

THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2010

The Prez Sez by Gary Hawley

Thanks to all the members for voting me in as President of the GPR for 2010. I will do my best to make things run smoothly and advance the membership and quality of the GPR. Thanks also to the board members who won reelection and the newest members elected to Board positions. We have all taken on responsibilities that are necessary for the club to continue. I am excited about some plans and programs that are already in-the-works that will generate more interest in the club, its activities and especially gold prospecting.

Congratulations to James Long for winning the Vice President position. Jim has been an active member since he joined the club and presents a helpful and positive attitude that is well appreciated by everyone. He is knowledgeable in gold prospecting and willing to assist where he can.

Thanks to Kathy Hawley for agreeing to accept the Secretary/Treasurer office (again). Kathy has been busy planning for the nugget drawings (actually I think she likes to look at the gold) and is contemplating some new ideas for the drawings. She will reinstate her newsletter article From the Ledger where she will give some hints as to the size of nuggets that will be in the monthly drawing. Look for From the Ledger in this edition of The Gold Nugget.

On a business note, in November the Board voted to offer our newsletter, The Gold Nugget on line in pdf format. This will reduce our overall yearly expenses by about \$2,000. This was necessary because of the increase in the price of gold which directly affects the size and quantity of nuggets we can present for the drawings. You can still receive a hard copy of the newsletter at a cost of \$15.00 per year. Our newsletter editor, Andy Doll, will email all members when the newsletter has been posted on our web site so make sure our membership committee (Mike Hurtado) has your current email address.

One last business item: **Membership dues are due in January. Please send your \$30.00 check to GPR, PO Box 621988, Littleton, CO 80162 or bring it to the January 20 meeting.**

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

Gary Hawley (303) 933-1147 ghawley1@msn.com

The V.P. Corner by Jim Long

A New Years greeting to each and every one of you. I appreciate the Club support in my election to the office of Vice president. I promise to do my best to serve the best interests of this Club and each one of you.

I will be offering some tidbits of information in this column each month and hope that you will find it useful in your outside adventures. One of my duties will be to try to find good speakers this coming year. In January, I have secured Mr. John Stinle who is the Director of the Hiwan Heritage Museum in Evergreen. John is a great supporter of the Jeffco Open Spaces and will present a great power point show and talk surrounding the gold rush of Colorado as it involved the area of Jefferson County and the many gold towns, some of which are now ghost towns. John may show up in 'dress of the era' which will be pretty cool. He is very entertaining and does a good job. I hope you will enjoy it.

I will also be providing some information from time to time concerning prospecting rules in areas of interest and other guidelines and necessary information to aid you in your treasure hunting and prospecting.

I look forward to the coming year and wish all of you success in the finding of that 'Yaller Gold'.

From the Ledger Of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer/Secretary

I want to thank you for the vote of confidence in

electing me to the treasurer's office. Boy what a difference a year makes in the price of gold!! I think I have my work cut out for me. I don't want to cut the size down to flakes but we will not be able to give away more than one large nugget a month.

I am still going to have some special nuggets this year but it will be a challenge but I promise to make the gold drawings fun.

We will give away a total of 4.1 grams of gold at the January meeting. 1 nugget will be 1.8 grams. The gold we will be giving away for the next three months is from Canon Creek Alaska. I have always liked the gold from this area as it has a lot of character and though the nuggets are small they are very interesting.

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



Board Meeting Minutes for Dec 2009 Meeting

Roll Call Attending

Aaron Ingalls	Rob Deschambault	James Long	Terry Weatherly
Allen Mershon	Sue Lemieux	John Weir	Joe Fortunato
Robert Larson	Joe Shubert	Leanne Larson	Joe Johnston
Gary Hawley			

YOU'RE 2010 GPR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

President

Gary Hawley

Vice President

Jim Long

Secretary/Treasure

Kathy Hawley

2 Year Board Members

Robert Deshambault (2008)

Joe Johnston (2008)

Joe Shubert (2009)

1 Year Board Members

Sue Lemieux

Don Bray

Susan Duncanson

Terry Weatherly

Joe Fortunato

Andy Doll

President Pro Tem

Aaron Ingalls

Because the December 16 meeting was our annual Christmas Pot-luck, no business meeting was held. Therefore, all unfinished business and new business indicated on the November 18, 2009, minutes will be carried over and considered at the January 20, 2010, meeting.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What was the last silver boom town in Colorado?

