

THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2016

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



I hope that each of you had a wonderful 2015 and am looking forward to the New Year. I am always kinda grumbly as I wait for winter to pass so we can get outside again without fear of catching pneumonia or something. Used to do a lot of ice fishing and such but as I get older, the cold gets colder, and these old bones just balk at the idea.

I talked a while back about the differences in the riffles in a sluice box versus a high banker versus a dredge. So perhaps it is time to spend a little time on that subject for a little more clarification. To maximize your gold recovery, you need to understand the equipment that you are using and to be more precise, understand exactly how it works and why. Here in Colorado, most of the gold we find is going to be small stuff, what we refer to as flour gold or fine gold. That means that it will be nearly impossible for you to get 100% recovery no matter what type of equipment you use or how efficient it is. However, it is possible for you to maximize your recovery and minimize your losses. A sluice box is designed to operate with a little drop and a decent water flow. I have spoken many times before about how much drop and how fast to maximize the box efficiency so I won't belabor the points here other than to say one inch per foot drop, ball-park, and the proper flow of water will create a visible vortex in the front. Adjust wherever and whenever necessary until it works. Actually, pretty simple like it sounds, but much harder when you actually have to do but practice will make perfect.

The riffles in a sluice box are smaller than a high banker or a dredge because the water flow is slower than either of the other two. The riffles in a high banker are higher than a sluice box and are designed for a faster water flow and even a somewhat steeper drop, especially in the first, or upper, stage. Because the design of all this equipment is such as to capture the larger gold closer to the front and the smaller gold to the back or bottom, the build-up, or load, behind the riffles will start at the top and work its way down, providing of course, that your set is pretty well correct. When the unit is loaded up, you must do a clean-up. The Rule of Thumb is one five gallon bucket for every foot in length, and then you do a cleanup. Failure to clean-up at the right time can and will result in loss of gold, usually a lot of gold. A dredge is designed to run very fast with no more drop than the average sluice box, but the riffles are much higher. This means that you will undoubtedly lose a lot of finer gold because the water speed just blows it out. Dredgers will often run longer between cleanups because they are after the larger gold and it takes longer for the box to 'load-up' than high bankers. A combination high banker/dredge is different yet because the box is usually a high banker design and therefore will require more frequent cleanups due to quicker build-up. The high banker combination will recover more small gold than a straight dredge.

Now having said all that, you are probably saying to yourself, "What the huh?". Don't panic, just go back and read what I said very slowly, a sentence at a time, and it should click for you. Save these articles and when it comes time to get out in the creek, re-read them, then take your stuff out there and set it up and run some material slowly and watch what it does and how it interacts and moves through your equipment as it relates to the riffles and the speed of the water flow. This is an example of the HE, or hydraulic equivalent, that I explained last month. Even better yet, if you get the chance, go with someone who is using equipment that you have or don't have and watch them use it. Ask them to let you help in its operation. This is the best way to learn, by watching and then hands on helping/using. If you tell the operator/owner that you only want the experience and not necessarily a share of the gold, you will make a few new friends and probably get plenty of takers willing to take you along show you how it is done. If they are experienced prospectors, they are also apt to answer your questions as they demonstrate these principles to you. It really can make a huge difference in how you learn.

I mentioned earlier that you are not going to get 100% gold recovery. Please, believe it. Everybody thinks that you should be able to but the laws of physics in relation to the specific gravities of various minerals and rocks and how they move with regard to immersion in moving water coupled with the force of gravity dictates that it just isn't meant to be. Yet, I know people who refuse to accept the laws of physics and struggle with it anyway. But any old true blue real prospector will tell you that you won't get 100%. But if you can get your equipment to the point of being 97 or 98% efficient, you have done very well and very few of the best will ever be able to beat that. That is why we have access to the equipment that we have today. It is vastly improved over what the old timers had and used. As technology improves, so have our equipment and the desire to get as close to that 100% as is possible, without the use of deadly chemicals. The basic principles remain the same today though as they did back then.

