

THE GOLD NUGGET

Jan 2024



Happy New Year to all..! We had a wonderful turn out for the Christmas Dinner with 54 guests in attendance. And there weren't very many left overs either. Thanks to the elections last month, we have a full Board of Directors to start the new year with. Our work is just beginning. Joe Johnston is going to have heart surgery and we are in need of having someone to step up to take over the Library until he is back on his feet. As I said at the Dinner, we are going to make changes to the Finds of the Month Program by dropping two categories down to just five. This is being done to make things a little more fair. Green category will be for coins. Blue category is going to be for jewelry. Pink category will be for artifacts. Yellow, of course, will be for gold.

The white category will be for minerals. You will fill out the slip on the day you find the article, and where you found it. There will be two people at the table to give a number to the Find and there will be a ballot form where you will cast a vote. No names will be needed and only a name will be assigned to the winner. In the gold category, it will include gold jewelry as well as the largest gold and the most gold. I have ordered the gold for the club give away for the rest of the year. By the next meeting, I will have completed an inventory of all the gold and coins that the club has in its possession. The new vice president will be giving the January meeting Program about the climax Mine so it should be an interesting one. **It is also time to renew your Club membership and a reminder that the dues have increased from 30.00 to 40.00 for 2024.** I will also be announcing details on a planned Outing where we will be collecting raw ore. Anyone wanting to go will need to bring buckets as the ore is in rock form and you will need to find your own means to crush this ore. May your year be blessed with gold in your pan!

Vice President's Corner! by Kevin Singel



Hi everyone, I am excited to be your new VP for 2024! I am personally starting to make big prospecting plans for 2024 and I hope you are too! Of course, I am one of those crazy people who digs year-round so I am not waiting for the prospecting "season" to start, I'll definitely be digging this month just like always. In fact, this will be the 15th January in a row that I have been out prospecting. I am all about winter prospecting. To learn more about my winter hijinks on the river, check out my article in Jan/Feb 2024 GPAA Prospecting Magazine. I'm also looking forward to our January meeting where I will be the speaker. As many of you know, I enjoy public speaking (I am weird that way!) so this will be fun, hopefully for all of us. The topic will be the Climax Molybdenum Mine up on the pass between Copper Mountain and Leadville. Although this huge mine isn't producing any gold, I think all of us have wondered about the place while driving by. I was on a private tour recently and have lots of "insider" pictures to share. I'll also share some of the history of the area which does include gold mining back in the 1800's. As we

plan club activities for this year, I am eager to hear from all of you. What sort of things would you like to have the club offering? Group mine tours? Prospecting outings? Other sorts of rock hounding? Personally, I am planning to learn to metal detect this spring, so I am looking forward to joining some of the monthly outings with Robert "The Pirate" Ahr. That'll be fun! Find your gold!!!

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by John Johnson



Welcome to 2024 everyone, as your incoming Treasurer, I will be meeting and greeting everyone as you purchase your 'Special Nugget' tickets, regular gold give away tickets and 50/50 drawing tickets. If you have any additional door prizes you would wish to donate to the Club Door Prize coffers, be sure and bring those to me as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting. See you soon!!



GOOD NEWS ALL MEMBERS!! YOUR 2024 DUES ARE NOW DUE!!! DUES ARE 40.00 PER YEAR AND IS A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. DUES FOR NEW



MEMBERS JOINING DURING THE YEAR ARE PRORATED, HOWEVER EVERYONE MUST RENEW IN JANUARY EACH YEAR. BE SURE THAT EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY IS LISTED ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IF THEY WILL BE DIGGING WITH YOU.



Board Meeting Minutes From Dec 2023

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

There was no official Board Meeting for the month of December, 2022. The next Board Meeting will convene at 6pm on January 17, 2022.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

It is estimated that there are (how many/ tons of gold in the world's oceans...???)

2024 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

Bobby Manning

Vice President

Kevin Singel

Secretary/Treasurer

John Johnson

2 Year Board Members

Robert Ahr (2024)

Andy Doll (2024)

Gordon Smith (2024)

1 Year Board Members

Roger Schlenger

Mike Stevens

Bill Manning

Past President

Joe Johnston

General Meeting Minutes From Dec 2023

There was no official meeting for the month of December. The time was reserved for the Annual Christmas Pot Luck and Recognition Program. Regular meetings will resume on Jan 17, 2024 at the usual time and location of club meetings. See you there!

