

# THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2013

## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



This is the beginning of a new year. And it promises to be a challenging one to say the least. Not to mention the political strife that exists in this country, but there is going to continue to be strife for the small scale prospector as well. It just seems like there is never a silver lining or a light at the end of the tunnel.

We were very fortunate that the County Commissioners in Larimer County were not swayed by a stupid attempt to control something that wasn't even a problem by using the wrong subject (mineral rights).

We know that there is a lot of uncertainty in the metro area as Wheatridge continues to struggle with finding the right prescription for the Youngfield area of Clear Creek. Denver County is getting nervous and is considering addressing the issue on the South Platte River as well and we don't know as yet which direction they are going to take. There have been indications that Littleton is getting nervous as well. Bottom line is that motorized equipment will be taking a hit for sure.

I recently attended a seminar and listened to a prospector get very confrontational with a Denver County representative as he tried in an extremely poor manner to make his points. The problem was that the prospector tried to shove it all down the Denver representative's throat in a very aggressive manner. The result was that the Denver official got very defensive as he tried to address the concerns that his office had. And the real end result was that small scale miners lost a lot of points and leverage because one idiot thought that he could shout down a government official in what was no more than an arrogant display of anger. We will have to mend some bridges now before that official ever sees us as a group in a better light. And that is something we didn't really need. That man was doing no more than grinding his own angry axe in a public setting and potentially winding up with negative consequences for all of us. Not very cool!

This is the kind of thing that loses ground for small scale miners. I worked in the government field for 39 years and I well know how quickly they can develop a negative attitude when confronted by pushy types. I learned long ago that whenever emotion becomes involved, the decision making generally winds up right in the toilet. The old axiom that 'you catch flies with honey and not vinegar' is very true. But some of our fellow prospectors just don't get it. One of my favorite axioms is 'don't get mad, just get even'. Sometimes, that means that you just have to be patient and smarter than the other fellow. And I have met quite a few fellow prospectors who do get angry and harp about what is going on. But seldom do they ever jump in feet first to try and provide solutions. Apparently, it is easier to let somebody else do that. Anger and yelling solves nothing. Another favorite axiom of mine is known as the '6 P's', or 'Proper planning prevents piss poor performance'. You military guys should be familiar with that one.

One way to take affirmative action is to spend some money. First off, make sure you are a member of a local Prospecting Club. It is far better to speak with many voices than it is with just one. Secondly, make sure you join the GPAA and the PLP. Both of those organizations have a lot of money to invest in the fight for small scale miners and the fight to preserve our mining rights and the right to access public property, and your dues money will go a long way to helping out. These are tremendously important issues. Your Club holds a Club Membership to the PLP on your behalf, but I certainly encourage each of you to take out an individual membership as well.

I don't have a crystal ball and I cannot predict the future. But it doesn't really take a crystal ball to know that there will be difficult times ahead for all of us small scale miners. It is important that we think diligently before we act and we also think even more diligently before we speak. Together, we can stand up for and fight for and protect the cultural and historical tradition of mining in Colorado. But we gotta do it smart!

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

First of all I would like to wish everyone a (HAPPY NEW YEAR). And hoping that each and everyone one of you folks have a super year, and everything turns yellow (gold) for you all.

**Colorado History part # 11 As we ended the new Denver City beginning. From chapter # 11** Ned Wynkoop a Pennsylvanian who had settled for a time in Kansas. He was a born showman who loved a good drink, a good laugh, and



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a good game of cards. Intelligent, amiable, generally clad in buckskins, he was a natural leader in the most romantic tradition of the clean-cut, honest frontier pathfinder. It was Wynkoop whom Larimer sent as unofficial ambassador to the States, to spread the tidings of wealth, to safely conduct many immigrant wagon trains to the promised land. Later Wynkoop was to serve Denver City in many capacities from bartender to sheriff.

Still later he would serve heroically in the Civil War and the Indian Wars and be discharged as a major, would be a government Indian agent, would return to Pennsylvania and the mercantile business, would serve in Denver as colonel in the Forestry Service, and would conclude an honorable career as warden of the New Mexico penitentiary. General William Larimer was a dignified and imposing man of fifty. A well-known banker and railroad builder in his native Pennsylvania, he had served as major general in the state militia. He was an active abolitionist, a prominent politician, and had been a candidate for Pennsylvania's gubernatorial post.

I hope last year was a good one, I have a lot of requests for more of my Colorado History column, and again you can always contact me at any time at 720-443-9545. Thank you all for a great year. Mike (Klondike)

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger By Linda Luchtenburg

It's January, a New Year and time to pay the membership dues. For this month we will have a total of 7.6 grams of gold with the largest nugget being 2.9 grams. Blue tickets will be on sell for the 'special' nugget, so bring extra money and good luck to all.

