governments are selling the gold off.

The jewelry industry uses over one third of the total gold produced. Most of that gold is alloyed, usually with copper. Most of the gold used in jewelry is used for rings and necklaces.

The largest industrial consumption of gold is in electrical components in the form of integrated circuits, connectors, and printed circuits boards. Dentistry use accounts for about 5 percent of the annual gold consumption. The art industry uses a portion of the total amount.

Gold was legalized in 1975, for private ownership. Private citizens for financial investment can now purchase gold. There are even coins minted for this purpose. No alloys have ever been developed that has all the desirable qualities of gold. Platinum family metals are used from time to time, but they lack the beauty of gold. Silver is occasionally substituted, but it is not as resistant to corrosion than gold.

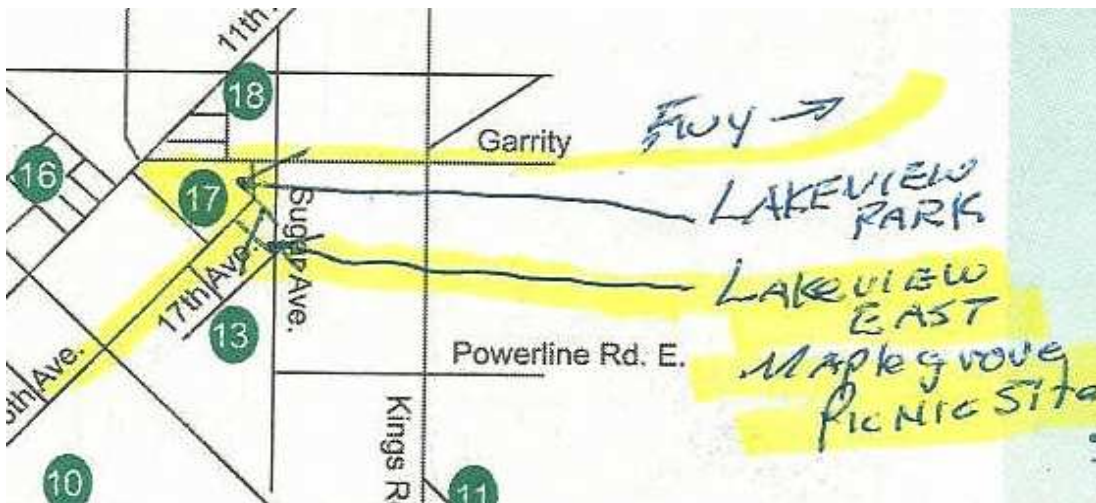
**TROY SYSTEM.....**Gold is weighed according to the troy system which is based on 1 troy oz. = 480 grains = 20 pennyweight = 1.097 avoirdupois oz. And 12 troy oz. = 1 troy pound = 1.3164 avoirdupois pound.

**FINENESS.....**Gold normally contains some silver and often copper and iron. When silver is present in amounts greater than 20 percent, the alloy is known as electrum. Gold is commonly referred to according to its fineness or purity, which is expressed on parts per thousand. Most native gold contains 5-20 percent other metals and thus has a fineness of 800-950 fine.



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

## ***G.P.A.A. NAMPA CHAPTER MEETING AT LAKEVIEW PARK***



**1<sup>ST</sup> Tuesday of the month - B.B.Q. starts at 6 p.m. meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

Coming into Nampa using Garrity Blvd you drive under a railroad overpass. Then you come to a light. Turn left, which is 16th Ave. You will see an Air Force jet on the right which is Lakeview Park. To the left of 16th Ave is Lakeview Park East. You will see a covered picnic area, playground, restroom and parking area. Also, an Army tank and beyond the picnic site an elevated roadway for the railroad. This picnic site is called Maple Grove. **COME JOIN THE FUN!**