

This month's drawing winners!

The 50/50 winner in September was Bud Elliott. Blue ticket winners were Michael Norlander- gold nugget. Bud Elliott won the gold flakes & Dan Ferguson a half dollar.

Every month we have two drawings. A 50/50 drawing for all attendees and a Blue ticket drawing for members only. 50% of the proceeds from the 50/50 goes to the club.

Bud Elliot's

Gold Nugget

<i>Fine Gold Jewelry</i>	<i>Gold Wire Jewelry</i>
<i>Jewelry Repair</i>	<i>Colored Stones</i>
<i>Diamonds</i>	<i>Castings</i>
<i>Prospecting Consulting</i>	
<i>Bud & Helen Elliott</i>	<i>I Buy Nuggets,</i>
<i>806-282-8194</i>	<i>Gold Finds, Scrap Gold</i>
<i>806-374-3168</i>	<i>And Silver</i>

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**AMARILLO PROSPECTORS &
TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION**

President: JOHN LONDON

First VP: DENNIS GEE, in charge of arranging for programs

Second VP: RODNEY LAUBHAN, events coordinator

Sec/Treasurer: Skip Kendrick

Board Members: KEITH FERGUSON, BUD ELLIOTT, Mark Davey & Jim Nichols

Club News

Welcome to the September 2009 edition of the Prospectors & Treasure Hunters Newsletter

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At our September meeting the program was presented on our "Adopt A Park" proposal by Larry Offerdahl, Director of the City Parks & Recreation department. The program emphasized the City's commitment to improve all public recreation facilities and make them among the best anywhere. We can all be proud of the city's forward progress in this respect.

Thanks Larry for a very interesting program.

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Our "Find of the Month" winner for September 2009 was Charles Myers.

Charles find was a man's, U S Air Force ring with a large stone.

Congratulations

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Our club website is on line. The address is:

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

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Our program for October will be on "Campfire Cooking". Mark Davey & Skip Kendrick will show us how to use "cast Iron Cookery" while camping. You will want to take notes on this one!

Board of directors had their meeting at 5:00 PM, Tuesday, October 6th @ Gander Mountain.

See You at 7:00PM on October 13th



STOUT GOLD AND SILVER

TOM STOUT
Manager

806/374-8698
2300 West 7th
Amarillo, Texas 79106

This is your club and we want to hear your opinions.

All club members have the right to be heard. If you want to discuss an item during the open meeting, just raise your hand and you will be recognized.

To be added to the meeting agenda, please call or email me and your topic will be put in the news letter.

Your opinions are important to the health of the club.

Use your voice!

Board Meeting notes from 10/06/09

- 1- The board approved a recommendation to create a PayPal account for sales via our website. We will have a separate bank account just for receiving payments via www.amarillotreasure.com. We will be able to receive payments for club membership dues, club hats, coins and any other items added to our inventory in the future.
- 2- Approved the program for The October meeting.
- 3- Mark Davey, committee chairman for the club drywasher(s), Will give a progress report and show the product Tuesday night.
- 4- The board approved the prizes for the Christmas party. Sorry, you'll just have to be at the dinner to find out what they are :0) We also approved a \$10 per plate cost and the club will cover the sales tax above \$.50/plate.
- 5- The "Adopt a Park" contract has been signed and is ready to be implemented.
- 6- We decided to combine our Chili cook-off with an adopt a park hunt and workday.
- 7- The board also approved a suggestion to have a "Float" in the December 4th parade.
- 8- We will iron out details at the club meeting

- 9- We will have nominations continuing with the October meeting for President, 1st & 2nd Vice President and two board slots. Please have your nominations ready. We will vote in November.
- 10- Jim Nichols & Mark Davey will draft the regulations for "Adopt A Park" and could use some help/suggestions from club members.
- 11- The board recommends December 8th for our Christmas party. The membership needs to pick three (3) places to eat. We will vote on the choices. The board also set a \$750 cap for party prizes.
- 12- The board also discussed the news letter. The news letter is intended to be delivered via e-mail at no charge. There are a few members that require either mail delivery or by hand at the meetings. Due to the increasing costs of postage, paper and ink, we have decided to charge a bare minimum to break even on expenses. Printed news letters mailed will be \$1.50 and hand carried will be \$1.00 per copy.

Approximately three years ago a small group of coin hunters, prospectors and treasure hunters met to form a club. We met for a few months in the public library, watched treasure/prospecting videos and talked of a more organized, let's do something fun, group of adventurers. Now we have it!

After our humble beginnings in the library, we were able to find a more permanent home at 2200 W 7th st. in Amarillo, Texas. Our club now has a name: Amarillo Prospectors & Treasure Hunters Association, or AP&THA. We are moving forward at a very nice pace, with elected officers, a board of directors, by laws and a budget. Our membership has grown to about 105 members +-, we are having monthly live programs, club coin hunting activities and group prospecting trips .

During our first year of real organization, member Ed Pine helped us put a BBS or forum on the internet, for members to visit and share experiences. The concept was a good one and worked pretty well for a while. The problem was that only a small group of people would actually post. In our on-going effort to grow and progress, the board of directors decided to create a full blown web presence. It is our goal to increase local interest in our activities and to attract new members and guests from across the nation. We have a GREAT website! www.amarillotreasure.com . Please go take a look and stay a while.

