

# THE GOLD NUGGET

February 2012

**\*\*\*\*\*2012 Members Dues are Due Now\*\*\*\*\***

## **The Prez Sez by Jim Long**



Now that winter is here to stay, it is getting harder and harder to find days warm enough to entice some of us out to the creeks. That means that there just isn't very much to do but read, watch TV, or dream about big nuggets or lots of gold dust in the bottom of that pan. Unless, of course, you have lots of black sand just sitting in your garage begging for you to go clean it up.

Separating gold from black sand seems to be a major problem for a great many folks. In fact, there are dozens of gadgets on the market today that all guarantee you their product will give you a 98% return.

And they can cost a pretty penny and they come in all kinds of shapes and sizes and whatever. As a lot of you read this, you are probably saying to yourself "yeah, I know and I have some of that stuff in my garage sitting right next to all that black sand right now!" And I know that because I have some of that stuff myself. And I have used many of them myself a number of times. But let me tell you a couple of hard earned secrets that I have discovered the hard way.

It really doesn't really matter what type of product or device you have, most of the wheels and mini sluices work best if you feed them the black sand one teaspoon at a time and do it slowly. And most of the sellers will in fact, stress that to you. And it is true. But that takes a lot of time because the overall process requires that you go slow to be efficient. And that is the exact problem because an awful lot of people simply lose interest if they don't get quick and immediate results. If you want to become a good prospector, then you had better develop a little patience. In fact, you better develop a whole lot of patience because you are going to need it eventually to separate all that gold from your black sands. And having patience, as a prospector, is the first major secret to eventual success.

There is simply no substitute for panning ability. I am telling you now that there is no quick and easy way to find gold today. But if you can find where it is, then it is going to require some hard work and will eventually involve some panning before you get any of that gold in your vial. So the second major important secret is simply that you need to really develop your panning skills and become good at it. I am serious. Give me a small black 6" pan, a teaspoon, and stand aside. I like to think I can keep up with most wheels and mini-sluices and I guarantee my panning to recover 99% of my gold. I am not bragging. I have tested my results many times. It is just that I have honed my skills. I have learned that there is no substitute for being able to pan well and that my gold recovery is as good as most of these products that eat away at our wallets. And I know that I am right because I know a few grizzled old prospectors who have told me so. And before you are done with your black sand, you will have to use your pan at some point. It is just a fact of prospecting life. Now some people prefer a green pan over a black one or a blue one over a green one or whatever. Your color choice and size is a matter of personal preference. You don't have to do it the garage either. I work at my dining room table and only take up a little of the space on it and I don't make a big mess either. Lighting is critically important as you want to be able to see the gleam of the gold when it shows. Direct sunlight is always best but not always practical in the winter. A couple of hours a day panning is never a waste of time if you are getting gold!

So instead of sitting all winter on the couch watching TV, getting no exercise, snacking constantly and risking getting so fat that you can't get out to the creek anymore, go to the garage or the dining room, turn that radio or TV on, grab that gold pan and get to panning. Your muscles will ache, your patience will become fine tuned, and your panning skills will be keenly honed, and you will see the results of your labors hopefully gleaming brightly in your vial. If I can do it, you can do it..! I told my wife the other day that "I never get tired of seeing the brightness of gold in the bottom of my pan". She said I just had gold fever. I told her "well, at least it wasn't fatal". And she said "maybe not, but it sure is incurable"! And by golly,..... I couldn't argue that at all!!!

Well, that is about all I have from here for now. So until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms 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 to all!!!

## **The V.P. Corner by Mike Hurtado**

I would like all of the GPOR members to know as an Organization we have had a large turn over. Because of this some of our new members may not have experience in recreational prospecting. I have decided that a little history on the how's and why's of Colorado gold prospecting would be interesting to all our members old and new.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

They came from all walks of life those early pioneers. They first came in a trickle, then in waves as news of new lands and new adventures reached the East. They were the reckless and rowdy, the brave and the bad, the greedy and the gullible.

They stopped at the confluence of the Platte River and Cherry Creek. Westbound to outfit themselves for the golden promise of the mountains ahead or Eastbound where they came down out of the hills either lucky or more frequently busted and broken.

