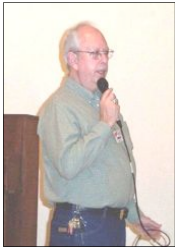


The Prez Sez

By Gary Hawley, President



I noticed a couple nice days recently, nice enough that I went to check out Clear Creek. It's running a little high and a lot cold but us tough prospectors could get in and do some serious panning. I would have prospected then but my winter mobile closet did not have my rubber boots or gloves. (An error on my part.) Our March meeting was well attended and our speaker, Dan Plazak, was very informative about Cripple Creek gold reserves. Thanks to Allen Mershon for obtaining

such interesting speakers.

Kathy Hawley told me the ticket sales for the Brazilian nugget are brisk and she may be able to draw for that nugget in a couple more months. Be sure to look at that 18.7 gram beauty at the April meeting.

Jeff Mosteller is working on the requests for panning demos for this year. I have asked him to select the requests carefully and reduce the number of venues this year. We were all getting a bit worn out by the end of last year and I want to keep this a fun activity for those involved.

Sue Lemieux has some great outings planned for this summer and she will keep us informed on dates and times.

PRESIDENT'S DAY OUT! The first President's Day Out will be May 5 at Tymkovich Meats. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This will be a swap-meet so here is your chance to sell/buy some prospecting equipment. Bring your own lunch and drinks. Sell what you don't want and buy what you just have to have. There will be plenty of time to do some prospecting on Clear Creek. **LET'S GO GOLD PANNING!** I recently had a conversation with Eric Vesterby, president of Gold Prospectors of Colorado. The GPOC is having its annual gold panning outing on the Arkansas on May 18, 19 & 20 and Eric has extended an invitation to GPR members. This outing will be on a GPOC member's claim and is close to Point Bar. I have asked Larry and Shirley Weilnau to bring maps and a signup sheet to our April meeting for this event. Bill Duncanson will give the third clue to the GPR Cache at the April meeting. I think I'm onto his methodology. It's up to you to beat me to the cache and you can't do it without the clues.

Until next time: May the gold in your pan be worth the effort you put into finding it.



**Join Us on the Third Wednesday!
Lloyd G. Clements Community Center
1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado**

(One block west of Wadsworth, then one block north of Colfax)

7:00 p.m. (Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

Information: (303) 933-1147 <> ghawley1@juno.com

Website:

<http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/>

VP's Corner

By Jeff Mosteller, Vice President

Greetings,

A quick rundown on how things work for those of you who want to get involved in the Demos. I have Demo sign up sheets on every event, these will be at every meeting for anyone interested if you wish to sign up for an event. You don't have to worry about signing up and missing the event, the sign up sheet does not commit you to anything. If you show up to an event please make sure that your name is on the sheet as you get points for the Recognition Awards at the end of the year for volunteering your time. I run a Bulk e mail account for sending alerts and information to the people who are signed on to this, make sure I get your e mail address if you have one, if something changes at the last minute this the best way for me to contact everybody. Be sure that your anti spam filters recognizes jefndona@comcast.net.

We're looking for retired volunteers that would be interested in doing an occasional demo for small school, library, museums etc. If you might be interested helping out, these demos are very small they do not require the full set up, generally they are just a few people 1 or 2 tubs and a hand full of club cards. Gary Hawley will be in charge of this back up group and will coordinate the events directly with those who want to help please contact him directly.

The article in last month's newsletter about prospecting around Tymkovich Meats at 70th & Washington contains some errors in it, let me clarify. There is to be NO Highbanking or other motorized equipment in Adams County, if you take machinery into the creeks you risk heavy fines and confiscation of your stuff, don't feed the Bears. You can pan and sluice both sides of the river almost anywhere in the county, carry out what you carried in and more please.

If you run a Dredge or Highbank, now is past time to start checking out your equipment for the season. Get that oil changed on your pumps, check for new holes in your hoses and chase the spiders out of your miners moss. A little bit of preventive maintenance now goes a long way after you humped all that stuff down to the river or up to a old river bed terrace.

Any black sand you have laying around from last year should be nice and dry and if you recovered any gold from it the first time, it still has gold in it. Donna likes to put a magnet in a plastic baggie and drag it through the black sand until she gets all the magnetite out of it and uses a smooth finish pan to take everything else out of it and usually finds "Sugar Gold" in the final panning.

Note: if you ever got magnetite on a rare earth or other strong magnet you know that the plastic baggie saves an eternity of picking black sand off your magnets. If you didn't know that, now you do.

