

THE GOLD NUGGET

August 2011



The Prez Sez by Jim Long

Membership Committee member Greg Davis. What a great job that was. It was really cool to see how you can identify land ownership very easily and Greg's use of video incorporated with the aerial views and all was just outstanding. It is always such a help to see material presented that can be such a help to the average small scale prospector.

We were blessed with the return of Gary and Kathy Hawley at the meeting. They had lots of stories to tell of their recent adventures and it sure sounds like they are having a lot of fun.

Wow...!! Gold has breached the 1600 dollar barrier for the first time in history. If you have a lot of gold, you have just gotta be tickled absolutely pink. If you are thinking of buying gold, you gotta wonder how long this price will hold or whether it is going to continue to rise and for how much and for how long or is it gonna crash and fall again or what...!! Decisions, decisions, decisions....If I knew the answers, I would have been financially secure years ago. All I can say is that I don't, I'm not, and that we are certainly living in some very interesting times.

The high water continues to be at a record high and lasting far longer than I can remember in many a year. We have been to North Clear Creek several times and found it to be workable, but the main Clear Creek remains unmanageable and very dangerous and I see no change until the first of August when I hope we will be able to get back into the lower reaches. And let me tell you, brothers and sisters, it ought a be just full of that replenished beautiful yaller gold.

I want to reiterate that the stretch of Clear Creek west of Youngfield and I-70 up to the Coors property is apparently open for small scale prospecting. However, DO NOT dig anywhere above the high water mark for any reason, be sure you fill in all holes before you leave for the day, and make certain you employ a drip pan under any motor of any motorized equipment that you may use. And report to me, anyone that you see violating these general rules of conduct. We now have means to deal with these folks with fairly positive results (positive for us, negative for them). Be sure to add several trash bags to your prospecting equipment and use them to spend a half hour or so of collecting trash on any outing, simply because it is the right thing to do. Never argue with anyone who represents City, County, State or Federal Government entities. I can almost guarantee that you will lose the argument. Always, but politely, get the name of the person and their organization and report any incidents/confrontations to me so that I can make sure that the Club and your interests are protected, and especially so if you are in the right. If you are in the wrong, I probably can't help you, but then, I am sure that most of you already know that.

At the August meeting, I do not have a program lined up at the moment. I have a couple of small irons in the fire and we will have to see if any of them pan out

Anyway, that is how I see it from here. So until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that 'Yaller Gold'..! **Happy and safe prospecting....!!!**

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com

The V.P. Corner by Don Bray

Don's computer is malfunctioning this month, so for the newsletter I pulled this article from the past.

Grow Me Some Gold

As appearing in *The Gold Nugget*, January 2006

by Paul Nagy

At a recent luncheon of the Denver Mining Club, a Denver-based global mining-exploration consultant chatted with table mates about his recent visit to a gold-producing area in Latin America. The gold, it seems, was entirely confined to the upper soil layer, known as the "A" horizon, or what laymen would call the topsoil. This is not at all where gold would be expected because it is almost entirely decomposing organic matter. Furthermore, the gold was in discrete crystals, not the rounded amorphous nuggets familiar to placer miners. That is compelling evidence that the crystals formed in place. Gold crystals have so far been found weighing as much as (gasp!) 4 kilos! The area, as expected, has many people working methodically on hands and knees, carefully sifting the one or two-foot thick gold-bearing layer. Also, as expected, is the ever present gentleman with the large bankroll in hand to buy gold for cash on the spot. The report is that the diggers do very well indeed.

The obvious question, quickly put to consultant, was "What is the source of the gold?" With something of a shrug, the consultant's reply was, "It must be plant activity." He theorizes that deep-rooted plants selectively pick up gold from decomposing bedrock, which is not itself economic, and carry it in chemical solution to the stem and leaves of the plants. After the plants die and decompose, the gold is liberated and is free to grow unobstructed into crystals as it seldom can in



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solid bedrock. Finally the topsoil acts as a packing medium, like Styrofoam chips, to preserve the shape and delicateness of the crystals.

With modern analytical techniques, geobotany is a fast expanding field. For example, in Nevada pine cones are assayed for gold as a clue to ore location, and it has long been known that certain plants prefer to grow above copper-rich bedrock. But in this case the plants are not merely clues to location, but the actual mineralizing agent. The consultant's area sounds like a place for someone's PhD thesis to me!

In practicality, keep in mind that gold is elusive and can sometimes be found in "the durndest places." And it doesn't always require expensive equipment and advanced education to find it!