It is our intention to market AP&THA via the internet. We plan to be able to accept membership dues via PayPal, as well as sell other goods and services with the touch of your mouse.

We encourage all members to look around, post on our new forums and let us know what you think and want to see. All registered users have been imported to the new system. If you haven't signed up, it's really easy, just fill out the registration form in full and you're in.

We are extremely proud of this website and our club! Please help us spread the word. Tell all your friends, bring a guest to the meeting Tuesday 10/13/09. We promise a good cup of coffee and a good time.

Let's grow AP&THA together



Gold may be alloyed with various other metals to give it special properties. In its pure form, gold has a metallic luster and is sun yellow, but when mixed or alloyed with other metals, such as silver (Ag), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn), nickel (Ni), platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd), tellurium (Te), and iron (Fe), creates various color hues ranging from silver-white to green and orange-red. Usually, red, yellow and green golds are made by adding varying amounts of copper (Cu) and silver (Ag) to produce alloys of 10 to 14 carats. White golds have traditionally been made by alloying nickel (Ni), zinc (Zn) and copper (Cu) with gold, but more recently silver (Ag) and palladium (Pd) have replaced the zinc. These color variation treatments to gold are mostly used in jewelry.

Gold is found in nature in quartz veins and secondary alluvial deposits as a free metal or in a combined state. It is widely distributed although it is rare, being 75th in order of abundance of the elements in the crust of the Earth. It is almost always associated with varying amounts of silver; the naturally occurring gold-silver alloy is called *electrum*. Gold occurs, in chemical combination with tellurium, in the minerals calaverite and sylvanite along with silver, and in the mineral nagyagite along with lead, antimony, and sulfur. It occurs with mercury as gold amalgam. It is generally present to a small extent in iron pyrites; galena, the lead sulfide ore that usually contains silver, sometimes also contains appreciable amounts of gold. Gold also occurs in seawater to the extent of 5 to 250 parts by weight to 100 million parts of water. Although the quantity of gold present in seawater is more than 9 billion metric tons, the cost of recovering the gold would be far greater than the value of the gold that could thus be recovered.

Properties of Gold

An unparalleled combination of chemical and physical properties make gold invaluable to a wide range of everyday applications. One of the most important of these properties is gold's virtual indestructibility. Gold is the most non-reactive of all metals. It is called a "noble" metal (an alchemistic term) because it does not oxidize under ordinary conditions, meaning that it will never rust and never tarnish.

It will, however, dissolve in aqueous mixtures containing various halogens such as chlorides, bromides, or some iodides. It will also dissolve in some oxidizing mixtures, such as cyanide ion with oxygen, and in aqua regia, a mixture of hydrochloric and nitric acids.

Gold's physical properties of high electrical conductivity and chemical inertness make it an excellent and reliable conductor, particularly in harsh environments, where temperatures can range from -55°C to 200°C . The use of gold in circuitry ensures reliability of equipment operation, particularly in the vital activation of safety airbag mechanisms in motor vehicles or deployment of satellites and spacecraft. No other metal is as ductile or as malleable as gold. A single ounce of the metal can be drawn into a wire five miles long. Gold can be hammered into sheets so thin that light can pass through. High purity gold reflects infrared (heat) energy almost completely, making it ideal for heat and radiation reflection. Gold-coated visors protected astronauts' eyes from searing sunlight on the Apollo 11 moon landing. Gold is also an excellent conductor of thermal energy. It is used in many electronic processes to draw heat away from delicate instruments. For example, the main engine nozzle of the space shuttle uses a 35% gold alloy.

Gold Colors

Gold is bright yellow and has a high luster. Finely divided gold, like other metallic powders, is black; colloiddally suspended gold ranges in color from ruby red to purple.

Gold can mixed with other metals to give it different colors.

White gold is very popular right now. It can be in 18-karat or 14-karat gold (but not in 22-karat, as it is yellow gold). There are two basic types of white gold alloys: white gold mixed with nickel and white gold mixed with palladium. Nickel can be mixed with gold to create a white or gray color, but some people have an allergy to nickel. Palladium is another metal used to create white gold. Palladium is better but it costs more.

Copper creates pink and rose tones in gold. The more the copper, the deeper will be the effect.

Greenish shades are created by adding silver to gold.

Rose gold and Green gold can be 18-karat or 14-karat but the color is stronger in the 14-karat alloys.

Purple gold. It is referred as amethyst or violet gold. Purple gold is obtained by mixing gold and aluminium in a certain fixed ratio. Gold content is almost 79% and therefore it is qualified to be referred to as 18K gold.

Blue gold is made as an inter-metallic compound between gold and indium . The gold gets a bluish hue color with this process.

Black gold is created using a few techniques. Electro-deposition using black rhodium or ruthenium is the first technique. Controlled oxidation of Carat gold containing cobalt or chromium can also be made to create black gold. Amorphous carbon is also used some times, with the Plasma Assisted Chemical Vapor Deposition process.

