

(ITEM FOR SALE, SEE PAGE 7)



## The Prez Sez by Jim Long

the first of June, but this year, the snow pack in the South Platte basin has reached a record 266% while the Arkansas basin is running at 166%. With the exceptionally cool May, the runoff has been delayed and Clear Creek is going to explode in early June along with a lot of the other Front Range creeks that we routinely frequent. So for gosh sakes, let's be real careful out there if you plan on working the water for a little while any time soon.

May has come and gone and the high water season is upon us. Usually we are seeing the high water before

Some of you will remember Wayne Hale who was a long time Club member and past Board Member as well. Wayne visited with us last meeting and has now returned back to his second home in California. But before he left, he called me and delivered several boxes containing some 100 assorted books on mining, prospecting, and the geology of most of the western US. He donated some 50 books on Colorado and another like amount on Arizona, California, Nevada, Wyoming, and Montana. I have looked them over and some will go into the Club library, some may wind up in the Club store, and some may wind up in the Door Prize giveaways. But no matter where they end up, there is some quality reading to be found. I truly appreciate Wayne thinking of us and his gift will be treasured by many for a long time. Many thanks and God Bless you Wayne.

I received the news at the last meeting concerning the fact that some of our members have encountered some non-club prospectors who are causing damage to the Clear Creek area of I-70 and Youngfield. I have spoken to Colleen Gadd of the Jefferson County Open Spaces and asked her input in how her folks might be able to resolve some of the issues there. She will investigate the reports and let me know what she thinks. I may have more to report by the June meeting. And while on this subject, it is disheartening to encounter truly irresponsible people and 'claim jumpers' when out and about. These are the people who care nothing for the ecological environment or for the rights of others and have no respect for people or property, private or public. They dig holes without regard to common sense, never fill them back in, undercut trees, boulders, walkways, roadways, leave behind trash left and right with no conscience, and give all truly caring prospectors a bad name. When non-prospectors encounter them and see what they are doing, they brand all of us as irresponsible and think that we are all alike. Their attitude is selfish and they make statements such as 'hey, it is what it is!' and "so what, everybody else is doing it"! But that of course, that isn't true at all.

In the meantime, if any of you encounter any of these undesirables on the creek when in Jefferson County and they do not respond responsibly or civilly, (please, providing and only if they are doing something wrong/illegal, of course), you can call the Jefferson County Sheriff's office at 911 (for emergencies only) or 303-277-0211 to report a crime. If the incident relates to improper use of the Open Spaces, tell the dispatcher that you need an Opens Spaces Ranger. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office dispatches for the Opens Spaces Rangers. Don't take the law into your hands, CALL.

**At the June meeting, we will be showing a DVD on metal detecting which will be presented by Board Member Joe Fortunato.** This should be a very interesting program and I look forward to seeing it. Joe is one of our more experienced detectorist, though he will tell you he is no more than an amateur enthusiast. Anyway, I know different and I know that it will be a worthwhile program for everyone who has an interest in metal detecting.

And that is the way I see it from here. So until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottom of your pans turn bright with that 'Yaller Gold'..!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at [jnslong945@msn.com](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com). Happy and safe prospecting....!!!

## The V.P. Corner by Don Bray

As persons interested in mining activities, I don't have to stress the importance our access to the Public Lands owned by the federal government. Nevada is the state with the highest percentage of federal land ownership at nearly 88%. Colorado is considered ninth of the fifty states with 39% of federal land ownership. This column will be the first of a series of columns dealing with issues around our use of these, our Public Lands.

### The Genesis of Federal Land Ownership

Since Columbus' discovery of the "New World" through the Colonial Period of our country, the major European countries accepted that when a person "discovers" unknown lands the government he represents receives title to those lands. These countries also accepted that the indigenous peoples occupying and using those lands had some rights also.



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Pre-Revolutionary War, the major countries with claims on the lands within the present United States were England, France, Spain and Russia.

