

THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2017



The Prez Sez by Jim Long



This year is going to be an interesting one to say the least. We have a new National President and he has already been making major changes and naming new folk to replace the old ones. One pick which is of vital interest to the prospecting community is that of Montana Representative Ryan Zinke as his nominee for Secretary of the Interior.

I have addressed the history and discussion of Mr. Zinke in another section of this newsletter, but I personally think this guy is a great choice to replace Sally Jewell who was definitely, in my opinion, shown to not be our friend. I had great hopes for her but the Obama Administration was so locked in their desire to protect everyone from ourselves that they went overboard and ultimately were stripping our access to public lands away by the hundreds of thousands of acres. Zinke is a proven outdoorsman and has been known to vote against overzealous environments, though he is a believer in conservation through wise management, which makes him somewhat of an environmentalist at heart.

One of the last things Obama did before he hit the door was to prohibit all resource mining in the North Atlantic and along the Eastern Coast down to practically South Carolina (referred to as the Atlantic Shelf) as well as up in the Arctic Ocean. While his intention was to again prevent any and all resource mining and thereby 'save' the oceans from destruction by mankind, it will ultimately leave our country to be even more dependent on foreign sources for some of our more important resources, specifically oil and gas. But one can see that such prohibitions could very easily, and most probably would, include rare earth metals and other things as well. I think that the new President will be changing some things back wherever he can and using a little more common sense in doing so. At least I hope that that will be the case. In the interest of trying to avoid getting into a war over politics, ideology, and whatever other sacred ground I may be trespassing on, I will merely say again that this coming year is going to be a most interesting one for sure!!!

In anticipation of the coming year, I have been hard at work trying to line up some speakers and programs for your entertainment and interest that does not involve videos for a while (you are welcome), and putting together a schedule of events for the coming season. At present, I have about 16 events/outings penciled in and I'm working on getting most of them finalized as best I can for the time being. I am going to call on a few more people to pitch in and assist on some of these events and I sincerely hope that those I ask jump in with a little enthusiasm towards the common good. It takes more than one person to make a village.

I have acquired a couple of dry washers and spending lots of my spare time trying to get them put together from the piles of parts and pieces they were in when I got them. They are both Keene units and one is basically what is called a 'puffer' and the other is a dry/vac model. I managed to find enough parts to pretty much get the 'puffer' operable as of now but the other needs a leaf blower motor and some adaptors for the hose connectors and it will be ready to go. I haven't decided if I want it to be gas driven or battery operated. A gas driven motor would be a whole lot easier to transport and operate. Oh mercy me, decisions, decisions, decisions. Still, it will be fun if I get the opportunity to use them this summer. I also wound up with some various other equipment such as part of an old Keene high banker, a 2" dredge nozzle, some 2" stiff hose, 50' of 1 1/2" stiff hose and a couple of sluice boxes. I now even have an old Borgold high banker. I am going to have to unload most of this stuff this summer so if you are looking for some old fixer upper stuff to play with, look me up.



Our first event on the schedule this year will be a Beginner's Class on panning and sluicing and will be held on Saturday, March 25 and will be on Clear Creek at 42nd and Youngfield and will start at 9am. This class is free and is a great way to



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polish up your panning skills before summer hits. If you are relatively new to the game of prospecting, this is a must do for you. You will learn in 3 hours more than you can often learn in 2 or 3 years on your own. So I hope to see some of you there.

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be!. 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!!!

2017 Dues are Due and Payable....Please Consider Paying Your Dues in January

The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato"



Happy New Year fellow club members!!! It is 9:01pm , Sunday Jan. 1, according to my laptop. Which means that I had better get to typing or this article will be late. A number of topics have crossed my mind, but none of them strike me as something to write an entire article about. With that in mind, I thought I would just say a few words about several subjects. To begin with, it's that time of the year again, when things get a bit more challenging for gold prospectors and metal detectorists here in Colorado. A mixture of cold or snowy days with a warm spell every now and then, makes it difficult to plan outdoor activities. Those cold days are a great time to add to our skill sets and do research. There are a lot of great books and videos out there, and the internet is loaded with information that we all can use. When a few warm days come along, we can get back out and try out some of our new found knowledge. It is tougher to do in winter, but it can be done as long as you dress for the conditions you are likely to encounter. If you are going to the creek, look for a promising spot that also has the most hours of sun on it during our short winter days. If you plan on doing some detecting (most likely coin and jewelry this time of the year), look for south facing slopes. These slopes get more direct sun and don't freeze as easily as flat surfaces do. If you plan on detecting lawns or parks, please make it a point to disturb the ground as little as possible when recovering targets!!! This should be done at all times, not just during winter months. If you take two steps from your last dig and can identify the spot, then you haven't done a good enough job of reclaiming it. So I will close by saying, make the most of all your winter days.

