This is the season for reflection, giving thanks, celebrating freedom and spending time with family and loved ones. We celebrate a good many holidays during this season, from Halloween, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day and Christmas, being the major days of recognition and there are others as well. But a common theme among all of them is to celebrate major historical events that have meaning to most of us.

I just sent out my first two Christmas cards to a brother in law and a nephew who are serving overseas at this time of the year. And you can bet they are going to be happy to receive something from family because it gives them a little comfort knowing that while they may or may not be in a combat arena, they are far from home and family and need to be constantly on guard against all the forces of evil which they are prepared to defend us and their country from. So any word from home is always welcome and lets them know that we hold them dear to our hearts and appreciate the sacrifice they make constantly to keep us safe. I have had numerous relatives who served in times of conflict as well as times of supposed peace and I never take our military for granted. If you have a relative overseas, you know that you have to send things early in order for them to get it on time. Most APO addresses will take at least two weeks and often longer to get to the recipient.

Meanwhile, here at home, you just gotta love living in Colorado. While the weather here is probably the most overall temperate of many places I can think of, you can still prospect in winter for the most part. It can be a little chilly at times but we have more opportunities for decent gold here than probably anywhere other than California or Arizona. And I am thankful for that as well, even though metal detecting for gold here is extremely difficult at best. We do have some snowbirds that like to go to Arizona about this time of the year and return around the end of March when Arizona starts to heat up again. Dry washing and metal detecting seem to be the best ways to go out there. And California? Well, it is nice to be out there when it is not too hot, especially up in the northern Mother Lode, where you can still metal detect for nuggets with some success, even in the winter which can be mild or worse just depending, and pan and sluice some of the creeks while you are at it.

The drought across the west has been tough. California finally got some water in the north. But overall, the west continues to be drought stricken and the Colorado River is pretty well tapped out. Another brother in law of mine says he is done with Lake Powell as it is so low, fishing and house boating is about dead. Las Vegas is about to die of thirst and there is little, if any, river water making it into California. And of course, the left wing enviros are making as much noise about Climate Change being the cause as they can. Science seems to be pretty concerned as well and all of that is adding up to a murky future for mining, especially to the coal industry. The push for alternative energy sources is at an all-time high. And you would think that by now, with all the technology this great nation and others have at hand, we could figure out how to turn sea water into drinking water economically.

Now that the election is officially over, only time will tell as to what we can expect to see with a new Administration. I do believe that there will be some changes for sure, I just don’t really know how far reaching and how big an impact they will have on the mining industry. I know that we have been losing a lot of access to public property. Coal mining may be a thing of the past very soon. Gold mining is being threatened. Right now, the country is kind of in shock from the unexpected and there is a lot of nervousness. Gold has fallen below 1200 for the first time in a good while. I guess we will just have to cross our fingers and hope we see some positive changes. And I am thankful that I live in a country that is able to do a reset every now and then, just to keep things interesting. And I am very thankful that I am still healthy enough to get into the creek whenever I want to and still find gold. Ideally, I wish it could last forever, but then, nothing ever lasts forever but for time…and only time is never ending!

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be…! 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!!!
Greetings fellow GPR members..! I have been thinking about how quickly another year has nearly passed us by. It doesn’t seem that long ago that I was talking about prime spring conditions on clear creek for panning and sluicing. Now here we are in December, and the cold temperatures are back with us. The club Christmas Party is (at the time of this writing) only three weeks away. As always, Mary is after me for suggestions as to what I would like for Christmas. We have had what you might call a long running joke between us in that regard. It got started about twelve years ago when I was doing a lot of pick and shovel prospecting. Mary would ask, “What would you like for Christmas this year?” I would reply, “A tractor with a backhoe”. She would then inform me that she would be happy to do that for me, but it would be in a cardboard box that would fit under the Christmas Tree and read, made by Mattel Toy Co.!!!! To which, I would counter, that it should be parked in the driveway and be made by Caterpillar or John Deere. As I mentioned earlier, this has been going on for a number of years. During those years, my enthusiasm for chasing gold has remained strong. One thing has changed in the last five years. My focus has shifted from pick and shovel prospecting (which I still enjoy a lot), to electronic prospecting (using metal detectors). So, where am I going with this new emphasis on metal detecting for gold? I have a great new suggestion for Mary when she asks, “What would you like for Christmas this year? “This year, instead of “a tractor with a backhoe “, I will ask her to buy me one of those new deep seeking nugget detectors“!!!! Then if she tries to wiggle out of buying it for me because of the price, I can say, “but honey, it costs one tenth of what a tractor with a backhoe does, and it doesn’t take up near as much space”!!!! Sounds brilliant to me, and it will easily fit under the Christmas Tree!!!! So what do you think folks do I have a chance this year????? Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a joyous Holiday Season!!!!! May all your adventures be Golden!!!! Comments or questions…..call or text me. 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato

There will be NO REGULAR MEETING for December. …The program will be a Potluck Dinner followed by a short Recognition Program. We will, once again, host a Gold Elephant gift exchange for those who wish to participate. If you bring a gift, you will receive a gift. Please try to make your gift mining related and less than 20 dollars. We will not be having a nugget drawing in December but will commence the regular meeting format again in January. The ‘Special Nugget’ drawing will continue in January and it looks like we will be able to give it away in February. Merry Christmas to all!!