2009 Ken Barker Award Winner: Sue Lemieux By Joe Shubert

I find Sue Lemieux to be very qualified for the Ken Barker Award because of her dedication to the hobby of gold prospecting and the sincere desire she has for making GPR a success. She is very invested in planning outings for club members and making sure everyone involved has correct information about the outing and has a good time.

She works with enthusiasm as part of the team running the club store. She is always ready to step forward when something needs to be done for the betterment of the club.

Sue does exemplify the passion that Ken Barker had for gold prospecting and for the club. She is truly deserving of the award

General Meeting Minutes for Dec 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Aaron Ingalls. After the Pledge of Allegiance President Ingalls announced: Let's Eat!

After a time of good food and good fellowship Aaron announced the Board Members for next year: President – Gary Hawley, Vice President – James Long, Secretary/Treasurer – Kathy Hawley. 2 year – Joe Shubert, Joe Johnston and Rob Deschambault. 1 year – Sue Lemieux, Don Bray, Andy Doll, Terry Weatherly, Joe Fortunato and Susan Duncanson. Immediate Past President – Aaron Ingalls.

Aaron presented the 2009 Ken Barker Award to Sue Lemieux. Sue received a certificate and a monetary award. Christmas elves delivered gifts to all members in attendance. Three 1-year club memberships and 2 of the new reprint of Ben Parker's book were hidden in the gifts.

Aaron thanked all who supported him during his presidency and vowed to remain active with the club.

Next general meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.



Board of Directors for 2010 By Joe Shubert

Thank you to everyone that accepted their nomination to run for an office or volunteered to run for office. There were 12 people that ran for the 10 offices. The following are the members of the Board of Directors for 2010.

GPR Election Results

- President** Gary Hawley
- Vice President** James Long
- Secretary/Treasurer** Kathy Hawley

2 year Board Members

- Rob Deschambault elected 2008
- Joe Johnston elected 2008
- Joe Shubert elected 2009

1 year Board Members

- Sue Lemieux
- Don Bray
- Andy Doll
- Terry Weatherly
- Joe Fortunato
- Susan Duncanson

For the Ken Barker award there were 31 nomination forms turned in for 9 possible candidates. 2 were not eligible because they had won before. The winner of the Ken Barker award was: Sue Lemieux

Sue's Sluice Box

Just a Heartfelt Thanks

Our Christmas Party has made for a nice ending of 2009. As always, there was a lot of great food, and many laughs with stories shared, by all. Of course, the highlights were the gifts handed out by Santa's elves, revealing the club's election winners, and the presentation of the Ken Barker award. Speaking of the award, I would like to, at this time, thank the club members for this special achievement. Unfortunately, I never met Ken, and I hear he was a remarkable man. I'm not here to win any rewards. I just like to be around people that share the same interest. That's my reward. I enjoy listening to the many stories the members have to tell.

On that note, I'd like to share my story. In the spring of 2005, I decided to go on my so-called "Vision Quest". I lived in Massachusetts for over 40 years and the opportunity arose to head West. While I was in Mass., I was bitten by the "Gold Bug", or some say, caught the "Fever" on Shattuck Brook, near the Vermont border. After 25 years, I'm still suffering from this ailment! I became a member of The Gold Miners of New England, my "rehab" for the addiction.

The first year I was in Colorado, I had to find a gold prospecting club. The Arvada Gold Strike Festival is where I was introduced to GPR. Jeff and Donna did their presentation, while I was standing in front of GPR demo tent. I took the club's brochure and became a member soon after that. After attending the first meeting, I became a member. I was impressed with the people, the content of the meeting, and the overall friendly atmosphere.

That's why I decided to run for a Board position (after much coaxing from Gary Hawley). This year marks my third year on the board, as the Events Coordinator, and I will continue to do my best, to assist the club and its functions.

Again, I would like to express my "Heartfelt Thanks." I wouldn't be able to do it without the club members. Thanks for all your support and participation.

So let's have Fun this year, and hit the Mother lode!!!!

Sincerely,
Sue Lemieux



These items are available for purchase at the monthly meetings.

