

THE GOLD NUGGET

December 2023



The Prez Sez! By Bobby Manning



Well, we did the metal detecting hunt at a new location and I had Bill M., Bob A, Ange, and myself to hide the targets. We put out 306 and found 292. There are 14 missing and still out there consisting of 5 pennies, 4 gold or gray slugs, 2 red and 3 green slugs. There were 16 Members who came to play and I think everyone had a really great time. Thanks to all that participated. I have got some of the Club gold in. but not all and hope to get the rest soon. This year has been a big learning curve for me. We got the Club Board positions filled and that is going to help a great deal. I got a call about Finds of the Year so changes are probably coming for Finds of the Month. We hope to

have more Outings next year and do a Pay to Metal Detect hunt in the summer, I thank you all for your supporting the CLUB. NEXT YEAR WILL BE BETTER. Thank you Mike, for being by side..! Maybe now I can call you my sidekick now! Lol. We will have a new Vice President, and new Board members to introduce at the next meeting. The Dinner will Start at 6:00 and we will be there at 5:00 to set up. If you haven't already done so, please let me know how many are coming so I have enough Presents for all and don't forget About the Gold Elephant gift exchange. If you bring one, you get one, if you don't, then you don't. THANK YOU ALL FOR EVERYTHING. IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOUR HELP, THIS CLUB DOESN'T EXIST. So keep your Pans Shining with Gold and have a very Merry Christmas and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Vice President's Corner! By Mike Stevens



Early in November we had an outing to Colorado Springs to visit the site where a train had overturned many years ago and spilled its cargo of gold ore. I wasn't able to attend because my family and I had Covid, but it sounded like everyone enjoyed it and it was lots of fun. Hopefully we'll go back soon.

We had our final outing for the season. It was a great day to be out. It was a metal detecting outing at a park where there were 300 targets placed and it seemed to me that all had fun. I didn't find as much as most, but I sure picked up a lot of tips about metal detecting. For all of the helpful hints and tips from everyone, thank you! Someday I hope to be able to move as fast as they went and discover a lot more treasures.

As most of you know, this is my last month serving as Vice President of our Club. It's been a pleasure and I enjoyed helping both Joe and Bobby with club duties. I'll still be involved as a board member and look forward to our monthly meetings. Kevin Singel, our new VP, is going to do a great job and has always been a huge asset to our club.

Hopefully everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and is looking forward to a Merry Christmas. See you all at the Christmas dinner. Golden Smiles For All!

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



Enjoyed the November meeting and we had a good turnout. 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. This is my last report to the membership as I have stepped down. However, our new Treasurer will do a great job and I look forward to the coming year. Hope to see you all at the festivities in December. See you all then!



Board Meeting Minutes from Nov 2023

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

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order by: Pres Manning at 6:00 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: None_ Approved as read/corrected: Moved by M. Stevens; second by J. Johnson. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: None . Approval: Moved by R. Schlenger; second by K. Singel. Approved.

Correspondence: phone calls 1 emails 0 mail 0

Committee Reports: Nominating Committee: G. Smith has ballots ready for tonight's elections.

Unfinished Business: J.J. Long requested that the club donate the gift to his wife's memory to the American Heart Association and Diabetes Foundation. The \$150 gift was split between the two.

New Business:

- President Manning has ordered the 1.6 to 1.9 gram gold for the club for 2024. Some .3 gram nuggets are still in stock from last year. Additional purchases of the larger gold normally used in the red ticket drawings will depend upon the premiums being charged since gold is much higher now than last year.
- Club member John Olsen has gold plating equipment and would be willing to plate some of the club "prospector" medallions in gold and silver, which may be a viable substitution in the drawings.
- For the club's "Christmas gold" President Manning asked John to gold plate some U.S. quarters which have been completed and delivered to President Manning.
- Board member Singel was fortunate to be given a tour through the Climax mine and indicated he'd be willing to do a presentation on it at a future meeting. After a brief discussion, Kevin agreed to do it for the January meeting.
- The Christmas party will be announced and a large sign-up poster for side dishes was created by Shellie Zornes. It will be at the front table during the general meeting with attendees being encouraged to sign up. **The party will be on December 20 and begin at 6 p.m.**

Planned Outings:

The club metal detecting hunt is scheduled for Nov. 18th at Club Crest Park North. A change to the start time now has it beginning at 10 a.m. An announcement will be made in the general meeting that participants will not be allowed to hunt if they show up early while targets are being planted. Volunteers helping to plant targets need to arrive between 8 and 8:30. The Pirate's Hunt will still be held on the last Wed. of the month. Board member Ahr requested someone to back him up as he is scheduled for surgery and is unsure if he will be able to lead the hunt. President Manning indicated he would be a backup for the event. Everyone is to meet at McCoy's restaurant @ I-70 & Federal at 8 a.m. for breakfast or 9 a.m. if only attending the hunt.

