

THE GOLD NUGGET

April 2016

2016 GPR DUES ARE DUE

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



It is that time of year again to get going and find some of that yaller gold. Just keep an eye on the weather and don't fall victim to the old 'sun is shining, let's go' trap. Here in Colorado, the weather can change in a mere few minutes so make sure that you are prepared for anything when you go and you will be surprised by nothing. Let's talk a little bit about you newer folks that are just getting started. We often joke among ourselves that it frequently takes \$100 just to make \$10 when it comes to small scale prospecting. And there is a lot more truth to that than some of us would really like to admit. But, just like any form of activity, there is a certain amount of 'overhead' required to make things happen. There is the cost of equipment to get the job done and other important incidentals such as food, fuel and lodging. Add them all up and you see why we call it the old 100 for 10 rule. I generally talk about this topic just about every spring because that is when we get an influx of newer members who want to try their hand at getting some of that gold. So let's talk about what it takes to get started.

Since some of you are new to this game and relatively inexperienced, I am going to try to make this simple. You don't need to spend more than about \$200.00 dollars to have all you need to get as much gold as you want. So save your hard earned dollars and don't buy all that stuff in the magazines and on E-bay or on U-tube. Until you have mastered the basics, you only need some basic equipment. All that other stuff is just going to soak your wallet and you aren't going to find any more gold than you will with what I tell you that you will need. So first of all, you need to have a little patience. If you don't have patience, prospecting probably isn't for you. If you think you are going to go out and find a million dollars' worth of gold and retire next week, we need to seriously sit down and talk. That ain't going to happen. So what do you need?

Well, you need some rubber boots and rubber gloves. You need a shovel, any old shovel pretty much will do and you need a couple of 5 gallon buckets. You need a 14" green pan with riffles in it (\$22.00). You need a 1/2 inch screen (\$22.00), a number 8 screen (\$22.00), and a black 8" pan (\$8.00). You need a plastic/metal scoop (\$6.00), a snuffer bottle (\$3.00) and a glass/plastic vial (\$.50) to put your gold in. These prices are close but not exact, depending on where you get your equipment. If you have to buy a shovel (\$20.00) or a bucket (\$5.00), it adds a little more. Knee high boots are about \$18.00, and a pair of booted Hodgeman's hip waders will run about \$35.00. And you are all set. That comes to about \$150.00 or so and that is all you need to go prospecting pretty much anywhere.

Now you need to have someone experienced to teach you how to use all that stuff and show you why it is so important to have these items in your arsenal. So you sign up for one of the two Beginner Classes that I conduct each spring and fall. And there, I will teach you hands on, how to use all that stuff you just bought. I will tell you how it is used and then I will show you how it is used. Then I make you do it. And we practice until you have the idea. But you will have to set up some equipment at home to make yourself become more proficient, and especially in the Art of panning. This is where that patience I told you that you are going to desperately need comes in. Most folks don't master the technique in a mere couple of minutes. Some catch on rather quickly and others take a little longer. But once you get it, it is like magic and the whole thing gets so much easier. You will need one additional item to practice panning at home and that is a black masonry tub from Lowe's or Home Depot that runs about \$5.00. And that is about it. You will be ready to go prospecting and find gold.

After you get good at this part of it, we will maybe want to invest about 120.00 more for a good sluice box and you will then be able to go anywhere in the country and find as much gold as anybody else is getting, and your total investment will not exceed \$300.00. **Don't let anybody sucker you into spending hundreds of dollars on all kinds of equipment with the promise of finding more gold and getting more gold and blah, blah, blah.** Take it from me, you will more than likely struggle trying to figure out how to use that stuff and eventually just wind up selling it later on at e-bay or a garage sale because you got too frustrated trying to learn how to use it or it doesn't measure up to your expectations. Start out slow and learn how to use the basic stuff properly and then take it a step at a time. The old timers started out with nothing but pans, pick and shovel, and then went to rocker boxes or sluice boxes. It worked for them and pretty danged well I might add. It will work for you as well!

Anyway, 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'!



