



Wausau Prospectors

Volume 2, Issue 3

October 2008

Next Meeting Location – Cedar Creek Mall, Wausau

Our next meeting will be held Saturday, November 1st at 11:00AM. The location of the meeting is the Community Room at the Cedar Creek Mall. The mall is located next to I-39 just North of Gander Mountain. Take I-39 exit 185-Business 51 North to County XX/Imperial Avenue. Turn right and go straight ahead to the mall. See map on last page. The Community Room is located at the main entrance of the mall. Carl Mauritz will give a presentation on faceting gemstones. BBQ's will be furnished. Please bring a dish to pass.

Message from the Vice President

Hi

After a beautiful Indian summer fall is here. Now it's time to take care of these engines and pumps for winter. I hate putting the prospecting stuff away. But I have plenty of concentrates to keep me busy this winter. It's also a great time to research those trips for next summer. We are looking forward to trips to North Carolina and the Black Hills. We also want to make it back to the U.P. What a fun trip that was.

It was great seeing everyone at the October meeting. And I think everyone really enjoyed Diane's presentation. There seemed to be a lot of questions and interest. Thanks a lot Diane. We appreciate your help putting on a fun and informative meeting.

I am doing some research on an outing to South Dakota. There seems to be a lot of interest in a trip out there. Theresa and I have been to the Black Hills a number of times and really it enjoy it out there. I'll have more information at the November meeting.

Let me remind everyone that this is your club and I would like to hear what you would like to do or see at our meetings. I'm always looking for suggestions. So let's hear from you. It's time to start planning next summer's activities.

We will be making a food donation after our November meeting so this will be a good time to

Club Officers 2007 - 2009

President: Robert Hoffman
(715) 551-0426
Death2wabbits@yahoo.com

Vice Pres: Mike McKee
(715) 423-4184
Mike52@wctc.net

Secretary: Theresa McKee
(715) 423-4184
rotmom@wctc.net

Treasurer: Barb Bublitz
(715) 341-4301
Lizzy101@charter.net

Procurement Officer: Kurt Bublitz
(715) 341-4301
Lizzy101@charter.net

Community Outreach Officer: Tom Pawlak
(715) 669-5714
Pol_prince@hotmail.com

Club Historian: Peggy Gremler
rgremler@charter.net

bring a few extra cans to donate to increase your chances of winning that piece of gold. This time we will be donating to the Neighbor's Place in Wausau.

I look forward to seeing everyone at next month's meeting. So until we see each other again, may there be gold in every pan and sunshine in your life.

Mike McKee

Items for Sale

Anyone wanting to list items for sale in the monthly newsletter should contact Theresa at (715) 423-4184 or rotmom@wctc.net.

Lightly used 1st Proline Step into cold water 7mm wet suit top. A step into wet suit top covers from neck down to mid thigh and is very warm in water as low as 55 degrees. Suit is an XXL which would be 36-40 inch waist and 40-44 inch chest. Suit is in excellent condition. \$50 or best offer. Ken Kostecki kbkostt@charter.net

Canned Goods

Remember that we are collecting canned goods for the local food pantries at our meetings. For every can of food you bring you get a raffle ticket for a piece of gold to be given away at every meeting. Maybe you can win yourself a little gold while helping others.

Mining Terms of the Month

Prospecting – Prospecting is typically performed by prospectors at the grass roots stage of exploration and is the search for surface mineralization or showing.

Claim – A claim is a mining right that grants the holder the exclusive right to search within a given territory for any mineral substance and is generally subject to minimum exploration expenditures and assessment costs to legally retain these rights.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Mike McKee and Kurt Bublitz. There were 24 in attendance

The secretary minutes were accepted as written. The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

We are thinking about starting a club library with books, CD's, DVD's, etc. So we are again looking for a volunteer that might be interested in organizing this and keeping track of the items. You will need to have some space to store everything.