Board Members Items of Discussion:

K. Singel agreed to do a presentation on his tour of the Climax mine at the January 2024 general meeting.

J. Johnson reported he had compiled a listing of all Finds of the Month from the year and will make that available at the Finds of the Year table for everyone's edification and accuracy of the items displayed. Winners will be announced after the break and will earn a certificate to be presented at the next meeting.

Tonight's General Meeting Program: Klondike Gold Rush video

Announcements: Next Board Meeting 01/17/24 at 6:00pm Next General Meeting: 01/17/24 at 7:00pm

Adjournment:

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

No Question of the Month For Dec. Resume in Jan 2024.

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



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General Meeting Minutes from Nov 2023

- 1 Meeting was opened at 7:04 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. This evening's program: Klondike Gold Rush video
3. Pres. Manning then gave the Metals Report: Gold 1961.00, Silver 23.51, Platinum, 903.00, Palladium 1067.00 Rhodium 4800.00.
4. Web hits for last month was No number reported at this meeting. (Andy Doll has agreed to start providing this info to the Board).
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 have a 'Special Nugget' so be sure to buy lots of tickets. It is a beautiful specimen.
6. Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes from the Membership Table reported that we had 44 members in attendance. There were 3 Guests present tonight. New members 0. The total meeting attendance was 47.
7. Pres. Manning briefly discussed the recent "Dirt Party" outing by the club down to Manitou Springs on November 4th, to the site of an old railway derailment that resulted in high-grade gold ore being dumped into Fountain Creek. Six members showed up and gathered several hundred pounds of the stuff on an absolutely gorgeous Colorado fall day. President Manning is also inquiring about access to an ore crusher for those intrepid rock hounds that want to experiment with extracting the gold from their finds.
Membership was also reminded that the annual Metal Detecting outing was coming up this weekend with details of the location and time provided.
8. The 'Question of the Month', was read: "... What percentage of Gold is considered 18 karat? The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
9. Pres. Manning announced the 'Finds of the Year' contest at the table in the back of the room and encouraged attendees to vote for their favorites during the break. 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.
10. John Johnson announces the 'Cache Clue' # 4.
11. Pres. Manning spoke about the upcoming Christmas party and has agreed to provide some of his great smoked meat. The club will also be providing turkey and ham toward the main dish. Attendees were reminded to go by the front table and sign-up for side dishes on the poster created by Shellie Zornes. There will also be the traditional "Gold Elephant" exchange for any members wishing to take part. Give a gift – get a gift from under the tree. Please limit the value of your Gold Elephant to \$20.
12. It was announced that club membership renewal time is here again. The board weighed the club's status and circumstances earlier in the year and agreed the dues would need to increase to \$40 per year for a family membership. Still a great deal when compared to some of the other prospecting clubs. For new members, the one-time price for a badge is now \$12. Board member K. Singel has offered a \$100 bank of funds that can be used to subsidize members that may be facing a situation where the increase is a hardship. Please contact any board member, in confidence, for assistance.
13. The November Pirate's Hunt is also still scheduled for the last Wed. of the month. Board member Robert Ahr leads these metal detecting events and everyone is to meet at McCoy's restaurant @ I-70 & Federal at 8 a.m. for breakfast or 9 a.m. if only attending the hunt.
14. Elections were the next item on the meeting agenda. Board member G. Smith called for nominations from the floor and two names were added to the ballot, Robert Ahr as his one-year term was up and Bill Manning. Those up for election were given a chance to introduce themselves to the attendees. The pre-printed Ballots were handed out to the members present, voted, and collected. They will be counted during the break and results announced after the break.
15. Pres. Manning announced the break at 8:00 p.m. Meeting was called back to order at 8:30 p.m.
16. The results of the voting was presented to the membership after a Vote of Acclamation was held for the two candidates whose names did not appear on the pre-printed ballots. Bill Manning and Robert Ahr were acclaimed unanimously and will serve one-year terms. Mike Stevens, Gary Hamilton and Erik Von Halle were elected to directorships and Kevin Singel is the new Vice President with John Johnson becoming the new Treasurer. Congratulations went to the new board members and rounds of well-deserved applause were given to Joe Kafka for his years as the Treasurer and Mike Stevens for serving as Vice President.