Uses of Gold

Gold has been prized by people since the earliest times for making statues and icons and also for jewelry to adorn their bodies. Intricately sculptured art objects and adornment jewelry have been uncovered in the Sumerian royal Tombs in southern Iraq and the tombs of Egyptian kings. Significant buildings and religious temples and statues have been covered

with thinly beaten sheets of gold. Due to its rarity, gold has long been considered a symbol of the wealth and power of its possessor.

In 2001, it was estimated that 2870 tons of gold were produced worldwide. About 80 percent of that gold production was used to make jewelry, the majority of which was sold in India, Europe and the United States of America [14k Gold Jewelry](#) is very common among jewelry pieces. Gold jewelry is universally popular, loved for its lustrous yellow color and untarnishing character. In many Asian countries, such as India, Thailand, and China, gold is important to religious ceremonies and social occasions, such as the Chinese New Year and Hindu marriages in India. Importantly, gold is still regarded throughout much of the world as a store of financial value, particularly in many developing countries. However it has many other vital uses in modern life.

Each year approximately 660 tons of gold are used in telecommunications, information technology, medical treatments, and various industrial applications. Due to its high electrical conductivity, gold is a vital component of many electrical devices, including computers. It is used in the manufacture of approximately 50 million computers each year, as well as millions of televisions, DVDs, VCRs, video cameras and mobile phones. Gold has been used in medicine since 1927, when it was found to be useful in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Even before then it was used in dentistry, in fillings and false teeth. Because it is non-toxic and biologically benign, gold is perfect for many medical applications. Surgeons use gold instruments to clear blocked coronary arteries. In another medical procedure, gold pellets are injected into the body to help obstruct the spread of prostate cancer in men. Gold is also used in lasers, which allow surgeons to seal wounds quickly or treat once-inoperable heart conditions. Thin gold wires are used in many surgical procedures to provide strong and inert support. Gold is also used in the form of gold leaf in the arts of gilding and lettering. Purple of Cassius, a precipitate of finely divided gold and stannic hydroxide formed by the interaction of auric chloride and stannous chloride, is used in coloring ruby glass.

Origins of gold

Gold is widespread in low concentrations in all igneous rocks. Its abundance in the Earth's crust is estimated at about 0.005 parts per million. It is 75th in order of abundance of the elements in the crust of the Earth.

Gold occurs mostly in the native state, remaining chemically uncombined except with tellurium, selenium, and possibly bismuth. The element's only naturally occurring isotope is gold-197. Gold is almost always associated with varying amounts of silver; the naturally occurring gold-silver alloy is called *electrum*. Gold often occurs in association with copper and lead deposits, and, though the quantity present is often extremely small, it is readily recovered as a by-product in the refining of those base metals. Large masses of gold-bearing rock rich enough to be called ores are unusual. Two types of deposits containing significant amounts of gold are known: hydrothermal veins, where it is associated with quartz and pyrite (fool's gold); and placer deposits, both consolidated and unconsolidated, that are derived from the weathering of gold-bearing rocks. Gold also occurs in seawater to the extent of 5 to 250 parts by weight to 100 million parts of water. Although the quantity of gold present in seawater is more than 9 billion metric tons, the cost of recovering the gold would be far greater than the value of the gold that could thus be recovered.

The origin of enriched veins is not fully known, but it is believed that the gold was carried up from great depths with other minerals, at least in partial solid solution, and later precipitated. The gold in rocks usually occurs as invisible disseminated grains, more rarely as flakes large enough to be seen, and even more rarely as masses or veinlets. Crystals about 2.5 cm (1 inch) or more across have been found in California. Masses, some on the order of 90 kg (200 pounds), have been reported from Australia.

Compounds

The characteristic oxidation states of gold are +1 (aurous compounds) and +3 (auric compounds). Gold is more easily displaced from solution by reduction than any other metal; even platinum will reduce Au³⁺ ions to metallic gold.

Among the relatively few gold compounds of practical importance are gold chloride, AuCl; gold trichloride, AuCl₃; and chlorauric acid, HAuCl₄. In the first compound gold is in the +1 oxidation state, and in the latter two, the +3 state. All three compounds are involved in the electrolytic refining of gold. Potassium cyanaurate is the basis for most gold-plating baths (the solution employed when gold is plated). Several organic compounds of gold have industrial applications. For example, gold mercaptides, which are obtained from sulfurized terpenes, are dissolved in certain organic solutions and used for decorating china and glass articles.

Gold as an Investment

In the West pension funds and mutual funds keep typically around 4% of their assets in gold partly as a hedge against inflation, partly as an alternative to major currencies such as the dollar and partly as an insurance against a major financial crisis. To invest in gold they buy shares in gold mines or futures contracts. In Asian countries many people prefer to keep their savings in gold rather than government paper. They buy gold in the form of jewelry or gold bars.



And Last but certainly not least, are the winners of our door prize drawings. They are: Don Kennedy, Keith Ferguson, Jack Hixon, Paul Wall and Dan Ferguson.

Congratulations to all winners.

See ya'll Tuesday night

John London

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.