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your search...!. And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured 'Yaller Gold'!



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com . Happy and safe prospecting to all....!!!

The V.P. Corner by “Joe Fortunato



I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Winter in Colorado can be a real challenge when it comes to gold prospecting and metal detecting!!! There is a positive side to this problem and it is BIG. This down time gives us the perfect opportunity to enhance our skills and to do research. The old saying, “Knowledge Is Power” certainly applies in our endeavors to find gold!!! Understanding how to use your equipment in an efficient and productive manner will increase your results at the end of the day. This goes for everything from a simple gold pan or sluice box to a dredge or metal detector. We have all read about how “Lucky” some people are or that ten percent of the prospectors out there find ninety percent of the gold. I have had the opportunity to prospect and to metal detect with some of those “Lucky” people over the last thirteen years. I have learned a lot from them. One of the most important things that I have learned from them is thisthe more skilled you are and the harder you work at prospecting, THE LUCKIER YOU GET!!!!!! May all your adventures be Golden!!! Joe F.

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker

The January Meeting will feature a nine nugget give away totaling 10.3 grams of gold with the largest nugget being a beauty of 2.8 grams. We will also be selling tickets, as always, for the ‘special nugget’. Don’t miss your opportunity to purchase tickets for this nuggets in which your chances of winning are far better than the Colorado Lottery. We sell tickets each month for the regular gold nugget drawing which features 9 spectacular gold nuggets as well. There are usually a good number of door prizes as well that could include anything under the sun but is usually mining related.

Planned GPR Meeting Programs:

Jan 20 This will feature Part 1 of a video entitled “Mystery of the Afghan Gold”, a documentary from the History Channel. This will be a pretty good one. It will chronicle the discovery and subsequent loss of one of the world’s greatest treasures.

Feb 17 This month will conclude with Part 2 of the video “Mystery of the Afghan Gold”.

Mar 16 The program for this month will be Part 1 of a History Channel video entitled “Gold - The History of Man’s Greatest Obsession”. This will look at the history of man’s obsession with gold from the days of Pizarro’s brutal conquest of the Incan empire to the days of the Forty-Niners.

Apr 20 This month will conclude with Part 2 of the video “Gold - The History of Man’s Obsession”.

May 18 This month, we will show Part 1 of a video entitled “Ghosts of the West – The end of the Bonanza Trail”. This video is about Lost Mines, Abandoned Digs and Ghost Towns, some of which was filmed in Colorado by a Colorado Company called Knight Sky Pictures. This will be an interesting look back into the old west and the search for gold.

Where is ‘Prospector Pete’, the GPR Gold Miner?

“Pete” enjoyed an evening of good food at the Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner hosted by the Club on December 16, It was really good and many thanks go to all those who came and contributed their great recipes



Board Meeting Minutes From Dec 2015

X	James Long	X	Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato		John Johnson
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston	X	Terry Weatherly	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Linda Luchtenburg	X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll		



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

There was no official Board Meeting for the month of December. will occur on January, 20, 2016.

The next official meeting

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Where in Minnesota was there a gold rush in 1865?

2016 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Wayne Schomaker

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2013)

Joe Shubert (2011)

