CLEANING YOUR GOLD

by Allen Mershon  Transcribed by Paul Nagy

At the end of a day on the "diggin's" you've got ounces or pounds of pan or sluice concentrates. Now you carefully pan out the yellow metal you've worked so hard to get. But no matter how careful you are, there are obvious impurities in your pay-off. Any more panning would get rid of the impurities, but also a lot of gold, too. Cleaning your gold into a marketable condition while saving all possible gold is something you should learn to do, and there is not a better teacher on the subject than Allen Mershon.

Allen works for a local gold placer company and tends many sluices in the Denver Metro area. Part of his job is to clean and size the gold for sale. He is an active club member, a board member, and as the club program chair, he has arranged many fine presentations for us. At the September club meeting, he himself was the show.

A good first step in gold cleaning is to dry and size-classify the gold. For drying, heat the gold in a stainless steel pan. But do this only in a well-ventilated area! There may be toxic material present which can vaporize and become extremely dangerous! If you don't have a lot to clean and you're not in a hurry, you can use a gold pan or cookie sheet and dry it outdoors or use a blow dryer indoors.

After the material is dry, the next step is to classify (screen) the gold. The number of size-fractions to use depends on the size range of your gold. Locally, two sizes are enough. Call one "coarse" and the other "fine." The divide between the two is 40 mesh. Note that "fine" refers to particle size, NOT purity. But as a matter of fact, the finer the gold, the purer it will be. That is because as the gold in a running stream breaks down into ever smaller particles, more of the contained impurities are exposed to the environment and oxidize or otherwise disappear. Lo-

Join Us on the Third Wednesday!
Lloyd G. Clements Community Center
1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado
(One block west of Wadsworth, then one block north of Colfax)
7:00 p.m. (Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)
Information: (303) 933-1147 <> ghawley1@juno.com
Website: http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/
attended and allowed themselves to be part of the show. Jeff will let us know when this will be aired and he has asked for a video of the program for showing at a club meeting.

Thanks to the members who were able to attend the panning demo for Gilpin County. We were able to meet representatives of the Fire and Rescue Department, Gilpin County Library, Gilpin Historic Society, retail outlets and numerous citizens of Gilpin County. This was one of those venues that introduced our hobby to some important county persons.

Jeff still has a couple more demos to finish out the year. Please help when you can.

Allen Mershon did an excellent job with his presentation on “Cleaning your gold.” If you have a question about gold Allen is the one to ask.

At our October meeting Jeff, Allen and I will demonstrate the micro-sluice, the blue bowl, the Gold Magic wheel and maybe some other pieces of prospecting equipment.

Donna Mosteller and Sue Lemieux are working on a club cookbook. All members are asked to “give a recipe to the cause” (‘cause we all like to eat). Breads, cookies, snacks, beans, pies and meat recipes…everything will be accepted. Donna and Sue will determine which recipes will be in the cookbook and they will have more information on that as they get organized.

Cindy Douthard is moving in January and Mary Ann McCrea has volunteered to take over the membership table. Rick Miska needs someone to assume the newsletter editor position in January. If you can help, please contact Rick.

Joe Shubert will have some election business to talk about at the October meeting. Yes, it is that time again. This is your opportunity to help direct the GPR. Get your name on the ballot and run for office.

Kathy Hawley has advised me it is time to go “prospecting” for more drawing nuggets. She also has special plans for the election night nuggets to be presented at the November meeting! I know you will want to attend that meeting, for sure!

Until next time: May the gold in your pan be worth the effort you put into finding it.

October Speaker Info

The speaker this month is YOU!!!!!

Please bring your prospecting equipment and related items to set up at the meeting for everybody to see.

This is a show and tell type of meeting. Each person will talk about the item that they brought, and then answer questions regarding that item.

If your item is equipment, it does not matter whether its factory built or something that you made.

This will be a lot of fun if everybody participates.