In 1762, a treaty between France and Spain ceded all the French land claims west of the Mississippi River, including the island of New Orleans, to Spain. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 that ended the French and Indian war in North America and the Seven Years war in Europe, ceded to England all French land claims east of the Mississippi River, excluding the island of New Orleans. With the treaty between England and the newly formed U.S. in 1783 that ended the Revolutionary War, England handed over all of their land claims east of the Mississippi River up to the Great Lakes.

In 1800, another treaty was negotiated between France and Spain that ceded all the Spanish land claims west of the Mississippi River, including the island of New Orleans, back to France. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson negotiated the purchase of the French lands west of the Mississippi (the Louisiana Purchase). At that time almost all of the white citizens of the U.S. lived east of the Mississippi, and mostly Native Americans lived west of it. After his purchase, President Jefferson organized and commissioned the Lewis & Clark Expedition to map and explore these newly acquired lands.

At the end of the Mexican-American war in 1848, the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo saw the Republic of Mexico cede its claims to the territories now comprising Texas, California, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and most of Arizona and New Mexico for a payment of \$18 million. In 1852, the U.S. purchased from Mexico a strip of disputed land along the Mexico and New Mexico-Arizona borders, known as the Gadsden Purchase, for another \$10 million. Finally, in 1867 President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward acquired the land of Alaska from the Russians for a purchase of \$7.2 million.

Through treaties, purchases, and land swaps with foreign nations, the original 13 colonies and Native American tribes, the federal government has continually negotiated to acquire land ownership for the public use of American citizens. Since colonial times, the federal government has used low taxes and land grants to foster citizen activities that it deemed desirable, and used high taxes and onerous regulations to discourage the undesirable. For example, many Revolutionary War veterans received "Bonus Lands" in TN, KY & OH for their service. Many companies received land grants to foster desired transportation projects (barge canals and railroads). And many families received agricultural lands under the Homestead Act of 1862.

In 1872, the government deemed that mining activities were desirable and passed the Mining Act to open federally owned public lands to prospecting and mining. However, times change, and it now appears that the government deems undesirable all public use of the Public Lands and is doing everything it can to discourage the public's use.

(To be continued.)

Contact me at: don\_bray@copper.net

## From the Ledger of Peg Brozek, Treasurer/Secretary

Thanks to JJ Long, Don Bray and Bob Butler for their contributions to the member only drawings. For the June meeting there will be a total of 7.8 grams of nuggets, with the largest being 2.7 grams.

Blue tickets continue to be available for that special nugget!! So, plan to buy extra and GOOD LUCK!!

### Nederland Placer Mine Outing and Clean Up. (CLUB OUTING)

GPOR will be holding its first "Clean Up Nederland" outing on the creek at Nederland City Park on Saturday, June 25th between 9:00am and 5:00pm. Bring dredge, sluice or pan and, in addition to getting some gold, compete for a prize for the most glass collected from this park area.

Please use caution, as there is a LOT of broken glass in this historic placer mine - gloves are advised.

Also, the water will be cold and swift at this time of year, so dress accordingly. Questions? Call Greg Davis at 303-526-1438.





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P.S. The High Peak Arts Festival will also be this weekend in Nederland, so there will be something to do for everyone.  
Greg Davis

## Board Meeting Minutes From May 2011

X	James Long	X	Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	Don Luchtenburg
X	Don Bray		Joe Johnston	X	Terry Weatherly	X	Mike Hurtado
X	Peg Brozek	X	Sue Lemieux	X	Andy Doll		
	Gary Hawley						

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: Meeting was called to Order at 6:01 by Jim Long.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: March Minutes were read.

Corrections: Prospecting on any GPOC Claims will require a GPOC membership.

Approved as read/corrected: Yes

Treasurer's Report: Read by Jim Long.