1 Year Board Members

Chris Kafka

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

Mike Hurtado

Past President

Gary Hawley

General Meeting Minutes From Dec 2015

1. There was no official General Meeting for the month of December, 2015. The next official general meeting will occur on January 20, 2016.
2. December is the Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner for members only. This year, the Dinner was convened at 6:15pm. Linda Luchtenburg provided Christmas piano music and Pam Schmitt and Becki McConnell assisted with singing Christmas Carols for all the attendees before and during dinner.
3. The Program was opened at 7:18 pm by Pres. Long. He thanked everyone for the great contributions to the Pot Luck. He then discussed the Club membership for 2015 which was approx. 165 family memberships representing 325 total members at years end. Those needing to renew their memberships were asked to do that in January of 2016.
4. During 2015, the Club scheduled 23 events for the year. There were 3 Tours, a total of 8 Panning Demonstrations, a Club Picnic, 2 Beginners
5. Panning Classes, and the Club was a co-host of the 2015 GPAA Gold Show in Denver, as well as 4 Prospecting Outings (one of which was a 3 day event), and a Metal Detecting Hunt. The Club celebrated Halloween with a pumpkin carving contest and finally the Annual Club Christmas Pot Luck. There were 2 Prospecting Outings that had to be cancelled due to lack of access.
6. Pres. Long then presented Certificates of Appreciation to the 2015 Board of Directors which included Mike Hurtado, Linda Luchtenburg, Brandon Luchtenburg, Andy Doll, Joe Fortunato, Joe Shubert, Joe Johnston, John Johnson, Bobby Manning and Terry Weatherly for all of their dedicated service for the past year. In addition, Certificates of Appreciation were given to the volunteers who serve the Club each month to insure that everything happens smoothly. They were Chuck Cohn, Dan and Becki McConnell, Joe and Chris Kafka, and Pam and George Schmitt. Tim and Tina Fleming and Sue Clover were unable to attend the banquet but were also recognized for their contributions as well.
7. Pres. Long then recognized the 6 winners of the 2015 Finds of the Year and each received a nice Certificate of Recognition for their efforts. Those recognized were Dan Cheer in the Jewelry category, Brian Henry in the Coin category, Bobby Manning in the Bottle category, Karen Miller in the Artifact category, Kevin Single in the Most Raw Gold category and lastly, Dale Herbertson in the Largest Raw Gold category.
8. Pres. Long then conducted the Gold Elephant gift exchange and Santa's elves gave the attendees a small gift.
9. Pres. Long then announced the 2015 winner of the Ken Barker Award as Joe Fortunato. Joe received a 100.00 bill as a nice Certificate suitable for framing as well as having his photograph listed in the Ken Barker section on the Club Web.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

10. Pres. Long then introduced the incoming new Board members, Wayne Schomaker and Chris Kafka, who are replacing outgoing members Linda Luchtenburg and Terry Weatherly. Linda and Terry were thanked immensely for their contributions to the Club and their past service as well.
11. After thanking everyone for coming, The Banquet was adjourned at 8:18 pm. See you all in 2016.

2016 Schedule of GPR Outings/Events:

We will be putting together a schedule of events for the upcoming year and will probably have it ready to go by the February issue of the Newsletter, so be sure and stay tuned to see what we come up with.

Finds of the Month

This Club contest will restart in January. The categories are as follows:

Best Artifact

Best Coin

Best Bottle

Best Jewelry

Most Raw Gold

Largest Raw Gold



Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. Winners each month will have their name published each month in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Thanks to all who also submitted additional finds that were not judged to be winners.

A Miner's Laugh

An old miner, Bill, called his wife of fifty years, Dorothy, to **the supper table**. **“Sugar, why don’t you sit down here by the table and we’ll start supper”**. **“Sure thing,” said his wife**, settling herself down. “Now, my darling, would you like the soup first or the salad?” questioned Bill. “Umm, I guess I’ll take the soup.” She responded.

After a whole meal of one endearing term after another, their guest, Bob, simply couldn’t contain his curiosity any longer. Bob snuck into the kitchen and asked the old miner, “Bill, do you always talk to your wife like that?”

Bill replied, “Bob, I’ll be honest with you. It’s been ten or twelve years now, and I just can’t remember her name, and I am just too danged embarrassed to ask her!”

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us ‘old miners.’) 01/16



Prospecting/Mining Notes: (mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

12-3-15 \$21 Billion Cost to Fix Mines on Federal Lands: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that there are tens of thousands of defunct mines poisoning waterways around Colorado and the West that present, beyond environmental harm, a multibillion dollar financial burden. That burden will fall primarily to the taxpayers and the federal agencies that manage the land. Jessica Goad of the Center for Western Priorities, states that we need our elected officials to wake up and pay attention to this problem. The abandoned mines are not just an environmental time bomb but a financial time bomb as well.