## December Meeting Program

The January meeting will feature a used/new equipment swap/trade/sell event for the members. If you have any equipment you want to buy, sell, or trade, bring it to the meeting and we will set it all up in the back of the room. Therefore, the break will be much longer than usual.

See you there

## Board Meeting Minutes From Dec 2012

There was no Official Board Meeting for the month of December 2012.

James Long	Joe Shubert	Joe Fortunato	Don Luchtenburg
Mike Hurtado	Joe Johnston	Terry Weatherly	Janine Ballentine
Peg Brozek	Roger Biri	Andy Doll	

**Quorum present?** Yes

### Call to Order:

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Yes

Corrections: None Approved as read/corrected: Yes

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

### Correspondence:

### Committee Reports:

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 125558 Hits for last month 617.

**Unfinished business:** None.

### New business:

**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:

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

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Who said, in 1511, "Get gold, humanely if possible—but at all hazards, get gold"

### 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



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### Tonight's general meeting program:

### Adjournment:

## General Meeting Minutes From Dec 2012

1. Meeting was opened at 6:25pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Everyone in attendance was then invited to proceed to the buffet line and enjoy a great pot luck feast that everyone had brought to share.
3. The Dinner/Meeting was then reconvened at 7:15pm by **Pres. Long**.
4. **Pres. Long** then updated the membership on the latest involving the Larimer County situation. The Larimer County Commissioners voted 2-0 to not ban any form of prospecting in Larimer County. They felt that the issue of mineral rights ownership was of no real concern to the County. The decision was a very good victory for the local small scale prospectors in northern Colorado. **Pres. Long** discussed the Club growth in 2012, ending the year with 164 memberships and 255 members. The Club had an extremely productive and busy year and it is hoped that 2013 will also be very fruitful.
5. **Pres. Long** introduced the 2013 newly elected Board of Directors. **Pres. Long** then handed out Letters of Appreciation to the following people for all they have done for the Club during 2012: **Mike Hurtado, Peg Brozek, Joe Shubert, Joe Johnston, Sue Lemieux, Joe Fortunato, Terry Weatherly, Andy Doll, Bill and Sue Duncanson, Brandon Luchtenburg, Chuck Cown, Sue Clover, Rob Deschambault, and Pam and George Schmitt**. Greg Davis, Don Luchtenburg, Richard Harrison, Bill Chapman and Louise Smyth of Golden Detectors were not present and will receive theirs at a later date.
6. **Pres. Long** and his group of elves handed out a small Christmas gift to each attendee of the banquet and all those who had brought a 'Gold Elephant' gift had the opportunity to exchange gifts under the Christmas tree. The, 15 lucky recipients found numbered tags under their chairs and the Club gave away 15 'Surprise gifts' to include 4 free 2013 free annual memberships.
7. **Pres. Long** then presented the 2012 'Ken Barker Award' to this year's recipient, Bill Duncanson. Bill received a very nice frame able Award along with a \$100.00 bill. His photo will join the previous gallery of winners on the official Club web site.
8. **Rob Deschambault** then presented an explanation of the last Cache Clues for the Club 'Cache Treasure Hunt and then introduced the winner who found the Cache on November 24, **John Johnson**. The description of the clues was a very interesting and intriguing demonstration of cleverness on Rob's part in hiding the Cache, and equally demanding diligence on John's part in tracking the clues down and finding the Cache. Well done guys!!!
9. The homemade centerpieces on each dining table were constructed by **Linda Luchtenburg**, with a little help from **Pres. Long** and **Brandon Luchtenburg**. The decorations were then given to a lady at each table as an extra gift.
10. **Pres. Long** then thanked everyone for coming and the Dinner/Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

## JANUARY BIRTHSTONE

### Garnet

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. *Garnet*, derived from the word *granatum*, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry. *Garnet* is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites. Today, the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka, and India.





## GOLD PROSPECTORS OF THE ROCKIES



### 2012 Ken Barker Award

It is with distinct pleasure that the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies announce the recipient of the 2012 Ken Barker Award as Bill Duncanson.

Bill has been a member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies for a number of years. During 2012, he served as a member of the Refreshment Committee along with his wonderful sister Sue. He attended nearly every Club meeting and a number of the Club Outings. Bill has been a strong supporter of the Club and never misses an opportunity to talk about the Club and encourage others to not only join, but has always been willing to share his knowledge. As a member of the Refreshment Committee, he routinely dipped into his own pocket to ensure that the Table was always stocked. He is a friendly and outgoing man who also has a strong interest in and is very knowledgeable on Colorado's mining history.

We are pleased to present Bill with the 2012 Ken Barker Award and will place his photograph into the Ken Barker Gallery on the GPR web site.



