The Prez Sez by Jim Long

One of the things that I like so much about our Club is the fact that so many of our older and tenured members are so willing to take the time to help other folks learn how to do this stuff. I hear horror stories all the time from people who want to learn how to get into gold panning or small scale mining, but everywhere they turn, they are ignored. Gold does strange things to some people. They get secretive, uncommunicative, and even downright nasty at times. A lot of the old sourdoughs, and yes, we still have some of those guys around today, won’t hardly give you the time of the day, let alone tell you how to pan for gold or even where to look for it.

I remember when I first started looking for gold. I found a spot that looked to me like it was really rich in gold. Shoot, I could see the stuff lying all over the black sand with my naked eye. It was really tough to pan out of that stuff and I finally had 4 or 5 two ounce vials full of the stuff. Oh yeah, I was a very happy man. And an old timer bumped into me and asked what I was finding. I showed him my good fortune. He looked at my gold, looked me square in the eye, and asked if I had been drinking or smoking stuff I really shouldn’t ought to be smoking. I said neither one, why? He told me plain that I had fallen for ‘fool’s gold’ and didn’t have anything but mica and dang little pyrite at that. I said prove it, and darned if he didn’t. An hour later, I was a much wiser prospector who knew how to tell the difference. That old guy took pity on me and I sure am glad that he did.

He invited me to meet him the following weekend at a place that will remain nameless, and he showed me how to sluice and how to clean the gold out. And I joined the GPAA because he told me it was a good idea as there would be other people who could help me further. But until I actually got up to Nome, I never really found any of the GPAA folks who would actually show me any further tricks. It seemed that everybody was too busy doing their own thing and didn’t want to bother with me. And by then I had found the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies. Then President Hawley was exactly what I was looking for, a kindred spirit who believed in teaching and helping others. We got along so well that in short order, I volunteered to serve on the Board and later served as his Vice President. We agreed on so many different aspects of small scale mining and had similar backgrounds. Eventually I agreed to run for President when he decided it was time to step down. We both knew that a Club survives on only on good leadership from a core group of folks willing to put in the volunteer time, and a willingness to train and teach others. And it has to be fun as well. That is why we do the things we do today. I, too, have been fortunate to surround myself with some really good people who are also willing to give their time and share their knowledge. There are others who will teach you how to do some of this stuff, but for a price. But your Club does not do that.

And I have learned that there are lots of GPAA folks who are good people as well. My early impressions were for the most part, just bad timing and ill conceived. I swore that I would never look down on anyone wanting to learn or trying to figure things out. It isn’t like I have to protect all my secret places because I am going to wind up getting rich. The reality is that short of hitting a major strike, I will never get rich at gold mining. But I will be rich in experiences and knowing that I did my best to pass on a little knowledge and made a lot of friends on the way. I believe in that old adage that says “We are only passing through and should leave things better than when we found it.” And that is so true with so many things in life. That is why I have no problem sharing my ‘digging spot’ with anyone who wants to jump in. In my opinion, those secretive and surly old sourdoughs are a thing of the past and don’t fit in well with today’s modern small scale mining. I will always admire the ‘old timers’ and the tenacity with which they pursued the ‘lonely places’ in search of gold.

That is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your search! And 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.

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!
The V.P. Corner by “Klondike” Mike

THIS IS INTERESTING

Earth's Gold May Come From Collisions of Dead Stars
by Miriam Kramer, SPACE.com Staff Writer | July 17, 2013

All of the gold on Earth might have come from cosmic crashes between superdense dead stars, new research suggests.

The origin of the universe's gold is mysterious, since it's not formed within stars like lighter elements such as carbon and iron. But the mystery may now be solved, as a new study posits that the collision of two neutron stars — the tiny, incredibly dense cores of exploded stars — could catalyze the creation of the valuable metal.

"We estimate that the amount of gold produced and ejected during the merger of the two neutron stars may be as large as 10 moon masses — quite a lot of bling!" lead author Edo Berger, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA), said in a statement. "To paraphrase Carl Sagan, we are all star stuff, and our jewelry is colliding-star stuff."

Berger and his colleagues studied a short gamma-ray burst — a class of explosions that are among the most luminous known in the universe — spotted by NASA's Earth-orbiting Swift spacecraft in early June.

Called GRB 130603B, the gamma-ray burst was located about 3.9 billion light-years from Earth and lasted for less than two-tenths of a second. In the aftermath of the burst, scientists noticed that the explosion gave way to a gradually fading glow dominated by infrared light.

The research team thinks the burst's glow comes from "exotic radioactive elements," which can be spawned by the neutron-rich material thrown out into the universe by colliding neutron stars.