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You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com . Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

The V.P. Corner by “Joe Fortunato



Spring has officially arrived. Weather-wise that means more good days than bad days for gold prospecting. Here’s hoping that some good spring weather arrives at a placer location near you soon!! I read this in the Introduction of Gold Placers of Colorado, Book 1 by Dr. Ben H. Parker, Jr. It is from Ovando J. Hollister’s “The Mines or Colorado”, published in 1867. At that time the majority of gold recovered in Colorado was placer gold, He wrote: "It is not from workings in the solid rock that the gold of commerce has been chiefly derived, however, or at least not from the workings of man. Nature herself

has been in the field for countless ages, separating it from the rock, washing, concentrating, and accumulating it in the superficial detritus lying on the rock in place, and included by geologists in the drift and alluvial deposits. All that man has to do is, by various simple, mechanical contrivances, to separate the precious metal - in the form of round, flattened, and (rarely) crystalline particles, varying in weight from mere nothing to thirteen hundred and nineteen ounces from the dirt. This is called “placer mining”, and as we have remarked before, is the most ephemeral at the same time that it is the most fascinating pursuit in the world. No doubt the ancients derived their gold from such deposits, but who can now tell where they were? So we are fast arriving at the exhaustion of them in the new world, and the far future will perhaps find it equally hard to point out their locality.” So what are you waiting for? Grab some various simple, mechanical contrivances and “GIT TO DIGGIN”..!! Any questions or comments call or text me @ 303-263-7204 "May all your adventures be Golden”!!! Joe Fortunato

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker



The April Meeting will feature a nine nugget give away totaling 10.3 grams of gold with the largest nugget being a beauty of 2.8 grams. We will also be giving away the ‘special nugget’ this month which weighs 17.0 grams. Don’t miss your opportunity to purchase tickets for this nuggets in which your chances of winning are far better than the Colorado Lottery. We sell tickets each month for the regular gold nugget drawing which features 9 spectacular gold nuggets as well. There are usually a good number of door prizes as well that could include anything under the sun but is usually mining related.

Planned GPR Meeting Programs:

April 20 This month will conclude with Part 2 of the video “Gold - The History of Man’s Obsession”.

May 18 This month, we will show Part 1 of a video entitled “Ghosts of the West – The end of the Bonanza Trail”. This video is about Lost Mines, Abandoned Digs and Ghost Towns, some of which was filmed in Colorado by a Colorado Company called Knight Sky Pictures. This will be an interesting look back into the old west and the search for gold.

June 15 We will feature Part 1 of “Gold Rush – The discovery of America

Where is ‘Prospector Pete’, the GPR Gold Miner?

In April, “Pete” spent some time in Middle Boulder Creek in the Nederland City Limits with President Long and other members of the GPR as they panned and sluiced for gold in Boulder County. Boulder County prohibits prospecting of all kinds unless you are a claim owner on patented property. So in order to avoid problems with the county, we have made an arrangement with the City of Nederland and in return for the privilege of thumbing our noses at the county, we do a trash cleanup and then conduct a broken glass contest to rid the creek of unwanted danger from the glass. The City appreciates our efforts and we have been able to provide this outing for a number of years now. Former member Greg Davis was responsible for starting this event and it has been carried on ever since. The gold traditionally is smaller and mostly flour but there have been a few pickers collected over the years by some of the members. Though not as plentiful as Clear Creek routinely offers, it is still gold and from Boulder County, so that is a plus.





Board Meeting Minutes from Mar 2016

X	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	John Johnson
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston	X	Chris Kafka	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Wayne Schomaker	X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll		Gary Hawley

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: By Pres. Long at 6:01 pm

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Yes Corrections: none.

Approved as read/corrected: Yes

Treasurer's Report: Questions: none Approved: Yes.

Correspondence: 6 phone calls, 11 e-mails, 9 mailings

Webmaster: Total Hits 144105 Hits for last 2 month 444.

Committee Reports:

- Annual membership dues have been paid to the WMMI, the PLP, and to the CSM in Golden.
- PO Box paid for 2016.
- Picnic site reserved for 2016.

Unfinished business: Annual Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved unanimously.

New Business:

- 2017 gold budget was discussed and approved for purchase. We will explore a possible opportunity to buy Colorado gold before placing the order on April 1st.
- A request was made to consider adding a 7th category to the Finds Table for Minerals. This was approved unanimously and will start for month of April.

