

THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2014

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



We have a new year before us. We were able to provide a very busy and entertaining 2013 for all of our Club members and it is our intent to do as well as we can to repeat it for 2014. It often is not necessarily very easy to plan some of these events and especially when you are trying to offer a little something for everyone's unique interests.

We could, in fact, just plan out a few prospecting outings and say, well; we are a prospecting club so that ought to pretty well do it. We could go play in the dirt and water for a couple of warm months during the summer and call it all good. And I would bet that we would probably get a decent turn out at a few of

them, especially if we did a b-b-q and such. But I think there is a lot more to it than that. In order to be a decent prospector, you need to learn a little about geology and understand how the formation of gold deposits occur and where they most commonly can be found and what they are most commonly associated with. And in that search, you are most likely to come across a number of other fine and lustrous gemstones as well.

And while you are learning about gold and the rocks and other minerals that are associated with it, you would do well to study the history of the area you want to prospect in. You will generally still find gold in the same places the old timers found it. And when you look at the methods of how the old timers did it and compare them to the methods we use today, you can learn a lot there as well. That is why we quite often plan a few tours each year. It gives us an opportunity to see the old historic places, the ways and the equipment that those hardy souls utilized to extract that wonderful yellow material. We try to ensure that our speakers and programs are varied enough to spark interest at many different levels within the Club. There is more to mining than just digging. Knowledge is power and the more you learn, the more you know, and I don't think you can ever know enough about prospecting/mining.

The soul essence of our Club is dedicated to the amateur prospector and to the education of all as to the cultural and historical value of mining to the State of Colorado. That is why we do the few panning demos and the several beginners' classes in panning and sluicing. Our web site now features a number of 'How To' videos to help folks to learn a little more and develop the skills that it takes to be even just a weekend small scale miner. That is why we have worked so hard with the Jefferson County Open Spaces folks in Clear Creek Canyon Park, and with Wheatridge to protect the old Arapahoe Bar stretch of Clear Creek below Golden. That is why we never turn down the opportunity to do television spots or to speak to anybody that wants to know who we are and what it is that we do. Education is important and it is very important that we enhance the image of small scale miners whenever that opportunity arises.

There is a fast growing movement out there that sees mining, no matter what form it comes in, as an evil scourge that they want to stamp out and ban. It is up to all of us to do whatever we can, whenever we can, to step up and put our best foot and best face forward to show that we can work together and that mining is not a bad thing. It is up to us to pick up our trash, fill our holes, lower the carbon imprint that we leave behind us, practice the 'leave no trace' philosophy wherever possible. We never get loud, boisterous, angry or confrontational with the antis or greenies. We win our battles with calm, meaningful and fact filled discussions and by becoming partners and stakeholders with those groups who have power and authority to make the rules and regulations. By doing so, we have the best opportunity to protect and preserve our cultural and historical heritage of mining for future generations to come. There is nothing that says we can't also protect and preserve the environment and the watersheds we work in either. And it is not because we are being forced to do any of that stuff; on the contrary, most of us do it because 'it is the right thing to do'!!

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 at jnslong945@msn.com

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

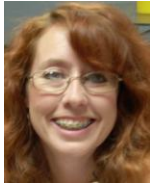
The V.P. Corner by "Klondike" Mike



VP 'Klondike' Mike' Hurtado is recovering from a Christmas Day heart attack and triple by-pass surgery and hopes to be up and about and return possible to the meetings in February. Until then, the Club extends our heartfelt well wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery.



From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Linda Luchtenburg



The January meeting will feature 7.7 grams of gold for the give away with the largest nugget being 2.9 grams. We continue to sell raffle tickets for the ‘Special Nugget Drawing’ and members are encouraged to purchase plenty of tickets as your chances of winning this beautiful 13.0 gram nugget are far better than winning the Lotto.

Membership Committee

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

This Month GPR Meeting Program:

It is that time of year again when we all have a little bit of extra gear that we no longer use or want and we are looking for that good deal. Therefore, **for the January Meeting, we will have the opportunity for members to bring in the stuff they want to sell, trade or swap for something else.** So bring whatever you have and set it up for free in the back and see if it sells. You may find something there that you can’t live without and buy it so bring a little extra cash just in case. The break will be a little longer than usual to accommodate this event and it will also provide a little extra time for a little socializing as well. If the Clements Center sound system has been repaired, Pres. Long will show a short program on ‘America’s Gold, working for you’.

KEN BARKER AWARD WINNER FOR 2013

By Joe Shubert

The winner of the Ken Barker Award for 2013 was Brandon Luchtenburg. Brandon is always ready to help with the club needs.

