

# THE GOLD NUGGET

March 2012

**\*\*\*\*\*2012 Members Dues are Due Now – Last Notice\*\*\*\*\***

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



I really enjoyed the Outing the other day on Clear Creek and was glad to see about 20 members down there. I found quite a bit of gold myself and know that everybody else was doing ok as well.

While I was there, I saw something with a sluice box that jogged my inclination to address. One of our people had just bought a Wolf Trap sluice box and was having some trouble with it. Now I use a Keene A-52 myself and am quite happy with it. Whenever I recommend a sluice box for someone just getting started, I generally only give recommendations for 2 kinds. They are the Keene A-52 and the Wolf Trap.

There are a lot of different kinds on the market out there and I won't speak harshly of any of them. If they collect gold, then that is a good thing. I just happen to have my preferences based on my experiences and try to steer people toward the cheapest, yet more efficient products that I can think of, and especially if they are just getting started. Now the problem that I noted was that the member was having problems keeping the flaring mouth of the Wolf Trap stable. By that, I mean that one of the secrets to operating a sluice box correctly is that your sluice platform must be rigidly stable. Let me explain what I mean.

There are a couple of key steps to setting your box up right. You need to find a spot where the water is flowing a little quicker than normal such as a small rapid involving a drop in the water flow of several inches which causes the water to move faster. You want to achieve a drop angle in your setup of about 1 inch per foot, or about 2 or 3 inches for your entire box. Next, you want to insure your entire box is stable. Most of us accomplish that by finding a large flat rock and simply laying it across the box about halfway down the length. Next, water flow, or speed, is critical. That is usually accomplished best by allowing only enough water into the flaring mouth of your box until you see a 'V' shape occur just in front of the carpeting or black matting in your box. Usually, you will only need a quarter to a half of an inch or so of water entering your box to accomplish this 'V' condition. Then look at the water flowing over your riffles in the box. If you can see just a slight wave action of the water as it goes over the riffles, then you probably have got it set just about right. You will notice the flow is about 1 or 1 1/2-2 inches deep now as it exits your box. Next, take a scoop of material and put it in the mouth of the box. It should clear your black matting (if your box has it) fairly quickly. Now feed your box as fast as you want, making certain that the material is not clogging the first 2 riffles as it passes through. You will need to watch for rise and falls of the overall watershed throughout the day as, especially in Clear Creek, it can rise or fall a good 3 or 4 inches at any time and without warning. That is pretty much all there is to it.

Okay, now you are wondering what the problem was that I saw with the Wolf Trap. It was that the member simply had not thoroughly tightened down the screws on each side that the flared mouth has to loosen and tighten in order to make it back packable or transportable. That is one of the features of the Wolf Trap that makes it so alluring and so manageable for the average small scale miner. Therefore, the members 'sluicing platform' had become constantly unstable, requiring many stops to retighten it which was costing time in feeding material into the mouth. I recommend strongly that if you have a moveable or flexing design to your sluice box, that you carry a small pair of pliers or other tools to ensure you can tighten it up and achieve a stable platform at all times. I have been heard to say on occasion that 'some days are Rocks and some days are Diamonds, but any day I can spend on the creek is always Golden..!' Sometimes, being prepared for the unexpected can save the day rather than ruining it.

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 Hurt**

Well fellow GPOR/Prospecting member's (Part #2).

We are going to go back a few years's, to let everyone know how and why we as a new nation, and the quest for freedom, land, and also adventure. I would like to mention a little about the Louisiana Purchase and then we will get into the adventures of Zebulon Pike. One of the most important events in American History was the Louisiana Territory, in 1803 at one stroke of a pen the United States doubled its area and also acquired a vast and fertile region for expansion. In this way most of the eastern



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

half of Colorado came under Stars and stripes. Though this broad country west of the Mississippi was mostly unknown to Americans they were eager to see what they purchased.

