

# THE GOLD NUGGET

December 2013

## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



### SEASON'S GREETINGS EVERYONE!



As I sit here contemplating what to say this month, it is snowing outside and is bitter cold, a stark reminder that winter is as natural as part of Colorado as are the mountains. We are so fortunate to live here in this great State. We live right next to a great mineral belt that contains that most wonderful mineral of all, gold. Most of us are able to drive only a few miles to access some very good gold bearing streams. There are plenty of good places to prospect in other parts of this State as well, so it isn't all just right outside the front door. But I have found that when it is all said and done, you just can't beat what we have right here at hand. And that means mostly in Clear Creek. I have found good gold in a number of places besides Clear Creek. There are some places that are still good and the gold is larger in size and a little darker in contrast to that which you find in Clear Creek. But by and large, it is nearly all placer gold and tends to be mostly flour and fines with a few pickers and flakes here and there. Nuggets tend to be very few and very far in between. Most of the large gold is underground and rarely accessible to those of us who tout ourselves as being small scale miners. But that doesn't mean that you still can't find one. Last year alone, I got 6 small nuggets from the claim that I was working with a few other of our members. And I know that each of them found a few small nuggets of their own as well. But we didn't find a lot of them. They were in fact, few and far between, as I said. And I know prospectors who have found nuggets and as recently as just under ten years ago. But a lot of them will admit that they had access to private property and private claims where they found them. Property that is no longer available to the majority of us and may never be available again. In some cases, those properties and claims were worked over very hard and the bulk of the accessible gold was gleaned and now gone. But who says I can't dream of hitting the 'big one' one of these days. And so could you. It has been said that only the victor goes the prize. So if you just sit and dream, you can expect your success to be only in your dreams as well. But if you want to have that chance to succeed, then you are going to have to get out there and get busy. It won't come to you. The world does not know your name..! The world knows and remembers the names of those who worked hard and accomplished something. The reason that John Gregory and George Jackson have a place in Colorado Mining History is the fact that they were the ones who blazed the trail and found the big discoveries that led to the ultimate settling of Colorado and it eventually becoming a State. But nobody remembers the names of any of the tens of thousands of miners that followed them and dug for gold as well. Some who didn't find much gold, found other ways to become successful and some of them earned their places in history as well. When we look around this great State that we live in, we are constantly reminded of some of these great pioneers, each in their own right. We have named mountains, streets, cities and all kinds of things after them. That is usually a pretty good way to know that you made a difference in some significant way. Something gets named after you. Unfortunately, you are usually dead when that finally happens. Maybe it is done that way to keep us from getting too big a head over our successes, or failures.

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 treasured 'Yaller Gold'!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or [jnslong945@msn.com](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com)

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

## The V.P. Corner by "Klondike" Mike

Colorado History # 20



As we ended with the ferry we now move on to a genuine celebrity visiting. Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune and one of the most renowned newspaper men in America. Wanting a first-hand look at the gold rush he headed to Grubby camps along the Cherry Creek. He held harangue in a local saloon delivering an anti-gambling, anti-drinking message. He would hold court at his breakfast table intending to meet a variety of frontier men. He soon left his hotel room moving to an abandoned cabin as the space was more conducive to his literary needs.

He also wanted to try his hand at panning gold which played into a gang of miners who heard of his desire. The miners went about salting a played out pit which played out impressively for Greeley's great venture. By way of his famous editorials the world learned of the gold in Colorado, as he had "seen with my own eye's" and being convinced "by



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the work of my own hands”. The gold rush of ‘59 happened in part due to John L. Soule of the Terre Haute Express, reiterating Greeley’s “Go west, young man, go west!”

Although he was buffaloeed by his salted mine, Greeley was very accurate in his reports of the current conditions he observed. One observation from Greeley, “more brawls, more fights more pistol shots with criminal intent in this log city, in any community of equal numbers on earth.”

I hope you are following me on the history of not only Colorado mining but the history of Denver and surrounding areas.

Please contact me with any questions Klondike Mike.....720-443-9545

Klondike

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Linda Luchtenburg



No nugget drawing this month. See you at the Christmas potluck.

## Membership Committee

NO DUES WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE DEC MEETING.

Please start bringing or mailing in your membership dues for 2014. They are all due no matter when you joined by January meeting. No later please. Renewals are \$30.00.

Many of you have paid already. It is greatly appreciated because then JJ can make a more accurate budget for the year.

