

The Prez Sez by Jim Long

The April 21 Outing on Clear Creek was very well attended with about 18 or 20 members taking part. We started the day with a stream maintenance/mitigation for the purpose of mitigating a number of 'rat holes' that had been dug into the bank on the trail side of the creek. Most of these holes were not dug by our members but from unaffiliated miners that frequent the area. We even got some cooperation of other folks on the creek who pitched in and helped. Still, we didn't get them all but we did make a good dent in it and made some improvement. The water was back and everyone got a little gold before the day was done.

While there, I met up with Don Finley of Goldstrike. Don said he and his partner, Red of Gold-N-Sand, had organized Gold Unlimited and that they were in the process of trying to get support for a Proposed Arapahoe City State Gold Panning Park. Their goal is to get the Clear Creek stretch that we all refer to as the Youngfield location, declared a State Gold Panning Park. I told them straight up that our Club would certainly be supportive of their efforts. For those of you who don't know Don and Red, they sort of run a commercial business of bringing in paying customers to the 18 or so locations that they have for these people to prospect. And they often use high bankers and dredges. Now I am not opposed to high bankers or dredges. I own them as well and they have their place. But I gotta say that nothing gets folks more aroused and angry at us than digging huge holes and not filling them up, and operating motorized equipment in the stream. Guaranteed attention getters for sure, and especially at the Youngfield location...! The use of drip pans is critical and we sometimes have to show them to people so they understand. We put them under the motors and we store our gas cans in them, and well back away from the waters edge. It is important to collect trash and to fill those holes that we dig. Now it is not so important to fill them in the creek under the water. Actually, those holes make great fish habitat and all the studies show that quite clearly. But holes above the existing water line are usually quite visible and give our critics extra ammunition. I told Don that I had concerns about some of his clients being responsible for some of those 'rat holes' in recent weeks that we were filling up and specifically asked him to help in the mitigation that we were doing. I didn't notice if he did or didn't but hope that he did. I know that his son did and acknowledge that Don was showing a State Congressman and some others around on his tour.

Now I hope that Don and Red are successful and get a lot of support for their idea. Apparently, such Panning Parks occur in other states such as California, Alaska, Montana, and West Virginia. I would dearly love to see the Youngfield stretch declared a State Park, even if we had to give up motorized equipment to get it. The fact is that the area is of significant historical value as some of the first gold ever found in Colorado was along this stream. That area is not really suitable for rafting or even as viable fish habitat mainly because of the Coors plant just upstream. But as far as history goes, the old Arapahoe Bar and Arapahoe City (along the Youngfield stretch) was known back to the time of the Conquistadores and they even used massive Dredges there back around 1904 or so. Gold is the best thing that portion of the creek has to offer and there are some, including those at the Colorado School of Mines, who believe that every speck that we take out of the creek each year, is replaced in kind by Mother Nature, speck for speck, picker for picker. And THAT is the true and undeniable value of that stretch of Clear Creek.

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

Happy and safe prospecting to all.!!!

The V.P. Corner by Mike Hurtado

PART: 3

The Russell party followed up the Arkansas River nearly to the present Pueblo. Turning north along Fountain Creek, they reached Cherry Creek about June first. At the South Platte Confluence they were joined by two small parties from Missouri.

The group now numbered just over a hundred men. They crossed the Platte and moved onto Ralston Creek where they encountered their first set back. Whether time and distance had distorted Ralston's eight-year-old strike out of all proportion is not known. But the Russell party soon found that it was a good day when a man could pan more than twenty-five cents worth of gold.

To make matters worse, the group lost a wagon load of supplies in the river. Several weeks of fruitless search followed. Finally on July Fourth, about twenty-five of the men started homeward. Of the remaining who set up a camp on the east side of Cherry Creek only a few had the heart for more prospecting. Russell however had been to California twice without making a strike and he was in no hurry to give up on this venture.