"We've been looking for a 'smoking gun' to link a short gamma-ray burst with a neutron star collision," co-author Wen-fai Fong, a CfA graduate student, said in a statement. "The radioactive glow from GRB 130603B may be that smoking gun."

Gold is rare on Earth because it's rare in the universe. In all, the team expects that the gamma-ray burst ejected about one one-hundredth of a solar mass of material, with some of it being gold.

"By combining the estimated gold produced by a single short GRB with the number of such explosions that have occurred over the age of the universe, all the gold in the cosmos might have come from gamma-ray bursts."


As before if you have any questions feel free to contact me, 720-443-9545.
This should be a very interesting video which was produced by the Discovery Channel. This video highlights a different twist to the art of mining.

Aug 20: The August meeting will feature a **video program** titled “The Secret History of Gold”. This video will talk about gold’s appeal and how its value spans time and cultures. But there is a little known secret to the story of gold, a dark secret. From the amazon jungle to the markets of Dubai, the video will examine the underbelly of the gold trade to expose its volatile history. This video is from the National Geographic Channel.

### Board Meeting Minutes From Jun 2014

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<th>Yes</th>
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<td>By JJ at 6:01 pm</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corrections:</td>
<td>none…Approved as read/corrected: Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer’s Report:</td>
<td>Questions: None. Approved: yes</td>
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<td>Committee Reports:</td>
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**Unfinished business:**
- Discussed Lake Gulch (Clay County) Outing which went very well.
- Discussed the Georgetown Panning Demo and the issues surrounding it.

**New Business:**
- Need to replace Janine on Board. Discussed several potential Candidates.

**Planned Outings for 2014:** Refer to Outings Calendar/Schedule in Newsletter for details of existing schedule.
- July 22 Tue Panning Demo, Idaho Spgs, Japanese students.
- July 25, 26, 27 Prospecting Outing, Lake Creek, Leadville.
- Aug 3 Sun Beginners Panning/sluicing Class, 6811 N. Washington, Tymkovich Meats.

**From the Board:**
- **Pres Long** asked to check on Colleen Gadd as her e-mail was showing returns as undeliverable.
- VP Mike H. advised that the Pony Express Prospectors out of St. Joseph, Missouri, would be out here on Clear Creek again in mid-July.
- There was nothing further tendered for discussion.

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

**Tonight’s general meeting program:** A 30 minute ‘Stump the Panel of Experts’. The membership will have the opportunity to ask the Panel any gold related questions they wish.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:42 pm.

### General Meeting Minutes From Jun 2014

1. Meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then presented the evening program which was a 50 minute ‘Ask the Experts’ Panel Discussion. Pres. Long, Don Bray, Joe Fortunato, and Mike Hurtado fielded a multitude of questions from the membership.
concerning mining. The Panel was well received and we were able to answer every question thrown at us. There was excellent feedback to this presentation.

3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at $1278.10 an ounce, silver at $19.90, platinum at $1448.00 and palladium at $823.00.

4. Web hits for last month reflected 427 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 still selling tickets for the ‘Members Only’ drawing and it is a very large nugget displayed at her desk for all to see. The ticket sales have reached the goal for replacement and the nugget will be given away at the July meeting.

6. **John Johnson** reported from the Membership Table that we had approx. 80 members in attendance. There were also 8 guests and 2 new members who were also in attendance. The meeting attendance was 90.

7. **Sue Clover** read the ‘Question of the Month’, which was ‘Where were the first gold coins minted in the New World struck’?

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** presented Clue #6.

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. We have introduced some Colo. Gold and gem maps for sale.

11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that the Lake Gulch (Clay County) Outing went very well with over 45 members participating. Pres. Long set up his high banker down on Clear creek later in the day and ran it until out of gas. He processed more than 50 buckets of dirt for various members who brought it down. He then rough panned it down for them and everybody was able to see the gold that they had found. There were 2 pretty good sized pickers found. Steve Overton set his high banker up just below the Clay County site but those folks who dug down below did not do as well as the ones who dug in the upper reaches. Still, all in all, it was a great day. Pres. Long also discussed the Georgetown Railroad Panning Demo. The Demo went very well from the standpoint of our Club participation and the members who participated donated their pay back to the Club. It totaled 500.00. They received a standing ovation. Many thanks to VP Mike Hurtado who oversaw the program over the 2 weekends involved. Pres. Long highlighted the upcoming Outing at Lake Creek near Leadville on July 24, 25, and 26. Also, the Beginners Class on Aug 3, the next prospecting Outing at 6811 N. Washington on Aug 23, and the Club Picnic on Aug 30 at 10th and Carr in Lakewood.

   a. There was nothing further discussed from the Floor.

12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:12pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:37pm.

