August is now behind us and the cooler days of Fall are fast approaching. The high water is long gone and the local creeks and rivers are once again easily accessible. We have only one prospecting Outing to go this year and I hear that some of you still struggle with getting all that gold you have gathered out of your black sands. And that brought to mind a past column I wrote on that subject back in August of 2012 and I thought it just might be good to run it again. Hopefully, it will give a little insight for a few of you. Here it goes!

***As I brought home our concentrates from our last Outing, it reminded me of the constant debate I hear over black sand. Some say that you have to take every bit of the black sand that you get back home and store it in your garage until winter time comes so you can work for hours upon hours trying to clean it up to extract all the gold you can get. That means that here in Denver, you aren’t getting back out to prospect because you are stuck at home trying to do something with all that black sand in your garage. Or, maybe you are getting back out to enjoy the usually mild weather we have here during winter and are working on collecting even more black sand that will sit in your garage with all the rest you have been saving.

I just scratch my head and wonder why. I need to tell you something. If you have buckets and buckets of black sands, you have about 50 pounds of sand per bucket. But how much of that is gold? Not all that very much. Most of that bucket is just that, black sand. Black sand is not worth 1600.00 an ounce. It is only good to feed roses with and that is about all. You need to find a way to get rid of the bulk of your black sand so that you can concentrate on the little bit that does have gold in it. There are lots of ways to do that. I personally don’t leave the Creek without rough panning all my concentrates from either sluice or highbanker before I even go home. Many of you have seen my little ‘black’ buckets where I keep my ‘good stuff’. Now if I run 24 buckets a day in my highbanker, I will get quite a bit of heavily concentrated black sand with some blond sand and small rocks amounting to 25 or 30 pounds or so. By panning this out, I reduce dramatically, the black sand concentrates that I end up taking home, down to about a 4 1/2 pounds (my ‘good stuff’), and I have lost no gold in doing so. At home, I screen with a 20 mesh again and remove any ‘pickers’ and all the hematite and magnetite and other non-gold material, leaving me with about 4 pounds of pure black sand, hopefully loaded with gold. Then I run it through my mini-sluice which is about 99% efficient. I run it twice to make sure. That takes me down to a half pound of black sand at the most, perhaps only ¼ pound. Then I pan that out carefully and extract my gold. The whole process of cleaning up takes me no more than 3 ½ hours. There, all Done...! All my gold is in the vial and I got 99% of everything I got in the Creek. I am ready to go again and my garage is empty. The 1% that I do lose is usually the flour, or micro (dust) gold that is very small indeed. I can live with that. And I take all my leavings back to the creek and put it back where I got it.

Now there are many ways of doing it and my way works for me but doesn’t have to be the only way to get it done. Bottom line is that many of you have a lot of black sands that contain no gold sitting in your garage and that is awfully intimidating, especially to the newbie’s who aren’t really skilled at their panning yet. That is why I stress the following: Classify, classify, classify, and then pan, pan and pan some more. The more you practice, the better you get. There is no easy way to get gold today. Not anymore. Eventually, you get good enough that it is not so much work anymore as it is fun. We don’t all live in Alaska or in the Mother Lode in California. But even there, you do have to work for it...just not quite as hard perhaps.***

Sometimes, rerunning words of wisdom is beneficial, especially since we have quite a few new members that join each year. I may rerun a few more of the really good and highly informational ones this winter to catch folks up again and refresh some of us who tend to forget and try to make things harder than they really should be.

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 inslong945@msn.com.

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

OREGON AND BUST

Well I just returned from my vacation to Oregon and it was quite a learning experience. I decided to put a pan in the Ox Bow River and the Clackamette River only to be confronted by an older couple, who were fishing, asking if I was from the area. When I explained I was from Colorado they told me that folks around Oregon did not appreciate prospectors in their rivers. They especially are against the use of high bankers and dredges.

I decided to put my pan away and walk around the river. On my journey I spoke to many people fishing and learned that more than 80% of those I spoke to were against any kind of prospecting in Oregon. After my little adventure at the river I began a search for a prospecting supply store to speak to someone who had more information but was surprised to find the closest one was in Portland.