Planned Outings for 2016:

- Mar 12 Sat Prospecting Outing, Grant-Frontier Park, 9a-1p.
- Mar 26 Sat Beginners Panning/sluicing Class, 9a-1p.
- Apr 2 Sat Prospecting Outing, Nederland, 9a til done, trash cleanup, glass contest.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the Grant-Frontier Park Outing which went very well with over 20 participants.
- BM Bobby M discussed a site on Clear Creek near Idaho Springs as having potential, but it is an Open Spaces dedicated park. He will look into if further.
- Pres. Long also talked of the GPAA Show coming up in June and what we will need to ensure its success.
- BM Joe S was unable to attend this month.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting Apr 20, 2016 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Apr 20, 2016 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: We will be showing Part 2 of a video from the History Channel titled "Gold, the history of Man's obsession", which will run 45 minutes.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:51 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The first know map to a gold mine (in Nubia), can be found in what ancient document?

2016 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Wayne Schomaker

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2013)

Joe Shubert (2011)

1 Year Board Members

Chris Kafka

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

Mike Hurtado

Past President

Gary Hawley

General Meeting Minutes from Mar 2016

1. Meeting was opened at 7:02 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced the evening program which will Part 1 of a video presentation by the History Channel titled "Gold – The history of man's obsession", which will run 50 minutes..
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1262.10 an ounce, silver at \$15.60, platinum at \$976.00 and palladium at \$580.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month were 444.
5. **Treasurer Wayne Schomaker** reports that the Club remains very comfortable in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, be sure to buy tickets for the 'Special Nugget' drawing. This is



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a solid piece of gold that weighs in at a half an ounce. This nugget will be given away in April. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.6 grams.

6. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 72 members in attendance. There were also 8 guests present. The meeting attendance was 80 which was lighter than normal.
7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was **"People of what ancient kingdom used to submerge wool fleece into gold bearing streams to trap and collect placer gold?"**
8. **Pres. Long** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the '**Finds of the Month**' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2016. The Board has approved a new category called 'Mineral' and we will accept entries starting in April. Please, only 1 item per person per category.
9. **John Johnson** announced the new **Cache Clue #6**. John has successfully hidden the new Cache and it is out there for you to find if you can decipher the clues. You have to be present at a meeting in order to hear the clues announced. So put on your thinking caps and let's go find it.
10. **Pres. Long** advised that there were lots of stuff in the **Club Store** for sale. We have introduced some bags of sand containing gold for members to buy. Members were encouraged to support the Club by buying Store products. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over until April.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that the 2016 Outings Schedule has been completed. We had the opportunity to have an Outing at Grant-Frontier Park in Denver on March 12 and some 20 plus members managed to make it out to dig on the site which was the historic location of Montana City. We did find gold, just not a lot of it. The Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class will held on Clear Creek at Youngfield on March 26 and a prospecting outing in Nederland on April 2 with a trash cleanup and a broken glass contest. We will be back at Grant-Frontier Park on April 23. The Outing Schedule is sent to each member each month with the notice of the Newsletter.
12. **Pres. Long** also informed the membership that there are handouts at the front desk podium for members to peruse during the break. Members are reminded to check out the Finds of the Month and vote accordingly as well as answer the Question of the Month during the break. Members were reminded to return items checked out of the Library in a timely manner. The Colorado School of Mines will be holding a book sale on April 30 and May 1. There was nothing further from the floor.
13. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:20 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:36 pm.
14. **Pres. Long** announced that there were 44 winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was **"the Kingdom of Cholis and was back around 700 BC"!!** The 27 winners received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
15. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
 - **Best Coin** – **John Johnson** with a jar of over 200 coins he found while metal detecting.
 - **Best Artifact** – **Dan Cheer** with a toy truck he found near Lakeside Park while metal detecting.
 - **Best Jewelry** – **John Johnson** with a silver ring he found while metal detecting.
 - **Best Bottle** – **Joe Johnston** with a Beams ten pin bottle he found in Denver.
16. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Bert Cutshall and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 9 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 shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Wayne Schomaker**.
17. **Pres. Long** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's 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 e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
18. **Pres. Long** thanked **Chris 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. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray



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costs. 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.

19. The scheduled **Program for March** will be Part 2 of a video titled “Gold – The history of man’s obsession”.
20. 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’!
21. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

2016 Schedule of GPR Outings/Events:

We will be putting together a schedule of events for the upcoming year and will probably have it ready to go by the February issue of the Newsletter, so be sure and stay tuned to see what we come up with.

