

September 2010

**The Prez Sez by Gary Hawley** Summer is nearly over and the weather is just right for prospecting. Streams are running a little slower and the medium sized rocks are exposed thereby offering more catch areas for gold. Get out there and get some gold!

As you go prospecting during the remainder of the summer, make a list of things you want to do when the weather won't allow trips to the stream. Do you need to replace hoses and clamps on your dredge? How about engine tune up? Water proofing for boots, tents, back packs. Anything that catches your attention now that you may forget when things are put away for the winter. Remember to gather a bucket or two of concentrates to work on at home when the snow falls.

Our August birthday party and show-and-tell was a success. Some new prospecting equipment was displayed along with other interesting collections. Thanks to all who brought their items and shared their stories. The cake and ice cream contributed to an enjoyable meeting.

Jim Long has a couple more panning demos to finish up the season. Be sure to volunteer for these demos and have some fun fine tuning up your panning skills while teaching the hobby to someone else.

Read Kathy's article elsewhere in this newsletter. A date has been set to give away the big nugget and you don't want to miss out.

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](mailto:ghawley1@msn.com)

## The V.P. Corner by Jim Long

What great show and tell stuff at the last meeting..! I think Don Bray kind of stole the

show with his Blue Bowl as there was quite a crowd around his display. I thought all of the members displays were pretty dang cool.

We had a real good Panning Class last month on Clear Creek and everybody who was there got a little gold, including me. Again, many thanks to Andy Doll, Joe Fortunato, Brandon and Don Luchtenburg for all of their valuable help in assisting me with the class.

Speaking of panning reminds me of the story of the first discovery of gold that started the California gold rush. James Marshall found a small nugget the size of a dime that weighed a quarter of an ounce in the tail race of the American River where he and others were building a saw mill for John Sutter. Several Mexican workers said that they could mine more gold if they had a batea. Not understanding their language, Marshall simply ignored them. But what they were talking about was a pan carved from wood that was somewhat conical and looked like an upside down dunce cap. Perhaps if he had listened to them, he would have wound up rich instead of dying a poor and bitter man in a small cabin near Kelso, California

I find it funny when you seriously think about it, that the most important piece of gold recovery equipment, and the one that you absolutely have to have, is in fact, the cheapest out there that you will ever purchase. The pan has changed some over the years but has always resembled a plate or a bowl. The early models were steel of course and you could even get a copper pan if you could afford them. The problem with steel is that it would eventually rust. Later on, the Chinese introduces the Chinese riffles, the little raised edges inside the pans. Today, these riffles are incorporated into a plastic model and the 14" pan in green is the norm. Blue, black and green are the most common colors today as they all accentuate the lovely bright yellow color of real gold. And I will bet that every member of this club has at least one gold pan in their arsenal. I myself, have close to a dozen of different sizes, shapes and colors. I use them according to what I happen to be doing at the time, but make no doubt about it, the pan is my most important piece of mining equipment as well.

And that is how I see it from here. Hope to see each of you at the September meeting Where Joe Johnston plans to teach us how to use the metal detectors in your garages and closets. Until we meet again, keep your sunny side up and may the bottom of your pan turn bright with that 'Yaller Gold'!

Contact me at [jnslong945@msn.com](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com)





## From the Ledger Of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer/Secretary

Thanks to J.J. Long, Phillip Huff and Joe Johnston for the donations for the members only drawing.

We will give away a total of 7.2 grams of gold at the September meeting. 1 nugget will be 2.1 grams.

The September meeting will be your last chance to purchase tickets for the special nugget. The nugget weighs 14.8 grams, it is from the Dungen Mining District of Nevada. This drawing is for club members only, tickets are \$1.00 each or 7 tickets for \$5.00. We will give away the nugget at the October meeting.

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

## Board Meeting Minutes for Aug 2010 Meeting

Roll Call: Attending

X	Gary Hawley	X	Rob Deschambault	X	Terry Weatherly	X	Susan Duncanson		Aaron Ingalls
X	James Long	X	Sue Lemieux	X	Joe Fortunato	X	Joe Johnston		
X	Don Bray	X	Joe Shubert	X	Andy Doll	X	Kathy Hawley		

Quorum present? Yes.

Call to order. Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Gary Hawley.

