

# The Adventurists



By Bob Weldin

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Exploring wilderness areas searching for profitable mineral deposits and evaluating old mines for renewed production is risky enough without contending with a South American drug cartel.

Investigating an old mine near the U. S.-Canadian border, Brad O'Conner and his partner discover it is being used to hide large supplies of drugs. Barely escaping the smugglers, they vow to never talk about what they have seen. When the old mine mysteriously blows up shortly thereafter, Brad realizes that he, his partner, and most importantly, Sara Mullins, his love interest and fellow geologist are in danger. Provided FBI protection, Brad and Sara begin exploration of mineral deposits and mining claims in a large wilderness area in Idaho. They are aided by friends living in the local area, family members with the controlling interest in a fly-in only recreation ranch, and members of associated government agencies. All the while they are forced to keep an eye out for members of the cartel who are seeking revenge for the destruction of their drug supply.

Besides being an exciting and fast-paced thriller, *The Adventurists* contains large doses of outdoor adventure, a proportional serving of romance, and a bit of geological and mining education. Taking place in the 1960s, it seems odd to us that the characters are in the wilds without cellphones or internet capability. They have to find an established phone or two-way radio in order to contact anyone.

The story is well written and proves difficult to put down. As the sequel to *The Dry Diggin's Club*, it completes a story the author originally began in hopes of detailing his career and experiences as an exploration geologist and mining engineer.