GPOTR Annual Christmas Party 2023

There was a good turnout at this year's get together with approximately 60 members and families attending. The evening began with the Pledge of Allegiance a little after 6 p.m. once the tables and food were set for the serving line. Lots of great food was laid out with the club providing the meat entrees of ham and beef smoked by our own **President Bobby Manning** for the event. There was also a dessert spread that caused weight gain just by looking at it! Thanks go to



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

Mitchell and Gena for the extra help in setting up. (Gena does catering so is good at arranging everything just right...and it was)

After a thoroughly enjoyable dinner, President Manning began the evening's festivities by recapping the year. He spoke about how the club was in the black for the entire year. He then discussed the legal/copyright issue and the predatory practices of the legal firm that contacted the club. He recapped the club outings and panning demonstrations for the year including the trip to Manitou Springs to collect Cripple Creek District gold ore from an old train derailment in that area. President Manning has crushed some of that ore and is planning to have it assayed and will report back to the membership. He also discussed the club's gold purchases for the year and that he has a new point of contact where we can purchase the small gold at 5% under spot price. President Manning then asked the outgoing and incoming board members to stand and be recognized.

Next came a drawing for the white tickets that had been passed out to each attendee. Young **Joey Dehmlo** was President Manning's able Christmas elf and helper in pulling the tickets.

Next came the awards for the Finds of the Year with President Manning first announcing how the Finds of the Month will be revamped in the new year to make the contest fairer.

Kevin Singel took Most Raw Gold

John Olson took Best Artifact

Shellie Zornes took both Best Jewelry and Best Coin

Mitchell ___?___ took Best Bottle

All winners received a colorful certificate suitable for framing.

Next up was the recognition of members for various contributions to the club. First recognized were **Greg and Nancy Knerl** for their hard work with the refreshments table. Each received a certificate and gold nugget. **The Dehmlo's**, were recognized for their work running the club store with certificates and nuggets. Then, each of the board members received certificates and nuggets for their work in running the club. Members **John Olson, Shellie Zornes and Joe Johnston** were also recognized for their contributions and presented with frameable Certificates of Appreciation.

Outgoing Vice President **Mike Stevens** then took over the microphone and gave a heartfelt speech about the tough job the president has and how much President Manning has done for the club in the past year. VP Stevens then presented a certificate and nugget to President Manning as he received a standing ovation from the attendees. Then came a surprise presentation to **Joey Dehmlo** of an assortment of prospecting equipment donated to the GPOTR by a **former Club President Aaron Ingalls**. His wish was for the donation to go to a young club member.

Next on the agenda was presentation of the **Ken Barker Award** and this year it was given to **Joe Kafka** for his great work and dedication to the office of club treasurer for the past 14 years. A well-deserved accolade, Joe received a Certificate of Appreciation and a crisp \$100 bill. He will also have his name and photo added to the permanent gallery of recipients on the Club's web site. The last event of the night was the Gold Elephant Exchange followed by folks helping with packing up and cleaning up. Thanks goes out to **Chris Kafka** for the table decorations again this year

A "Good Time Was Had By All" and the party adjourned around the 8:30 mark. We will see you in the New Year!



A Miner's Laugh

One day an old retired miner was completely lost in the kitchen and couldn't even make a plate of soup for himself or boil an egg. He'd never even done the food shopping but always came home from work to a delicious meal cooked by his good wife.

One day, after the wife had been sick with the flu for several days and the fridge was all but empty, the old boy realized he'd better help out, and he offered to go to the supermarket.

The wife sent him off with a carefully numbered list of seven items that they were desperately short of.

The old boy returned shortly, very proud of himself, and proceeded to unpack the grocery bags. He had one bag of carrots,





Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

two packages of celery, three dozen eggs, four bags of potatoes, five raw chickens, six boxes of noodles, and seven loaves of bread. And that was the last time his wife sent him grocery shopping..!

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

The finds of the Month:

There were no submitted Finds for the month of December. Submissions for January 2024 may include those Finds that you recovered since the November, 2023, Finds of the Month competition.

Remember that all gold must be dried and weighed. All monthly winners need save their entries for the November 2024 meeting when the years Finds of the Month winners will be judged for the Finds of the Year. So be sure and save them.

The Pirate's December 27th Hunt

by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello to everyone..! Well I've waited all day long for the sun to come out and it to turn into a blue sky day. Big bummer is that it's still cloudy and cold.. So, I'm sure it is no surprise to any of you that we will have to call off our December Hunt until next January... I hope that you all had a good year getting out and swinging your Metal Detector, I know it was good for me. We have had some good outings in this last year and found quite a bit of treasure and bunches of coins and other neat stuff. And on top of all that, we got to enjoy many days of fresh air while getting good exercise and above all, a chance to find lost treasure wherever we went..! So, remember that anything you find in the field could be your next Find of the Month with the GPOR.... And with that being said, remember, may your pan always have Gold in the bottom but also may your metal detector always find Silver and Gold... Thanks, and Happy New Year and be safe and stay Healthy out there and happy hunting! See you all Next Year!

