

February 28, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 2

AMARILLO PROSPECTORS & TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

President: Mark Davey. First VP: Toby Shedd, in charge of arranging for programs.
Second VP: Jim Nichols, events coordinator.
Secretary: Bob Mende
Treasurer: Fred BoBo.
Board Members: Carroll Herring, Dan Ferguson, Rodney Laubhan, Mike Darnell .
Newsletter Editor's: Larry Lawrence

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Across the President's Desk

By Mark Davey

Hello, Club Members!

Missed y'all at the February meeting, which was cancelled due to the snow storm. It did, however, give us good moisture in the ground. By the way, how many of you got out and treasure-hunted the snow piles after they melted? Metal detecting works well with moisture, giving a good halo around coins, and digging is also a breeze. Please remember to practice good pinpointing and fill all holes!

We had a good program planned – "Counterfeit Money" – that we will have at the March meeting. Please bring any possibly counterfeit items for our guest to talk about.

Rodney will have more on the game rules and buying numbers for paid members.

Please remember that dues should be paid this month. After this month, unpaid memberships will be dropped and e-mails removed from the mailing list until the dues are paid.

We will be going on a summer outing, so make a list of wishes for possible activities and bring it to the meeting. We plan to go to altitudes from 8,000 to 12,000 feet so those going on the outing will need to start getting ready by taking B6 and B12 to help get more oxygen to the bloodstream. A general rule is to try to acclimate only 5,000 feet at a time. Since Amarillo is at 3,600 feet, we can go directly to 8,500 feet. We will try to set our camp area around this elevation.

See you at the meeting!

Mark

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Board Members Notes

Tuesday February 1 Board Meeting canceled until Friday February 4, 2011
Friday February 4, 2011

Attendees at meeting; Bob Mende, Mike Darnell, Toby Shedd, Jim Nichols, Mark Davey, Rodney Laubhan and Carroll Herring.

5:30 Mark opens meeting, a brief discussion was made of the new I.D. Cards made by Bob Mende. The new cards were o.k. to print.

5:35 Mark asks for old business, Board notes for January were considered and voted Ok..

5:36 Mark brings up Nara Visa trip. There was a shortage of members showing up Sunday.

But first Mark talks about a possible trip to a ghost town of Obar, which is about fifteen miles east of Logan, N.M.

Back to Nara Visa, only five people showed up Sunday, when it was noted that seventeen had signed up to be there. Mark sent a \$100.00 check to Community center In Nara Visa. It seems since 17 signed up to go to Nara Visa Sunday we were obligated to pay for the lunch we had expected. Mark plans to pass the hat at Tuesday regular meeting to pick up the missing lunch money. Unless those who signed up for Sunday would pay the lunch fee. This will cover the \$100.00 check paid by the club.

We did get a gracious thank-you from Renee Rinstine for coming to Nara Visa and spend some time. It was decided that next hunt it will be understood by all that when a lunch will be prepared for us by someone on site that we will have a pay and go policy. And it will be clarified to all how we handle lunch money.

Back to Obar, Rodney asks where Obar is. Obar is about 15 miles east of Logan, NM. We talked about other ghost towns nearby and Middlewater was mentioned.

5:57 Treasury Report was read by Mark Davey. Total value is \$2875.89, \$1050.00 is in CD and \$1763.89 in Checking Account. \$62.00 in Petty Cash. Six checks written in the amount of \$441.67. There is \$260.00 in Pool Game money. Dues, 50/50, and Blue Ticket money amounts to \$645.00.

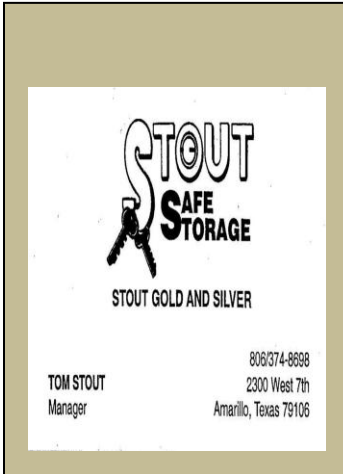
5:59 Mark asks, What do all of you think of the News Letter and encouraged Board members to submit articles to the News Letter. Everyone agrees we have a very good News Letter. Not much was discussed about Board Members submitting articles to the News Letter. Rodney asks, does the News Letter need a name? It is considered that we could have Club members participate in naming the News Letter. It was considered having a News Letter Naming contest. Rodney wants to have a rules and prize idea put into consideration. It will be brought up and next Tuesday Meeting. Jim wants to offer news letters to non-members via Email. Jim also says our site is getting a lot of traffic. Rodney makes a motion for Jim to set up means for non-members to receive a news letter. It was seconded and voted yes.

