

THE GOLD NUGGET

February 2016

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



Brrrrr.....!!! It has been pretty dog gone cold here lately and that really makes it a lot tougher to want to try to get out into the creek and dig for a little gold. I heard from a few of the guys who have been down in Arizona trying their luck. They had recently been ducking a little rain and had been tarping their dig site trying to keep it dry but they were also fighting some wind which just makes it tougher when you are trying to dry wash. They weren't having too much luck with their metal detectors either, for the most part, but they did say that they were finding some gold so that kinda makes all the aggravation worth it.

The other day I was doing a little thinking about a man who had asked me about how best to approach mining on his small lode claim. He didn't have a lot of experience with hard rock mining. We had talked about it a little while and both realized that lode mining today isn't what it used to be. We have lots more equipment available today than the old timers had. But it can be difficult for someone on a limited income and limited resources. As you all should know, lode mining involves digging a hole, turning the hole into a shaft, or tunnel, following a vein and extricating ore containing the mineral you are seeking, hopefully that is gold. So I thought this would be a good time for such a short discussion.

Finding a vein is not all that difficult. Finding one that has a profitable pay return is a lot harder. You have to determine what you feel is a profitable return. That is going to depend on what you have to put into the situation beyond just your personal labor. You will need to have your ore assayed to determine how much gold (or silver and other trace minerals) there is to the ton. That could cost you quite a little to determine and you will probably have to have the assays run a number of times, especially as you follow the vein.

It is hard work to develop a vein. Following it can take you into the bowels of the earth, literally. And you have to shore up the adit and the shaft and/or tunnel as you go. Timber for shoring is expensive as well and you don't want to do it haphazardly, after all, your life could depend on it. Along with the multitude of dangers that are involved such as tunnel collapse, falling rocks, water, bad air; you are going to have to have a way to extract your gold once you have recovered good ore. Now is when you are going to potentially need some serious money.

You need to probably get yourself a good rock crusher that can take care of your material. There are a ton of them on the market so choose carefully. If it is just you and maybe a partner or two, you might want to consider getting a portable generator sufficient to operate a small one man jack hammer to break up the rocks. If you lean towards using explosives to open things up, everything gets even more dangerous and requires even more permits and paperwork. Then you can get a 6 or 8 inch rock crusher along with a small impact mill to smash and pulverize your material. And I do mean pulverize it. Then you may wish to invest in a small shaker table to separate your gold. There are some really good ones out there now. This last summer, a friend in Kenai, Alaska, showed us a small 18-20 inch by 24-30 inch shaker table that did a tremendous job of separating the gold. It was really cool to watch it work. They were available for around \$1200.00. Depending on the pay grade of your material, this could be a very wise investment. Altogether, you would probably need some \$20,000.00 or a little less to get everything you need to do some basic lode work fairly successfully. If your ore has sufficient values to return considerable gold, you would only need 20 ounces to pay off your basic equipment costs. The rest is in the pocket spending/saving money profit...! Of course, costs go up if you wind up doing some serious tunneling and shoring. Again, determining what kind of pay grade you are dealing with, you may eventually wind up just selling the claim for more than you spent on it to someone who does have the big money to develop it.



That is what a lot of the 'old timers' actually did. They found the vein, extracted enough high grade to get a good assay, and then sold the claim to the highest bidder and left to find another. For many of those old guys, it wasn't so much about the 'having' as it was in just the 'finding' of the gold.

Pursuing a hard rock lode requires a lot of consideration. Your age, your resources, the values of the ore, the associated costs of development and extraction, being just a few of the more important ones to consider. But it can be done and is being done today by small scale miners willing to get after it. Maybe you could become one of them. After all, if there is a will, there generally is a way.





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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’!

