Gold! Gold! Gold!

Condensed with permission from an article in the April 2003 issue of RockTalk, a publication of the Colorado Geological Survey

Just the mention of the word "gold" whets the appetite for riches, adventure, and the excitement of discovery. Men have been giving up the comforts of home to search for gold since before recorded history. They have climbed over vast and imposing mountain ranges, suffered the biting blasts of the arctic, fought through disease-infested jungles, and wandered across parched and lonely deserts—all for gold, the most beautiful and most desired of all metals.

What is it about gold that makes it so attractive and so useful? Gold is not very hard: a knife can easily scratch pure gold. Gold is dense, having a very heavy specific gravity of 19.3+. Some of the other characteristics of gold are ductility, malleability, and sectility, meaning it can be stretched into a wire, pounded into other shapes, and cut into slices. Gold is the most ductile and malleable element on our planet. A single ounce of gold can be drawn into a wire 35 miles long and it can be hammered into sheets less than five millionths of an inch thick.

The color and luster of gold are what make this metal so attractive. Gold is almost indestructible and has been used and reused for centuries, to the extent that all of the gold that is currently being used by mankind is almost equal to all the gold that has ever been mined.

In addition to its use in making jewelry, gold has superior electrical conductivity and resistance to corrosion, allowing it to become an essential metal. Gold performs critical functions in computers, dentistry, communications equipment, custom paints, spacecraft, jet aircraft engines, airbags in automobiles, and a host of other products. As a commodity, gold has long-term storage value and, until recent times, was considered a monetary metal (most of the bullion produced each year went into the vaults of government treasuries or central banks).

(Continued on page 2)

Dowsing
Modern Applications, Part 1
by Hank Innerfeld, Dowsing Coordinator

Dowsing has been used successfully in many different applications. The most common use is to seek and find water. But dowsers are often able to determine more than just location of water. They frequently can report its volume, depth, flow direction, and potability. Dowsing can also be used to locate existing water pipelines and buried septic tanks and to locate oil. Unknown to most people, a number of oil companies and speculators rely on dowsers. Some members of the Southern California Chapter of the American Society of Dowsers (ASD) receive regular royalty checks for the wells they have located.

(Continued on page 2)

The Prez Sez

by Gary Hawley, GPR President

Greetings to all “Gold Prospectors of the Rockies” members, past members, and prospective members!

Here we go with the next episode of Colorado weather. The cold seems to have left us and we now go directly to HOT! Last month I suggested keeping your winter clothing handy and this month I’m suggesting a good quantity of sun-screen and lots of cool something to drink.

I have spoken to a couple of prospectors who said they were recently working in Clear Creek early in the morning and had to move their equipment before noon because the run-off water level had risen

(Continued on page 2)

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A few of the minerals that bear gold in their respective formulae are tellurides (see "Gold-bearing Tellurides" by Harvey S. Eastman, The Gold Nugget, September 1999). Gold seems to have an affinity for tellurium. Gold-silver alloys usually have a whiter color than pure gold and gold-copper alloys tend to have a slight reddish tint. The gold content of a gold alloy is measured in karats; 24 karat is 100 percent gold, 18 karat is 75 percent, and 14 karat is 58 percent.

The first documented report of gold in Colorado was by an explorer named James Purcell, who collected some gold nuggets along the South Platte River. Some sources say that the first gold discovered in Colorado was south of the current town of Russelville (Russell Gulch). When a party of prospectors from Auraria, Georgia, returning from California in 1858, settled on the south side of Cherry Creek near the confluence with the South Platte River, naming their settlement Auraria (now the home of the Auraria campus of Colorado University Denver, Metropolitan State College, and the Tivoli Brewery), they too found gold.

In the late summer of 1859, George Jackson began prospecting along Clear Creek near the present site of the city of Golden (named for Tom Golden) and found significant amounts of gold and followed the color to the rich placer deposits where Chicago Creek joins Clear Creek near Idaho Springs. Later that same year, John Gregory prospected for gold along Clear Creek and then up the North Fork to the present site of Black Hawk, where he found an outcropping quartz vein with gold, the first "lode" gold discovery in Colorado. Later that year and into 1860, gold was discovered in many locations throughout the state, including Boulder Creek, Nederland, Breckenridge, Silverton, Telluride, Leadville, and other famous Colorado mining sites.

In 1891, Robert Womack made a gold discovery in Poverty Gulch, just east of the present town of Cripple Creek, and located the El Paso claim, which was later developed into the Gold King Mine. The mines in the early years of the Cripple Creek District had an average grade of 1 to 2 ounces of gold per ton. The Cripple Creek District has produced more than 23 million ounces of gold, about half of Colorado's total production of 45 million ounces.

