The Prez Sez

By Gary Hawley, President

Now this is the type of weather I have been waiting for. Mostly clear days with temperatures that allow for some serious prospecting. Now is the time to develop those concentrations to work during the winter.

We had another good turnout at Clear Creek History Park. Our panning demo is always well received at the park and generates new interest in club membership.

Thanks to Don Bray for his excellent outing to locate barite near Hartsel. Approximately 12 members gathered to search for this beautiful crystal. I will be looking for barite samples at the Find of the Month table.

The Labor Day Street Celebration in Central City saw our panning demo group on Main Street on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to those who spent their holiday with us. Jeff and I got involved with the Buffalo Soldiers on both days and he will be happy to share our adventure with you.

I spent August 28 thru 31 in the Buena Vista area checking out some areas that a lot of you have been asking about. For those who also belong to the GPOC, the Prospector #3 claim on the Arkansas is easy to find and has plenty of parking on the claim. I did not sample the claim but judging by the amount of dredging that has been done, I am sure it would be worth the effort to set up some equipment and spend a day prospecting.

I met a group of our members on the 29th and we headed up to Cache Creek. I have heard some good reports on this BLM area and researched it in the Ben Parker blue book. It appears that glaciers played a major part in transporting gold bearing material to this area. I will have a sample of my finds at the meeting so you can decide if you would be interested in prospecting the area.

Our club picnic will be September 8. I sent out postcards to remind

VP's Corner

By Jeff Mosteller, Vice President

Greetings.

Well the Gold Panning Demos for this year are coming to an end. We tried really hard not to over do the calendar this year so we could have more volunteers come out and get interested in that facet of the club, I wish to thank those of you that came out with us to help promote the Hobby of Small Scale Mining and our club. Donna and myself will begin crunching the numbers next month and get our awards together for the December meeting. We've seen a few new members come out this year and join us, that was great. We even had a guy that wasn't quite a member yet help us set up a demo!

The panning demos generate enough money to keep itself sustained, paying for it's own equipment, gold for cards, paper supplies, awards for club members, and some of the fuel expense to get it there and back. Most years we have been able to put a little into the bank account for the club's usage. I remember what Ken Barker told us about 5 years ago "When this turns into a job, it's not fun any more and at that time I will stop this". I think we have seen the time in the club's life that it has become just that. Over the last 5 years we have seen the very few dedicated people that believe in what we're doing start to dwindle down to 5 or 6 people, and we are tired. Talking for myself and Donna the last few years we have had so many wonderful people and weird stuff come into our lives it's all getting to be a blur. We have had the club in countless metro news papers big and small, been on and in various magazines, interviewed by news papers on the East coast and had contact with Hollywood. We have been on TV with the Infamous Dan Daru at both Chanel 2 and 31, Nick Carter from Chanel 9 did an interview with us, we've been seen and mentioned on all the other big TV channels in the Front Range area. We have been in Schools, Churches, University campuses, out in the weeds, many city festivals, County fairs. We have been in several living history parks and museums,

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/

GPOR Website
If you have updates for, comments about, or anything else regarding the club website, you can contact the club webmaster at:
prospector@phantomranch.net

Dick will be happy to review any suggestions or comments you may have.
From Prez on page 1

everyone about the date. Hope to see you there.
We have one more panning demo this year at Rock Ledge Ranch. This is always a big event and Jeff needs a good show of members to help out. Please sign up for this event and help us out.

Kathy Hawley has located another “Special Nugget” that she will tell you about at the meeting. Be sure to visit the nugget table and look at this nugget and the other nuggets she has picked for this meeting’s drawing.

