

THE GOLD NUGGET

August 2016

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



The water is now pretty low and very accessible so it is time to get those boots on and get out there and get some gold...!! I have been out and there has been no problem. I am finding the gold has been replenished and I am still finding it in the same places I found t last year. However, I had something happen on July 19 that has never happened to me before. I discovered that I had lost my wedding ring. And I have been in a pretty fair funk ever since.

Now, I am not sure if it was in the creek or where.in the devil it may have been. I don't remember noticing it at any time during the day from when I got up until I had come back down off the mountain from exactly 1.2 mile above tunnel 1 on Clear Creek to Thornton when I first noticed it gone. Now, you can bet I have checked all those places. Twice, as a matter of fact, but no luck at all. Big bummer...! It was a wide yellow gold band with my initials jjl and the date 9-11-67 engraved inside along with a single word that I will know should anyone find it. The greatest disappointment is the fact that I have had that ring for 49 years and now it is gone. I was sad enough to have lost it and even sadder when I hesitantly told my wife that I had lost it. She, of course, has long since forgiven me and assures me that it is alright while I keep assuring myself that is quite not alright at all, at least not with me. I have lost my watch before and found it the next day in a foot and a half of water about 10 feet below where I was sure I had lost it. But not this time! Never thought that I would ever lose my wedding ring but lose it I did.

So, I am not sure what to write about. Usually a day of prospecting for me is always one that leaves me with a good feeling. I have been fortunate over the years that I almost never go out without finding gold. Maybe not a lot of it but find gold I do. But lately, not feeling that same good feeling. And I catch myself constantly using my thumb to check that the ring is still there and being annoyed when I realize it is not and why it isn't there. And I look at my hand and feel depressed knowing it isn't there anymore and probably never will be. I have a friend who lost his ring a number of years back and lost his while casting a fishing line and heard a 'plop' as his ring sailed into the briny in some 30 foot of moss covered lake bottom, to neve be seen again either. He told me he was sorry to have lost it but didn't lose too much sleep over it since it was several months after he had divorced that wife and later he divorced two more, or maybe they divorced him. Either way, he said that I would soon get over it. I know he was trying to make me feel better, but it didn't work. I still feel terrible and depressed. Of course, I should have taken it off before I started. I knew better. Just never thought it would happen to me. Stupid..! But, when you think it won't happen to you, we all know that that is a recipe for having it happen to you. Reverse karma, like I said....stupid.!

I think I will have a different attitude now, especially when I am out metal detecting and find a ring or other piece of jewelry, especially a nice piece. Are there any markings on it..? I will wonder who lost it? How did they feel when they discovered they had lost it..? Lots of times when we find stuff, we never give it much thought other than to say "Hey, look what if found..! Isn't his cool..?" But I think I will always wonder now about who lost it and what it may have meant to them and is it possible to find the owner and return it. You hear stories from time to time about people losing stuff and someone else finds it and manages to locate them and return the item. Those stories are always feel good stories and we always like to hear them because they make us feel good that there are people out there who care enough to do that. And so I think I will look at treasure hunting a little differently now. In my previous life before retiring, I dealt with a lot of tragedy and sadness and violence. I became very hardened to those things as a matter of a form of self-survival technique. It is how some of us dealt with it. But now that I am older and removed from that environment, I have found that (actually, a lot older), those emotions are now closer to the surface and easily aroused, emotions that I used to suppress automatically before. But now, I don't have to do that anymore, and yet, it doesn't make things any easier.

So, here I sit, my mind not really on prospecting, per se, definitely on gold, just not the raw and natural kind. More so, on a round, wide, bright yellow band of engraved gold that will burn brightly in my mind for a long time to come. As I have been known to say from time to time, "Hulk sad.....Hulk very sad..!!"

