

# THE GOLD NUGGET

September 2017

## Obituary



It is with heavy heart that we report the death of Club member **Gerald Maki**. Gerry passed away a couple of months ago after an illness. He had only been a member of the Club for a short year but enjoyed coming to the meetings and enjoyed the programs and the people he met while attending when he was able. Gerry lived in Arvada with his surviving wife Ellen and had wanted to come on all the Outings but never really got the chance. The Club sent a card to the family in remembrance of Gerry and reimbursed his 2017 dues that he had just paid. Rest in Peace Gerry, there is all the gold you could ever want where you are now!!

## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



September is upon us...! And with September comes a changing of the seasons. We can usually expect the temperatures to drop a little and we notice that the trees start changing color. The creek is down and far more accessible than it was early to mid-summer. It is a time of change and it is easy to see it taking place all around us in a thousand different little ways. Some changes are subtle and some are glaring, but change it is and as with all life, change is inevitable.

For me, the fall brings a lot of things close to hand. It is time to start getting things ready for the approaching winter. That means looking at all my equipment and start cleaning, winterize and putting things away. There are aspects of the house that have to be done. Sprinkler systems have to be blown out, the RV has to be winterized, the boat has to be winterized and tarped, and I have an evaporative cooler that has to be attended to as well. Some of my outdoors gear as well as some of my prospecting gear has to all be cleaned and put away and water pumps have to be winterized as well and it all has to be done by the first of October. Because October is deer and elk hunting season...!!! In my world, that is important. Oh sure, we do a little hunting for doves and even antelope in September, but we really live for October, or at least, I do. And prospecting...??? Oh sure, I will still be doing some of that as well. Most of that will be done with a sluice box and a pan now until the ice takes over.

September is a huge month for the Club as well. We have something going on literally every weekend from late August until the last of September. So you can imagine, I kind of dread this time of change in as much as I know that I really have very little time to waste at all. Throw in the fact that I have been making little improvements around the property all summer and am redoing my basement laundry and sewing rooms at the moment, then add to that that I bowl in 3 different bowling leagues and just finished a summer golf league as well, it is a small wonder that I have any idea what the hell I am doing at any given moment.

I am spending a lot of time these days as a primary care giver for my wife who is entering a challenging time of her life and that is impacting my life in a challenging way as well. Now don't get me wrong, I am not looking for sympathy or even whining. I am sure that many of you will be having schedules just about as busy as mine. I am merely making the point that September is a special time of change and that most living things, flora and fauna alike (man fits the fauna category) all know that in the short term, it is the time to get ready for the winter that is soon to come. Life itself has been described much as the four seasons in that we are born and grow in the spring, mature and build during the summer, retire and enjoy the fall of our life in preparation for the final days of winter. Well, perhaps that is true from a philosopher's point of view. And I have often been called a philosopher myself though I have no earthly idea why.

This is a time for change in hunting gold as well. After the high waters of late spring and early summer, we finally got into the water in late July. And as we all know, the spring runoff brings new placer gold to replenish all the old places we were finding gold last year. And as we all know, in Clear Creek, the gold is everywhere. Some places are better than others of course, but the gold is literally everywhere in that creek. And that is why the serious diggers are spending a lot of time in the creek right now and will continue to do so well into the winter season. Most draw the line when ice forms but some don't. I have broken through ice before and was successful, but





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

the older I get, the less attractive that is getting for me. But still, there is a lot of new gold to be found out there and all that is required is a strong back for digging and a willingness to go get some. As I have reported before, I was into the creek when the water first dropped (first one in this year as a matter of fact) and I found that the gold was mostly fine but very plentiful. There are the occasional larger pieces but mostly fine. If you want some additional encouragement, gold just jumped up to \$1300 an ounce for the first time in quite a while. The metals commodities market is doing some weird and different things lately and is not running to traditional standards that most of us are familiar with. If you look closely, you will note that the accompanying photo was taken by me with one of my Clear Creek pans. Just sayin!

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!!!

