

THE GOLD NUGGET

April 2017



The Prez Sez by Jim Long



It is beginning to look like our early spring is going to end with a little snow. As I look out my window while preparing this column, that snow that we have been ducking here in Denver for a while is knocking at our door. While not the best of conditions, one can certainly prospect in this kind of weather and I have done it a few times. It is all a matter of simply preparing yourself appropriately.

The Boy Scouts have a motto which says 'Always be prepared'. And that is a fact well worth paying attention to. In the military, its equivalent is 'Proper planning prevents p--- poor performance'! We often referred to it as the 'Six P's'. This is a pretty good rule to live by. Whatever it is that you are planning to do, it is always well to be prepared. Make sure that you know what it is that you want to do and where you want to go to do that. It is always best to make sure that someone knows where you are going just in case. And don't deviate too far from that plan without letting someone know about the change in plan. My buddies and I always use these rules when we are out hunting or fishing or prospecting. It is just good common sense. If something unexpected should happen, your chances of getting rescued or getting help is a lot better than if no one has a clue where you went or where to start looking. And trust me, when in the out of doors, one is smart to expect the unexpected. Mother Nature has a habit of raising her head and providing you with situations from time to time that you are not expecting. It is kind of like a test in your ability to survive. And it is a test that is very simply 'pass or fail'. You do not want to fail as it often can lead to a funeral...yours!! Preparation goes far beyond just letting someone know where you are going and what you will be doing. It also includes putting together the right gear and equipment for whatever endeavor you have planned. Make sure your vehicle is in good condition and that the tires are in good condition, including the spare. Check your fuel and all other fluids. There is nothing worse than suffering a breakdown or a flat tire even 10 miles from the nearest help, let alone 30 or 50 miles away. Especially when your spare tire is flat as well. Make sure your phone is fully charged and that you have the ability to recharge it while you are gone. There are many places in the mountains or the desert where you don't have cell service, depending on who our particular carrier is. One way to correct that, albeit and expensive one, is to have a satellite phone. Those are always in contact with a satellite somewhere overhead. When I go to Canada or the Great Lakes fishing, I have a marine radio in my boat that is capable of reaching someone in the event of a breakdown 40 miles from the lodge or shore. That is called insurance and though I have never yet needed it, it is always nice to know it is there. And I have spare batteries as well.

It is all those little things such as flashlights and spare batteries, having sufficient water and even a small water filter system in case your water runs low before you can get back to 'civilization'. Having good quality rain gear and good waterproof footwear are important. If you are going to be prospecting in the higher mountains, having cold wet feet and clothing is the absolute worse and could lead to something even more serious such as hypothermia. That can be life threatening and is nothing to be taken lightly. I often never leave my truck farther than a hundred yards or two without a small backpack which contains a small kit for survival including a few snacks and water. A fall no more than a quarter mile from the vehicle that breaks your back and renders you incapable of even crawling back to the vehicle is survivable for a number of days with what you may have in that small pack. And of course, it is always safer to have a partner or buddie with you. Unless you both do the same stupid thing at the same moment, chances are good that one or the other of you will be able to render assistance or seek help if the need should arise. Being prepared is something that a lot of people don't think about until it is too late. Shoot, that stuff will never happen to me you might say. But if you ask that question of those who have survived situations that were extreme challenges, the majority of them will tell you straight up that they always thought the same exact thing and were, nine times out of ten, not prepared for the situation that they found themselves in, at least the ones who survived will be able to tell you so.





Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

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 SOON

The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato



I don't have a particular topic in mind to write about this month. There are actually several topics, some are good, and some not so good (more like, just plain sad). Any time that someone says to me, "I have good news and bad news", I always prefer the bad news first option. I don't really know why, it doesn't make the bad news any less bad. In my case, it does seem to ease the pain just a little, to finish with the good news. I am sure anyone that is a GPR member and reads the club newsletter, is aware that former member Jay Nunn passed away a few weeks ago. I had the pleasure of Jay's company on a number of prospecting adventures several years ago. We did some dredging on south boulder creek (private property of a friend), and some high banking on upper clear creek (again on a private claim). We found some pretty darn good gold at both locations and the memories are better than the gold!! The loss of Jay was compounded, when Smokey Baird of Lovelock, Nevada, passed away on March 25th. You might remember me talking about Smokey during my presentation on Rye Patch a few months ago. Smokey was a multitalented individual for sure. He was a (real) cowboy, excellent horseman, hunter, poet, and legendary nugget shooter!! I spoke with Smokey on the phone last December. He had been battling cancer for over a year, but he sounded good and was very upbeat and positive. He told me that he had written a new poem, and then he read it to me. He said that he would make a copy for me, and give it to me in the spring when I returned to Lovelock. Sadly, I did not make it back to Nevada in time to see him in person. I will be in Lovelock in late April, and will be stopping by to pay my respects. On the brighter side, the weather continues to amaze, and the prospects for finding a bit of color remain good!! Better take advantage of these conditions, it won't be long before all that snow in the high country starts to melt. Then it is tough times again (and dangerous) until the runoff subsides. Some good news for "yours truly" this month, the FEDEX truck stopped by my shop a couple of days ago, and dropped off a brand new metal detector. If this bad boy works out for me, I may never need to buy another nugget detector EVER!! Well maybe not EVER!!, but at least a couple of years MAYBE?!?!? With some hard work and a little luck (make that, a lot of luck!), I will have a few pictures and another story to tell later this year. But until then, MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE GOLDEN!!!! Joe Fortunato Questions or comments call or text me 303-263-7204.

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker

The April Meeting will feature a 9 nugget drawing that will include a nugget of at least 2.8 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:

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.

Jun 21 'Stump the Panel', an opportunity to ask 'GPR Club Experts', questions related to gold mining.



Board Meeting Minutes From Mar 2017

X	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato		John Johnson
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston		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: Corrections: n/a Approved as read/corrected: Yes.

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

Correspondence: 4 phone calls, 8 e-mails, 13 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 147586 Hits for last 2 month 259.

Committee Reports: None at this time.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: Tom Hill from Foothills GPAA Chapter gave presentation on the upcoming Gold Show at JeffCo Fairgrounds on June 9, 10, 11. Things looking good and Pres. Long will work with Foothills to get things coordinated.

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, Sat, at 9a and will be the Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the Adams County Recreational Development Plan and they are in Phase 2 of Public Input now. Second Open House set for April 22 at 1pm. We will be there.
- CSMGM will be having a Book Sale on April 29, 30.
- BM Bobby M. advised that the Colo. Mineral Society would be doing their shows in April and Aug this year.
- There were no other items to be discussed.

Announcements: None at this time.

Next Board Meeting, April 19, 2017, at 6:00 pm. Next General Meeting, April 19, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

Tonight's general meeting program: We will feature Richard Sweeney of Pilot Mining who will present a show and tell on 'Fire Assay'.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:54 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Who was the French born women mule freight team driver who had her gold claim jumped in Central City?

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

General Meeting Minutes From Mar 2017

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 was Richard Sweeney of Pilot Mining, who will present a 'show and tell' program on 'Fire assay of Gold'. The Program was well received by the membership.
3. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1219.70 an ounce, silver at \$17.33, platinum at \$952.00 and palladium at \$760.00.
4. Web hits for last month were 259.
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 tonite's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.6 grams.
6. Dan and Becki McConnell who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 75 members in attendance. There was 1 guest present. The total meeting attendance was 76.
7. Pres. Long read the 'Question of the Month', which was "Name the ghost town just east of the Grand Island Mining District in Boulder County??"



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

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 tonite 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 was not available this evening to announce the 'Cache Clue #3', which we will have for next month.
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 will be a Tour of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum on April 8 at 1pm.
 - The Clear Creek Developmental Plan is entering into Phase Two of the Public Input and the next Open House will be April 22 which we will attend.
 - 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.
 - Check the Monthly Newsletter for future Gem and Mineral Shows coming up in the future.
 - There is an outstanding article on how to select the right metal detector for gold which has been placed on the 'Links' Section in the Newsletter as well.
 - There was nothing further from the floor.
12. Pres. Long announced the break at 8:21 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:37 pm.
13. Pres. Long announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was "Caribou Town" !! There were 23 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.
 - Best Artifact – Mike Hurtado.
 - Best Jewelry – Mike Hurtado.
 - Best Coin – Lloyd Lauck.
 - Most raw Gold – Kevin Singel.
15. Pres. Long concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, Lloyd Lauck, 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.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

18. The April meeting Program will feature speaker Hank Innerfeld, a Club Member who will present a program on 'Dousing for 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 8:59 pm.