Contact me at: don_bray@copper.net

From the Ledger of Peg Brozek, Treasurer/Secretary

Thanks to Joe Johnson, Phil Huff and "books from Wayne Hale" for donations to the members only drawing. I would like to take a moment and personally thank Phil Huff for his generous donations over the months-understand he has moved to the hot and humid South.

This month drawings total 7.3 grams and include a 2.9 gram nugget. Blue tickets are still on sale for the special nugget. Don't be afraid to buy often, buy a lot and GOOD LUCK.

Peg

Board Meeting Minutes From July 2011

X	James Long	X	Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	Don Luchtenburg
X	Don Bray	X	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: June Minutes were read.

Corrections: None.

Approved as read/corrected: N/A

Treasurer's Report: Read by Jim Long.

Questions: None Approved: Yes

Correspondence: Received 15 e-mails and 11 phone calls from within as well as outside the Club. 0 mailing.

Committee Reports: None due.

Webmaster: Andy Doll reports 111,981 hits total on the web site, 1,411 since June meeting.

Unfinished business: Discussed I-70 & Youngfield which is now open until further notice. Discussed Grubstaker Claim and BLM has granted permission for us to mitigate holes. Panning magnets have been ordered. The Silent Auction for some of Wayne Hales donated books starts tonight.

New business: No program ideas for August at this time.

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

- July 23 Heidi Mine Tour in Gilpin County organized and led by Sue Lemieux.
- Aug 6 Metal detecting outing in Northglenn at Northwest Open Spaces, 112 & Huron, at 0900am, organized and led by Jim Long.
- Aug 20 Club Picnic, 1100am, at Lions Park in Golden.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How much gold was used in the construction of the space shuttle Columbia?

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



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- 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 Spgs. conducted by Jim Long.
Sept 24 Georgetown Loop RR ride and Lebanon Silver Mine Tour organized and Led by Sue Lemieux. 33.00 @ person form ride and tour. 0945am.
Oct 22 School of Mines Museum Tour in Golden organized and led by Sue Lemieux.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting Aug 17, 2011 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Aug.17 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: Power point presentation on 'How to use the GIS System' presented by member Greg Davis.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6.50 pm.

General Meeting Minutes From July 2011

1. President Jim Long called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.
2. To open the meeting. Jim led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Jim introduced GPR member Greg Davis, to the membership, as the presenter of tonight's program on how to use Local County Online GIS Resources, available on the Internet, for land ownership research. Greg's program consisted of a "PowerPoint" presentation demonstrating five properties in Gilpin, Clear Creek and Adams Counties that GPR members can utilize for gold panning and sluice operations in the Clear Creek drainage. Greg has provided Andy Doll, GPR Webmaster, with the Website addresses for the Websites used for tonight's program. The addresses are available at: <http://www.lornet.com/pro prospector/articles/Presentation.htm>.

The GIS (Geographic Information System) for the individual counties is a huge data base containing all sorts of data that is county specific. The data to be found there includes map, population demographics, Governmental districts and, of special importance to us, land ownership. Because this data is used by the county for tax collection, emergency services and law enforcement purposes and by all manor of outside public and private agencies. These data bases are maintained as accurately as is humanly possible.

Greg first discussed three sites along North Clear Creek in Gilpin County. The first site was the one just above the sewerage treatment plant on East Side of highway 119 (Horse Creek drainage). The second site was the "Grubstaker" Claim on Clear Creek just above the first site. The third site was the old "Vic's Panning" site just above the "Grubstaker."

For Clear Creek County, Greg discussed and showed the "Smokin Yard's BBQ" site in the town of Idaho Springs. GPR members have permission to pan, sluice, highbank and dredge at this site, just check in at the restaurant, park near the dumpster and don't drink beer outside.

The last county discussed was Adams, with Tymkovich Meats being the site demonstrated.

Thanks Greg for your informative and very well present program.

4. Jim announced that according to Peg Brozek's Board Meeting Treasurer's Report the club's finances are in the black. He stated that last month the club had purchased gold for drawings and prizes through much of the remainder of this year and that the club is 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.
5. Jim called on Sue Clover for her "Question of the Month" which is, "What state currently produces about 70% of the US's total production of gold?" 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.
6. Jim announced 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.
7. Jim asks, vice president, Don Bray for any VP announcements. Don had none.
8. Jim next called Barbara Barrow forward and announced that she had found the GPR Cache. Jim and Barbara detailed how each of the seven clues led her to find the cache in the Frontier-Grant Park on the So. Platte River at W. Evans Ave. near Santa Fe Dr. Jim awarded Barbara an 8-gram nugget for her efforts.
9. Jim asks, membership chairman, Greg Davis for this evening's membership report. Greg reported that tonight we have 95 paid memberships with 3 new memberships and 54 in attendance including 8 guests.