Finds of the Month

The March winners and categories are as follows:

- **Best Artifact** – Winner is **Dan Cheer** with an old toy truck he found while m/detecting.
- **Best Coin** – Winner is **John Johnson** with a jar of 200+ coins he found while m/detecting.
- **Best Jewelry** – Winner is **John Johnson** with a silver ring he found while m/detecting.
- **Best Bottle** – Winner is **Joe Johnston** with a Beams Pin bottle he found in Denver.



Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. We would all like to know what everyone else is finding out there so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their name published in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Monthly winners will need to save their finds to bring back to the November meeting to compete for the Find of the Year. Thanks to all those who also submitted additional finds that were not judged to be winners.

A Miner's Laugh

An old miner wore himself to a frazzle and decided to retire from the hard labor of the mine. He thought he would try something less arduous. So he applied and was accepted as a Wal-Mart greeter, a good find for many retirees. Alas, the old boy lasted less than a day!

About two hours into his first day on the job, a very loud, and unattractive mean-acting woman walked into the store with her two kids in tow, yelling obscenities at them all the way through the entrance. As he had been so instructed, he said pleasantly, “Good morning madam and welcome to Wal-Mart. Nice children you have there. Are they twins by chance?” The woman stopped yelling just long enough to say, “Hell no, they ain't twins. The oldest one's 9, and the other one's 7. Why the hell would you think they're twins? Are you blind, or just stupid?”



So the old boy replied, “I'm neither blind nor stupid, Ma'am. I just couldn't believe someone slept with you twice. But you have a good day anyway and thank you for shopping at Wal-Mart.”

His supervisor told him that he probably wasn't cut out for that line of work and he happily agreed!



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Prospecting/Mining Notes: (mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

3-06-16 Argo Mine Claiming a Stake in Golden Opportunity: A group of business partners that includes Denver's Dana Crawford has purchased the historic Argo Mine and Mill in Idaho Springs with plans for redevelopment. Idaho Springs was the epicenter of the Gold Rush and the Silver Boom back in the late 1800's. The vision is for a \$70 million dollar project where the Mine and the Mill will continue to feature tours and just east of the mine will feature a planned mountain village to include a hotel, conference center, housing, restaurants, a river walk and a bike path. Robert Bowland and Mary Jane Loevlie, co-owners with Crawford, acquired the Mine from James Maxwell who got the mine in 1976 after 30 years of neglect following its closure due to a disaster. Another part owner is Win King, a real estate broker from Denver. All these folks would not say what their investment dollars were.

3-18-16 615 Oil, Chemical Spills in Colorado in 2015: An environmental group report says 90 spills have contaminated state groundwater. The study was released by the Denver based Center for Western Priorities, based on Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission data. The COGCC reported 777 spills by oil and gas companies in 2014 and 624 spills in 2013. The leading spill, 110, involved produced water which contained pollutants and 51 of those were spills of more than 250 gallons. 61 spills were within 500 feet of buildings.

Clear Creek Rejects Mine Tax Proposal: Clear Creek County has rejected the latest proposal of the Henderson Mine who had attempted to back out of a tax agreement that local officials say is crucial to keeping the County afloat. Freeport McMoRan had proposed cutting back a 10 year balancing agreement on duties from the molybdenum mine to an annual assessment. The mine is a major source of income for the 10,000 person county.

Evraz to Temporarily Idle Half of Pueblo Steel Mill Workforce: It just never ends for the city of Pueblo. Roughly 450 workers at the Evraz North America's steel mill in Pueblo will be temporarily idled as commodity markets continue their downturn. The layoffs will impact half the workforce and involves mostly the steelmaking and rail mill operations of the Russia headquartered company which is the largest manufacturer of rail steel in North America.