Lewis and Clark set out in 1804 to explore the far northwest, two years later a similar expedition moved into the southwest. This second expedition, which crossed Colorado territory, was led by a gallant young Army Captain whose name is forever linked to Colorado Zebulon Pike, who served his country in the revolutionary war and later fought the Indians in Ohio country, at the young age of 15 the Zebulon Pike is listed in his father's company (in 1794), five years later he was commissioned a lieutenant. He made a good Officer; he was temperate in his habits and maintained discipline. He later saw service in the Northwest Territory, he later was directed to lead an expedition to the southwest and with 22 men head left St. Louis on July 1806, on his famous official journey of discovery.

After proceeding up the Mississippi river, they visited the Kansas Indians and from them obtained Horses for the overland journey. On the Republican River, Pike was halted by Pawnee Indians who recently had been visited by a large Spanish expeditionary from New Mexico. This Spanish party led by Fernando Malgares had consisted of six hundred mounted troops with over two hundred horses and mules, Malgares had given presents to the Pawnee and had instructed them to permit no Americans to go west beyond the Pawnee villages judging by the size and equipment of the two expeditions, the Indians considered the Spaniards more powerful than nation Pike represented. Accordingly they tried to turn back the Americans. But Pike told them that he had been sent by our great American Father to explore the Western Country, and that his young warriors were not women to be turned back by words. In the face of Pike's determination the Indians gave in. Pike continued through Kansas to the big bend of the Arkansas and followed that stream into Colorado.

On November 15th he caught the first glimpse of the Rocky Mountains. "At Two O'clock in the afternoon" Pike wrote, I thought I could see a mountain to the right, when our small party arrived on the hill they with one accord gave 3 chairs to the Mexican Mountains. Two days later Pike camped at the site of Rocky Ford and on the 24th reached the site of Pueblo, and at the mouth of Fountain Creek he built a small fort of logs for defense against the Indians, it was the first structure erected by the Americans in Colorado.

Again I hope you are enjoying the little bit of history.

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Peg Brozek

Thanks to JJ for the contributions to the members only drawing. For the March meeting we will have a total of 7.1 grams, with the largest nugget being 2.2 grams. Good luck to all.

Peg

## Board Meeting Minutes From Feb 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 6:01pm

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Yes

**Corrections:** none

**Approved as read/corrected:** Yes

**Treasurer's Report:**

Questions: none Approved: yes

**Correspondence:** 12 phone calls, 1 e-mail, 3 mailings

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Where is the world's largest stockpile of gold held?



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### Committee Reports:

- Mike H. reported he is putting Applications with the brochures at CSM and Golden Detectors and waiting on prices for Pins.
- Greg D. stated Membership Table is doing ok and he will continue to oversee it.

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 119257. Hits for last month 779.

**Unfinished Business:** 'Special Nugget' drawing tonight. Cache was found by Rob Deschambault.

### New Business:

- Impromptu Outings will be set each month through May.
- Programs are set for March and April.
- Operational Book needs updating, all to look at Vision Statement and bring suggestions to March Meeting.
- Discussed developing a Commemorative Coin for Club. Will present to membership.
- Also discussed providing buy back for non-winning drawing tickets at rate of .01 cents for each ticked. Approved.

**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 experienced panning volunteers.
- Sept. 22-23 GPAA Gold Show at Denver Coliseum. We will attempt to get a booth.
- No other specific planned outings are scheduled as of now!!!

### From the Floor:

- JJ spoke about need to ban politicizing during meetings in best interest of all concerned.
- Joe J. still requesting return of library books in timely manner.
- Sue L. stated she has 3 books for tonight's auction.
- Andy Doll will need a book of stamps.
- Joe F. briefly discussed PLP and how important their fight to preserve our access to public lands was.
- Mike H. stated that he will be focusing his VP columns on history for a while.

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting Mar 21, 2012 at 6:00pm.

