

THE GOLD NUGGET

November 2016

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



I had mentioned last month that the Western Slope Chapter of the GPAA located in Olathe, Colorado, has been quite active in meeting with the BLM and the USFS over there on issues involving access to our public lands and threatened closures by the two agencies. Their Club President had filed a complaint with the US Justice Department concerning the fact that the closures were violating the rights of the disabled by preventing the elderly and the disabled from enjoying their right to access on public lands and that such action was a violation of the American Disabilities Act. The Justice Department has accepted his complaint and forwarded it to their people to consider the merits of initiating a court action on his behalf.

Well, now I am upset as well. I just got back from my annual hunting trip to the Kremmling area of Colorado. Where I deer hunt, I found new signs up on every small road that branched off the main road. The signs declared that the roads were all closed to motor vehicle traffic and designated the areas as “Restoration Areas”, closed to all but foot or horse traffic. I found similar signs posted where I elk hunt. These signs were all attached to heavy metal posts that were driven into the ground and attached with bolts to make them difficult to remove and they had been installed by the BLM. Most of these roads were short in duration but allowed a vehicle to get just a little ways off the primary road and provide a few hundred yards of additional access. They were a boon for elderly hunters and even disabled and handicapped hunters. But no more..! And as for restoration, the tire tracks and ruts will survive for at least the next 30 or 40 years or more before Mother Nature reclaims the ground with flora.

Now I find myself angry. I am one of those people. I am elderly (70) and have a diagnosed heart condition. I can still hunt but I can't go as far as I did 30 years ago nor can I pack an elk out from 3 miles in in just a day like I used to. I gotta have help to get it all done. My hunting partner of 40 years is 73 years old. We are running out of time to get it done like we used to. I am thinking now that maybe it is time for a Class Action Suit against the BLM and the USFS. Now don't misunderstand me. It is not about me personally, but about a whole lot of people just like me. Many of them are younger in fact. I see this problem as not only affecting us hunters and fishermen, but us miners as well. In fact, it involves just about anyone who wants to enjoy the great public lands that belong to us and are supposed to be managed appropriately by Federal Agencies charged with that very responsibility. But these agencies have a hidden agenda under a liberal democratic political machine that is bound and determined to close our access to millions of acres of our public lands. By doing so, it not only affects hunters, fishermen, and miners but it affects so much more than just those few groups. It affects ranchers, farmers, loggers, and a hundred different forms of outdoor recreational interests and other professional interests. The right wing “enviro greenies” are making it hard because so many of them are in those government agencies and they don't care about science or anything that sounds like common sense or reasonable. They have their viewpoint and they will not be swayed by reason or science or anything. So there is little left for the rest of us to do but try to win these things in Court and vote these schmucks out of office.

Now here is a kicker. They are willing to make exceptions. But usually it is for disabled servicemen and women only. It is all a part of the tremendous change in patriotism that has swept the country since the 911 disaster. Again, don't get me wrong. I support such programs. I was part of the Vietnam Era. I didn't serve due to medical conditions that precluded my service, but my brother did as well as an uncle and many of my friends and classmates. I served as a pall bearer for three men who gave their lives in combat. I remember the protests, the hate spewed at returning veterans and how they were despised and called ‘baby killers’ and what not. So this great turn in patriotism is a good thing. I only wish those Vietnam veterans had been as well received on their return as well. But the fact remains, exceptions are made. That tells me that there are cracks in the system that can be utilized whenever ‘special interests’ behoove those exceptions be made. I wonder if the ACLU would like to fight that fight but probably not. If there was ever a bastion of liberal mind set, you will find it in the ACLU. They are a great defender of civil rights and human rights but I doubt that they would be willing to take a public stand in support of hunters, fishermen or miners. Who knows, I would live to be proven wrong but I have concluded that most of the things I really enjoy doing, present and past like hunting, fishing, mining, backpacking, are exactly the kinds of things that the right wing enviros detest to the core. Fortunately, I am so old now that it won't be long before my life style is no more than a memory for me, provided I will be able to remember any of it at all. But I do have a deep growing sadness for the younger and future generations who truly face a future that will more than likely potentially include little to no hunting, fishing or mining. And this world will be a sadder and far duller place indeed.



