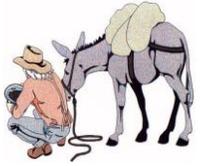


# THE GOLD NUGGET

April 2014



## 2014 Dues are now WAY PAST Due

### **The Prez Sez by Jim Long**



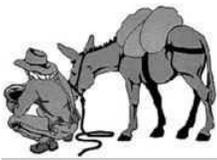
I frequently get asked questions from folks about metal detectors. Which one is the best? What should I get to find gold? Does one machine find gold better than the others? How much should I expect to pay for a detector that will find gold? The questions never seem to end. So, let's take a little time and space and see if we can answer a few of those questions.

Now understand, I am certainly no expert, but I own 3 metal detectors and I know a lot of people that own them and some of them are pretty good at using them. I am not too bad at it myself, but that is just my opinion. I have never personally found any 'gold nuggets', yet, but I have found gold in the form of rings and other jewelry. I know people personally who have found many ounces of gold nuggets with various machines. And dang little of it was in Colorado, but some of it was. So let's just talk about that.

First of all, understand a few basics. Detectorists will tell you that you will spend a 100.00 per inch, so that means the more you spend, the deeper you can detect. Well, yeah, kind of. Different machines detect at different megahertz levels. Now decide what you want to do. Folks always want to find gold nuggets. My advice is to move to Arizona, California, Alaska or Australia. But they want to find them here. I tell them good luck with that. If you want to find nuggets in Colorado, you need access to private property, in all likelihood, with tailing piles or placer areas that have not been searched before. Most of the public property has been beat to death by hundreds of guys before you, some amateurs, but a lot of really good ones. Now I am not saying it can't be done, because it can. But you need to understand that the odds are not in your favor. You will find a lot more artifacts, coins, and jewelry than you will gold nuggets. Now if you have a ton of money and can afford to travel, there are a lot of places around the country where you can still find plenty of gold nuggets.

I know an expert detectorist who found many ounces of gold nuggets in Alaska using a Mine Lab 5000. He then took a Gold Bug 2 and found another 30 plus small nuggets when he checked the exact same area he had used the 5000 on. Which means the 5000 got the big stuff and missed the little stuff while the Gold Bug nailed the small stuff. The same is fairly true with a Whites MXT. Now both the 5000 and the MXT are great machines but the 5000 costs a ton of money and the MXT will run you about 8 or 900 dollars. They perform differently and the 5000, which will run you 4000 bucks or more, has an issue whenever another machine is operating close by. The MXT has an LED display that helps you to identify targets. The Gold Bug 2 does not and runs around 800 dollars. You have to dig every target with the Gold Bug 2. Personally, I don't mind that. I own both an MXT and a Gold Bug 2 but I use my Gold Bug the most of all, for my own reasons. A Garrets Ace 250 is a superb coin and jewelry detector and only runs about \$250. So it is very important to do as much research as you can before you buy a machine.

I tell everyone, you need to know what the machine you are interested in is capable of doing. Decide what you want to do, and then buy something that will get the job done that you want it to do. Then, you better read the owner's manual forwards and then backwards. And then do it again. Understand how the magnetic waves work to identify targets based on their magnetic identity. Every mineral has one and while many are similar, the differences are often enough that they can be identified just by listening carefully to your 'alert' tones. Compare these qualities of the different machines available. And then you will need to practice with it until you can identify the difference in the 'alert' tones of various metal targets from iron to copper to nickel, silver and gold. Use practice targets to learn the differences. If you think you can buy a machine and go right out and find gold nuggets, you are nuts. Just isn't going to happen in all likelihood. But the more you practice and become familiar with your machine, the better it will perform for you. It is like learning to use a gold pan. Using a metal detector takes patience and more than just a little effort. Hell, if it was easy, then everybody would be doing it and it all would have already been done and everything already would have been found, but there is actually still plenty to find out there. Think about that.!! And keep in mind, quality headphones are worth their weight in gold. Seriously, enough said? There are no easy answers to which machine is best. There are many pros and many cons for each and every one out there. Good machines tend to be expensive. So, please, do your homework before you spend your hard earned dollars. Be serious about your research and comparisons. And when you decide, just understand that



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

you may spend many, many hours before you are proficient enough to be successful. That is the best advice I can give you. Good Luck!