6:11 Mark suggests we need to work on our dry washers.

6:12 Mark says we need to talk about the membership list concerning paid and non-paid members, he hands out an updated member list dated 02/03/11. Some discussion was made about trying to get members paid up.

6:17 Rodney asks if we all understand how the pool game works. It seems we do understand, but some members are not too sure. Mark says the main question he gets is; what are we getting out of the Pool Game. And how will the cash or prizes be decided? Rodney will again try to explain it at the next meeting. Rodney wants a check to be able to purchase prizes. He would want it after Tuesday's meeting, we should know then the amount of money available for prizes. Other discussion about the Pool Game was to give this game a name. Possibly another contest to name this game.

Board Meeting Continue from page 2



March 8, 2011 Program

**Jerry Ivey
employee of ANB
is going to talk
about counterfeit
money.**

**March Club Hunt
scheduled for
March 12th and
13th at Girl Scout
Camp, questions
contact Jim
Nichols.**

**The Club needs
future Programs,
if you can present
a Program please
contact Toby
Shedd**

6:27 Mark brings back the non-paid member situation, and asks that we reach out to these members to have them continue their membership. Realizing some may quit and some may move away as one family has moved to Kansas.

6:33 Mark says the checking account signatures at the Bank has been taken care of. Except that Jim will be added to the signature list and John will be removed.

6:36 Jim says a lost ring still has not been found. The ring was lost in a lot near NE 8th where the old theater once was. The nice thing about this is the man wanted to personally thank the club members who tried to find it for him. Jim suggested he just make a donation of some sort to the club. The very nice man sent the club a \$100.00 check.

6:39 Jim will try to set up a day in May for the Obar hunt. He also remarks the next outing will be February 9, 2011, the day after the regular meeting. It will be a seeded hunt beginning at 5:00pm till dark at Stephen Austin Park. "Weather permitting." Jim also has a proposed hunt at Camp Kiwanis. It is proposed to be March 12 and 13. "Weather permitting." Jim says this one hundred fifty year old working cowboy camp.

6:49 Mark says daylight savings time begins at 2:00am on the second Sunday of March. And he stresses that we must fill holes when we are digging for our finds. Apparently someone is not doing a very good job about with this problem. We need to fill holes if we expect to continue to use people's property.

6:57 Mark brings up the Colorado hunt for discussion. It will take place in mid July. And we will work the same system as last year. He says he will be the Hunt master. He also says 10,000 elevations are too high for most of us to sleep well at night. We will spend the nights at local motels which are about forty miles from the work site.

7:00 Jim mentions that trailers are for sale at the intersection of McMasters and N.E 8th. Bob Mende says four trailers are being auctioned by Assiter Auctions on the Canyon Expressway February 5, 2011.

7:03 Mark brings up the Budget and a long discussion of budget takes place. On the expense side the added changes are Picnic expense of \$300.00. Blue ticket drawings will be increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00. The domain name charge will be \$21.74 this year. We will purchase Coin show tables this year for \$140.00. The Christmas Party expense will increase from \$750.00 to \$1000.00. And an overlooked expense for Treasure Hunter of Year will be on the budget this year, cost \$135.00. Expense for Pool Game will be \$1,650. Income Budget changes are Blue Ticket Drawing are from \$50.00 to \$80.00. The 50/50 drawing will be \$40.00. Club Pool Game income to be \$3,300. The Tom Stout Ad will be removed.

8:14 Mark asks, anything else? Rodney suggests we take the probe to test diamonds off the table and not buy this meter. A motion a second and a vote yes to not buy this meter.