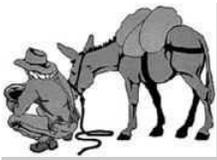
3-30-19 Gold King Mine Litigation Remains a Possibility: Colorado Attorney General Coffman says that filing a lawsuit against the EPA for the Gold King Mine spill remains on the table for Colorado after the Navajo Nation, New Mexico and Utah have already filed litigation cases. They are examining the history of the mine which indicates it is owned by Todd Hinnis who has implicated Canadian based conglomerate Kinross, the owner of the nearby American tunnel and Sunnyside Tunnels, as being responsible. Hinnis claims that engineered plugs placed by Kinross in the Sunnyside and American to limit heavy metal drainage, likely were a factor in causing the spill. *(As I stated last year, this saga will continue like the energizer rabbit, on and on and on JJ)*

Mining Group's Leader Will Retire: Stuart Sanderson, age 64, has announced that he will retire from the leadership of the Colorado Mining Association. Sanderson has led the group since 1994, but will retire and become a consultant for the group for a little while longer. His leadership has turned the CMA into a force to be reckoned with and his guidance in recent years has been noteworthy in light of the attack against coal mining which has dramatically impacted the Colorado economy. Colorado mining generates some \$3 billion dollars annually for the state and it ranks 10th in coal production, 4th in gold, and 1st in molybdenum as well as being a major source for other minerals such as sodium bicarbonate, gypsum, limestone and others.

Mining Concerns from Around the Country

(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section each month and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is my opinion, and that is that, like it or not .jj)

Washington: "Recreational" Mining Bills in Washington State – Washington State miners and prospectors were faced with another legislative attack, but fortunately, this one was short lived. Bills were introduced in both the House and Senate to establish a licensing program for "recreational motorized mineral prospecting" in all streams and rivers. This would have been equivalent to having a fishing license. This is why no one should refer to small scale prospecting as recreational. For a vast majority of folks who are out there a lot, it is not recreational by any means. They are trying to make a living or at least to pay for the equipment they have invested in.. The 1872 Mining Law gave rights to miners, not



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to people who want to do this recreationally. The bills died in committee for the time being. But that doesn't mean that they won't resurface in the future. Maybe somewhere else, like Colorado, or Wyoming. Point taken??

California: Three more National Monuments – Despite fierce opposition from miners and other public land users, the Obama Administration designated three more national monuments in the desert areas of Southern California. Thanks to Senator Diane Feinstein who had asked Congress to consider her bill that would have designated the Sand to Snow National Monument, the Mojave Trails National Monument, and the Castle Mountains National Monument. However, she couldn't get enough support for her bills so she held a public meeting in California (the Land of the Fruits and Nuts) in late 2015. She ran into a buzz saw from local miners and other public land users there, so she then went to our good President Obama and asked him to utilize the Antiquities Act to make that designations, which he naturally did for his back room deal making Californian partner in crime. This is why it is so important for miner to push hard for the passage of the Minerals and Mining Reform Act - A Clear Path Respecting Mining Rights. This bill, being pushed by the mining community would restore access to public lands by opening any lands placed off limits since 1976.

Idaho: Bill being Introduced to redefine Suction Dredging - Not much is known just yet about a bill that is being introduced to redefine suction dredging as a preferred use in public waterways in Idaho. HB 510 recognizes and clarifies that suction dredging does not involve the addition of a pollutant, would allow the use of suction dredges with nozzles up to 8 inches on navigable waters, and declare small scale prospecting and dredging are an allowable activity in Idaho waterways. If this information is correct, this will be an important bill for the mining community to get behind. It would behoove other states to keep an eye on this as it develops and do likewise.

Colorado: Silverton, EPA Agree on 46 Sites: Old mines to be considered for potential Superfund cleanup. Silverton leaders have finally agreed with the EPA to consider 46 abandoned mines and mine production sites that dot the area for a potential Superfund cleanup. The locations are in three basins that drain into the Animas River and have long been blamed for contamination of the waterway with heavy metal runoff. This pollution has also been linked to damaging aquatic life. Contaminants include lead, zinc, cadmium, arsenic, copper, manganese and aluminum. Local leaders still worry that the designation would be 'an empty and meaningless act' and that the town and county would still not be reimbursed for their damages resulting from the Gold King Mine spill.