Next General Meeting Mar 21, 2012 at 7:00pm

**Tonight's general meeting program:** Greg Davis will show a 10 minute video of prospecting on the Youngfield stretch of Clear Creek featuring prospectors from within and outside the Club and the gold they are finding.

**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 Feb 2012

1. Meeting was opened at 7:10p by Pres. JJ Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The evening program was a video taped presentation by Greg Davis of prospecting in Clear Creek showing several prospectors panning and sluicing and finding gold in the Youngfield stretch near I-70. Greg did a magnificent job with the presentation. Program lasted about 10 minutes.
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 1729 an ounce, silver at 33, platinum at 1639 and palladium at 692.
5. Web hits for last month remain down a little, reflecting only 779 hits for last 30 days.
6. Richard Harrison reported from Membership Table that approx. 80 people were in attendance. There were 10 guests/visitors and 1 new member, and 66 paid 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.



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7. Sue Clover delivered the Question of the Month to the attendees. ‘When was the last Olympic gold medal made completely of gold’?.
8. Barbara Barrow was present to introduce Rob Deschambault as having found the GPR Cache. The clues were discussed and Rob related how they helped him find the Cache. Rob was presented with a beautiful 6.5 gram gold nugget from the Sunrise Mine in Nevada. Rob will now hide the new Cache and prepare clues to present at the March meeting.
9. Sue Lemieux reported having 3 books for tonight’s auction, one about Wyoming Ghost Towns and 2 on Death Valley in California.
10. 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.
11. Pres. Long reported that there are 2 planned outings for 2012 at this date.
  - May 18 – Panning Demo at the Aurora Youth Water Festival. Will need 6/7 volunteers.
  - 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.
12. Pres. Long also informed the membership that the Club will attempt to have at least one impromptu prospecting outing each month until the summer weather arrives. These outings will depend on weather and we will try to get down to the Youngfield Clear Creek location on Saturday Feb 18 and or the 25 if possible. These outings will generally take place from 10a to around 3p each time.
13. A proposal was entertained to develop a Club Commemorative Coin. Members with ideas, designs, or any suggestions how to go about developing a Coin were encouraged to bring ideas to the March meeting or to e-mail them the Pres Long or a Board Member.
14. Pres. Long discussed how the PLP was fighting for small scale miners rights around the country trying to ensure our rights to access of public lands under the 1872 Mining Laws and how important this issue was to us all. Also discussed was the need to ensure that politicizing at or during the Club meetings was not a good idea as there were too many volatile issues that could lead to hard feelings and become disruptive.
15. Pres. Long announced a break at 8:15pm
16. Meeting called back to order at 8:30pm.
17. Pres. Long thanked all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. It was quite a spread once again.
18. Sue Clover announced that there were 28 winners of the ‘Question of the Month’ and that the answer was 1912 at the Sweden Olympics.
19. The drawing for the ‘Special Nugget’ was held and the winner was Don Bray who received a beautiful 17.1 gram solid nugget from the Sunrise Mine in Nevada. Well done Don!!!
20. There were no designated folks to provide extra refreshments for the Refreshment Table for the Mar. Meeting so we will just hope that folks will continue to volunteer on their own.
21. The evening was concluded with drawings for door prizes followed by drawings for the gold nuggets, In future, holders of drawing tickets who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they can be donated back to the Club. Those assisting Pres. Long in the drawings were Chuck Cown and Peg Brozek.
22. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm

**Sue’s Sluice Box**

**GPR STORE PRICES**

Ben Parker Book	\$12.00	<b><u>Denim Long Sleeve Shirts</u></b>	<b><u>Polo Knit Shirts</u></b>	<b><u>Fleece Vests</u></b>
“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**



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### Clear Creek Outing #2 on Feb. 18, 2012 by JJ Long

The outing of Feb. 18 turned out to be a beaut. The day was gorgeous, the sun was out and bright, the water was fairly warm, and the gold was good. About 20 people turned out and most folks were panning and/or sluicing. The day started about 10am although some got there even earlier and nearly everybody stayed until at least 3 while some stayed even later.