Hope to see you there!!!!!!!!!!!
Letter to club from Alaina Marshall

Hello,

I am contacting you because I am selling a lifetime LDMA membership. I was wondering if you would mention this to your chapter to see if anyone is interested in purchasing it. The original value of the membership is $5000, currently sold for $3750. There is a $50 transfer fee. Only the LDMA portion of the membership is transferable. A GPAA Lifetime Membership must be established by the assuming member at the cost of $250. (This can be paid at the time of the transfer or in $30 monthly increments). If the assuming member is already a Gold Life Member the $250 is waived.

There are yearly maintenance dues of $120. Membership is based on the review and approval of the LDMA board, acceptance is not guaranteed.

Once all transfer information is complete and submitted to LDMA it takes about 30 days to process the transfer. Once the transfer is approved the assuming member will receive, in the mail, a membership packet.

All members may visit any designated LDMA prospecting camp at any time. Members also receive a lifetime subscription to Gold Prospectors Magazine. You will receive permits and membership cards along with newsletters.

www.goldprospectors.org

The price is negotiable. I am currently accepting offers. Questions are welcome.

Thank you.

Alaina Marshall

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Gold Prospectors of the Rockies
Board meeting of September 20 2006

Roll call. Those in attendance: Gary Hawley, Hank Innerfeld, Mike Barker, Jeff Mosteller, Joe Johnston, Cindy Douthard, Donna Mosteller, Kathy Hawley, Joe Shubert, Paul Nagy, Sue Lemieux

Quorum present? Yes.

Call to order.

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Gary Hawley.

Reading and approval of minutes.

Read by Gary Hawley.

Corrections: None.

Approved as read/corrected? Yes.

Treasurer’s Report.

Read by Gary Hawley.

Questions: None.

Accepted? Yes.

Correspondence.

Newsletters from other clubs.

Committee Reports:

Read as presented.

Unfinished Business:

Donna Mosteller – Club Cookbook. On going.

Sue Lemieux – Cover design contest for Club Cookbook. On going.

Hank Innerfeld – Club clothing table – item suggestions. On going.


New Business:

Joe Shubert is preparing nomination slips for elections.

Planned Outings:

September 23 – 10:00-4:00 – Club picnic & prospecting at Tymkovich.

September 30 – Gilpin County – panning demo.

October 7 – Rock Ledge Ranch – Colorado Springs – panning demo.

October 21 – 1:00-4:00 – Castle Rock – panning demo.

Announcements:

Next board meeting October 18, 2006, at 6:00 P.M.

Next general meeting October 18, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

Tonight’s general meeting program:

Allen Mershon presents: Cleaning your gold.

Adjournment:

Meeting stands adjourned at 6:50 P.M.
Find of the Month

By Joe Johnston, Find of the Month/Year Coordinator

September 2006 Find Of the Month (FOM) results.

Winners in **bold**.

**Best Bottle** no entries

**Best Jewelry** Joe Johnston - golde tone broach locket (Observatory park)

**Largest Raw Gold** Jay Nunn - gold picker

**Most Raw Gold**

Jay Nunn - gold from N. Clear Creek (Vic's)

**Most Unique (Excavated)**

Joe Johnston - toy truck

Susan Duncanson - old key

**Most Unique (Non-Excavated)**

Joe Johnston - toy helicopter (Observatory park)

**Most Valuable U.S Coin**

Joe Johnston - 1990 D dime (Observatory park)

**Oldest Coin**

Jay Nunn - 19?? wheat cent (& 2 memorial cents, 1966 nickel, 2ea 1994D dimes)

Congratulations to this months winners, be sure to save your FOM winning items for entry in the Find Of the Year (FOY) competition in December. Finds made from the end of the September meeting to the time of the October meeting are eligible for entry in the October FOM program. Bring your best finds, and we’ll see you at the next meeting.

Don’t forget to bring your bottles, jewelry, coins, gold or other finds. Remember those entries get you drawing tickets and those tickets WIN! Just ask Sue and others that have held tickets for FOM entries and WON!