13. **Pres. Long** announced that there were only 28 winners of the ‘Question of the Month’. The answer was ‘Mexico City’ in 1536. The extra drawing 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 ‘Most Raw Gold’ was **Todd Fiddler**, again, with 5.2g of gold that he found in his secret spot in the mountains. **Best Artifact** category was **Lonnie Sailas** with an old cannonball rock crusher from the old Comstock Mine. **Best Coin** was **George Sullivan** with an 1893 Victory Nickel found while metal detecting, and **Best Jewelry** was **George Sullivan** with an old silver ring he found while metal detecting. Congratulations to each of our June Monthly winners. Be sure to show off your finds each month at the next 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, Walt Nowakowski, and the Aurora Water Festival Folks, 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 overwhelmingly 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 June** will be a video titled **“Mining the Moon”**. The program will run about 50 minutes.

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 9:00p.m.**

**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.

**Jan** 25 Sat **Tour of the Western Museum of Mining and History, Colo. Sprgs., 1pm. Bring your members badge.**

**Feb** 22 Sat **Tour of the National Mining Museum, Leadville, 1pm, signup sheet at meeting. (CANCELLED)**

**Mar** 22 Sat **Tour of the School of Mines Geology Museum, 1pm, signup sheet at meeting.**

**Mar** 29 Sat **Beginners Panning/sluicing Class at 6811 N Washington, 9am-12noon, bring pan, boots, snuffer bottle & vial**

**Apr** 26 Sat **Prospecting Outing, Clear Creek, 6811 N. Washington St., Adams County, 9am-5pm, bbq at noon. **date change**(CANCELLED DUE TO HIGH WATER)**

**May** 15 Thur **Panning Demo, Aurora Water Festival, 9a-2p. Will need 8 volunteers.**

**May** 17 Sat **Prospecting Outing, in Nederland, Glass Cleanup Contest, 9am-5pm, in City Limits.**

**Jun** 7 Sat **Prospecting Outing, Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9am (Clay County Mine). This is a dry claim.**

**July** 22 Tue **Panning Demo for Japanese Exchange Students, Idaho Spgs, 1p-4p**

**July 25, 26, 27 F,S,Su** **Prospecting Outing, on Lake Creek, Leadville, 5.00 @ day @ person, bbq sat. Nite @ 5.00 @ person. Some camping on property, $3.00 @ day. This is Fri, Sat, Sun.**

**Aug 3 Sun** **Beginners Panning/sluicing Class at 6811 N Washington, 9am-12noon, will be a signup sheet.**

**Aug 23 Sat** **Prospecting Outing, Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9am. (Clay County Mine). It is a dry claim.**

**Aug 30 Sat** **Club Picnic at Cross Park, 20th and Carr, Lakewood, Pot Luck, 12 noon-3pm.**

**Sept 4,5,6 T,F,S** **Panning Demo, Highlands Ranch Festival, 9a-2p each day, there will be a sign up sheet.**

**Sept 20 Sat** **Panning Demo, Idaho Springs Festival, 10a-3pm, there will be a sign up sheet.**

**Sept 27 Sat** **Prospecting Outing, Lower Clear Creek, 9a until dark at 6811 N. Washington. Bbq at noon.**

**Oct 15 Wed** **Pumpkin Carving Contest, regular meeting night, compete for prizes**

**Oct 18 Sat** **Panning Demo for Arapahoe County Fall Festival, 8181 S. Parker Rd, 10a-3p**

**Nov 9 Sat** **Metal Detecting Outing, Majestic View Park, Arvada, 10a-1p. Prizes to be won.**

**Dec 18 Wed** **Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, members only, no regular meeting, arrive at 6pm, eat at 6:30**

Friday June 20th, 2014 at 10:00 am & 1:00 pm: Western Museum of Mining and Industry
Finds of the Month for June

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 May were:

**Most Raw Gold:** Winner is Todd Fiddler who submitted 5.24 grams of gold he found in his secret spot up in the nearby mountains.

**Best Artifact:** Winner is Lonnie Sailas with a steel crushing ball from the old Comstock mine.

**Best Coin:** Winner is George Sullivan with an 1893 Liberty V nickel found metal detecting.

**Best Jewelry:** Winner is George Sullivan with a Silver Ring he found while metal detecting in Brighton.

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

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 see what the Zodiac says you are for this month:

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<th><strong>Lunar Month:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Zodiac Sign:</strong></td>
<td>Cancer</td>
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<td><strong>Birthstones:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exodus 39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revelation 21</td>
<td>Emerald</td>
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(Taken from the National Jewelers Association and the AmericanGemSociety.org web sites)
**Prospecting/Mining Notes** (mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

*6-4-14 Worker Killed in Idaho Mine:* A miner was crushed to death between an elevator like device and the mine shaft in the Sunshine Mine near Kellogg, Idaho. Denver based Sunshine Silver Mines identified the worker as Nick Rounds, 36, of Osburn, Idaho. The Mine Safety and Health Administration said two miners were on top of the skip when it moved before one was completely clear. The second miner escaped without injury.