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



Hello again fellow gold seekers. Another month of our mining season has quickly slipped by. I sure haven't taken full advantage of the mining season this year, I am sorry to say. The good news is, there is still plenty of time remaining before winter arrives. Even better news is, this is a prime time of the year for prospecting in our neck of the woods. Water flows are looking good and those daytime temperatures will be cooling down before long. Those cooler temperatures sure make it easier for us prospectors to all of those labor intensive tasks required to find gold. I prefer cooler weather over hotter weather for all of my prospecting adventures. The only exception for me would be dredging. Warmer weather can make working in cold water more tolerable, even if it is more of a mental thing. I have been keeping tabs on Clear Creek in the vicinity of the meat market for a few weeks. Things are looking pretty good around there lately. I have not seen any indication of people working that area at all, probably due to the lack of available parking in the vicinity these days. Seems like that place just dropped off the radar after parking at the meat market was shut down. I have made up my mind to get back on that stretch of water in the near future. Think I will do some testing in number of places along the creek that look promising. Then set up a sluice box and work the spots that showed the most colors in my test pans. It will be a bit of a walk getting in and out of the area but that is fine with me. That means there probably won't be a lot of other prospectors around and I enjoy the solitude at times. It makes me think about how it must have felt for those early day lone prospectors with only their pack animal and a severe case of "gold fever". If I make it to the creek before the next newsletter is sent out, I will let you know how things worked out. Until next time. "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 September 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:

**September 20** Gold Trails video, episodes 3 and 4.

**October 18** Gold Trails video, episodes 5 and 6.

**November 15** Gold Trails video, episodes 7 and 8.

**December 20** Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Recognition Program.



## Board Meeting Minutes From Aug 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	X	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:** 2 phone calls, 7 e-mails, 5 mailings,

**Webmaster:** Total Hits\_148259 Hits for last 2 month 311.

**Committee Reports:** None at this time.

**Unfinished Business:** None at this time

**New Business:** Time to think about buying gold for 2018, may have to reduce number of Gold nuggets for drawings

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

- Next event is Clay County on Aug 26.
- Club Picnic had to be rescheduled to Sept. 17.
- Every weekend has an event starting Aug. 26 until the end of September. Will need lots of volunteer participation.

### From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the July 22 Clay County Outing which had a good Turnout.
- Also discussed the Beginners Class of Aug 5 which also had a good Turnout.
- Clay County (Blackhawk) experienced a flash flood 2 weeks ago which was 4 feet high and did a lot of damage down the gulch. Not sure what we will find during the next trip up.
- BM Joe F. noted that there was a new gold show on netflix called 'The Aussie Gold Hunters' and that it was a pretty good show.
- BM Joe S. noted that elections were looming soon and it would be time to re-elect officers.

**Additional Announcements:** None at this time.

**Next Board Meeting:** September 20, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

**Next General Meeting:** September 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

**Tonight's general meeting program:** We will feature a video from the Series 'Gold Trails' featuring GPAA's Kevin Hoagland referencing different aspects of small scale gold mining around the country.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:52 pm.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

If you had a 1000lb cube of gold, what would its dimensions be?

#### 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 Aug 2017

1. Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that the evening Program would feature a video of the Series 'Gold Trails' by GPAA's Kevin Hoagland as he features small scale gold mining across the country. The Program was well received.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report: Gold 1282.80 , Silver 17.10, Platinum 976.00, Palladium 906.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month were approx. 303.
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.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

6. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 79 members in attendance. There was 1 guest present. The total meeting attendance was 80. Summer is in full swing and many members remain out and about traveling the country.
7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was **“What was the name of the railroad that today is known as “Gold Camp Road” between Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek??**
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. Be sure to fill out entry cards completely.
9. **Sara Saucedo** announced the new 'Cache' Hunt and presented Clue # 1
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 over- seeing this important aspect of the Club.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership of:
  - the next 2017 Outing which will be another Prospecting Outing in Blackhawk on August 26.
  - The Club Picnic had to be rescheduled to September 17.
  - There are Panning demos' set for every weekend through Sep. with another trip up to Clay County on Sept. 22. Sign-up sheets were on the table for the panning demos'. Pres. Long explained to the membership the importance of volunteering for these few demos'
  - He also explained that the Board would be buying the 2018 gold soon and that due to higher prices, we may have to cut back to 8 nuggets instead of 9. We will see.
  - Pres. Long also commented on the last Clay County Outing of July 22 as well as the Beginners Class of Aug 5. Both went very well and had good turnouts.
  - Clay County was hit with a heavy flash flood around the first of Sept which resulted in a 4 foot high wall of water that created a lot of damage. No idea what we will find when we get back up there.
  - There was nothing of note added from the Floor.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:20 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, **“The Short Line Railroad” !!** There were 32 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 Coin** – **John Olson** with a '1911 D Barber half dollar' he found near Leadville, Colorado.
  - **Best Jewelry** – **John Johnson** with a gold pendant and necklace he found while metal detecting.
  - **Best Mineral** – **Ray Vigil** with a sample of Thunder Eggs he found near Wolf Creek Pass in southern Colorado.
  - **Best Artifact** – **Greg Knerl** with an old square nail he found prospecting at Clay County, Blackhawk, Colorado.
  - **Best Bottle** – **John Olson** with an old bottle he found near Leadville, Colorado.
  - **Most Raw Gold** – **Chris Kafka** with 0.6 grams of gold she and Joe found in 3 hrs of digging at Clay County, Blackhawk. Colo..
  - **Largest Raw Gold** – There were no submissions in this category this month.
15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPoR, Dick Oakes, Joe Johnston, Lloyd Lauck 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.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