Annual Christmas Program

We all gathered for the annual Christmas Program and there was no official Board nor General meeting conducted. It was an evening of sharing a pot luck supper with good friends followed by some time recognizing those who have put in that little bit of extra effort and work to help make the Club successful.





Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5



During the Christmas Program, a special Christmas gift was presented. **Former President Aaron Ingalls** was moving to Iowa to retire and wished to donate some equipment to the Club. He asked if there were any youngsters that could use it and if not, the Club could auction it off. I told him that I thought we had just the young man and loaded it all up. After conferring with President Manning, we were both in agreement as to who the recipient of this equipment should be. So, on December 20, near the end of the Program, we called **8-year-old Joey Dehmlow** to the front and presented him with a used high banker, 2 water pumps and 100 feet of hoses, 2 sluice boxes, assorted classifiers and gold pans, buckets and 2 containers of gold bearing concentrates. I think he was too shocked to really say much more than 'Thank you' but the look on his face as he saw all that equipment and realized that it was all his, was worth a million bucks. Just look at that smile!! His mom and dad were pretty shocked and overwhelmed as well. This was a fabulous gesture from Past President Ingalls, and I hope, as he reads this Newsletter, that his heart is warmed, as was mine, when we gave this young man all this stuff. I have known Mr. Ingalls for a good many years now and this gesture of kindness is nothing new for him. I have always known him to be a good and caring man and he can be assured that his act of kindness is sincerely appreciated by the Club and by the Dehmlow family. Well done, sir, very well done indeed..!! (Photos by Jim Long)





Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

“A 49er's Tale.” Part 1 of 4

(This story has been submitted by GPR Club Member Micheil Ross. It is the story about his great-great grandfather during the California gold rush. It is a bit long so he has divided it up into 4 parts. It is a glimpse into the lives of a real-life prospector from 175 years ago. Thank you, Mr. Ross, for this fascinating contribution...JLL)

(A manuscript (lightly edited for punctuation, capitalization, and setting into paragraphs but not spelling and wording) from a 49er named Joe Burgess about part of his time during the 1849 California Gold Rush.)

In the summer and fall of 1851 I bought up A lot of Cattle from the emigrants as they came in of the plaines. We could get them very cheap as they ware generuley very poor or thin in flesh. By hearing them on good pastures threw the winter they would get vary fat, as fat Cattle brought a good prise.

In particular in the mines I selected me A plase 12 miles as we called the distance west of Sacramento City on putar(?) creek, or near Davises and Browns ranches on what was called at early days the island. Thare ware quite A number of Squatters or new settlers on each side of the Creek, among them was A Camp called the MtGomerys Camp. Thare ware outhter partys that lived at the same camp.

They had settled thare the fall Before on the MtGomery side of the Creek on what was called the Island. It was open timber with but little under Brust. On the south side it was very different there ware dense thicketts of under Brust along the Creek perhaps 2 of A mile down it or untill the creek empeyed in the Tuley(?) swamps.

In the fall that the MtGomerys Boys settled thare. Thare was A man that living with them that was a hunter he seemed to think he cold kill a Grisley Bare allmost at his leshure as was A very stout man.

Thare had ben signs of Bares seen across the Creek so one afternoon he took his gun and a large Boenknif an started out across the Creek to hunt for Deer as they ware very plent along the thicketts of Brush on the oposite side. He never caime back againe.

As this happened before I ever saw the creek, I am telling it as I remember it told to me by those that new the circumstances. As he didnot come home on the second Day, his friends on the third day got A company togeather of eleven men and crossed the creak in search of the missing man. They ware all well armed except a Sogier who caried an Ax to cut tharway through the Brusks. As they advanced, in case they war to thick to get through without the solger went in advance with his ax.

They are passing through one of the largest thicketts as thare ware frequent openings when about the thickest part of it they herd a corse Growl and A great rumpus in the Brust. They soon all became satisfied of the fact that they ware close to a Grisley Bare and like Cautious men they all retreated for the openings where they all arived safely, the solgier bringing up the reare.

The following summer A party of men who had taken up a clame on that side of the Creek. Thare naimes was Joshua Hall of southern Illinois, Mr. Sluzbuck of Texas, and William M Allen of Indiana. Those three men had taken up thare claimes which included theas thicketts of Brush whare it was supposed that the hunter from MtGomery Camp went hunting.