The War Production Board closed all non-essential gold mines after the outbreak of World War II. All restrictions were lifted during the middle 1970s. Gold mining continues today in the Cripple Creek District, and recreational miners continue to work gold placers around the state of Colorado.

Dowsing has also been used successfully to track down wanted criminals, and used to effectively locate hidden drugs in Connecticut. Fireman in Springfield, Massachusetts, have reported using dowsing to identify potential hazards at prospective building sites. The exact location of an Andes plane crash was pinpointed by an elderly dowser just hours before the rescue team found the survivors.

Dowsing has been used to find ancient drainage systems of "buried" cities, obliterated by time. Similarly, archeologists have used dowsing to find Megalithic sites as well as Indian artifacts. A well-known anthropologist hired an East Coast taxi driver/dowser in a successful effort to locate the long houses of the Iroquois nation. Dowsing has been used to detect energy fields, increased gamma ray counts, sources of contamination, underground outlets to lakes, radio towers and frequencies, magnetic fields, human auras, bad employees, worthless checks, shorts in electrical wiring, broken pipelines, mechanical problems in cars, and to locate lost graves.

Dowsing has been used to detect energy fields, increased gamma ray counts, sources of contamination, underground outlets to lakes, radio towers and frequencies, magnetic fields, human auras, bad employees, worthless checks, shorts in electrical wiring, broken pipelines, mechanical problems in cars, and to locate lost graves. An article in Fate magazine describes the activities of a car-theft ring in Arizona. The ring members baffled the authorities by stripping the cars they stole and burying the remains in the desert. No one could identify the thieves because they left no traces. However, a dowser heard about the case and located the buried auto-graveyard of the gang. Clues found there enabled the police to apprehend the thieves and bring the operation to a halt.

Next: Dowsing - Modern Applications - Part 2 (Article 5 of 6).
### GPR Contact List for July 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers and Board</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Gary Hawley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Ken Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jill Eads</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Year Board Member</td>
<td>Pinie Conell</td>
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<td>2-Year Board Member</td>
<td>Wayne Hale</td>
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<td>2-Year Board Member</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sue Clover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Shawn Conell</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Allen Mershon</td>
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<th>Appointed Officers</th>
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<td>Recorder, General Meeting</td>
<td>Carl Sauerland</td>
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<td>Drawings</td>
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<td>Find of the Month/Year</td>
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<td>Library/History/Video</td>
<td>Walter Schlomer</td>
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<td>Hank Innerfeld</td>
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**Special thanks** to Allen Mershon, Jeff Mosteller, Ken Oyler, and Joe Shubert for stepping up to the plate to assume vacant and support positions for the club. The club can not continue without the assistance that its volunteers give throughout the year.
### GPR Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Time(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Coordinator(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>Panning Demo</td>
<td>City of Englewood</td>
<td>Ken Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>11-4</td>
<td>Panning Demo</td>
<td>Freedom Festival, Visitors Center, Central City</td>
<td>Ken Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Re-Enactment, Cripple Creek</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Slide Show, Jeff Hauser</td>
<td>Gary Hawley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19-20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Panning Demo</td>
<td>Rhubarb Festival, Visitors Center, Central City</td>
<td>Ken Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26-27</td>
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<td>Event</td>
<td>Burro Days, Fairplay</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Colorado State Gold Panning Championships, Breckenridge</td>
<td>Colorado Springs club</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>11-4</td>
<td>Panning Demo</td>
<td>Summer Festival, Visitors Center, Central City</td>
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<td>Tour</td>
<td>South Pass/Tin Cup Mining Districts, Wyoming</td>
<td>Ft. Collins club</td>
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<td>9-10</td>
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<td>Gold Rush Days, Buena Vista</td>
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<td>Panning Demo</td>
<td>MILLIE International, Four Mile Historical Park, Denver</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23-24</td>
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<td>Outing</td>
<td>Annual Club Outing, Alma</td>
<td>Pinie Conell</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>Panning Demo</td>
<td>Labor Day Weekend, Visitors Center, Central City</td>
<td>Ken Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
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<td>Panning Demo</td>
<td>Labor Day Weekend, Visitors Center, Central City</td>
<td>Ken Barker</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Panning Demo</td>
<td>Westward Expansion, Four Mile Historical Park, Denver</td>
<td>Mary Jane Duran</td>
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<td>12-14</td>
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<td>Event</td>
<td>Denver Gem &amp; Mineral Show, Merchandise Mart, Denver</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>10-4</td>
<td>Outing</td>
<td>Coin Hunt and Gold Panning, Clear Creek</td>
<td>Pinie Conell and Gary Hawley</td>
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<td>Tour</td>
<td>Phoenix Mine, Idaho Springs</td>
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<td>Pumpkin Festival, Four Mile Historical Park, Denver</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tour</td>
<td>Western Mining Museum, Colorado Springs</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tour</td>
<td>Colorado History Museum, Denver</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>GPR Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner</td>
<td>Gary Hawley</td>
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All GPR meeting programs and trip activities are subject to change. Non-club-related prospecting events are included for your information. Members attending any trip activities will be asked to sign up or contact the event coordinator prior to the activity to allow planning for an estimated number of people and to contact attendees in the event of any changes, cancellations, or rescheduling.