So until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured 'Yaller Gold'!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at [jnslong945@msn.com](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com)

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

## The V.P. Corner by "Klondike" Mike MINING CLAIMS



I have been asked by new and old members alike if the club has any claims or will ever acquire any. The answer is no, we do not and will not have any claims. We are a non-profit organization and do not want to lose this status. If we were to acquire a claim/ claims we would lose our status as a non-profit and our ability to supply gold for our drawings or buy new items for our club store.

With that said I would like to explain some of what is involved in obtaining a claim. Research, research, research that word will be heard a lot in this column. So on to the "research". You will first want to get a mining packet from the Colorado State BLM office on Youngfield St.

In this packet you will find:

- a. Locating mining claims and sites
- b. Maintenance fees
- c. Land description (boundaries)
- d. Reclamation fees
- e. Plan of operation
- f. Notice of intent to hold a claim
- g. Notice level of land use

You can file a claim on BLM land but you will need a map of open claims which you can pick up with your mining packet. You can also get exact GPS coordinates for BLM claims on their computers. Remember research, research, research. The BLM will gladly take your money and let you file on the capital but if you have not done your "research" and try to get a refund you are truly out of luck.

Once you have your packet and researched areas of interest, pick your spot. Make sure the person/persons selling this patent or unpatented claim have all their paper work up to date. You are also responsible for your own "research" on this claim.

When you go to test sample the dirt make sure you sample several different areas. Some people will "salt" the ground with gold. You also need to know about water sources, mineral rights, and ownership of title. Remember the State of Colorado does not give out patent claims although you may still get one thru a private owner.

Please remember "research" is vital. It does not matter whether the claim is BLM land or private, you need to be thorough. It is up to you to know as much as you can.

I hope this brings a little clarity as to why the club does not have a claim. This is in no way trying to discourage anyone from acquiring a claim; it is meant to give you some information to make that decision. Owning a claim takes time, money, and maintained. There are many of us who would love to own a claim. If you have questions on claims several members including Jim Long, Joe Fortunato, or myself can help.

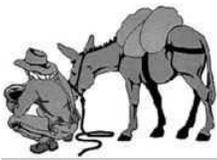
As before if you have any questions feel free to contact me, 720-443-9545.

Mike Hurtado (Klondike)

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Linda Luchtenburg



The April Meeting will feature **6.3 grams of gold nuggets** for the give away with the largest nugget being 2.1 grams. We continue to sell raffle tickets for the 'Special Nugget Drawing' and members are encouraged to purchase plenty of tickets as your chances of winning this beautiful 13.0 gram nugget are far better than winning the Lotto. Special thanks go to **Pres. Long, and to the GPR Board** for contributing items for the 'Members Only' drawings held at the March Meeting.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

### Membership Committee

Please bring or mailing in your membership dues for 2014. They are all due in January no matter when you joined. Renewals are \$30.00. Many of you have paid already. It is greatly appreciated because then JJ can make a more accurate budget for the year.

Thanks

### This Month GPR Meeting Program:

**April 16:** At the April meeting, the Program will feature speaker **Robert Walters**, of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division, who will speak on “**Invasive Species**” and how important it is for us prospectors to be aware of this potential harm to our watersheds and the eco-system. This will be a unique and fascinating program and we may have a few ‘show and tells’ as well.

**May 21:** The May meeting Program will feature local speaker and author, **Christie Wright**. Christie has spoken to the Club before and puts on a great program. This month, she will speak of **Colorado’s Mining History** and some of our colorful characters of the past. She may be bringing some of her books to sell as well. She is the author of ‘South Park Perils: Short Ropes & True Tales’. She is a historian on South Park and is a member of the South Park Historical Society as well as the South Park Mining Association. Her program should be both entertaining and exciting. Don’t miss it!

