

# THE GOLD NUGGET

May 2023

## **Obituary** James Lazar May 19, 1938 ~ April 10, 2023



James Lazar passed away peacefully on April 10, 2023 at the age of 84. Known as Jim or Butch to his family and friends, he was born in Buffalo, NY in 1938, and moved with his parents to Colorado when he was 17 years old, where he met and married his wife of 58 years, Sharrene Rae Gumm. They married in June of 1962, raising three children in their home in Lakewood, Colorado. They have four grandsons. Sharrene preceded him in death on March 29, 2021. Jim served in the Air Force from July 1956 to July 1960. Jim enjoyed gold panning and loved to show off the gold dust he had discovered in the rivers. He was a member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies for many years. Jim often would have lunch once a month with some of the older members of the Club and loved to talk gold prospecting. Jim is survived by his three children: Denise, Jimmy, and Michael (Beth), and four grandchildren: Sam, Michael, Christopher, and Brady. **He will be missed.**



## It's that time of year again for ANNUAL GPR membership renewal.

### **The Prez Sez!** by **Bobby Manning**



Hello everyone, sorry about it taking so long to get a movie going at the meeting but I found out that windows 11 doesn't have a media player for videos so I now have VLC and it's been around a long time, no ads, it is just a Media player. The Easter egg hunt took up some time while we got help on getting the movie going. All of the things in the egg, I put in myself. The gold is gold that I have won last year. Folks, I need some HELP! I need to get a Secretary to help do the meeting minutes done. I'm working during the day so I don't have the time to make calls during the day. It was Joe K. that has that position but the Treasurer is a job all by itself. I did manage to get our gold order done and it is on the way. Some gold we couldn't get and the Christmas gold is an issue to deal with later as we will need to procure that later as well. Our source for gold has been here for a long time but since her husband's death, she is going to give the business up. I will bring a card to the next meeting for everyone to sign. We want to wish the best for Jerri and she will be missed for sure. The water hasn't started running yet but it is coming, so please be very careful out there. In May we have Chris Davis Coming over from Eureka, He been doing detecting for 40 years and has helped me a lot. We will be getting more things to do like John Johnson is working on an Adams Mystery Play House for Thursday night. The cheapest night is \$40.00 per person and the theme will be based on a Gold mystery. This could turn out to be a really fun night out. That is it for now. May your pan be SHINY with that GOLD! Contact me at 303-420- 8830 or at [bobby.manning13@me.Com](mailto:bobby.manning13@me.Com) .

### **Vice President's Corner!** by **Mike Stevens**



The other day I was tired of doing normal chores and decided to break out the metal detector for the first time this year. Sometime a while back my wife had lost a clip that held the tablecloth to the back porch table. I decided I would use my metal detector and go hunting for it. I found a rusty old pin from the ground cloth, a piece of aluminum from gutter repairs, and yes, we did find the missing clip! No great treasures, but a successful first attempt for the season. As Colorado weather and Mother Nature often does, she threw us a curve ball today with crazy weather and our power is out. So I decided I wanted to try panning some of my leftover dirt using only a battery powered headlamp and see how it goes. Well, I was successful and did find a couple of specs. Got this off my list, however, it is not the easiest and I would not like to have to do this all the time, but it was a different experience and that's what

it's all about. So let's all try new things this season and hopefully we'll find something new that we enjoy, or at least have fun while doing it. Golden Smiles for All!



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**From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka**



Nice to see everyone at the April meeting. I have been busy with my move to the new house. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time which I have at my table in the back whenever you wish to see it. Hope to see you all at the next meeting in May when we will be giving away more gold nuggets, the largest of which may be close to 2 grams....!! Don't forget to buy your 'Special nugget tickets and your 50/50 tickets as well. See you all at our next meeting!

**Board Meeting Minutes From Apr2023**

X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll	X	Robert Ahr		Joe Johnson
X	Mike Stevens	X	Joe Kafka		Kevin Singel		
	Mike Hurtado		Gordon Smith	X	Roger Schlenger		

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present  
 President Manning is still experiencing computer issues but is slowly working his way through everything.

Minutes were read by all with only one correction that being the spelling of Andy's name as Doll.

Treasurer's Report was read by all and approved without issue.

Web hits were 163619.

Unfinished Business:

We are working on the Copyright issue. We consulted a lawyer for a free consultation but it would take 2500 to hire them and we can't afford that. So we called the California people and are in ongoing negotiations at this time. No resolution as of yet.

New business:

John Johnson is working on setting up a Mystery Play House engagement for the Club with a gold mystery theme. More information will follow. There was no other new business at this time.

Individual board members items of discussion:

Pres. Manning discussed the gold buy stating that we were able to finally get some gold from our Arizona source, Jerri Williams, however. Since the death of her husband, she had seceded to give up her business. That leaves the Club in a lurch and we will have to find a new source for our Christmas gold. Bob Ahr discussed his first Pirate's Hunt which was a success. This event sounds like it will be a good monthly outing for our Club detectorists to enjoy. There were no additional topics of major concern discussed.

Tonight's Program will be a video on 'Gold Mines'.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment at: 7 p.m.

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**  
**A 'London Good Delivery Boy',  
 the standard unit of traded  
 gold, weighs exactly how much  
 in troy ounces???**

- 2023 GPR Board of Directors Members**
- President**  
 Bobby Manning
- Vice President**  
 Mike Stevens
- Secretary/Treasurer**  
 Joe Kafka
- 2 Year Board Members**  
 Robert Ahr (2024)  
 Andy Doll (2024)  
 Gordon Smith (2024)
- 1 Year Board Members**  
 Kevin Singel  
 Roger Schlenger  
 Vacant  
 Vacant
- Past President**  
 Joe Johnston

**General Meeting Minutes From Apr 2023**

1. **Meeting** was opened at 7:13pm by **Pres. Manning** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Manning** then announced the evening Program which was a video titled 'Gold Mines'. It was an entertaining video for sure.
3. **Pres. Manning** then gave the Metals Report: **Gold** 1995.00 **Silver** 25.27 **Platinum** 1089.00 **Palladium** 1538.00 **Rhodium** 7900.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month was 163619 / 263.
5. **Treasurer Joe Kafka** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. We also have a 'Special Nugget' so be sure to buy lots of tickets. It is a real nice specimen.



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6. **Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes** from the Membership Table reported that we had 46 members in attendance. There were no\_ Guests Present and 2 new members joined up tonight. The total meeting attendance was 48. Great turnout tonight!!
7. **Pres. Manning** read the 'Question of the Month', which was "**What date did gold first touch the \$2000 mark.?**" The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
8. **Pres. Manning** 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, 2023. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. **Bill Chapman** announced the '**Cache Clue**' # 5.
10. **Pres. Manning** advised that the Club Store had numerous items for sale. Be sure to drop by at the break and support your Club by buying something. We have some more of our gold bags as of tonight so be sure to buy your bags. We received a large amount of items from Wayne Schumacher who donated them to the Club that will make their way into the Club store soon.
11. **Pres. Manning** informed the membership that the Outings schedule for 2023 is being determined and will be published soon. Since our Clay County Claim seems to be drying up, we may be trying some of the local sites in Kevin's book this year. Also looking at some tours this year. Announcements will also be made with the Newsletter postings.
12. Additional items discussed included: The Club is still looking into an alleged copyright issue to determine if it is fraud or not. Bob Ahr announced that April 10 'Pirate's MD Hunt' was a big success. Look in the Newsletter for more on that along with photos. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break.
13. **Pres. Manning** announced the break at 8:25 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:30 pm.
14. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'. The answer was, "**... August of 2020...!**" There were 33 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
15. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'. Those were:
  - **Best Coin** – **Chuck Cown** with a 1919Wheat penny he found while metal detecting in Commerce City.
  - **Best Jewelry** – **Bobby Manning** with a silver ring he found at the Pirate's metal detecting hunt on April 12.
  - **Best Mineral** – **Bobby Manning** with a bottle of copper sulfate crystals he created at his work.
  - **Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with an old .58 caliber Williams Cleaner bullet he found while metal detecting.
  - **Best Bottle** – **Bobby Dehnlow** with an old witch hazel bottle he found near Idaho Springs.
  - **Most Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category in March.
  - **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category in March.
16. **Pres Manning conducted a belayed Easter Egg Hunt within the area. Individuals finding the hidden colored tape could draw an egg from a sack. The egg contained a prize. Joey Dehmlow was the big winner.**
17. **Pres. Manning** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, JJ Long and Pres. Manning**, followed by the drawings for the gold nuggets.
18. **Pres. Manning** then conducted the **50/50 drawing** which was won by **Chris Kafka** winning \$36.
19. **Pres. Manning** also wants to remind 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 **Joe Kafka and Chuck Cohn**.
20. **Pres. Manning** 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.
21. **Pres. Manning** thanked **Greg and Nancy Knerl** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Each 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.



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22. **The May Meeting Program** will be a presentation by Chris Davis from Eureka treasure hunters club. He has a 45 to 1 hour presentation on metal detecting and the do's and don'ts when detecting in city parks and with this presentation, he has invited us to an in the field outing with his club the following Saturday for an on hands experience. Having nothing further at this time, remember to prospect safely.
23. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm**

## **A Miner's Laugh**

A lawyer boarded an airplane in New York with a box of frozen crabs and asked a blond stewardess, who just happened to be the daughter of an old miner, to take care of them for him. She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's fridge. He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in a haughty manner that he was a lawyer, and proceeded to rant at her about what would happen if she let them thaw out. Needless to say, she was annoyed at his behavior. Shortly before landing in Denver, the stewardess picked up the intercom and announced to the entire cabin, "Would the person who gave me the crabs in Dublin, please raise your hand?" Naturally, not a single hand was raised. So she took them home and enjoyed a great meal with her father. There are two valuable lessons to be learned here.



- 1) Not all lawyers are as smart as they think they are.
- 2) Not all blondes are as dumb as you may think they are!!

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

## **The Finds of the Month Apr 2023:**

**Best Coin** – **Chuck Cown** with a 1919Wheat penny he found while metal detecting in Commerce City.

**Best Jewelry** – **Bobby Manning** with a silver ring he found at the Pirate's metal detecting hunt on April 12.

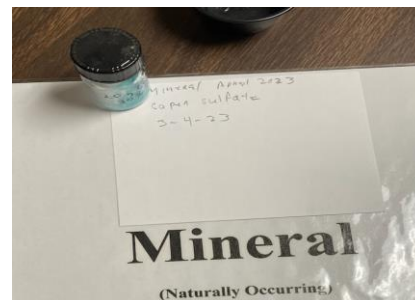
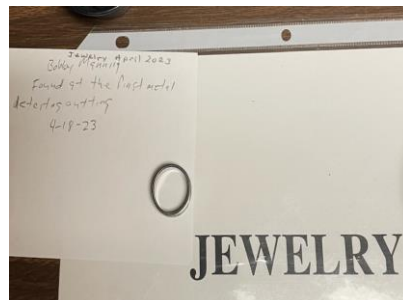
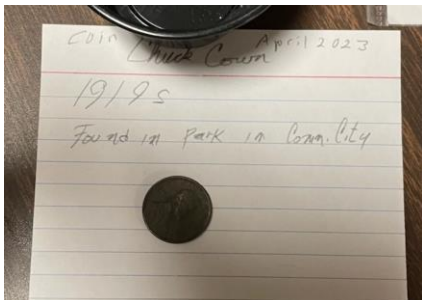
**Best Mineral** – **Bobby Manning** with a bottle of copper sulfate crystals he created at his work.

**Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with an old .58 caliber Williams Cleaner bullet he found while metal detecting.

**Best Bottle** – **Bobby Dehnlow** with an old witch hazel bottle he found near Idaho Springs.

**Most Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category..

**Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category.



Remember that all gold must be dried and weighed. All monthly winners need save their entries for the November meeting when the Finds of the Month will be judged for the Finds of the Year. So be sure and save them.



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### **The Pirate's April Hunt** by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Greetings ladies and gentlemen, I'm about a week late with this report.. But with backing up the outing a week later I missed the dead line for this month's newsletter, but maybe our editors can help us out in the future, if not, we will go for the following month.. The day started off meeting at the Lookin Good Restaurant for breakfast and then heading over to O'Kane Park. We hunted for a couple of hours from the west side of the park to almost the end of the eastside of the park. No big money finds but a lot of metal. Here are the winners of this month's Pirate's Hunt.... **Bobby Manning** had the most finds the majority of which was metal but he did find a ring which we might see as a 'finds of the month' entry and he came in with a 1cent find as well. Our second runner up was **Leslie Schumer** with bottle caps, a valve stem and a total of 6 cents And in third place was **Angie Yen** who managed to collect a hand full of metal. I hope that you all had fun for this first outing and I cannot wait for next month...Hope to see you all there. Photos by Bob Ahr.



### **How Pure is Your Gold Nugget?**

By Monica of Bering Sea Paydirt Jan 2023

So, you just found a gold nugget. First of all, congratulations! Finding a nice gold nugget feels awesome! As you sit and stare at it over the coming weeks you might start to wonder if it's actually pure gold? After all, it might have some rocks or quartz in it, or some discoloration. That doesn't mean it's worth less than "spot price." Quite the opposite, actually. Gold nuggets are valued at a premium based on their size, look and rarity, not just the gold content. But you might be curious anyways. So let's take a closer look at how pure gold is in its natural form.

First, you need to understand that natural gold is always hanging with friends. When asked what gold purity is, Dr. Erik Melchiorre, Professor of Geology and an expert on placer mining at California State University – San Bernardino, explained, "First, let's define the difference between gold and 'gold'. Gold is the pure metal but since no gold nuggets are pure, 'gold' found in nature is actually an alloy of gold, silver, and/or copper with gold being the majority metal." The alloys can vary so dramatically that gold nuggets from different regions actually look different! The color is affected by the amount of copper and silver that's mixed in, along with other impurities. When gold is mixed with too much silver or too much copper, it stops being gold and becomes something else.

Electrum: The Natural Gold-Silver Alloy

Electrum is the official name for any naturally-occurring alloy of gold and silver that's 20-80% gold and 20-80% silver. Only silver can alloy, or intermix, with gold naturally in sufficient quantities where you can find specimens that are half silver and half gold. Copper, while almost always found in naturally-occurring gold, is only present in small amounts. Even at 20% silver the alloy becomes so unrecognizable from gold, that often prospectors don't know what they're looking at and toss it away.

But electrum is incredibly rare, and is mostly found in gold mining regions of Turkey or the state of Nevada in the U.S.

Rose Gold: Man Made Gold-Copper Alloy

Rose gold is the most common name for the alloy of gold and copper to achieve a golden look with a reddish hue. Rose gold is entirely man made and does not occur naturally. It's used mostly for jewelry. So we won't talk about it too much here.

Half-Breed: The Bound Silver-Copper Nugget

Speaking of copper and silver, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, around old copper mines, you can find natural nuggets that are a mix of copper and silver. For some reason locals call these "half-breed nuggets." It seems that the silver and the copper adheres together strongly, but doesn't alloy the same way gold and silver does.

100% pure gold actually doesn't exist



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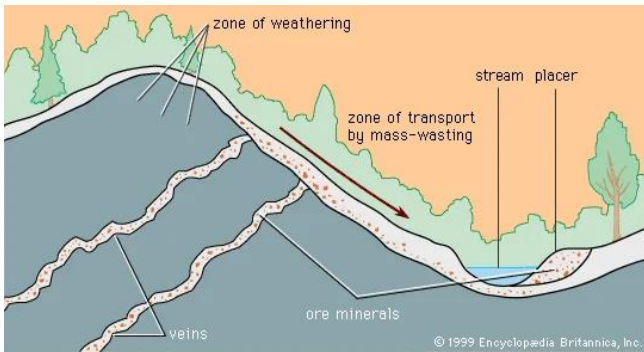
Gold bullion, the purest gold available on the market, is measured using Millesimal Fineness. That's a system that measures the purity by parts per thousand, or the percentage of gold. In this system "999" means that your gold is 99.90% pure and other metal constitutes only 0.1%. "999.9" means your gold is 99.99% pure, which means only 0.01% is other metal. Both are considered 24K gold. Refiners can also get gold a little purer than that by making 999.99 gold that's 99.999% pure, but it starts to get expensive and those products carry a premium. That's the purest gold that's commercially available.

The purest gold ever created had 1 more "9." The Perth Mint in Australia refined 999.999 gold in 1957, which is also called six nines fine. It's not commercially available today. Refining 100% per gold isn't possible with our current laws of physics. It's like a perpetual motion machine – many have tried, but none succeed.

Defining purity: karats and fineness, explained

The best known methods for defining the purity of gold is by Karat and Fineness, which we explained above. Often when people hear the term "karat" they think of gemstones. Carat (with a C) is used to measure the weight of precious stones like diamonds, emeralds and rubies. However Karat (with a K) is used when referring to gold. It is the amount of gold alloy out of 24 parts. Meaning 22k gold is 92% pure gold with 8% being a combination of other alloys or impurities mixed into the gold, such as silver or copper. The fineness of gold represents the weight of gold, in proportion to the total weight which includes any other base metals and impurities, in parts per 1000.

Placer gold is more pure than lode gold



Lode gold is gold that is found in veins in rocks. This is the type of gold that most inland commercial mines are after these days. There are various types of lode deposits that require specialized methods to extract and mine but at its simplest form, lode gold is the veins of gold found in rocks that are the source of placer gold. Placer gold, the type that Bering Sea dredges recover, is gold that has eroded or broken off from the main lode vein and traveled down mountains, in waterways, with the heavy gold settling on the bottom of streams, lakes, rivers or the sea floor. This is the type of gold deposit that contains "nuggets." As placer gold travels, impurities and corrosive metals such as

copper, quartz or silver are eroded away, making it more "pure" or concentrated than lode gold. However, due to the soft nature of gold, other impurities work their way into the gold under the surface area, which means nuggets are never 100% pure. Natural gold purity ranges are extremely broad. With placer gold, you never know what you're getting. Placer gold can be anywhere from 50% gold up to about 95% gold depending on the minerals in that occurrence. Placer gold often has silver, copper and other metals mixed in with the gold at some percentage. There are numerous YouTube videos showing how to determine the purity of your gold by testing it. Overall, the percentage of pure gold in a placer deposit is a tricky thing to pin down as it can fluctuate dramatically, even in a small area. It can be as low as 50% pure or as high as 95% pure.

Most gold is somewhere between those extremes. US natural gold purity is typically cited between 70% and 85%.

Now let's look at Alaska, since that's where we recover gold. A 1981 report by the University of Alaska in Fairbanks examined gold from 550 separate creeks all over the state that produced >100 ounces of gold between 1900 and 1974 and came to the conclusion that, on average, the state produces gold between 88% and 91% pure at the region level. That's a pretty stable average over a broad area.

The Seward Peninsula region, which has 9 mining districts including the Nome District where we dredge for gold, has a mean fineness of 908, or 90.8%, the highest out of all those regions. But as you break it down into individual districts and creeks you'll find that some are much better than others. The Nome District as a whole has a mean fineness of 908 with the beach and sea floor off the beach having a mean fineness of 918, proving that Bering Sea Gold is some of the purest around, averaging over 22k!

That makes some sense because the gold in the Bering Sea has traveled the furthest and had the most impurities eroded away compared to gold closer to the source.

If you acquired some placer gold from somewhere else in Alaska, say Utopia Creek in the Koyukuk region, your placer gold would only have a fineness of 734, or a 73.4% purity that puts it between 16k and 18k. Some places, like Australia, are famous for having gold nuggets with extremely high gold purities. But there are very pure nuggets found outside



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Australia, and plenty of lower quality nuggets found within the country. So how can you know? Besides looking for a report about your area similar to the Alaska study above, you can test it!

How can I find the purity of my gold?

First thing you can do is look at it. The deeper the yellow-orange color, the more pure your gold is. Compare it to gold bullion if you have any lying around. A more reddish color means it has more copper and a whitish color means it has more silver. The way most professional miners find out their gold purity is from fire assay, the most accurate method. There are numerous article on “How to Test the Purity of Your Gold Nuggets and Placer Gold” that will go more into detail about the fire assay process along with 3 more ways you can test your gold’s purity, two of them you can even do at home without any expensive equipment.

Get an Assay Done by a Refining Company

When we want to find both the purity of the actual gold and impurity melt loss in order to save our placer gold for our paydirt bags, we’ll send a sample in to a professional refiner for an assay.

Historically we’ve used Oxford Assaying and Refiners, but there are several reputable gold refiners (and some you should avoid). Here’s an example of the report we got back from Oxford in 2020. As you can see, this one told us our sample was almost 89% pure.

We can send in a sample and know to the 100th of a % how much gold, silver, and other impurities are in our natural gold! We like using a professional refiner because it’s easy, convenient, and completely accurate. They have advanced chemical processes they use to get a very accurate purity reading. Know that if you send and sell gold to a refiner they’re going to take a % of the metal or cash as a payment for their services, so it can be a lot more expensive than a simple at-home acid test. But if you want a truly accurate read, especially if you have a lot of gold, it’s our favorite option.

Don’t melt down your gold nugget – it’s worth more than you think!

Maybe you have a gold nugget and you want to determine the purity. Great!

In my opinion the acid test is your best bet. You won’t get a perfectly accurate read on impurities in the nugget, but you don’t want to melt it down either because you’re losing the value and the beauty of the nugget! Even a nugget as small as a few grams is actually more valuable than the weight of the gold melted down because the intrinsic beauty, uniqueness, and rarity gives it some extra value. So don’t melt those nuggets down!

**Oxford** Assaying & Refining Corp.  
3406 Arctic Blvd - Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 693-6740

Precious Metals Invoice  
**Settlement Report**  
Invoice # [redacted]  
Customer # [redacted]  
Rev.ed 08-06-2020

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**Customer Info**      **Ore Receipt**

EMILY RIEDEL  
113 W FRONT STREET  
NOME, AK 99762

Rcvd at **NOME**  
Ore Types **DORE**  
Receiver [redacted] troy oz  
Due Date **08/20/20**

Settle via **ToPool**  
Pmt Delivery **Mail**  
Received By **Gene**  
Melt Batch No [redacted]  
Melt W [redacted] troy oz

**Lot Notes: RECEIVED BY BOB - 98.5% RETURN PER GENE**

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**Assay Results**

Metal	Settlement Assay %	Return-able %	Weight Returned	Moved to Pool	Pool Balance
Gold	88.68%	98.50%	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Silver	9.67%	90.00%	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

## Arkansas Man Strikes it Big

According to various news sources, an Arkansas Crater of Diamonds State Park visitor hit a sizable jackpot during a dig on March 4 of this year. David Anderson, a regular park visitor who lives in Arkansas, discovered a 3.29-carat brown diamond while sifting gravel. The site was in the West Drain of the park’s 37.5-acre diamond search area. Anderson mistook the diamond initially thinking it was merely a piece of quartz. But it seemed a little too shiny when he first saw it and when he picked it up, he then realized that it was in fact, a diamond. David, who lives in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, is a regular to the park and has found more than 400 gems during his visits. A park spokesperson confirmed that Anderson has found more than 400 diamonds in the park over the past 16 years, adding that 15 of the diamonds he recovered have been more than one carat. Most of us prospectors often name their larger gold nuggets and Anderson is no different. He has named the diamond “B.U.D.” for “Big Ugly Diamond” by taking note of the gem’s mottled brown color and pitted surface. Officials reported that Anderson’s diamond is the largest gem park staff have registered since September 2021, when a visitor from Granite Bay, California discovered a 4.38-carat yellow diamond. Anderson’s is the largest brown diamond found in the park since the Kinard Friendship





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Diamond, a 9.07-carat gem found on Labor Day 2020. The Kinard Friendship Diamond was discovered by Kevin Kinard of Maumelle and is the second-largest diamond found at the park. So far in the first three months of this year, 124 diamonds have been found at the park, according to park officials. The park averages two diamonds found by visitors each day. So, if you are going to visit Arkansas, you might want to take in the Arkansas Crater of Diamonds State Park and try your luck screening for gems, minerals and diamonds. You might strike it rich, never can tell!!

## Australian Gold Hunter Strikes it Rich

Various news sources are reporting that an enormous gold nugget worth 240,000 AUD (\$160,000) in Australia. Apparently, the discovery is in the state of Victoria in an area known as the "Golden Triangle," and the gold-filled rock weighs 4.6 kilograms (10.1 pounds), with the precious metal making up 2.6 kilograms (5.7 pounds). It has been named the "Lucky Strike Nugget". The gold specimen was taken to a prospecting shop called Lucky Strike Gold toward the end of last year (2022) and dropped into the hands of shop owner Darren Kamp, who valued it. Kamp is reported to have said, "When it hit my hand, my jaw just dropped. It was just incredible, truly a once-in-a-lifetime find." Mr. Kamp has been in the business of gold prospecting for 43 years and said he has never seen a rock of this size with that amount of gold in it before. A lot of the time, people go to the shop with a rock that looks like gold but is not, he added. Kamp, who valued the rock at \$160,000, said it was split into two by the discoverer, who could not see it was oozing with gold all over, because the nugget was very dirty when it was found. The man who found the rock initially only took half of it to be valued and asked Kamp if there could be 10,000 AUD (\$6,675) worth of gold in it. The rock was very dirty so the spotter, who does not want to be named, could not see the gold on the outside of it, and he cracked it into two because he thought there would be a gold nugget inside, said Kamp. But once it was cleaned up, the gold just come oozing out of the rock everywhere. The prospector reportedly used a Minelab Equinox 800 detector costing 1,200 AUD (\$800) to locate his amazing find. It just proves that a 1,200-dollar machine can find gold. Kamp has stated that his shop has been selling more detectors recently, likely because interest rates are going up and people are looking for ways to supplement their income. The largest gold specimen that the shop owner has ever found was a 24-ounce piece, which now would be worth around 70,000 AUD (\$46,753). He said that about 10 years ago, a friend of his had found a 600-ounce gold nugget. One gram of gold currently costs about 94 AUD (\$63).



Currently, Australia is proving to be a metal detectors dream go to place. In 2020, gold diggers in southern Australia found two huge nuggets worth 350,000 AUD (\$250,000) in historic goldfields, and in 2013, an amateur explorer discovered one worth at least \$300,000. Historically, the discovery of rich gold deposits in the Ballarat and Bendigo regions of Victoria in 1851 led to a series of gold rushes in Australia in the 1850s. It was common for fortune seekers to find enormous nuggets, with the largest being the "Holtermann Nugget," which weighed more than 200 pounds.

**(the photo depicted is not that of the newly found nugget...JJ)**






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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Jun 2023**

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <b>Flag Day</b>	15	16	17
18 <b>Father's Day</b>	19 <b>Juneteenth</b>	20	21 <b>GPR Club Meeting</b>	22	3	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	