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



Is it just me or did Clear Creek go from bank full to very workable almost overnight a few weeks ago? I drove across the bridge on Washington St. several days ago and conditions looked good for panning and sluicing. I know that it is not as easy to get to the creek now that parking at the meat market is no longer allowed. Prospectors are a determined and not easily discouraged group of individuals, where there is a will there is a way!! The gold is still there in the creek, we just have to walk a bit more to get to it. Find a place to park that is near the bike path, and then use a two wheeled dolly, a garden cart or some other handy conveyance to haul your gear. The walk is good exercise and ten minutes on the bike path will get you to a workable spot on the creek. Another issue to consider is the hot temperatures that we have had to deal with lately but more tolerable day time temps will be here soon. So pick a mild day, pack a lunch, grab your gear and make a day of it at the creek. Then pan out those concentrates, put them in a vial, bring it to the next meeting and show all of us what you found!!!!

May all your adventures be Golden!!! Comments or questions Call or Text me 303-263-7204

Joe Fortunato

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker



The August 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 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. Remember, your chances of winning a nugget are better than the Colorado lottery, so, support your Club and buy lots of tickets. Be sure and consider buying raffle tickets for the “Special Nugget” raffle which features a beautiful 14.4 gram Australian nugget which was a metal detector find.

Planned GPR Meeting Programs:

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.

Aug 17 We will feature Part 3 of “Gold Rush – The discovery of America”.

Sept 21 We will feature Part 4 of “Gold Rush – The discovery of America”.

Oct 19 We will feature Part 5 of “Gold Rush – The discovery of America”.

Nov 16 Joe Fortunato will give a presentation on metal detecting for gold nuggets in Nevada.

Dec 21 No general meeting, will be a pot luck Christmas Dinner and Recognition Program.

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

On July 9 and 10, “Pete” travelled up to the Georgetown Loop RR to help the tourists who were riding the train and visiting the Lebanon Silver Mine in panning out their bags of gold sand. The fun part of this event is meeting people from all over the world who travel to Colorado and get a chance to pan out their very own gold. Perhaps not as rustic as when the old timers did it, but a lot of fun none the less. Pete even made it up to the second Clay county Mine outing near Blackhawk on July 30. Pete has been a pretty busy guy this year and has been having quite a bit of fun.





Board Meeting Minutes From July 2016

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

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: none Approved: Yes.

Correspondence: 5 phone calls, 16 e-mails, 8 mailings

Webmaster: Total Hits 145539 Hits for last 2 month 391.

Committee Reports: Kafka's will be gone for Club picnic, will need someone to Cover for them.

Unfinished business: None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

Planned Outings for 2016:

- Aug 6 Beginners Panning/sluicing Class, 9a, Youngfield
- Aug 13 Tour, Cresson Mine, Victor, 10a, (not for sure yet)
- Aug 20 Prospecting Outing, Nederland.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the GPAA Show. Club did very well with about 1400 in sales. We had 22 members assist during the Show.
- The Georgetown Loop RR panning demo went ok with 3 members on Sat and 2 members on Sunday. Would be good to have a little better participation.
- Will ask membership if they want to do another Blackhawk Outing on July 30. Water is now quite accessible.
- BM Doll and Kafka discussed meeting programs. We will be going to a number of speakers over the winter and we have 3 videos to conclude.
- BM Fortunato will do a presentation in Nov. on metal detecting in Nevada.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting July 20, 2016 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting July 20, 2016 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: We will be showing a video from Mill Creek Productions titled "Gold Rush – The Discovery of America", Part 2, which will run 45 minutes.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:48 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
 The Gold medals for the 2016 Rio Olympics contain how many grams of silver and how many grams of gold?

- 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 July 2016

1. Meeting was opened at 7:02 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced the evening program which will a video presentation by Mill Creek Productions titled "Gold Rush – The Discovery of America", Part 2, which will run 45 minutes.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1316.30 an ounce, silver at \$19.37, platinum at \$1084.00 and palladium at \$671.00. **Web hits** for last month were 391.
4. **Treasurer Wayne Schomaker** reports that the Club remains 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 new and shiny piece of gold that weighs in at 14.4 grams from Australia. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.6 grams.
5. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 83 members in attendance. There were also 6 guests present. The meeting attendance was 89.