I learned firsthand how hard it is for us small scale prospectors in other states and with that I did a lot of metal detecting instead. Unfortunately I only found a lot of JUNK nothing good.

Again if you have any questions feel free to contact me: 720-443-9545

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Linda Luchtenburg

The September Meeting will feature 10.4 grams of gold nuggets for the give away with the largest nugget being 2.6 grams. There are also additional prizes to include gold, silver, and various mineral to give away. We will be looking to acquire another ‘Special Nugget’ soon for the next raffle. Special thanks go to Pres. Long, Walt Nowakowski and to the GPR Board for contributing items for the ‘Members Only’ drawings held at the August Meeting.

This Month GPR Meeting Program:

Sept 17: The September meeting will feature a video program titled; “Civil War Gold”. This video is from the National Geographic Channel as well and will look at the events leading up to the discovery and the salvage of a huge treasure of gold and silver coins from the ‘S.S. Republic’, a ship that sank in 1865 in the Atlantic as a result of a hurricane. A fascinating glimpse of American history.

Board Meeting Minutes From AUG 2014

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Quorum present? Yes
Call to Order: By JJ at 6:04 pm
Reading and Approval of Minutes: Yes Corrections: none…Approved as read/corrected: Yes
Treasurer’s Report: Questions: None . Approved: yes
Correspondence: 4 phone calls, 9 e-mails, 4 mailings
Webmaster: Total Hits 136573 Hits for last month 424.
Committee Reports: None at this time.
Unfinished business:

- Colleen Gadd has taken a new job with the Colo State Office of Emergency preparedness and Mary Ann Bonnell has replaced her as the Supervisor of JeffCo Open Spaces Rangers. She expects to maintain the same relationship with the GPR.
- Tonight we will be selling John Sawchucks prospecting equipment.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What year was the mining technique known as “Hydraulicking” developed?
General Meeting Minutes From Aug 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 video titled ‘The Secret History of Gold’ which was presented by the National Geographic Channel. This video featured the history of gold and how it is obtained around the world by legal and illegal means. It was a fascinating look at how gold is moved around the world today.
3. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report with gold at $1291.40 an ounce, silver at $19.45, platinum at $1422.00 and palladium at $864.00.
4. Web hits for last month reflected 424 hits for the last 30 days.
5. Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg reported that the Club remains very comfortable in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, we are now looking for a new ‘Special Nugget’ to offer up for a future drawing.
6. John Johnson reported from the Membership Table that we had approx. 76 members in attendance. There were also 4 new members and 4 guests present. The meeting attendance was 84.
7. Sue Clover read the ‘Question of the Month’, which was ‘What percent of the GDP of Papua, New Guinea comes from 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. Remember, only one entry per person per category.
9. Pres. Long announced that the new Cache Clue will be revealed at the September meeting.
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. In addition, tonight we will be selling items from the John Sawchuck Estate so be sure and check out some of the bargains at the Store.
11. Pres. Long informed the membership that the Lake Creek Outing was a great success and there were 47 members who participated in the 3 day event. And the Bbq went on without a hitch this year. Kudus were given to Bob.
Ahr and Tina and Tim Fleming who helped other miners’ whose equipment malfunctioned or broke down. Also, the Beginners’ Panning and Sluicing Class went very well and 8 new and inexperienced members got same valuable knowledge and experience. Kudus were given to John Johnson and Joe Fortunato for sharing their valuable experience as well. Pres. Long discussed an incident which happened in Clear Creek next to Lions Park. Eight School of Mines students were ordered out of the Creek by Parks and Police. The Club will follow up to see what is going on if anything. Pres. Long also discussed the upcoming Outings through September which are many. He encouraged everyone to check the Outings Schedule in the Newsletter for all upcoming events which number a total of six (6). Everyone was encouraged to check out the informational material at the Front Table during the Break. There was nothing further discussed from the Floor.