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He managed to persuade twelve men to stay on with him. The others traveled eastward for Georgia. Russell and his small band of hopefuls moved up the Platte, at the mouth of Dry Creek, near present day Englewood. They made a placer strike which yielded about ten dollars a day per man, before long; however, they had cleaned out the first diggings. When no new pockets could be found, the party held a meeting.

The men concluded that any free gold found on the prairies must have washed down from veins in the Mountains, then the party separated, one group following up the Platte to South Park, the other scouting as far north as Wyoming.

What Russell and his men didn't know was that news of their placer find had been exploded all over a financially panicky nation. Several mountain men, pursuing to visit the prospectors on Dry Creek, had washed out some gold, carrying their precious dust east, they showed it all in Kansas City. The newspapers did the rest. Head lines proclaimed" THE NEW ELDORADO " rumors flew and grew with each retelling. The gold - hungry opportunists followed the poverty-stricken public out across the plains, known as the" PIKES PEAK OR BUST", the stampede routed into a full gallop.

Again as before if you have any questions, please contact me at any time at 720-443-9545

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Peg Brozek

Thanks to JJ Long and Lloyd Lauck for their contributions to the member only drawings. This month there will be a total of 7.4 grams of nuggets with the largest being 2.6 grams.

Good Luck to all!!

Peg

You're Refreshment Committee by Sue and Bill Duncanson

Once again we are amazed and delighted at the participation of our members in bring food and treats to out monthly meetings.

Board Meeting Minutes From Apr 2012

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| X | James Long | X | Joe Shubert | X | Joe Fortunato | X | Don Luchtenburg |
| X | Mike Hurtado | X | Joe Johnston | | 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 5:57pm

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Yes

Corrections: 2, the person wanting info on dry washers was actually unknown, the Clay County Outing was not discussed.

Approved as read/corrected: Yes

Treasurer's Report:

Questions: none Approved: yes

Correspondence: 9 phone calls, 5 e-mails, 3 mailings

Committee Reports:

- Mike H. reported he is getting prices, designs on the pins we want for May mtg.
- Greg D. stated Membership Table ok and rec'd badges. Also reported on Comm. Coin Committee. Members to vote on style tonight.

Webmaster: Total Hits 120900. Hits for last month 675.

Unfinished business: Vision Statement was voted on. There were 2 proposals. Sue L.'s was approved for implementation. Andy will update the web site. Pres. Long handed out copies of new 2012 revisions for the BoD Notebooks.

New business: March Outing at Youngfield. Everyone will be asked to donate 30 minutes to damage mitigation.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
 Who used the elemental symbol for gold (Au) in his presidential campaign?



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

- Apr. 21 Sa Prospect Outing on Clear Creek at Youngfield. 10a.
- Apr. 28 Sa Tour of Money Museum in Colo. Springs.
- May 18 Fr Panning Demo at Aurora Youth Water Festival. Will need 6/7 experienced panning volunteers. Sign up at Apr/May mtgs.
- May 19 Sa Prospect Outing at Clay County Mine, Blackhawk, 10am.
- June 2 Sa Panning Demo at Boulder County Museum. 12n – 4p.
- June Club Outing in Nederland, DTBA.
- July Club Outing at Twin Lakes near Leadville, DTBA.
- Aug Club Picnic at Lions Park in Golden, DTBA.
- Aug Club Outing at Cache Creek, DTBA.
- Aug Club Tour of Cresson Gold Mine in Victor, DTBA.
- Sept 6,7,8 Panning Demo at Highlands Ranch Days.
- 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 yet !!!

From the Floor:

- JJ discussed current issues involving JeffCo, Wheatridge and Adams County.
- JJ gave kudos to Andy D. and Joe F. for developing some 'How To' videos that will be out soon.
- Joe J. still requesting return of library books in timely manner. Sue L. stated she will have sign up for the Money Museum Tour.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting Apr 18, 2012 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Apr 18, 2012 at 7:00pm.

Tonight's general meeting program: JJ will show 20 minutes of assorted video of prospecting in different ways and places.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:59pm.

