

THE GOLD NUGGET

October 2020

The Meeting for October is Cancelled!

I spoke to the Clements Center on Sept 29 and they are limiting the meetings to only 50 people and they must be masked and maintain 6' social distancing. Therefore, we are still unable to conduct meetings due to the size of our Club. As soon as the governor (*not my governor*) issues new directives, they will let me know.

We were able to get in a Prospecting Outing in September when Gilpin County released their restrictions. Look for that article further in this newsletter.

Until then, please stay safe and pray for an early return to normalcy...! THIS YEAR HAS GONE TOTALLY NUTSO...!

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



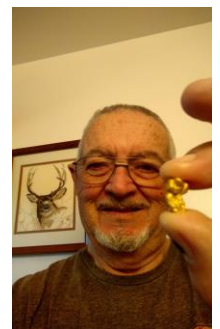
Not much change to the current state of affairs. I did speak to John Lyons at the Clements Center on September 29 and he reported to me that the Tri-County Covid mandates along with the Governors mandates continue to preclude us from getting a meeting going. That is just because we have the unfortunate privilege of drawing so many members to our meetings that we can't fit within the guidelines permitted. The mandates allow only 44 people with social distancing in the meeting rooms. It is kind of bitter sweet in as much as we have a very large membership that makes it impossible to meet together under these guidelines. Hopefully, this insanity will soon go away and we can return to some degree of normalcy. So it is what it is...>(

Gold continues its crazy ride, dropping down now to the mid-1800's while silver has dropped dramatically down to 23 and something. The Club is now into the Fall season. We were able to get in a Prospecting Outing. I wrote about that along with a few photos further in the newsletter. I have watched the summer progress and have noted that there are quite a few people out there who have managed to get out and prospect in Clear Creek and elsewhere throughout the state. Even with the pandemic, you can't beat being on the creek out in the fresh air and still being able to socially distance. Most of them are not masking up out there as there is really no need to unless you come in contact with strangers, and most of the miners are wearing neckerchiefs and simply pull them up when approached by others. It has proved to be no real big deal, as I have maintained all along. If you are interested, member Kevin Singel has one that says 'Finding Gold in Colorado' and he will happily sell you one. And they are pretty neat I will add. There has been increased interest in prospecting with the recent climb in gold prices, but not to the degree that I saw back in 2007 and 8 when it briefly touched 2000 per ounce. This time, it was well over 2000 before dropping back down to the mid 1800's where it is now. While there is a spike in interest, it just doesn't rival the last 'gold rush' we saw. I have noted with interest that John Lesser of Lesser Family Gold is working on getting another Mill up and running in the Idaho Springs region. Along with the operation run by David Emslie of Prospectors Gold and Gems, this will make two gold mills that are legally permitted in the state now. This is just awesome news to so many prospectors, especially the hard rock guys and gals. I know that David will buy your gold and he is absolutely an honest choice, and I believe that Joh may also be into buying some gold as well. And don't forget, you can always approach member Bill Chapman out at Golden Detectors, as he may be interested in your gold as well. So you have options if you want to turn loose some of that yaller stuff you been hoarding.

The pandemic has definitely set the country on its hind end. The economy has taken a huge hit and small businesses are folding like canaries in a toxic no air mine. The political clime is as negative and toxic as I have ever witnessed in my lifetime and shows signs of getting even worse. For those of you who are shooters and hunters, there is a major shortage of ammunition out there as well. That means that many people are buying it and hoarding it as well. You don't have to be clairvoyant to realize what it happening on that score either.

I also noted that the Foothills Chapter of the GPAA has planned a 2 day Prospecting Outing at Cache Creek near Granite on October 3 and 4. If you are a member of the GPAA, it was another chance to get out on a Club activity before the snow flies and the higher country freezes out. Speaking of the GPAA, I recently renewed my national membership and won a .125-ounce nugget for doing so. That was cool

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'!