**June 18:** The June meeting will consist of Forum of Club experts who will host a ‘**Question and Answer**’ session from the general membership. Members will have an opportunity to ask questions they have **concerning general mining and prospecting issues**. This will be your chance to pretty much ask anything that is on your mind and the experts will have an opportunity to answer them and share a little of their experience.

### Board Meeting Minutes from Mar 2014

X	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	Roger Biri
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston		Terry Weatherly	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Linda Luchtenburg		Janine Ballentine	X	Andy Doll		Gary Hawley

**Quorum present?** Yes

**Call to Order:** By JJ at 6:05 pm

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Yes **Corrections:**

Dates of next months meetings... **Approved as read/corrected:** Yes

**Treasurer’s Report: Questions:** None. **Approved:** yes

**Correspondence:** 4 phone calls, 12 e-mails, 10 mailings

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 134131 Hits for last month 350.

**Committee Reports:** None at this time.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Discussed Income/expense accountability. Pres.
- Long still working on BOD Manual updates for 2014.
- We sold some pins to the WMMI.
- Discussed Storm King Dredge posters, members will decide if we donate or auction.
- Discussed Gold & Gem Maps, we will buy 6 and see how it goes.

**New Business:** None at this time.

**Planned Outings for 2014:** Refer to Outings Calendar/Schedule in Newsletter for details of existing schedule.

Mar 29 Sat Beginners Panning/sluicing Class, 6911 N. Washington St., 9-12n

**From the Board:**

- **Pres Long** discussed upcoming events.

#### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Where were the oldest worked-gold objects known found?

#### 2014 GPR Board of Directors Members

##### President

James Long

##### Vice President

Mike Hurtado

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Luchtenburg

##### 2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2013)

Joe Shubert (2011)

##### 1 Year Board Members

Joe Fortunato

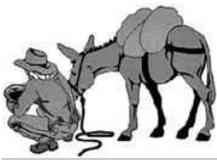
Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

Roger Biri

Janine Ballentine



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

- **Roger B.** asked about maybe doing an outing at the Grubstaker again.
- **Joe J.** provided a copy of list of folks who have library materials they didn't return. He also mentioned that Tom Hill of Georgetown Railroad may contact us to do a booth in June to promote the Railroad opening a second mine tour.
- **Andy D.** asked when we will drop unsigned members and that will be after the April meeting.
- **Mike H.** discussed the offering of magnetic signs and license plates for the store. These will be tabled until April Mtg. for everyone to consider.
- Terry W. and Joe S. and Janine B. were unable to attend the Board Meeting.

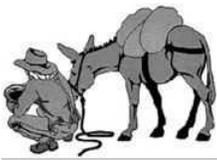
**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting April 16, 2014 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting April 16, 2014 at 7:00pm

**Tonight's general meeting program:** A 50 minute video from the History Channel on 'Gold Mines'.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:55 pm.