Donna and I have coordinated the Panning Demonstrations over the past 5 years and it's been a blast but were getting tired. I would like all of you to give some consideration on a replacement for the Demo Coordinator for next year. Please take a moment and think about think about the future of this club and what it takes to keep it together. The current officers and board members are only human, we do not want to be in these positions forever it's your club to.

Be careful out there, see ya in the funny papers, Jeff

TREASURE ADVENTURE 2007

Jim Davis

FT.GARLAND TREASURE HUNT 2007

I have been able to make a trip down to Ft. Garland, to do some scouting in the area with the help of club members Dan Lefore and Gene Dilger. We left early Monday morning and arrived around 10 a.m. in Ft. Garland. Decided to visit the historic Ft. Garland Museum which was well worth the price of admission.(Four Dollars) Some of the displays included Spanish coins of the era. Military clothing and weapons used back then. Kit Carson the famous Army Scout and Frontiersman was quite famous in this area and for a period of time was the Ft. Commander. We enjoyed the various displays and had the opportunity to visit the Fort Library while there. Gene pointed out that we may find some pertinent information on microfiche in regards to the soldiers names stationed there in early days. We were browsing through some old reprinted newspapers and came across the story on the Army Payroll. It was similar to the one I had initially read in Lost Treasures of Colorado.

After leaving the library we had some lunch outside and discussed the possibilities of searching the area we had read about only to find barbed wire fencing along both sides of the creek traveling back to La Veta Pass!! This property is all owned by the Forbes Ranch and they do not hesitate to inform everyone!! No Trespassing!! Private Property! FORBES RANCH. This has more then likely ruined our efforts to locate the lost army payroll thrown off the wagon as it was heading with great haste back to Ft. Garland. I'm not one for trespassing to do any type of search if I'm not welcome there to begin with. All of us involved in these type searches has to comply with property owners rights in this manner. Or it simply gives anyone involved in recreational metal detecting a bad image! We are still searching for information on the Espinosa Gang who roamed this area about the same time as the purported Army Wagon holdup. Army Scout Tom Tobin captured one of the brothers and for the ransom money he was offered by the Governor of Colorado(\$2500.00) took his head to Denver to collect the ransom. I mentioned we needed to do the initial scouting trip in order to locate areas to search. This trip has saved us all a bit of aggravation and for those thinking of free lancing along the river in that area I strongly recommend you DO NOT TRESPASS! They can confiscate your vehicle and gear. Keep that in mind! We may be planning a one day trip up around the Idaho Springs area to metal detect tailing piles on old mines. I've found some great areas up there on the west side of Idaho Springs south of the Country Boy Mine using my ATV and traveling the back country jeep trails up there. I'll share my info with all expect Ken Zeller as he finally came out of hibernation and called asking to be included in the Ft. Garland search. He is known to be a Claim Jumper this is known to only his long time friends that have traveled to Paradise Valley , Alaska with him. Hope to see all at the April meeting!!! May Gold shine in your Pan.....as well as in your dreams. Jim Davis

A message from the president

Gary Hawley

Jim Davis has been planning a treasure hunt to locate an old Army payroll that was written about in Lost Treasures of Colorado. Jim recently traveled to the area only to find the location is on posted private property and not accessible. At this point, Jim has cancelled the treasure hunt. He will be available to answer your questions during the break at our next regular meeting.

Pictures from our expedition down to Ft. Garland

Jim Davis

These are pictures from our expedition down to Ft. Garland, Colorado to search the area and explore the possibilities of searching for a lost Army Payroll back in the 1800's. We visited the Ft. Garland Museum and Dan Lefor took some great pictures of same. We found out from the locals that Malcom Forbers (the magazine millionaire) had bought up 500,000 acres around this area. We later noticed miles and miles of barbed wire fencing with NO TRESPASSING NO HUNTING NO FISHING FORBES RANCH. Knowing if we went over the fence they had every right to search our truck and take any or all metal detector equipment we were carrying. So we didn't venture beyond the fence. We did manage to find a remote Ghost Town where the old trains traveled through and did take the time to do some metal detecting there. It was pretty well searched out as we soon discovered. Nothing much there but old bottle caps and priceless rusted objects. I'm erasing this search off the board and will continue to research other areas that may prove worthwhile to search. Enjoy the pictures !!!! Regards, Jim Davis



The Great Gold Reserves Controversy at Cripple Creek

by Dan Plazak, transcribed by Paul Nagy

After several local mining scams, including the infamous Mt. Pisgah hoax, disgusted investors, promoters and prospectors alike kept away from the Pike's Peak area for years. Finally in the 1890's ranch hand and casual prospector "Crazy Bob" Womack discovered gold in the Cripple Creek area. A somewhat tragic albeit history-changing character, Womack died years later both poor and drunk. But his discovery ignited local interest including that of carpenter Winfield Scott Stratton, who had the discipline and acumen to develop his own discovery into the Independence Mine, and into a great mining fortune. Known as an eccentric (again, in this case, the distinction between "eccentric" and "crazy" appears to be financial), Stratton rose to become, among other successes, President of the Board of Trustees of the Colorado School of Mines.