May all your adventures be Golden!!! Questions or comments call me. 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker

The January Meeting will feature a 9 nugget drawing that will include a nugget of at least 2.6 grams or more. We will also be selling tickets for the 'Special Nugget' which will be given away in February. We will also be giving away numerous door prizes as well. Remember that your chances of winning are better than the Colorado Lottery as there are so many less people participating. Be sure to support your Club and buy lots of tickets. See you all at the Meeting.

Planned 2017 GPR Meeting Programs:

Jan. 18 Nancy Johnson, of the Idaho Springs Historical Society, will speak on the history of Clear Creek County and Idaho Springs.

Feb 15 Christie Wright, of the Park County Historical Society will speak on Park County history.

Mar 15 Richard Sweeney, of Pilot Mining, will speak on 'Fire Assay of Gold' and will bring show and tell items for everyone's viewing pleasure.

Apr 19 Hank Innerfeld, A GPR Club member, will speak on 'Dowsing for Gold'.

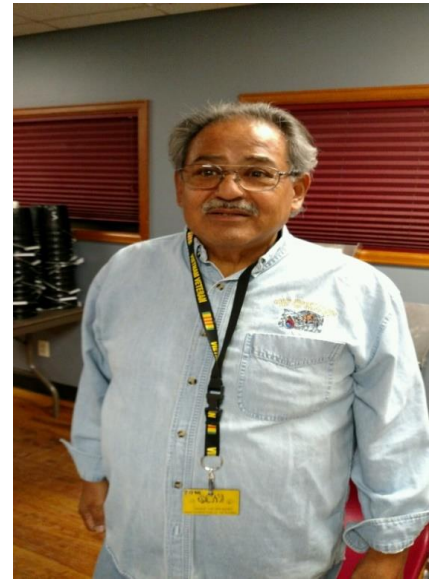
May 17 'Stump the Panel', An opportunity to ask 'GPR Club Experts', questions related to gold mining.



Winner of the Ken Barker Award 2016

Congratulations to Mike Hurtado who was elected the 2016 recipient of the Ken Barker Award.

Mike has been an active member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies since 2008. He is a veteran, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Mike has involved himself very deeply with the Club and has volunteered at the Registration Table as well as the Club Store. He eventually volunteered for the Board and served as the Vice President for 4 years and continues as a member of the Board. Mike very rarely misses an outing no matter what kind it is. He is an avid prospector and a very knowledgeable one, and has prospected in many other states to include Alaska. He has supported the Club and has recruited for the Club. He has been a leading mentor to many members and is always willing to drop what he is doing to help someone else. He has been a valuable assistant in most outings, panning demos and Beginner Classes. Though he claims to be no public speaker, Mike can even do that if necessary, and has, once or twice in the past. He is always of the prowl for a program or speaker and is always hunting for a new member to encourage and help. Mike is exactly what the Ken Barker Award exemplifies. He believes in the Club and all it stands for. For all the reasons above, the Committee was proud to nominate Mike Hurtado and the Membership unanimously selected him to be the 2016 Ken Barker Award Recipient!



Board Meeting Minutes From Dec 2016

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

There was no official Board Meeting held for the month of December

- Quorum present?
- Call to Order:
- Reading and Approval of Minutes:
- Treasurer's Report:
- Correspondence:
- Webmaster: Committee Reports:
- Unfinished business:
- New Business:
- Planned Outings for 2016:
- From the Board:
- Announcements:
- Tonight's general meeting program:
- Adjournment:

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
 What Leadville, Colorado mine turned Horace Tabor into the 'Silver King of Colorado'?

- 2017 GPR Board of Directors Members**
- President**
James Long
 - Vice President**
Joe Fortunato
 - Secretary/Treasurer**
Wayne Schomaker
 - 2 Year Board Members**
Joe Johnston (2013)
Joe Shubert (2011)
 - 1 Year Board Members**
Chris Kafka
Andy Doll
Brandon Luchtenburg
John Johnson
Bobby Manning
Mike Hurtado
 - Past President**
Gary Hawley



General Meeting Minutes From Dec 2016

There was no official meeting for the month of December. The Club did host a Christmas Potluck Dinner and a Recognition Program.