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10. Jim asks Sue Lemieux for her announcements. Sue announced snickerdoodle cookie “Birthday Awards” for those with July birthdays. Five members claimed July birthdays and their cookie awards Chuck Harris, Jeff Blair, Andrew Harrison, Randy Burks and Paul Nagy.
Sue also announced that this Saturday, July 23 is the trip to the Hidee Mine near Central City; meet at the mine parking lot at 8:30 A.M. for a 9:00 A.M. tour. Cost is \$16.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 3- under five are not admitted. Information and a signup sheet will be on the front table during the break. She also announced that she is planning a trip on 15 years old, children the Georgetown Loop Railroad and to the Lebanon Silver mine for Sept. The cost for the train ride only is \$25.00 for adults and \$17.00 for children 3-15 years old. For the train ride plus the mine tour (for you must ride the train to get to the mine) the cost is \$32.95 for adults and \$23.95 for children. Information and a signup sheet will be on the front table during the break. More information to follow.
11. Sue also announced that the club store will be open during the break and that she will setup a silent auction during the break to auction off two of the Wayne Hale donated books. The minimum bid on each book is \$1.00 and minimum bid increment is \$0.25. These two books deal with the mining history of Montana.
12. Jim announced that today’s metal prices were as follows: Gold \$1602.50 per t oz, Silver \$40.17 per t oz, Platinum \$1782.00 per t oz. and Palladium \$805.00 per t oz.
13. Jim announced that this month’s Website hits total 1411 since the last meeting.
14. Jim reminded the membership of the planned outings coming up before the August general meeting.
 - July 23 – Hidee mine trip, as described above.
 - August 6 – Metal detecting outing 9:00 AM at the Northwest Open Space in Northglenn, 1mile west of I-25 on 112 Ave.
 - August 20 – Annual club picnic at Lions Park in Golden, west of Washington Ave. on 10 St. More information to follow.
15. Jim reported on his latest communications with Jeffco and the BLM. Jim reported that there is a dispute between Jeffco Open Spaces and Jeffco Facilities Management over which department has enforcement responsibility over the I-70 and Youngfield Clear Creek panning site. Each denies their responsibility for the area. Jim suggests that we continue to use this site, just restrict your digging to within the high water marks.
With regard to the BLM, Jim has been talking to Stephanie, at the Canon City BLM office, about a large coyote hole on the “Grubstaker” claim, on North Clear Creek. She has authorized him to do what is necessary to mitigate the problem. Jim advised the membership that the trees involved have already been taken down and that the hole will soon be filled in the next trip up there.
16. Jim called Gary and Kathy Hawley up front and presented them with a very nice award plaque for their many years of service to our club.
17. Jim announced the meeting refreshment break, at 8:21. At 8:36 Jim reconvened the meeting.
18. Gary Hawley addressed the meeting with some comments and thanks for the award plaque he and Kathy received from the club.
19. Jim asked Sue Clover to announce the answer for her “Question of the Month” contest. Sue’s correct answer is “Nevada”. Twenty people turned in correct answers tonight. Each person with a correct answer received a red nugget drawing ticket.
20. Jim thanked everyone who brought the abundance of food for tonight’s refreshment table.
21. Chuck Cown, Peggy Brozek, and Jim conducted this evening’s “Members-Only” and the “Club-Nugget” drawings. For the “Member’s-Only” drawing, 5 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 2.4 gram. The nuggets tonight are from various localities (as noted on the containers).
22. Jim asked for two volunteers to help bring refreshments for the August meeting. Kathy Hawley and Mike Hurtado volunteered thanks Kathy and Mike.
23. Sue Lemieux announced the results of the silent auction book sale. One went to Joe Shubert for \$4.00 bid and the other to Don Bray for \$4.00.
24. Next meeting is Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00 P.M.
25. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 P.M.

Submitted by, Don Bray, Recorder



HIDEE MINE TOUR by Jim Long

Some twenty two Club members showed up for a fantastic tour of the Hidee Gold mine located about 3 miles south of Central City up in Gilpin County on July 23. The tour was organized and led by **Sue Lemieux** who did a great job in providing this opportunity for members to share.