GPR STORE PRICES

“Old” Blue Hats \$2.00 “New” Black Hats \$15.00 GPR Window Stickers \$4.00 Gold Nugget Cling-Ons \$5.00 White Vinyl Stickers \$6.00 Trailer Hitch Cover \$25.00	<u>Denim Long Sleeve Shirts</u> Small \$28.00 Medium \$28.00 Large \$30.00 XLarge \$30.00 2XLarge \$32.00 3XLarge \$35.00 4XLarge \$37.00 5XLarge \$39.00
<u>Polo Knit Shirts</u> Medium \$25.00 Large \$26.00 XLarge \$27.00 2XLarge \$28.00	<u>Fleece Vests</u> Medium \$40.00 Large \$41.00 XLarge \$42.00 2XLarge \$43.00

More Leadville History By Jim Long

Lewis and Clark are commonly believed by many to have been the first white men to travel west of the Mississippi River by the early 1800’s. We all pretty much know their history of mapping the great Western Frontier. But alas, they were indeed not the first!

There is little recorded history that documents the exploits of the many mountain men that ventured to the Great Shining Mountains of the true West, especially prior to 1800. But there were some who traveled the frontier after 1800 that were chronicled to some degree such as Jim Bridger, ‘Liver Eater’ Johnson, ‘Grizzly’ Adams, and others. One that there is very little mention of was a James Purcell.

James Purcell left Kentucky in 1801 with no more than the clothes on his back and a Kentucky rifle to pursue a dream of seeing the ‘Shining Mountains’ of the West that he had heard grand tales of. In 1803, he topped out at Mosquito Pass and looked upon the headwaters of the Arkansas River. It was a pristine Valley and during his wanderings and exploration, he found small gold nuggets in the upper creeks and put them in his bullet pouch. But gold had little meaning for a man who needed only meat and skins to aid him in his quest for survival and he did not plan on returning to civilization to report any of his find.

Purcell was captured by Ute Indians in 1804 and managed to escape and flee south. A band of Apache eventually found him and led him to a Spanish outpost known as Sante Fe where he chose to live out the rest of his life. By then, he had thrown away the gold nuggets during his wild escape.

Captain Zebulon Pike found the same valley in 1806 while commanding a US exploration and mapping party. He later came to Sante Fe and met Purcell and documented Purcell’s story which he added to his documentation of the upper Arkansas Valley. However, the mention of gold in Pike’s report generated little to no interest in the East at the time. The valley was not visited again until 1845 by Colonel John Fremont conducting the 3rd US exploration and mapping expedition.

By now, many men in the East were beginning to drift west to seek their fortune. The gold strike in California of 1848 pulled out more gold in seven short years than the Spanish had found in all of Mexico and South America in 3 centuries of exploration and conquering. In 1858, gold was found in Clear Creek and the real Colorado Gold Rush began.

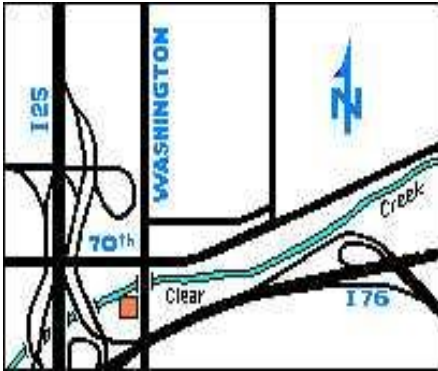
A prospector named A.G. Kelley was reported to be the next man to cross Mosquito Pass again and found gold in what was to become Granite, Colorado. In 1860, five prospectors named Abe Lee, S.S. Slater, John Currier, George Stevens, and Isaac Rafferty crossed the Pass and began digging in what was to become California Gulch. They worked hard and dug 12 feet deep to bedrock before they struck real pay dirt and staked their claim on April 12, 1860. Within one month, 1000 men were working in California Gulch. By June, the number had swarmed to over 4000 men, all seeking great wealth. Tents and crude buildings shot up overnight and the dig was named Oro City. In time, Oro City was renamed Leadville.

By September 1860, \$1,000,000.00 in gold had been taken from the area. That equates to around 55,000 troy ounces at the going rate of the day of \$20.67. It is said that the gold, when melted down, would have formed an eighteen inch cube of solid 99.9% gold. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the stuff that dreams are made of!



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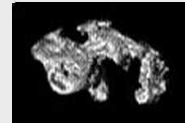
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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Advert/Article Copy Deadline	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents Day	16	17 GPR Club Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						