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### The Q&A

**By Norma Dorn**

The Question and Answer for June were:

Q: "Who were the Night Riders in mining?"

A: Hardrock miners who hid quantities of high-grade ore with the intent of coming back at night through old manways and abandoned tunnels to retrieve it.

The Question for July is:

Q: "What small town was said to be between Nevadaville and Central City?"

The answer will be given at the July meeting. Members who can give the proper answer will be awarded a red ticket for the nugget drawings.

---

### Club Trailer Painted

**By Ken Barker**

The Club's trailer has been painted and can be seen at the next club meeting or at any of the panning demonstrations.

Thanks to **Nate Owens** for the great job ULTRA SIGNS did in getting our trailer painted and for the great price. ULTRA SIGNS is located at 5035-B3 on south Kipling and Belleview. They provide signs, banners, window and vehicle graphics, large format digital printing, and much more. So, if you need a printing job done, give them a call.

"If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world."

--J. R. R. Tolkien (1892 - 1973)
Meetings of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies

Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2003
by Gary Hawley

Roll Call
In Attendance: Gary Hawley, Ken Barker, Wayne Hale, Joe Shubert, Jeff Mosteller, Shawn & Pinie Conell, Ken Oyler, Carl Sauerland.

Quorum Present?
Yes.

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:17 P.M. by Gary Hawley.

Reading and Approval of Minutes
Read by Gary Hawley and approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's report
The Treasurer’s report, accepted as read, will be available at tonight’s general meeting.

Correspondence
Other club news and membership applications and renewals.

Committee Reports
No committee reports.

Unfinished Business
Jefferson County Open Space: Gary Hawley. Ongoing.
Club Logo: Gary Hawley. Ongoing
Gold Nugget Supplier: Gary Hawley. Ongoing

New Business
Assignment of New Board members: Gary Hawley.
Outings: Allen Marshon.
Speakers: Jeff Mosteller to assist Sue Clover.
Metal Detecting: Joe Shubert to assist Ken Oyler.

Planned Outings
June 22 - Black Hawk / Central City Tour.
July 4 - Panning Demo for the City of Englewood.
August - South Pass/Tin Cup, Wyoming Mining Districts Tour.
(Offered by RMPTH - Ft. Collins Club)

Announcements
Next board meeting: July 16, at 6:00 P.M.
Tonight’s general meeting program: Gary Hawley presenting “Origins of Gold.”

Adjournment
Meeting stands adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

General Meeting
A Few Snippets from Wednesday, June 18, 2003
by Dick Oakes

President Gary Hawley opened the club’s general meeting by having past president Rick Miska lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Membership Chair, Dick Oakes, introduced guests Robert Alb, Cindy Douthard, Joe & Mary Fortunato, L. Jesse Peterson, Paul Tharp, Kaytlan Miska, and Melissa Miska, and new member Pete Kumpon.

Ken Barker talked about Panning Demos, past and future (see the GPR Events Calendar), and thanked all who volunteer, such as Jeff & Pinie Conell, Chuck Cown, Andy Doll, Ed Finney, Wayne Hale, Jeff & Donna Mosteller, Teena & Martin Swisher, Doug Taylor, and others. The Panning Demo for the Arvada Gold Strike Festival was on June 15th.

Gary mentioned his upcoming Black Hawk/Central City tour to take place on Sunday, June 22nd (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), during which people will see and hear the history of the Roscoe Placer, John Gregory’s original gold mine, the Boodle Mine, the ghost town of Nevadaville, the railroad system, several old historic cemeteries, and much more. Attendees are to meet at Lions Park to car pool from the City of Golden for the six-hour tour, bringing such items as sack lunches, drinking water, cameras, binoculars, and layered clothing in case of weather changes (see “Prez Sez”).