It started with the American Indians, through uncounted ages. Then the Spaniards came in search of the Cities of Gold. The colorful mountain man, the occasional scholar, artist, and finally the prospector followed. Some would become names etched in history others would be the unknown, the forgotten heroes.

The first white man crossed the Valley in 1720 when a Spanish detachment under Pedro de Villasur marched up from Santa Fe to intercept a French force. They crossed the Platte near the present site of Fort Morgan. In 1806 Lt. Zebulon Pike was sent with a military expedition to explore the southwestern section of the Louisiana Purchase. Pike's journal records show an adventurer named James Purcell as the first to discover gold in what is now Colorado.

A government expedition led by Stephen H. Long, who became Mayor and Long's Peak is named after, reached the region of Cherry Creek and the Platte in July of 1820. In 1835 Colonel Henry Dodge lead a group over the same route taken by Long followed in 1845 by Colonel Stephen W. Kearney. A year later Francis Parkman camped at this same junction and later described the region in his classic, "The Oregon Trail."

Although expeditions and individuals had camped and roamed the plains and mountains it was the California gold strike of 1848 that brought the first real influx of people to the region. Thousands of fortune seekers passed through on their way to the coast. Few prospectors paused to pan the Colorado streams, but a few hopefuls did stop including a band of educated Cherokees from the gold region of Georgia, and a prospector named Lewis Ralston.

This is just a start and I hope I caught your interest. If I did wet your whistle I have much-much more to share with you.

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Peg Brozek

Thanks to Don Bray, Mike Hurtado, JJ Long, Lloyd Lauck, and Joe Johnson for their contributions to the member only drawings. For the February drawing there will be a total of 7.1 gm, with the largest being 2.3 grms.

Remember, we will be drawing for the special nugget!! Good Luck to all.

Peg

## Board Meeting Minutes From Jan 2012

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

**Quorum present?** Yes

**Call to Order:** By JJ at 6:04pm

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Yes Corrections: none

Approved as read/corrected: Yes

**Treasurer's Report:** Questions: none Approved: yes

**Correspondence:** 17 phone calls, 12 e-mails, 2 mailings

**Committee Reports:** Christmas Program went very well. Rich Harrison has agreed to take over Membership Table. Will Give Sue Clover a Cert of Appreciation in regular meeting.

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 118478. Hits for last month 771.

**Unfinished business:** January is last month to buy tickets for the Special nugget drawing. Will draw winner at Feb meeting.

**New business:**

- Committee assignments same as 2011. Mike will Assume Don B's assignments.
- Solicited ideas for speakers/programs for 2012.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What was the last year that Olympic Gold Medals were made entirely of gold?



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

- Board approved \$250.00 donation to the Western Mining Museum.
- Reviewed & approved the new Member Application submitted by Greg Davis.

**Planned Outings for 2011:** As of this date, the following outings are established.

- May 18 Panning Demo at Aurora Youth Water Festival. Will need 6/7 volunteers.
- Sept. 22-23 GPAA Gold Show at Denver Coliseum. We will attempt to get a booth.
- No other specific planned outings are scheduled!!!

### From the Floor:

- Sue L. informs no more birthday recognition due to lack of interest of members. Book Auction will continue until books are exhausted.
- Joe J. asks that people who have checked out items please return them. May have to go to \$5 deposit or consider another option to get returns.
- Discussed possibility of a sign at Youngfield in coop w/JeffCo Open Spaces. JJ will follow up.
- Mike H. will print some more cards with web site on it and change all values on back to only one decimal place.

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting Feb 15, 2012 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Feb 15, 2012 at 7:00pm

**Tonight's general meeting program:** Joe Fortunato has brought a VHS tape titles 'The Colorado Gold Rush of 1860 – the Discovery of California Gulch'. The tape heralds the discovery of gold in the Leadville area.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:58pm.