Brandon has been a member of the Club since 2007. During Club meetings, he quickly distinguished himself by demonstrating his computer skills and helping to assist Club Speakers with operating the video equipment and screens to ensure that their programs were completed successfully. He frequently would be available to assist with helping to set up the Refreshment Table, carry boxes of supplies into the meeting hall for the Club Library Manager, the Membership Table, or anyone else who needed assistance. For a number of years, he has been known as the Club ‘gopher’. He was always willing to help pass out brochures, tickets, or whatever was needed to be done at the time. His assistance has been quite valuable. During this time, he also completed his Eagle Scout rank with the Boy Scouts. During 2010, 2011, and 2012, Brandon attended nearly every single Club outing, function or event that was held. And in 2013, he was elected to fill a vacancy on the Club Board of Directors. While attending Front Range Community College, he continually talks about the Club and promotes gold prospecting where ever he happens to be and to whomever he happens to meet. He has been attending College 5 days a week and works at the Mile High Flea Market on the weekends. Brandon has distinguished himself among Club members.





Board Meeting Minutes from Dec 2013

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

Quorum present? There was no Official Board of Directors Meeting for the Month of December, 2013. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be January 15, 2014 and will convene at 6pm.

Call to Order:

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence:

Webmaster:

Committee Reports:

Unfinished business:

New Business:

Planned Outings for 2013:

From the Board:

Announcements:

Tonight's general meeting program:

Adjournment:

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the only naturally occurring isotope of gold?

- 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 Dec 2013

There was no Regular Meeting for the Month of December. Instead of a meeting, the Club members enjoyed a pot luck Christmas Dinner followed by a short yearly Awards Program. Secretary/Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg entertained all the members present by playing the piano with a selection of Christmas music before and shortly after the Dinner. Her music was very enjoyable.

President Long gave the membership a brief synopsis of the year's activities.

- In 2013, the Club had 165 paid memberships representing more than 330 members, showing a sustained two year growth that now makes us the largest active small scale prospecting Club in the Denver area.
- A recap of the year's activities showed a total of 23 scheduled outings and events.
- They included 4 tours of which 2 were actually cancelled due to a heavy snow storm and a major forest fire.
- The Club conducted 6 panning demonstrations and conducted 1 metal detecting hunt.
- There were 3 trash cleanups combined with prospecting outings and we also conducted a total of 6 prospecting outings including a 3 day event in the Leadville area.
- We conducted 2 beginners' classes for the newer members on panning and sluicing.
- We hosted a member's picnic and an annual Christmas pot luck dinner.
- We were able to offer a number of entertaining speakers and other programs for nearly every single meeting during the year.
- President Long informed the membership that there were already some 20 events on the planning table for upcoming 2014.
- In addition to all these activities, the Club managed to secure 3 educational television spots on prospecting for gold in Colorado. One was with the Fox 31 Ch. 2 TV station in Denver, a second one was with the Local Dish Current Ch. 205 in Denver, and the third was with the national syndicated CBS Good Morning America Show.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

- We were also invited to the table with the City of Wheatridge as a partner and stakeholder in developing the rules and regulations for the stretch of Clear Creek known as the 'Youngfield Section' portion of the old Arapahoe Bar. That was truly a kudo for the Club.

President Long then introduced the 2013 Board of Directors and issued each of them a Certificate of Appreciation for all of their efforts and support in getting things done for 2013. The 2014 Board of Directors was also introduced. President Long then handed out Certificates of Appreciation for members Pam and George Schmidt, Kris and Joe Kafka, John Johnson II and John Johnson III, and Chuck Cown for their efforts in running the Membership Table, the Refreshment Table, the Club Store, and assisting in ticket sales and drawings, respectively. These folks are instrumental in the Club being able to run efficiently each month and we greatly appreciate all that they do for all of us.

Santa made a visit and his elves handed out gifts and everyone who participated in the Gold Elephant Gift Exchange swapped their gifts as well. There were 12 special gifts given away by random drawings to the members.

President Long then presented the Ken Barker Award to Brandon Luchtenburg who was voted the 2013 recipient by the membership. Brandon received a nice Certificate suitable for framing as well as a \$100.00 bill, in appreciation for all that he does for the Club.

Vice President Mike Hurtado then took the microphone and with the assistance of the 2013 Board of Directors, he surprised President Long with an engraved plaque thanking him for his service and leadership for 2013. This drew a standing ovation and President Long was humbled by this show of appreciation.

The dinner table center pieces were designed and created by Lind Luchtenburg and were then given away to a lady in attendance at each dinner table. That concluded the evening's festivities and the Banquet was adjourned.