Senators Bennett, Gardner Eye Law to Push for Mine Cleanup: The "good Samaritan" bill is designed to spur voluntary assistance. The Colorado Senators urged fellow lawmakers to support the proposed legislation to encourage voluntary cleanups at dormant mines throughout the West. Senator Bennett is also pushing a more ambitious reform of the nation's 1872 Mining Law to raise funds for the cleanups. The EPA has estimated the cost of the cleanup effort at some \$50 Billion dollars. The advocacy group Earthworks is supporting their efforts. Last November, Bennett and a bunch of his cronies introduced the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2015 to try to reform the Mining Law. They want to charge companies additional royalty fees when they extract minerals from public lands and use these fees to help pay for cleanups. (I am shocked to learn that Sen. Barbara Boxer of Calif. is not openly supporting this effort of Bennett and Gardner as of yet and she has said she is concerned that taxpayers would be on the hook if the Good Samaritans should make the pollution worse. I am greatly concerned with any attempt to change the Mining Law of 1872 and you should be as well. More reason to not support the reelection of either of these two guys JJ)

PLP: PLP and MMAC go to Washington DC: PLP and MMAC went to Capitol Hill in Washington.

D.C., during the first week of March 2016. They had more than 36 meetings with Senators, Congressmen, and their legislative staffers on the House Natural Resource, Energy and Natural Resource, Oversight and Armed Services committees. In sum they felt our proposed bill and mainly the idea of the MINING DISTRICTS are exactly what they are looking for from the Grass Roots of America. What they were especially excited about is the power the traditional and congressionally recognized mining districts have presently, and with some clarification through the MMAC bill, can push back agency overreach! Why were they so interested in the mining districts? They saw the mining districts as a viable option to the issue that public lands go back to the States immediately and thus would trigger massive valid existing right determinations, which never end well for the miner. The committees were not aware of this until MMAC and PLP opened their eyes, and a way to open the land and roads to recreation, hunting, ranching and other outdoor activities under the "free and open" language of the Mining Law. This trip marks the beginning of the education process for politicians and their staff to understand the true power of the Mining Districts, in addition to capturing sponsors for the MMAC Bill. For more comprehensive details of the Washington D.C. trip and a more in depth discussion of what MMAC



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will accomplish in the coming months, please read the handout at the front desk at the monthly GPR meetings titled Miners Making the Rules and Regulations.

Grant-Frontier Park Prospecting Outing

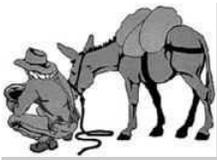
On Saturday, March 12, the Club had a wonderful opportunity to prospect the historical old Montana City site which is located at Grant-Frontier Park at Evans and South Platte River Drive in Denver. The Park is now under construction by ECI Construction and they are involved in a 100 year flood mitigation project which involves the destruction of the existing park and after mitigation, the reconstruction of the new park which will be on the same site. However, the dirt underneath is all being removed currently and that means lots of dirt that hasn't been disturbed since the depression era. The site was the first gold settlement in the area and the prospectors worked the gravel placers and found gold, but not enough to suit them. They moved the town, lock stock and barrel north to Cherry Creek and renamed it Auraria. They found more gold there but by that time, gold had been found in much larger amounts on Clear Creek and Arapahoe City was formed as the miners headed up to what would become Central City. Still, it was an opportunity to dig dirt where it all began and so we did. The area has been impacted by a number of devastating floods over the years since so that should have left a little gold as well. ECI was willing to let a Club come play instead of individuals so that they wouldn't disrupt the construction process. Members could dig all they wanted and haul it off to process at our leisure. We found that the gold was small with some pickers and not in plentiful amounts, but gold there was. Pres. Long and Steve Pott managed to get a few photos to share of the event.



Nederland Outing

The Outing on April 2 proved to be too cold and too much snow and ice to be successful, even though some hardy members managed to show up to take a stab at it. Therefore, the official Outing was cancelled and we will reschedule it to a time when the weather is more conducive to having a lot of fun without freezing. The trash was under at least 4 inches of hard crusty snow and it was impossible to conduct a realistic glass contest. We will reset this for later this year to August 27 at 9am again. Pres. Long took a couple of photos to show that we do have some pretty hardy members.





TYMKOVICH MEATS



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9:30 to 5:30
(Closed Sun-Tue)

GOLD - N - DETECTORS

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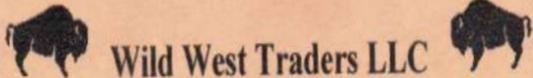


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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for May 2016

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6 Newsletter Advert/Article Conv Deadline	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 GPR Club Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				