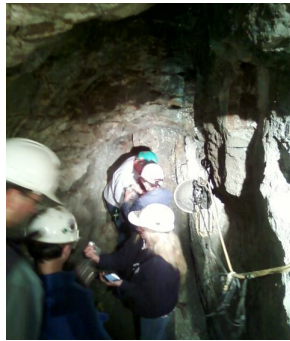
The Hidee Mine was originally discovered in 1896 and has been know to produce at different times from 7.9 to 11.2 ounces of gold, 14.6 to 20 ounces of silver, and from 9.6 to 1605 ounces of copper *per ton* of ore. The mine is presently being operated by the Hidee Gold Mining Company. Pyretic gold and silver is the principal product. The company also owns the Dictator Mine in Clear Creek County.

Members enjoyed the tour which consisted of going some 700 feet into the mountain and some 400 feet underground. The mine stays at a comfortable 45 degrees year around. Each member was permitted to use hammer and chisel to remove actual samples of the calco-pyrite gold bearing ore from the vein which was a little over 2 feet thick. The mine is a lode mine and the main shaft was dug and blown through Limonite layer of Precambrian rock and followed the vein which was forced up through volcanic magma and deposited as it is found today.

Many kudos go to Sue Lemieux for organizing this fantastic tour. Great job...!! Several pictures of various Club members were taken under ground by Jim Long and are included.



Several GPoR members chipping out samples of the gold ore vein.



There is still gold in them thar hills...!!!



Being underground is exciting to some folks..!

Sue's Sluice Box

Georgetown Loop & Lebanon Silver Mine Tour

When: Saturday, September 24

Meeting Time & Place: 9:30am (1st Train departs 10:00am) Devil's Gate Station

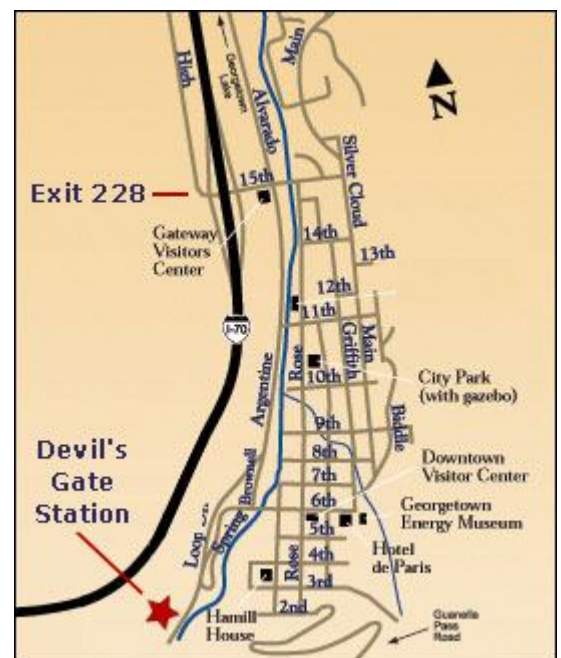
Where: Georgetown, CO

Directions: From Denver: Take I-70 West towards Georgetown, Take Exit 228, Turn right at the Visitor's Center and follow the signs to Loop Drive from Argentine Street or Sixth Street to Devil's Gate Parking area.

Cost: Adults-Train & Mine Tour \$32.95 (Train Only \$24.95) Children (3 to 15 yrs.) Train & Mine Tour \$23.95 (Train only \$16.95)

The Train

The Loop takes you between Georgetown & Silver Plume, over 2 miles apart, the tracks scale an elevation of 640 feet over mountainous terrain,





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requiring trestles, cuts, fills, loops, and curves totaling 3.1 miles of narrow gauge track. We sit in open-air cars, for excellent viewing and pictures.

Lebanon Silver Mine

The tour is a walking tour, located at the halfway point on the railroad. The tour takes you 500 feet into a mine tunnel bored in the 1870s. Your guide will point out rich veins of silver and tell you about early-day mining. The mine is usually relatively dry and a constant 44° F. The tour also includes visits to the manager's office, the miners change room and the tool shed. Hard Hats are provided. Please wear warm clothing and sturdy walking shoes. Bring your cameras!

NOTE: There are other departure times for those who are running late and can't make the 1st train.

Any Questions: Come and talk with me or call 413-668-6008.

I hope you can attend this great educational and fascinating tour!!!!!!!

Sluicin' Sue

Back in the Days..... By Jim Long

SILVER PLUME

The story goes that Owen Feenan discovered the Pelican Lode way back in 1868. But he didn't patent the claim. Instead, he kept it a secret. And then a few months later he became deathly ill, and, on what he thought was his death bed, he told two friends of his rich strike a few miles above Georgetown.