Coors Tour was Brrrrr...!!

On Dec. 6, a group of hardy Club members all met at the Coors Brewery in Golden for a guided tour of the facility. The outside temperature was a nippy 7* for a high. We enjoyed a very informative power point presentation by the Coors Staff before embarking on a tour that included a number of outdoor sites. Coors gets their water from Clear Creek. Interestingly, they literally divert the Creek through the plant and then replace the water back into the creek as if nothing happened. There is no water loss at all. Coors sits on a number of old Springs as well and they have bought up water rights sufficiently to run the Plant without taking any of the water from the multitude of downstream users. It was a fairly fascinating tour and showed what a good neighbor Coors has been to the community and its neighbors. And no, we were not able to secure any mining rights or permissions to the property. I know that will be a huge disappointment to many. In the 1970's, there were a lot of prospectors who managed to get onto the Coors property and when all the fighting was over, the property installed security fencing and personnel to prevent and control what had become a dangerous situation. The end result being that prospecting ended on the property. JJ and Andy Doll managed to get a few photos and the Staff gave us all a beer at the end of the tour which made a good end to a great tour.



Tour Guide 'Neil'



Ahhhh....that beer tastes good..!



Schedule of 2014 Planned Outings:

We are starting a new year and are in process of scheduling speakers and programs, outings, tours and other events for the year. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact a Board Member with your ideas and information. We want to try to provide the things you are interested in. We tentatively have 20 events planned for 2014.

- Jan Planning a Tour, sign ups at the meeting.
- Feb Planning a Tour, sign ups at the meeting.
- Mar Planning a Tour, sign ups at the meeting.
- 3-29 Sat Beginners Panning/sluicing Class at 6811 N Washington, 9am-12noon, bring pan, boots
- 4-26 Sat Prospecting Outing, Clear Creek, 6811 N. Washington St., Adams County, 9am, bbq at noon.
- 5-15 Thur Panning Demo, Aurora Water Festival, 9a-3p.
- 5- 24 Sat Prospecting Outing, Nederland, Glass Cleanup Contest, 9am, in City Limits.
- 6- 7 Sat Prospecting Outing, Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9am (Clay County Mine).
- 7- 25, 26, 27 Prospecting Outing on Lake Creek, Leadville, 5.00 @ day @ person, bbq sat.
- 8- 2 Sat Panning Demo for Japanese Exch Students, Idaho Spgs, 1p-4p.
- 8- 3 Sun Beginners Panning/sluicing Class at 6811 N Washington, 9am-12noon, will be a signup sheet.
- 8- 23 Sat Prospecting Outing Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9a. (Clay County Mine).
- 8- 30 Sat Club Picnic at new location to be announced.
- 9- 4,5,6 T,F,S Panning Demo, Highlands Ranch Festival, 9a-2p each day, there will be a sign up sheet.
- 9- 20 Sat Panning Demo, Idaho Springs Festival, 10a-3pm, there will be a sign up sheet.
- 9- 27 Sat Prospecting Outing, Lower Clear Creek, 9a until dark at 6811 N. Washington. Bbq at noon.
- 10-15 Wed Pumpkin Carving Contest, regular meeting night, compete for prizes.
- 10-18 Sat Panning Demo for Arapahoe County Fall Festival, 8181 S. Parker Rd, 10a-3p.
- 11-9 Sat Metal Detecting Outing, Majestic View Park, Arvada, 10a-1p.
- 12-18 Wed Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, members only, no regular meeting, arrive at 6pm, eat at 6:30

Findings of the Month

The 'Finds of the Month' program will starting again in January. So be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. Winners each month will have a photo of their find and their name published each month in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering;

Best Artifact: Best Jewelry: Best Coin; Best Bottle: Largest Raw Gold: Most Raw Gold:

Monthly winners will need to save your find and present it next November for the Find of the Year competition and for the chance to be recognized as Best Find of the Year.

Birthstone The World of Birthstones

In the ancient world, precious gems were prized just as highly as they are today. Gemstones continue to shatter record prices at auction houses around the world. For 2014, rather than just the monthly birthstones, we will offer a little more of the ageless secrets of birthstones by tying them to the lunar calendar. We will give you a little extra courtesy of the National Jewelers Society. This means that the birthstones you would normally associate with your birth month are actually tied a little closer to your Zodiac Calendar. So, let's check it out a little bit.