Thanks, Pam and George

## This Month GPR Meeting Program:

There will be no December general meeting. The Program will consist of a Potluck Dinner with a short Awards Presentation. The Dinner is limited to members only and their families, except for special invitations by the President. There will be no general gold drawing. We will arrive at 6pm and Dinner will start at 6:30pm. There will be a Gold Elephant Gift Exchange for those who wish to participate. Please limit the value of the gift to be exchanged to less than \$15.00. We hope to see you all there!

## ELECTION Results for 2014 Board

by Joe Shubert

There were no nominations or emails received by the Election Committee chairperson. The past Officers and Board Members agreed to run for election. The following names were read by the President. A show of hands was called for electing each person. The vote was unanimous for each person; therefore the following are the elected Officers and Board Members for 2014.

President	James Long
Vice President	Mike Hurtado
Secretary/Treasurer	Linda Luchtenburg
2 Yr Board Member	Joe Shubert (1 Year Left)
2 Yr Board Member	Joe Johnston
Board Member	Janine Ballentine
Board Member	Joe Fortunato
Board Member	Terry Weatherly
Board Member	Andy Doll
Board Member	Brandon Luchtenburg
Board Member	Roger Biri



## Board Meeting Minutes from Nov 2013

X	James Long	X	Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	Roger Biri
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston	X	Terry Weatherly	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Linda Luchtenburg	X	Janine Ballentine	X	Andy Doll		Gary Hawley

**Quorum present?** Yes

**Call to Order:** By JJ at 6:01 pm

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

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

**Correspondence:** 3 phone calls, 7 e-mails, 8 mailings

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 132357 Hits for last month 432.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Election CR – Current Board to be approved by Acclamation as no new nominations.
- Ken Barker Award CR -Nominee Bio's and Ballots ready for voting tonight.
- Xmas Dinner CR – All arrangements have been made.
- Membership CR – George and Pam Schmitt are moving to the Club Store and John Johnson is taking over Membership Desk on 1-15-14.

**Unfinished business:** None at this time.

**New Business:** None at this time.

**Planned Outings for 2013:** Refer to Outings Calendar/Schedule in Newsletter for details of existing schedule. We have added a Tour of the Coors Brewery on 12-6 at 1pm. Sign up sheet and map to be distributed tonight.

### **From the Board:**

- Pres Long discussed the Metal Detecting Outing of Nov. 9. We had 23 people attend. Event committee was JJ, Mike H. and Terry W. We gave away 15 prizes and everybody had a real good time. We planted 275 targets and there were only about 75 not found. It was a big success.
- Joe S. was handing out KBA ballots as members arrived for meeting.
- There was no other input during round table discussion for this evening.
- It has been a pretty good year and we have planned and executed 23 Outings with only 2 cancellations, one for weather and the other because of the Sept. Flood. There will be no Board Meeting and no General Meeting for December as we will have the Pot Luck Christmas Dinner followed by a short Awards Program and a Recap of the year by Pres. Long.

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting January 15, 2013 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting January 15, 2013 at 7:00pm

**Tonight's general meeting program:** A 30 minute presentation by Joe Fortunato on his 2013 Alaskan trip.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:41 pm.

### **QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

NO QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR DEC. BE BACK IN JANUARY

#### **2014 GPR Board of Directors Members**

##### **President**

James Long

##### **Vice President**

Mike Hurtado

##### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Linda Luchtenburg

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

Joe Johnston (2013)

Joe Shubert (2011)

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

Joe Fortunato

Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

Roger Biri

Janine Ballentine

## General Meeting Minutes from Nov 2013

1. Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1213.90 an ounce, silver at \$19.85, platinum at \$1391.00 and palladium at \$710.00.
3. Web hits for last month reflected 403 hits for the last 30 days.
4. **Pres. Long** announced that tonight's program will be a 30 minute Presentation by Joe Fortunato on his 2012 Alaskan trip to Nome.
5. **Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg** reported that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, we are now selling tickets for the 'Members Only' drawing and it is a very