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

A married prospector couple had been out shopping at the mall for most of the afternoon. Suddenly, the wife realized that her husband had just up and 'disappeared' on her.

The somewhat irate spouse called her mate's cell phone and demanded, 'Where in the heck are you?' 'Darling, do you remember that jewelry shop where you saw the diamond and gold necklace and you totally fell in love with it but I didn't have enough money that time and said, 'Baby Doll, it'll be yours one day?'

The wife, remembering with a big smile and blushing, said, 'Why, yes, I do remember that, my love.' 'Well'. He replied, 'I am in the saloon next to that same shop!'

*Reprinted from the May/June 2012 GPAA Gold Prospectors magazine*







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### Newsorthy Notes:

12-13-12 (From the Denver Post) Greenwood Village based Molycorp announced that CEO Mark Smith had resigned. His departure was tied to weaker than expected performance driven in part by falling rare earth oxide prices and disappointing results, unexpected additional capital expenditures, and aggressive acquisitions. Molycorp stock prices fell 7% due to rising rare earth supplies and depressed demand. Molycorp and Australia's Lynas Corp. are two of the few rare earth producers in the world that remain outside of China today. Molycorp shares have dropped nearly 80% of their value this year following another third quarter drop. Molycorp has announced Constantine Karrayannopoulos as its new CEO.

12/19/12 (From the Denver Post) Larimer County Commissioners voted 2-0 to not ban prospecting in Larimer County. The commissioners felt that the issue raised on the basis of questioning who the mineral rights belonged to was not a viable argument and did not feel that the issue raised was all that great a concern to the County. The third County Commissioner was absent on vacation and did not vote. Local small scale prospectors who had somewhat flooded the Hearing Room left feeling somewhat joyful, in lieu of Christmas being only a week away, to say the least.

### Back in the Days!

**WALDORF** Waldorf sleeps serenely near the top of the Continental Divide. It was an important mining camp in its day, but its day has long since passed.

The Big Stevens Mine was located in 1868. Within the next few years, some 75 locations were staked out. Of these, nine were important and produced millions in gold and silver.

The Waldorf Mining and Milling Company took over many of the claims and made some 4 million dollars. Waldorf also served as an important stop in the stage run over Argentina Pass. Later, the Argentine Central was constructed to the top of the pass, the highest steam railroad route in the world. Although the railroad was designed for mining at Waldorf, it served another purpose. It opened up a superb view, and the thrill of curves up to 145 degrees plus a grade up to 10 degrees soon brought a flood of tourists. The tourist revenue soon outstripped the freight revenue by ten to one. It claimed to be the highest and the most scenic ride in the world. Its slogan was "a lifetime in a day". One-sixth of the state can be seen from the summit of the pass.

The mine tunnel atop Mount McClellan was a tourist mecca. It was called the "ice palace" because of icicles that lined the roof of the tunnel year around. It is said that the early miners attempted to roll the ore down the hill in sacks from the mines, but too many of the sacks broke open and the plan proved unprofitable. Much mining and milling were carried on here for several years after the turn of the century, but the city began to die and has been deserted for many years now.

The altitude (11,666 feet) and the long, hard winters have helped preserve the city and much of it still remains today.

**SANTIAGO** A small camp that grew up around the Santiago Mine on the hill above Waldorf. The site can be reached by a short climb or by driving over a winding road from Waldorf. Some mining has been carried out here in recent years, but only the mine shaft and one cabin remains.

**HILL CITY** This was another city that began big, but faded out in only about one year. Hill City erupted in 1881 near the headwaters of Williams Fork Creek, southwest of Berthoud Pass, on the old Hayden Wagon Road. Several hundred men scurried to the spot when some placer gold was found here. But many of the fortune seekers turned around and left within mere days or a few weeks. The site was named after Professor Nathaniel Hill.

### Cleaning Your Gold As appearing in *The Gold Nugget*, October 2006 by Allen Mershon

At the end of a day on the "diggin's" you've got ounces or pounds of pan or sluice concentrates. Now you carefully pan out the yellow metal you've worked so hard to get. But no matter how careful you are, there are obvious impurities in your pay-off. Any more panning would get rid of the impurities, but also a lot of gold, too. Cleaning your gold into a marketable condition while saving all possible gold is something you should learn to do, and there is not a better teacher on the subject than Allen Mershon.

A good first step in gold cleaning is to dry and size-classify the gold. For drying, heat the gold in a stainless steel pan. But do this only in a well-ventilated area! There may be toxic material present which can vaporize and become extremely dangerous! If you don't have a lot to clean and you're not in a hurry, you can use a gold pan or cookie sheet and dry it outdoors or use a blow dryer indoors.