8:16 Mark suggests we have an outing using gold seeded sand and have a panning session. And also have some prospecting outings in New Mexico.

8:23 Rodney wants to table the budget until next Tuesdays meeting when we can approve of the budget.

8:24 Mark adjourned meeting.

Club Meeting Notes

February Club Meeting Cancelled due to Weather.

Board Member Letter

Give a man a fish
and you feed him for
a day. Teach a man
to fish and you feed
him for a lifetime.

Well the weather hasn't been nice and it has impacted my hunting and I know it has been a deterrent to you too. The best part of the winter stuff was it did get us some much needed moisture in the ground that had time to really soak in; that is the proverbial silver lining we should all look for. I will try to schedule any outings to be the weekend or days following our meetings. That way info will be fresh and you can plan on what time of the month the outings will occur.

With a better looking weather picture we can again burn some batteries and look for those lawn treasures. Our first hunt on the Girl Scout camp is scheduled for March 12th & 13th. We will meet at the camp ground at 9:00AM for further instructions. Bring lunches and we will break bread there on the camp. The camp a enclosed building if needed or lots of camping areas with benches. Bathroom facilities are there but not plentiful so plan well! Camp Kiwanis started in 1928 so it has some good potential and it was a cowboy camp for decades before that, part of the Frying Pan ranch until 328 areas were sold to the Girl Scouts. I would like to curb any over optimistic expectations based on one simple fact, little girls didn't carry coins much and there was really no need to bring money to the camp but they sure wore jewelry and such. I'll have sign up sheets and more info at the meeting.

Austin Park still needs our attention and we will hit it in April. It will be a "seeded hunt" as well so we will clean and hunt the park with detectors until dark chases us home. We will do a week night outing most likely the Thursday following the meeting in April.

We need to try and find that darn Texas Tech ring. So I'll ask for a group effort real soon. Maybe if we saturate the smallish area we can spirit that darn thing up.

I do want to let everyone know I have been having some health issues and it has impacted my schedule, especially club related items and getting out to enjoy our hobby. I apologize for any tardiness or lack of planning this has caused and I just hope things will improve soon. In the mean time if someone wants to schedule and outing please feel free! It would be great and I assure all would appreciate it.

Thanks for your participation and work on behalf of our club.

Jim Nichols
2nd VP
Events Chairman

Club Articles

Tascosa in Oldham County

Was originally settled by shepherds and freighters from New Mexico, the area was named Atascosa (boggy) for the swamp-like area where the Canadian River meets the local creek (also named Atascosa). The abbreviated name resulted in Tascosa. The town found itself as a terminus of the Tascosa-Dodge City cattle trail in the late 1870's. As the large ranches that formed in the region used the town as an assembling point. The activity drove the original settlers back to the tranquility of New Mexico.

The town's first business was a blacksmith operation owned by Henry Kimball, followed by a general store and a post office. In 1880 the county was organized and Tascosa became the county seat. A Stone courthouse was constructed, even while dance halls and saloons were building at an alarming rate. In need of a cemetery, the town's first Sheriff (Caleb Willingham) shot the town's first villain, who then became the first cemetery occupant. Fred Leith was the first person buried here after being killed in a showdown with Jules Howard in 1879 over a duck. Caleb Willingham the first sheriff was in the Equity Bar, when he heard a commotion outside. Suddenly one of the town's few ladies did something most ladies of the era would not. She ran into the saloon yelling "he killed my duck!" She pointed to a man outside. Willingham saw that the woman was referring to Fred Leith, foreman on the LS Ranch. Leigh was known for his drinking and had been warned before about carrying a pistol in town. Armed with a double barreled shotgun, the sheriff walked out and approached the cowboy to discuss the fair market value of the duck. The sheriff said you're in debt to this woman for that duck you shot. The sheriff said "you're going to pay for it." To which Fred replied "Hell no, I ain't going to pay for no duck." As he was replying to the sheriff, the sheriff saw the drover's hand moving toward the six-shooter on his hip. That ended the talking. The sheriff let loose with both barrels of his scatter-gun. With 18 pieces of buckshot in Fred's body, the cowboy tumbled from his horse, as dead as the duck he'd blasted a short time before. Not only had Fred been killed on account of a duck, he had the added distinction of being the first person buried on a hill outside Tascosa, that soon bore one of the most famous names in the Old West. Fred having died with his boots on, saloon proprietor Jack Ryan thought it fitting that the new graveyard be called Boot-hill.