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

July 2007 Find Of the Month (FOM) results.
Joe Johnston

Winners in bold.
Best Bottle
no entries

Best Jewelry
Leanne Larson – Ruby & gold ring & 14k manufactured sapphire
Joe Johnston – Silver earring

Largest Raw Gold
Allen Mershon – Gold teeth insert

Most Raw Gold
Joe Fortunato – Placer gold (.1g)
Aron Ingalls – Placer gold – (.7g)

Most Unique (Excavated)
Leroy Lamgo – 2 Mark gold coin from Germany (1939)
Randy Archer – button from outside 1812 Battle of Sackets Harbor, NY
Don Dixon – Defaced run over dime
Joe Johnston – Disney Bracelet

Most Unique (Non-Excavated)
Larry Weilnau – Bottle stoppers (1920’s)
Joe Johnston – Lug Bolt (metric semi truck)

Most Valuable U.S Coin
Hank Innerfield – 1978 Quarter

Oldest Coin
Randy Archer – 1944 Mercury dime, Cape Vincent, NY
Hank Innerfield – 1978-D nickel
Susan Duncanson – 1948-D Nickel

From Vice Prez on page 1

City Library’s. We have been in front of Legislators from all of the western United States, taken city and county counsel members from several metro governments out in the field. We have been instrumental in saving our mining heritage in 2 big county's here in the metro area. I’ve had audience with President Theodore Roosevelt and Mark Twain and just last weekend I got shot up several times by the U.S 10th Calvary Buffalo Soldiers in Central City. That’s just a small portion of where the Panning demos have taken the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies in the past 5 years. To quote the Greatful Dead, “What a long strange trip it's been”.

It's my belief that the days of the Panning Demonstrations has run it's course and I am going to make a proposal to the Board of Directors at the September meeting that we put the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Panning Demonstration out to pasture, it's turned into a job and not enough people want to get involved with it to keep it going. I want to thank all of you for giving me and my wife this opportunity to do what we have over the past years, the memories are to much to catalog. Donna's scrapbook will be a museum piece by the time she gets it up to about 4 feet thick.

For all that we have put into the demos over the years for the club I would ask all of you for 1 last favor, on Saturday October 6, please give me a little of your time to help complete the last Demo that we have set up for this year down at the Colorado Springs, the city's Pumpkin Harvest Festival at the famous Rock Ledge Ranch.

Thank you all,
Jeff and Donna Mosteller

From the Ledger
of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer

I want to thank Leroy Lamgo and Joe Johnston for donations to the Member’s Only drawings.

We will give away a total of 11.1 grams of gold at the September meeting. 4 nuggets will be 1 gram or over, with the largest being 2.1 grams.

I will begin selling tickets for a “Special Nugget” at the September meeting. Tickets will be sold to members only.

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

Question of the Month

What is the origin of the name "Steamboat Springs"?

www.hookedongold.com <http://www.hookedongold.com>
www.thevideosense.com/user/MQS/<http://www.thevideosense.com/user/MQS/> Prospecting Videos GET PAID TO SHARE VIDEOS

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@rickstings.com
GPR General Meeting  
Clements Center, Lakewood, CO  
15 August 2007  
Paul Nagy, General Meeting Recorder

7:04  President Gary Hawley calls the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance.

7:05  Burro Bash! Five dollars apiece for GPR members at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, C. Spgs. Check for date. The Jeffco small mining regs are still in process. Debate over some issues regarding Antiquities Act. Also, the club does not plan on acquiring mineral claims. We have adequate places to do our thing.


7:12  VP report by Jeff Mosteller. Results of State Panning Championships at Breckenridge. Club members scored big! Shirley Weilnau, First Place-Women's; Larry Weilnau, Second Place-Men's; Aaron Ingalls, Third Place-Men's. Atta go! Panning demo schedule. (see this issue). Pictures of recent demos on display.

7:18  Bill Duncanson and the hidden cache. Found! By Kathy Hawley! (Be jealous Sherlock) Discussion of clues. It was only a stone's throw away. (so how far can a stone throw?)

7:30  Kathy Hawley gives the first clue for the next hidden cache.

7:31  From Prez Hawley: About 300 attended the panning demo at the Air Force Academy. A big success. Thanks to participants.

7:32  Shirley Weilnau asks the question of the month. Later the answer.

7:33  Don Bray gives the details for the barite hunt near Mt. Antero and Hartsel, CO. The barite is in pockets. Barite uses.