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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!!!

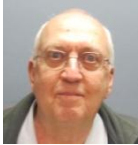
The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato



Well, I just got off the phone with JJ (Pres. Long). I told him at our last monthly meeting, that I would be at the metal detecting outing on Nov. 5 to help him out. But Wait....Time Out....There has been a change of plans!!! I will be detecting on the 5th of Nov., but not with folks from the Club in the park. I was looking forward to the Club hunt, it is always a great time and the weather always seems to cooperate! I will be detecting at the same time as you guys and gals. The thing is, I will be in Nevada detecting for gold. Sorry to "Bug Out" on you guys like this. The problem is (and I know that all of you understand) I have a serious case of Gold Fever!!! So with fine weather in Nevada as well as here, I could not pass up a shot at more of that desert gold!! I am at my shop sitting at my desk as write this article. It is 4:05 pm and I still have to stop for gas on my way home, and then finish packing all of my equipment and food for six days of detecting. Bob Neumayer (one of our Club members) will be joining me on this trip. Bob is a great guy, and was the driving force in getting me up to Alaska to detect in 2011. We are planning on leaving at 3:30 am, and making the 950 mile drive in one day. So I had better get off of this laptop and get into my truck. I hope to have some things to add to the presentation about detecting for gold in Nevada at our Nov. Club meeting. Wish us luck!!! 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 November Meeting will feature a nine nugget give away totaling 10.3 grams of gold with the largest nugget being a beauty of 2.6 grams. We sell tickets each month for the regular gold nugget drawing and 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:

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

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

Membership Annual Dues by Dan McConnell

It's that time again! 2017 Membership dues are due in January:

Please start bringing in or mailing in your membership dues for 2017. We will start taking renewals at the November meeting and the January meeting Membership will be closed for the December dinner They are all due in January no matter when you joined. Renewals are \$30.00.

Board Meeting Minutes From Oct 2016

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

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: By Pres. Long at 6:05 pm.

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



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Treasurer's Report: Questions: none Approved: Yes.

Correspondence: 4 phone calls, 8 e-mails, 9 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 146474 Hits for last 2 month 256.

Committee Reports:

- Elections nominations tonight. BM J. Shubert will have the ballots ready for Nov. Entire Board has agreed to re-run for 2017.
- The three Barker nominee Bios have been completed and ballots will be ready for Nov.

Unfinished business: None at this time.

New Business: Lengthy discussion of the PLP situation. Until things get straightened out, we are suspending our support of PLP until the two factions get things straightened out.

Planned Outings for 2016:

- Nov. 5 Sat M/d hunt, Majestic View Park, Arvada. 9a until noon.
- Dec. 21 Wed NO REG. MEETING -Xmas Potluck dinner and recognition program.

From the Board:

Pres. Long discussed the last Clay County Outing. Went very well and lots of good gold was found.

BM A. Doll remains in Calif. As his son remains very ill. We wish him the best

BM M. Hurtado visited Dan the Prospector's claim in Leadville and it may well turn out to be a viable outing option next year. Negotiations will continue.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting November 16, 2016 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting November 16, 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 5, which will run 45 minutes and conclude this fascinating glimpse into American History.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:51 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

During the California Gold Rush, what was the common punishment for people who stole gold that was not theirs?