Tascosa was soon known as the "Cowboy Capital of the Plains." and with good reason. Lawmen and outlaws either became long-term residents or quickly left. Those who tarried often became permanent residents of Boot Hill. Billy the Kid was known to have visited this town too.

The Fort Worth and Denver City Railway passed through this part of Oldham County around 1887, necessitating a move of two miles across the river. In 1890 the residents of both Old and New Tascosa reached 350 people.

By 1915 the Panhandle was adding new towns which bled population from Tascosa. An election was held that year to create a new county seat and Vega won. Tascosa was left with a population of about 15 people. The last to leave was Frenchy McCormick, the widow of Tascosa's first saloon. The woman held out until 1939, the year that opened the door for the establishment of Boys Ranch. "The 1884 Oldham County courthouse is now the Julian Bivins museum, named for a local rancher who donated 120 acres of land to Cal Farley for his Boys Ranch."

Boot Hill Cemetery

Along with law-abiding and God-fearing men and women were buried here. Often without benefit of clergy, men who "died with their boots on". The name was borrowed from a cemetery in Dodge City, Kansas. This cemetery still exists and has a Texas Centennial Marker.

Tascosa, like most of the people in its cemetery, did not live to enjoy old age. When the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad cut across the Panhandle the tracks did not come to Tascosa. The once lively and deadly cow-town faded away as the nearby railroad town of Amarillo grew. In 1893, a flood on the Canadian River destroyed the bridge leading into town as well as many buildings. That was the last straw for Tascosa which soon lost its county seat status to Vega. Today all that remains of old Tascosa... Now the home of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch is the rock building that once served as courthouse and a hill-top collection of lonely graves.

While reading this story I found that there is a disagreement of who was the first to be buried in Boot Hill near Tascosa. Earlier in the story a man named Bob Russell was the first to be laid to rest there. However Fred Leith and Bob Russell are buried side by side in the cemetery. But you can read about this Ghost Town as well as over 200 other ghost towns of the Texas Panhandle by going to web site "Texas Panhandle Ghost Towns". I'm sure you will enjoy it as much as I did.

signed, robert mende

*I owe my success to
having listened
respectfully to the
very best advice,
and then going away
and doing the exact
opposite.*

Club Articles - Part 2 of Adams Diggings

RETURN TO THE LOST ADAMS DIGGINGS

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

Sir Winston Churchill
British politician
(1874 - 1965)

My interest in the Lost Adams Digging began in 1977. Since then, I went from being casually concerned, because *gold* was involved, to becoming totally absorbed in what seemed to me to be a fascinating, and, at the same time, really believable account about a lost gold mine. I say fascinating because it is just that. The further I delved into the details of the many stories connected to this event, the more I realized how numerous the people were who had had a part in it. This is only **one** of the factors about the lost diggings that provide an inclination toward credibility. Unlike so many other lost mine stories, like the *Lost Dutchman*, where the reliability of facts about the discovery depends on the word of a single miner, the Lost Adams epic was created by twenty-three men in a very ambitious undertaking. Granted, most of them were killed in a massacre, but there were five who lived to tell their story. One of the five was the guide, and there are stories that he later led other expeditions to the canyon. And, then, the other four, including Adams, according to the various accounts, did tell their stories. As a result of those reports, people from four generations took up the search. Quite a number of them spent many years in their own efforts. The effect of this only urged others to pursue what J. Frank Dobie once referred to as the "*Great Unfindable*." It was, perhaps, the *Great American Dream* of the day. Dobie's 1928 book, *Apache Gold an Yaqui Silver*, which is still on book-store shelves today, mainly because of the Adams story, is truly captivating