There are a total of 12 Lunar Months in all. This period of time right now runs from December 21 to January 19. There are also 12 Zodiac Signs in all. The Zodiac sign now is Capricorn and your planet would be Saturn. Since there are not 12 planets but actually only 9 and the Earth is not considered as one, the Sun and the Moon as well as Pluto are listed. Each Zodiac Sign is associated with a specific House. This time period for now occurs in the 10th House of the Zodiac. Birthstones were established centuries before a lunar calendar and now we relate those stones to the star signs they truly occupy by using the lunar houses that the ancient cultures used that astrologers use, that still half of the modern population of today's world uses. Keeping that in mind, let us take a look at the lunar calendar and the gemstones that



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

relate to each of us in a whole new way. A chart established by the National Jewelers Association list, the Modern Alchemist, The Old Testament of the Bible (Torah), and the New Testament of the Bible, will give you a little latitude in picking your own personal birthstones. These stones represent the 12 months, the 12 tribes, the 12 hours, the 12 apostles of Jesus and the 12 astrological signs. This is based on historical fact and is not meant to proselytize any religious belief.

Lunar Month: December 21 to January 19 Planet: Saturn

Zodiac Sign: Capricorn House: 10th

Birthstones:

NJA1911

Garnet



Affinitus

Zircon



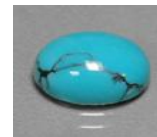
Exodus

Topaz



Revelation 21

Turquoise



(Taken from the National Jewelers Association and the AmericanGemSociety.Org web site)

A Miner's Laugh

Two miners were slightly (ok, a little more than slightly) inebriated and decided to race their burros down the street. Unfortunately, they were arrested by the local Marshall for speeding and told they would have to wait until a Miner's Court could be held which would take a very long time. So, they worked a deal with the Marshal, each agreeing to hear the other's case and ruling fairly.

The first miner took the bench while the second stood before him and promptly admitted his guilt. The presiding miner immediately suspended both the fine and the costs. They then switched places. The second miner admitted that he had been speeding as well. Thereupon, the presiding miner immediately fined him 250.00 and ordered him to pay court costs.

The second miner was furious. "I suspended your fine and costs, but you threw the book at me!" he fumed. The first miner looked at him and calmly replied, "This is the second such case we have had in this court today. Someone has to get tough on all this speeding!"

(Taken from the internet and revised just for us 'miners.') 01/14



Prospecting/Mining Notes

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

12-3-13 Elk Creek Mine will be Idled, 115 layoffs: Oxbow Mining said it will idle its Elk Creek Mine in Somerset, Colo., and lay off 115 workers, retaining only 20 to look after what was once one of the country's most productive underground coal mine. This reduction followed 124 layoffs last October at the Paonia area mine which has struggled since a fire that started a year ago crippled production. *(I graduated high school from Paonia and many of my high school friends worked at this mine – JJ)*

12-6-13 Newmont selling Mine to Klondex: Greenwood Village based Newmont Mining announced that it selling its Midas underground operation and mill in Nevada for more than 83 million dollars. The Nevada complex is being sold to Vancouver, B.C. based Klondex Mines in a stock purchase agreement.

12-13-13 Kinross Gold Opens Office in Denver: Kinross Gold USA Inc. announced the opening of a new regional office in Denver. The office will open with a staff of about 45 that will come from other offices. The Denver Office of Economic Development has pledged an estimated \$104,000 in incentives to support the new office. Kinross has operations in North and South America as well as West Africa and Russia.

12-19-13 Nearly 100 Citations issued against Ouray Mine: Star Mine operations has received nearly 100 citations and written corrective orders since the death of 2 miners by carbon monoxide poisoning last month. The Mine Health and Safety Administration issued the citations for everything from housekeeping issues to ventilation and escape issues and routes. Star Mine authorities failed to respond to requests for comment when asked about this.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

12-27-13 Colorado Capitol Dome Nearing Completion: The recovering of the Denver Capitol building's gold dome is nearing completion. The project is expected to be completed within the next 6 weeks or so. The Ashanti Cresson Mine of Cripple Creek/Victor donated 65 ounces of gold to the State of Colorado to recover the dome. The gold was then shipped to Italy where it was converted to extremely thin sheets of gold foil which were then reshipped back to Colorado and workmen have been busily recovering the dome ever since. The dome has been regilded 3 times previously, in 1949, 1980, and in 1991. The dome was originally completed in 1898 and for the first ten years was actually covered in copper. The Ashanti Cresson Mine was the mine that donated the very first covering of gold for the Capitol Dome.

01-01-14 Gold Investors Increase Mint Buys: Gold coin buyers stepped up their purchases from the US Mint in 2013, even as investors in other forms of the precious metal were selling off their holdings. Silver coin sales have set a new record. The Mint sold 42.675 million ounces of silver American Eagle coins, up 26% over 2012 and 856,500 troy ounces of American Eagle gold coins, up 14% over 2012.