### **2012 GPR Board of Directors Members**

#### **President**

James Long

#### **Vice President**

Mike Hurtado

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Peg Brozek

#### **2 Year Board Members**

Joe Johnston

Joe Shubert

#### **1 Year Board Members**

Sue Lemieux

Joe Fortunato

Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Don Luchtenburg

Greg Davis

## **General Meeting Minutes From Jan 2012**

1. Meeting was opened at 7:10p by Pres. JJ Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The evenings program was a VHS tape titled 'The Colorado Gold Rush of 1860 – The Discovery of California Gulch' which heralded the discovery of gold in the Leadville area. The tape was courtesy of Joe Fortunato.
3. Treasurer Peg Brozek reported that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it.
4. Pres. Long gave Metals Report with gold at about 1686 an ounce. No numbers available for silver.
5. Web hits for last month were down a little, reflecting only 770 average for Dec and Jan.
6. Richard Harrison reported from Membership Table that approx. 90 people were in attendance. There were 12 guests/visitors and 5 new members. Membership closed 2011 at 120 members. A reminder to all that 2012 Annual Dues are due now so please get it taken care of soon.
7. Sue Clover delivered the Question of the Month to the attendees. 'How much does one cubic inch of gold weigh'? Pres. Long presented Sue with a Certificate of Appreciation for all of Sue's efforts during 2011 with the Question of the Month program. She has done an outstanding job with it.
8. Peg Brozek announced that January will be last month to buy tickets for the special nugget drawing. The drawing will take place during the Feb. Meeting.
9. Barbara Barrow was absent but Pres. Long provided the attendees with the 'Cache Clue #5'.
10. Sue Lemieux reported that she will no longer conduct the 'Golden Cupcake Birthday' program through a lack of participation from members. The 'Book Auction' will continue until the donated book supply has been exhausted. She will try to plan several Mine/museum tours for 2012 which will be announced in May or so.
11. Rob Deshambault reports that the Club Store still has a lot of products for sale, so please support your Club and purchase several. They make great gift items as well.
12. Pres. Long reported that there are 2 planned outings for 2012 at this date.
13. May 18 – Panning Demo at the Aurora Youth Water Festival. Will need 6/7 volunteers.
14. Sept 22-23 – GPAA Gold Show at the Denver Coliseum. The Club will try to have a booth there and we will need a few volunteers to man it.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

15. From the Floor, Greg Davis advised that he would be on Clear Creek at the Youngfield location if any other members wished to come on down and join him. He will be there from 10am to whenever.
16. Pres. Long introduced member Bob Butler and visitor Mark Goodwin who had equipment on the back tables and encouraged the membership to check them out during the break.
17. Pres. Long announced a 25 minute break at 8pm.
18. Pres. Long called meeting back to order at 8:30pm.
19. Sue Clover announced that thee were 27 winners for the 'Question of the Month'. Mike Hurtado and Brandon Luchtenburg handed out the extra drawing tickets to the luck winners.
20. Bev Sharpley and Rich Dimisko volunteered to provide extra refreshments for the Refreshment Table for the Feb. Meeting.
21. The evening was concluded with drawings for Door Prizes followed by drawings for the gold nuggets, Those assisting Pres. Long in the drawings were Chuck Cown and Peg Brozek.
22. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm

## Sue's Sluice Box

### GPR STORE PRICES

Ben Parker Book	\$12.00	<u>Denim Long Sleeve Shirts</u>	<u>Polo Knit Shirts</u>	<u>Fleece Vests</u>
"New" Black Hats	\$15.00	Small \$28.00	Medium \$25.00	Medium \$40.00
GPR Window Stickers	\$4.00	Medium \$28.00	Large \$26.00	Large \$41.00
Gold Nugget Cling-Ons	\$5.00	Large \$30.00	XLarge \$27.00	XLarge \$42.00
White Vinyl Stickers	\$6.00	XLarge \$30.00	2XLarge \$28.00	2XLarge \$43.00
T-Shirts	\$2.00	2XLarge \$32.00		
Lanyards	\$2.00	3XLarge \$35.00		
		4XLarge \$37.00		
		5XLarge \$39.00		

## Sluicin' Sue

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

**Brownsville:** Much of the history of Brownsville was involved in the Atlantic-Pacific tunnel. There was some mining in the neighborhood, but the town was primarily a construction town for workers on the tunnel. The fortunes of the town generally followed the ups and downs of the work on the tunnel.

Because Brownsville was so closely allied with the tunnel, it may have once been called Pomeroyville. Brownsville was platted a short distance west of Silver Plume. It was little more than a suburb of the larger town. A mud slide early in Brownsville history destroyed much of the town and little was rebuilt.