In 1871, when Feenan was able to climb out of his 'death bed' and return to work, he found his claim was working full force and a camp had risen nearby. The camp, of course, was Silver Plume. Feenan's 'friends' had taken over the Pelican and Feenan had been cut out entirely. The Pelican and the Dives were the two big mines in Silver Plume. The two had apparently tapped into the same vein. Therein was the problem.

The early history of Silver Plume is rife with the squabbles between the two mines. At one time, there were more than twenty law suits and counter suits between the two mining companies. It almost ended in a shooting war. In fact, a man called Snider, the owner of the Pelican, was shot and killed by a Dives employee in 1875. In the courtroom, the judge was forced to check the guns of all the participants and he kept a gun handy on his bench during the proceedings. The Pelican finally won out but the Dives had the last word. Before ending work on the vein, miners in a sad procession came out of the Dives carrying six coffins said to contain the bodies of Dives miners killed in a mine accident. The coffins were particularly heavy. That was because they contained high grade ore.

A man named Hamill eventually took over ownership of the Pelican. He purchased the Dives property for \$50,000.00. A short time later he sold the Pelican-Dives for 5 million dollars and became the richest man in the region at the time. There were other mines around, good mines. Clifford Griffin, the Silver Plume character, owned and operated the Seven-Thirty mine. He came to Colorado to forget his sweetheart who died the night before their scheduled wedding. Griffin was a loner and owned a cabin high on the mountain above Silver Plume and spent evenings playing a wistful tune on his fiddle. On clear nights, the lonesome music could be heard in the town below. He eventually committed suicide. As the mines poured forth, Silver Plume thrived. It was a bustling city during the 70's, when more than 2000 persons lived there. There were a theatre, two churches, a schoolhouse, post office, and numerous stores. Stages connected the City to Georgetown to the east, and Graymont and Bakerville to the west. Then in 1877, the railroad came to town. A few years later, the famous Georgetown Loop was constructed nearby, lending importance to Silver Plume. In addition to the millions in silver, gold, lead, zinc, and copper mined here, high quality granite was quarried near Silver Plume. The granite is used for most state historical markers.

Silver Plume faded through the years. It never became a complete ghost, although it hovered on the brink several times. Many of the old buildings are now gone. The Odd Fellows Club, an important social center in early Silver Plume, was destroyed in a mud slide and was never rebuilt. However, the buildings that are left, many of which are occupied, give a representative picture of a typical early day mining town in Colorado. Mining is still carried on nearby.

GOLD DUST: *A student of place names could run riot in Silver Plume. There are no less than five versions of how the same came to be. Some say it was named after an Indian; others say it took the name of a mine; still others claim it was named for James G. Blaine, a former candidate for President known popularly as the 'Plumed Knight' and there were some who say Stephan Decatur named the town for reasons of his own. However, the most accepted version is that the town was named when some of the first prospectors discovered some silver in the form of a perfect plume. Decatur may have been in on that as he was in on a lot of things....power drills made their first appearance in mining in the Burleigh Tunnel here in 1869....Silver plume's jail, the original band stand, and one of the few hand pumpers of the volunteer fire*



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department are still available for inspection today.....promise of new life was breathed into the town in 1964 with the discovery of a rich lode in the Johnny Bull Claim. The discovery, which runs up to \$6,000.00 a ton, was the result of a 20 year search by Mrs. Vivian Rowe Tonini and her husband Francis Rowe.

Excerpts taken from "Guide to the Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps by Perry Eberhart, 1959

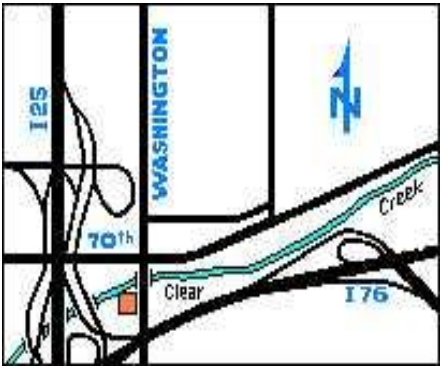
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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for September 2011

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 Panning Demo Highland Ranch days	9 Panning Demo Highland Ranch days	10 Panning Demo Highland Ranch days
11 Grandparents Day	12	13	14	15	16 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	17 Constitution Day Panning Demo Idaho Springs
18 (Tentative) GPOR Pan Dredge Sluice outing in Nederland (9-5)	19	20	21 GPR Club Meeting	22 WMMI - Exhibit Opening & Heritage Lecture	23 Autumn Begins	24 Georgetown Loop Outing
		27	28	29	30	