Questions: None Approved: Yes

Correspondence: Received 9 e-mails and 9 phone calls from within as well as outside the Club. No mailings.

Committee Reports: Greg Davis has accepted the position of Membership Desk.

Webmaster: Andy Doll reports 109,222 hits total on the web site, 1,007 since April meeting.

Unfinished business: None at this time.

New business: None at this time.

Planned Outings for 2011: As of this date, the following outings are approved:

June 4 Argo Mine Tour in Idaho Springs. Organized and led by Sue Lemieux.

June 11 Calumet Mine Tour and mineral collecting in Salida, organized and led by Don Bray.

June 24 Gold panning/sluing outing in Nederland City Park, organized by Greg Davis.

July 11 Panning/sluing Class on Clear Creek organized and led by Jim Long.

July 23 Heidi Mine Tour in Gilpin County organized and led by Sue Lemieux.

Aug early Metal detecting outing in Adams County organized and led by Jim Long.

Aug 20 Club Picnic at Lions Park in Golden.

Sept 8,9,10 Panning Demo at Highlands Ranch Days conducted by Jim Long

Sept 17 Panning Demo at Clear Creek Watershed Festival in Idaho Springs conducted by Jim Long.

Sept 24 Georgetown Loop RR ride and Lebanon Silver Mine Tour organized and Led by Sue Lemieux.

Oct 22 School of Mines Museum Tour in Golden organized and led by Sue Lemieux.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting June 15, 2011 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting June.15, 2011 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: DVD movie titled "How the Earth was Made: America's Gold".

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6.55pm.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What was found in 1859, at Magalia in Butte County, California?

### 2011 GPR Board of Directors Members

**President**

James Long

**Vice President**

Don Bray

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Peg Brozek

**2 Year Board Members**

Joe Johnston (2010)

Joe Shubert (2009)

**1 Year Board Members**

Sue Lemieux

Joe Fortunato

Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Don Luchtenburg

Mike Hurtado

## From the Webmaster

If you haven't had a chance to take a look of the videos available on the web site, do so. When we have guest speakers or something special going on at the meetings I will record it and list it here.



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**New Video** – No new videos.

If you have updates for, comments about, or anything else regarding the club website contact the webmaster at: [smes3901@hotmail.com](mailto:smes3901@hotmail.com)