*6-6-14 Miners Object to Focus of Rules:* New coal mining rules that will go into effect this coming August are designed to decrease the hundreds of deaths that still occur from black lung disease. But the costly new rules are not popular with miners and mine operators. Officials of the Mine Safety Health and Administration spent 5 hours explaining the new rules and regulations to miners and mine owners who had gathered in Grand Junction, Colo., to discuss the new rules. 280 people die every year from mine related respiratory illness. 76,000 miners have died since 1968. Local miners think the federal government should spend more money and time on prevention and not monitoring. They claim the new rules force them to wear monitoring devices, yet don’t make wearing respirators mandatory. Clearly, the new rules and regulations don’t set well with those in the field who are actually doing the work and are only too keenly aware of the dangers and how best to avoid them. *(Hummmmm…that sure sounds familiar JJ)*

*6-15-14 Geology’s War on Coal:* As the Environmental Protection Agency moves ahead with limits on carbon pollution from the nation’s coal plants, you’ll hear a lot of industry outrage about Obama’s “war on coal”. Don’t believe it for a second. The truth is that the U.S. coal industry is in dire straits, including here in Colorado as well. We have been mining the easily accessible deposits for the last 150 years, and the planet isn’t making any more on a time scale that matters to humans. As coal gets harder and more expensive to mine, prices to electric facilities have increased dramatically. So coal is getting more expensive to mine and is largely pricing itself out of the market. There are 3 main facts to consider. One, the top 3 coal producers in the US are in the red for production. Two, coal company stock prices have plummeted 80 to 97% in just the last 5 years alone. Three, US coal production is now at its lowest in over 20 years. The good news is that the US is blessed with abundant, low carbon, low risk renewable resources and the costs of wind, solar, and others are dropping significantly. Our future is bright, but coal miners don’t see it!!

---

**A Miner’s Laugh**

A 90 year old miner goes in for a physical. All of his tests come back with normal results. The doctor says, “Bill, everything looks really great. How are you doing mentally and emotionally? Are you at peace with God?”

Bill replies with a grin, “Oh yeah, god and I are real tight. Shoot, he knows that I have poor eyesight, so He’s fixed it up so that when I get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom, poof! The light goes on. And when I am done, poof! The light goes off.”

“Wow, that is simply incredible”, the doctor says, in utter amazement.

A little later in the day, the doctor calls Bill’s wife. “Mary,” He says, “Bill is doing just fine! But I had to call you because I am simply in awe of his relationship with God. Is it true that he gets up during the light, and poof, the light goes on in the bathroom, and when he is done, poof, the light goes off again?”

“Oh for crying out loud”, exclaims Mary. “That danged old fool is peeing in the refrigerator again!!”

*(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us ‘old miners’)*

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**Lake Gulch Prospecting Outing**

On June 7, some forty members of the Club descended on the Clay County Mine in Lake Gulch near Blackhawk, to dig and play in the dirt in hopes of finding a little gold. This was the fourth year the Club has had the privilege of being allowed to mine this property. Usually, this claim is pretty well dry, but ever since the floods of September last year, there has been a plethora of ‘free water’ in abundance in many locations up and down the Front Range. So, we actually had a little water running up there, but it wasn’t enough for sluicing.
Meeting at 9am, everyone dug until at least noon or so. After lunch, Pres. Long went down to Mexican Flats on Clear Creek, and he set up his high banker next to the high water. Starting at about 1pm, he then processed everyone’s material through the high banker. Following the cleanup of each person’s concentrates, Pres. Long surprised them all by rough panning their concentrates down to a small container each after showing them the gold that they had recovered. The panning actually revealed two small picker/nuggets and everyone had some pretty good flour gold. This process proved to everyone that there is gold up there and it isn’t bad at all. Of course, getting the gold out of the little black sand that was left will be up to each of the members on their own. But they did get a great lesson in how to reduce the amount of concentrates you take home and leaving the 95% of the material that you work that has no gold in it, right where it belongs, in the creek where you got it.

All in all, it was another great outing and I know that everyone I talked to had a great time and learned a lot as well. Unfortunately, Pres. Long was so busy helping everyone out, that he forgot to take any pictures of the event. But here are a few from some of the last Outings up there!

Floating Sluice Parts for Sale $120.00

A GPR member knows someone who has parts for a floating suction dredge for sale. Condition of parts unknown but does need a motor and assembly. Contact Adam Wilson or Cara Dauderman at drthorskin@gmail.com for more information.
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7.5” x 4.3” Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)................... $24
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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)*

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**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Aug 2014**
*(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))*

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