Finds of the Month



The finds of the Month for March are as follows:

Best Coin – The winner was Lloyd Lauck with a 1907 Indian Head coin that he found.

Best Jewelry – The winner was Mike Hurtado with a silver ring he found while m/detecting in Commerce City.

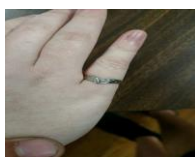
Best Bottle – The winner was (no entry).

Best Artifact – The winner was Mike Hurtado with 2 old nails he found in Commerce City.

Best Mineral – The winner was Gale Herbertson with a silver and gold sample he found in the Dolly Varden Mine.

Largest Raw Gold – The winner was (no entry).

Most Raw Gold – The winner was Kevin Singel with 0.85 grams of gold that he found while prospecting.



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

This guy sees a sign in front of a house "Talking Dog for Sale." So he rings the bell and an old miner comes to the door and tells him the dog is in the back yard. The guy goes into the back yard and sees a mutt sitting there. "You talk?" he asks.

"Yep," the mutt replies. "So, what's your story?" The mutt looks up and says "Well, I discovered this gift pretty young and I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, cause no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies eight years running. The jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I wanted to settle down. So I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals. Had a wife, a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired." The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the old miner what he wants for the dog. The old miner says "Ten dollars." The guy says he'll buy him but asks the owner, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him?"



The old miner replied, "He's such a liar."

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

3-10-17 Gold: Gold has been on a wild ride up, and then mostly down, in the past eight years. In the summer of 2011, gold was looking much more enticing to a lot of investors versus stocks. Its price surged to a record high on worries



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

about the US credit rating, Europe's debt crisis and the possibility of higher inflation. But each of those concerns has dissipated, and \$10,000 invested in the largest gold ETF on March 9, 2009 is now worth about \$12,650.

3-17-17 Authorities seek Owner of Gold Stashed in Piano: British officials are trying to trace the owner of a trove of gold coins worth a 'life-changing' amount found stashed inside a piano. When the owners of the piano took it in to be tuned, it was found to contain a hoard of gold sovereigns minted between the mid-19th and early 20th centuries. The piano was built in 1906 and sold to a pair of piano teachers in Saffron Walden, England. They are seeking information as to the owners prior to 1983.

3-17-17 Pastor Discovers 706 carat Diamond: A pastor in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, has discovered the largest uncut diamond found in more than four decades and has turned it over to the government saying he hopes it helps to boost recent development in his impoverished nation. The gem, a little smaller than a hockey puck, is the second largest diamond found in Sierra Leone. The other one, the 'Star of Sierra Leone' weighed 968 carats and was found by miners who sold it for \$2.5 million dollars.

3-28-17 Massive Gold Coin Stolen in Germany: Thieves broke into the German capital's Bode Museum before dawn and made off with a massive 221 pound gold coin worth millions of dollars. The 1.18 inch thick coin with a diameter of 20.9 inches, has a face value of \$750,000.00. By weight alone, it would be worth \$4.5 million at market price. The coin was produced in limited quantities by the Royal Canadian Mint to promote a new line of its Gold Maple Leaf bullion coins in 2007 and has been on display at the Bode Museum since December 1010.