For many years I researched the Adams Diggings, searched for it, and in time I wrote a book about my experiences; I called it *Four Days from Fort Wingate*. One result of the book's publication was my meeting two men from Las Cruces, New Mexico: Paul Hale and Ron Schade. Paul told me he had been probing the Southwest for the Lost Adams since the early 1960s. In a letter, he claimed to have found the lost canyon and the site of the ill-fated gold camp. I wanted to know more about what he had found, because in his letter he said things that I hadn't heard before. He said he had found, in a very isolated canyon, the remains of an old chimney made out of native rocks. Around that chimney he had metal-detected hundreds of artifacts that dated to the time-frame of the Civil War. He also said he had found **all** of the landmarks shown on the Charles Allen map. These were the items of evidence I felt had to be at the authentic site if it was ever found. They are the things I had searched for but did not find. Over the years of my own researching and searching, I had located literally hundreds of published accounts of the Lost Adams Diggings. And, over those years I had come to believe strongly that the Charles Allen account was the most accurate in its portrayal of the facts of the story. Paul Hale and Ron Schade had reached the same conclusion, as had many others I had worked with in the past.

In time, Paul, Ron, and I became friends, and they took me to the sites involved in their discovery. I say sites, because the landmarks of their findings, which are detailed on the map in the Charles Allen account (a copy of that map is attached here) are spread out over an area of many miles.

In the late 1970s, another map claiming to be to the Lost Adams Diggings was published by the Arizona Republic Newspaper (a copy of that map is also attached.) The two maps come from two different sources, and while that is true, both maps show most of the principal landmarks of the various published accounts. In the order in which they occur, on the trail the Adams party followed, the landmarks are as follows---on the two maps.

A Big, Much-traveled Trail; a Gully, or Canyon, with a Dry Gravel Wash; a Low Ridge; the Pumpkin Patch; the Little Door; the Red Bluff; the Steep Bank; the Bench, or Plateau; the Low Malapias Divide (Allen Map); the Valley that Flows from the Southeast to the Northwest; the Big Square Rock (Allen Map); the Cabin Site and Spring; the Choked Box Waterfall; and the two peaks that Adams said looked like haystacks in the autumn's evening sunlight.

To Be Continued ----- next newsletter.

Club Pictures

Here are some pictures I took this past weekend. I went to Apache Junction AZ to participate in the Lost Dutchman Treasure Hunt. It was put on by the Superstition Mountains Treasure Hunters Club. I found \$6.25 in change and found 14 tokens for prizes. I received 1 Morgan Silver Dollar- 4 Silver Roosevelt Dimes-- 5 Mercury Dimes -- & 4 Gold Nuggets.
Mike Darnell



CLUB FUND RAISER GAME

Fund Raiser has been moved forward one Month

SALES OF CHANCES FOR THE NEW CLUB FUND RAISER GAME GOT OFF TO A GREAT START at the January 11, 2011 club meeting with one hundred thirty chances sold. Future sales should be brisk! Two more opportunities to purchase chances are available to members whose dues are paid by the February 8th meeting (see game rules in following article) for the New Club Fund Raiser Game.

Just a few words about the New Game for those who have missed the explanations at past meetings. The New Club Fund Raiser Game, which is original and unique to our club, was developed after club members and board members studied the issue through out the summer of 2010.

For the past two years our club has sponsored a raffle to raise extra club funds. Members were issued tickets, which were sold to the public as well as members. The raffles were successful in raising funds, however, the raffles took hours and much administration to complete with issuing tickets, collecting monies, keeping records, drawing winning tickets and delivering prizes.

After much discussion among board members, and after listening to the membership, the board of directors authorized a new game to be designed where all the prizes are WON BY CLUB MEMBERS and the profit from the game goes to club projects keeping all prizes and profits IN THE CLUB.

The New Club Fund Raiser Game will have no tickets to sell and winners will be selected at the regular meeting April 12th 2011. To participate simply go to the sales table where sales committee members CHARLES MYERS, GEORGE BACA, & RON NEWBERRY will assist you in purchasing your chances. They will sell you up to 10 chances for each adult membership (see the game rules in the following article) and answer any questions you many have about the New Game.

Chances are \$2.00 each and if one purchases all allotted chances (10) the member may sign up to purchase any chances not purchased.