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17. Pres. Manning announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was, "75%!" There were 31 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.

18. Pres. Manning announced the winners of the Finds of the 2023 Year':

- **Best Coin** – **Shellie Zornes** with a 1903 Indian penny she found in Arvada in November of 2022.
- **Best Jewelry** – **Shellie Zornes** with a silver necklace she found at Inspiration Point in September 2023.
- **Best Mineral** – **Ray Vigil** with an opal/chalcedony sample he found in November 2022 on the Cimarron, Colo.
- **Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with a watch fob he found in June 2023 while metal detecting.
- **Best Bottle** – **Bobby Dehmlow** with a bottle he found in Denver.
- **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with 0.921 grams of gold he found in the Blue River in October 2023 Colo.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find of the year submitted for this category.

Certificates will be presented to the annual FOY winners at the next meeting.

19. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**' **Nov 2023** as well. Those were:

- **Best Coin** – There was no find submitted for this category in September.
- **Best Jewelry** – **Joe Johnston** with an 1874 dollar money clip he found in Lochbuie, Colo.
- **Best Mineral** – **Angie Yen** with chalcedony/black tourmaline specimen she found in South Platte River
- **Best Artifact** - **Joe Johnston** with a spinner he found in Aurora while metal detecting.
- **Best Bottle** – There was no find submitted for this category in September.
- **Most Raw Gold** – **Joe Fortunato** with 2.7 grams of gold he found in the Nevada desert.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category in September.

20. **Pres. Manning** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, JJ Long, B Manning and Kevin Singel.

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 John Olson**.

21. **Pres. Manning** conducted the 50/50 drawing. Winner and amount was **Bill Manning** who won \$135.

22. **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.

23. **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. Remember 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 effort that everyone makes so the refreshment table is enjoyable.

24. **The December Meeting** will be the Christmas Party get together on December 20th. Having nothing further at this time, remember to always prospect safely.

25. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.**

A Miner's Laugh

One day an old miner went to the local barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked for his bill and the barber replied, "I cannot accept money from you as I am performing community service this week". The old miner was pleased and left. When the barber opened his shop the next morning, there was a thank you card and a dozen roses waiting for him. Later, the local policeman enters for a cut and after getting it, tried to pay his bill. The barber replied, "Not necessary sir as I am doing community service this week". The officer was pleased and left. The next morning when the barber arrived at the shop, he found a dozen donuts and a thank you card waiting for him. Shortly thereafter, a member of Congress arrived for a haircut and after getting it, tried to pay his bill, but once again, the barber replied, "No need sir as I am performing community service this week". Pleased, the Congressman left. The next morning as the barber arrived at his shop to open up, there were two dozen members of Congress lined up all wanting a free haircut. And that, my friends, illustrates the difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it...!!!

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

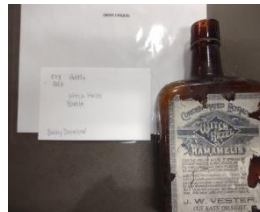
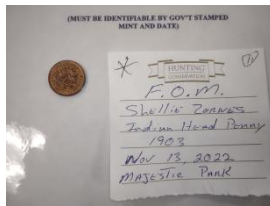




Finds of the Year 2023

The following folks were voted winners of the 2023 Finds of the Year:

- **Best Coin** – Shellie Zornes with a 1903 Indian penny she found in Arvada in November of 2022.
- **Best Jewelry** – Shellie Zornes with a silver necklace she found at Inspiration Point in September 2023.
- **Best Mineral** – Ray Vigil with an opal/chalcedony sample he found in November 2022 on the Cimarron, Colo.
- **Best Artifact** – John Olson with a watch fob he found in June 2023 while metal detecting.
- **Best Bottle** – Bobby Denalow with a bottle he found in Denver.
- **Most Raw Gold** – Kevin Singel with 0.921 grams of gold he found in the Blue River in October 2023 Colo.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find of the year submitted for this category.