Thanks: Andy Doll

## General Meeting Minutes From May 2011

1. President Jim Long called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.
2. Jim led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, to open the meeting.
3. Jim announced that today's metal prices were as follows: Gold \$1497.50 per t oz, Silver \$35.14 per t oz, Platinum \$1775.00 per t oz. and Palladium \$742.00 per t oz.
4. Jim introduced the program for tonight as a replay of the "History Channel" program titled "America's Gold" from their "How the Earth was Made" series. This program was first viewed at our January 2011 meeting and is being re-shown because of the very light turn out for the January meeting because of bad weather. For a summary of this program please refer to the January "General Meeting Minutes" as printed in the February 2011 newsletter.
5. Jim announced that this month's Website hits total 1007 since the last meeting.
6. Jim announced that according to Peg Brozek's Board Meeting Treasurer's Report the club's finances are still in the black. He also reminded the membership that the treasurer's report details are available, from the treasurer, at the club meetings to any member who would like to see them.
7. Jim announced that after last month's meeting Greg Davis volunteered to take over the membership chairmanship. He then called on Greg for this evening's membership report. Greg reported that tonight we have 83 paid memberships, 3 new memberships and 52 in attendance including 4 guests.
8. Jim asked, vice president, Don Bray for any VP announcements. Don reported that all he has is his field trip to report and that report was tabled till later in the meeting.
9. Jim called on Sue Clover for her "Question of the Month" which is, "What event eventually led to the Cherokee Trail of Tears in 1839"? Sue will collect your answers to this question during the break and distribute a "Club Nugget" drawing ticket to each person turning in a correct answer.
10. Jim stated that Peg Brozek is selling tickets for a 17.1-gram "Members-Only" large nugget drawing during the break. The drawing will be held at a later date.
11. Jim read the sixth "GPR Cache Clue."
12. Jim also stated that the Club Store would not open during the break tonight due to the absence of Rob Deschambault. Sue Lemieux announced that they have restocked copies of the Ben Parker's book on "Colorado Placers" and that they will be for sale for \$12.00, from the store next month.
13. Jim asked Sue Lemieux to announce tonight's "Birthday Awards" for those with May birthdays. No one came forward to claim the "Awards" so Sue donated the awards to the break refreshment table.
14. Jim announced that we are planning three field trips in June. He asked Sue Lemieux to announce her field trip plans. Sue stated she has a trip on Saturday June 4 to the Argo mill in Idaho Springs; plan to meet in the Argo parking lot at 9:30 A.M. Information and a signup sheet will be on the front table during the break. She also announced that she is planning trips to the Heidi Mine (details to be determined), the Georgetown Loop railroad with the Lebanon Silver Mine in September and the Colorado School of Mines Museum in October. Don Bray announced that he has a trip to the Calumet Iron Mine near Salida on Saturday June 11, meet time is 9:00 A.M. in the parking lot of the Safeway store in Salida. There will be an information sheet and a signup sheet on the front table during the break for the Calumet trip. Greg Davis announced his trip to Nederland for Saturday June 25. The town has opened the park for the GPR members to pan, sluice etc. Mechanized equipment will be allowed. Greg plans to be at the park at 9:00 A.M.
15. Jim thanked Sue Lemieux and Lloyd Lauck and all the other folks who donated to the refreshment table tonight as there is an abundance of food there.
16. Jim announced that contrary to statements made at our April meeting and recorded in "General Meeting Minutes" of that meeting, the GPOC claims are not open to GPR members unless they are members or join the GPOC. This change is necessitated due to commitments made in the "Plans of Operation" and for liability/insurance reasons. You





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can purchase a membership and the permits from the “Rock Doc” near Buena Vista or at the GPOC meetings the second Wednesday of the month in Colorado Springs. In addition, their new Twin Lakes area claim is not going to be available until the first of August due to a 90-day waiting period mandated by the BLM. For more details check out their newsletter, at the GPOC Website:

[http://www.gpoc.com/GPOC/Quill\\_Newsletter/Entries/2011/3/29\\_The\\_Quill~\\_April\\_2011.html](http://www.gpoc.com/GPOC/Quill_Newsletter/Entries/2011/3/29_The_Quill~_April_2011.html)

17. Jim announced the meeting refreshment break, at 8:23. At 8:39 Jim reconvened the meeting.
18. Jim asked Sue Clover to announce the answer for her “Question of the Month” contest. Sue’s correct answer is “The Georgia gold rush”. Twelve people turned in correct answers tonight.
19. Chuck Cown, Peggy Brozek, Jim and Don conducted this evening’s “Members-Only” and the “Club-Nugget” drawings. For the “Member’s-Only” drawing, 4 prizes were awarded to members; our thanks go to all who donated tonight’s prizes. Eight nuggets for the “Club-Nugget” drawing were won tonight, the largest being 2.8 gram. The nuggets tonight are from various localities (as noted on the containers).
20. Jim asked for refreshment table volunteers for the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ian Duncanson and Jim Long volunteered. Thanks Ian and Jim.
21. From the floor a member announced that at the Youngfield Clear Creek panning site he has observed people digging and undermining the concrete walkway. After some discussion Jim volunteered to talk to Colleen Gadd at Jeffco about this situation and report back to us on this matter.
22. Next meeting will be June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. The June program is scheduled to be a DVD presentation on “Metal Detecting” introduced by Joe Fortunato.
23. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M

**Submitted by, Don Bray, Recorder**

## Aurora Youth Water Festival Panning Demo By Jim Long

The GPR Club conducted a gold panning demonstration for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Aurora Youth Water Festival conducted at the

Aurora Community College of Aurora. The Festival hosted some 1600 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from more than 40 different schools from the Aurora area.