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 Oct 2016

1. Meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced the evening program which will be a video presentation by Mill Creek Productions titled "Gold Rush – The Discovery of America", Part 5 which will run 45 minutes and is the final episode of a fascinating glimpse into American History.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1269.70 an ounce, silver at \$17.67, platinum at \$942.00 and palladium at \$636.00. **Web hits** for last month were 256.
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 1.8 grams.
5. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 69 members in attendance. There were no guests present. The meeting attendance was 69.
6. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was "**Gold can be found beneath the earth on how many continents??**"
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. A reminder, gold submissions need to be weighed dry, please.
8. **Pres. Long** gave the 'Cache – Clue # 5. So put on your thinking caps and let's get out there and find it. George Sullivan has moved to Utah on Sept. 30, and we are gonna miss him. George hid this target.



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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 September Panning Demos in Georgetown, Highlands Ranch and Idaho Springs all went very well.
 - The Clay County Prospecting Outing was well attended and there was some good gold found.
 - Our next Outing will be a metal detecting Hunt on Nov. 5, Sat., 9am at Majestic Park in Arvada. This will be the final outing of the year.
 - We have a number of Pumpkin entries tonight so be sure and check them out at the break.
 - We will be announcing Club Elections next month as well as the candidates for the Ken Barker Award. The current Board has all agreed to re-run for 2017. Nominations were asked from the floor and Dan McConnell was nominated but then withdrew.
 - The Ken Barker nominees will be submitted for voting next month
 - Thanks to Matt Terlip for purchasing the Meyers Gold Separator that was previewed last month.
 - Pres. Long discussed the infighting at PLP and advised that the Board has determined to withdraw support of PLP until the situation has been cleared up.
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 8:15 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:37 pm.
13. **Pres. Long** announced that the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was "**All Seven Continents**"!! There were 22 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the Pumpkin Carving Contest. **Dennis Knurl** took first place, **Gary Hawley** took second and **John Johnson** took third. Each was presented with gold nuggets for their efforts. Many thanks to all those who submitted entries.
15. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
 - a. **Best Coin** – **Joe Johnston** with a 1783 penny found while metal detecting in a Boulder.
 - b. **Best Artifact** – **Bill Chapman** with an old oxen shoe found while metal detecting in New Hampshire.
 - c. **Best Mineral** – **Gale Herbertson** with a chunk of meteorite found at Lake Powell.
 - d. **Best Bottle** – **Joe Johnston** with a bottle he found in Boulder.
 - e. **Most Raw Gold** – **Mike Hurtado** with 11.74 grams of gold he found while prospecting in Gilpin County and Lake County.
16. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Bert Cutshall, Dick Oakes, 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**.
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 outside the meetings 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. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray 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.



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19. The scheduled **Program for November** will be a power point show by **Joe Fortunato** on metal detecting for gold nuggets in Nevada.
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 9:00 pm.

Finds of the Month

The Oct winners and categories are as follows:

- **Best Artifact** – Winner is **Bill Chapman** with an old oxen shoe he found in New Hampshire while m/detecting.
- **Best Coin** – Winner is **Joe Johnston** with a 1783 penny he found while m/detecting in Boulder.
- **Best Mineral** – Winner is **Gale Herbertson** with a meteor chunk he found near Lake Powell.
- **Most Raw Gold** – Winner is **Mike Hurtado** with 11.74 grams of gold he found in Leadville and Gilpin County.
- **Best Bottle** – Winner is **Joe Johnston** with a bottle he found in Boulder.



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.

Clay County Mine Outing had Good Turnout

On October 1, a good number of members turned out for the final prospecting outing of the year. The weather was great and everybody enjoyed digging until the mid-part of the day. Then most everybody met down on lower Clear creek where Pres. Long and Jack Meineke had their high bankers set up for everyone's use. After running their material, quick panning of the concentrates showed that everyone had been into some pretty good gold this time. Pres. Long got a few photos of the fun.



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

10-06-16 **Leaner Arch Coal emerges from Chapter 11:** Arch Coal, owner of the West Elk Mine near Somerset, Colorado, emerged from bankruptcy after winning court approval on a turnaround plan that clears nearly \$5 billion in debt



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from the coal producer's books. Arch has struggled against market pressures and federal regulations that have led to the loss of several hundred jobs in Colorado.