7:42  Recess.

8:05  Evening's program: Hank Innerfeld and "A Dowsing Update."

8:29  Prize drawings, then adjourn meeting.

August Find of the Month

Joe Johnston

Way to go everyone, keep up the good hunting! Congratulations to this month's 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 March meeting to the time of the April meeting are eligible for entry in the April 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, Marlin 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 IDENTICAL 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 an IDENTICAL 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.

August 2007 Find Of The Month (FOM) results.

August 2007 Find Of The Month (FOM) results.

Winners in bold.

Best Bottle
no entries

Best Jewelry
Joe Johnston – Silver earring (large loop)

Largest Raw Gold
no entries

Most Raw Gold
no entries

Most Unique (Excavated)
Ian Duncanson - Miners Nickel
Joe Johnston – Rusted Bucket

Most Unique (Non-Excavated)
Susan Duncanson – piece of tile next to Clear Creek
Tom Schneider – Fools Gold (Santiago Mine, Georgetown)

Joe Johnston – Broach with broken pin

Most Valuable U.S Coin
Joe Johnston – 1941 nickel

Oldest Coin
Susan Duncanson – 1939 Nickel
Can You Still Find Gold in Alaska…?
Submitted by James Long

I have been a member of the Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA) since about 1992 ever since seeing George ‘Buzzard’ Massie on TV showing how to pan for gold. But my career in law enforcement required my full attention until I retired in February 2007. That is when I decided to change things. And I decided to join the Colorado Prospectors of the Rockies as well as become an active member of a local GPAA Chapter as well.

I have always wanted to hunt and fish Alaska but didn’t think I would ever get there. As the years slid by, I decided to add prospecting to the hunting and fishing part. Somewhere in there, golf got added and I actually became pretty good at that (my handicap is 10). And retirement gave me the time to do all the things I always wanted to do. One of those things was to go to Alaska to prospect and fish.

The GPAA offers an annual trip in the summer each year for its members. They have a camp on the Cripple River about 14 miles west of Nome and they operate it for 6 weeks of each summer. Nome is on the Bering Sea and for those of you who are familiar with North Alaska and the Bering Sea, you know that the weather for North America starts where the Arctic Sea and the Bering sea meet, about 150 miles northwest of Nome.

Nome is famous for the great Alaskan Gold Rush in the late 1800’s. But did the old timers get it all? Nope, they sure didn’t. But they did clean off the bulk of the surface gold but that only accounted for roughly ten percent of the known available gold. There is still a lot of gold to be found but it isn’t easy. I selected the second week of July to try my luck in the far north.

The GPAA Cripple River Camp is rustic to say the least. Although it is a lot better today than it was just ten years ago. The camp is located within 100 yards of the Bering Sea and about 200 yards from the Cripple River on a small bluff overlooking both. They have wooden ‘hootch’ (shacks) that will sleep 6 on wooden bunks that are no more than plywood shelves big enough to put your sleeping bag on. There are no lights, electricity or other comfort features other than a single door, one window, and a small wood burning stove, if needed. The Grizzly Bear Chow Hall is the main gathering spot and it does have electricity and power provided by a large generator that also serves 6 showers and 2 washers and dryers nearby. The generator goes on at 0600 am and goes off at 2299 pm. From 2200 pm to 0600 am is considered ‘quiet time’ because most participants use that time for sleeping. Sleeping can be difficult since there is daylight literally for 24 hours a day up there at that time of year. The sun only drops just below the horizon for 2 hours about 2am and is back up and visible at 3:45am. That is hard for some to get used to. The average temperatures ranged from 60 at the low to 75 at the high.

Participants are assigned a ‘beach claim’ that runs from the Bering Sea about 200 feet back to the tundra and is about 50 feet wide. You and only you and your assigned prospecting buddies (no more than 4 to a claim) are the only people permitted to work your ‘claim’ during your stay. On your claim, you run beach boxes which are no more than crude high bankers. Believe it or not, there is a lot of extremely fine gold right on the beach itself which is composed of gravels and a lot of plainly visible black and red sand which is universally known for its association with gold. It is indeed a thrill to see your first evidence of yellow gold in the sluice box and know that you are getting gold in the same place the old timers did a 115 years ago.