**Pomeroyville:** A Pomeroyville was mentioned frequently in newspaper accounts as a suburb of Georgetown. Since the mention of the town during the erratic construction periods of Brick Pomeroy's Atlantic-Pacific Tunnel, the town was most likely a construction camp at the opening of the tunnel.

If development of the town was as erratic as the development of the tunnel, the town had a haphazard existence, to say the least. But, if Pomeroyville was the construction town for the tunnel, it could well have had a large population when the tunnel construction was going full blast.

The town was named for Brick, naturally. However, Pomeroyville could possible have been another name for Brownsville.

**Silver Dale:** Silver Dale was a small but active little silver camp about a mile and half south of Georgetown, at the junction of Leavenworth and South Clear Creek. The Colorado Central, Equator, S.J. Tilden, Robinson, and Curtly Mines were located here.

There were at least three tunnels. The most important was the Marshall Tunnel which cut through a number of valuable deposits. The Robinson and the Curtly were two other tunnels. The population of the camp was never more than one hundred. There was a post office and a store or two.





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**Bakerville and Graymont (graymont):** Two smaller, although rather important towns, beyond Silver Plume, on the approach to Loveland Pass. There was some good mining at both towns. They were also important stage stops, and when the railroad was extended from the Georgetown Loop, station stops and resort centers. The railroad came to the towns in 1873. Bakerville was named for John Baker, who, with two others, discovered gold on Kelso Mountain in the summer of 1865. When the gold played out, the town became more important as a stage and railroad stop. Now it is a summer resort stop.

**Graymont**, often shown as Graymont on early maps, was named after the peak above the town. When the railroad arrived here, it brought many tourists who would rent horses here and ride up to the top of Gray's Peak. The best mine here was the Stevens Mine.

**Sidneyville:** Sidneyville was primarily a station on the old Argentine Central, although there was some mining done here. It was located n Leavenworth Gulch, about five miles above Georgetown, and was named for Matt Sidney, who located the Sidney Silver Mine.

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



### **A Miner's Laugh**

An old hillbilly hard rock miner had a wife who nagged him unmercifully. From morning until night, and sometimes later, she was always complaining about something. The only time he got any relief was when he was using his old mule in his mine taking ore out. Obviously, he tried to mine a lot of the time.

One day, when he was out mining, his wife brought him his lunch. She immediately started haranguing him again. Complain, nag, nag! It just went on and on. All of a sudden, the old mule lashed out with both hind feet, caught her smack in the back of the head, killing her instantly.



At the funeral, the minister noticed something rather odd. When a woman mourner would approach the old miner, he would listen for a minute, and then nod his head in agreement. But, when a male mourner would approach him, he would listen for a minute, and then shake his head in disagreement. This was so consistent that the minister decided to ask the old miner about it. So, after the funeral, the minister spoke to the old miner and asked him why he nodded his head and agreed with the women but always shook his head and disagreed with all the men.

The old miner said, "Well, the women would come up to me and say how nice my wife looked, or how petty her hair was, so I would nod my head in agreement."

"And what about the men?", the minister asked.

The old miner scuffed at the dirt and replied, "Well, the men all wanted to know if my old mule was for sale!"

*Reprinted from the May/June 2011 issue of GPAA's 'Gold Prospectors' magazine*

**\*\*\*\*\*2012 Members Dues are Due Now\*\*\*\*\***

### **Newsorthy Notes Concerning Mining Interests**

Taken From the Denver Post:

**1-11-12** U.S. Gold exec. sees rich vein of mergers in 2012. Rob McEwen, chief executive of Lakewood based U.S. Gold Corp. said gold companies will seek acquisitions this year as higher metals prices boost their cash reserves. Gold miners are seeking to replace resources and increase production of the commodity which posted its 11th annual increases in 2011.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

Rising metal prices have seen a proliferation of smaller companies that are vulnerable to takeovers because their access to capital is limited. Gold futures reached a nominal record of \$1923.70 an ounce in September on the Comex in New York.

### World's Largest Gold Nugget

The world's largest gold nugget and the largest gold nugget ever found are two different animals...err...nuggets, and they're also different than the world's largest single mass of gold ever found.