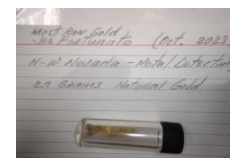


Congratulations to all the winners. (Photos by JJ Long)

The Finds of the Month Nov 2023:

The following folks were voted winners of the November, 2023, Finds of the Month:

- **Best Coin** – There was no find submitted for this category in September.
- **Best Jewelry** – Joe Johnston with an 1874 dollar money clip he found in Lochbuie, Colo.
- **Best Mineral** – Angie Yen with chalcedony/black tourmaline specimen she found in South Platte River
- **Best Artifact** - Joe Johnston with a spinner he found in Aurora while metal detecting.
- **Best Bottle** – There was no find submitted for this category in September.
- **Most Raw Gold** – Joe Fortunato with 2.7 grams of gold he found in the Nevada desert.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category in September



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 2024. So be sure and save them. Photos by JJ Long

The Pirate's Nov 25 Hunt by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello and Good Morning everyone, it was a chilly morning but there was 4 of us for breakfast. And at 1000hrs there was a 5th person but only 4 went to hunt this day. We decided to try and help out Bill C. look for a Gold Ring with diamond inset that was lost over at Stenger Sports Complex during a soccer game. We made our way to the Sports Complex where we met up with Leslie S and Bill C. Bill had already set the perimeter of the field and when the rest of the crew got there, Bobby M. started setting up a grid pattern. We hunted the area for about an hour with no luck on the ring and then a few



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of us went off the grid and hunted the rest of the complex. A lot of trash and not too many coins but Joe F. did find a really nice silver necklace so with that, here are some pictures of our outing. Be Safe and Stay Healthy and we will see you at the Christmas party. (Photos by the 'Pirate')



Please remember these finds are not what you get every time you go out. Sometimes, all you find is a little trash. But nothing comes without effort. The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. So keep trying and keep on looking. Happy Hunting!!!

A Brief History of Gold

Who discovered gold anyway? A child finds a shiny rock in a creek, thousands of years ago, and the human race is introduced to gold for the first time. Gold was first discovered as shining, yellow nuggets. "Gold is where you find it," so the saying goes, and gold was first discovered in its natural state, in streams all over the world. No doubt it was the first metal known to early hominids. Gold became a part of every human culture. Its brilliance, natural beauty, and luster, and its great malleability and resistance to tarnish made it enjoyable to work and play with. So, where does gold come from? Because gold is dispersed widely throughout the geologic world, its discovery occurred to many different groups in many different locales. And nearly everyone who found it was impressed with it, and so was the developing culture in which they lived. Gold was the first metal widely known to our species. When thinking about the historical progress of technology, we consider the development of iron and copper-working as the greatest contributions to our species' economic and cultural progress – but gold came first. Gold is the easiest of the metals to work. It occurs in a virtually pure and workable state, whereas most other metals tend to be found in ore-bodies that pose some difficulty in smelting. Gold's early uses were no doubt ornamental, and its brilliance and permanence (it neither corrodes nor tarnishes) linked it to deities and royalty in early civilizations.



Gold has always been powerful stuff. The earliest history of human interaction with gold is long lost to us, but its association with the gods - with immortality - and with wealth itself are common to many cultures throughout the world. Early civilizations equated gold with gods and rulers, and gold was sought in their name and dedicated to their glorification. Humans almost intuitively place a high value on gold, equating it with power, beauty, and the cultural elite. And since gold is widely distributed all over the globe, we find this same thinking about gold throughout ancient and modern civilizations everywhere. Gold, beauty, and power have always gone together. Gold in ancient times was made into shrines and idols ("the Golden Calf"), plates, cups, vases and vessels of all kinds, and of course, jewelry for personal adornment. The "Gold of Troy" treasure hoard, excavated in Turkey and dating to the era 2450 -2600 B.C., show the range of gold-work from delicate jewelry to a gold gravy boat weighing a full troy pound. This was a time when gold was highly valued, but had not yet become money itself. Rather, it was owned by the powerful and well-connected, or made into objects of worship, or used to decorate sacred locations. Gold has always had value to humans, even before it was money. This is demonstrated by the extraordinary efforts made to obtain it. Prospecting for gold was a worldwide effort going back thousands of years, even before the first money in the form of gold coins appeared about 700 B.C. In the quest for gold by the Phoenicians, Egyptians, Indians, Hittites, Chinese, and others, prisoners of war were sent to work the mines, as were slaves and criminals. And this happened during a time when gold had no value as 'money,' but was just considered a desirable commodity in and of itself.