The number of chances available will equal the number of paid adult memberships at the February 8th meeting.

Example:

Should there be 63 paid adult memberships (adult memberships are the total of the single and family memberships) at the February 8th meeting we will have 630 chances (63x10 chances per membership). With each ticket selling for \$2 we will collect \$1,260.00. \$630.00 worth of guaranteed prizes and \$630.00 going to club projects.

You will recall the membership voted in November to have a COMBINATION OF CASH, COINS & BULLION for the prizes and 10% of paid membership (plus any fraction) for the number of prizes. The above example would provide for 7 prizes awarded from the \$630.00 prize money generated from sales and \$630.00 going toward club projects.

On Tuesday February 8th the prize committee comprised of JACK HIXON, GEORGE BROKEN, JIM WILSON, and administrating assistant EDDIE SPRUILL, will demonstrate how winning numbers will be drawn during the April club meeting and provide information about the prizes.

SO REMEMBER, no tickets to sell or money to keep up with and turn in, just come to club pay your dues by Tuesday, February 8th (if not already paid) and participate in our exciting **NEW FUND RAISER GAME!**

APTHA 2011 DRAWING RULES

Adopted at the December 2010 meeting of board of directors.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE CHANCES:

One member from each paid class of memberships (single membership, family membership) who is paid up for the 2011 year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE UNCLAIMED CHANCES FROM THE POOL:

Any member who has purchased ALL OF THEIR ALLOTTED CHANCES (10) may have their name added to the POOL LIST to purchase unclaimed chances. A member must have dues paid on or before the February meeting. Any new member who joins the club as a paid member during the month of MARCH may be placed on the POOL LIST to purchase unclaimed chances.

CHANCES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE:

Number of chances available for purchase will be ten (10) times the number of paid memberships at the close of the February meeting. Purchase of chances will cease at the close of the March meeting.

PRIZES:

Prizes are determined by multiplying ten (10) times the number of paid membership at the close of the February meeting. Prizes will be chosen by the Prize Committee and equal to half the money collected from sold chances.

POOL CHANCES:

Unclaimed chances in the POOL will be allotted in a rotating manner to those members listed on the POOL LIST at the close of the March meeting. Chances will be awarded to each person in turn until chances are depleted. In the event of uneven numbers of chances remaining in the POOL LIST, numbers will be drawn to determine which members are awarded the remaining chances. Final POOL payment rules will be presented at the January 2011 meeting AND LISTED ON THE BACK OF THIS DOCUMENT.

DISPUTES:

Any and all disputes will be solved by the Drawing Administrator, Assistant Administrator, The Club President, and club Vice Presidents. Decisions by this panel will be final with no appeal.

PRIZES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Prizes will be equal to 10% of chance memberships, and be in coins, silver, & gold bullion and cash.

POOL POLICY FOR APTHA CLUB DRAWING 2011

Adopted at the January 2011 meeting of board of directors.

PAYMENT FOR POOL NUMBERS:

Members must pay for pool numbers on or before the New Club Drawing at the club meeting in April. Pool numbers NOT paid for before the drawing will be declared **INVALID** for the drawing and will not be awarded to any other member.

Pool numbers not paid will be charged as a debt to the member who fails to pay for pool numbers asked for.

Members who qualify for pool numbers are NOT required to purchase any pool numbers.

Members who qualify for pool numbers and wish to purchase extra numbers from the pool **MUST** agree to purchase a minimum of 10 numbers if they are available.

Members who qualify for pool numbers **MAY** purchase the maximum number of pool numbers if they are available.

Members must declare intentions to purchase pool numbers and amount at time of purchasing allotted numbers for the game.

APTHA
DRAWING OFFICIALS FOR
JANUARY-APRIL 2011
MEMBER DRAWING

SALES COMMITTEE

Sales committee members will sell numbers to paid members, (ten numbers per membership) at the January, February, and March meetings. They will also make an accounting of money collected at each meeting, prepare the bank deposit and deliver money collected to the treasurer for deposit.

Ron Newberry
George Baca
Charles Meyers

PRIZE COMMITTEE

Prize committee members will select the drawing prizes . The committee members are also charged with keeping prizes secure, conducting the drawing, and awarding prizes at the April meeting.