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



In last month’s newsletter I wrote about the importance of learning and understanding how our various gold getting devices help us recover gold. The more you understand about a piece of gold recovery equipment, the more gold you will recover with it in a given area. Let’s take a look at the sluice box. Each place that you choose to run your sluice can be different from the last. It is important to set up your sluice for optimum recovery based on where and what you have to work with at that place and time (i.e. water velocity, stream drop, etc.). There are basic rules that apply to all of the equipment we use. We should always keep these basics in mind. Then we can get a little more creative in an effort to improve our gold recovery. I prefer to run my sluice shallow, in reference to the depth of water into the intake or flare. I try to keep the depth at 1/4 to 1/2 inch. My thinking is this. The shallower the water, the closer the gold is to the matting and the riffles. In my mind, this improves recovery. Water velocity and material size influence how well this works. I have no problem running material screened through a #4 classifier. If you don’t have enough water velocity try using a #8 screen. Want to learn more about what is going on in your sluice? Here is an excellent article you should read. It is in the Jan/Feb 2016 Gold Prospectors magazine (GPAA), Tuning Your Sluice - A River Runs Through It, by Steven “DOC” Vetter. THIS GUY GETS IT!!!! If you have questions or comments, call or text 303-263-7204. May all your adventures be golden!!! Joe Fortunato

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker

The February 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:

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” is enjoying some time off. He will be on the move soon.



Board Meeting Minutes from Jan 2016

X	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	John Johnson
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston	X	Chris Kafka	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Wayne Schomaker	X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll		Gary Hawley



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Quorum present: Yes

Call to Order: By Pres. Long at 6:04 pm

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

Treasurer's Report: Questions: Several errors Approved:
Tabled to Feb as time is needed to correct the issues.

Correspondence: 7 phone calls, 35 e-mails, 10 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 143315 Hits for last 2 month 548.

Committee Reports: All Standing Committees will remain same for 2016. Chris K will oversee Refreshment Table. JJ will complete 2015 Manual updates.

Unfinished business: None at this time.

New Business: GPAA Gold Show coming to Denver on June 18/19 of 2016 at Adams Co. Fairgrounds. We will participate. JeffCo has new prospecting rules.

Planned Outings for 2016: JJ working on 2016 outing Schedule

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the Christmas Program which went well.
- Welcomed new BM Chris to the team.
- Also advised that nearly 30 members responded to the Alaskan proposal.
- BM JS absent tonite.
- BM BM announced that Tim Fleming is recovering from surgery. Also that his stolen briefcase had been recovered intact.
- BM Joe J asked for members to return items they have checked out
- Announcements: Next Board Meeting Jan. 20, 2016 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Jan. 20, 2016 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: We will be showing Part 1 of a video from the History Channel titled "Mystery of the Afghan Gold", which will run 50 minutes..

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:51 pm.

General Meeting Minutes from Jan 2016

1. Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced the evening program which will Part 1 of a video presentation by the History Channel titled "Mystery of the Afghan Gold", which will run 50 minutes..
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1101.90 an ounce, silver at \$14.16, platinum at \$818.00 and palladium at \$195.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month were 316.
5. **Treasurer Wayne Schomaker** reports that the Club remains very comfortable in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, be sure to buy tickets for the 'Special Nugget' drawing. This is a solid piece of gold that weighs in at a half an ounce. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.6 grams.
6. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 80 members in attendance. There were also 8 guests and 3 new members present. The meeting attendance was 91.
7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was "Where in Minnesota was a gold rush recorded in 1865??"
8. **Pres. Long** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2016. Please, only 1 item per person per category.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What group, following the Cherokee Trail in 1848, first discovered gold in the South Platte basin?