GPR Officers and Board Members Election Results for 2017

James Long           President
Joe Fortunato        Vice President
Wayne Schumaker      Treasurer
Joe Shubert          2 year Board Member Elec 2016
Joe Johnston         2 year Board Member Elec 2015
Bobby Manning
John Johnson
Mike Hurtado
Chris Kafka
Andy Doll
Brandon Luchtenburg

Planned GPR Meeting Programs:
Dec 21  No general meeting, will be a potluck Christmas Dinner and Recognition Program. Planned EAT TIME IS 6PM.
Membership Annual Dues by Dan McConnell

It’s that time again! 2017 Membership dues are due in January:
Please start bringing in or mailing in your membership dues for 2017. We will start taking renewals at the November meeting and the January meeting WE WILL NOT BE TAKING MEMBERSHIP DUES AT THE DEC MEETING. They are all due in January no matter when you joined. Renewals are $30.00.

Board Meeting Minutes From Nov 2016

| X | James Long | X | Joe Shubert | X | Joe Fortunato | X | John Johnson |
| X | Mike Hurtado | 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 6:03 pm

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Yes Corrections: none. Approved as read/corrected: Yes


Correspondence: 2 phone calls, 9 e-mails, 8 mailings

Webmaster: Total Hits_146732 Hits for last 2 month 256.

New Business: Planning underway for Xmas Potluck Dinner/Program.

Planned Outings for 2016: No further Outings planned for 2016.

From the Board: Pres. Long discussed the Nov. 5 Metal Detecting Hunt which went very well with great weather.

New Business: Planning underway for Xmas Potluck Dinner/Program.

Planned Outings for 2016: No further Outings planned for 2016.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the Nov. 5 Metal Detecting Hunt which went very well with great weather.
- BM A. Doll suggested we find a new volunteer for Question of the Month. We will address membership for volunteer.
- There was nothing else to discuss at this time.

Announcements: None at this time.

Next Board Meeting: January 18, 2017 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting January 18, 2017 at 6:00pm for the annual Christmas Pot luck dinner.

Tonight’s general meeting program: We will have VP Joe Fortunato present a power point slide show on Metal Detecting for Gold Nuggets in Nevada. This will be really good.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:25 pm.

General Meeting Minutes From Nov 2016

1. Meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by Pres. Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Long then announced the evening program which will be VP Joe Fortunato with a power point slide presentation on Metal Detecting for Gold nuggets in Nevada.
3. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report with gold at $1225.00 an ounce, silver at $16.96, platinum at $942.00 and palladium at $717.00.
4. Web hits for last month were 256.
5. Treasurer Wayne Schomaker reports that the Club remains 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 a new and
shiny piece of gold that weighs in at 14.4 grams from Australia. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight’s 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.8 grams.

6. Dan and Becki McConnell who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 82 members in attendance. There was 1 guest present. The meeting attendance was 83.

7. Pres. Long read the ‘Question of the Month’, which was “During the California Gold Rush, what was the common punishment for people who stole gold that was not theirs??

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, 2017. A reminder, gold submissions need to be weighed dry, please. We will also be judging the Finds of the Year for 2016.

9. Pres. Long announced that the ‘Cache’ had been found. After going through the clues, finder John Johnson received a beautiful 6.9 gram gold nugget for his efforts. John now gets to hide the next one which will start in January 2017.

10. Pres. Long advised that there were lots of stuff in the Club Store for sale. We have bags of sand containing gold for members to buy as well as lots of other stuff, including some new art. Members were encouraged to support the Club by buying Store products. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over the Store. We thank Mike Hurtado for helping out at the Store.


12. The November 5 metal detecting hunt went very well with great weather. Quite a few members showed up with machines to do battle with nearly 200 hidden targets. Most were found.
   - There are no further outings scheduled for this year. The next event will be next month.
   - There will be NO REGULAR MEETING in December. Instead, there will be a members and family only Potluck Christmas Dinner followed by a short recognition program and a Golden Elephant Gift Exchange. We hope to see you all there.
   - The 2017 Board Election was then held and as there were no additional nominations from the floor, the current Board was reelected by a unanimous vote of acclimation. Ballots were made available for the Ken Barker Award and the membership voted for the candidate of their choice. The winner will be announced at the Xmas Dinner.
   - 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 Finds of the Year 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.
   - There was nothing further from the floor.