Being of a financially prudent nature, Stratton chose to not fully develop the Independence Mine, believing that the safest place for gold was in the ground. Others close to Stratton, including promoter Verner Reed and State Geologist Thomas Rickard, recognized the undeveloped potential of the mine and endeavored to convince him to sell out. At this time the position of State Geologist was honorary and unpaid. Also, during these "gentlemanly" Victorian times, the term "conflict of interest" was presumably not in vogue! In any event Stratton was persuaded to sell out to a British group for ten million dollars, with Reed and Rickard benefitting from the deal. Basically generous, Stratton spent much of the rest of his life in philanthropic pursuits, finally leaving his fortune to an aged citizens home named after his own father. After his death many women claimed to be secretly married to him. Some things, it seems, do not much change with the times.

To verify the value of their acquisition, the British company sent samplers into the mine, supervised by Thomas Rickard himself. To everyone's horror, the samples returned results far below expectations. The share price plunged. Accusations abounded. All parties, of course, denied culpability. The very blunt opinions and quotations used in the mining press of the time are both startling and entertaining, although hardly "gentlemanly." Obviously slander and character defamation did not carry the legal threat which they do today! Mercifully, dueling was long illegal.

In the end, it was discovered that the geologists and engineers employed by Rickard had taken their samples from across the entire width of the stopes (ore extraction areas), as they indeed were instructed to do. However, the reality was that there were extreme changes in value across each stope. Subtle changes in the appearance of the rock reflected gross changes in value. This was not recognized by Rickard or his professionals but was well known to the miners who daily had their "nose to the rock." After every blast they carefully separated the ore from the waste, and sent the ore to the mill and the waste to the dumps, which is the very essence of successful and profitable mining.

After the controversy was resolved, the Independence mine was profitable for many years afterward and was probably worth the money paid for it. There are many morals to the story, but one is that disagreements can degenerate to rancor, and often enough to the most raw violence, when all the time the reality, if known, would be satisfactory to all parties!



Demos

Jeff and Donna are looking for somebody to take over coordinating club demos. Please see either of them if you are interested.

Newsletter

Rick is looking for somebody to take over the club newsletter. If you are interested, please contact him asap at:

Goldhunter_1999@yahoo.com

Or

303-404-2897

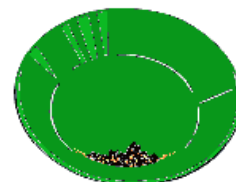
GPR General Meeting

Clements Center, Lakewood, Colorado

21 March 2007

Paul Nagy, General Meeting Recorder

- 7:08 Meeting called to order by President Gary Hawley. Pledge of Allegiance led by Rick Miska.
- 7:09 Hawley reminds that spring has sprung and prospecting days are on the horizon. Also unique canvas backpacks are available for three dollars. If interested sign up!
- 7:12 Jim Davis announces upcoming field trip to find a lost treasure (payroll gold in a strongbox taken during a stagecoach heist) in southern Colorado. It's somewhere west of Trinidad. Bring your metal detector and your camera.
- 7:15 Introduction of guests (who also became club members), including Dan Plazak and Anthony Lowe whose membership includes family members Sharla, Ambria, and Kaitlynn. Welcome aboard!
- 7:17 Numismatic curiosities by Gary Hawley.
- 7:20 VP's report by Jeff Mosteller. Nine dates have been locked in for panning demos. Most are big festivals with good entertainment, historic re-enactors, and other features which club members are sure to enjoy (You don't have to spend all your time at our exhibit). So sign up and join the crowd. We will teach you. Also, volunteers are requested, especially retirees, for smaller panning demos which might come up. These smaller demos are usually indoors and don't require putting up our tents, tables, etc. They are often during business hours on weekdays. Of course we can only do these if we get volunteers who are available when needed. It is a good experience for you as well as beneficial to the club.
- Regarding prospecting rules at Tymkovich Meats, there is NO motorized gold prospecting permitted in Adams County. You can be cited and your equipment can be confiscated by the law. A motor is a motor, no matter how small, quiet, or non-polluting. Prez Hawley adds that Tymkovich's has been kind to us and it behooves us to show gratitude and respect to them. You may park in their lot, but don't climb the fence or otherwise stress the property. In accordance with general club policy, take a garbage bag with you and pick up after others BEFORE you start to dig, then again before you leave, if necessary. Always reclaim your diggings: fill in holes and smooth out the area to the original contour. At Tymkovich's you may only prospect on the south bank of the stream. Carry your club ID and identify yourself as a member. It would also be wise and just if you made a meat purchase and mentioned at the time that you appreciate the prospecting privilege in addition to being a fan of their fine meats.
- Jeff announced that he and Donna are retiring as panning demo coordinators after this season. After several years of outstanding service, they would like to do more mining and less demonstrating. Others will have to step forward to assume this vital task. Is it you?
- 7:30 Gary Hawley says we have a scheduled demo at the Broadmoor in C. Sprgs May 7-11. This is one of those midday deals.
- 7:33 Events coordinator Sue Lemieux announces a club outing at the School of Mines Museum on 24 March.
- 7:35 Prez Hawley reports that the Board of Directors has updated the stipend for speakers. Also a speakers' committee is being formed to represent the club to other clubs and associations in the metro area.
- 7:39 Joe Johnston announces winners of the finds-of-the-month competition.
- 7:41 Bill Duncanson gives the clue for the hidden cache.
- 7:43 Metal prices.
- 7:45 Shirley Weilnau asks the question of the month and later gives the correct answer and awards prizes.
- 7:46 Recess.
- 8:04 Allen Mershon introduces the evening's speaker Dan Plazak, geologist and engineer. His topic is "The Great Gold Reserves Controversy at Cripple Creek."
- 8:35 Prize drawings, then adjourn meeting.