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



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9. **John Johnson** announced the new Cache Clue #4. John has successfully hidden the new Cache and it is out there for you to find if you can decipher the clues. So put on your thinking caps and let's go find it.
10. **Pres. Long** advised that there were lots of stuff in the **Club Store** for sale. We have introduced some bags of sand containing gold for members to buy. Members were encouraged to support the Club by buying Store products. We are looking for a volunteer to take over until April.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership of the upcoming Outings Schedule which should be available by next meeting. Watch for postings with the upcoming Newsletter. There will be no 3 day Leadville Club Outing this year.
12. **Pres. Long** also informed the membership that:
 - There are new rules for prospecting on Clear Creek in the Jefferson County Clear Creek Park.
 - Past President **Jim Davis** was present tonight and announced that WAATS is hosting a multiple day event in Mancos, Colo., on Memorial Day to include a metal detecting hunt. Papers on both items are available at front desk during break.
 - Members reminded to check out Finds of the Month and vote accordingly as well as answer the Question of the Month during the break.
 - Members reminded to return items checked out of the Library in timely manner.
 - A card was passed around for **Tim Fleming** who has undergone surgery for throat cancer and we wish him a speedy recovery.
 - Members were informed that over 30 responses were received from the Alaskan TV adventure. Good luck to all of the applicants.
 - The owners of the **Capitol Mine** in Georgetown were present and looking for aspiring miners who want to help run the Mine as a tourist attraction this summer. This received several bites as well.
 - Member **Sue Lemeiux** announced that the Cripple Creek/Victor Cresson Mine will continue its tours this year. There was considerable interest in doing this tour again this year.
 - Member **Brian Henry** received his Certificate of Recognition for winning the Best Coin Find of the Year for 2015.
13. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:20 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:37 pm.
14. **Pres. Long** announced that there were 37 winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was "**The Vermillion Lake Area**"...!! The winners received their extra drawing ticket.
15. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
 - **Best Coin** – **Joe Johnston** with an 1881 Indian Head Penny that he found in a Denver Park.
 - **Best Artifact** – **Joe Johnston** with a set of padlock keys he found in a Denver Park.
 - **Best Jewelry** – **Joe Johnston** with a soccer pendant he found in a Denver Park.
 - **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with 1.3 grams of gold he found on 10 outings in Denver.
16. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 9 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 in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Wayne Schomaker**.
17. **Pres. Long** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
18. **Pres. Long** thanked **Chris 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. 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.
19. The scheduled **Program for February** will be Part 2 of the video "Mysteries of the Afghan Gold".



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



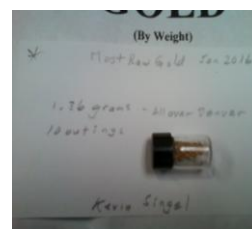
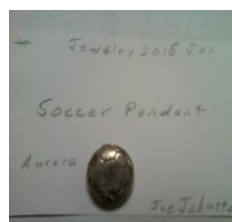
2016 Schedule of GPR Outings/Events:

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

The January contest winners and categories are as follows:

- Best Artifact – Winner is Joe Johnston with a set of padlock keys found in a Denver Park.
- Best Coin – Winner is Joe Johnston with an 1881 Indian Head Penny he found in a Denver Park.
- Best Jewelry – Winner is Joe Johnston with a soccer pendant found in a Denver Park.
- Most Raw Gold – Winner is Kevin Singel with 1.3 grams of gold from 10 outings in Denver.



Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. We would all like to know what everyone else is finding out there so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their name published in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Monthly winners will need to save their finds to bring back to the November meeting to compete for the Find of the Year. Thanks to all those who also submitted additional finds that were not judged to be winners.

A Miner's Laugh

An old miner hadn't been to town in many years and decided to take his family in to see what they could see. They wound up at a local mall and were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again.

The miner's son asked, "What is this, Father?" The old miner, never before having seen an elevator, responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I just don't know what it is."

While the boy and his father were watching with amazement, a fat old lady in a wheel chair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father stared intently as the small circular numbers above the walls lit up sequentially. They continued to watch until it reached the last number and then the numbers began to light in the reverse order. Finally the walls opened up again and a gorgeous, voluptuous 24 year old blonde woman stepped out.

The old miner, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son ..."Quick, boy, go get your mother!!!"