## General Meeting Minutes from Mar 2014

1. Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** presented the evening program which was a 50 minute video from the History Channel called 'Gold Mines'.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1330.60 an ounce, silver at \$20.61, platinum at \$1440.00 and palladium at \$760.00.
4. Web hits for last month reflected 440 hits for the last 30 days.
5. **Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg** reported that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, we are now selling tickets for the 'Members Only' drawing and it is a very large nugget displayed at her desk for all to see. Remember, your chance of winning this nugget is far better than trying to win the Lottery.
6. **John Johnson** reported from the Membership Table that we had approx. 105 members in attendance. There were also 6 guests and 5 new members who were also in attendance. The meeting attendance was 111.
7. **Sue Clover** read the 'Question of the Month', which was 'What element is combined with gold to form the intermetallic compound known as 'blue gold'?
8. **Pres. Long** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table and everyone was encouraged to check them out and vote accordingly during the break.
9. **Pres. Long** announced that the Cache had been hidden anew. **Barbara Barrow** gave Clue #3.
10. **Pam and George Schmitt** informed the group to be sure to check the new items in the Club Store and to support your Club by buying Club products with the Club Logo on them.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that a Tour of the Golden School of Mines Geology Museum had been scheduled for Mar 22 at 1pm and that there was a sign up sheet at the front for those who were interested in attending. Beginners Panning/slucing Class is scheduled for Mar. 29, from 9a-12noon. See sign up at front table. We will have our first prospecting Outing on April 26 starting at 9am at 6811 N. Washington on Lower Clear Creek. A bbq will be held at \$5 a head. Several members have spiral wheels for sale and that info was passed on. Rumors abound that we have lost access to the stretch of Clear Creek known as Youngfield. Pres. Long will check it out and resolve it. 2014 dues are now overdue and anyone not paid up is encouraged to catch up as soon as they possibly can. We will be dropping unsigned members after the April Mtg. There was nothing further discussed from the Floor.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:18pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:35pm.
13. **Pres. Long** announced that there were only 51 winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was Indium. The winning tickets were passed out to the lucky winners.
14. **Pres. Long** announced that there were a number of submitted entries for the 'Finds of the Month'. The winner of the 'Best Bottle' category was **Sue Duncanson** with an old bottle found on the S. Plate river. 'Most Raw Gold' winner was **Todd Fiddler** with 4.28g of gold that he found in a secret spot in the mountains. "Best Coin" Category was **Joe Johnston** with a quarter and a penny. "Best Jewelry" category was **Joe Johnston** with 3 ear



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

rings found metal detecting. Congratulations to each of our March Monthly winners. Be sure to show off your finds each month at the meeting. Each monthly winner will need to save his/her finds for next November to be entered into the Finds of the Year competition.

15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Pres. Long**, and followed by drawings for the gold nuggets. A reminder 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 can choose to donate the tickets back to the Club. Those assisting Pres. Long in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Linda Luchtenburg**.
16. **Pres. Long** informed the members that sometimes during the meetings, his time is over whelming 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 phone at any time. His phone number is on the web site.
17. **Pres. Long** thanked **Kris and Joe Kafka** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. With the number of attendees skyrocketing recently, this really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
18. The scheduled **Program for April will be** a presentation from Robert Walters of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife who will speak on "Invasive Species". This should be an informative and interesting presentation on something that prospectors don't think about a lot, but can often be the problem.
19. Until next time, prospect safely, live long and be grateful for that golden bounty from the stars, that gleaming magical miracle called 'gold'!
20. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

## Schedule of 2014 Planned Outings:

We are starting a new year and are in process of scheduling speakers and programs, outings, tours and other events for the year. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact a Board Member with your ideas and information. We want to try to provide the things you are interested in. We tentatively have 20 events planned for 2014.

**Apr 26 Sat Prospecting Outing, Clear Creek, 6911 N. Washington St., Adams County, 9am-5pm, bbq at noon.**

## Finds of the Month

Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. Winners each month will have their name published each month in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. The winners in February were:

**Best Bottle:** Winner is **Sue Duncanson** who submitted an old bottle found near the South Platte River.

**Best Jewelry:** Winner is **Joe Johnston** with the submission of 3 ear rings found by metal detecting.

**Best Coin:** Winner is **Joe Johnston** with some change from a parking lot.

**Most Raw Gold:** Winner is **Todd Fiddler** who submitted 4.3 grams of gold he found in his secret spot up in the mountains.

There were several other submissions and we encourage everyone to share their finds each month.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

Monthly winners will need to save your find and present it next November for the Find of the Year competition and for the chance to be recognized as Best Find of the Year.