The 'value' of gold was accepted all over the world. Today, as in ancient times, the intrinsic appeal of gold itself has that universal appeal to humans. But how did gold come to be a commodity, a measurable unit of value? Gold, measured out, became money. Gold's beauty, scarcity, unique density (no other metal outside the platinum group is as heavy), and the



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ease by which it could be melted, formed, and measured made it a natural trading medium. Gold gave rise to the concept of money itself: portable, private, and permanent. Gold (and silver) in standardized coins came to replace barter arrangements, and made trade in the Classic period much easier. Gold was money in ancient Greece. The Greeks mined for gold throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East regions by 550 B.C., and both Plato and Aristotle wrote about gold and had theories about its origins. Gold was associated with water (logical, since most of it was found in streams), and it was supposed that gold was a particularly dense combination of water and sunlight. Their science may have been primitive, but the Greeks learned much about the practicalities of gold mining. By the time of the death of Alexander of Macedon (323 B.C.), the Greeks had mined gold from the Pillars of Hercules (Gibraltar) all the way eastward to Asia Minor and Egypt, and we find traces of their placer mines today. Some of the mines were owned by the state, some were worked privately with a royalty paid to the state. Also, nomads such as the Scythians and Cimmerians worked placer mines all over the region. The surviving Greek gold coinage and Scythian jewelry both show superb artistry. The Roman Empire furthered the quest for gold. The Romans mined gold extensively throughout their empire, and advanced the science of gold-mining considerably. They diverted streams of water to mine hydraulically, and built sluices and the first 'long toms.' They mined underground, also, and introduced water-wheels and the 'roasting' of gold-bearing ores to separate the gold from rock. They were able to more efficiently exploit old mine-sites, and of course their chief laborers were prisoners of war, slaves, and convicts. A monetary standard made the world economy possible. The concept of money, (i.e., gold and silver in standard weight and fineness coins) allowed the World's economies to expand and prosper. During the Classic period of Greek and Roman rule in the western world, gold and silver both flowed to India for spices, and to China for silk. At the height of the Empire (A.D. 98-160), Roman gold and silver coins reigned from Britain to North Africa and Egypt.

Money had been invented. Its name was gold.

The Incas referred to Gold as the "Tears of the Sun."

Homer, in the "Iliad" and "Odyssey," makes mention of gold as the glory of the immortals and a sign of wealth among ordinary humans. In Genesis 2:10-12, we learn of the river Pison out of Eden, and "the land of Havilah, where there is gold: and the gold of that land is good?"

As far back as 3100 B.C., we have evidence of a gold/silver value ratio in the code of Menes, the founder of the first Egyptian dynasty. In this code it is stated that "one part of gold is equal to two and one half parts of silver in value." This is our earliest of a value relationship between gold and silver.



In ancient Egypt, around the time of Seti I (1320 B.C.), we find the creation of the first gold treasure map now known to us. Today, in the Turin Museum is a papyrus and fragments known as the "Carte des mines d'or." It pictures gold mines, miners' quarters, road leading to the mines and gold-bearing mountains, and so on.

Where is that gold mine located? Well, you know how it is with treasure maps – there's always something a little vague about them, to throw you off the trail.

Modern thought is that it portrays the Wadi Fawakhir region in which the El Sid gold mine is located, but the matter is far from settled. Jason and the Argonauts sought the Golden Fleece

around 1200 B.C.

That Greek myth makes more sense when you realize that the fleece that it refers to is the sheep's fleece used in the recovery of fine placer gold.

Early miners would use water power to propel gold-bearing sand over the hide of a sheep, which would trap the tiny, but heavy, flakes of gold. When the fleece had absorbed all that it could hold, this 'golden fleece' was hung up to dry, and when dry would be beaten gently so that the gold would fall off and be recovered.

This primitive form of hydraulic mining began thousands of years ago, and was still being used by some miners as recently as the California gold rush of 1849.