Donations to raffles:

- Kurt Bublitz – hot seat
- Tom Pawlak – ladies rain coat, copper nugget

Floyd Olson donated a flag to the club. Thank you to everyone that made donations. I know I didn't get everyone's name that donated items. In the future, please let Kurt Bublitz know what you are donating. Please accept my apologies if I missed you.

November Meeting

The November meeting will be held at the Cedar Creek Mall in the Community Room at 11am. Carl Mauritz will be giving a presentation on faceting gemstones. If you have seen any of his work you know what a beautiful job he does. You may want to bring a friend to see this interesting demonstration. The meeting will be followed by a pot luck lunch with BBQ's furnished. Please bring a dish to pass.



GOLD

Many people are surprised to discover that northern Michigan is the home of (a limited amount of) buried treasure. For centuries, gold, silver, copper and diamonds have been found here. Records available at the US Forest Service in Cadillac indicate that gold has been found in over 100 places in Michigan. Gold has been discovered in 27 of 68 counties in the Lower Peninsula and 6 of 15 counties in the UP.

Remember, Michigan's Upper Peninsula is an ancient, rugged land. The contorted surface of the western UP stands in mute witness of its ancient fiery birth. This part of the peninsula is made up of the oldest rock in the world, the Canadian Shield, which is as much as four billion years old. Predating the earliest life on earth, this ancient formation is host to an array of valuable minerals. [Copper](#), which is found in its native form in the UP's Copper Country and on Isle Royale, was mined by prehistoric Native Americans thousands of years ago. Stories about massive pieces of the virgin metal which could be dug from the ground were related by early fur traders and missionaries on their return to civilization. A few mining ventures were begun. Once the rich copper deposits of the Keweenaw Peninsula were documented in 1841 by Douglass Houghton, Michigan's first state geologist, a copper rush to the Lake Superior country began. Mining began in earnest in 1844 at the Cliff Mine near Eagle River.

That same year, the rich iron deposits of the [Marquette Iron Range](#) were discovered near present-day Negaunee. A party of surveyors under [William Austin Burt](#) was running a range line when they noticed the compass making dramatic deviations from true north. A search of the surrounding area turned up specimens of high grade iron ore. Within a few years, the towns of Ishpeming and Negaunee were founded and the iron ore mining industry of the Upper Peninsula had begun.

Make no mistake, finding gold was also one of the objectives of the earliest European explorers, but the native Indians knew nothing of the yellow metal. The explorers soon turned their attention to the abundant copper and iron deposits. Small amounts of gold were eventually found as early as 1845, but it was not until the opening of the Ropes Gold Mine in the early 1880's that gold mining jumped into Michigan's history. The Ropes mine ran for 14 years and produced \$645,792 in gold and silver, but was never able to pay a dividend to its stockholders.

In the years following the establishment of this first mine, more than 75 other gold mines and prospects were begun in the Upper Peninsula. Some, such as the Lake Superior and Michigan mines, produced spectacularly rich specimens of gold-bearing quartz. Other prospects consisted of only a few trenches and pits, producing no more than traces of the precious metal. Most prospecting had ceased by the early 1900s, but the Great Depression and the increase in the price of gold from \$20.67 to \$35 per ounce brought about another prospecting boom in the 1930's. World War II called a halt to gold mining, with the prospects lying idle until the abandonment of the gold standard in 1971 and the resultant dramatic rise in the price of gold. Improved metallurgical methods and higher gold prices in the 1970's and 1980's attracted a \$20 million redevelopment project to the Ropes mine, which again began producing gold in the fall of 1985. The reopened mine produced until 1989, when a combination of low gold prices, poor ore grade and a collapse of rock in the production shaft prompted its shutdown.

Gold was first discovered in Michigan by Douglass Houghton, the first state geologist. Appointed to the post in 1837, Houghton made several visits to the Upper Peninsula, reporting on the copper wealth existing there. In 1844, he convinced Congress to finance a joint geological and linear survey of Michigan. For the 1845 survey in the Upper Peninsula, Houghton worked with William Austin Burt, Deputy Land Surveyor for the federal government. While Burt and his crew located the range and township lines, marking their corners, Houghton's men took detailed geological notes and samples, and measured the land's elevation.

