

THE GOLD NUGGET

December 2012

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



TO ALL..!

**The Prez Sez by Jim Long**

Fall 2012 has been a very good year for the Club as we had tours at the Money Museum in Colorado Springs, the Cresson Mine in Victor, and the Cross Mine in Nederland. We also had 2 Outings on Clear Creek and collected a ton of trash during 1 of those outings that we hauled off, 2 Outings on a private claim near Blackhawk, an Outing in Nederland and an Outing at Twin Lakes near Leadville. We also hosted 4 Panning demos, 1 each in Aurora, Boulder, Highlands Ranch, and Idaho Springs. We had a Club picnic and did a Panning/sluicing how to class on Clear Creek for our newer members. In addition to that, we hosted a booth at the GPAA Gold Show as well. We also shot a video for Jefferson County

Opens Spaces on upper Clear Creek for them to use as a public service announcement for Jefferson County. In addition, the Club shot a number of videos on 'How To' subjects for inclusion on the web site. So we have been pretty busy this year.

All of these accomplishments were achieved as a direct result of members of your Board of Directors who took leadership roles in arranging these tours and outings. Having people who are willing to take the time to arrange and organize these events is what makes your Club currently the largest Club in the Denver area. I am extremely proud to serve as your President and extremely grateful for those who help me further the Mission and Goals of this Club every day. I personally appreciate the many phone calls and e-mails that I get supporting what we are doing and I thank all of you out there for your support and encouragement. I and the other members of your Board will do our best not to let you down.

2013 is beginning to look quite interesting as well. It appears that Larimer County and Denver County are preparing to address concerns they have for small scale mining. They are both beginning to look at rules and regulations to govern the practice. We are starting to see a movement taking place in a number of cities and counties in Colorado. They are starting to react to a number of complaints from city folk who do not understand the historical or cultural history of mining in this state. The complainants are for the most part, simply people who are reacting adversely to the sight of motorized equipment in the creeks. They are not aware of the insignificant impact of small scale mining to the overall habitat and environment. In all fairness, we have a number of wildcat miners out there who want to do things their own way and don't care what other people think. Some of them are GPAA members who don't attend very many local Chapter meetings and others are independents who don't want to and won't join any organized Club because they don't want anybody telling them what to do. Having a GPAA membership doesn't insulate anyone from being stupid or waving a red flag in the face of anybody who questions what we do. I can assure you that your Club leadership is aware of these issues and we are quietly working to alleviate them whenever and wherever we can and we will continue to do so.

On a happier note, we are planning more Outings and Tours for 2013. We are going to look at doing a rockhound/mineral hunt as well as maybe another metal detector outing. Until we figure out what Wheatridge is going to do, I will continue to ask our members to refrain from using motorized equipment there and we will not be holding any further Outings at that location. That area has been hard used and we really need a good spring runoff to improve the aesthetic quality of that area and restore the stream bed to a state that will not upset the local city folk who see it and simply don't understand how miners and Mother Nature really work together. Until then, we will continue to inform, educate, teach and try to do the best we can in a non-confrontational manner and pray for high water next spring.

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 10 Colorado Gold History Well after the claim-jumping problems, we move on. With rare foresight, the town

planners formed a Claim Club to establish and preserve their land claims against all comers. Then, losing no time in perpetuating their coup, several of the claim-jumpers-including Larimer, Wynkoop, Curtis, and Lawrence- named streets after themselves, Larimer compounded the insult by moving himself and his son into the Nichols house until their new house could be built. On Larimer St., of course. In all these transactions the settlers completely ignored the federal government's dictum which decreed that these lands were the property of the Arapahoe's. The Indians, unaware that their birthright was being bartered among conniving white man, took their proverbial pottage at a banquet in the form of three roasted oxen. These extralegal shenanigans had thrust to the vanguard of the local political situation two men fated to play leading roles in the destinies of the fledgling settlements. William Larimer and Edward W. Wynkoop were men of vastly different back ground and potential, but in their new Denver City they found a common cause upon which they could lavish their considerable energies.

Again if you have any questions you can contact me at 720-443-9545

Mike

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Peg Brozek

Another year has flown by. I would like to thank everybody for their support, especially Chuck Cown for helping man the ticket table! There were times chaos reigned. The club remains in the black and there is enough gold for the monthly drawings through Aug 2013. Please give the new secretary as much support as you gave me.

Bill and Sue would also like to thank everybody who supported the refreshment table--the goodies this year were unbelievable!!

This month is the yearly Christmas pot luck dinner. No tickets are sold--save the money for Jan.

Wishing everyone a very joyous holiday season.

Peg

December Meeting Program

The December meeting will feature the Annual Christmas Dinner. Members are asked to bring a covered dish and to **arrive by 6pm** for set up. We will then **eat at about 6:30pm**. The meeting will convene at about 7:15. The agenda is short and involves several presentations.