The first use of gold as money occurred around 700 B.C., when Lydian merchants produced the first coins. These were simply stamped lumps of a 63% gold and 27% silver mixture known as 'electrum.' This standardized unit of value no doubt helped Lydian traders in their wide-ranging successes, for by the time of Croesus of Mermnadae, the last King of Lydia (570 -546 B.C.), Lydia had amassed a huge hoard of gold. Today, we still speak of the ultra-wealthy as being 'rich as Croesus.'



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Mining your Local City for Gold and Diamonds? By Alec Bering Sea Paydirt Nov.22, 2022

What if I told you that it's possible to find real gold and diamonds without ever leaving your city?

Yesterday I would've thought that was impossible. But after watching Shane Klesh's viral Youtube video, which has received over 3.6 million views since he posted it in March 2022, my mind has been opened to the possibilities of urban prospecting. "This has got to be one of the most fun ways to go prospecting," Klesh says in the video.

The NYC Diamond District is where streets are paved with gold. The immigrants coming to Ellis Island once thought the streets of America were paved with gold. That's true of one street: New York City's Diamond District at the corner of 5th Ave and 47th St in Manhattan. Craftsmen create, polish and modify so much jewelry there that the sidewalks sparkle in the light due to the volume of metal dust shed from the 2,600 businesses in the district. As the cherry on top, over 90% of the diamonds in the ENTIRE USA come through New York. Apparently, a few gemstones swapped at the 25 jewelry exchanges in the Diamond District escape from pockets, bags, and jewelry out on the sidewalks and streets.

Youtuber Shane Klesh, a prolific prospector of gold and precious gemstones, thought it had potential to be a rich prospecting spot one night when he was sitting in front of the tv.

"I got the idea from a news segment about 20 years ago," he told Bering Sea Paydirt in an email. "It showed a guy finding diamonds stuck in gum on the sidewalks in NYC's diamond district. I had to try it myself." Urban prospecting has some unexpected dangers. Instead of the usual mountain lions and bears he faces in his favorite prospecting spots in the mountains of Colorado, Klesh says in the city he's risking unwanted attention from cops, possessive store owners, and folks passing by on the street.

"It's always best to do this before the sun comes up and before everyone starts walking around," he says, "that way not so many people are looking at me." Klesh scrapes the "skudge" out of the thick sidewalk cracks in the dark of pre-dawn and then sucks it up with a Milwaukee cordless handheld shop vac that he calls "amazing." He fills a bucket up and ships it back to Colorado for panning. Panning city skudge is for the patient, but it inspired Klesh to look for treasure everywhere. Klesh said in an email, "It took all afternoon to pan that stuff out. One spoonful at a time, very tedious and time consuming. Take Alaska black sand difficulty and multiply it by three, I'd say." While the panning is slow, the treasure hunt is exciting. You never truly know what you'll get in the pan. Each pan gets more exciting as he uncovers more gold and silver dust. Klesh also discovers gemstones of all different colors and sizes and bits and pieces of fine jewelry. In the end, after testing each stone, Klesh ends up with 23 real diamonds, dozens of unknown precious gemstones, and a heap of precious metal dust and jewelry scraps.

Did it open his eyes to the possibilities of finding treasure in common places? Yes.

"It's got me keeping my eyes to the ground all the time, after a concert. Stick around after the mosh pit and find all kinds of stuff. Melting snow banks in grocery store parking lots. Lots of trash, but sometimes find some awesome stuff with minimal effort."

(I reported this phenomenon to the Club a number of years ago when I showed a short news video of another guy that did the same thing years ago. Klesh is just one of the latest to partake in the potential riches of NYC. Could it be done here? I am not sure that we have sufficient movement of precious minerals in sufficient quantity to make any such endeavor worthwhile unless one wanted to chance such activity around the Denver Mint. I highly suspect that such activity would not go unnoticed and I will absolutely deny knowing you if you try it and wind up in jail....jus' sayin'....On the other hand, I have been at my bank on two occasions when I found a number of coins on the ground immediately after Loomis armored cars had picked up or dropped off coinage and cash to the bank. Both times, the amount of coinage I collected was in excess of 4.00 in various amounts!. JJ



photo retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/LADbible/videos/guy-tries-to-clean-streets-with-vacuum->




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Contact the GPR President
(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Jan 2024

(**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 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King B/D	16	17 GPR Club Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Pirate Hunt			