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 **September Meeting Program** has not been determined at time of press but we will have something lined up for sure. It will be a surprise!! 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'!
19. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## Finds of the Month

The finds of the Month for Aug are as follows:

**Best Coin** – The winner was **John Olson** with a 1911 D Barber Half Dollar he found near Leadville while m/detecting.

**Best Jewelry** – The winner was **John Johnson** with a gold necklace and 1gram gold pendant he found while metal detecting.

**Best Mineral** – The winner was **Ray Vigil** with some Thunder Egg Geodes he found near Wolf Creek Pass in Colorado.

**Best Artifact** – The winner was **Greg Knerl** with an old square nail he found prospecting near Blackhawk.

**Best Bottle** – The winner was **John Olson** with an old bottle he found near Leadville while m/detecting.

**Most Raw Gold** – The winner was **Chris and Joe Kafka** with 0.6 grams of gold they found near Blackhawk.

**Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category



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 winners.

## A Miner's Laugh

There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them that they should start writing things down so they don't forget. They went home and the old lady told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream." She then told her husband she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write it down," she told him, and again he said, "No, no, I can remember: you want a bowl of ice cream with





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

whipped cream." Then the old lady said she wants a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. "Write it down," she told her husband and again he said, "No, I got it. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top." So he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon. The old wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"

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

## Lake Gulch Prospecting Outing

On August 26, Club members travelled up to Blackhawk to visit the Clay County Mine property for the third trip this year. The weather was great and we found that recent early August rains had scoured the ravines of a lot of previous overburden making it very easy to get to the pay layers. Everybody did a lot of digging. We had 3 or 4 newer members who had never been there before and so we covered the things to look for and sent them to work. Not sure they did that well as I panned out the concentrates for some and found little gold there. Some of our more experienced folk did very well and I saw at least 3 good pickers and one small nugget along with a lot of fine gold and some additional course gold. As usual, it was a busy morning and after lunch, we all retired to the lower canyon above Golden to set up the high bankers and run everybody's material for them. A big thanks to Pres. Long and Jack Meineke for their e of their high bankers. After each run, we gave the individuals concentrates to the member for them to finish panning at home or wherever they chose. Pres. Long even got a few photographs of all the activity. We will be making a final trip back to this location again in late September so there will be one final chance to do a little digging in the dirt. *(Our sincere apology is offered to Roger Schlenger who volunteered his high banker for this Outing last month. We gave the credit in error to Roger Luallin. Sorry guys.....JJ).*



## List of Gold Mining Disasters

This is a list of gold mining disasters within the last 50 years resulting from dam failure, cyanide leaking into the environment and inappropriate toxic waste discharge related to gold mining using the gold cyanidation technique.

Year	Mine	Location	Majority Owner	Company Location	Details
1971	Certej Mine	Romania			1971 Certej dam failure: A dam failure resulted in the leak of 300,000 cubic metres of cyanide-contaminated flood Certeju de Sus, resulting in 89 deaths.
1984-2013	Ok Tedi Mine	Papua New Guinea	Broken Hill Proprietary Co.	Australia	Ok Tedi environmental disaster: Unrestricted waste discharges from the mine had strong effects on the environment and the 50,000 people who live downstream. Over 2 billion tons of untreated mining