Anyone wishing to participate in the "Gold Elephant Gift Exchange" is asked to bring a gift related to mining and limited to no more than \$10.00. If you bring a gift, place it under the tree and you will later have the opportunity to exchange it for another under the tree.

The winner of the 2012 Ken Barker Award will also be announced.

See you there!

Board Meeting Minutes From Nov 2012

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

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: By VP MH at 6:06 pm

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Yes Corrections: None Approved as read/corrected: Yes

Treasurer's Report: Questions: None . Approved: yes

Correspondence: 4 phone calls, 5 e-mails, 1 mailing

Committee Reports: Joe S. reports that the elections are tonight, 1 candidate for each position, will ask membership for vote of acclamation. Joe also will seek votes for the Ken Barker Award tonight.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
NO QUESTION FOR DEC.
They will return in Jan



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Webmaster: Total Hits 125558 Hits for last month 617.

Unfinished business: None.

New business:

- JJ and Peg will prepare for Xmas Meeting/dinner.
- Discussed recent 2012 Gold Expo meeting hosted by Gold Unlimited.
- Mike H. will be undertaking the Club Store for 2013.
- Club will donate 50.00 in Willie Buboltz's memory.

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

- Jan meeting will feature new/used equipment buy/sell/swap.
- No other specific planned outings are scheduled as of yet!!!

From the Floor:

- JJ thanked Sue Lemieux for her last 5 years of service on the Board, and Greg Davis as well for his service. Both are stepping down.
- JJ also thanked Mike H. for filling in at Oct. Mtg.
- Sue L. stated she has 3 books for tonight's auction.
- Don L. is recovering from surgery and was not at meeting.
- Andy D. advised that he and Joe F. and JJ will attempt to complete some of the 'How To' videos on Clear Creek on Nov. 23.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting Jan. 16, 2013 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Dec. 16, 2012 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: Joe Fortunato will try to put on his power point presentation of his 2012 Trip to

Alaska. Hopefully we will have the equipment working this time.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:50pm.

2013 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James Long

Vice President

Mike Hurtado

Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Luchtenburg

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2010)

Joe Shubert (2011)

1 Year Board Members

Joe Fortunato

Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Don Luchtenburg

Roger Biri

Janine Ballentine

General Meeting Minutes From Nov 2012

1. Meeting was opened at 7:05 by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1729.20 an ounce, silver at \$33.39, platinum at \$1576.00 and palladium at \$645.00.
3. Web hits for last month average, reflecting 617 hits for last 30 days.
4. **Pres Long** introduced **Joe Fortunato** who presented his power point presentation of his 2012 trip to Alaska where he metal detected with 3 friends and recovered over 10 ounces of gold. It was truly well received and very informative. Joe did an outstanding job.
5. **Treasurer Peg Brozek** reported that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, we are still selling tickets for the new 'Members Only' drawing for a large 14 gram nugget.
6. **VP Mike Hurtado** reported that the Cross mine Tours have been postponed indefinitely due to some unforeseen circumstances involving a hostile attempt to take over the Mine by some investors.
7. **Pam and George Schmitt** reported from the Membership Table that approx. 95 members were in attendance. There were 6 guests and the current membership stands at 164 families representing over 255 total members.
8. **Pres. Long** announced that **Sue Clover** was in Ohio for the holiday. He delivered the 'Question of the Month' which was 'Scientist believe that gold can be found on what 3 planets of the Solar System?'. Pres. Long reminded folks that we already know gold occurs here.
9. **Rob Deschambault** presented the 2012 Cache Clue #9 to the membership.
10. **Sue Lemieux** advised that she had 3 books for the auction tonight.
11. **Pres. Long** thanked **V. Pres Mike Hurtado** for leading the Oct. Meeting in JJ's absence. Also advised that the **Christmas Dinner will be on Dec. 19. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish and arrive at 6pm for set-up and we will eat at about 6:30pm, followed by a short meeting.** We will once again, host a 'Gold Elephant' gift



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exchange. Gifts should be limited to \$10.00 and be related to mining **If you bring a gift, you can draw a gift.** The Board voted to make a donation to the Christ's Episcopal Church in the memory of deceased member Willis C. Buboltz. The Jan. Meeting will feature a new/used equipment buy/sell/swap so bring all your stuff you want to sell/trade. JJ also discussed the 2012 Gold Expo hosted by Gold Unlimited. Members will be informed of the meeting content by e-mail. **VP Mike Hurtado** will assume the duties of the Club Store in January. **Pres. Long** also discussed the news of the proposed Larimer Co. ban on prospecting. JJ is in contact with the Pres. of the Northern Colo Prospectors and Treasure Hunters Club up north who are most affected by this. We will be assisting them in whatever they need.