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6. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was "**Alaska just wasn't through with its gold rushes! Yet another rush was to occur in 1902. Do you know what area in Alaska hosted this rush??**"
7. **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. The Board has approved a new category called 'Mineral'. Please, only 1 item per person per category. A reminder, gold submissions need to be weighed dry, please.
8. **George Sullivan** gave the 'Cache – Clue #2. So put on your thinking caps and let's get out there and find it.
9. **Pres. Long** advised that there were lots of stuff in the **Club Store** for sale. We have bags of sand containing gold for members to buy as well as lots of other stuff, including some new art. Members were encouraged to support the Club by buying Store products. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over the Store. We thank **Mike Hurtado** for helping out at the Store.
10. **Pres. Long** informed the membership of the 2016 Outings report. The GPAA Gold Show went very well. The Club cleared nearly \$1400.00 in sales and we had some 22 members assist with the Show. Considering the hot weather and the fact that Sunday was Father's Day, the turnout exceeded expectations. The Georgetown Loop RR panning demo went very well though the Club turnout could have been better than it was. The membership was reminded of the upcoming Outings on Aug. 6, a Saturday, which is a Beginners' Class for panning and sluicing which will be on Clear Creek at Youngfield at 9a. We will then be in Nederland on Aug. 20, a Saturday, starting at 9a with a trash cleanup and a broken glass cleanup for prizes. The membership was asked if they wanted to go to Blackhawk on July 30 for another Outing and enough hands were raised so we will go on July 30, another Saturday. An e-mail will be sent to members. The proposed mine tour at the Cresson Mine in Victor was cancelled as we were unable to get enough participants to qualify for the Club Tour. The water in the creeks and rivers is now low enough to safely access so get your boots on and it is time to go get some gold. Pres. Long advised that the video programs will go for 3 more months and then we will be running speakers for the next six months or so, if not for longer. Be sure to check your Newsletter for the Programs Schedule.
11. **Pres. Long** also informed the membership that there are handouts at the front desk podium for members to peruse during the break. Members are reminded to check out the Finds of the Month and vote accordingly as well as answer the Question of the Month during the break. Members were reminded to return items checked out of the Library in a timely manner. There was nothing further from the floor.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:06 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:32 pm.
13. **Pres. Long** announced that the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was "**Fairbanks...**" There were 42 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
 - a. **Best Coin** – **Chuck Cown** with a 1902 Indian Head penny he found while metal detecting in Commerce City.
 - b. **Best Artifact** – **George Sullivan** with an old pot pipe he found while metal detecting in Aurora.
 - c. **Best Bottle** – **Robert Ahr** with an old specialty bourbon bottle he found in his mother's basement.
 - d. **Best Mineral** – **Steve Miller** with a Jade specimen he found in Nome, Alaska.
 - e. **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with 0.67 grams of gold that he found in S. Denver.
15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Bert Cutshall, Wayne Schomaker, Joe Johnston, Todd Fiddler 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 shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **Chuck Cown and Wayne Schomaker**.
16. **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 outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
17. **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. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray



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costs. 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.

18. The scheduled **Program for August** will be Part 3 of a video titled “Gold Rush – The Discovery of America”, a film by Mill Creek Productions.
19. 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’!
20. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Finds of the Month

The July winners and categories are as follows:

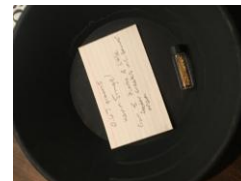
Best Artifact – Winner is **George Sullivan** with a pot pipe he found while m/detecting in Aurora.

Best Coin – Winner is **Chuck Cown** with a 1902 Indian Head penny he found while m/detecting.

Best Mineral – Winner is **Steve Miller** with some Jade he found in Nome, Alaska.

Best Bottle – Winner is **Robert Ahr** with a Bourbon bottle he found in his mother’s basement.

Most Raw Gold – Winner is **Kevin Singel** with 0.67 grams of gold he found in S. Denver.



(Somehow, we missed the photo of George’s pot pipe, our bad..!!)

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.