### **Birthstone**

The World of Birthstones

In the ancient world, precious gems were prized just as highly as they are today. Gemstones continue to shatter record prices at auction houses around the world. For 2014, rather than just the monthly birthstones, we will offer a little more of the ageless secrets of birthstones by tying them to the lunar calendar. We will give you a little extra courtesy of the National Jewelers Society. This means that the birthstones you would normally associate with your birth month are actually tied a little closer to your Zodiac Calendar. So, let's check it out a little bit.

There are a total of 12 Lunar Months in all. This period of time right now runs from December 21 to January 19. There are also 12 Zodiac Signs in all. The Zodiac sign now is Capricorn and your planet would be Saturn. Since there are not 12 planets but actually only 9 and the Earth is not considered as one, the Sun and the Moon as well as Pluto are listed. Each Zodiac Sign is associated with a specific House. This time period for now occurs in the 10<sup>th</sup> House of the Zodiac. Birthstones were established centuries before a lunar calendar and now we relate those stones to the star signs they truly occupy by using the lunar houses that the ancient cultures used that astrologers use, that still half of the modern population of today's world uses. Keeping that in mind, let us take a look at the lunar calendar and the gemstones that relate to each of us in a whole new way. A chart established by the National Jewelers Association list, the Modern Alchemist, The Old Testament of the Bible (Torah), and the New Testament of the Bible, will give you a little latitude in picking your own personal birthstones. These stones represent the 12 months, the 12 tribes, the 12 hours, the 12 apostles of Jesus and the 12 astrological signs. This is based on historical fact and is not meant to proselytize any religious belief.

**Lunar Month:** March 21 to April 19    **Planet:** Mars    **Zodiac Sign:** Aries    **House:** 1 st

#### **Birthstones:**

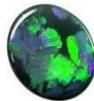
NJA1911

Diamond



Affinitus

Black Opal



Exodus

Ruby



Revelation

Jasper



*(Taken from the National Jewelers Association and the AmericanGemSociety.Org web site)*

### **Prospecting/Mining Notes**

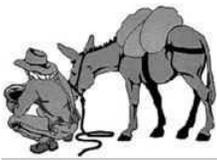
(mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

**3-25-14 School of Mines Geology Museum Book Sale:** The Museum will have its combined used book and garage sale 4/18-20/2014. Starts at 9am-4pm. Most prices decrease nearly 50% each day until gone. Sale will be in the Geology Museum at 1510 Maple St. in Golden. There is a small fee for parking and each lot has a kiosk to get your permit. 'Friends of the Museum' (such as us) enjoy a 20% discount. Good chance to pick up some really neat stuff.

**4-1-14 Gold Shares Shine as Stocks lag in Quarter:** The first quarter of 2014 offered stock investors a lot of motion in the major indices but unlike last year, not much momentum. However, the quarter was a good one for the state's gold producers who found renewed favor. The trade of gold was directly related to the situation in Ukraine. Gold tends to find favor when global tensions rise. Gold, the metal, rose about 7% during the quarter causing many mining stocks to soar. Golden Minerals Inc. rose 77.1% while Solitario Exploration, Vista Gold and Royal Gold were all up a third or more in 2014. Westmoreland Coal even shot up 54.4%.

### **Storm King Dredge Photos**

Past President Gary Hawley, donated 4 poster sized photos of the old Storm King Dredge. For those of you who know their history, you will recognize the Storm King as the last operable Dredge that operated in South Park near Fairplay. The Dredge still exists and there are efforts from several different organizations to refurbish it and move it from near Alma back down to the Fairplay area. Gary told us to do with them as we wish. So, here is the issue. Should we donate them to the Western Museum of Mining in Colo. Springs or possibly, to the National Hall of Fame Museum in Leadville, or should we auction them off to the highest bidder at a meeting..? I have attached photos of these historical posters for you to look at. We will bring the matter to a show of hands at the April Meeting.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7



## Tour of School of Mines Geology Museum

On Saturday, March 22, the Club enjoyed a tour of the Golden School of Mines Geology Museum conducted by Dr. Bruce Geller. Dr. Geller is a friend and honorary member of the Club and never fails to give an enlightening and informative tour filled with geological tips and instruction. There were about 40 members who took the opportunity to enjoy this incredible tour.