Note: Now that prospecting season is upon us be sure to bring a second container with your gold sample entries for weigh in comparison. We will weigh the container with the gold and subtract the weight of the container without the gold to determine the weight of the sample, so have a container filled with the same liquid for comparison weigh in.

Each member is allowed one entry per category each month. Additional finds may be displayed as ‘show & tell’ items.

Joe Johnston, Finds Program Coordinator.

I would also like to Thank Marlin Wiedeman for his assistance with the Club Library and Finds Program at the meetings. A Big Examino to you Marlin!

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**Sues Sluice Box**

No events planned this month. Please check back next month.

Sue
From the Ledger
of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer

Thanks to Joe Johnston, Leroy Lamgo, Allen Mershon and Cindy Douthard for their donations to the members only drawing prizes.

As always I will have nuggets for the drawings at our October meeting. As of this writing I don't know the amount we will give away. But I don’t think you will be disappointed.

So like I always say, come prepared to buy some extra tickets and Good Luck!!

Food for Thought

Thank you for all the great snacks and for helping clean up. Watch this column in the near future for info on the Holiday potluck in December.

Thanks, Jackie and Michael

2006 GPR Officers and Board Members

President................................................................. Gary Hawley
Vice-President......................................................... Jeff Mosteller
Treasurer ............................................................... Kathy Hawley
2-Year Board Member................................. Hank Innerfled (elected 2005)
2-Year Board Member................................. Joe Johnston (elected 2005)
2-Year Board Member................................. Joe Shubert (elected 2006)
1-Year Board Member........................................ Mike Barker
1-Year Board Member................................. Cindy Douthard
1-Year Board Member........................................ Sue Lemieux
1-Year Board Member........................................ Allen Mershon
1-Year Board Member........................................ Donna Mosteller
1-Year Board Member................................. Paul Nagy
1-Year Board Member........................................ Terry Weatherly

GPR Events Calendar

Panning Demo Jeff will have directions to the demo at the meeting. The demo will be in the Castle Rock area on Saturday the 21st from 1:00pm to 4:00 pm at the "Grange" in a subdivision called "The Meadows".

Great Train Expo National Western Complex
4655 Humboldt St -- Denver, CO 80216
Saturday & Sunday - November 11-12, 2006
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Railroad and Model Railroad Show. Not a GPR event, but thought you might enjoy checking out a related hobby.

Please check the column again next month for more events. If you know of an event, please email the newsletter editor with the event information.
MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

SPEEDAIRE COMPRESSOR FOR SALE
New Speedaire Compressor, 3PH-5HP, 80-gal tank, upright. Current model price is $1,788; will sell now for $950. Contact Rose Ann or Jon Knight, (303) 450-0580 or (303) 252-1759

THREE-WHEEL SCOOTER FOR SALE
Shuttle Personal Transport System, 3-wheel mobility scooter, good condition, $950. Contact Rose Ann or Jon Knight, (303) 450-0580 or (303) 252-1759

Your ad could have been here!

MAX II 6-WHEEL-DRIVE ATV FOR SALE

GOT STUFF? WANT STUFF? PUT YOUR AD HERE!
Members of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies are welcome to submit their personal classified ads about items wanted or for sale. Please give this section a bit of your time and consideration. It is quite possible that you can see that you have a limitless space to give your entire constabulary and only then can you give of yourself. Dig?

For Sale - Goldmaster 3 Detector $275
Goldmaster 3 gold detector with standard coil, new battery holder. Works great. Call me at (303) 404 2897 or e-mail me at goldhunter@ricksthings.com

What have you been doing?
Where did you prospect last summer?
What did you find?
What kind of equipment do you use?
How did you research your location?
Did you file any claims?
What would you have done differently?
Did you take any pictures?
Answer all of these questions with an article about your prospecting related experiences from recent times. Please send it to: Goldhunter@ricksthings.com

Send in your comments, letters, articles, concerns, and suggestions for publication in this newsletter. Please try to keep the subject in line with things related to what our club is about. Articles should be submitted to Rick Miska at the meeting or goldhunter@ricksthings.com
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