While camped near the present site of Negaunee in 1845, Houghton returned from a solo excursion with rock specimens carrying enough free gold to fill an eagle's quill. Fearing that his men would desert to prospect for gold, he kept the find a secret. Houghton only revealed the discovery to his trusted associate Samuel Worth Hill, the veteran mineral explorer whose penchant for spicy language has been immortalized in the euphemism "What the Sam Hill!" Unfortunately, Dr. Houghton drowned later that year when his canoe capsized in a storm near Eagle Harbor, and the exact location of his gold find died with him.

In June the following year, Houghton's younger brother Jacob, found a vein of native copper on the Keweenaw Peninsula which held a small amount of gold. An assay yielded 10.25 ounces of copper, 1.75 ounces of silver and 12 grains of gold from the 28-ounce specimen.

Silas C. Smith, one of the first settlers in Marquette, claimed a few months before his death that he had discovered mineral deposits containing gold and silver within the city limits in 1854 and 1855. Although Smith never developed his finds, later discoveries in the city support his claims.

The next evidence of gold in the area was discovered during the silver mining boom in 1864. During an assay of mineral specimens from the Silver Lake district 12 miles northwest of Ishpeming, assayers found economic quantities of gold in a sample of iron pyrite. Although more than 35 silver and gold mining companies were formed and thousands of acres of land were bought and sold during the boom, only a few mines were actually begun. Some of these shafts and drifts produced small amounts of silver ore, but none became successful mines or reported any gold production. The last silver mine closed down in 1868.

In 1869, Waterman Palmer sold several parcels of land to the Cascade Iron Company near the town which bears his name. He revealed that a small vein of gold-bearing quartz existed there. The iron company sampled the vein and found up to \$900 worth of gold per ton of ore. The vein was too small to be mined profitably and was soon forgotten.

By 1906, gold mining was but a memory to most of Michigan, but the Grummett Gold and Silver Mining Company was still in existence and proposing to renew its explorations on its Michigamme prospect. At the company's 1906 stockholders meeting, a 2.5-cent-per-share assessment was called to finance explorations. Over the summer, George Grummett and his sons returned to the prospect and reopened the three old shafts, which had been flooded for years. Grummett was able to clean out the shafts, each of which was about 16 feet deep, and take samples of the ore in the vein. With specimens of free gold on display, the Grummett company offered the property for sale at a reasonable price, but no buyers came forward, and the prospect was again abandoned. In 1913, the property was sold, and no further work was done.

Forest service officials report that just about every river system in Michigan has had shows of gold. Prospectors have found gold in the Manistee, Au Sable and other rivers. But rivers are not the only place that gold has been found in Michigan. People dry pan for gold in gravel pits. Many prospectors claim that gold can be found in just about any Michigan gravel pit. In prospecting for gold, the "49ers" of the California gold rush would wash gravel from stream beds in pans and sluices to extract the metal deposited there by erosion. As these "placer" deposits played out, the prospectors followed the rivers upstream, looking for the "mother lode," the gold-bearing bedrock from which the secondary deposits had been eroded.

Mineral explorers in the Upper Peninsula also panned the many creeks and rivers and occasionally found some "colors," but no bedrock gold deposits were ever located in this way. You see, the geography of the UP differs from that of California. Michigan's surface has been scoured and reshaped by the repeated advance and retreat of continental glaciers. The sand and gravel (and gold) in a stream bed here could have been eroded from bedrock nearby, or it could just as easily have come from hundreds of miles away, carried by an advancing glacier. Thus, gold in a river placer was no proof that a mother lode lay upstream. Nonetheless, gold placers are known to exist in Michigan, and mining them has often been proposed.