2012 GPR Board of Directors Members

President James Long

Vice President

Mike Hurtado

Secretary/Treasurer

Peg Brozek

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2010)

Joe Shubert (2011)

1 Year Board Members

Sue Lemieux

Joe Fortunato

Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Don Luchtenburg

Greg Davis

General Meeting Minutes From Apr 2012

- 1) Meeting was opened at 7:04 by Pres. JJ Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) The evening program was a slide show presented by Gale Gresham on the history of Cache Creek. Gale is a direct descendant of one of the founding fathers of the old mining town, now a ghost town. Following the presentation, Gale was presented with a .1 gram nugget. It was a great presentation.
- 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 the Metals Report with gold at \$1645.00 an ounce, silver at \$31.73, platinum at \$1581.00 and palladium at \$661.00.
- 5) Web hits for last month were up a little, reflecting only 675 hits for last 30 days.
- 6) Richard Harrison reported from Membership Table that approx.89 people were in attendance. There were 6 guests/visitors. Club has dropped e-mails of unpaid members at issuance of April Newsletter.
- 7) Sue Clover delivered the Question of the Month to the attendees. 'Who first discovered gold at Sutter's Mill?'
- 8) Rob Deschambault presented the 2012 Cache Clue #2 to the membership.
- 9) Sue Lemieux reported having 2 books for tonight's auction, one about Arizona and the other about Virginia, along with a 1929 Mining Stock Certificate from Idaho Springs.
- 10) Rob Deschambault 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. This will be Rob's last year overseeing the Store and we are seeking a volunteer to take over. Rob and Sue L. have had this responsibility for about 5 years at least.



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11) Mike Hurtado announced that he would be leading the May Outing at the Clay County Mine which is in Russell Gulch. It will be a dry outing and everyone will be limited to 10 or 12 buckets of classified material to pan/slucize at your convenience later.

12) Pres. Long reported that the following scheduled outings for 2012 to date:

- Apr. 21 Sa Prospecting Outing on Clear Creek W of Youngfield. 10a. Donate ½ hr time for stream mitigation.
- Apr. 28 Sa Tour of Money Museum in Colo. Springs.
- May 18 Fr Panning Demo at Aurora Youth Water Festival. Will need 6/7 experienced panning volunteers. Sign up at Apr/May mtgs.
- May 19 Sa Prospecting Outing at Clay County Mine, Blackhawk, 10am
- June 2 Sa Panning Demo at Boulder County Museum. 12n – 4p. Any skill level fine.
- June Prospecting Outing in Nederland, DTBA.
- July Prospecting Outing at Twin Lakes near Leadville, DTBA.
- Aug Tour of Cresson Gold Mine in Victor. DTBA.
- Aug Club Picnic in Lions Park, Golden, DTBA..
- Aug Prospecting Outing at Cache Creek, DTBA.
- Sept. 6,7,8 Panning Demo at Highlands Ranch Days.
- Sept. 22-23 GPAA Gold Show at Denver Coliseum. We will attempt to get a booth.
- No other specific planned outings are scheduled at this moment but there will be plenty more to come !!!

13) Pres. Long also talked about the efforts of the Eureka Club and the GPR to get petitions signed by those interested in supporting small scale mining to be presented later to the Wheatridge City Council in our on going effort to get the prospecting ban in Wheatridge set aside. Petitions were set out for the members to sign. Copies of the petitions will be sent out to all of the gold and treasure clubs throughout Colorado seeking support of this effort.

- In other news, Adams County has indicated that they are willing to sit down and talk about prospecting issues on Clear Creek as well. More to come on this subject as things develop.

14) Pres. Long presented examples of the style of Commemorative Coin for the membership to vote on. A unanimous choice was the gold colored coin. The Committee will continue to work on getting this coin developed soon.

15) Pres. Long announced at break at 8:25pm. Meeting called back to order at 8:35pm.