1. 6:05pm The Program was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Prez. Long. Attendees were then invited to the serving tables to enjoy a fabulous potluck dinner.
2. 7:10pm Pres. Long greeted everyone and noted that there were 92 attendees present. Pres. Long recapped the 2016 year pointing out that the:
 - Club had scheduled 19 events over the course of the year including 8 prospecting outings, 6 panning demonstrations, 1 metal detecting hunt,
 - 2 Beginner panning/slucing classes,
 - a Club picnic and the Christmas Potluck Dinner.
 - We did try to schedule a tour that had to be cancelled due to conditions beyond our control.

All in all, it was a busy year and Pres. Long informed the group that he had already started scheduling speakers, programs, and outings for the upcoming year.

3. Pres. Long then introduced the 2016 Board of Directors and advised that the same folks had been elected to serve for 2017 as well. Board Members Andy Doll and Brandon Luchtenburg were unable to attend.
4. A Christmas gift from the Club was passed out to all attendees.
5. Pres. Long then presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Board Members and to volunteers Chris and Joe Kafka and Chuck Cown for all that they do to make the Club run successfully. Becki and Dan McConnell were unable to attend due to illness.
6. Certificates of Recognition were presented the seven winners of the Finds of the Year contest, Dillon Cheer, Robert Ahr, Gale Herbertson, Bobby Manning and Mike Hurtado as winners of the Finds of the Year. Dan Cheer was unable to attend due to illness.
7. The Golden Elephant Gift Exchange was then conducted followed by drawings for twelve additional gifts that included 3 gold nuggets, 3 one ounce silver coins, 3 hand-made miniature sluice boxes and 3 free Annual Memberships.
8. The winner of the 2016 Ken Barker Award was then named and Mike Hurtado was presented with the Award and the \$100.00 prize that goes with it.
9. The evening was concluded with the table centerpieces, which were hand-made by Chris Kafka, were presented to the person at each table with the closest birthday to Christmas.
10. The Christmas Program was concluded at 8:05pm.

Finds of the Month Will be back next month

The Jan 2017 winners and categories are as follows:

- Best Artifact – Winner
- Best Coin – Winner
- Best Mineral –
- Best Jewelry – Winner
- Largest Raw Gold – Winner.
- Best Bottle – Winner.



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 2017 meeting to compete for the Find of the Year 2017. Thanks to all those who also submitted additional finds that were not judged to be winners.



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

12-10-16 Sibanye Gold Planning to buy Littleton Miner: South Africa's Sibanye Gold Ltd. Announced plans to buy Littleton based palladium and platinum miner Stillwater Mining Co. for \$2.2 billion dollars. The move is a vote of confidence in platinum in addition to a strategic diversification away from the often difficult operating environment of South Africa. Sibanye has a long and storied history in the mining industry. It was spun off in 2013 from three aging South African mines held by Gold Fields Ltd., a company founded by colonial pioneer Cecil John Rhodes.

12-16-16 Mining Company Challenges Method in Superfund Decision: The owner of an inactive gold mine is contesting the way a Superfund site was established after a massive wastewater spill from another mine. Sunnyside Gold Corp. filed a petition in federal court, saying some properties weren't properly reviewed before they were included. The EPA established the Superfund site in September, a year after the Gold King Mine spill.

12-20-16 Hedge Funds Pull Out of Gold as Price Falls: Gold is in the doldrums. Prices have fallen for six straight weeks, the worst streak in a year. A stronger dollar and rising bond yields have crimped demand. Hedge funds have cut their bets on a rally while outflows are ramping up from exchange-traded funds. What all that means is that the dollar is getting stronger and the DOW is gaining steadily. When the DOW goes up, gold usually goes down. This is a good time to buy gold.

12-29-16 Obama designates Utah, Nevada Monuments: President Obama used the Antiquities Act to designate two national monuments yesterday in Utah and Nevada. The Bears Ears National Monument is in the four corners region of Utah, and the Gold Butte National Monument is in the Las Vegas area of Nevada. The two sites have become flash points over use of public lands in the West, marking the Administration's latest move to protect environmentally sensitive areas in its final days. The 2 areas involve 1.6 million acres. There are always two sides to every debate and this one is no exception. But it does represent another move on Obama's part that goes against a large representation of the local peoples wishes. The local Indian tribes favor both designations but some other locals are not too happy. (*Obama may have gotten this one right while he blew the California ones of 2016...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)

PLP - Elections Occurring this Month for the PLP: The Public Lands for the People Election of the Board of Directors will take place on January 19th, 2017. This will occur at the regularly scheduled monthly membership and Board Meeting.

The following PLP members in good standing have been nominated by the PLP membership at the November 17th 2016 Public Lands for the People Regularly Scheduled Monthly Membership Meeting:

Marty Hagbery, Wayne Peterson, Gene Tietjen, Barry Sears, Barry Wetherby (founding member), Eugene Beley, Lisa Cox, Dwayne Platz, Jean Buetow, Ray Kender, Eric Diehl, Wayne Courter, Pat Keene (founding member), Dennis Wafford, Melissa Innocenzi, Chris Zeman, Mitch Noble, Joe Innocenzi.

On January 19th 2017 Public Lands for the People is having its Regularly Scheduled Monthly Membership Meeting where the PLP Membership and Board of Directors (pro tem) is having its annual 2017 Board of Directors election at Keene Engineering, 8940 Lurline Ave., Chatsworth, CA, 9131, 818-991-5397 from 7:30-9:00pm. This is an open meeting for PLP membership and the public.

For your vote to count: 1. Members must be in good standing. 2. Members must be present to vote. 3. Members must sign their ballot.

It is important PLP members attend and exercise their membership vote.

The results will be tallied and available at the end of the meeting on 19th January 2017. At the February 16th 2017 PLP Board of Directors Meeting the officers, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary, will be elected by the new BOD.



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Politics 2016 and the Future - Montana Representative Ryan Zinke is Trump's Nominee for Secretary of the Interior. Zinke has represented Montana's at-large congressional set for one term. Zinke studied geology as an undergraduate at the University of Oregon and served as a US Navy Seal from 1986 to 2008 before entering politics, campaigned for his House Seat on a platform of achieving North American energy independence. He sits on the House Natural Resources Committee as well as the Armed Services Committee. A lifelong hunter and fisherman, the 55 year old Zinke has defended public access to federal lands even though he frequently votes against environmentalists. This last summer, Zinke resigned his position as a member of the GOP platform writing committee after the group included language that would have transferred federal land ownership to the states. Trump also opposes such land transfers. Zinke recently criticized an Interior Department rule aimed at curbing inadvertent releases of methane from oil and gas operations on federal land as 'duplicative and unnecessary'. "Clean air and water are absolute priorities when we talk about responsible energy development, however, the final rule issued by the Obama Administration does nothing to further protect our resources. This rule is a stark reminder that we need to invest in infrastructure projects like the Keystone pipeline, so we don't need to flare excess gas." Zinke prides himself as a Theodore Roosevelt Republican and he lives that a little bit more than other people. While some Democrats are likely to oppose his nomination, the pick does provide the party with one bit of good news. It removes a possible challenger to Sen. Jon Tester, the Montana Democrat who likely will face a tough election bid in 2018.

MMAC – More Mining Districts are being Reinstated Across the West: Every month, there are more and more Mining Districts being brought back to life across the west in states like California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. This is being viewed as a major step toward protecting miner's rights of access and occupation. The reforming of these old Mining Districts is seen as the first step to preventing the USFS and the BLM from some of their recent attacks on mining and access to public lands. Both federal agencies have been abusing their powers for the last several years and have been creating havoc for small scale miners across the entire western US, but times are rapidly changing and for the better.

A Miner's Laugh

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy. And Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."



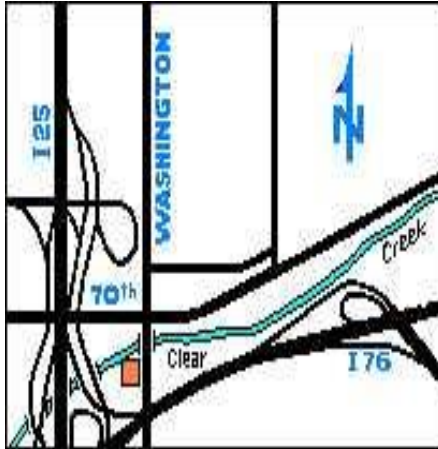
Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent. To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew to the People (HTTP). And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum heads and drumsticks. And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com. Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth. I swear it. I would not make up this stuff.

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



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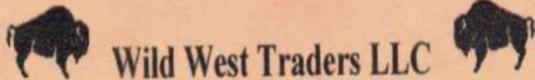


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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Feb 2017

(**WMMI** - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 National Freedom Day	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 WMMI Minerals We Use Everyday: Mined from Our National Forests	10	11
12	13	14 Valentines Day	15 GPR Club Meeting	16	17	18 WMMI Publish! Writing Workshop with Steve Veatch
19	20 Presidents Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				