There are rules. The GPAA strictly enforces those rules. They are many and are intended to keep ‘Chechakos’ (tenderfeet or rookie) from getting hurt or in trouble. I had no problem abiding by them as they are clearly posted and explained. Each participant is encouraged to prospect on your own if you so desire. The GPAA has several thousand acres and many miles of right of way along both the Cripple River and Arctic Creek that are open for general prospecting. Travel in the north country is difficult and nearly impossible when you are 3000 miles from home and afloat. The GPAA rents 4-wheel ATV’s for those who want to get away from the beaches and strike out for the boondocks. But beware..! There are Grizzly Bear in the area and they need to be treated with extreme caution lest you become a meal for one. I personally found fresh grizzly tracks 200 yards from my ’hootch’ near the Cripple River. And that was close enough for me. There are numerous Musk Ox in the region as well and they are extremely protective of their young at this time of year. I saw no bear during my travels but did encounter musk ox on 4 of the 5 days I was there.

The gold I found on the beach was extremely fine and for those of you have encountered this type of gold, you know that the recovery process is not very easy. I found that it was a lot easier to reduce it to the most basic form of concentrates that you could get and bring them home to extract the gold later. My buddy and I also prospected Arctic Creek for one day using a high banker while we were there and the gold we got from that creek was much more course and a lot easier to extract. We actually recovered a total of 4 small nuggets, and numerous pickers as well as a quantity of course gold as well as some fines too. The gold from the beach actually comes from the Bering Sea and is pushed up onto the beaches each winter as the ice forms and later recedes, depositing the gold into the black and red sands. The better gold is in the places you encounter red sand with the black. Commercial miners who dredge the Bering Sea do very well. During a 6 week run, they can average over 250 ounces every 2 weeks. You do the math. Six to eight weeks is all the time the weather permits them to operate. Unfortunately, the weather in that region dictates the course for all living things, including man. Mother Nature in that region is absolutely ruthless and unforgiving.

I found that a small mini-sluice such as the one demonstrated at the July meeting by our own member Allen Mershon, or a Blue Bowl type apparatus, are truly the best way to recover fine gold and give you about a 98 to 99% recovery. My own mini-sluice is very similar to Allen’s but is about a foot shorter and is a 4 inch as I believe his was about a 6 inch. The principle is the same and works very well. Now for the question everybody wants to know. Did I get rich? Did I get enough gold to pay for my trip? Is there still good gold there? Would you go back?

Continued on next page
To those questions, I respond in order.....No...No....Yes....Yes, in a heart beat. My total take was less than ¼ ounce of gold.

Is there still good gold there? Yes, and let me explain. I encountered a gentleman named Phillip from California. A young man in his early 30’s who was on his fourth trip to Cripple River. He was spending 5 weeks at the camp this year. He left camp each day at 0430am and did not return to camp until he had 3 ounces of gold. I personally observed him leaving each day over the 3 days I watched him and he was back one day at 4pm and the latest I saw him return was at 2130pm. His “hootchmates” that I spoke to admitted that he was getting ‘tremendous’ amounts and would not refute the 3 ounce a day figure. You can do the math for yourselves and see if you think there is good gold still there. A friend of mine, Paul from Oregon, e-mailed me last week to report that another man he had met 3 days after I left was getting one ounce a day from the beach some 4 to 5 miles west of the Cripple River Camp. Paul did admit that he and his partner traveled to that area and sampled the beach but could not produce any more there than they were getting on their assigned ‘claim’ back at the Camp.