12-9-15 Jewell to Testify on Mining Issues: The Obama administration is weighing in on the problem of acid drainage from inactive mines, proposing a fee on companies working on public and private lands to raise funds for long delayed cleanups. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is poised to present the plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources this week. The White House push is intended to ensure that cleanup costs are not solely borne by the taxpayers. The fees are slated to commence Jan 1, 2016, and would levy on abandoned mines for uranium, and metal mining and will be assessed on volume of minerals extracted. Of course, the environmentalists are demanding reform to the 1872 Mining Laws. No one has stated as of yet, what the fees will be.

12-12-15 MolyCorp Said to get No Bids for Whole Firm: Colorado based MolyCorp has had no luck in attracting offers for the entire company as the first round of bidding ended. Most potential buyers are interested only in MolyCorp’s overseas holdings. Most of those interested are not interested in the California idled Mountain Pass Mine. MolyCorp is



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

hoping that the second round of bidding will see interested buyers. *(MolyCorp has dominated the local mining news lately and is trying hard for restructure as opposed to a bankruptcy. But at years end, mining stocks have fallen, metal and rare earth prices have dropped and the Market has suffered, leading some companies in dire straits...jj)*

Mining Concerns from Around the Country

(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section each month and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is my opinion, and that is that, like it or not .jj)

Colorado:

1. The EPA was directly responsible for the Gold King Mine spill. While they continue to point fingers, not one single individual has yet to be charged criminally in this fiasco. Since that spill, Colorado Senator Michael Bennett, New Mexico Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich have jointly introduced legislation in a direct attempt to reform and circumvent the 1872 Mining Law. They are proposing to require mine owners and companies to pay newly established fees on property/claims and additional royalties on the minerals produced in order to create a fund for cleaning up abandoned hazardous mines. The Colorado and New Mexico governments' ae hemming and hawing and Arizona hasn't had much to say. But the Navajo Nation suffered tremendous loss and is getting about the same justice and compensation that they have been getting for the last 150 years, pretty much nothing. *(They forget that the minerals mined are used by every single person in America today, without exception, yet want to hammer the miners alone with the entire fiscal responsibility. I continue to say, you haven't heard the last of this one....jj)*

2. The US Forest Service is beginning to close more roads in the Pike and San Isabelle Forests. Some of these closures directly affect a few miners and thousands of hunters and fishermen where lack of access will now prevent them from using and enjoying our public lands. There have been incidents of people approached by armed USFS officers/officials and challenged for even walking on roads that have been marked as closed. *(Makes you begin to wonder what/who is behind these confrontations.....jj)*

California:

1. Senator Feinstein is still at it. After two failed attempts to get her monuments bill passed, She is trying again. She wants to create three national monuments in California that constitute a million acre land grab that will ban mining interests entirely. Naturally, she is backed by several enviro groups, notably The Wildland Conservancy. The GPAA, MMAC, AMRA, and PLP have joined to decry the legislation. Feinstein has publicly stated that if she can't get her bill passed, she will try to influence President Obama to exercise his authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the three monuments by executive order before he leaves office. It would not be the first time he has done so.

2. The Rinehart case continues after three and one half years of waiting for a decision in his suction dredge case. The GPAA, AMRA, WMA and the PLP have taken up his cause and put lawyers to work. What started as a citation for suction dredging w/o a permit in Plumas County in June 2012 resulting in an \$832 fine and 3 years of probation is now before the California Supreme Court. The federal government is taking the state's side claiming State Law trumps Federal Law. This was a result of a 1987 mistake by the Supreme Court when a 5-4 vote determined that the comprehensive federal regulation of mining did not occupy the field of mining regulations and that the states could regulate as well. So now California thinks that they can regulate mining completely and do away with it in all its forms. Again, backed by the support and money of greenies and enviro extremists, we are where we are today, in Court, fighting for our rights.