The Old Prospector

O'er the cobblestones I trip,
 Pick and shovel in my grip.
 Gold pan tied onto my pack
 Hanging from its straps in back.
 Water flowing 'round my knees
 Makes me wonder whether these
 Mountain streams so icy cold
 Lead me not to nuggets gold.
 "Wind that whistles in the pines,
 Do you also sigh through mines
 That prospectors early found
 In this cold, unyielding ground?"

It gets colder with each tick
 Of my watch. My mind is thick.
 Can't think straight. Can't even speak.
 Eyebrows icy. Reddened cheek.
 Toss my pack into the snows
 On the bank where ice still shows.
 Grabbing pick in ice-rimmed mitts,
 Pound the ice-packed sand to bits.
 Breath has frozen to my beard--
 Crystal ripples neatly tiered.
 Cannot stop to warm my face.
 Have to keep up this damned pace.

Must do so to keep my soul
 From tumbling into this dark hole
 Widening before me and
 Giving up its cold hard sand.
 Shov'ling out the rock and grit
 From deep inside this dark'ning pit,
 Causes me to wonder why
 I keep on 'neath leaden sky.
 From the bottom of my "well;"
 Shovel out what's close to hell
 Sling it in my pan of steel
 Lying close beside my heel.

Now I squat on heels in snow;
 Dip my pan in icy flow--
 Inundating sand and grit
 Shoveled from my sample pit.
 Back and forth I shake the pan,
 Stratifying all I can.
 Dip and swirl and swirl and pour;
 Back and forth and all twice more.
 Now the concentrates are black.
 Swirl some water front to back.
 There! The colors now show through!
 Then some more! Then quite a few!

I forget my frosty nose,
 Icy fingers, frozen toes!
 Close my eyes to cold and wet.
 Who knows? I might be rich yet!
 From these frozen, icy streams
 Will I fill my wildest dreams?
 Then the dreams burst in my head.
 I come awake. I'm still in bed.

Dick Oakes, The Old Prospector



GPR GOLD PANNING DEMONSTRATIONS

Know an organization that might want us to set up a gold panning demonstration booth? Contact

Jeff Mosteller

(303) 202-9302 <> jefndona@comcast.net

For additional information and photos, see
<http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/>

Question of the Month

What do "salt" and Chicken Bill have in common?

Shirley

www.hookedongold.com
hookedongold@msn.com
www.hookedongold2.com

Food For Thought

Jackie Barker

Many thanks for the wonderful treats. We had custard cream puffs, peanut butter cookies, macadamia nut cookies, chocolate chunk cookies and always a big favorite - donuts. Hope everyone is enjoying the nicer weather. See you in April.

Jackie

From the Ledger

of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer

I want to thank Sue Lemieux, Leroy Lamgo and Allen Mershon for their donations to the Member's Only drawings. A special thank you goes to Jim Davis for the donation of the SilverRound.. The sale of tickets for the Brazilian nugget drawing is going well. We will probably sell tickets for a couple more months before we draw a ticket for the nugget. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 7 for \$5.00.