I was very glad to see some of our new members make it and we had a lot of fun learning how to pan and how to set up a sluice box the right way. Near as I could tell, everyone found some gold. I know that I did fairly well and a few of you who saw my cleanup pans know how well I really did. The photos were taken by JJ Long.



**Brandon Luchtenburg sluicing and Larry Shipman panning.**



**Janine Ballentine, Greg Davis and Andy Doll enjoying the day and the gold**



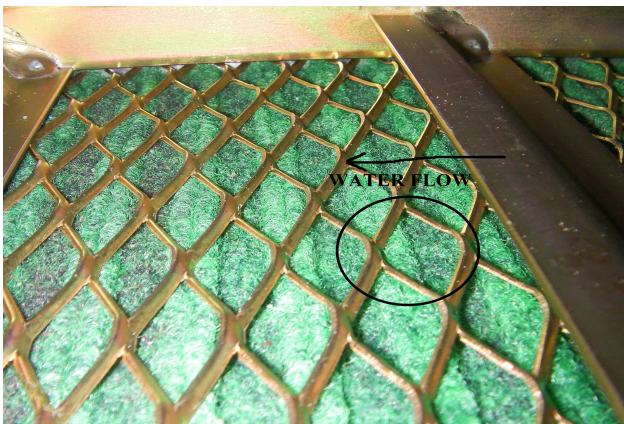
**John House hard at work with a Rocker**

### **Expanded Metal In a Keene A52 Sluice by Greg Davis**

A few weeks ago while feeding gravel into Richard Harrison's sluice, I noticed that the expanded metal mesh between the riffles and carpet was set in 'backwards'. This piece is formed to act as a mini riffle in the bottom of the sluice and as such, I always assumed that it should be installed oriented the same direction as the main riffles. While working, I observed the movement of the sands in the bottom of my friends sluice and vowed to note the factory setup of the new Keene A52 that I planned to purchase soon.

When I opened the box of my new sluice, I saw that the expanded metal was indeed installed facing the same way as the main riffles. Unfortunately, this only made the issue more confusing because while waiting for my new sluice, I had decided that Richard's had been set up correctly. What one observes in the very bottom a working sluice is that the water and sands are flowing upstream due to the action of the main riffles. Therefore, in order for the expanded metal to act as a 'mini-riffle', it should properly be installed in the opposite direction of the main riffle.

I've spoken to Don Bray and JJ Long about this issue and they both affirmed my thinking. They always set-up their sluices with the expanded metal oriented opposite (backwards) that of the riffles for the reasons stated. Goes to show, don't be too quick to criticize others. Their 'mistake' might just lead to positive results.



**FORWARD**



**BACKWARD**



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

An old prospector had been drinking at the local miner's saloon all night long. The bartender finally told the old guy that the bar was going to be closing and it was time to go home. The old prospector stood up and promptly fell flat on his face. He struggled back up one more time only to fall flat on his face a second time. He thought that if he could just crawl outside and get some fresh air, he would be ok and it would help him to sober up. But once outside, he tried to stand up again and promptly fell flat on his face a third time. So, he decided it was best if he just crawled home since it was only two short blocks away.



Crawling to his front door, he pulled himself upright and fell into bed and fell right to sleep.

He was awakened the next morning by his wife who was standing over him shouting 'SO, YOU HAVE BEEN DRINKING AGAIN!'

Putting on an innocent yet dignified look, and intent on bluffing it out, he replied 'What makes you think I have been drinking?'

His wife looked him straight in the eye and said 'Because the saloon just called and said you left you wheelchair there again!'