Finding good gold isn’t easy and it is not for the half hearted. Getting gold and dreaming of being rich are two different things for the majority of us recreational prospectors. Most of us can find small amounts of gold at any given time. I personally have panned and recovered gold from Colorado, South Carolina, Arizona, California, Oregon, and now Alaska. Combined, I have yet to break an ounce. If I was prospecting for a living, I would have starved to death a long time ago. Maybe some of the old timers were right. It is not the having that drives us. It is merely the dream of finding. Nearly all of those guys died poor. Phillip from California is the exception. He is working his butt off and putting in long hours, but he has found a good location that is producing well for him and he is making a goodly amount of money at it. But alas, I fear he is in the minority. By the way, I know exactly where he found his ‘strike’. I wasn’t in law enforcement for 39 years for nothing without learning a trick or two. Haah!!!

My trip to Alaska was not necessarily cheap by any standards. If you want to do it, you can plan on spending a minimum of $2500.00 and have to be a GPA member to do one of their trips. I can tell you I found the trip exhilarating and extremely informative and well worth it. I learned a bunch and met some real old timers and a lot of just plain old recreational guys and gals just like me. And yes, there were quite a few ladies in the camp, far more than you would have thought and a couple of those ladies that I met flat outworked a lot of the guys there.

Oh yeah, the fishing was pretty dang good too.....Pink Salmon, Chum Salmon, King Salmon, and Halibut aplenty. Wildlife were everywhere such as red fox, musk ox, caribou, bald eagles, puffins, mountain goats, moose, and others including mosquitoes the size of tanks with big attitudes. I even visited Kotzebue, Alaska, located about 30 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Between Kotzebue and Nome, by air, you can look west and actually make out the land mass that is Russia. I saw Mt. Degali and Glacier Bay from the air. We flew over the Alaskan Mountains, the Chugach Mountains, and the Brooks Range. I saw the Yukon River and the Kenai Peninsula and fished the Kenai River and the Cook Inlet.

Alaska is truly the last great frontier.....and you bet I am going to go again....and soon....!!!!!
Gold Prospectors of the Rockies

Board meeting of August 15, 2007

Roll call. Those in attendance:

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<th>Gary Hawley</th>
<th>Rob Deschambault</th>
<th>Allen Mershon</th>
<th>Mike Barker</th>
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<td>Jeff Mosteller</td>
<td>Joe Johnston</td>
<td>x Paul Nagy</td>
<td>x Donna Mosteller</td>
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<td>Kathy Hawley</td>
<td>Joe Shubert</td>
<td>Sue Lemieux</td>
<td>x Terry Weatherly</td>
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Quorum present? Yes.

Call to order. Meeting was called to order at 6:23 P.M. by Gary Hawley.

Reading and approval of minutes. Read by Gary Hawley.

Corrections: None. Approved as read/corrected? Yes.

Treasure’s Report. Read by Gary Hawley.

Questions: None. Accepted? Yes.

Correspondence. Membership renewal and returned newsletters.


Refreshment Committee – New Chairpersons: Robert & Leanne Larson.

Unfinished Business: Club cookbook – Discuss information presented by Cort Young.

Cookbook will be tabled until after January 2008.

Jefferson County rules – Gary Hawley – Update was read.

Jeff Mosteller – Power Point program – Under development.

Gary Hawley – Discussion on membership. Renewals are going well. Only a few members are not current.

New Business: Joe Johnston – “What Is It Contest?”. Joe is presenting this as a fun addition to Find of the Month table.

Gary Hawley – Discussion on speaker’s stipend. After discussion, the Board has established the speaker’s stipend to be as follows:

1. Non-member speakers will receive one gold nugget valued at not over $10.00 plus one year membership in the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies and one membership name badge.

2. In reference to club member speakers, it was decided that sharing of information is an expected part of membership and therefore no stipend will be offered to a member speaker.

Planned Outings: September 8 – Club picnic @ Tymkovich.

October 6 – Rock Ledge Ranch.

Announcements: Next board meeting September 19, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

Next general meeting September 19, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.

Tonight’s general meeting program: Don Bray outlines the Barite hunt.

Bill Duncanson reveals the GPR Cache finder. Hank Innerfeld explains dowsing.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:56 P.M.
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?

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@rickstings.com

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