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After the material is dry, the next step is to classify (screen) the gold. The number of size-fractions to use depends on the size range of your gold. Locally, two sizes are enough. Call one "coarse" and the other "fine." The divide between the two is 40 mesh. Note that "fine" refers to particle size, NOT purity. But as a matter of fact, the finer the gold, the purer it will be. That is because as the gold in a running stream breaks down into ever smaller particles, more of the contained impurities are exposed to the environment and oxidize or otherwise disappear. Locally, the gold in Clear Creek has an average purity of 960 (parts per thousand), Platte River gold 920, and Buena Vista (Arkansas River) 800. As you might expect, you can find some nuggets at Buena Vista, but you will not find anything larger than 1/8th inch in Clear Creek. Commercial screens are good but expensive. A cheaper alternative are hobby-store screens. Window screens are around 17 mesh. When the gold has been size classified, you can more easily remove the impurities. A sniffer bottle, used dry, is useful. You can also put the gold on a sheet of paper or glass and gently blow off the impurities. Or copy the dope dealers from the TV cop shows and use a glass plate and a razor blade. Your last move is to use a magnet. Always "hover" the magnet above the sample. Always clean gold over a smooth surface or container to catch spills.

To estimate the purity of gold, check the color against gold jewelry of known purity. Gold dealers typically discount by 25%. Your yield will be something like: daily spot price -20% X 31.1 X the gram weight of your gold. (31.1 are the approximate grams per troy oz.) There may be a bonus for -20 mesh gold. Buy or borrow a scale to check weights before you deal. Or have a standard weight to check the dealer's scale. Refiners want a minimum of 10 ounces of gold (Au). Or you can simply hoard your gold for the day when the world economy collapses, and you will be royalty! But in any case clean your gold so that your friends won't look at it and say "Hey, what's that stuff in your gold!"

## Are you a Real Prospector...?



Pres Long and Al Busch of Illinois out on Dec 30th getting gold..!

## **Detecting for Colorado Gold** As appearing in *The Gold Nugget*, August 1996 by Steve Cychosz

When a bucket line dredge scooped up creek material and ran it through a trommel with 3/4-inch holes, anything larger than 3/4 inch was ejected onto the tailing piles. Most of the gold was small and was melted down into ingots. Dredge miners did concern themselves with the possibility of losing the larger nuggets. Those nuggets are lying right in the area where they first fell. They were wet, muddy (clay robbed their sluices), and heavy, and when they hit the top of the pile, they tended to slide down the side. Therefore, the largest nuggets will be toward the side or near the bottom of the pile, not on top.



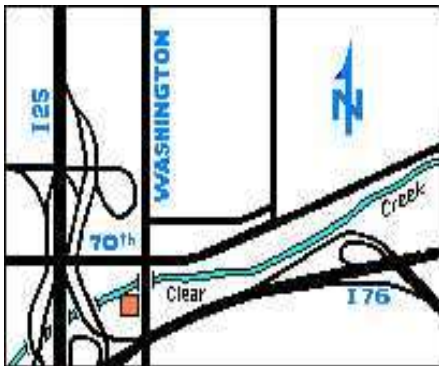
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With the proper permission, you can scan these piles with your gold detector. People find gold every day this way but luck certainly plays a part. Detecting for nuggets is not limited to dredge piles, however. **Again, with the proper permission**, you can scan old mine dumps and maybe find the nugget of your dreams. Here's how to do it.

### Detecting Tailing Piles or Mine Dumps

1. Set up on the side of the pile, or where two piles meet near the bottom.
2. Dig in and move the material to create a flat area to stand on.
3. Clear the flat area of any metal.
4. Put down a piece of plywood two feet on a side.
5. Undermine the tailing pile and rake the material onto the plywood.
6. With a magnet (attached to the rake), pull the iron out of the material.
7. Scan the material on the plywood with your gold detector.
8. If you locate a target, dig into the target area with a plastic scoop.
9. Pass the scoop with the material over the coil of your detector.
10. If the target is not in the scoop, discard the material and repeat with the scoop.
11. When the target is determined to be in your scoop, check to make sure no more targets are on the plywood and push the remainder of the material off the plywood.
12. Slowly pour the material in your scoop that contains the target over the coil of your detector until the target hits the loop and creates a signal.
13. Pick up the target. With luck, it will be gold.

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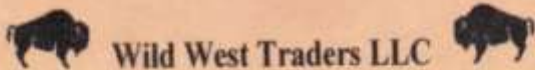
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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Feb 2013**

(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 Newsletter Advert/Article Conv Deadline	2 Groundhog Day
3 Super Bowl	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Mardi Gras	13 Ash Wednesday	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 Presidents Day	19	20 GPR Club Meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		