Taken from: <http://www.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/gold.html>

Calendar of Events

Nov 1 – WAUSAU PROSPECTORS MEETING

CEDAR CREEK MALL – COMMUNITY ROOM 11AM

- CARL MAURITZ PRESENTATION ON GEMSTONES
- POT LUCK WITH BBQ'S FURNISHED – PLEASE BRING DISH TO PASS

DEC 6 – WAUSAU PROSPECTORS MEETING

CEDAR CREEK MALL – COMMUNITY ROOM 11AM

- HOLIDAY PARTY
- GIFT EXCHANGE
- SMOKED TURKEY POT LUCK – PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS

JAN 3 – WAUSAU PROSPECTORS MEETING

CEDAR CREEK MALL – COMMUNITY ROOM 11AM

MARCH 2009 – GREENBUSH CHAPTER GOLD AND TREASURE SHOW\

AUGUST 22-23 2ND ANNUAL WISCONSIN GOLD RUSH DAYS

A Note from Kurt Bublitz

For the Wausau Prospectors members who join or renew the GPAA, please let them know you are a member of the Wausau Prospectors GPAA Chapter. We earn Chapter credits from the GPAA that can be used like cash when ordering catalog items from the GPAA that we use for our club such as raffles. Joining the GPAA includes many benefits. Find out at <http://www.goldprospectors.org/membership/gpaa> or call the GPAA toll free: 800-551-9707

Other Club News

GREENBUSH WISCONSIN

Chapter of GPAA – holds meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 3pm in the Fellowship hall New Hope U M Church, 27797 Center Street, Greenbush, WI (across from the Wade House). For more information contact Ron Smith at (920) 207-4092

MID STATE METAL DETECTING CLUB

Mid State Metal Detecting Club meets every 3rd Wednesday at 7pm in the Stevens Point Area. Contact Steve Miller for more information (715) 572-1845

TOMAH WISCONSIN

Chapter of GPAA – hold meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11 am at the Tomah Boys and Girls Club. For more information contact Richard Hanson at (608) 498-2237 or email at sad2692000@yahoo.com

WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS ADVENTURERS

A Wisconsin GPAA Chapter - holds Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of every month. For more information contact Tom Frank at (715) 579-7111 or visit <http://www.wisconsinpaa.com>

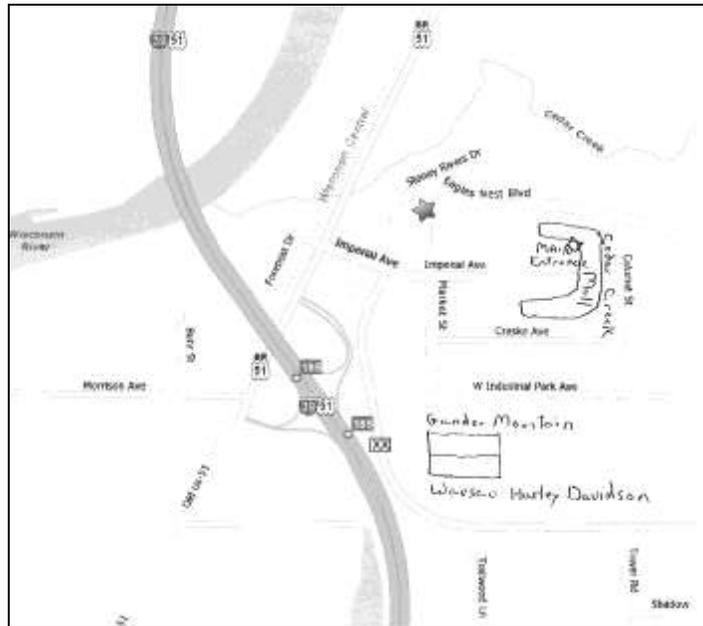
November B-days

Stacey Gribowski 11/20

November Anniversaries

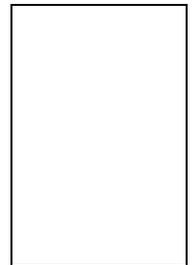
Don Kulas and wife 11/7

Map to Meeting Location – Cedar Creek Mall, Community Room – Wausau, WI



Wausau Prospectors

Theresa McKee, Secretary
841 12th Street N
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Open Immediately
Your October Newsletter

Have a smiley Day! 😊