There were some 25 or more classroom presentations and some 12 exhibitors, including the GPR. The presentations were all conducted around the theme of celebrating water through activities and exhibits.



My personal thanks go to Don Bray, Greg Davis, Ed Fielding, Mike Hurtado, Brandon Luchtenburg and Don Luchtenburg for taking on the daunting task of facing 1600 kids who all wanted to take our gold home with them. Due to the inclement weather, we did get to do the event indoors for a change and that made it a lot better. Great job guys...!

## Newsorthy Notes Concerning Mining Interests From the Denver Post:

4-20-11 Gold prices topped \$1500.00 an ounce Tuesday as investors looked for more stable assets because of worries about US government debt, European financial problems and inflation. Gold for June delivery settled at \$1495.10 an ounce Tuesday after hitting \$1500.50 an ounce earlier in the session. May silver rose 95.7 cents to settle at \$43.91 an ounce. The gains came a day after Standard & Poor’s Rating Service lowered its outlook on US government debt.

5-16-11 Sell Fort Knox Gold? A debate is currently raging over whether unloading US hard assets is viable. With the US poised to slam into its debt limit, conservative economists are eyeballing the 147 million ounces of gold in Fort Knox representing about \$220 billion in bullion. The conservatives are seeing gold at \$1500.00



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an ounce thinking that we could make a lot of money and pay off some of the debt. Liberals compare the selling of the gold to the selling of Mount Rushmore. The national debt is currently at 14.3 trillion dollars. You can expect this debate to continue for awhile.

### Another Big Gold Nugget:

**#2 The Anvil Nugget** - 182 Troy Ounces. This nugget was found on Anvil Creek near Nome, Alaska in 1903 by the Pioneer Mining Company. For almost 100 years it stood as the largest nugget found in Alaska, until the nugget above was found in 1998. The status of this nugget is unknown. Colorized from original b&w photo by Dobbs

*Taken from Google of The Top 20 Largest Alaskan Nuggets*



## Sue's Sluice Box

### Hidee Mine Tour

**Saturday, July 23**

**Meeting Time: 8:30am SHARP!**

**Tour Time:** 9am (This "Special Time" was created to accommodate our Group before the General Public has access to the Mine).

**Where:** Hidee Mine (Central City Parkway, Mile Post 6.3, Hidee Mine Rd., on the Left) See MAP for Directions.

**Cost:** \$16 per Adult, \$10 Children (No children under 5 years old admitted)

**Website:** [www.hideegoldmine.com](http://www.hideegoldmine.com)

If we are a large group, we will be separated into 2 smaller groups, to accommodate everyone.

- 1) Underground – Prospecting
- 2) Historic Site Tour

Brochures & maps will be available at the July 20 GPR Meeting.

Any Questions: Come and talk with me, call 413-668-6008 (Best), or e-mail [slemieu@yahoo.com](mailto:slemieu@yahoo.com) I hope you can attend this great outing!!!!!!! See you at the mine!!!