12. **Pres. Long** announced that there was one nomination for each Board position. The nominees were introduced to the membership and a vote of affirmation was requested. The membership overwhelmingly approved the ballot. Joining the Board of Directors for 2013 are **Roger Biri, Janine Ballentine, and Linda Luchtenburg**. Thanks were given to **Peg Brozek, Sue Lemieux, and Greg Davis** for their past service.
13. **Pres. Long** also announced that nominations and voting would be accepted tonight for the Ken Barker Award. Many thanks to **Joe Shubert** who oversees the elections and award nominations.
14. **From the Floor**, an inquiry was made concerning a Membership Card. We used to have one and stopped giving them out. The matter will be referred to the Board to address.
15. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:14pm. Meeting called back to order at 8:35pm.
16. **Pres. Long** announced that there were 25 winners of the 'Question of the Month' and that the answer was 'Mercury, Venus and Mars'. People were reminded that we already know Earth has gold and some of it is in our pockets.
17. The evening was concluded with drawings for door prizes followed by drawings numerous prizes and 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 and Linda Luchtenburg**.
18. **Pres. Long** thanked all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. 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. **Chris Nees** has volunteered to conduct the refreshment table for 2013. Next month will be the Christmas Program.
19. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Caverna del Oro of Marble Mountain

The vast slopes of Marble Mountain and Milwaukee Peak above Westcliffe in the Sangre de Cristo Range, where early Spanish explorers roamed, are marked with many openings to great caves, deep and dangerous to explore. Only those who know the perils of mountain caves – poison air, floods, cave-ins – and who are equipped to meet emergencies, should dare to penetrate them. The mysterious caverns, exciting and alluring though their secrets may be, should be left to expert spelunkers and mountain climbers.

One of the most famous is called Cavern of Gold, *Caverna del Oro*, on Marble Mountain, southwest of Westcliffe. It is in an almost inaccessible spot.

In 1869, Capt. Elisha P. Horn, discoverer of Horn Peak, found a skeleton clad in Spanish armor, pierced by an Indian arrow, in the opening of *Caverna del Oro*. Below the cave are the ruins of a fort, and along the mountainside, the remains of rifle pits commanding a view of the Wet Mountain Valley. Horn was very intrigued but came to no conclusion.

In 1932, Peter Moser of Denver, reported that he had seen a skeleton



From L to R, Marble Mountain, Crestone Peak, Crestone Needle, Humboldt Peak



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chained to a rock in the cave. A seven man party was organized to investigate. They reached the Maltese Cross indicating the cavern entrance, only to find that dynamite blasts had closed off the opening. They found arrowheads scattered about, further proof that Indians once fought here, probably to rout Spanish gold seekers.

In the mid 1930's, members of the Colorado Mountain Club and the Historical Society descended vertically 300 feet into the cave. They found evidence of ancient occupants, to include hoisting apparatus and ladders, crude hand forged tools, rotting bones, and even crudely constructed living rooms. A red Maltese Cross, chiseled in a rock marks the entrance to the cavern.

It is said that seven hundred feet down are two huge oaken doors, and that these guard mines or storehouses for Spanish gold. On the slope of the mountain, at about the same level as the doors, is an old log and stone building. It is believed that a tunnel leads from this building inside of the mountain.

There is little doubt that this cave and others were places of refuge for early Spanish settlers, and no doubt that they were gold miners. If, as so often happened, they were forced to flee suddenly from attacking Indians, there may still be a cache of gold buried somewhere in any of the half dozen caves that exist on Marble mountain.

(Taken from Colorado's Lost Gold Mines and Buried Treasure by Caroline Bancroft, 1961). Also told in the Summit County Journal (Breckenridge), 1936, and in the Rocky Mountain News, 1955.) Photo from Internet Google.

A Miner's Laugh

A Texan walks into a bar in Leadville and clears his voice to the crowd of drinkers.

He says, "I hear you Colorado miners are a bunch of hard drinkers. I'll give \$500 dollars to anybody in here who can drink 12 bottles of beer back-to-back."

The room goes real quiet ... no one takes up the Texan's offer.

An old prospector named Ole gets up and quietly leaves. Thirty minutes later, old Ole shows back up and taps the Texan on the shoulder. "Is your bet still good?" asks Ole.

The Texan says, "Yes" and asks the bartender to line up 12 bottles of beer. Immediately Ole tears into all 12 of the bottles, drinking them all down back-to-back.

The other bar patrons cheer as the Texan sits down in amazement. The Texan gives old Ole the \$500 and says, "If ya don't mind me askin', where did you just go for that 30 minutes you were gone?"