Dr. Geller is an expert on rare earth geology and his facts concerning gold are immense. He talked about the host materials that tend to hold gold in the Colorado Mineral Belt and spoke of the gold deposits from Central City down to Cripple Creek, Gunnison and even Ouray and Silverton. We got to see physical examples of this gold from across the state as well as some incredible specimens of other Colorado minerals and gemstones, as well as samples from around the world and even rocks from the Moon.

This Museum, along with the Harvard Museum, is one of the best of all the University Museums in the country. The staff is well versed in mineralogy and capable of helping visitors to identify any of those unusual specimens that so many of us have in our basements and garages, from just plain old rocks to gemstones, minerals and even meteorites. This tour is always a big draw and the Club is glad to be able to arrange one every year or so. Members are encouraged to check out the museum at any time and when you do, you will spend an awful lot of time there as some of the displays are just breath-taking. Pres. Long managed to get a few photos of the event.



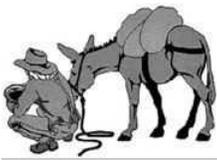
## Beginners Panning/slucing Class

Pres. Long conducted a Beginners Class on basic panning and sluicing on lower Clear Creek located at 6911 N. Washington at Tynkovich's Meat Market on Mar. 29. This was one of the largest classes the Club has ever hosted. We had nearly thirty attendees. As always, the attendees were taught where to look for gold, how to read a stream or river to find the gold, and then we taught them how to break in their new gold pans. The class stressed the importance of classifying your material and then they were shown the basics of panning. Following the demonstration, each attendee had the opportunity to practice their newly acquired skill until each individual had found some gold in their pan.

Once that was done, they were encouraged to practice, practice, practice until they gain some confidence. To help them do that, we gave each participant a bag of concentrates. All the material that they were given had been dug in the literal location of the Class the week before.

Then we set up a sluice box and demonstrated how it should be properly set up. The creek was extremely low requiring a little





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

extra effort to get a good drop and flow, but after a couple different spots, we managed to get it going well enough to run a bucket and a half. The clean-up was demonstrated and Pres. Long then panned that down to just the black sand and gold. The attendees were impressed with the amount of gold that was recovered. They were then shown how to remove the gold from the black sand. Now it is up to everyone to practice until perfect.

Pres. Long appreciated everyone's questions and interest in the material and information shared. My special thanks go to Steve Barrett, Steve Overton, Jim Blankenship, John Johnson II, Andy Doll and Mike Hurtado without whose assistance would have made it difficult to successfully handle such a class as this one. Andy Doll even managed to get a photograph or two while he was at it. And a special thank you to Mike Tymkovich for allowing us to park in his parking lot while we do these things. We encourage everyone to frequent his business whenever possible.

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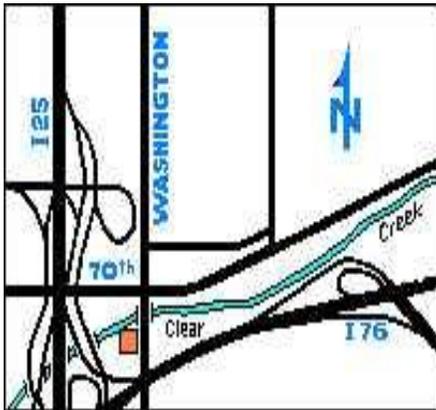
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- 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24
- 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
- 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

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 May 2014**

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 ([www.wmmi.org](http://www.wmmi.org)))

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 V-E Day	9 Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	10
11 Mothers Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19	20	21 GPR Club Meeting	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	<b>WMMI: Picnic-N-Planes May 28</b> Watch the Thunderbird's fly over the Air Force Academy for graduation. Come out and watch for a \$5.00 grounds admission fee!		