The speaker for the evening was none other than Gary Hawley, who talked about the “Origins of Gold” (also see Gold! Gold! Gold!).

The evening was topped off with the nugget drawings (see “Drawing Winners”).

Thanks, Dale, for bringing in your find and sharing your vacation experience with the rest of us.

Find of the Month/Year
Wednesday, June 18, 2003
by Doug Taylor

For the Find of the Month in June we had one club member bring in a find. Dale Herbertson brought in a rock he found while detecting in Australia for gold. The rock looked to have teeth from the quartz deposit in it. Someone took the time to etch details into the rest of the rock to make it appear to be a face. It must have taken Dale by surprise to be in the outback and come across such a piece. Australia—by craicky, mate, what some people will do to find gold!
Hi all:

I just want to let everyone know that this has been a very interesting and busy month since our last meeting. We have had three panning demonstrations. The first was for Lou Bunch Day in Central City that was held June 21st & 22nd. The second was the Fourth of July for the Englewood Police Department. The third was the Freedom Festival in Central City on July 5th & 6th.

Thanks to all of you volunteers who have made these events happen; you folks are the reason that the club continues to gain new members and help to spread the word about the good things that the club does.

The next item most of you may have heard about is Permits Requirements for Gilpin County. On Tuesday, June 24th, at 9:00 a.m., six of our club members gathered at the Gilpin County Court House to attend the open meeting regarding these permits. The meeting with the county commissioners went extremely well; they were very receptive to all of the comments that were made, not only by club members but locals as well. They agreed to consider all of our concerns and hold another open meeting in the next 30 days or so. The group feeling was that the guidelines established in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 items did not reflect the activities of the recreational prospector.

Tony Peterson from the planning board has been invited to attend one of our outings and then to the county commissioners. He will also notify the club of the changes and then provide feedback for any changes to the planning board and then to the county commissioners. He will also notify the club of the changes and the time and date of the next open meeting. My thanks again for the ongoing support that you club members provide in the effort to be able to continue our hobby.

The next panning demonstrations scheduled for the club are:
1. Saturday, July 19, 2003, for the Central City Rhubarb Festival, 11:00 till 4:00.
2. Sunday, July 20, 2003, for the Central City Visitor Center, 11:00 till 4:00.
3. Saturday, July 26, 2003, for Buffalo Bill Days, 11:00 till 6:00, and again on Sunday, July 27, 2003, 11:00 till 4:00, at Pioneer Park in Golden.

If you have not signed up to attend one of these events you don’t know the fun you are missing, so please call me or see me at the club meeting to sign up. Thanks again!
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“If men can run the world, why can’t they stop wearing neckties? How intelligent is it to start the day by tying a little noose around your neck?”

--Linda Ellerbee

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Food for Thought
by Kathy Hawley

Thanks to Larry & Shirley Weilnau for handling the refresh-
ments for our June meeting.
The refreshments for our July meeting will be handled by Shawn
& Pinie Conell.
Just so you know, we are still in need of volunteers to handle
refreshments for August and November (The last GPR meeting of the
year is our Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Party, so no volunteers
needed for December!).

Please see me to sign up to handle refreshments!

Thanks!
Kathy Hawley, Refreshments Coordinator

“Denver area’s award winning hobby store, where we do what we sell.”
The first question most people ask is, "Can you really find gold with a metal detector?" The answer is, "Yes, providing certain requirements are met." First of all, you must use the proper type of metal detector, correctly tuned and properly operated. Secondly, the gold sought must be in a metallic form. Lastly, the gold has to be of sufficient size to be sensed by the detector. In short, those types of detectors suited for electronic prospecting can find larger gold flakes and smaller gold nuggets, as well as gold-bearing ore, which is rich in metallic gold. Inasmuch as gold nuggets are your primary targets, electronic prospecting is often referred to as "nugget shooting."

**Understanding Your Detector's Signals**

It has been said, "Not all that glitters is gold." Nor do all the sounds that your detector makes indicate the presence of gold. Understanding the various noises your detector produces will permit you to be a more efficient, and certainly a less frustrated prospector. The signals that your detector makes fall into two basic categories: "Real" signals and "False" signals. "Real" signals are those produced by actual targets. "False" signals are those produced by "ground effect," i.e., the detector's reaction to one or more of the following: extreme soil conditions, variations in soil conditions, uneven ground, or incorrect detector settings.

Next I'll discuss "Ground Signals and Their Effect."