Lots of Fun at Georgetown Loop RR Panning

On July 9 and 10, the Club assisted the Georgetown Loop RR folks in helping the visiting tourists to pan out the concentrates that they buy when riding the railroad. We always get to meet people from all over the world when we help out at this event and the Club members get paid a little each day they work. Most of the time, the members give the small fee to the Club and we manage to make a little money while having a lot of fun. This weekend was no exception and the GRR folks have created a small digging area for the little kids which is ‘salted’ with precious gems and minerals for the kids to dig up. Of course, they can keep whatever they find. We met up with people from more than 20 states, Germany, Japan, India, China, Canada and Mexico. This is a great way to spend a weekend. Pres. Long got a few photos as well.



4 yr old Griffin of Missouri with all the gems he found





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A Miner's Laugh

"C'mon Dad, you have just got to try it" I pleaded to my elderly Father, an old miner. I don't know how my Dad ever lasted this long without ever using the internet, but enough was enough I thought, especially in this day and age. I needed to get him up to speed with the computer era.

"Well, ok, I guess I can give it a try" he said, reluctantly settling down by the computer and slowly putting on his reading glasses "Well, what do I do now?"

"Now I'm going to open the home page of google", I explained. "See, right here it is! Now you just type in ANY question that you want to ask into the bar right here, push this enter button and you will find an answer to your question." I confidently assured him.

My Dad looked at me warily, thought for a second, and then very slowly began to type,

"How is my old mule Betsy doing this morning?"

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



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

7-7-16 **Thompson Creek Metals to be bought for \$1.1 Billion:** A Toronto based mining company, Centerra Gold Inc., will buy Thompson Creek Metals, a debt strapped Colorado company, for \$1.1 billion dollars. The deal will include a transfer of control of the Mount Milligan, a copper and gold mine, located in British Columbia built by Thompson Creek. Centerra will also take control of two molybdenum mines in Idaho and British Columbia and a molybdenum processing plant in Pennsylvania. Denver based Royal Gold, a stakeholder in the Mount Milligan mine said that they agreed with the transaction and would adjust their streaming agreement at Mount Milligan from 52.5% to 35% gold and 18.75% copper.

7-12-16 **Gold is a Safe Harbor With Risks:** Investors have pushed the price of gold to a two year high. But before joining the rush, beware that assets considered conservative and safe that are bought in a panic can sometimes wallop investors with losses they were trying to avoid. So be careful before you jump. Gold has been volatile for some time and the current rise in price does not match current marketing trends. *(An old mantra well known is 'buy low and sell high, works best when prices are low....jj)*

7-23-16 **Clear Creek County Faces Cuts Amid Mine Closure:** The Clear Creek County Manager is calling for a 10% budget cut across all departments in 2017 to brace for the impact of the looming closure of the Henderson Mine. The molybdenum mine, which is near the small town of Empire, is a major source of income for the 10,000 resident county, accounting for 70% (\$14 million) of all property taxes collected in 2015. The mine has been operating for the last 40 years and has pretty much paid for the county fire authority, schools, road repairs and the Sheriff's Office. It employs 310 people, down from 550 that worked there last year. The mine is projected to close by the end of 2016, a direct result of falling oil prices, slowing demand for piping and a slowdown in the construction market world-wide.

7-27-16 **Remains ID'd as Missing Treasure Hunter:** Remains found along the Rio Grande river west of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and north of Cochiti Lake have been identified as those of a missing Broomfield, Colorado, man. 54 year old Randy Bilyeu has been searching for the buried treasure hidden in 2011 by eccentric millionaire Forest Fenn. Bilyeu was obsessed with finding the treasure and had spent numerous attempts to locate it. Bilyeu was a skilled outdoorsman and very versed in survival techniques, left on Jan. 5, 2016 armed with a raft, a GPS, a wet suit and waders, and was accompanied by his small dog Leo. Local authorities have not stated a cause of death at this point and the investigation into his death will continue.

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)

National News: **PLF Wins for Property Rights** – The Pacific Legal Foundation has won another big case for property owners when they took on the US Army Corps of Engineers. The case is *US Army Corps of Engineers vs*



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Hawkes Co., et al. The US Supreme Court has ruled unanimously that landowners have a right to seek judicial review immediately in Federal Court when their property is designated as wetlands subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. The Corps had made a 'judicial determination' that the Hawkes Company's property in Minnesota qualified as 'wetlands' and threatened hefty fines. The Obama Administration argued that the company's only remedy was to apply for a permit at a cost of well over \$100,000 and many years to get through the permitting process.

Proof Mining Districts Work – For the past couple of years, the PLP and the ICMJ have been harping on miners to locate the original bylaws of their local mining districts and get them organized because they are still federally recognized entities with the power and authority to create their own regulations and seek coordination status with local, state and federal agencies. If you need more proof that this can help you, look no further than the proposed Methow Headwaters Withdrawal in north central Washington State. The Slate Creek Mining district was in disarray and the MMAC along with PLP and the ICMJ provided guidance in getting them reorganized. 32 claim holders got together, elected a new board and along came the Methow Headwaters Protection Act of 2016. However, the state legislative body did not consult with the Slate Creek Mining District regarding the proposal, so the government was ultimately forced to withdraw the Slate Creek Mining District from the proposed withdrawal.

Colorado: BLM in Western Colorado Holding Public Meetings – The BLM in western Colorado has been holding public meetings since early June in cities such as Delta, Montrose and Telluride and plan to host other meetings again in July in Grand Junction, Delta and Montrose. The reason for the meetings is to inform the public of their Proposed Resource Plan (PRN) or the region. Gold miners attending the meetings are reporting that the PRN cites closures of roads and access points to certain areas and redefining local water sources designating some of them as Resource Waterways. Such a designation will result in any user having to obtain permits from the BLM and the Army Corps of Engineers to use any of the water in those rivers and streams. The permit process will undoubtedly be so cumbersome as to prevent anyone probably getting one. The Western Slope Chapter of the GPAA out of Olathe has been uniting interested parties to attend these meetings and they have attempted to educate some BLM managers on modern prospecting practices. The result has been promising and enlightening. They are doing what the GPR did in Clear Creek Canyon with the Jefferson County Open Spaces Rangers. However, it is good to put pressure on our elected Congressional folks, both state and federal, to try to convince them not to support these land grabs. To that end, we have the names and numbers of these folks as a resource for any of you who wants to make your position known concerning mining rights and access to public lands. They are good until November 2016, then I truly hope there will be changes and for the better.

Another Fun Day of Digging Gold at the Clay County Mine



On July 30, some 20 Club members traveled back up to the Clay County Mine property near Blackhawk for a second time this year to play in the dirt for the opportunity to find a little gold. Clay County is a private claim owned by two gentlemen named Larry and Pat who have allowed us to play on their claim for literally no fee at all. The gold tends to run to fines but we have found pickers on the property and any day out digging for gold is a darn good day no matter how it goes. It is worth noting that you cannot access this claim without being on a Club Outing. It is

usually considered to be a dry claim although we do find a little water from time to time depending on the weather and the season. Members who take the time to learn a little about the geology of the area generally do a little better than those who want to dig on their own without a little help and advice. Generally, Pres. Long and Mike Hurtado are good sources to check with as they are very familiar with this area. We will be coming to this claim again around the first of October, before the snow flies, so be sure to take in at least one of these outings each year. Some say they find more gold here than in the nearby casinos. I guess that it just depends on how lucky you are. Two of our newer members, a father and son duo, did very well this trip and everyone found a little gold. (Photos by Long)





"Access is difficult" ...not any longer!

By GPR Member **Kevin Singel**

Back when Ben Parker wrote his PhD thesis on placer gold occurrences in Colorado (the book that we have available in the club store), access was difficult to the gold in south metro Denver and he highlights that in the book. This is simply because those lands were large spreads owned by families and operated as ranches and the like. However since Ben Parker wrote his book, those big ranches have been sold off by the developers. Ever hear of Highlands Ranch? Of course you have. This and the other ranches like it in what's now the South Metro part of our city were sold off the developers who cut them up in little pieces and sold off those pieces to residential house builders and shopping developments, office buildings and things of that sort. The interesting part for us is that the developers then donated the riparian areas, where the creeks are, to be used as open space. Even better news, most of the new land owners are welcoming to non-motorized prospecting in the undeveloped areas of their park space.

Who are those new land owners? Highlands Ranch Metro District and South Suburban Parks & Rec covers all the creeks from Santa Fe east to I-25. Both allow rock hounding including digging in the creeks. I've done a LOT of rock hounding (also known as casual prospecting - wink, wink) in those creeks and I can tell you I've found good gold in some spots and some nice petrified wood too. These creeks typically have recreational paths running alongside so access is really quite easy these days. The creeks I've worked include Lee's Gulch, Big Dry Creek, Little Dry Creek, Willow Creek and Cottonwood Creek. They all have gold in them!

As they wind their way through the neighborhoods, those creeks cut down through a layer of decomposed castle rock formation, re-concentrating the gold from that ancient deposit. This is gold deposited by ancient rivers from a time before the rise of the dinosaurs, or the Rockies, so it has been in placer form for a very long time. You will find the gold in almost any part of the creek-bed where you find rounded river rocks larger than a baseball. Those rocks sure weren't rounded by the little streams you find them in today...they were rounded off in their journeys in some ancient, gold bearing river. In general, the areas with those rounded rocks will yield 0.05-0.15 grams per hour of real digging. My best has been over 1.0 grams per hour...proof that honey holes are out there waiting to be found even today!!

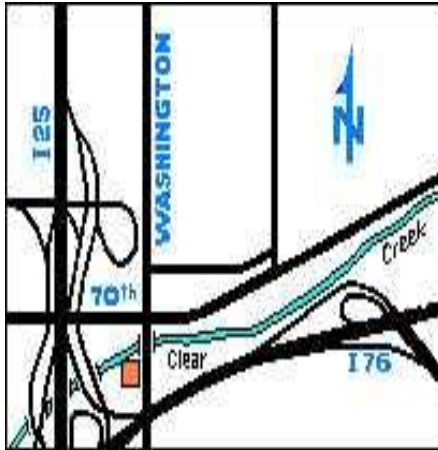
What works well in these little creeks? A river sluice and a little dam to concentrate the creek flow will do a lot of work for you. Digging down to bedrock or clay is key to gold production. The classic advice about digging inside bends, even long gentle bends is VERY relevant here. You'll be digging anywhere from a few inches to a couple feet down. Expect a lot of magnetic sands in your concentrates, a real challenge for old time prospectors but not for us. Our well-engineered classifiers and rare earth magnets make short work of the concentrates. You may also find some lead, likely bird shot from the days when ranchers could hunt their own land without anyone giving them a hard time about anything. Please dispose of the lead properly.

Keep in mind that you are a guest of the parks district, subject to their rules. While they are eager to welcome non-motorized recreational activities of many sorts, including us, they sure don't want us making a mess of their park lands. They also don't want to deal with complaints from some "nervous Nellie" who thinks we are tearing things up. Please don't tell anyone you are a miner or act like you are entitled to dig. Those things may be true elsewhere but not here. Play nice, pick up trash as you go and be a good ambassador for gold prospecting - fun for the whole family right?!?!

If you want to read more about spots to dig in metro Denver or how I research spots to dig, go to www.findingGOLDinColorado.com to read my blog. Good luck out there and heavy pans!



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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Sept 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
	WMMI Farmers Market every Monday and Wednesday in Sept			1	2	3 Panning Demo Georgetown loop Sept 3/4
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 Panning Demo Highlands Ranch Festival	9 WMMI Lecture Mining in Morenci, Arizona	10 WMMI Reynolds Ranch Restoration Day
11 Patriot Day National Grandparents Day	12	13	14	15	16 Constitution Day	17 Panning Demo Georgetown Loop Sept 3/4
18 USAF Birthday	19	20	21 GPR Club Meeting	22	23	24 GPR Club Picnic Morse Park
25	26	27	28	29	30	