WWMI Upcoming Event: *January 11, 2014* Family Exploration Day – Join WWMI for a day of fossils, minerals, rocks and more. Family Day will focus on geology. Interactive and hands on demonstrations will be offered by representatives from Florissant Fossil Beds, Gold Prospectors of Colorado and the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society.

The Grand Lake Treasure

A silver handled hunting knife in an ancient towering spruce on the eastern shore of Grand Lake points to a hiding place of an old iron Dutch oven. In the oven is a fortune in gold dust.

It was hidden there in the 1850's by a group of men who had struck it rich in California in the gold rush of 1849. Returning east to enjoy and share their wealth with their families, they were attacked by Ute Indians near the present town of Steamboat Springs. Only four of the group managed to elude the hostile redskins. They made their way to Grand Lake where they camped for several days, resting from their ordeal, hunting and fishing.

The Indian attack made them realize what a dangerous trip lay ahead, not only Indian enemies but also blizzards, floods, and outlaws. Their precious gold dust had become a burden. After serious consultation, they decided to hide most of their wealth near a huge gray boulder shaped like a giant tombstone on the east shore of the lake. A rock such as this one was too big to be broken by ice packs tossed against it in the bitter winters near the Continental Divide. It would be an indestructible marker for the owners when they returned in the spring for their treasure.

But one of the men was doubtful. He pointed to the many vast boulders tossed about in prehistoric times that lined the lake on all sides. Supposing, through the winter, their image of this particular rock was dulled by distance. Suppose they came back several months hence, only to see rock after rock – this one it was, no that one is, no, that one, no, this one. More than just a stone marker would be needed.

"I'll take my knife," he said, drawing it from his belt, "and drive it to the hilt in this tree. See, its shadow by the morning sun falls on our rock." The bright mountain sun sparkled on the silver handle for a moment before the speaker thrust his knife into the trunk of a spruce tree, where thick branches hid it from the casual observer.

The four men set out across the range, and made it safely to the plains. There, they were once again attacked by Indians, and this time, three of them were killed. The lone survivor eventually reached home. But weakened by the strenuous journey, he knew that death was near and he told his family of the silver knife in the spruce tree beside the mountain lake.

In the spring, searchers organized by his family, were unable to find the tree with the knife nor any trace of a large rock resembling a grave marker nor a grave containing an old Dutch oven full of gold. Finally, they gave up. Others, on through the years have taken up the search with no greater success. The trail to Adams Falls passes right by where the treasure ought to be. One party, returning after several years of searching, returned for one last attempt at finding the treasure, but were appalled to find heavy machinery and equipment for the Colorado Big Thompson reclamation project uprooting part of the forest on the east shore to level the ground. Had the tree with the knife in it been uprooted by a bulldozer? Or did the tree with the knife simply grow huge with its bark eventually encompassing the knife from view forever?

There are those who say that on a moonlit night, something deep in a mighty old spruce, towering above its brother trees on the shore of a high mountain lake, gleams and glitters, almost like a luminescent hand beckoning from the dark and stiff branches. Or is it the old silver handled hunting knife merely pointing to an old iron oven buried at its feet?



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

So far, the ghostly gleam has been only that, unreal, a phantom star. But it could happen, when the sun's glittering rays are just right, or the moon's glow pierces the branches to the trunk in the right spot, that someone may see the old hunting knife and know that he is close at hand to a buried treasure!!

(Taken from 'Colorado's Lost Gold Mines and Buried Treasure' by Caroline Bancroft, 1961 – also told by Mary L. Cairns in the 'Olden Days', 1954)

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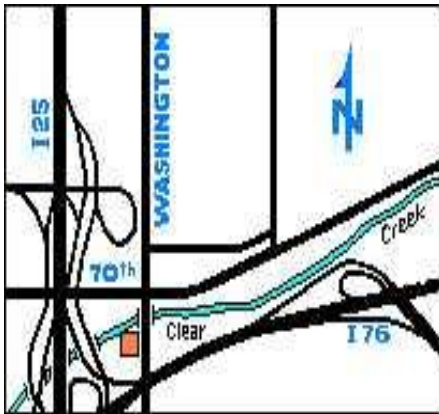
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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



**WMMI Family
Exploration Day!
GEOLOGY!**

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Feb 2014

(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 National Freedom Day
2 Ground Hog Day	3	4	5	6	7 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	8
9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Sinking of the USS Maine
16	17 President's Day	18	19 GPR Club Meeting	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday
23 Flag Raised Over Iwo Jima	24	25	26	27 Battle of Java Sea	28	