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You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com . Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

The V.P. Corner by “Joe Fortunato



Greetings, Hello again to all of you GPOR members, I hope that all is well with each of you. We are now three fourths of the way through the year. I am starting to wonder if we will have another meeting before this year has ended. I certainly hope that doesn't happen, but at this point, it sure is a possibility. The Cameron Peak Fire has been burning for forty-six days, and has been an emotional roller coaster for Mary and me. Every time things start to look promising, the wind returns and the fire make another run. When the fire started, it was about seventeen miles from our cabin, it is now just over one mile away. We are hopeful that things will get better for everyone in the area, very soon!!! I managed to get out for some coin and jewelry hunting since our last newsletter. I visited another one of the properties that I was granted permission to detect. So far, I have recovered 151 coins, but nothing earth shaking yet!!! The good news, I did dig a US half dollar, the bad news, it is not silver. I have barely scratched the surface as far as these properties are concerned, and I am looking forward to spending a lot more time detecting them, now that the weather is cooling. Stay tuned for more reports in the future. In other news, I booked my room for an October nugget-detecting trip. I am excited about returning to Nevada for the first time in a year. I will be meeting up with several friends from California and Nevada. They are all skilled nugget hunters, and I treasure the time that I spend with them. Many people willingly pay others to learn what these guys are happy to share with me, I am a lucky man!!! Speaking of skilled nugget hunters, let me tell you about this picture that my friend Ken sent to me last month. I threw all of you a little teaser about it last month. These are all of the gold nuggets that he has found in California in the last three years using his Gold Monster 1000 metal detector. This picture does not include any gold from Nevada that he found using this detector. It also does not include any of the gold found with his other two more powerful gold detectors!!! It is difficult to see the screen on the scale, so I will tell you that it reads a tick over “ 8 ounces” . I can't beat that story, so I guess that is about all that I have for this month. Until next time MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE..... GOLDEN !!!! Questions or comments Call or Text me 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato



From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



The Coronavirus has disrupted everything so whenever we are able to reconvene, the next Meeting will feature a nine (9) nugget giveaway which will include a 2.4 gram nugget. We hope to have a new “Special Nugget” by then as well. Be sure and bring extra cash for the nugget giveaways We will hopefully present the February winner of the special nugget their beautiful prize. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time which I have at my desk in the back whenever we finally get to reconvene. Hope to see you all there at the next meeting..!!

Board Meeting Minutes From Sept 2020

James Long	Joe Shubert	Joe Fortunato	John Johnson
Mike Stevens	Joe Johnston	Chris Kafka	Brandon Luchtenburg
Joe Kafka	Bobby Manning	Andy Doll	Gary Hawley



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THERE WAS NO BOARD MEETING FOR MAY DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.
HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR THE NEXT TIME WHENEVER WE MEET?

Subtract the # of electrons in an atom of gold from its atomic weight and that number is the answer to this month's question.

2020 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James 'JJ' Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2017)

Joe Shubert (2018)

1 Year Board Members

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson II

Bobby Manning

Chris Kafka

Mike Stevens

Past President

Gary Hawley

General Meeting Minutes From Sept 2020

1. DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THERE WAS NO Sept MEETING.
2. Club Elections will be coming soon and there will be several openings on the Board. If you are interested in running for one of the Offices, please contact President Long at 303-907-3540 or jnslong945@msn.com and let him know of your interest. You can nominate yourself.
3. Positions that will be available are President, Vice President, and two Board positions; a one year position and one two year position.. Each of these positions is easily trainable!!!
4. WE HOPE TO MEET AGAIN SOON??

A Miner's Laugh

An old retired miner walks in a bar and the bartender asks, "What'll you have?"

The old fella answers, "A scotch on the rocks, please."

The bartender hands him the drink, and says, "That'll be five dollars."

"What are you talking about? I don't owe you anything for this," the old miner replies.

A lawyer, sitting nearby and overhearing the conversation, then says to the bartender, "You know, he has a point there. In the original offer, which constitutes a binding contract upon acceptance, there was no stipulation of remuneration."

The bartender, now fairly peeved, says to the old guy, "Okay, you beat me for this one. But don't ever come back here again!"

A few days later, the old retired miner walks into the bar again.

The bartender says, "What do you think you're doing in here? I can't believe you've got the audacity to come back!"

The old fella says, "What are you talking about? I've never been in this place in my life!"

The bartender replies, "I'm very sorry, but this is uncanny. I feel like you were in here just a few days ago. You must have a double."

To which the old guy replies, "Thank you very much. Make it a scotch."

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





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The finds of the Month 2020:

Be sure to bring your finds of the month that you have collected since the **February meeting**. All those finds will be in competition when we can reconvene next, which may in fact, not be until May. The judging has started anew for the year 2020 and the November 2019 Finds are included in the 2020 contest.

Be sure to save all your winning items for the November 2020 judging.

CLUB FINALLY GETS OUT ON A PROSPECTING OUTING!!!

Around 10 September, Gilpin County announced that they had been approved to allow expanded numbers of people in many of the Casinos as well as other activities. This variance allowed us to get in a well needed Prospecting Outing, the only one we have been able to do for the entire year since the pandemic struck in March. As a result, we got a short notice out headed for the hills. While the turnout was lower than normal and lower than expected, we did have a few folks who made it out to finally get a little of that 'yaller' gold. I am sure that there are still some concerns from some folks over the covid issue and that is all understandable. Many of our members are older folk and many have underlying conditions that can make them vulnerable, or as in my case, family members that they can't risk. Nonetheless, there was ground that hadn't been dug on for nearly a year just waiting for somebody to turn a shovel. Many thanks go to Bobby Manning and Jack Meineke who led the Outing and made themselves available to assist any members who needed it. I got photos from Bobby as well as from Mike Stevens to show the fun they all had. I only wish I could have been there as well. The good news was that everybody did find gold and some did pretty well. I have not heard of anyone who got skunked so that implies that it was a good digging day. I do not know if we will be able to get up there again this year or not. If a weather window opens and there is interest, we may try it again. This year has been such a bust for the Club in so many ways. I just hope we can return to some degree of normalcy soon. Photos by Bobby Manning and Mike Stevens.





Art Dealer Whose Treasure Sent Hunters Scouring the Western U.S. Dies

Taken from The Associated Press

Antiquities dealer and author Forrest Fenn, who gained fame after hiding a treasure chest filled with gold, jewels and other valuable items that drove hundreds of thousands of people to search remote corners of the US West for the riches, sometimes with tragic consequences, has died. He was 90. Police confirmed that Fenn died on September 7, 2020, of natural causes at his home in Sante Fe, New Mexico. It was only in recent months that Fenn announced his treasure had been supposedly found in Wyoming by someone he didn't name. Fenn said he hid the loot 10 years ago in the rocky Mountains and dropped clues to its whereabouts in a poem published in his 2010 autobiography. Fenn had said he packed and repacked his bronze treasure chest for more than a decade, sprinkling in gold dust and adding hundreds of rare gold coins and gold nuggets, pre-Columbian animal figures, prehistoric mirrors of hammered gold, ancient Chinese faces carved from jade and antique jewelry with rubies and emeralds. He had always said he hid the treasure as a way to tempt people to get out into the wilderness and give them a chance to launch an old fashioned adventure and expedition for riches. The treasure spurred an almost cult-like following. At least four Colorado men lost their lives searching for the buried treasure.



(I wrote a number of articles about this great hunt over the last number of years and was saddened to learn of the news. But since his death, the 'finder' of the treasure chest has issued a statement on a popular blog stating that he was the finder and had been in touch with Fenn and would be releasing further details of his find in months to come. Apparently, the 'finder' is a millennial who read the poem and did a little research and though he knew where it was. When he finally got the chance to go and look, it didn't take him long to find it. I know that there are hundreds of hard core searchers out there who want to know how he did it so seemingly effortlessly. Oh well, as I have stated before, I think it was the greatest hunt of the new century...! JJ)

Fenn Treasure Finder Breaks Silence

By Tim Binnall

September 24, 2020



Getty Images



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An individual who appears to have been the person that found Forrest Fenn's legendary treasure has broken their silence and shared details about the remarkable experience. Calling themselves simply 'The Finder,' the mysterious treasure hunter penned a lengthy blog post at the website Medium in which they reflected on the eccentric art dealer's recent passing and provided some insights into how they ultimately determined the location of his elusive riches. The writer also included several never-before-seen images of Fenn inspecting the recovered cache which would seem to confirm that, indeed, the author was the one who discovered the treasure.

Although the finder did not reveal the exact location where the riches were found, they explained that they deduced the area by figuring out where Fenn wished to die, since the creator of the chase had long said that he hoped to be buried with the treasure, and then "it took me many months to figure out the exact spot." Specifically, the writer said that they "spent about 25 full days of failure looking for the treasure at that location before getting it" and mused that the moment in which they solved the mystery "was not the triumphant Hollywood ending some surely envisioned; it just felt like I had just survived something and was fortunate to come out the other end."

As for how they came up with the initial idea for solving where the treasure was hidden, the finder did not specifically say, but did seem to hint that it came to them by way of "a couple of subtle slip-ups" that Fenn made to reporters which "apparently haven't been caught by anyone besides me." In praising the art dealer's tremendous generosity, the writer marveled that "in a final act of selflessness, in what should have been his moment of redemption, he went to great lengths to protect my anonymity." To that end, the finder gave very little biographical information about themselves aside from the fact that they are "a millennial and have student loans to pay off, so it wouldn't be prudent to continue to own the Fenn Treasure."

What will become of the riches now has yet to be determined as the finder indicated that they intend to sell it and expressed the opinion that "it should belong to a person or institution who will fully appreciate owning such an incredible thing." However, they also noted that "Forrest had a final wish for where he thought the treasure should end up" and that they are currently trying "to make that happen." Regardless of what ultimately becomes of the riches, the finder promised that "I'll be back to answer some questions," but stressed that they do not plan on revealing where the treasure was hidden since they hope for the location to remain pristine.

PLP Update – September 2020

by Scott Harn

We have put several documents in the hands of the correct people in Washington, DC, and now are just waiting to schedule conference calls or online meetings to address several issues, such as federal preemption, dredge permitting, access and more. In the meantime, I want to highlight some recent court cases won with the assistance of the Public Lands for the people (PLP) taken from the PLP Newsletter.

PLP Member Wins ‘No Addition’ Argument in CA State Court: For the very first time in CA State Court, a small miner has won the “no addition” argument, this time against the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Gold miner Michael Osterbrink, along with PLP’s expert testimony delivered by PLP’s legal researcher Clark Pearson, fought back a charge by the Sierra County District Attorney that Mr. Osterbrink’s mining ‘had polluted state waters with materials that are deleterious to fish in violation of section 5650 of the CA Fish and Game Code. Mr. Osterbrink was found not guilty of violating section 5650 of the CA Fish and Wildlife Code which prohibits pollution of state waters with materials that are deleterious to fish and wildlife (count 2). PLP cannot understate the importance of this legal decision in our present battles with the political powers of the regulatory swamp. This is a really big deal! So called environmentalists in CA believe that miners are polluters which is not true!! There are no foreign substances added, a fact PLP has been touting for many years, and the court agreed. The court stated, “I really think 5650, the intent of the legislature there is to deal



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with situations where a defendant had deposited something new, a foreign substance. Here, there doesn't seem to be any dispute that this defendant did not add anything new. So I am going to find Mr. Osterbrink not guilty on count 2".

You may recall back in 2015, PLP member John Godfrey also won the 'no addition' argument in count 5 against the US Forest Service. In the Godfrey case, the Forest Service even had a so called expert lead engineer from the CA Water Board testify that what Godfrey had done amounted to pollution to no avail to the government. Godfrey won in federal court and now Osterbrink has won in CA state court. PLP had confidence that it was a solid argument that could be won, even in a California State Court. Osterbrink's decision will go a long way in helping get suction dredging to legally return to California and other states. PLP once again successfully stood by its arguments that are successful when applied properly, even when others have waived and compromised.

(I have warned in the past that Colorado risks loss of mining rights as more and more liberal politicians take extremist environmentalists money to promote California-like policies here in our State. One thing that they cannot fight is the 'Rule of Law' and when we win these trumped up court battles, no matter what state they are fought in, we all become the winners and establish a 'Rule of Law' that reinforces the 1873 Mining Law. If we don't fight these battles now, mining will be killed off and China will control all the rare earth metal market which will directly impact our national security in terms of military technology and communications technology. China uses corrupt liberals to further their goals and there is no better indication of that than what is happening in California and New York today....in my opinion..! JJ)

Dum-Dum Dodges a Boom-Boom

by "Outback" Bob Schall

(I came across this story that I had to reprint for the sole reason of safety, in as much as so many of our members seek out old relics and treasure and love to explore old miner's workings. This story may cause you to be a little more cautious when pursuing such endeavors...JJ)

This is a story about a real "Dum-Dum" who almost got himself killed while metal detecting for gold. I'll not name this character in an effort to protect the guilty. Although I will have to admit that, even though he was (and is) a very handsome, smart and talented individual, he still almost ended those attributes on a bright sunny day in the Arizona desert gold fields. As I remember...I mean...as I heard the story, it started out as a banner day for this detectorist. He had noticed a small series of desert gravel piles that sure looked like old-time gold Placer to him. Fairly recently, a road to a new subdivision had been bulldozed right across the middle of these workings. Still, he decided to check them out. He started on the side of the road with the most piles. In a short time, he found two nice nuggets. Hey, good start! As he worked toward the road and almost there, he heard a very strong signal on his detector. Thinking it was just another piece of trash, he roughly chopped it out with his pick. When he finally pulled the object out, his eyes got really big. There, in his hand, was a very large gold nugget which later weighed in at slightly more than one troy ounce. Hallelujah!, Wow! Golly, Gee-whiz! Hot dang! And a few other (brilliant?) sayings passed over his lips! Also, this was the first time he realized he could jump up in the air and click his heels together! After such a great find, our hero figured that the fates had rewarded him enough, so he decided to quit for the day....Boy, is that ever a big lie. Like all of us greedy, never satisfied fold hunters, he figured there might be another monster nugget close by. So he naturally started beating the area to death with his detector. He covered the rest of the little placer area and got nothing but trash. Well, there were still a few of the old piles on the other side of the road, so he walked over there, enjoying the thump, thump, thump of the newly found nugget in his back pocket with each step. Ain't it great to find a nugget too big to go into your nugget pouch? Wow!!! At any rate, he settled down to check out the rest of the piles. About the fifth swing of the detector, he got that beautiful sound again. Oh my gosh, this one sounded even bigger! A little digging with the old pick brought only a crushing feeling of disappointment. Instead of another nugget, out rolled a very rusty old can. It looked about like a normal tuna fish can only it was probably three times as tall. Well, again, some special words escaped his lips. Only this time they were more like "Dag-nabbit, shucky-durn, Gol-dangit" (or it is possible that the words were a wee bit saltier and a whole lot less printable. However, when he lifted this old





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can up, it was quite heavy. He then remembered about a guy who had detected an old tobacco can just a few miles away and found it full of old Mexican money, including a couple of old gold coins. Well, since hope springs eternal (and nobody is slathered with hope thicker than a gold seeker), he decided to open that old can up. He could tell that the top part just slid partway down over the bottom half, so he tried to twist it apart with his hands. No go! It was rusted together too much. So he tried another (bright?) idea. While holding the can in one hand, he gave it a sharp smack along the seam with his pick. This loosened the top. Eagerly, and hopefully, he twisted off the top and looked in. Staring up at him were what looked like the hollow ends of fired .22 cartridges. Also, someone had stuck part of an old sock inside, apparently to keep them from rattling around. He pulled one out and suddenly, (*yikes*), he realized what they were! Years before, he had found a single one of these cartridges, and, like all other junk, he had dropped it in his trash pocket on his detecting belt. (This belt hung down in front of his crotch.) Later on, our hero was showing this 'piece of junk' to an old



prospector friend of his. The old guy grimaced and said, "If you knew what that was boy, you wouldn't be carrying it where you are. You might very suddenly and painfully become a eunuch! His friend then explained that it was a dynamite detonator cap. You crimp that open end onto a dynamite fuse and then it gets put into the end of a dynamite stick. When the igniter explodes, the dynamite explodes! He had also told me that, "They get unstable after laying around in the desert for a long time. (I should point out that our boy never carried one there ever again!) Getting back to our can of explosive igniters, since these are supposedly unstable after a while, why did the whole cannot explode when he hit it with his pick? Looking inside, he realized that the can had all of the igniter 'crimp ends' pointed up and all the 'explosive ends' pointed down, below where he had hit it. Also, the blow of the pick had hit right into the area padded by the sock. This lucky pair of coincidences probably kept the detonators from going off (Thank you Dear Lord, for favors often

allotted to those perhaps not fully deserving thereof..!) A short time later, as our lucky, but ignorant hero was relating this 'find' to another gold hunting friend, he was told this story about a guy who was not quite so lucky. The friend's story was about a sheepherder from Montana. He related that the herder, in moving his sheep around, had come across an old abandoned miner's cabin. Deciding to spend the night inside, he looked the place over, and found behind some trash, a can just like the can our handsome hero had found. Wondering what it was, he also had tried to pry off the lid.

Unfortunately, he was smoking a self-rolled cigarette at the time. He twisted and pried on the can until it suddenly, with a jolt, popped open. At that moment, a hot ash fell off his cigarette right into the open can. Yes, it also was a can of dynamite detonator caps. The big difference is that they exploded. The story is that he ended up with both hands severely mangled and even worse, he had been blinded by the blast. He was in terrible shape and way back in the back country.

He remembered that there was a faint old ranch road a few hundred yards down the slope below him and he crawled and slid himself down the slope, hoping to find the road. Being blind, he crawled across the road and kept going.

Remarkably, he had a dog who realized his shepherd was badly hurt. When the dog would not stop his insistent barking, the shepherd crawled back to the dog and discovered the road. A rancher passing by later found the man and took him to the hospital. The 'Dum-Dum' mentioned earlier, has provided a picture of a similar looking blasting cap container.

Please look at it carefully. This is not the actual container in the first part of this story, but it is very similar. The original one was much more rusted and corroded than this one and there was no writing visible. The shape and size, however, should help anyone reading this story to recognize what they look like. I must suppose that there are more of these containers lying around out there, and there may be other shapes and sizes of these container cans and detonator caps.

FINDERS BEWARE...!! I can only guess that the fates of the natural world just couldn't allow such a handsome face, as described in the early part of this story, to be destroyed. It would be like ruining the *Mona Lisa*! However, you more average looking gold hunters should take a good gander at these enclosed pictures, and remember, the fates may decide there wouldn't be as much loss to the world in your case.! Be careful, use your common sense. Like your momma often said, "Always wear clean underwear and never play with dynamite detonator caps!" (She did say that, didn't she?)

Happy hunting!!! Outback Bob.

(The container Bob found had a Lion symbol on it. The company who made these, the California Cap Company, made several various designs and the two most popular types are pictured here for your viewing....JJ)



Mine Disaster in China Kills 16

Hong Kong – Sixteen miners who had been trapped in a coal mine in northern China died of carbon monoxide poisoning, local officials reported on Sunday September 27, 2020. A total of 17 miners were pulled from the Songzao Mine in the city of Chongqing, as reported by the government on social media. One person was taken to the hospital. The deadly carbon monoxide levels were caused by the ignition of rubber equipment belts in the mine. The government did not provide any further details..!



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

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Nov 2020

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921
[\(https://www.wmmi.org/\)](https://www.wmmi.org/) (Free to GPR Member with badge)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Day Light Savings Time ENDS	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 WMMI Lecture Series: Jack Dr Rick Sauers "Some of the Hidden History of Cripple Creek" 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16		18 GPR Club Meeting??	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30					