We will give away a total of **11.8 grams of gold** at the April meeting. **4** nuggets will be **1 gram or over**, with the largest being **2.4 grams**.

So like I always say, come prepared to buy some extra tickets and Good Luck!!



Send in your comments, letters, articles, concerns, and suggestions for publication in this newsletter. Please try to keep the subject in line with things related to what our club is about. Articles should be submitted to Rick Miska at the meeting or gold-hunter@ricksthings.com

Find Of the Month

March 2007 Find Of the Month (FOM) results. Winners in bold .

Best Bottle

Robert Deschambault - brown bottle from Bear Creek

Best Jewelry

Wayne McCarroll - Cohina ring - parking lot, Bronco Pkwy across from Dove Valley

Joe Fortunato - Silver ring w/gemstone?

Largest Raw Gold no entries

Most Raw Gold

Allen Mershon - Gold amalgamated with mercury from Cripple Creek

Most Unique (Excavated)

Joe Carter - Henry rifle cartridge circa 1870

Most Unique (Non-Excavated) no entries

Most Valuable U.S Coin

Nancy Carter - 1952-D Roosevelt dime

Oldest Coin

Joe Fortunato - 1942-S Winged Liberty (Mercury) dime

Way to go everyone, keep up the good hunting! Congratulations to this months winners, be sure to save your FOM winning items for entry in the Find Of the Year (FOY) competition in December. Finds made from the end of the March meeting to the time of the April meeting are eligible for entry in the April FOM program. Bring your best finds, and we'll see you at the next meeting. Don't forget to bring your bottles, jewelry, coins, gold or other finds. Remember those entries get you drawing tickets and those tickets WIN! Just ask Sue, Marlin and others that have held tickets for FOM entries and WON! **Note:** **Now that prospecting season is upon us be sure to bring a second container with your gold sample entries for weigh in comparison . We will weigh the container with the gold and subtract the weight of the container without the gold to determine the weight of the sample, so have a container filled with the same liquid for comparison weigh in.** Each member is allowed one entry per category each month. Additional finds may be displayed as 'show & tell' items.

Joe Johnston, Finds Program Coordinator.

Again, I would also like to Thank **Marlin Wiedeman** for his continued and most valuable assistance with the Club Library and Finds Program at the meetings. A Big Examino to you Marlin!

The Gold Nugget

This copyrighted newsletter is the official publication of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies (GPR), PO Box 621988, Littleton, Colorado 80162-1988, a non-profit organization of families dedicated to gold prospecting. Membership in the GPR is \$40 the first year and \$30 each subsequent year for an individual or family and includes a one-year subscription to *The Gold Nugget*, one name tag, and membership cards for all family members. Additional badges may be purchased. We meet at the Lloyd G. Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado, on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. sharp to educate members about gold prospecting and gold prospecting rules, review old and new products, coordinate outings, participate in drawings for door prizes and nuggets, socialize with like-minded friendly folks, and promote the pursuit of gold. Single issues are \$3.00 per copy (postpaid).

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in *The Gold Nugget*

Commercial Ads

3.6" x 2.0"	- Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)\$ 6
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**Send ad copy to (or request an Ad Sheet
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For further info, see the GPR website

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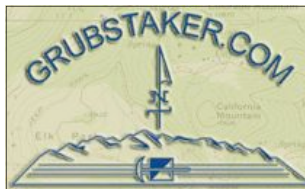
Members of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies are welcome to submit their personal classified ads about items wanted or for sale. Please give this section a bit of your time and consideration. It is quite possible that you can see that you have a limitless space to give your entire constabulary and only then can you give of yourself. Dig?

What have you been doing?

Where did you prospect last summer?
 What did you find?
 What kind of equipment do you use?
 How did you research your location?
 Did you file any claims?
 What would you have done differently?
 Did you take any pictures?
 Answer all of these questions with an article about your prospecting related experiences from recent times. Please send it to :
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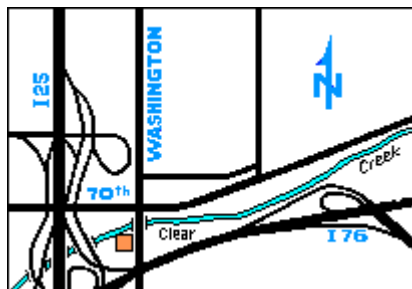
If you have updates for, comments about, or anything else regarding the club website, you can contact the club webmaster at:

prospector@phantomranch.net

Dick will be happy to review any suggestions or comments you may have.

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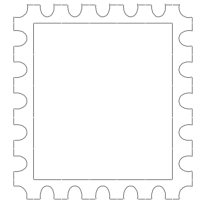
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