Oregon:

1. In 2013, Oregon passed a bill that was based on lies and scare tactics of the environmental community, a secret 'settlement agreement', having to do with a perceived problem with miners dredging the Rogue River in sight of rich people's homes. The bill, tailored after the California regulations, put heavy restrictions on suction dredging and steep permit fees with surcharges as well as cumbersome application processes which made it extremely difficult to even get a permit approved. The permit process expires in January 2016 and then goes into a 5 year moratorium against all forms of mining with motorized equipment, including battery operated, and covers 90% of Oregon's gold bearing streams. Oregon's legislature, much like California, is predominately democratic. Both states do not recognize science and seem to think that they can just do whatever they want. Mining interests supported by the GPAA, AMRA, WMA and the PLP



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

have initiated litigation by means of a Complaint seeking a restraining order against the state, declaring that the State of Oregon cannot pre-empt the Federal Mining Laws of 1872.

Wyoming:

1. In 2015, the director of the Office of the BLM declared a fifteen year moratorium banning all mining on nearly one million acres of public lands, thereby blocking access of miners to gold bearing areas and in some cases, barring access of some miners to their claims, both patented and unpatented. This was done after word leaked out that the Secretary of the Interior, a strong supporter of President Obama, had been overheard to make remarks that the miners did nothing but destroy the land and all mining should be banned. It is suspected that this will be the first step of the BLM in Wyoming to put that philosophy into practice.

2. Coal mining in Wyoming and Colorado has been big business and strengthens the economies of both states. Recent attacks and legislative pressure from various enviro groups have resulted in regulations making it so tough that many coal mines have had to shut down. This is all tied into the current Administration's stand having to do with Climate Change and the right wing enviro folks jumping on it to further their own goals and aims. The closures of the coal mines in and around Paonia are an example. Craig is scrambling to comply with recently imposed regulations and even the huge Wyoming mines are facing falling prices and rising costs and impossible over regulation. These wacko morons don't seem to understand that mining is directly responsible for everything they use today, to include their fancy cell phones, lap tops, hybrid cars, every single comfort appliance in their fancy little suburban homes, and on and on and on. But you can't really fix stupid. Lord knows we have been trying ever since the Garden of Eden.

MMAC and PLP Update:

The draft bill that is being worked on by both organizations of miners has been completed. It is being called "The Minerals and Mining Regulatory Reform Act – A Clear Path Respecting Mining Rights". It is being supported by practically all mining organizations across the country. This bill can put an end to the endless, unjustified regulations that both small and large scale miners have been dealing with and funding efforts are officially underway to get it through Congress. There are now more than twenty (20) MMAC administrators now in place following their elections by fellow miners and they are there to help us. Keep on mind, there are specific steps that have to be taken to get your traditional mining district organized if it has fallen into disarray. Anyone wanting to get their mining district reborn and reorganized should contact MMAC in order to get things going and they will help you every step of the way. This needs to be done in several districts here in Colorado but you have to be a Claim Owner in order to be involved. The rest of us should be very interested in supporting these efforts. The bill can be reviewed and read at www.mmacusa.org.

The EPA:

Phil North, an EPA ecologist, is the one who devised the plan to utilize the Clean Water Act to preemptively block the Pebble Mine from being built in Alaska. When addressing the House Science Committee in Washington, he deliberately evaded the Committee's request for documents by using his personal email address (*hummm, does that sound familiar..?*) to conduct official agency business in direct violation of the Federal Records Act. He deliberately ignored subpoena requests as did his attorney. What was originally billed as a 'grassroots' effort by Indian tribes in Alaska to block the mine, turned out to actually be a deliberate plan concocted by the EPA and their environmental allies. North wrote the letters to the EPA outlining his plan and helped them in editing it to appear as if the Indian tribes had written it. North has currently fled the country to avoid potential arrest and was last seen in Australia. (*I have long said that the EPA has a hidden agenda which includes the eradication of as much mining as they can...jj*)