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners') 02/16



Western Museum of Mining and Industry

Heritage Lecture and Exhibit Opening - 'Cheyenne Mountain at 50: Military Icon, Engineering Marvel' - Thursday February 11th 2016, 6pm

How many people have ever wondered just how they built NORAD? Or what is in it exactly? Join WMMI and officials from NORAD on Thursday February 11th for a new exhibit opening and lecture series about the construction of the North American Aerospace Defense Command center in Cheyenne Mountain. This year marks the 50th anniversary of its



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construction, and WMMI has the only official exhibit and lecture series about it! .Lecture details will be announced soon. Heritage Lectures at WMMI are always free! **The exhibit opens at 6pm and the lecture begins at 7pm. RSVP is required at rsvp@wmmi.org or 71-488-0880.**

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

1-06-16 MolyCorp Bids Top Miner's Own Price: MolyCorp Inc., the bankrupt rare earth miner based in Colorado, received bids for their assets that exceed the company's own estimate of value. Aluminum Corp, of China Ltd., a US traded mining company based in Beijing, China, has offered \$700 million for MolyCorp's non US held assets. An Australian lithium miner Galaxy Resources Ltd., in Perth, Australia, has offered \$443 million. MolyCorp has priced its assets at \$391 million to \$443 million. *(It will more than likely go to the highest bidder which will be the China based bidder.jj)*.

1-9-16 US Coal Production at 30 Year Low: US coal production has fallen to its lowest level in nearly 30 years as cheaper sources of power and stricter environmental regulations reduce demand. The slump has led to bankruptcies and layoffs at mining companies, stressing state and local budgets and spilling over into other industries resulting in layoffs and slowdowns in other sectors such as railroads.

1-12-16 Arch Coal Files for Bankruptcy: Arch Coal Inc. joined the ranks of bankrupt coal miners as the US continues to shift toward cheaper cleaner natural gas. Arch Coal holds the second largest coal reserve in the US and owns the West Elk Mine in Somerset, Colo. As well as the Black Thunder and Coal Creek mines in Wyoming. The Chapter 11 bankruptcy will allow Arch Coal the opportunity to have breathing room while it tries to reorganize its debt. *(This is the second major Colorado Company to fail due to falling prices and government re-regulation .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. Trout Unlimited proposed to Jefferson County to create several additional trout structures on Clear Creek in Clear Creek Canyon. Jefferson County Officials denied the projects on the grounds that Clear Creek itself is the site of a tremendous mining history and the County desired to preserve its mining heritage. TU responded with a letter stating that dredging and other mining interests in the watershed were damaging to trout habitat and should be banned. The Gold Prospectors of the Rockies have joined with other local mining interests to support Jefferson County's position. There will be more to come on this one and I will keep you all informed. The GPR has enjoyed a very good partnership with the Jefferson County Open Spaces folks and have worked hard to train the Rangers who patrol the Park on what constitutes responsible mining practices and helped prepare and pass the current prospecting regulations that exist in the Park along the Creek. And we will continue to support their pro-mining position.

California: 1. Judge Ochoa Stays CEQA Ruling in Remarkable Court Proceeding: In San Bernardino Superior Court, Judge Gilbert Ochoa candidly admitted that the mining community is being denied justice in his own courtroom by deferring a decision on the CEQA case. In what amounts to a judicial olé, Judge Ochoa is kicking the can back down the road until the California Supreme Court rules on the Brandon Rinehart case. This means that the mining community has to wait before it can hope to truly celebrate any kind of victory over the gestapo tactics of the State of California which has been working in concert with the EPA, the USFS and the lying local Indian tribe that started all this mess.

Oregon: 1. In November, The Galice Mining District filed a Motion for Summary Judgement against the State of Oregon and SB838, the bill that calls for a 5 year moratorium on the use of all motorized placer mining equipment in and along most Oregon streams. The action was supported by the Waldo Mining District and a number of other Oregon mining organizations and individuals. Following the filing by the miners, a letter was received from Peter Frost of the Western Environmental Law Center out of Eugene, Oregon, informing the miners of their intent to intervene on behalf of "some conservation groups..." So the battle continues in the great Northwest.