12. Pres. Long announced the break at 8:12pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:36pm.

13. Pres. Long announced that there were only 13 winners of the ‘Question of the Month’. The answer was ‘eleven (11%) percent. There was a little discussion on that point but the percentage most people gave included silver and other valuable rare earth minerals, which was all inclusive of the New Guinea metals commodity exports. 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 “Best Artifact” category was Maryanne Simon with some garnet pieces she found in Clear Creek. “Best Coin” category was George Sullivan with an old 1944 British Farthing he found while metal detecting. “Best Jewelry” category was George Sullivan with a star pendant he found while metal detecting. “Best Bottle” category was Bobby Manning with a melted green bottle found while prospecting on Lake Creek. Congratulations to each of our August 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 the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, Pres. Long, and Walt Nowakowski, followed by drawings for the 8 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 e-mail or phone at any time. His e-mail and phone number are 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 September will be a video titled “Civil War Gold”. The program will run about 50 minutes.

19. Until next time, remember to 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 9:00pm.

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.
Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

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 13, 14 S,S Panning Demo for Georgetown Loop RR, folks, 9:30-4p each day, see 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 July

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:

Best Artifact: Winner is Maryanne Simon with garnet pieces from Clear Creek.

Best Coin: Winner is George Sullivan with a 1944 British farthing he found while metal detecting

Best Jewelry: Winner is George Sullivan with a heart on string pendant found while metal detecting.

Best Bottle: Winner is Bobby Manning with a green melted bottle he found on Lake Creek.

Congratulations to our monthly winners. 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:

**Lunar Month:** Aug 22 to September 21  
**Planet:** Mercury  
**Zodiac Sign:** Virgo  
**House:** 6th  

**Birthstones:**
- NJA1911
- Sapphire
- Affinitus
- Chrysoberyl
- Exodus 39
- Emerald
- Revelation 21
- Ruby

(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)

8-27-14 **The Western Museum of Mining and Industry has a new Heritage Lecture coming up!**  
**Thursday, September 11th, 2014: Artistic Reflections of Mining Structures**

Exhibit Opening and Heritage Lecture Series; Reception 6:00pm, Lecture 7:00pm  
Join the Western Museum of Mining and Industry for our newest exhibit and lecture series on western mining art. These select paintings and sketches from the WMMI collections have never been displayed before. There will be works from a variety of artists including Cherry Hunter, whose husband was a longtime supporter of WMMI. Our opening lecture will be by Robert Phillips, a metallurgical engineer who has devoted his 45 year career to the mining industry. He will take our guests on a journey through the world of the Nordberg Steam Stamp! The Nordberg steam stamp at WMMI is only 1 of 2 surviving stamps that were used extensively in upper Michigan's copper belt between the 1860s and 1969. This lecture will discuss the stamp operation within the context of the geographical locale, the ore geology, and the metallurgical developments of the industry.

Reservations required! Please call 719-488-0880 or email rsvp@wmmi.org to reserve your spot now!

8-31-14 **Trapped Miner Freed:** A mine collapse at the El Comal Mine in Bonanza, Nicaragua, resulted in a number of miners being trapped. Authorities were organizing efforts to free the trapped men. On Friday, the 29th, 16 year old Leber Vivas Gonzales was found and freed. Work crews were feverishly working to reach the other trapped men as soon as they could. There was no more information released as to how many miners were trapped or how soon authorities thought they might reach them.

A Miner’s Laugh

An old miner is met by his attorney, and is told he is going to be audited. He rides to the IRS office with his attorney, and when he gets there, he begins to talk with the IRS agent. "I will bet you $2,000 I can bite my own eye!" The IRS agent agrees to the bet, believing it an impossible task. The old miner laughs, pulls out his glass eye, and bites it. The IRS agent is dumbfounded. The old miner then bets $3,000 he can bite his other eye. The IRS agent knows there's no way possible to do this, so he once more agrees. The old miner cackles, pulls out his dentures, and bites his eye. Then the old miner finally wagers, "I'll bet you another $20,000 I can stand on the far side of your desk, pee over the desk, and get it into your wastebasket, without missing a single drop." The agent knows he won't be able to, so once more he agrees. The old miner indeed misses, peeing all over the desk, and on the
paperwork. The IRS agent jumps for joy, but then notices the attorney over in the corner moaning. "Are you all right?" asks the agent. "No! On the way over here, he bet me $400,000 he could pee on your desk and you'd be happy about it!"