2015 Ken Barker Award Recipient

The 2015 Ken Barker Award Recipient was determined by a vote of the membership and was awarded to long time member Joe Fortunato. He has been involved in a great deal of the things that have made the Club the success it is today. Joe received a Certificate suitable for framing as well as 100.00 cash and will have his photo placed in the Recipient Gallery on the web site. The announcement read as follows:

It is with distinct pleasure that the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies announce the recipient of the 2015 Ken Barker Award as Joe Fortunato. Joe has been a member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies for nearly 15



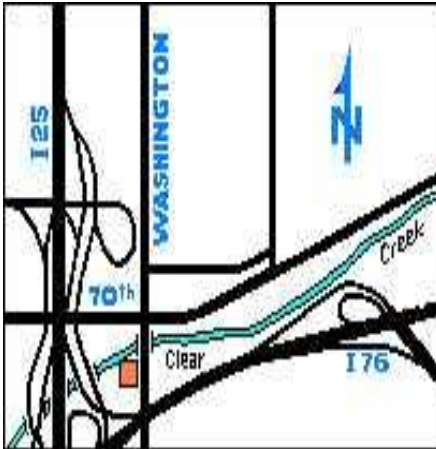


Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

years and has served on the Board of Directors for some 12 years. Joe is an avid metal detectorist and a skilled and experienced prospector. He has assisted whenever possible for anything that he has been asked to do. Joe was invaluable in doing many of the 'How to...' videos that the Club completed and made available on the Web Site to new members and visiting non-members alike. Joe has been a strong supporter of the Club for many years and his wisdom and advice is often sought by other Board Members and general members alike. He has presented programs on several occasions and has always been willing to show new members how to do things or share some of his vast knowledge with them. Joe has detected and prospected in Alaska, California, Nevada and Arizona and has found gold in each state. He has the reputation of being considered an 'old timer' even though he admits that he has been very fortunate as well as lucky and is still learning himself all the time. Joe is a humble man but sure of himself. He has been deemed to have the qualities that qualify him to receive the esteemed Ken Barker Award for 2015.

Well done Joe!!

TYMKOVICH MEATS



Established 1952
6911 N.
Washington St,
Denver, CO 80229
(303) 288-8655
Open Wed-Sat
9:30 to 5:30
(Closed Sun-Tue)

GOLD - N - DETECTORS

A METAL DETECTING &
PROSPECTING
CENTER



(303) 278-6622

802 Washington Ave.
Golden, CO 80401

"Denver area's award winning hobby store, where we do what we sell."

- Metal Detectors
- High Bankers
- Rock Tumblers
- Books
- Goldpans
- Dredges
- Rock Picks
- Accessories

Open 9-6 Monday through Saturday

VISA, MasterCard, Discover

Wild West Traders LLC

COINS GOLD SILVER

Buy - Sell Collections - Scrap
Historic, Rare, and Unusual Coins

Downtown Golden by the Welcome Arch
1111 Washington Ave Ste #105 303-279-1844

PLACE YOUR AD HERE



Selling the **Bazooka Gold Trap Sluice**

Greg Doyle, President

P.O. Box 461231

Centennial, CO 80046-1231

Phone: 720-351-3345

grizzly.bear.gold@gmail.com

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Gold Nugget

Gold Prospectors of the Rockies
PO Box 150096
Lakewood, Co 80215-0096

ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET

Commercial Ads

- 3.6" x 2.0" Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)..... \$6
- 3.6" x 4.3" Four Column Inches..... \$12
- 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24
- 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
- 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

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 2016

(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	2 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 WMMI- Heritage Lecture & Exhibit Opening - NORAD	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16	17 GPR Club Meeting	18	19	20
28	29					