3-29-17 Environmentalists Vow to Fight: Pres. Trump orders the lifting of Obama-era restrictions on fossil fuel production. The Sierra Club is helping to lead the opposition. There has been a ton of rhetoric exchanged since the announcement as everyone seems to have an opinion on this matter. The EPA and other entities cite an increase in medical issues ranging from asthma to cancer increases while proponents cite loss of jobs and over regulation which have resulted in loss of jobs and economic woes. One thing is clear, this topic is and will be as contentious as the Affordable Health Care Act for the foreseeable future. This includes a roll back on regulations directed at the coal industry. *(I have said for some time that as coal goes, so shall mining go. Coal mining regulations often directly impact mining for rare earth minerals such as gold. That is why we need to be ever vigilant. It is hard to please everybody and the likelihood of everyone ending up happy is about zero...jjl).*

Mining Concerns from Around the Country

(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section each month and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is my opinion, and that is that, like it or not .jj)

COLORADO...West Elk Proposal Advances: Obstacles remain for expansion of state's largest coal mine. Colorado's flagging coal mining industry got a glimmer of hope when the federal government removed one obstacle to expanding the state's largest coal mine, but it isn't a done deal, and court challenges are likely. Arch Coal, Inc., wants to extend its underground West Elk Mine into untapped federal coal reserves in Gunnison County. Last November, the USFS proposed a ruling that would clear the way for the company to build temporary roads on more than 30 square miles of largely untouched national forest land to facilitate the expansion. There are additional approvals needed. The Wild Earth Guardians have called the proposal 'boneheaded' and stated they will do everything in their power to enforce common sense (as defined only by them) here. West Elk produced 5.1 million tons of coal last year. But the company will need to clear other hurdles such as getting leases from the BLM which manages the coal. Arch Coal once had consent, but not the final ok, to build temporary roads in the 30 square mile area under a 2012 state-federal compromise. The Somerset, Colorado, company has seen a decline in production and the loss of hundreds of jobs in the last 2 years as the Obama Administration implemented job killing and industry suffocating regulations on the coal companies.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE...Ryan Zinke: Zinke was offered the job of Secretary of Interior by President Trump. He is a 55 year old Representative from Montana and a former US Navy Seal (a real one). He served on the House Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee. Zinke obtained a degree in geology at the University of Oregon before heading to Officer Candidate School. He was a part of Seal Team Six and served as a team leader, ground force commander and task force commander. Zinke was placed in charge of 3500 Special Operations forces in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired in 2008 after 23 years of service. Zinke has raised the ire of environmentalists like



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

Ann Hedges of the Montana Environmental Information Center. Hedges told USA Today that Zinke ...”fits the Trump model of hiring people who are unqualified to do a job that is really important. What I would expect from Zinke is for him to extract at any cost and to ignore environmental protections in order to further his political ambitions. Zinke started out as somebody we could work with, who was open minded about a host of conservation issues, including climate change. Halfway through his first session of Congress, he tanked, and he’s been tanking ever since.” Zinke has expressed interest in the past about turning some federal lands over to states, but this could be detrimental to mining, especially in states like California, Oregon and Washington because the 1872 Mining Law would likely no longer apply to those lands in state control. It should be noted that President Trump has publicly stated he is in favor of retaining federal public lands. It is hoped that Zinke will adopt the same stance. *(It sounds to me like as soon as Hedges, and people like her, don’t get their way, they immediately turn on you and call you all kinds of names publicly!! Jjl)*

Scott Pruitt: Pruitt was nominated to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by President Trump. He was the Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma and as such, had sued the EPA a number of times. In an opinion piece published by the National Review earlier this year, Pruitt stated, “Scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming and its connections to the actions of mankind. That debate should be encouraged in classrooms, public forums, and in the Halls of Congress. It should not be silenced with treats of prosecution. Dissent is not a crime.” Laura Sheehan, spokes woman for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, told the New Your Times, “Mr. Pruitt will be s significant voice of reason when it comes to energy and environmental regulations.” He has “long been a defender of state’s rights and a vocal opponent of the current administration’s over-reaching EPA,” she added. Pruitt sued the EPA and the Obama administration many times in his role as Oklahoma Attorney General over the EPA’s Clean Power Plan, and the agency’s attempt to change the definition of ‘Waters of the United States’ (WOTUS) to expand their authority to non-navigable waters and related matters. The Sierra Club called his nomination “a remarkable and dangerous shift in the agency’s direction.” The Sierra Club also lamented, “If he makes it through the confirmation process, many of the federal environmental gains made during the past eight years could be lost of seriously weakened.” *(Again, it is amazing how loud the enviro’s scream and cry when they don’t get their way.....jjl)*

Beginners Panning/slucing Class Quite Successful

On March 25, some 15 newer members and prospective members showed up at 42nd and Youngfield on Clear Creek to take in the free class offered by the Club to help our newer and less experienced membership in polishing up their skills in panning and sluicing. Everyone got a bag of concentrates to take home and practice with after the class and got to keep any gold they found while practicing their panning skills. The weather was perfect, cool but sunny, and everybody had a good time. Everybody found a little gold and were quite attentive throughout the class. Many thanks to members Bobby Manning, Frank Zahn, Steve Barritt, Steve Overton and Carl Adams for their valuable assistance during this class. Pres. Long took a photo or two during the process.