The Holtermann Nugget found at Hill End, New South Wales, Australia in 1872, at 290 kg. was huge, and indeed remains the largest single mass of gold ever discovered, but it can't really be called a "nugget" in my book. We could go into hard rock vs. placer, but the essence is that a gold nugget has left the lode at some point and is no longer in the host rock. The Holtermann was what the Aussies call "reef gold" after the quartz reefs sought after by the hard rock miners



The largest gold nugget ever found was called the "Welcome Stranger" weighing in at 2316 troy ounces (72.04 kg). It was found by John Deason and Richard Oates (pictured below with miners and wives) at Moliagul, Victoria, Australia on February 5th, 1869. While the gold from the Welcome Stranger is still out there, the nugget itself no longer exists. Smelting produced 2268 oz, 10 dwt 14 grains of gold. Just below the nugget in the photo you can see "210 lbs." written by hand, but the nugget had to be broken into three pieces in order to weigh it and it's also said some of the miners broke pieces off before it made it to the smelters, so who knows how big it really was.

The largest gold nugget currently in existence is the Hand of Faith on display at the Golden Nugget Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Found in 1980 by a man named Kevin Hillier with a metal detector outside his trailer near Wedderburn, Victoria, Australia. I don't know what model of detector he was swinging, but the story goes he got a signal, but thought his detector was acting up, so almost didn't dig! My guess is he was pretty happy he did when he pulled out the 876 troy ounce (27.2 kilograms, 61 pounds 11 ounces) Hand of Faith at about 6 inches. He later sold it to the Golden Nugget Casino for a cool million dollars.

There was another biggie nugget over 2,200 troy ounces back in 1858 called the "Welcome Nugget" (similar, but minus the stranger) and many other huge masses and hard rock deposits, but the Welcome Stranger is still the biggest nugget ever found, and the Hand of Faith the biggest still around today. Of course, I'm still digging, so neither record is safe! Then again, I don't live in Australia.

Eathan

*Taken from 'Black Cat Mining.com' accessed via Google Jan 2012*

[If anyone is interested, here is the regulation that prevents us from prospecting within the city limits of Wheat ridge. Until further notice this is still the law and must be abided by.](#)

Park Rules and Regulations

CHAPTER 17 - Parks and Recreation

ARTICLE II. PARK RULES\*

Code of Laws of the  
City of Wheat Ridge

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\*Editor's note: Ord. No. 1329, § 1, adopted July 26, 2004, supplied provisions to be set out as §§ 17-4--17-38. In order to facilitate any future additions/amendments to the chapter, and at the discretion of the editor, these provisions have been included herein as §§ 17-21--17-55.



Sec. 17-21. Scope.

This article applies to parks, open space, trails, parkways, pathways, recreational facilities and recreational buildings.

(Ord. No. 1329, § 1, 7-26-04)

Sec. 17-46. Protection of natural resources.

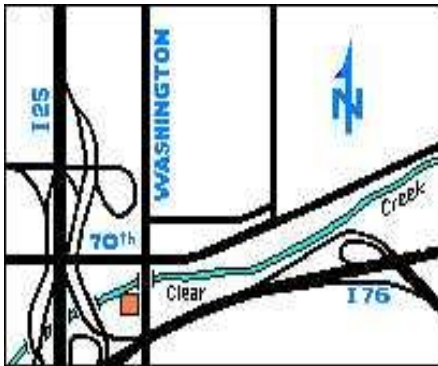
(a) No mining of any type, including gold panning, metal detection or geocache sites of any type are allowed except as authorized by the director in any city park.

(b) It shall be unlawful to willfully remove, destroy, harvest, cut down or otherwise destroy any living trees, shrubbery, wild flowers or natural flora, planted annuals or perennials with any city parks, open space or recreational facility.

(c) In this section: Nothing in this section shall prevent the staff or volunteers of the city in their performance of resource management or park maintenance or the normal execution of their duties.

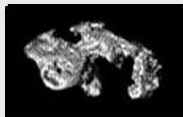
(Ord. No. 1329, § 1, 7-26-04)

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- 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
- 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 March 2012**

(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
	WMMI Senior Mondays			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	10 WMMI Women in Mining 2012
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins	12	13	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21 GPR Club Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31