Reading and approval of minutes. Read by Gary Hawley

Corrections: Under "Tonight's general meeting program", delete: "Video on panning procedures."

Approved as read/corrected? Yes.

Treasurer's Report. Read by Gary Hawley.

Questions: None. Accepted? Yes,

Correspondence. Highlands Ranch panning demo information.

Committee Reports: Web hits: 101,203

Unfinished Business: Jim Long – report on July 24 Bemis Library panning demo.

- Good turnout of volunteers. Nice setup of canopies. Over 100 visitors to the panning tubs.
- Jim Long – Update on Sept. 9, 10, 11 panning demo.
- Need volunteers. Signup sheets available tonight.
- Sue Lemieux – Report on Phoenix Mine tour.
- 7 people attended. Despite heavy rains & flash floods in the area, all had a good time.
- Gary Hawley – Report on Cache Creek President's Day Out.
- Several members attended. Gold was found in varying amounts.
- A few very large holes are being worked and gold is found at multiple levels.

New Business: A suggestion was made to have the treasurer prepare a condensed version of the treasurer's report for reading at the General Membership meeting.

Planned Outings:

- Panning demo – Sept. 9, 10 & 11 – Highlands Ranch.
- Panning demo – Sept. 18 – Idaho Springs.
- Club picnic – Sat, Sept 25 at 11:00 a.m. – Lions Park in Golden.

Announcements:

- Next board meeting: September 15, 2010, at 6:00 P.M.
- Next general meeting: September 15, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

Tonight's general meeting program: Show & Tell! And: birthday cake & ice cream.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:55 pm.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

It cannot be seen, cannot be felt,  
 cannot be heard, cannot be smelt.  
 It lies behind stars and under  
 hills, and empty holes it fills.  
 It comes first and follows after,  
 End life, kills laughter.  
**What am I?**



## Aug 2010 Gold Prospector of the Rockies Panning Class By Jim Long

On August 15, I conducted a training class on Clear Creek at Tymkovich Meats located at 6911 N. Washington in unincorporated Adams County. The purpose of the class was to demonstrate hands on for the newer and less experienced members of the Club, how to pan for gold and how to properly set up and run a sluice box.

Some 13 members had expressed interest in participating; however, not all of them were able to make it due to unexpected issues. But for those who did make it, they had a real good time and I made good on my guarantee that all would find some gold. Some found more than others but all found some. Those attending received information on how to find areas that are gold bearing, how to read a stream, how to properly break in a gold pan, how important it is to screen/classify your material and concentrates, how to sample pan and how to clean up your pan and extract the gold from the black sands. I did receive several comments from some of the members who stated that they had learned a great deal in this class and were definitely glad they had attended.

I will probably do this class again next year for those who want to do it again. I also plan to video tape this same class hopefully in the near future so that it can be placed on the web site for future reference by Club members.

I sincerely appreciate the assistance provided to me during this class by Andy Doll, Joe Fortunato, and Brandon and Don Luchtenburg. They were all very helpful and made things much easier for me. I will see you all at the meetings or on the creek in the search for that elusive yaller gold.



### From the Webmaster

If you haven't had a chance to take a look of the videos available on the web site. When we have guest speakers or something special going on at the meetings I will record it and list it here. These are not streaming videos so download and save them to your computer. Then run it.

**Recording of Don Bray and his Blue Bowl black sand cleanup setup from the Aug Show & Tell is on the website.**

Thanks: Andy Doll

## General Meeting Minutes for Aug 2010 Meeting

2. Gary called on LeRoy Lamgo to lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, to open the meeting.
3. Gary asked the Board Members to stand and introduced them to the membership and then thanked them for their participation as Board Members.
4. Gary announced that according to the Board Meeting treasurer's report the club is still operating in the black. He also advised the membership that the Board Meetings are open and that the membership is always welcome to attend as observers. If an attendee wishes to address the Board or place an agenda item before the Board contact Gary beforehand so that the necessary time can be allocated.
5. Gary asked Mike Hurtado for this evening's membership report. Mike reported that as of tonight we have 112 paid memberships, with 3 new members signed tonight, 4 guests and 52 in attendance.
6. Gary asked Jim Long, vice president, to make his announcements to the membership. Jim's announcements were as follows:



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- The next scheduled panning demonstration is Sept. 9, 10 and 11 (Thur, Fri, and Sat.) for the Highlands Ranch Cultural Association, in Highlands Ranch, from 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Thursday and Friday and 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Saturday. The location is at the Highlands Ranch Mansion; 9900 South Ranch Road, Highlands Ranch. Jim has need of 6 volunteers for this event, see him at the break if you are interested.
  - The last panning demonstration of the season is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18, for the Clear Creek Water Shed District Festival at the Town Park (on Clear Creek) in Idaho Springs. Volunteers will need to be there from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Jim needs 8 volunteers for this event, see him at the break if you are interested.
  - Jim also reported that his new-member panning outing on August 15 was a success, “everyone in attendance found gold”. Five of the 13 people who signed up showed up on the creek. Jim thanked Joe Fortunato, Andy Doll and Don and Brandon Luchtenburg for their able assistance with this event.
7. Gary called on Ian Duncanson to read his “question of the month” which is,  
    “This thing all things devour:  
    Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;  
    Gnaws iron, bites steel;  
    Grinds hard stones to meal;  
    Slays Kings, ruins towns,  
    And beats high mountains down.  
    What am I?”
  8. Gary announced that Ian will continue to compose the “question of the month” through the end of the year but he does not plan to continue next year. The club needs a volunteer to step forward and take on this fun project for next year. If you are interested in doing this please let a Gary or a Board Member know.
  9. Gary announced that the next cache target will be hidden before the next meeting and he will start giving clues at the September meeting.
  10. Gary announced that the club store will be open during the break.
  11. Gary called on Sue Lemieux to make her announcements and she announced the following:
    - Seven people attended the field trip to the Phoenix Gold Mine, July 31. The weather presented some logistics problems but those in attendance had a good time on the tour with some staying to do some panning.
    - Sue is putting together another trip to the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum sometime in October. She will have more information, on this event next month.
  12. Gary stated that a club picnic is being planned for Sept. 25, at 11:00 A.M. at the Lions Park in Golden, along Clear Creek.
  13. Gary reported on the “President’s Day Out” outing on Aug. 6 through 8 at Cache Creek. BLM continues to improve the operation at the site by working through the Colorado Springs club (GPOC). The camp host program seems to be functioning smoother than in previous years. Some diseased trees are being cut down (with BLM authorization). The portable toilets are still somewhat of a problem but still usable.
  14. Gary explained that Kathy is still selling tickets for the 14.8 gram Nevada nugget “Members-Only” drawing.
  15. Gary announced that there is no formal speaker/program tonight. In lieu of a program tonight we will have an extra long break time with “show and tell” demonstrations presented by several members. Demonstrations presented were: Andy Doll-gutter tube and river rocker box, Erik Von Halle-treasure chests, Sue Lemieux and Rob Deschambault-mineral collection, Gary Hawley-miner’s candlestick collection, and Don Bray-blue bowl operation.
  16. Gary announced that during the break there will be birthday cake and ice cream for all, in honor of those members (including Gary) with August birthdays. Thanks to the Hawley’s for supplying the cake and ice cream for this evening.
  17. Gary announced the break, at 7:30 and reconvened the meeting at 8:20.



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18. Gary asked Ian to reveal the answer for the “question of the month” contest. Ian stated that he had 24 entries with 12 being correct. The correct answer is “time” and the most popular incorrect answer was “water”. The poem comes from “The Hobbit” by J. R. R. Tolkien.
19. Chuck, Kathy, Jim and Gary conducted this evening’s “member’s-only” and the “club-nugget” drawings. For the “member’s-only” drawing, 8 prizes were awarded to members. Eight nuggets for the “club-nugget” drawing were won tonight, the largest being 2.1 gram. All nuggets tonight are from the Sunrise Mine near Winnemucca, NV.
20. Next meeting will be September 15 at 7:00 P.M.
21. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Submitted by, **Don Bray, Recorder**


**Abandoned Mines** From a publication by the Colorado Division of Minerals & Geology

This sign isn't kidding. Hundreds have been killed or injured in the last fifty years in the nation's abandoned mines.