Learning Proper Sluicing Set Up by Jim Long

Panning is important. Prospecting starts with panning and usually ends with panning. But if you pan a 5 gallon bucket of material, it will take you 2 hours to half a day or more, depending on your skill level. If you move your game up to sluicing, you can move a 5 gallon bucket through a properly set sluice box in about 10 minutes. Do the math..!! It therefore makes sense to learn how to use a sluice box.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

Just like panning, there are certain 'Rules of Thumb' that you have to learn with sluicing. Some will tell you that these rules are not flexible, but I will tell you that each is flexible, to a degree. So let's talk about sluice boxes. There are many and most will do the job, but some are better and do the job better. It is all about efficiency. Many sellers of various products will tell you that their product gets 99 to 100% percent of the gold. That is not true. Hardly anything gets 100% of the gold and darned few get even 99%. There is always a little loss. The key is to minimize that loss to the smallest percentage you can. That usually means a lot of experimentation. I will try to reduce that for you here. You want something you can work with. I like the Keene A51 personally. It has everything that I want. After experimenting for years, that is what I settled on. It has a flared mouth, a rubber matting is glued in front of the riffles, and it is easy to set up. It is larger than some designs made today, but it is a gold getter and when set right, can be up to 97% efficient, and that is good enough for me.

Now, let's get back to those 'Rules of Thumb' that I mentioned. Three things dictate whether or not you will be successful when slicing. They are having a 'stable platform', ensuring you have 'sufficient drop', and achieving 'sufficient water flow'. Each of these three steps have other little nuances that you have to pay attention to as well.

By a 'stable platform', I refer to making sure that the box is not going to move once you have found the right spot to make your wet-up. I carry a small piece of 1x4 wood about 12 inches long to lay across the box and then I place a heavy rock on it. I use small rocks to place under the edges of the box wherever needed. All of this is important because you want to make sure the box is level from side to side, otherwise, as you feed material into it, you can experience a buildup on one side or the other which will impede the material flow and cause an overload behind the riffles, rendering them ineffective at capturing gold.

At the same time you are ensuring a stable platform, you have to set the 'drop'. This is generally determined to be about 1 inch drop for every foot of length of your box. A 3 foot box needs a 3 inch drop. That is a 'Rule of Thumb', kind of, but not always. It sort of depends on the force of the water flow. Personally, I do all this by feel, though you can buy a small device that will measure it for you. I don't bother with that because when you finish reading all this and put it all together, you will know when the drop and flow are right. Your set up will tell you.

The third factor is indeed, your water flow. This is your biggest problem next to the drop. Depending on the time of year, water flows can be too slow and shallow or too high and too fast. Water flow is a critical step and has to be just right. During high water, your successful use of a sluice box is going to probably be pretty low. So you want to find an area where there is a natural occurring drop in the stream bed and where the water is not too deep. Something in the area of 4 inches of water is ideal. If the water level is even lower than that, you can use other means to increase the flow of water. One of the simplest ways is to construct a 'wing dam'. A wing dam is no more than arranging rocks from the edge of the mouth of the sluice box and continuing out at a 45* angle. Do this on both sides of the box until you have increased the flow of water directed into your box. I have even seen guys use plastic along the front of the rocks so that they direct it all. Now here is where you need to really pay attention. If you have a sufficient flow of water into the box, you should see a 'V' take place in the water as it comes into the box. I call this a 'vortex' and it should end (or come together) right where the flare in the mouth of the box comes to an end. I like to see about a quarter of an inch of water coming in but no more than half an inch. I see guys running boxes with the water well over the top or sides, at the back end. That is no good and tells me that they haven't got the 'drop' or the 'flow' right. If I was to look in their box, I would probably see the lower 2 or 3 riffles completely covered and that tells me they are losing gold left and right. I don't often stop and offer advice when I am on the creek for the simple fact that for some people, they think they know what they are doing and don't want to listen to the fact that they are doing it all wrong. Been there and done that. You can't fix stupid, I have tried. They usually wind up telling me to mind my own business and that is ok with me. I will go in the next day and try to collect their tailings and run it the right way and you would be amazed at how much gold I would find in their leavings. But if someone asks me what I think, I will make an observation or two for them and ask if they have much experience and if not, would they like a little help getting it right, and usually, they do.