16) Sue Clover announced that there were 35 winners of the 'Question of the Month' and that the answer was the 'James W. Marshall'.

17) Sue Lemieux announced the winners of the auction books and the mining stock certificate.

18) The evening was concluded with drawings for door prizes followed by drawings for the gold nuggets, A reminder that 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 donate the tickets back to the Club. Those assisting Pres. Long in the drawings were Chuck Cown and Peg Brozek.

19) Pres. Long thanked all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Lloyd Lauch and Sandra Hall graciously agreed to assist in bringing refreshments for May. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread. With the number of attendees skyrocketing recently, this really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you makes to make the refreshment table enjoyable.

20) The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Sue's Sluice Box

Cripple Creek & Victor "Open Pit" Gold Mine Tour

July 28– Saturday at 1:00 pm

MAX - 13 people for Tour - \$7.50 per person (Non-Refundable)

Sign up sheet and were to meet instructions at the GPR meeting.

See you at the mine!



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VICTOR CITY OF MINES

Points of Interest

- a. Sunnyside Cemetery
- b. Lowell Thomas House
- c. Ajax Mine
- d. Portland I Mine
- e. American Eagles
- f. Independence Mine
- g. Sirurg Mine
- h. Elks Lodge
- i. Midland Decot
- j. Colorado T&T/Victor Storage
- k. Gold Coin Club
- l. Gold Coin Mine
- m. City Hall/Police/Fire
- n. Victor Hotel
- o. Silver Dollar Saloon
- p. Victor Lowell Thomas Museum
- q. CC&V Gold Mining Co.
- r. Alla Vista Station
- s. Victor's Ag & Mining Museum
- t. Crasson Headframe/Gold Bowl
- u. Victor High School/Soccer Camp
- v. St. Peter's Catholic Church
- w. Community Center
- x. First Baptist Church
- y. Victor Record
- z. Masonic Lodge

Shops/Dining

- 1. Nana's Attic
- 2. Splendid Treasures
- 3. JET Service
- 4. Antiques & Stuff
- 5. TBD
- 6. Gallery 80860
- 7. Aspen Country Cottage/Del.
- 8. The Lucky Buck Bar & Grill
- 9. Fortune Club Liquors
- 10. Fortune Club Soda Fountain
- 11. Isis Theater Antiques
- 12. Victor Trading Co.
- 13. Battle Mtn Sutilers & Vindicator Arms
- 14. Merchant's Cafe
- 15. Victor Lowell Thomas Museum
- 16. G&S Sporting Goods
- 17. The Claim Jumper & Post Office

Lodging

- 1. The Morner Lodge
- 2. Victor Hotel
- 3. Fortune Club
- 4. Thompson House

Sluicin' Sue

GPR STORE PRICES

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Ben Parker Book | \$12.00 | Denim Long Sleeve Shirts | Polo Knit Shirts | Fleece Vests |
| "New" Black Hats | \$15.00 | Small | Medium | Medium |
| GPR Window Stickers | \$4.00 | Medium | Large | Large |
| Gold Nugget Cling-Ons | \$5.00 | Large | XLarge | XLarge |
| White Vinyl Stickers | \$6.00 | XLarge | 2XLarge | 2XLarge |
| T-Shirts | \$2.00 | 2XLarge | | |
| Lanyards | \$2.00 | 3XLarge | | |
| | | 4XLarge | | |
| | | 5XLarge | | |

Sluicin' Sue

Money Museum Tour – A Real Treasure by Tour Coordinator, Sue Lemieux

On Saturday, April 28th, a dozen club members made the trek to Colorado Springs, to partake in a scheduled tour of the Money Museum. Upon entering, we were greeted by a friendly 'gun-toting' guard. We were then introduced to Keith, our very informative guide. The tour began with entry into a very large vault, holding the Harry W. Bass Jr. coin collection. The coins in this collection are extremely rare and the condition just perfect in every sense. The ceiling is gilded in gold, just like the Capitol Dome, only thinner. As the tour proceeded, we viewed exhibits featuring money from different countries and eras. The printing and stamping "errors" were interesting, to say the least. There was a remarkable exhibit from the Civil War period. This exhibit had coins, bank notes and signed documents by Generals and Presidents. There was a cannon replica, along with uniforms, medals and even an actual "Surgeon Tent" complete with doctors instruments. For all of us, it was a great "hidden treasure" and to see a \$15 million dollar coin, was a highlight!