South Dakota: 1. A US Forest Service proposal would ban new gold mining claims at 11 sites in the Black Hills. The sites cover 17,500 acres and involve about 27 square miles. That is only 2% of the forest's total area. But South Dakota miners content that the targeted sties contain more than half of the promising mining areas that remain unclaimed in the



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Black Hills. The USFS says that the targeted sites are “special” because of their “special features”. Most of those locations are already protected as special sites that include 4 botanical areas and 3 research natural areas. The targeted areas would now ban all motorized traffic, timber harvesting and livestock grazing. Miners contend that the USFS just wants to continue to restrict access of any kind to those areas and just want to keep the resource out of hands of the people. Competing viewpoints will be weighed by the federal Interior Secretary who will decide on this issue by September 2017. *(I strongly suspect that the time frame will be extended well past that in a tactic that the government uses frequently with the sole purpose of dragging things out so that we miners will hopefully get so discouraged that we just go away....JJ)*

The EPA: And it just never seems to end with these people. The US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has issued a nationwide Stay to prevent the EPA and the US Army Corps from redefining Waters of the US (WOTUS). It seems that the government agencies attempted a controversial rulemaking to ‘clarify’ their jurisdiction over ‘non-navigable waters’. In essence, they tried to take over regulator control over temporary waters such as ditches, ponds and seasonal washes. The Court was extremely concerned over the potential harm visited nationwide on all governmental bodies, as well as private, state, count that would result in redrawing jurisdictional boundaries and lines over certain of the nation’s waters. Given that the definitions of ‘navigable waters’ and ‘waters of the United States’ have been clouded with uncertainty, we can all appreciate the need for clarity. But the Court strongly disagreed with the right of the EPA to just arbitrarily redefine it by themselves with no input, public hearings, or studies. *(But then again, I am not surprised at all. The EPA seems to think that they, much like the USFS and the BLM, don’t answer to anybody and can do what they want...JJ)*

Peaks to Plains Trail Report: Clear Creek Canyon Open Spaces

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY PHASE 1: To date, the Clear Creek County segment of the project is approximately 70% complete. The clearing of trees and temporary bench construction for this phase is 100% complete, the paving of the trail is 88% complete, and the permanent trail walls are at 100% completion. The Clear Creek County segment of this project is on track to be completed by June 2016.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PHASE 1: The clearing of trees and temporary bench construction for this phase is 100% complete, the paving of the trail is 34% complete, and the trail bridges and permanent trail walls are both at 75% completion. For the first phase of the Jefferson County segment, bridge abutments are now complete and provide a glimpse into what the finished trail will look like. The bridge will sit in the notch of the abutments and the final bridge deck will be even with the top of the walls on the side. The image included displays a rendering of the completed rust patina colored bridge at Cannonball Flats, which will allow trail-users to cross Clear Creek with safety and ease. Phase 1 of the Jefferson County segment is on track to be completed by June 2016. See map on next page for details of the project segments.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PHASE 2: Additional funding has been allocated for both Jefferson County segments of the project, which will include continuing the trail nearly an extra mile down the canyon. The addition of a new 40–50 space Parking lot and an adjacent fourth pedestrian bridge will provide safer access to the south side of the creek. The second phase of the Jefferson County segment will begin in February 2016.

***** SAFETY AND WATER ACCESS: Please note that the trail is still under construction and is not open to the public. While construction is underway, there are significant safety hazards present as well as severe penalties for being on the construction site. The section of the creek between Placer Flats at mile post 260.5 and Mayhem Gulch at mile post 262.15 is closed to all boats/kayaks until May 2016. Creek users may put in downstream of US 6 mile post 263, approximately one mile downstream of Mayhem Gulch. Once the permanent bridges are set in the late winter/early spring of 2016, temporary crossings will be removed and boats/kayaks will be able to travel downstream and take out at Cannonball Flats, mile post 261.23. *****

Articles From YOU the MEMBERSHIP

FIRST GOLD by John Olson

My first experience prospecting with a gold pan came when I was unprepared and very amateur at getting gold out of the ground. It started with a weeklong trip to Ganes Creek Alaska where I was metal detecting for gold nuggets. I never have found any raw gold with my detector and never had gold in a gold pan. Sure, I knew the principal of getting the heavy



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gold thru a sluice box and ending up in a small vial, and I saw the TV shows and read the how-to books on prospecting, but this trip to Alaska was for large nuggets that even I could find.