**HAZARDOUS MINES CAN WILL KILL YOU**

HOW PEOPLE DIE  
IN MINE SHAFTS

- Falling into deep shafts
- Rock slides at shaft openings
- Collapsing ladders in shafts
- Fall into snow-covered shafts
- Cave-ins from decayed timber
- Cave-ins from loose rock
- Bad air and poisonous gas



HOW PEOPLE DIE  
IN MINE TUNNELS

- Blind shafts in tunnels
- Cave-ins from loose rock
- Cave-ins from decayed timbers
- Drowning in flooded tunnels
- Bad air and poisonous gas
- Discarded explosives
- Poisonous snakes

Don't give them the chance. Stay out and stay alive.

Colorado's mining history has left a rich legacy, but this legacy also includes 23,000 inactive and abandoned mines that can be as dangerous as they are picturesque. Mine openings often appear safe to explore, but in fact they are dangerous and can contain unstable soil, unsafe roofs and ladders, deadly gases, poisonous snakes, and dangerous explosives. The closures or warnings around abandoned mine hazards are in place to remind visitors to enjoy the outdoors, but play it safe by staying out of abandoned mines.

**Sue's Sluice Box**

**These items are available for purchase at the monthly meetings.**

**GPR STORE PRICES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ben Parker Book \$12.00</li> <li>"New" Black Hats \$15.00</li> <li>GPR Window Stickers \$4.00</li> <li>Gold Nugget Cling-Ons \$5.00</li> <li>White Vinyl Stickers \$6.00</li> <li>T-Shirts \$2.00</li> <li>Lanyards \$2.00</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Denim Long Sleeve Shirts</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small \$28.00</li> <li>Medium \$28.00</li> <li>Large \$30.00</li> <li>XLarge \$30.00</li> <li>2XLarge \$32.00</li> <li>3XLarge \$35.00</li> <li>4XLarge \$37.00</li> <li>5XLarge \$39.00</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Polo Knit Shirts</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium \$25.00</li> <li>Large \$26.00</li> <li>XLarge \$27.00</li> <li>2XLarge \$28.00</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Fleece Vests</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium \$40.00</li> <li>Large \$41.00</li> <li>XLarge \$42.00</li> <li>2XLarge \$43.00</li> </ul>
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## The Lost Pitchblend Mine By Jim Long

Although gold holds the most magic and glamorous lure, there are other ores that are just as rich. One story of Colorado lost mines concerns a metal that was once considered worthless, but is today extremely valuable. It is pitchblende. Pitchblende ore contains uranium.

Roscoe Morton of Idaho Springs told of the time in the early 1900's when two carloads containing forty tons of pitchblende ore were shipped from the Jo Reynolds Mine to the Argo Smelter. The miners were paid only for the gold content and received nothing for the worthless pitchblende.

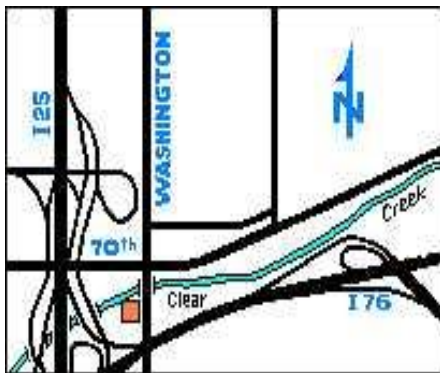
However, this shipment was of such high grade that it attracted the attention of mineralogists and several specimens were saved for mineral collections. The Georgetown Courier wrote quite a story about it which was copied by many newspapers across the country to include the Rocky Mountain News in Denver.

Later, when pitchblende became a valuable ore through scientific achievements of Marie and Pierre Curie in isolating radium, Morton remembered that high grade shipment. He decided to investigate the Reynolds Mine, which was well known to him, and determine where the pitchblende ore had come from.

It was no problem to find the Reynolds Mine, but search as he did, he was only able to find some handsome geraniums blooming all around the shaft house. And neither mineral expert nor old time prospector with their uncanny and intuitive feel for good pay ore, has been able to find anywhere in the Reynolds Mine or it's vicinity, the vein that carries the metal now so valuable.

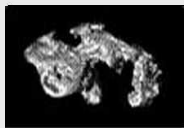
*Taken from Colorado's Lost Gold Mine and Buried Treasure by Caroline Bancroft, 1961 and also told by George Jarvis Bancroft in the Rocky Mountain News, 1914*

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- 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

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 for Oct 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					USGS Free GPS, Map, and Compass Class	Advert/Article Copy Deadline
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Columbus Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			GPR Club Meeting			
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween						