

# THE GOLD NUGGET

March 2017

## Obituary

It saddens us to report the death of **Jay F. Nunn**, a long-time member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies. Jay, age 78, passed in February after a long battle with cancer. Jay was a good prospector and a good friend to many of the Club's 'Old Timers'. Though not very active in the last few years due to his health and age, he spend many hours of many days working a dredge hose and a high banker searching for that elusive gold. Jay made his home in Arvada until his death. Rest in Peach sir, and may you finally have all the gold you ever desired



## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



We have been indeed fortunate to have the weather that we have been having for this time of year. Usually, it is so cold that there is ice on the creek and it is way too cold to even think about it. But February was just unreal and a lot of us have been out and about and finding gold, me included.

Our first event of the year is coming up in the form of the Beginners Panning and Sluicing Class that I do each spring and fall for all of our newer members and some of you others who just like the opportunity to hose your skills a little. Which brings me to the point of what do I really need to be successful in finding gold? To that point, I will repeat the things that I tell everyone each spring and advise the newer folks who want to get going and find some gold. Let's talk a little bit about you newer folks that are just getting started. We often joke among ourselves that it frequently takes \$100 just to make \$10 when it comes to small scale prospecting. And there is a lot more truth to that than some of us would really like to admit. But, just like any form of activity, there is a certain amount of 'overhead' required to make things happen. There is the cost of equipment to get the job done and other important incidentals such as food, fuel and lodging. Add them all up and you see why we call it the old 100 for 10 rule. I generally talk about this topic just about every spring because that is when we get an influx of newer members who want to try their hand at getting some of that gold. So let's talk about what it takes to get started.

Since some of you are new to this game and relatively inexperienced, I am going to try to make this simple. You don't need to spend more than about \$200.00 dollars to have all you need to get as much gold as you want. So save your hard earned dollars and don't buy all that stuff in the magazines and on E-bay or on U-tube. Until you have mastered the basics, you only need some basic equipment. All that other stuff is just going to soak your wallet and you aren't going to find any more gold than you will with what I tell you that you will need. So first of all, you need to have a little patience. If you don't have patience, prospecting probably isn't for you. If you think you are going to go out and find a million dollars' worth of gold and retire next week, we need to seriously sit down and talk. That ain't going to happen. So what do you need? Well, you need some rubber boots and rubber gloves. You need a shovel, any old shovel pretty much will do and you need a couple of 5 gallon buckets. You need a 14" green pan with riffles in it (\$22.00). You need a 1/2 inch screen (\$22.00), a number 8 screen (\$22.00), and a black 8" pan (\$8.00). You need a plastic/metal scoop (\$6.00), a snuffer bottle (\$3.00) and a glass/plastic vial (\$.50) to put your gold in. These prices are close but not exact, depending on where you get your equipment. If you have to buy a shovel (\$20.00) or a bucket (\$5.00), it adds a little more. Knee high boots are about \$18.00, and a pair of booted Hodgeman's hip waders will run about \$35.00. And you are all set. That comes to about \$150.00 or so and that is all you need to go prospecting pretty much anywhere.

Now you need to have someone experienced to teach you how to use all that stuff and show you why it is so important to have these items in your arsenal. So you





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sign up for one of the two Beginner Classes that I conduct each spring and fall. And there, I will teach you, hands on, how to use all that stuff you just bought. I will tell you how it is used and then I will show you how it is used. Then I make you do it. And we practice until you have the idea. But you will have to set up some equipment at home to make yourself become more proficient, and especially in the Art of panning. This is where that patience I told you that you are going to desperately need comes in. Most folks don't master the technique in a mere couple of minutes. Some catch on rather quickly and others take a little longer. But once you get it, it is like magic and the whole thing gets so much easier. You will need one additional item to practice panning at home and that is a black masonry tub from Lowe's or Home Depot that runs about \$5.00. And that is about it. You will be ready to go prospecting and find gold.

After you get good at this part of it, we will maybe want to invest about 120.00 more for a good sluice box and you will then be able to go anywhere in the country and find as much gold as anybody else is getting, and your total investment will not exceed \$300.00. Don't let anybody sucker you into spending hundreds of dollars on all kinds of equipment with the promise of finding more gold and getting more gold and blah, blah, blah. Take it from me, you will more than likely struggle trying to figure out how to use that stuff and eventually just wind up selling it later on at e-bay or a garage sale because you got too frustrated trying to learn how to use it or it doesn't measure up to your expectations. Start out slow and learn how to use the basic stuff properly and then take it a step at a time. The old timers started out with nothing but pans, pick and shovel, and then went to rocker boxes or sluice boxes. It worked for them and pretty danged well I might add. It will work for you as well!

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](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com) . Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

**2017 Dues are Due and Payable....Please Consider Paying  
Your Dues SOON**

## The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato"



You sure can tell that we live in Colorado, by the weather we have had recently. Stretches of warm days mixed with those typical cold Colorado winter days.

We can't complain too much, with some daytime high temps. at or near 70 degrees, we have had plenty of opportunities to prospect or detect lately. We haven't had much snow here in the Denver area so far, but that can still change in the next month or two. On the other hand, the mountains have really been getting hammered this winter. I have heard reports of snow depths ranging from 130 to 240 percent of normal in the high country. With that much snow, you can bet that our streams, creeks, and rivers will be flowing well above average levels this spring. The increase in water volume and water velocity, means there is a good possibility for gold that has not moved in a while, to be pushed around and redistributed. The way I see it, that is good news for us miners. To my way of thinking, it is kind of like Mother Nature hitting the reset button. When we return to our favorite area after the runoff, it will be like an artist starting with a fresh canvas. Speaking of Mother Nature, I imagine that most of our members are aware of the recent situation at the Oroville Dam in California. With all the rain and snow that they had there recently, the lake was filled beyond its capacity and water was flowing over an emergency spillway. It was a tense situation for days, with 180,000 residents living below the dam being evacuated at one point. It seems that things are better now, and that is certainly good news for all those folks. Once the worst was over, I was looking at video taken from a helicopter of the area below the emergency spillway. There were massive amounts of erosion, down to what appeared to be bedrock and quartz boulders. I can't help but wonder how much gold may have been washed down stream into the Feather River (I guess that is the prospector in me). I am quite sure that I am not the only person thinking along those lines. It will be interesting to see if any stories about gold being recovered in that area pop up later this year!!! 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 March Meeting will feature a 9 nugget drawing that will include a nugget of at least 2.6 grams or more. We have another fine specimen from Alaska to auction off. 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 up-coming Meeting.

### Planned 2017 GPR Meeting Programs:

**Mar15** Richard Sweeney, of Pilot Mining, will speak on 'Fire Assay of Gold' and will bring show and tell items for everyone's viewing pleasure.

**Apr19** 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.

## Board Meeting Minutes From Feb 2017

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

**Quorum present?** Yes

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

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Corrections: n/a Approved as read/corrected: Yes.

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

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

**Webmaster:** Total Hit 147586 Hits for last 2 month 214.

### Committee Reports:

- Gold has been purchased for 2017/2018.
- Morse Park Pavilion @2 has been reserved for Club Picnic.
- PO Box has been paid for 2017.
- All Committee assignments will remain the same for 2017.

**Unfinished Business:** Memberships to WMMI and to CSMGM have been paid.

### New Business:

- None at this time.
- PLP remains up in the air.
- Foothills is planning a gold and gem Show in June.

**Planned Outings for 2017:** Notice of Outings planned for 2017 was sent out with Feb Newsletter.

Next Outing is Beginner's Class on March 25, Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class.

### From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the Adams County Recreational Development Plan and Open House held January 26. Prospecting was the third largest rated user of Clear Creek.
- BM Andy D. remains in San Diego with his son who is still very ill.
- There were no other items to be discussed.

**Announcements:** None at this time.

Next Board Meeting March 15, 2017 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting March 15, 2017 at 7:00pm

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Name the ghost town just east of the Grand Island mining district in Boulder County??

#### 2017 GPR Board of Directors Members

**President**  
James Long

**Vice President**  
Joe Fortunato

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Wayne Schomaker

**2 Year Board Members**  
Joe Johnston (2014)  
Joe Shubert (2015)

**1 Year Board Members**  
Chris Kafka  
Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

Mike Hurtado

**Past President**  
Gary Hawley



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**Tonight's general meeting program:** We will feature **Christy Wright**, of the Park County Historical Society and the Secretary of the Park County Mining Association, who will speak on more history of Park County and the old gold mining ghost towns.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:45 pm.

## General Meeting Minutes From Feb 2017

1. Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by Pres. Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Long then announced the evening program which was Christy Wright, of the Park County Historical Society and the Secretary of the Park County Mining Association, with a program on the old gold mining ghost towns of Park County. The Program was well received by the membership.
3. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1233.20 an ounce, silver at \$17.95, platinum at \$1009.00 and palladium at \$787.00.
4. Web hits for last month were 214.
5. 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. We have a brand new Alaskan chunk of raw gold weighing in at 13.9 grams. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.8 grams.
6. Dan and Becki McConnell who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 69 members in attendance. There were 3 guests present. The total meeting attendance was 72.
7. Pres. Long read the 'Question of the Month', which was "Where did Crazy Bob Womack make the first discovery of gold in the Cripple Creek mining district??"
8. Pres. Long advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2017. A reminder to all that gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category.
9. John Johnson announced the 'Cache Clue #2'.
10. 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, and we have discounted several items. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over the Store. We thank Mike Hurtado for helping out at the Store in the meanwhile.
11. Pres. Long informed the membership of:
  - The next 2017 Outing which will be a Beginners panning /Sluicing Class held on Sat., March 25, at 9am on Clear Creek at I-70 and Youngfield.
  - The 2017 Outing Schedule was sent out with the February Newsletter
  - 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.
  - Pres. Long then discussed at length, the results of the Recreational Development Plan for the lower 7 miles of Clear Creek which involves Adams County. The prospecting community was determined to be the third largest user of the watershed. When completed, the survey will be shared with us. All those who took the time to complete the survey were thanked for their efforts.
    - There was nothing further from the floor.
12. Pres. Long announced the break at 8:12 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:36 pm.
13. Pres. Long announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was "Poverty Gulch." There were 27 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:
  - Best Mineral – Gale Herbertson with a 'smoky quartz' specimen he found in a gravel pit.
  - Best Artifact – Dennis Perraderen with a bullet he found metal detecting in Arvada, Co.



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- Best Jewelry – Joe Johnston with a sterling silver ear ring he found in Lakewood, Co.
  - Best Coin – Joe Johnston with a ‘coin spill’ he found in Englewood, Co.
15. Pres. Long concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, Lloyd Lauckl, 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.
  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 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 March meeting Program will feature speaker Richard Sweeney of the Pilot Mining, who will present a ‘Show and Tell’ on the Fire Assay of Gold. This will be a really great program that you don’t want to miss. See you all there.
  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 8:58 pm.

## Finds of the Month

The finds of the Month for February are as follows:

- **Best Coin** – The winner was **Joe Johnston** with a ‘coin spill’ he found in Englewood.
- **Best Jewelry** – The winner was **Joe Johnston** with a sterling earring he found in Lakewood.
- **Best Bottle** – The winner was (no entry).
- **Best Artifact** – The winner was **Dennis Perederin** with a bullet he found in Arvada.
- **Best Mineral** – The winner was **Gale Herbertson** with a smoky quartz sample he found in a gravel pit.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – The winner was (no entry).
- **Most Raw Gold** – The winner was (no entry).



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.

## A Miner’s Laugh

Yesterday my daughter e-mailed me again, asking me why I didn't do something more useful with my time. I had recently retired after working in the mining community for nearly 50 years. So I responded to her, “Like sitting around the pool and drinking wine is not a good thing?” I asked. Her





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talking about my "doing-something-useful" seems to be her favorite topic of conversation lately. She was "only thinking of me", she said and suggested that I go down to the local Senior Center and hang out with the other gals. So I did this and when I got home last night, I decided to play a little prank on her. Well, I e-mailed her and told her that I had taken her advice and joined a Parachute Club. She replied, "Are you nuts? You are 78 years old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?" I told her that I even got a Membership Card and e-mailed a copy to her. She immediately telephoned me and yelled, "Good grief, Mom, where are your glasses?!!!" This is a Membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club!!!" "Oh for Pete's sake, I'm in trouble again," I said, "I really don't know what to do. Shoot, I signed up for five jumps a week!!!" The line went kind of quiet and her friend picked up the phone and said that my daughter had fainted!! Oh well, life as a Senior Citizen is not getting any easier for me for sure, but sometimes it can be ever so much fun!!!!

*(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)

**2-14-17 Gold Nears 3 Month High as Buyers Flock to Top Exchange-Traded Fund:** Gold climbed to its highest level in almost three months as investors purchased metal through the biggest exchange traded fund for a fifth day, the longest buying spree since last June. Holdings in SPDR Gold Shares ETF rose 8.3 metric tons to 827 tons this week. The rebound has helped gold prices extend their gain as investors question the implications of President Trump's international and domestic policies.

**2-26-17 Mining Valuation Changes Put on Hold:** The Interior Department has put on hold changes to how the federal government values huge volumes of coal extracted from public lands, primarily in the western US, after mining companies challenged the agency in federal court. The move by the Trump Administration means current rules governing the industry will remain in place pending decisions from the courts. The changes, crafted under the Obama Administration, were aimed at ensuring companies don't shortchange taxpayers on coal sales to Asia and other markets.

## 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)*

**Share This**...Start calling and emailing your Congressman and let them know you support bill H.R. 622.

On 1/24/17, Rep. Jason Chaffetz introduced legislation to jettison law enforcement officials under the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in favor of giving the money to states who can prop up local sheriffs. The bill is called H.R. 622. The Utah Republican says local law enforcement should be responsible for responding to incidents on wide swaths of public land.

"The first line of defense should be the sheriff," Chaffetz said Tuesday. "Right now there's an open request for proposals for sub-machine guns to be purchased by the BLM. They're building up this arsenal and it's very concerning for me how volatile this situation is." Go to this website and enter your address to find out who represents you in Congress - <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members> the first line of defense should be the sheriff," Chaffetz said Tuesday. "Right now there's an open request for proposals for sub-machine guns to be purchased by the BLM. They're building up this arsenal and it's very concerning for me how volatile this situation is."

Go to this website and enter your address to find out who represents you in Congress - <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members> the first line of defense should be the sheriff," Chaffetz said Tuesday. "Right now there's an open request for proposals for sub-machine guns to be purchased by the BLM. They're building up this arsenal and it's very concerning for me how volatile this situation is."

Go to this website and enter your address to find out who represents you in Congress - <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members>

*(Now we are talking, finally, somebody willing to stand up and say no to the unlawful use of force by federal agencies who were never authorized to use such force in the first place.....JJ)*



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**BLM Rollback**...House Votes to Kill ‘Planning Rule’ that Upped Public Input: The US House of Representatives voted on February 7 to kill a federal rule supposedly gave citizens more of a voice in large scale planning projects using public lands. The action, sponsored by both Colorado Rep. Tipton and Wyoming’s Cheney would strip the BLM’s ‘Project Planning 2.0 Rule’ that took effect in December. This is the third time that lawmakers have struck back at Obama Administration last minute implementation of regulations. While it may sound on the surface as if the lawmakers are anti-environmental, quite the opposite is true. The congressmen are angry that the Obama Administration did not listen to the will of the people in the first place and chose to add additional layers of unnecessary regulations intended to muddle the process and drag it out so that any faction that wished to challenge the BLM’s decision making involving any environmental issue, would find the process so cumbersome as to make it impossible to ever effect change. The basic result of the ‘2.0 Rule’ would have allowed the BLM to determine the course of action basically without regard to any outside entities opinions. The planning Rule was originally supported by Park County and western slope republicans who were complaining along with Wyoming and Utah officials that there weren’t enough public input sessions and lacked transparency. However, Congress determined that the Rule actually diluted local and state voices and centralized the power back in Washington DC. They felt that special interest groups were being put above that of local officials which was never its original intention. President Trump has strongly advocated that a lot of things that the federal government has taken on in the latter years of Obama, were better left decided by the States with little to no federal intervention. Of course, conservationists immediately mobilized launching a lobbying blitz targeting senators and rallying their constituents. Their idea of modern land use planning is to close everything off and regulate the hell out of everything. And there are many who resent that posture. While many agree that the BLM should be a part of the long term planning involving how gas and oil is developed, general conservation and even grazing, there is a determination to have a strong local and state input and voice that is heard and heeded.

## Club Members Volunteer to Help “Gold Unlimited” with Panning Class

Gold Unlimited conducted a History and Panning Class for 64 kids from Heritage Elementary School on Tuesday, February 14. The all-day Field Trip started out at the old site of Montana City (Grant-Frontier Park on the South Platte River) where the kids learned about the very beginning of the discovery of gold in Colorado. They were then taken to Confluence Park near downtown Denver (again on the South Platte River) where the history lesson continued. Finally, they arrived at Arapahoe Bar (Clear Creek at Youngfield) where 14 volunteers from Gold Unlimited, Gold ‘n’ Sand, Gold Strike, and the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies were on hand to show the kids how to pan for gold. The volunteers had arrived early and dug material and prepared it in tubs for the kids to pan. They were each given a gold pan, snuffer bottle and glass vial and allowed to keep all the gold they were able to pan. The kids had a great time and the weather was cooperative. A hearty thanks go to GPR Members Bobby Manning, Frank Zahn, Carl Adams, Sue and Ian Duncanson for volunteering to make the event successful for those kids. Pres. Long managed time for a few photos.



## Where Can I Find Some Gold? by Jim Long



I get this question all the time, “Where can I find some gold?” Usually, I answer “Try Clear Creek above Tunnel #1.” But the answer is a whole lot more complex than that. While Clear Creek is Denver’s premier gold producing watershed, it certainly isn’t the only place you can find gold along the Front Range or even up higher in the mountains. Usually that first question is followed by, “Okay, where should I dig next?”, or “Where do I start?” And you can see that things start getting a bit more complicated. As many of you know, I teach a Beginner’s



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Prospecting Class each year to help folks with some of these questions. And I do this for free, although there are people out there who charge a lot of money for the information that I give a way for free. So let me start by saying that gold is spotty. You can be digging in one spot and finding nothing, but move six feet away and hit a good run of color. Gold is like that, spotty to absent in one spot but abundant in another. You may arrive in a spot and scratch your head wondering where to start to dig. At that point, some just throw their hands in the air and give up. Some people will tell you that gold is where you find it. While that is somewhat true, it is not very helpful. But the spots where gold is located are, generally, not just random. Sometimes it is hard to figure where the gold really is and this is what makes some folks just better prospectors than others. Knowledge and experience do count. Once you learn the basic skills of panning and sluicing, there are other factors that are very important. Knowing where the old timers found gold is one of them. If they found gold somewhere, there is going to be some gold still there. They didn't get it all but most likely they did most likely get all the easily found gold. Understanding some basic geology is pretty important as well. Knowing where the mineral belts are and understanding the relationship between gold and some of its host minerals and material. The odds of someone just going out and digging and finding gold are pretty poor. But armed with a little knowledge and a little research, you can definitely narrow down the odds and put them in your favor. Much of the gold that you are seeking will be one of two kinds. It will be 'rich' or it will be 'low grade'. Understanding how to find the "rich" zone is the key to success. I can dig all day in Clear Creek and I will find gold. But if I take a little time each spring, I can weed out the low grade zones and from time to time, find those little pockets of richer gold. It makes a whole lot more sense to fill a 5 gallon bucket with rich material than it does with poor material. This piece is not intended to locate and identify those areas of rich versus poor material for you. But I do want to point you toward making the kinds of decisions that will improve your odds in finding that richer material. For most of us, just consistently finding gold here in Colorado is a big plus, especially since it is really difficult to find good places to prospect on public ground. So making the right decisions is important. How do you do that you might ask? Expertise, knowledge and experience are going to be very helpful. From panning to sluicing to dry washing to high banking to dredging or even lode mining, the more you learn the more you achieve. Apply basic rules such as looking for bedrock, red soils or quartz veins. But **you have to remember this** that while basic rules of thumb are good, they don't always apply. I have found good gold in all the above situations, but not always. You have to take into consideration all the factors in the area where you are searching. Factors and conditions such as evidence of old river gravel, previous mining, where does the water run in the spring, inside versus outside curves, obstructions, locations of quartz veins, and on and on and on. Not all quartz veins are equal. Some contain gold and some don't. Red soils are indicators of iron oxidization and while often gold containing, they are like quartz and are no guarantee. Picking the right spot to dig is about seeing and understanding where the gold was laid down or deposited. Just remember, rules of thumb don't always work on a universal basis and you need to think about the particulars of the place you want to prospect. There is a lot to be said for just taking your time and not getting in a hurry. Think, observe, ponder, determine, and then pick a plan to start. Even the best of us are wrong sometimes. Or it may have been because we didn't recognize some hidden factors that we should have seen, but if you strike out, it is good to have a Plan B. Plan B is usually to move on and try again. That is often called the key to success, simply realizing that you won't be successful 100% of the time and being willing to move on and sample someplace else. That is what the old timers did. They didn't give up and they didn't quit. They had a Plan B. And they learned by experience gaining knowledge, skills, and expertise to identify those characteristics, conditions and factors that led them to becoming successful. Start by asking yourself questions like "Is this a river placer or a residual placer or hard rock or what?" The answer sends you I one direction or another. Remember, it can be stream washed even if it is in the desert or on a mountainside. You can have more than one deposit in one location such as placer and hard rock. In river or stream washed gravels, gold is generally near the bedrock, yet on residual and windblown placers, gold is often near the surface. In the desert, gravels can be loosely scattered with significant gold throughout the gravel even though the bedrock may have the most significant concentrations. You need to be able to read the rivers, both those that are there now and the locations that they were in the past. Both are important as a prospector. You need to have the ability to 'see' where the water flowed in that ancient old river bed so you can perceive where the gold may have been deposited. It will be pretty much the same with the rivers that exist now. You need to visualize those waters at high water time, or as they would he been at flood stage in the spring. That will give you an idea of where to look for the gold. When dealing with ancient stream beds, you need to understand that residual, or windblown, placers will move the gold to locations that it might not normally be. Placer gold is smaller and can be moved by wind. So far, I have talked mostly about placer gold. But what about Hardrock gold you might ask? Hardrock prospecting is different yet. And though you may use a good many of the same skills in locating that vein by following placer gold to its source, recognizing that source can be very difficult as well.

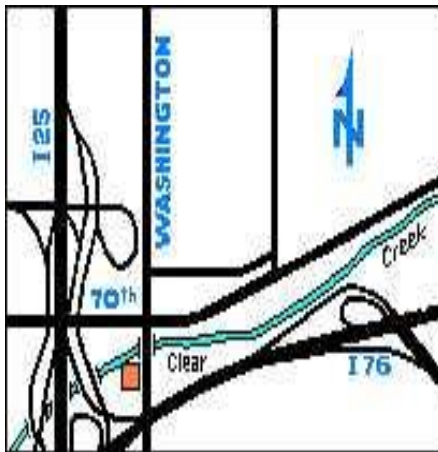




## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

Now is when you need to broaden that education with even more geology. Such as understanding how gold is associated to relative host minerals and material. Here in Colorado, there are some aspects to the Mineral Belt that are unique to Colorado only. Such as the cat that nearly all pyrite is gold bearing. But commonly, hard rock mining results in rich pockets of gold where the veins crosses iron rich rock, or where the vein takes a bend, or where it swells or pinches or a side vein connects with it. Understanding the geology of the area will help you to know what circumstances you are going to be dealing with. Sometimes, the presence of certain minerals will point you in the right direction. Knowing the history of the past discovery of gold in your district will help you in identifying those minerals. Lastly, even the old timers knew when they had dug enough in an area finding nothing, that it was time to move on. The gold might be 10 feet away, 100 yards away, or a mile away. So, they had their Plan B or even a Plan C to rely on, but they kept at it until they found it. And so it need be with you. There is no easy way to find gold. It takes patience, resolve, knowledge, experience and skill. The odds are strong that you will not hit a 'mother lode', but if you work at it, you can find gold. So, what are you waiting for?

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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Apr 2017**

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 APRIL FOOLS DAY
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday	10 WMMI "A Tale of Two Husteds" by Jack Anthony!	11	12	13 WMMI Lecture entitled "Rock, Paper, Forest Service"	14 Good Friday	15
16 EASTER	17 Patriot's Day	18 TAX DAY	19 GPR Club Meeting	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29