Our bush pilot landed in a narrow canyon on a small runway that was made from mining tailings. We landed late in the morning and after stowing away our gear, we had lunch and a quick orientation from the landowner on the do's and don'ts of our adventure. Then the 12 of us were taken to the first hunt field which consisted of tailings that were flattened out with a bull dozer. Within 30 minutes I heard a faint beep on my White's V3I that sounded like it could be a nickel. I dug down about 3 inches and there was my very first gold nugget! It was shaped like a small Corn Flake that was about 1/4 inch in diameter. Not much for size, but wonderful to me! It was the first nugget found by our group but I didn't find another piece of gold for the next 3 days!

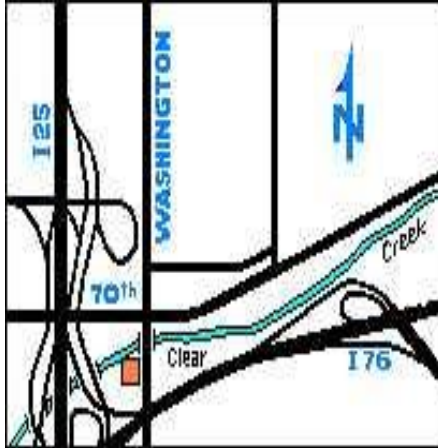
The organized detecting was from 8AM to 5 or 6PM each day with a lunch break. There were several hours of free time in the evening because the sun didn't go down until 10:30PM so I would go out around the camp metal detecting for more nuggets. I came back to camp one evening and noticed a guy up on a small steep hill right above the small creek. He was scratching away at the dirt with his digging tool then going down to the creek with his bucket where he had a small sluice box and a pan. I talked to the guy and he told me that he borrowed the mini sluice, bucket and gold pan from the property owner. I was able to borrow another bucket and gold pan so that I could try prospecting. The next evening after dinner I headed up on that steep little hill which required me to grab onto bushes to pull myself up the incline. The other guy said that his area of about 100 square feet was off limits to me but I could dig anywhere else around there. That was his 'claim' which we both laughed about. We could use the creek to sluice and pan our material but prospecting in the creek was off limits also.

Digging was not easy and, because of the rock, I had a hard time getting any dirt. The rock was fractured and flakey with just a small amount of material in the cracks. At the time, I thought it was the worst part of the area. Little did I know that it was probably the best bedrock in the area. The only way I could get material in my bucket was to pry and break up the layers of rock and scoop up the little bit of dirt that was between each layer. It was painfully slow and I was tired from metal detecting all day so I headed down to the creek after with my bucket which held less than 2 gallons of material, mostly rocks. It was a pretty dismal amount of material for an hour of work. My new friend gave me a quick panning lesson and after another 30 minutes I had my bucket empty and my first gold in my pan. Wow! There was a lot of gold in my pan! Dozens and dozens of little pieces of Gold!!! I put them in a bottle and the next two nights I was right back to my little spot on the hill side. I only had 2 more days left before I had to leave for home, but in those 3 short evenings I was able to recover a little over a quarter of an ounce of gold. I probably lost about as much gold into the creek as I was able save, but what a spot! I found a total of 4 nuggets with my metal detector, one of which weighed 1 troy ounce and another that was 1/4 ounce and two small corn flakes. I have learned a lot about prospecting from the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies over the few months that I have been a member. I wish that I had this information before I went to Alaska because I would have dug my material differently and processed it more efficiently. I'm sure that I left a lot of gold on that hill and dumped a lot of gold in that little creek! Ganes creek no longer has metal detecting on their property but if they ever do, I want to go again! Was the trip worth it? No, if you figure the amount of money that I spent on that week compared to the value of the gold that I found. But the experience of Alaska and the experience of finding your first gold make it an adventure that I will never forget!





TYMKOVICH MEATS



Established 1952
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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 Mar 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	3 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Begins	14	15	16 GPR Club Meeting	17 St Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Good Friday
27 Easter Sunday	28	29	30	31		