April Outing on Clear Creek by Jim Long

The April Outing for the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies was well attended by some 18-20 members. This Outing was just a little different in fact than the usual because everyone who attended pitched in and donated 30 minutes of individual time doing stream maintenance and mitigation. We also solicited other miners up and down the creek to pitch in and most of them did.

There were a number of ‘rat holes’ that have been dug on the trail side (south) of the creek by persons unknown. We made a valiant effort to fill as many of these as we could along about a 150 yard stretch of the creek.. It was pretty hard work and we didn’t get them all. Hopefully, we have sent a message to those who are digging there that it is not ok to do so. I would encourage anyone who sees anybody digging above the waterline on the south side of the creek at Youngfield to approach them and ask them politely not to do that. If you get any attitude, try to get their name if they will give it, and let me know about it.

Everybody who was there got a little gold as usual. It was a warm day, the water was warm, and a good time was had by all. It should be noted that a member noted a tick on his person the week before so all should take note of that and check after each outing to make sure you are not going to become an unsuspecting host. Several photos taken by Jim Long are attached.!



Rich Harrison pauses while filling holes



Richard hard at work



The Creek still has good water



Steve , Jack Meineke, and John House all hard at work on a ‘rat hole’



John House and Lloyd Lauck with a full hole



All these holes got filled

A Miner’s Laugh

Old Sourdough Sam passed away suddenly after working at his hardrock gold mine for many years. Sam’s will provided for \$60,000.00 for an elaborate funeral.

As the last mourner departed the service, his wife, Susan, turned to her oldest and dearest friend. “Well, I’m sure that Sam would have been very pleased with the service,” she said.

I’m sure you are right,” replied her friend JoAnn, who then lowered her voice and leaned in close to Susan. “How much did this really cost anyway?”





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“All of it,” Susan said, “Sixty thousand dollars.”

“No!” JoAnn exclaimed. “I mean, the service was very nice, but surely not sixty thousand dollars for all this?”

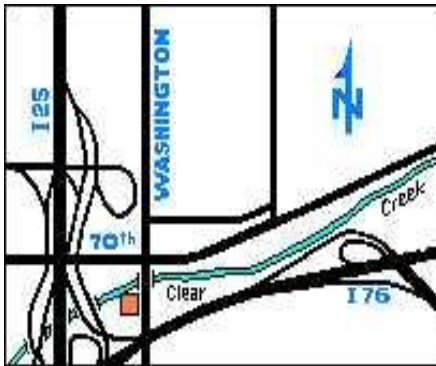
Susan answered, “The funeral was ten thousand, and I donated five thousand to the Miner and Prospector’s Retirement Home. The reception cost for whiskey, wine, beer, and snacks cost three thousand. The rest went for the Memorial Stone.”

JoAnn computed quickly. “Forty two thousand dollars for a memorial stone? My goodness, just how big is it?”

Susan replied quite happily. “Three and a half carats..!”

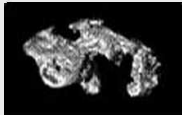
Reprinted from the Jan/Feb 2010 issue of the GPAA Gold Prospectors Magazine

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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 June 2012

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

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------------------|---|----------------|-----|--|
| | | Club Outing in Nederland, DTBA | | | 1 | 2 Panning Demo at Boulder County Museum |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Flag Day | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Fathers Day | 18 | 19 | 20 GPR Club Meeting First Day of Summer | 21 | 22 | 23 WMMI - Rock Fair – Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show Jun 22-24 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | | 28 | 29 | 30 |