So how do you know you have got it right..? If you have followed the three steps and have a vortex working in the front of your box, take some material and spread it across the front of your box just behind the leading edge. It should take no more than 3 or 4 seconds to flow into the box and clear the black rubber matting. If it does, then you have got it right and it is time to get going. When do you do a cleanup? Good question, and the answer is another one of those unwritten rules of thumb. I like to clean up after one bucket per foot of sluice, same as the 'drop'. That is because of a little thing called 'hydraulic equivalent', a fancy physics term referring to how the 'heavies', including gold, move through the box and drop out behind the riffles. When the front riffle is full, it moves to the next one and so on and so forth until the riffles are



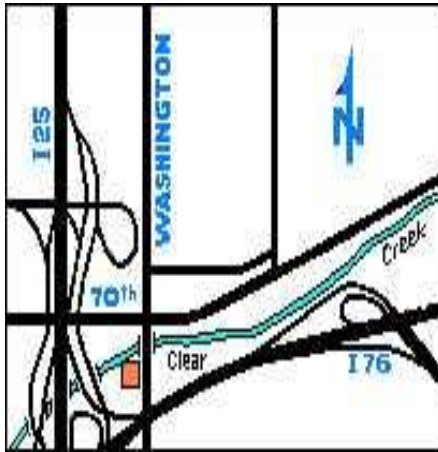
Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

full and can hold no more heavies. At that point, you have to do a cleanup or you are throwing the gold back into the stream. That is no good. The size of buckets you are using will come into play as well. Just think in terms of 4 gallons to a bucket and you will be fairly safe.

So all in all, setting up a sluice box isn't all that hard as long as you pay attention to the little details.

A Good sluice box will run you around 125.00. A small price to pay for a lot of fun and increasing your gold take. So what are you waiting for?

TYMKOVICH MEATS



Established 1952
6911 N.
Washington St,
Denver, CO 80229
(303) 288-8655
Open Wed-Sat
9:30 to 5:30
(Closed Sun-Tue)

GOLD - N - DETECTORS

A METAL DETECTING &
PROSPECTING
CENTER



(303) 278-6622

802 Washington Ave.
Golden, CO 80401

"Denver area's award winning hobby store, where we do what we sell."

- Metal Detectors
- High Bankers
- Rock Tumblers
- Books
- Goldpans
- Dredges
- Rock Picks
- Accessories

Open 9-6 Monday through Saturday

VISA, MasterCard, Discover

Wild West Traders LLC COINS GOLD SILVER

Buy - Sell Collections - Scrap
Historic, Rare, and Unusual Coins
Downtown Golden by the Welcome Arch
1111 Washington Ave Ste #105 303-279-1844



Selling the **Bazooka Gold Trap Sluice**

Greg Doyle, President

P.O. Box 461231

Phone: 720-351-3345

Centennial, CO 80046-1231

grizzly.bear.gold@gmail.com

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Gold Nugget

Gold Prospectors of the Rockies
PO Box 150096
Lakewood, Co 80215-0096

ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET

Commercial Ads

3.6" x 2.0" Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)..... \$6
 3.6" x 4.3" Four Column Inches..... \$12
 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24
 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

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 May 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 Loyalty Day	2	3	4 National Day of Prayer	5 Cinco de Mayo	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 13 WMMI Pike's Peak Antique Machinery Days (May 12, 13, 14)	
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17 GPR Club Meeting	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22 National Maritime Day	23	24 WMMI Picnic-N-Planes	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			