Jack Hixon
George Brokens
Jim Wilson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-----Eddie Spruill

The administrative assistant will be prepared to assist each of the above committees with their duties and help the Drawing Administrator with other duties as needed.

DRAWING ADMINISTRATOR-----Rodney Laubhan

The drawing administrator shall be charged with administering the drawing.

THE ABOVE POSITIONS MAY CHANGE FOR FUTURE DRAWING

APTHA
SCHEDULE FOR CLUB
RAFFLE/DRAWING FOR
MEMBERS ONLY
2010-2011

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010---Introduction of new raffle/drawing for New Year 2011 Fund raising.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010-----Explanations of drawing methods and sales methods for New Drawing. Explain voting choices for November meeting.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER, 9, 2010----Final explanations for new drawing explained, and membership voting for drawing procedures.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER, 14, 2010---CHRISTMAS PARTY, and final announcements for 2011 drawing and announcements of voting results.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11,2011-----First sales of numbers for drawing.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011-----**MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER. MOVE ALL DATES FORWARD ONE MONTH**

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011-----Second sales of numbers for drawing.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011-----Final sales (last chance) for members to purchase allotted numbers for MAY drawing.
Sales of numbers not purchased to club members.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011-----DRAWING FOR PRIZES and vote to decide future of current Drawing Fund Raiser.

Inside Articles

Five ways to collect cash for mellow yellow metal

By **BLAKE HARMON**

Claims, Outings & Expeditions Director

We all know that gold is where you find it, but two of the most common questions that I get are 'How do I sell it?' or 'What do I do with the gold when I find it?'

Having sold literally pounds of gold over the past decade for myself and for others, I'm pretty sure that this article will answer both these questions.

Now, setting up a booth at a Gold & Treasure Show or creating your own paydirt bags might be the perfect opportunity for those who have a large stockpile of gold to make some bucks, but the reality for most of us is that by the time you are done with the investments involved in such a venture, you might have just spent more than the gold is worth!

So, 'What is the best way for me to sell my gold?' you might ask.

Bearing in mind that different things work for different situations, I'm going to share with you what I feel are the pros and cons of several different venues that you might use to sell your gold. Through that, I know you'll be able to pick which one is right for you.

Before we even get to the subject at hand, it is important that you know how much gold you have before you try to sell it. By using a scale that is sensitive to at least one-tenth of a gram, you can get a pretty good idea of what you've got. The market price of gold is based on 1 troy ounce of pure gold. In every ounce, there is 480 grains, 20 pennyweight or 31.104 grams depending on what method of measurement the scale uses.

I have included a weight conversion table that I hope will make this more understandable to those of you who are unfamiliar with these weights and measures. The bottom line, however, is that gold has gotten so valuable that it has become necessary to weigh it down to the fraction of a grain. For example, one single grain (by weight) of gold at today's price is worth \$2.81! In today's economy, every grain counts and knowing what you have before you sell it is the only way to get the most money out of your hard-earned gold.

Selling Locally

First and foremost, I want to stress that easiest is not always best. Many of the print ad and 'As Seen on TV' gold buyers may give the impression that they will pay the highest price for gold, and boy does it sound like an easy way to take care of business fast! Just simply mail the gold to them and get a check! That sounds perfect right? Well, unfortunately that usually isn't the case.

Although I'm sure that there are exceptions to the rule, many of these options are among the lowest paying methods to sell your gold that you will ever encounter.

Specifically for this article, I packed one-third of an ounce (a little over 10 grams as they weighed it) of gold into the secure envelope of one of these buyers just to see what would happen. I figured that I could turn down the offer and get my gold back if I was not satisfied. As advertised, they were very fast at getting back to me which was a pleasant surprise.

When I sent this gold in, the market price of gold was sitting at almost exactly \$1,200 per ounce. Based on the market value, that means the gold I sent was worth about \$400 not accounting for losses due to impurities. I thought I could expect to be offered somewhere between 50 to 70 percent of that to account for the small amount of impurities. I had already tested the gold to be 23 karat or about 96 percent pure and knew that the buyers need to make a profit, too.