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- large nugget displayed at her desk for all to see. Remember, your chance of winning is better than winning the Lottery.
6. **Pam and George Schmitt** reported from the Membership Table that approx. 85 members were in attendance. There were 6 guests and 4 new members who were in attendance. The meeting attendance was 91.
  7. **Sue Clover** read the ‘**Question of the Month**’, which was ‘What country ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in 2010 for total gold production?’
  8. **Pres. Long** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the ‘**Finds of the Month**’ table and everyone was encouraged to check them out and vote accordingly during the break. And that tonight would include voting for the **Find of the Year** in each category, so be sure and vote for them also.
  9. **Pres. Long** announced that the Cache had been found. **John Johnson** presented **Barbara** Barrow as the finder of the Cache and they discussed the clues and how it led her to the Cache. Barbara received a beautiful 7.1g nugget for her efforts. Now Barbara will hide the next Cache and that hunt will start in January 2014.
  10. **Pres. Long** announced that there were no additional nominations for the board for 2014 and that all current Board Members had indicated they would run for 2014. A vote of general acclamation was held and the current Board will serve as your 2014 Board of Directors. The three nominees for the Ken Barker Award were announced as Bill Chapman, John Johnson, and Brandon Luchtenburg. Ballots were distributed for voting by the membership. The winner will be announced at the December Dinner.
  11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that a Coors Tour had been added to the Outing Schedule for Dec. 6 at 1pm. A signup sheet was put out for the membership. The December meeting will actually be a Pot Luck Dinner with no formal meeting to be held. December meeting is for members only and guests will need to have a special invitation to attend. Arrive at 6pmt and Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. There will also be a Gold Elephant Gift Exchange for those who wish to participate in a voluntary manner. A short Awards Program will start about 7:30pm. Pres. Long also announced that John Johnson and John Johnson III will take over the Membership Table for 2014 and Pam and George Schmitt will be taking over the Club Store for 2014. There are new products in the Club Store and everyone is encouraged to look them over and support your Club by purchasing products with the Club Logo on them.
  12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 810pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:35pm.
  13. **Pres. Long** announced that there were 36 winners of the ‘Question of the Month’ and only a couple of folks missed it. The answer was ‘Kazakhstan’. The winning tickets were passed out to the lucky winners.
  14. **Pres. Long** announced that there were several submitted entries for the ‘Finds of the Month’. The winner of the ‘Artifact’ category was Joe Johnston with an autographed book by a Medal of Honor winner. ‘Most Gold’ winner was Richard Beesley with 0.10g of gold from Gilpin County. ‘Best Jewelry’ was Chuck Cown with a 14k white gold ring with 3 rows of stones, a metal detector find. Winners of the Find of the Year were: Best Bottle, Jim Long with a 1 oz emerald green bottle circa 1930 found in Clear Creek. Best Artifact, John Johnson III for a spoon and fork, circa 1875. ‘Best Jewelry’, Chuck Cown for the 14k white gold ring with 3 rows of stones. ‘Best Coin’, Jim Long with a 1947 US Wheat Penny P found with a metal detector in Northglenn. ‘Most Raw Gold’, Kevin Singel with 0.7g fine gold from Park County. ‘Largest Raw Gold’, Kevin Singel with a 0.19g nugget he found in Park County. Congratulations to each of our Nov. Monthly winners and to our winners of the Find of the Year for 2013.
  15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for numerous door prizes followed by drawings for the gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings 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 choose to donate the tickets back to the Club. Those assisting Pres. Long in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Linda Luchtenburg**.
  16. **Pres. Long** thanked **Kris and Joe Kafka** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. 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 to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
  17. The scheduled **Program for December will be** a Pot Luck Dinner for members only starting at 6pm and dinner at 6”30pm.



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18. Until next time, prospect safely, live long and be grateful for that golden bounty from the stars, that gleaming magical miracle called 'gold'!
19. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.

## Metal Detecting Outing a Big Hit



Getting ready to START

The Club hosted a Metal Detectors Outing on Nov. 9 at Majestic View Park in Arvada. The hunt started at 10am and ran until 1pm. Twenty one members participated in the event. The event involved a search in a 2 acre field for 275 targets which had been planted. Participants were encouraged to 'dig' every target as even a piece of trash could represent a potential prize. Participants weren't told what the prize or category breakdown would be until everyone was done. There were quite a few people who were learning their way around their detectors and ultimately were able to find some 'targets'. When it was all over, everyone turned in all their targets found and trash collected to the Committee which consisted of Pres. Long, VP Mike Hurtado and Board Member Terry Weatherly. The following members won prizes:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Prize</u>
Most targets found	Walter Hoessle	1 oz silver Freedom coin
Target tag #2	Fred Wilkins	1 oz silver Teton coin
Target tag #3	Joe Fortunato	1 oz silver Teton coin
Target tag #4	Derrick Fling	1 oz silver Teton coin
Target tag #5	Abel Espinosa	Swiss antique pocket watch
Most red targets found	Walt Hoessle	late 1800's silver dollar
Least red targets found	Walt Nowakowski	early 1900's silver half dollar
Most green targets found	Chuck Cown	late 1800's silver dollar
Least green targets found	Sheri Wilkins	early 1900's silver half dollar
Most gold targets found	Abel Espinosa	late 1800's silver dollar
Least gold targets found	George Sullivan	early 1900's silver half dollar
Most wheat pennies found	Fran Espinosa	late 1800's silver dollar
Least wheat pennies found	Dolores Kopp	early 1900's silver half dollar
Most unique unknown find	Fran Espinosa	.4 gr gold nugget (very old miniature stapler)
Most unique jewelry find	Linda Luchtenburg	.1 gr gold nugget (very small silver earring back)
Least targets found overall	George Sullivan	.05 gr vial of gold