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us ‘old miners’.....) 09/14

**Annual GPoR Club Picnic**

On Saturday, August 30, the Club held its annual picnic at Morse Park in Lakewood. We changed to this Park as it was a lot quieter and far removed from the usual hustle and bustle we normally encountered in Golden, And the rental was cheaper as well, which was a major plus.

The Club provided bbq burgers, brats, dogs and drinks while the members provided a covered side dish. The weather was absolutely perfect his year and some 45 members and their families enjoyed the event. Pres. Long provided the ‘Chef’ chores with assistance from Chris and Joe Kafka. Following the feast, some of the members who had brought their metal detectors, went to work on the Park. Though Chuck Cown may have found the most coins in number (around 18), think Joe Fortunato won for total value, finding 8 or 9 coins for a value of more than one dollar. All in all, it was a good day, even though it was Labor Day weekend. Next year, we will schedule later in September, now that we have found a Park that is much more convenient and compatible for the Club.

**Lake Gulch Outing**

On August 23, some 35 members managed to make it up to Lake Gulch near Blackhawk to prospect on a private claim that has been made available to the Club for the past few years making this the fourth year that we have been able to prospect this claim. For the most part, the claim is a dry one and this fall was no exception. But everyone dug plenty of material and after lunch, a good many of us wound up down in Clear Creek Canyon to process our material. We had two high bankers going and managed to get everybody done by 3:30 that wanted to get it completed. Pres. Long was unable to get his machine working due to a mechanical error that will be immediately fixed upon returning to town, but he did rough pan out everyone’s material that asked and reduced it to a small container of black sand with their gold in it. It started raining about 2:30 and we got a little wet but still had a lot of fun. One man finally realized he was at the wrong Outing as the Northern Colorado Treasure Hunters also met at Bullwhackers that morning to go up to Jesse’s Pay Panning site. But he told me that he enjoyed spending the day with our people and was impressed how much fun we had and how friendly and helpful everyone was. He said he was actually glad that he linked up with us and felt he might join the Club over the winter. Pres. Long managed to get a few photos as well.
Why Did Gold Become the Best Element for Money?

Why did gold become the standard for money? Why not copper or platinum or argon? A chemical engineer explains. An element must meet four qualities to stand alone as a premium currency, Sanat Kumar, the chair of the chemical engineering department at Columbia University, told NPR. First, it can't be a gas — gases simply are not practical for currency exchange. That knocks out a bunch of contenders from the right side of the periodic table, including the Noble gases, which would meet the other three qualifications.

Second, it can't be corrosive or reactive — pure lithium, for example, ignites when exposed to water or air. Iron rusts. This qualification knocks out 38 elements.

Third, it can't be radioactive. For one thing, your money would eventually radiate away to nothing. For another, Kumar pointed out, the radiation would eventually kill you. This eliminates the two rows that are separate from table, the elements known as actinides and lanthanides.

Any of the 30 or so remaining elements would make nice, stable forms of currency if they met the fourth qualification: They must be rare enough to be valuable, but not so rare that it's impossible to find.

That brings us to five elements, according to Kumar: rhodium, palladium, platinum, silver and gold.

Although silver has been used for currency, it tarnishes easily, so it's out. Rhodium and palladium were discovered only in the 1800s, so they'd have been of no use to early civilizations. That leaves gold and platinum. Platinum, however, has a melting point around 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit (about 1,600 degrees Celsius), which, Kumar noted, could only be attained in a modern furnace, so early civilizations would not have been able to conveniently shape it into uniform units.

That leaves gold, which is solid but malleable, doesn't react, and won't kill you. It is truly the gold standard.

(Life's Little Mysteries Staff | November 22, 2010 01:36pm ET)
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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 Oct 2014
(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

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(Columbus Day)

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

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Oct 2014

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