*Reprinted from the Mry/Apr 2011 issue of GPAA's 'Gold Prospectors' magazine*

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

#### **Received via e-mail from the California Office of PLP:**

Gary Goldberg, the Director of Public Relations for Public Lands for the People (PLP) states that the US Forest Service has issued new proposed regulations for dredging in California watersheds. The proposal which can be accessed on the PLP website of [www.PLP.com](http://www.PLP.com) offers some concessions for small scale miners, but does not come anywhere near what it should be. I will not try to explain in detail what the new regulations are or the cost of permits and the details surrounding all of this, but I can relate that the court action in San Bernadino, California clearly indicate that while the war has not been won, a potentially decisive victory appears to be on the horizon. The Judge involved knows that whatever decision he makes is going to be appealed, has ordered the US Forest Service to provide more data before he makes his decision, which seems to be leaning toward the small scale miner. An important issue has been conceded in that the USFS now accepts the data that dredging has no material impact on the spawning of fish. I encourage those of you who are interested in this issue to check out the web site and review the latest for yourself.

#### **From the Denver Post:**

2-23 -12 Tampa, Florida: The government of Peru has filed with the US Supreme Court in a last ditch effort to lay claim to 17 tons of Silver bullion recovered from a 19th century shipwreck. The claim was filed just one day before the bullion was to be flown by Spanish military planes that were to leave from a US Air Force Base. Peru says the gold and silver recovered were originally mined in Peru who was under Spanish Rule at the time, and Peru wants the bullion returned to their sovereign nation. Justice Clarence Thomas entered his decision several days later and awarded the bullion to Spain. This has to be a major blow to future discoveries of sunken/hidden treasure.

#### **From Senator Mark Udall:**

2-26-12 Senator Mark Udall has announced that he is going to commence Stakeholder Meetings on his proposal to create 2 expansions of a current Wilderness Area and a new National Monument in Colorado. The first proposal involves the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness area in Summit County. The second proposal is for a newly designated National Monument in the Brown's Canyon area of the Arkansas River. What is important for us to know is the fact that if the National Monument is created, Federal Law prevents any and all mining within the Monument boundaries. The proposal may be great for River Rafters but it is not good news for small scale miners. This is but a new step to restrict more access to public lands. I have e-mailed and shared this information with the GPoC and Big Ben to see how we may want to proceed.

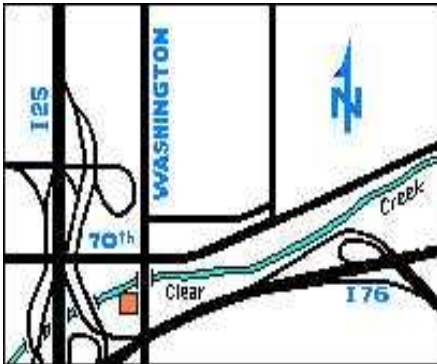


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### From the BLM, Canon City Office:

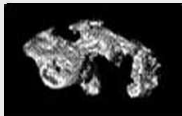
3-6-12 The BLM has announced that motorized equipment will no longer be allowed at Cache Creek. Over the past two years, activity at the Cache Creek Placer Area has increased drastically. Greater visitation has led to user conflicts and damage to the area's natural resources, prompting BLM to take a hard look at past and present activities in this area. Based on that review of BLM regulations, the RGFO determined that "mining" activities on the Cache Creek property should be limited to recreational-level mining and should not include motorized or mechanical devices to aid in the collection of minerals. Therefore, starting on Memorial Day in 2012 (May 28), high banking activities will no longer be permitted at the Cache Creek Placer area. Recreational-level gold panning and other non-mechanized/non-motorized activities (sluicing) will continue to be allowed in the area.

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### ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET

#### Commercial Ads

- 3.6" x 2.0" Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)..... \$6
- 3.6" x 4.3" Four Column Inches..... \$12
- 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24
- 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 April 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
1 April Fools Day	2	3	4	5	6 Good Friday	7 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline
8 EASTER	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 GPR Club Meeting	19	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					