Ole replies, "Oh, I had to go to the bar down the street to see if I could actually do it first!"

reprinted from an internet version, original author unknown



BIRTH OF THE KEN BARKER AWARD (This is a reprint of the article that appeared in the November 2003 GOLD NUGGET newsletter. Being awarded this award is an honor. Thanks Ken from all of us that knew you.)

TRIBUTE TO KEN BARKER

(Oct 14, 1943 – Oct 30, 2003)

Delivered by Gary Hawley at the GPR General Meeting, November 19, 2003



As a tribute to Ken Barker, I have requested those who worked with him at the panning demos to attend tonight's meeting in the costumes they wore at the demos. Several years ago I had the privilege of being introduced to Ken at a meeting of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies. I saw him work "behind the scenes," if you will, as he planned and led gold excursions to Arizona and Alaska. I remember a time, several years back, when he was planning a trip to Russia in search of gold. Just recently he told me a Russian trip might open up again, soon. Ken took over the position of Committee Chairman in charge of gold panning demonstrations



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a few years ago. He started out with little more than a bucket of dirt, a tub, and a gold pan, and nursed the activity into one of the most professional and sought after activities of any of the Front Range gold clubs.

Ken became Vice President of the GPR in January 2003, the same time I became President, and quickly became my confidant and right-hand man. We spent many hours discussing Club activities: how to improve meetings, how to get more members involved, how to make being a member of GPR more fun. Ken's motto, as Vice President of the GPR, was always: "Have some fun and find a little gold along the way."

A lot of members were closely involved with Ken and I am sure we will all share our memories of him during the coming months. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my personal impressions of Ken:

Confident: As displayed by the way he held his head high as he walked. Obviously, he was a man of few words, but when he spoke it was with purpose; he had something important to say.

Commitment: If he took on a project, he would see it through to completion and much beyond any expectation, as is witnessed by what he did with our gold panning demonstration program.

Composure: Ken was always in control and displayed a presence of tranquility, even when Dan Daru threw the gold back into Clear Creek--and on television at that.

Respect: He respected other people's positions in life, whether an older person with many years of living, or a younger person just leaning about life. If you did something for him, he was quick to say "thank you." He believed in "ladies first" and even came from that old school where a man opened a door for a lady.

Ken brought an air of professionalism to the club and a feeling of unity among the members. He perceived this club and the hobby of gold prospecting as a positive experience for the family as well as the individual. He truly cared for each and every one of us.

Although there will be an empty chair at the meetings, Ken's presence and past efforts will remain with us. He leaves behind a legacy that will continue in this club for years to come. I am requesting that each member continue Ken's legacy and memory. In recognition of his efforts, and in memory of the man, I am directing that the caricature of Ken that was done in Central City be painted on the club trailer. I am also initiating the annual "Ken Barker Award" wherein, through a vote of the membership, one member will be selected for his/her efforts at promoting #1) the hobby of gold prospecting and #2) the positive imagery of the Club in the public eye. These are things that Ken was good at. Details and rules will be determined and posted in the club newsletter. The recipient of this award will be given a plaque of recognition and \$100.

I am also taking this opportunity to appoint a new Chairman of the Panning Demonstrations Committee, one of Ken's personal understudies, Mr. Jeff Mosteller.

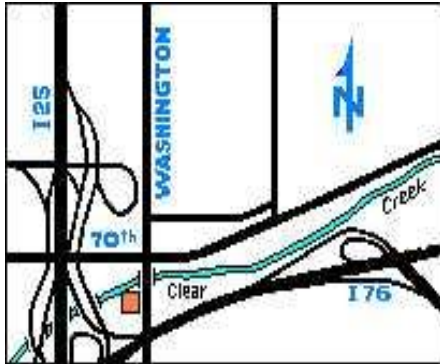
To Jackie Barker and family: Ken was a leader in the GPR family. He will be missed. You are a part of this family and will always be welcome at all activities and meetings. You, Jackie, will receive a lifetime membership to the GPR along with all privileges associated with such membership. Jeff will present to you the collection of photos of Ken that are on display in the back of the room tonight. The photos were taken at several Club activities.

I want to return Ken's caricature to you. I took the liberty of framing it and club members have been signing the backing. Thank you for joining us tonight.





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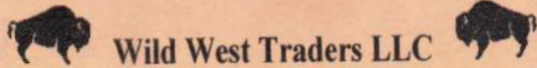
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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Jan 2013

(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 New Years Day	2	3	4	5 Newsletter Advert/Article Conv Deadline
6	7	8	9	10	11 Amelia Earhart Day	12
13	14	15	16 GPR Club Meeting	17 Ben Franklin's Birthday	18	19
20 Inauguration Day	21 Martin Luther King Jr Day	22	23	24 Belly laugh Day	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		