10/09/16 After gains, Gold Fund Managers advise Caution: Gold has gone gangbusters this year, rising with jitters about everything from a weak global economy to the possibility of a President Trump. But managers of gold funds warn anyone seeking a way to quick riches. Don't expect these returns to continue. Think of gold more as insurance, something that will hold up when your portfolio is crashing. As such, gold should not be more than 5% of your portfolio. Some warn that the world may not come to an end after the election and there could be a correction in gold. A correction is what traders call a 10% drop in price for an investment.

10/13/16 Feds are Not Charging Worker in Gold King Spill: The US Attorney in Denver will not prosecute and EPA employee involved in the Gold King Mine disaster, leaving it to the EPA to determine any administrative action against the employee. This comes after a year-long internal probe. Acting US Attorney Bob Troyer could not be reached for comment and spokesman Jeff Dorshner stated that the Office does not routinely comment on declinations. *(Ha...the fix is in and nothing will ever happen because the feds don't want to look like the bad guys when they can make the miners' be the bad guys....what a flaming joke!!!..JJ)*

10/29/16 White Ash Mine Memorial Site Dedicated: On September 9, 1889, 10 miners lost their lives when the White Ash Mine flooded. The mine was located in Golden, Colorado, at the west end of 12th street which is near the School of Mines Stadium. On Oct. 20th, School of Mines officials invited the public to join them in dedicating a memorial to the memory of those 10 miners. The college has a tremendous mining engineering program and has a heritage rich in mining as well.

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)

PLP – Power Struggle going on for Control of PLP: Apparently, there is much amiss within the Organization of Public Lands for the People. This group has been vital for the last 4 or 5 years in supporting mining rights and miners access throughout the western part of the US, especially in California, Oregon and Washington. But this year, something happened. The original Board of Directors were usurped by a second group who took control and proceeded to try to change the organizational by laws and constitution. Their conduct angered some of the original founders and board members who resigned. But after some consideration, the original board decided that the direction of the new group was not within the limits of the founding mantra and they determined to take back control. This has led to some major confusion with a great many members, including our own Club whom enjoys a Club Membership with the PLP. As a result, the GPR has suspended our support of PLP until such time as the dust settles and the blood stops flowing. This matter may well wind up in court which is very discouraging because the money that would be spent on infighting was intended to be spent defending miner's rights and miner's access cases. It is a shame but usually situations like this involve money and PLP has a considerable war chest that has been paying lawyers to defend miners. Apparently, some people thought that they should get some of that money. Apparently, volunteer leadership only goes so far. I hope and pray that all this gets worked out because small scale miners need the PLP to be strong and ready to fight for us all.

Politics 2016 and the Future - I have no idea as I write this, who will be the next President. Perhaps by the time you all get this to read, we will all know who has been elected. This has been the meanest and dirtiest election I have ever witnessed and I go all the way back the Harry Truman. My first presidential ballot was for John F. Kennedy. And things have changed dramatically since those days of my youth. As a good friend of mine stated the other day, "I don't think I am going to like our next President!!" And of course, he hadn't even voted as of then and knew not who the winner would be. But I too am concerned. I have made it a rule to not discuss politics in our meetings because, as with religion, such topics can create turmoil and I determined that the meetings need to be focused on mining and mining issues. I have tried to maintain that focus for the most part in this section of your newsletter. Though I do have some very strong opinions and leanings, it has been my intent only to keep the membership aware of issues across the country that may well affect us here sooner or later. I hope that I have done so. One thing I am certain of is that mining and miners are in peril and vigilance only will win the day, providing that the day is even winnable. Pray for us all!!!



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A Miner's Laugh

A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of retired miners and their wives down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by one of the little old ladies. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up. After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this gesture about five more times.