**Sluicin' Sue**

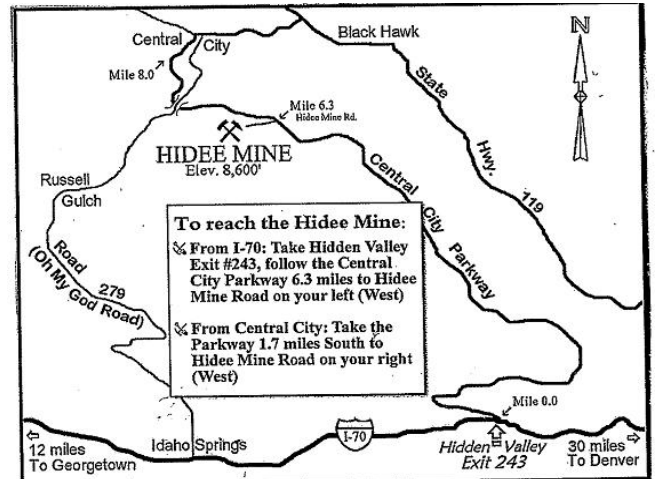
## Back Pillars of Gold

Two towering pillars of stone stand silent lonely guard to a small valley running into Colorado from the wild and precipitous mountains of northern New Mexico, west of the Rio Grande River. Back in the 1800's when the Spanish conquerors were roaming the great West, some of the padres and soldiers stopped to examine the august and mighty monuments. But wait, the pillars were made of gold!!

Well, not entirely, of course. But most of the stones were pieces of rich gold ore which had, no doubt, been found not too far away. In that pleasant little valley, distinguished from hundreds of others only by the bleak, majestic pillars, the padres and soldiers became miners until they had dug all the gold they could possible carry with them.

Others, in the years that followed, saw the pillars but considered them only a freakish geologic formation and passed them by. Except Mike O'Leary, who arrived a century after the Spanish had been there. The rumors are that he stumbled onto some ancient working on one of his prospecting trips. At least, he appeared in Parrott City on the La Plata River, southwest of Durango, with enough gold to pay for a spree lasting several weeks. No mater how drunk he was, he clammed up when asked where he had found the gold.

When he sobered up, he disappeared, only to show up in Animas City on the Animas River south of Silverton, several months later with another small fortune in gold. Other prospectors tried to follow O'Leary when he headed back into the wild country. But O'Leary was a wily and clever as any of the prospectors of that time. He trusted nobody, searched in solitude, and enjoyed keeping a secret. Discovery of a rich strike meant not only hordes of miners not on the trail of gold, but claim-jumpers and desperadoes ready to use guns and knives to get what they wanted. So nobody ever caught up with





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O'Leary. He slipped out of sight when his gold was gone and then slipped into town with plenty more a few months or a year later. All that was known was that he hid out somewhere in the valley of the Stone Pillars.

Finally someone remarked that O'Leary had not been around for a long time. Parrott City began to watch for him but he never came. He might have traveled on to California. He might have found his grave beside the faithful mine that had paid him well. But where was the mine? Was it the same one that had poured out riches for the Spanish padres? Or are there two fabulous mines in the valley of the Stone Pillars?

Either, or both, are no doubt still rich, waiting for a new discoverer. Neither the padres nor Mike O'Leary, with their crude tools, could have exhausted the mines whose gold built the Stone Pillars.

*Reprinted from Colorado's Lost Gold Mines and Buried Treasure, by Caroline Bancroft, copyright 1961. And also told by Editha Watson in the Herald Democrat Newspaper in Leadville, 1935.*

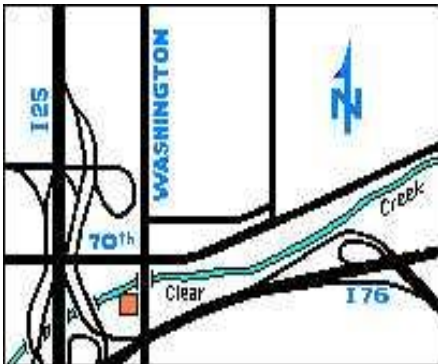
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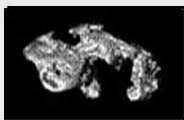
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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

#### Contact the GPR President

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



### Coming Announcements and Special Events for July 2011

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 ([www.wmmi.org](http://www.wmmi.org)))

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	8 WMMI – Old Machinery Day	9
10	11 Panning/Sluicing Class	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 GPR Club Meeting	21	22 WMMI – Old Machinery Day	23 Hidee Mine Tour
24/30	25	26	27	28	29	30