Mr Hall and Zluzbuck and allen in laying out thare claime found it necessary to set stakes through theas thicketts of brush and in cutting thare way through they notieced some clothing haning on a Bush nears thare rout.

They went to see what it was it proved to be A mans vest but they soon discovered the remains of the lost Missouriie hunter from the MtGomery Camp. The surroundings went to show that he hadhad A deparate fight with A Grisley Bare. His gun had been shot of his Bowen Knife was missing.

It was supposed that he had been Badley hert by the Bare and that he had taken of his vest and bent down the Brus and fastened the vest on the Bush and let the Bush go up so it mite be A signal for help as he must have been to badly crippled to get home. At that time of the yeare the Bare wold hardley leave its winter quarters unless Compelled to. Thare ware caes nown whare Bares atacted men and leave them after Biting them up and go of some distance and lay down and watch and if the person undertook to get up the Bare wold go for him. It was supposerd that ths was the case with this unfortunate man.

I will now try and give you my experariences with what was supposed to be the saime Bare that Killed the man from the MtGomery Camp.

The Rainy Season Set in about the 12 of October. About the first of Jan 51 and 52 the high waters had prety well filled up the Tuley swamps so the Deer and Elk and Bare had left them for higher...

And the Part 1 manuscript ended here. For more of Joe Burgess' Grisley Bare encounter, tune in next month for Part 2 of “A 49er's Tale.”



A Tale of Two Prospectors By Alex Bering Sea Paydirt Jan 4, 2023

On a beautiful early summer day, high up in the mountains somewhere out West, two prospectors were hunting for gold. They were very alike, these two prospectors. Both caught gold fever after finding a few flakes in a local creek. Both had studied the art and science of finding gold, both had invested in the latest equipment and both – as new prospectors are – were filled with dreams of hitting the motherlode.

Recently, those two prospectors met up for a beer. They were still very much alike. Both were happily married. Both had interesting careers. And both, it turned out, still loved gold.

But there was a difference. One of the prospectors had given up hunting for gold altogether. His gold pan gathered dust in the corner of the garage and he decided instead to buy gold coins online and stash them in his sock drawer. He hunts deals these days, comparing prices on bullion sites. The only skill he has mastered is saving a few bucks on the new American Eagle 1 oz coin.

The other has a rapidly-filling jar of placer gold at home and is about to buy his first claim. He recovers his own gold from the dirt. His accomplishments allow him access to the exclusive club of successful prospectors who swap tips and tricks of the trade. And his gold, when he passes it down to his children, is accompanied by rich stories of adventure and discovery, and important life lessons.

What Made the Difference?

Have you ever wondered, as I have, what makes this kind of difference in the gold prospector's journey? It isn't a native intelligence or talent or education. It isn't that one person wants success and the other doesn't. The difference lies in whether a prospector can find the paystreak with his gold pan. It's that simple. If he can, then the sky is the limit. Someone with a "nose for gold" – as we say in the business – will discover a world of job opportunities, has the potential to make millions, and can even feed his family with his skills in a pinch. If he can't, then all the expensive equipment in the world won't help him, and he's destined to sell his tools for pennies on the dollar. And that is why we started Bering Sea Paydirt. The whole purpose of our company is to give customers the *rare experience* of finding real gold in paydirt, just as it's found in the field.

Panning is for the Pros

There is no "graduating" from the humble gold pan. From the first gold rush to today it has been the essential tool for finding gold. Shawn Pomrenke test pans the salty, dripping dirt straight out of his excavator bucket on the Bering Sea. Parker Schnabel wields his gold pan to sniff out the paystreak on his claims. This task isn't below them. Quite the opposite. Finding the paystreak is the job for the boss. The master. It's the critical task that can make or break a multi-million dollar mining operation. Dan Hurd is a master of the gold pan. Chris Ralph is a master of the gold pan. These professional prospectors uncover rich gold claims even in areas where amateurs searched and discovered nothing worth finding. Their prowess with the pan allows them lucrative careers hunting treasure out in nature, with no boss to answer to. In short, there is no successful man or woman in the gold-finding business who can't expertly wield a gold pan. Amateurs spend their money on the latest expensive tools but Professionals master the pan, because they know a "nose for gold" isn't a genetic gift – t's a carefully-developed skill. Most Prospectors Fail Before They Start and It's Not Their Fault. Imagine you send an Average Joe into an MLB game and say "ok, go hit the ball over the fence." How stupid would that be? Why, then, do we expect gold prospectors to go out and find gold without any practice? Most people get introduced to gold panning at some cheap tourist attraction. A sleepy college student gives a lazy demonstration on how to swirl dirt in your pan for 5 minutes. Then for a \$20 fee you're supposed to go to the local creek and find gold with it. These folks think that because they can't find a flake, there's no gold to be found!