When she is about to hand him another batch again he asks the little old lady, 'Why don't you eat the peanuts yourself?' 'We can't chew them because we've no teeth', she replied. The puzzled driver asks, 'Why do you buy them then?'

The old lady replied, 'We just love the chocolate around them.'

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



October Pumpkin Carving Contest Winners

At the October meeting, quite a few pumpkin carvers brought their work to the meeting to be entered into the annual pumpkin carving contest. Each year, we get some pretty ingenious carvings that are usually mining related. This year, the three winners were **Dennis Knerle** who won first place, **Gary Hawley** who came in second place, and **John Johnson** who came in third place. Each of the winners received a nice gold nugget for their creativity and carving skills.

Congratulations to all the entries for a job well done.



Gold fever? How to find Your Own MSN.com Money Report, 5/23/2011 By Christopher Solomon

(Article from the past (5/23/2011) featuring an interview with our Prez JJ Long)

You won't get rich, experts say, but amateurs can start prospecting once they know what equipment they need, where to search and the best methods to go for the gold.

These days, with gold trading at nearly \$1,500 an ounce, people are getting their feet wet -- literally. Urged on by gold-prospecting shows on TV's Outdoor Channel, these "new 49ers" are standing in streams all over the country and panning for the glittery stuff, just like prospectors did in California a century and a half ago. Should you join them? How do you start prospecting for gold? And what are your chances of striking the mother lode? Where to sell gold We talked to some old hands to get some basic questions answered.

Can you look for gold where you live?

"There's gold that can be found in every state, including Hawaii, though some states are better than others," says **J.J. Long, the president of Gold Prospectors of the Rockies, a Colorado club** with about 120 members. One of the hottest states for amateur prospecting is California, Long says, and other big states include Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and Oregon.

What's it cost to get into prospecting?

You'll need only \$50 to \$150 to get started, but the costs can escalate if you catch gold fever."A big gold pan is \$10 to \$15," and you need at least one or two sieves to go along with it -- imagine kitchen colanders that don't let the bigger pebbles pass -- "and they're 22, 23 bucks apiece," says Michael Dunn, the owner of Gold Pan California, a supply store in Concord, Calif. You'll also need a shovel, high rubber boots and perhaps rubber gloves for working in cold streams. As you get the hang of it, you'll probably want to buy a \$135 river sluice box, Dunn says. It's a tilted, rectangular box; you pour gravel in front of the box, the gravel and water run over the box's corrugated riffles and the heavier gold gets caught in the riffles while other material washes out. You can do 10 times the work with a sluice box as with a pan, Dunn says.



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Dedicated prospectors work their way up to mechanized equipment -- power sluices, dredgers and "high-bankers" -- the latter of which is a sort of dredge that sits on dry land. Those can cost \$3,200.

You've got the gear -- now what?

So you're ready to find some gold. Where do you point your pick and shovel? "You have to go somewhere where there's public access. It's that simple," Long says. Yet it's not so simple either. "There's not that much (public access) left today," he notes. When you do find a place with public access, check with the local governing body to find out if there are any rules governing mining. (For instance, mining is usually banned in federally designated wilderness areas.) Permits generally are required only if a miner wants to use mechanized gear, Long says. "I could go into anywhere with public access with gold pans and a sluice box," he says

But heading out to a local river on your own is likely to be fruitless. "You can spend a lifetime with a pan and a pick and a shovel and find zero gold," says Ron Orbas, the vice president of the Comstock Gold Prospectors club of Reno, Nev., which has about 300 members. So what to do? "I recommend if a person is going to get serious, the first step is to join a prospecting group/club," says Chris Demarinis, the author of the e-book "How to Make Money Prospecting for Gold." "They provide educational materials, an Internet forum, along with actual outings where people can go and learn from others how to prospect and extract the gold." Clubs usually have claims that have yielded gold in the past. For instance, Orbas' Comstock club has 10 claims along several rivers.