I was absolutely shocked when I received their offer! They confirmed that the gold was about 95 percent pure and proceeded to offer me less than 20 cents on the dollar for a grand total ... drum roll please ... \$78 dollars! Needless to say, after recovering from a near breakdown followed by laughing myself silly, I decided to have the gold returned to me.

See Link below to continue Article.

<http://www.goldprospectors.org/Communication/ArticlesandInformation/tabid/153/EntryId/258/How-to-sell-your-gold.aspx>

Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.

*Will Rogers, New York Times, Apr. 29, 1930
US humorist & showman
(1879 - 1935)*

Last article - sent by a club member

Please send more Articles and Pictures to enter in the January 2011 Newsletter.

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Code OF Ethics of Treasure Hunters

- **I WILL** respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the owner's permission.
- **I WILL fill all excavations.**
- **I WILL** appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
- **I WILL** use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- **I WILL** build fires in designated or safe places only.
- **I WILL** leave gates as found.
- **I WILL** remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- **I WILL NOT** litter.
- **I WILL NOT** destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- **I WILL NOT** tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.

The finding could help prospectors use biosensors to zero-in on where clumps of the precious metal may lie.

THE GIST

- For the first time microbes have been shown to tinker with gold deposits.
- Bacterial biofilms dissolve gold, which makes it available for re-depositing in purer form elsewhere.
- The bacteria have been identified and so someday hand-held biosensors may help in gold prospecting.

Gold nuggets are often the creations of bacterial biofilms, say Australian researchers who have demonstrated the process and even identified the bacteria at work.

Layers of bacteria can actually dissolve gold into nanoparticles, which move through rocks and soils, and then deposit it in other places, sometimes creating purer "secondary" gold deposits in cracks and crevices of rocks. The process overturns the long-held belief by some scientists that gold ore is created only by "primary" physical geological processes.

By looking at the DNA in biofilms that grow on gold grains collected from the Prophet gold mine in southeast Queensland, Australia, the University of Adelaide's Frank Reith and his colleagues discovered that 90 percent of the bacteria were of just two species *Delftia acidovorans* and *Cupriavidus metallidurans*. The bacteria share genes that make them resistant to the toxic effects of heavy metals.

"It's the first time we actually see the mechanism laying on top of the gold grain," said Joël Brugger of the South Australian Museum and University of Adelaide, a co-author on a report about the discovery which appears in the September issue of the journal *Geology*.

"We tagged the DNA and saw the beautiful active biofilm (dissolving the gold)," said Brugger. "That was very interesting because gold in soluble form is very toxic." That dissolved gold can then be redeposited in other places in a much purer form.

The discovery is especially important because it could point to a new high tech way to prospect for gold.

"They have been looking for gold in Australia for a hundred years," said Brugger. "It's getting more and more difficult." In fact most of the gold mining activity is just extensions of old discoveries made decades ago. "Finding something new is really, really rare."

One thing that makes it particularly hard to find new gold deposits in southeast Queensland is that the rocks there, and over most of Australia, are some of the oldest on Earth and have been largely ground down and buried by many meters of soil.

Finding gold deposits has often meant chancing upon the element on or near the surface soil, then digging down in search of ore-bearing rocks. Sometimes that has worked, sometimes not, said Brugger.

"At the moment we don't really understand how gold moves around in the environment," said Brugger. "I think that here we can see for the first time how it happens." Microbes dissolve it and move it around with the groundwater flow — which can be pretty quick.

The presence of the bacteria could be a quick way to test if gold is present in the ground, Brugger suggested. Field geologists could even someday use biosensors that are tuned to detect the genes of these gold-specific microbes.

"It may have a direct application in understanding how gold is going to exist in these environments," agreed geochemist D.C. "Bear" McPhail of Australian National University. McPhail is looking at how microbes might alter the concentrations of different uranium isotopes, also a toxic metal, in soils, which can effect radioisotope dating techniques.

"We still have some way to go until we have direct application," said McPhail. "But it may lead to looking in different parts of the soil. It gets more and more sophisticated all the time."

Contributor: Larry O'Hanlon