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

1984-2013	Summitville mine	United States	Galactic Resources	Canada	waste were thus discharged. A Canadian-based company used gold cyanidation process to extract gold, resulted in 610,000 m <sup>3</sup> of stored toxic water. Following the company's bankruptcy, the US government spent over \$155 million to clean the site.
1995	Omai mine	Guyana	Omai Gold Mines (subsidiary of Cambior)	Canada	3 million cubic metres of cyanide-tainted waste was spilled into the Omai river and then the Essequibo river following a dam failure. <sup>[1]</sup>
1996	Mt. Tapian	Philippines	Marcopper Mining	Canada	Marcopper mining disaster: A fracture of the drainage tunnel for a tailings pit led to discharge of toxic waste into Makulapnit-Boac river system, causing large-scale destruction of crops, burying one village with mud and requiring 20 other villages to be evacuated.
1998	Kumtor Gold Mine	Kyrgyzstan	Centerra Gold	Canada	A truck carrying 1,762 kg of sodium cyanide fell into the Barskaun River. An international independent group of experts studied the impact of the accident and concluded that no one was killed or poisoned as a result of the accident. <sup>[2]</sup>
2000	Baia Mare	Romania	Esmerelda Exploration Limited	Australia	2000 Baia Mare cyanide spill: A dam failure resulted in the leak of 100,000 cubic metres of cyanide-contaminated water which spilled into the Someş and Tisza. Pollution flowed into Europe's second largest river, the Danube, and finally into the Black Sea, across six countries. Hungary asserted the spill killed 1,241 tonnes of fish in Hungary alone. <sup>[3]</sup>
2000	Tolukuma gold mine	Papua New Guinea	Dome Resources	Australia	A one-tonne cyanide crate fell from a helicopter into the jungle, while heavy rain in the area washed 100–150 kg of it into a river. <sup>[4]</sup>
2009	Ahafo gold mine	Ghana	Newmont Mining	USA	Overflow of process solution containing sodium cyanide occurred within the processing plant site at Newmont Ghana's open pit Ahafo Mine. This resulted in water contamination and fish mortality. <sup>[5]</sup>
2014	Mount Polley mine, British Columbia	Canada	Imperial Metals	Canada	Mount Polley mine disaster: A tailing pond breach at Imperial Metals Corp's open-pit mine resulted in 10m cubic meters of water and 4.5m cubic meters of toxic slurry being spilled <sup>[6]</sup>
2015	Veladero mine, San Juan province	Argentina	Barrick Gold	Canada	1,072 cubic meters of cyanide solution reached the Potrerillos River due to a valve failure. <sup>[7]</sup>

### References:

1. Jump up ^ "Cyanide from mine threatens Guyana river", *The Independent*, August 23, 1995
2. Jump up ^ "[http://www.centerragold.com/sites/default/files/final\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_international\\_commission\\_on\\_th\\_1998\\_cyanide\\_spill.pdf](http://www.centerragold.com/sites/default/files/final_report_of_the_international_commission_on_th_1998_cyanide_spill.pdf)" (PDF). *www.centerragold.com*. Retrieved 2015-05-29. External link in |title= (help)
3. Jump up ^ "Hungary to sue Australian company over cyanide spill". *ABC*. 2000-07-11. Retrieved 2014-12-21.
4. Jump up ^ "Cyanide seeps into PNG rivers", *BBC*, March 23, 2000
5. Jump up ^ "Newmont Gold Mine to Pay Ghana Millions for Cyanide Spill". *Environment News Service*. 2010-01-22. Retrieved 2014-12-21.
6. Jump up ^ "Mount Polley mine spill: a hazard of Canada's industry-friendly attitude?", *The Guardian*, August 13, 2014
7. Jump up ^ "Barrick's cyanide spill five times larger". *Buenos Aires Herald*. 2015-09-24. Retrieved 2015-09-24.

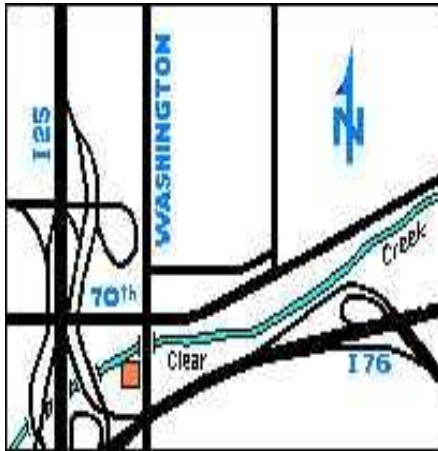








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ation to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget,  
National Aviation Day  
tact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the  
editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following  
months' issue of the Newsletter.

**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*

**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Oct 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	2	3	4	5	6	7 <b>WMMI - Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival</b>
8 <b>WMMI - Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival</b>	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14 Panning Demo for Arapahoe County Fall Festival
15	16 Boss's Day	17	18 <b>GPR Club Meeting</b> Pumpkin Carving Contest	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Chocolate Day
29	30	31 Halloween				