You can learn techniques faster in a group outing, too, Orbas says. "You could spend days trying to teach yourself how to pan. The old-timers will teach you in a few minutes." There are many kinds of clubs, some of them moneymaking companies, with different kinds of access and amenities such as campgrounds. The New 49'ers club charges a lifetime fee starting at \$2,625 for access to 60 miles of river in Northern California. The Gold Prospectors Association of America has access to about 450 spots around North America. Memberships are \$67.50 a month.

How do you stake a claim?

A claim gives you sole mining access to a piece of river or land. While that's most people's view of mining, few hobbyists today actually stake claims, Orbas says. "So much of the land that has gold on it is already claimed up," making it difficult to find promising unclaimed land, he says.

If you do find a spot you want to claim, you've got to first make sure it's not already taken. Depending on the jurisdiction, that could mean checking special U.S. Geological Survey maps, for instance, or a Bureau of Land Management database [here](#). Then you must file a plan of operation with authorities who oversee the land or water, stating in detail what you hope to do, what gear you plan to use, how much damage you think you'd create and how you'd fix that damage. Filing a claim costs perhaps \$100, Long says. If you're plucking gold from someone else's claim -- say, panning in a section of a stream that the person has already marked and claimed -- that's illegal. Prospectors will sometimes approach private landowners about prospecting on their property and strike a deal to split any profits, Orbas says.

Is it OK to dig up a river?

Amateur gold prospecting isn't without some controversy, especially in places such as Oregon's Rogue River Valley. Some environmentalists contend that more-aggressive operations such as mechanized dredging can hurt fish habitats, stir up mercury left over from previous mining operations and cause a great deal of noise. Last year, California instituted a one-year moratorium on dredging in all of the state's rivers and creeks while it studied whether the practice hurts fish. The state may extend the moratorium for five more years.

How much money could you make?

Ah, the million-dollar question. Opinions vary on how much you can make. "You never get rich," Long says flatly. . . . "All the easy gold has already been found. So don't have any unreasonable expectations about getting rich. It just isn't going to happen." Orbas agrees. "On any one of our claims . . . I would say if you make \$10 or \$20 a day, you're doing pretty well." Where Orbas prospects, the old-timers got most of the gold a century ago, he says. "So basically the only gold that guys like me find is called flood gold -- it rains and snows in the mountains, and when it does, it washes a small amount of gold down. And that's what we find."

Is prospecting worth your time?

"Absolutely not," Orbas says with a laugh. "You're out of your mind to do this. You've got to have a screw loose. It costs me \$100 to \$200 to do this every time I go out, in gas and groceries and wear and tear on my car, and I'm tickled pink if I find \$10 or \$15 worth of gold. "And I'm going to do this till I drop."

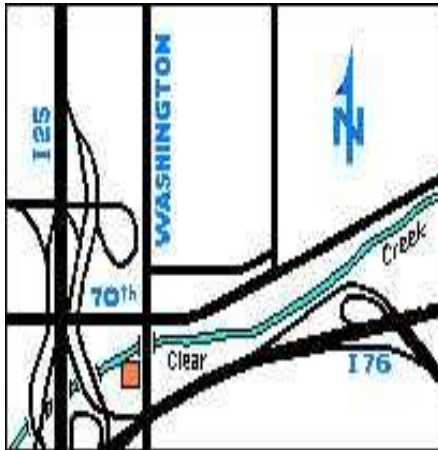


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Where else, Long says, can you go out and play in the dirt all day -- just like your mother told you not to? Something else keeps people coming back: that feeling the next shovelful could cause them to finally yell "eureka!"

But most of all, they return for simple pleasures. "You've never had a cold beer taste so good," Orbas says, "as when the sun's going down and you've had a good day on the river and you're all worn out."

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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 Dec 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 Holiday Model Railroad Exhibit Dec 17 thru Jan 31, 2017.				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 GPR Club Meeting Christmas Pot Luck Dinner	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	