The Club planted 125 wheat pennies and 97 were found. Five numbered dog tags were planted and 4 were found. 51 green colored metal tokens were planted and 30 were found. 54 red metal tokens were planted and 37 were found. 34 gold metal tokens were planted and only 21 were found. A large number of trash items consisting of screws, nails, wire, bolts, nuts, bottle tops, pull tabs, aluminum cans, foil and a host of other weird stuff was found along with an ear ring and a costume jewelry ring. Everybody had a great time and I am sure some had some sore muscles the following day.



Linda looking for 'treasure'

## Schedule of 2013 Planned Outings:

12-6 Fri Tour of Coors Brewery, 1pm, signup sheet at mtg. Meet at 311 10<sup>th</sup> St., Golden.

12-18 Wed Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, no regular meeting

Additional dates/outings are also under consideration.



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### Findings of the Month

There were several submissions for Finds of the Month. The winners were:

**Artifact:** Joe Johnston won with an autographed book by Medal of Honor recipient Peter Coleman.

**Best Jewelry:** Chuck Cown with a 14k white gold ring with 3 rows of stones.

**Most Raw Gold:** Richard Beesley with 0.10g of gold from Gilpin County.

Thanks also goes to Joe Johnston who submitted some gold from Gregory Gulch but did not win.

### Finds of the Year Voting for 2013

**Best Artifact:** John Johnson, who found part of an old knife, circa 1890's, found with a metal detector at old mine site above Central City.

**Best Jewelry:** Chuck Cown, who found d 14k white gold ring with 3 rows of stones, found with metal detector in Commerce City.

**Best Bottle:** James Long, who found an emerald green medicine bottle, circa 1930, found in Clear Creek.

**Best Coin:** James Long, who found a 1947 US Wheat Penny, P, with metal detector in Northglenn's Webster Park.

**Largest Raw Gold:** Kevin Singel, who found a 0.19g nugget in Park County.

**Most Raw Gold:** Kevin Singel, who found 0.7g of fine gold in Park County.

Congratulations to all of our Annual Winners. Remember, everyone is encouraged to submit your rare finds each month at the meeting and you could find yourself in contention for the Annual Find as well. Plus, it is just a lot of fun to show off what you have found during the month.

### December Birthstone

The three birthstones associated with December are *Tanzanite*, *Zircon*, and *Turquoise*

#### ANZANITE

Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, *tanzanite* exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices. As tanzanite can be less expensive than sapphire, it often was purchased as an alternative. However, it has increased in popularity and now is valued more for its own beauty and brilliance than as a sapphire substitute.



#### ZIRCON



Derived from the Arabic words *zar* and *gun*, meaning *gold* and *color*, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep. Major sources of zircon are the Chanthaburi area of Thailand, the Palin area of Cambodia, and the southern part of Vietnam.

#### TURQUOISE

The name *turquoise*, from the French expression *Pierre tourques* or *Turkish stone*, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes. It is most often used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and inlays. Although its popularity fluctuates in fashion, it is a perennial favorite in the American Southwest.



(Taken from the [AmericanGemSociety.Org](http://AmericanGemSociety.Org) web site)



## A Miner's Laugh

An old miner was hard at work when the phone at the front of the mine rang. He answered it and was informed that his daughter was very ill, so he jumped in his truck and went to the Pharmacy to get medication. As he returned to his truck, to his dismay, he found he had locked his keys inside it. Finding an old rusty coat hanger in the back end, he tried to unlock the door but had no luck. Bowing his head, the old miner asked God to send him some help.