The problem isn't that there is no gold, it's that they're outmatched. Nature is like a major league pitcher. It's throwing 99 mph fastballs to *everyone*. And these folks have never even swung a bat before.

It doesn't care if you're a beginner or a pro. There is no place where finding gold is easy, even at a "recreational" gold panning spot. You need **practice** to have success in the field.

Practice is Power

Right now, I am looking at a jar of gold from the Bering Sea. We spent countless hours panning every flake of this gold out of natural paydirt we recovered in our sluice box. Even though we have hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in our operation we still can't recover gold without a pan. Every bag of Bering Sea Paydirt is unique in that it exactly



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

replicates gold paydirt found in nature, because it *was* found in nature. It contains all the heavy minerals found naturally in the ground around Nome that makes extracting the gold challenging – and makes Bering Sea miners some of the best gold panners in the world. Each bag contains a range of gold sizes from flour gold to small “pickers” or nuggets. We didn’t have to create a “special blend” for the best panning experience. The Bering Sea already did that. Some paydirt companies mix gold nuggets with some sand and call it a day. And some folks like that. They like the feeling of finding big, easy nuggets in sand. We would like that too! But God doesn’t make it that easy for us gold miners. Professionals learn to operate in the real world, and learn to play the game as it is, not how they wish it was.

An Investment in Success

Put our statements to the test by picking up a bag of **Diver Dirt Paydirt**.

It’s our least-expensive bag – it guarantees 1 gram of real Bering Sea gold – and is the perfect way to get acquainted with Bering Sea Paydirt. Or you may prefer to take advantage of our better buy. **Eroica Paydirt** contains 2 grams instead of 1, and provides more gold for your money. Oh, and you get a certificate of authenticity that it was mined by our dredge, the *M/V Eroica*, with a message from Emily Riedel. Frankly, the more gold you get, the more value you get, because the unavoidable cost of packaging and shipping becomes a smaller percentage of the total cost. And if you spend over \$199 we will ship it to you via Priority Mail, fully-insured, **for free**. Prices will fluctuate as the gold price fluctuates. Not only do you get to hone your panning skills, but we promise to get a gram of gold into your hands cheaper than any major bullion dealer. We can do that because we recover the gold ourselves and sell direct to the customer – no middle man. Simply go to our store, add a bag to the cart, and checkout with your shipping address and credit card payment information. We will ship immediately.


See why we have hundreds of 5-star reviews and a 4.8/5 star rating from customers all over the US, Canada, and the UK. About those two prospectors I mentioned at the beginning of this letter: they started prospecting together. So what made their gold hunting experiences so different? **One prospector learned to use his gold pan like a professional.** I cannot promise you that prospecting success will be yours instantly if you buy a bag of Bering Sea Paydirt. But I can guarantee that the experience will make you a better panner and will result in a valuable treasure you can pass down to your children. It will be the only thing you buy online this year that will be worth more in 10 years than it is today.

Sincerely,

Alex & Emily

(I did not share this article from Alex to advertise for their company. I shared it because the primary point is what I have always said and all the really good prospectors that I personally know, and have known, all say the same thing. Gold prospecting starts with a gold pan and ends with a gold pan..! And it really is just that simple. So if you want to recover more of your gold and keep your hard earned money, don’t spend it on all the gimmicks out there. Most of those people are just mining the miners. Learn to pan and don’t give up. Work hard at it. It really is the best of all answers. And if you need help, let me know and we will find some time to get you on the right path, the path to more gold.....JJ)



 Wild West Traders LLC 

COINS GOLD SILVER

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

 **Sunny Mountain Prospectors**
 Metal Detectors & Mining Supplies
www.sunnymountain.net

Golden 802 Washington Ave Golden, CO 80401 (303) 529-0060	Colorado Springs 3007 N. El Paso St Colorado Springs, CO 80907 (719) 722-3998
---	---

Jesse Peterson
 720-331-9072
 5023 Hwy.119, Blackhawk, Colo.

 **A Touch of Class In Stained Glass Studios**
 New Projects · Restoration
 Residential · Architectural · Liturgical

Copper foil · Zinc & Lead (free) came
 Kiln-fired glass painting/staining/enameling

Parker, Colorado 719-924-5578
atouchofclassparker@gmail.com
www.atouchofclassinstainedglass.com

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Gold Nugget

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

ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET

Commercial Ads

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

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

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



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Feb 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	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 GPR Club Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	26	28 Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting)	29		