Within 5 minutes, a bearded biker wearing a skull rag showed up on his Harley, got off and seeing the old miner in distress asked him if he could help. The old miner wrung his hands and replied, "Yes, my daughter is very sick and I have locked my keys in the truck. I have tried to use this old coat hanger but I just can't get it open. Could you give it a try?" The biker said, "Sure" and promptly went to work. In just a few seconds, the truck lock clicked open. The old miner was overcome with joy and unabashedly hugged the biker and through his tears said, "Thank you so much, sir, you are a very nice man." The biker replied, "Mister, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday. I was in prison for auto theft."

The old miner hugged the man again, cast his eyes heavenward and said, "Oh thank you Lord, you even sent me a professional!!"

*(Taken from the internet and revised just for us 'miners')*



## Prospecting/Mining Notes

(mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

**11-13-13 Third spill in three years occurs at uranium mill:** A ruptured underground pipe burst for the third time in 3 years discharging contaminated water from the defunct Cotter Corp. near Canon City. The spill, which occurred Nov. 5, was 3 times the size of the previous spills. Some 4000 to 9000 gallons of water tainted with uranium and molybdenum spilled but none of the contaminants escaped the property. The Cotter Mill was a cold war era uranium processing mill which operated in Colorado until 1979. It was declared a super fund cleanup site in 1984.

**11-18-13 Two Dead in Ouray Mine:** Two miners were killed Sunday in the Revenue-Virginus Mine in Ouray, Colo., when they were overcome by carbon monoxide. Twenty other miners were treated in Western Slope hospitals. An explosion was ruled out but the cause of the gaseous release is under investigation. The men were all wearing respirators at the time of the accident and the equipment was not found to be defective. The Revenue-Virginus Mine is owned by Star Mine LLC and is located 6 miles south of Ouray and only recently resumed operation this year at a historic mine site that produced silver from 1876 to the 1940's. ***(This is why the Club does not advocate members entering abandoned mines. Even some working mines can be very dangerous. ALL underground mines are dangerous – Pres. Long)***

**11-19-13 Suncor will pay \$1.9 Million to Settle Spill Suit:** The Suncor Oil Refinery responsible for the toxic spill that contaminated Sand Creek and the South Platte River in Commerce City has agreed to pay \$1.9 million to settle a lawsuit by local and federal authorities. The spill that occurred in February 2011 killed at least 48 migratory birds and harmed riparian habitat along Sand Creek and damaged wetlands on Suncor property. After 2 years of cleanup, cancer causing benzene has diminished in the creek and river. A fisherman is credited with the discovery of the spill when he noticed an oily sheen on the surface of the river.

**11-27-13 Uranium Mines, Mill to Shut Down:** The only two operating uranium mines in Arizona and an associated Mill in Southern Utah are set to cease operation as prices for the rare earth metal decline. Energy Fuels Resources, Inc. said that ore in its northern Arizona One Mine will be depleted in early 2014 and the nearby Pinenut Mine and the White Mesa Mill in Blanding, Utah, will be placed on standby next year. The move comes as per-pound prices for uranium on the Spot Market have dropped to a 5 year low.

**12-1-13 Gold in Decline:** The price of gold is heading for its first annual decline in 13 years. Gold was at \$1237.50 per ounce at the end of November, down 26% since the end of 2012, and some market forecasters say the rough streak for gold could continue. Many investors talk about buying gold as a hedge against inflation, but the Fed is now talking about slowing its stimulus, and inflation remains tame. Barclays Research says that gold could drop back to 1100 an ounce by 2015.



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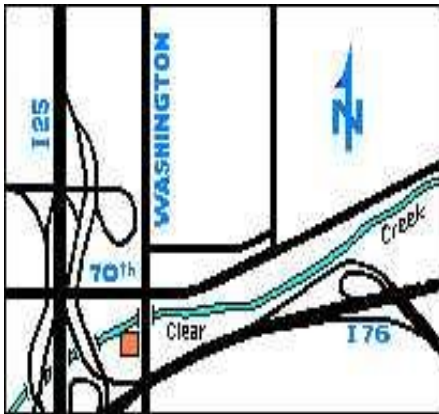
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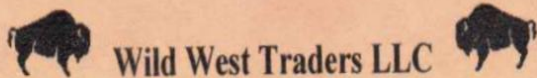
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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Jan 2014**

(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 New Year's Day	2	3 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 WMMI Family Exploration Day! GEOLOGY!
12	13	14	15 GPR Club Meeting	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	