13. Pres. Long announced the break at 8:14 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:35 pm.

14. Pres. Long announced that the winners of the ‘Question of the Month’. The answer was “Their ears were cut off”!!! There were 35 winners who 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 – Mike Hurtado with 3 Indian Head pennies he found metal detecting in Brighton, Co.
   - Best Artifact – Mike Hurtado with an old tax certificate he found in an old barn in Brighton, Co.
   - Best Mineral – Nancy Knerl with a quartz sample she found in Washington State.
   - Best Jewelry – Joe Johnston with a child’s bracelet and ring he found metal detecting in Eads, Co.
   - Best Bottle – Lloyd Lauck with a bottle he found in Clear Creek at Youngfield.
   - Most Raw Gold – Richard Beasley with 2.9 grams of gold he found near Blackhawk, Co.
   - Largest Raw Gold – Bobby Manning with a .3 nugget he found near Blackhawk, Co.
16. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the Finds of the 2016 Year. Those were:
   - **Best Coin** – **Joe Johnston** for his Oct find of a 1783 Washington penny he found m/detecting in Boulder, Co.
   - **Best Artifact** – **Dan Cheer** for his with his March submission of a toy truck.
   - **Best Mineral** – **Gale Herbertson** for his find of a meteorite.
   - **Best Jewelry** – **Dillon Cheer** for his find of his first ever ring while m/detecting.
   - **Best Bottle** – **Bob Ahr** with his Oct submission of a bottle he found in Rky. Mtn. Lake.
   - **Most Raw Gold** – **Mike Hurtado** for his find of grams of gold he found prospecting in Gilpin and Lake Counties, Co.
   - **Largest Raw Gold** – **Bobby Manning** for his find of a gold nugget near Blackhawk, Co.

17. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, **Bert Cutshall, Dick Oakes, Pam Schmitt, Robert Ahr 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**.

18. **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.

19. **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 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.

20. The December meeting will be the Xmas Potluck Dinner which will start at 6pm. See you all there.

21. 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’!

22. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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**Finds of the Month**

The Nov winners and categories are as follows:

- **Best Coin** – Winner is **Mike Hurtado** with 3 Indian head pennies he found while m/detecting in Brighton, Co.
- **Best Jewelry** – Winner is **Joe Johnston** with a child’s bracelet and ring he found m/detecting in Eads, Co.
- **Best Artifact** – Winner is **Mike Hurtado** with a 1936 Tax Certificate he found in a barn in Brighton, co.
- **Best Mineral** – Winner is **Nancy Knerl** with a quartz specimen she found in Washington State.
- **Best Bottle** – Winner is **Lloyd Lauck** with a bottle he found in Waterton Canyon, Co.
- **Most Raw Gold** – Winner is **Rich Beesley** with 2.79 grams of gold he found near Blackhawk, Co.
- **Largest Gold** – Winner is **Bobby Manning** with a .3 gram nugget he found near Blackhawk, Co.
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.

**Finds of the Year 2016 Voting:**
The Finds of the Year for 2016 were judged and the winners and categories are as follows:

- **Best Coin** – Winner is Joe Johnston with an Oct submission of 1873 half cent, a m/d find.
- **Best Jewelry** – Winner is Dillon Cheer with his Sept submission of a gold ring, his first ever m/d find.
- **Best Artifact** - Winner is Dan Cheer with his March submission of a toy truck, a m/d find.
- **Best Mineral** - Winner is Dale Herbertson with his Oct submission of a meteorite find.
- **Best Bottle** – Winner is Bob Ahr with his Oct submission of a bottle he found in Rky. Mtn. Lake.
- **Most Raw Gold** – Winner is Mike Hurtado with his Oct submission of 11.74 grams of gold.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – Winner is Bobby Manning with his .2 gram nugget he found.

Well done to all. 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 seven (7) 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.

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

**11-22-16 US Moves to Block Mining near Yellowstone:** US officials on Monday, blocked new mining claims outside the Yellowstone National Park as the Obama Administration races in its last days to keep industry interests out of public areas. Last week, new oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean was blocked along with 25 oil and gas leases in Colorado and 15 in Montana were cancelled. Trump says not to worry, he will reverse it all when he takes office. (And Sally Jewell, the head of the Dept. of Interior will be gone as well and maybe miners will get some relief soon...jj).

**11-30-16 Miners Could Lose Benefits:** About 12,500 former union miners and their families have been told their health benefits will lapse on Jan. 1, and an additional 10,000 are in danger of losing benefits at a later date. Congress could intervene, but Senate Majority Leader Itch McConnel, R-Ky, has blocked previous efforts to address the crisis and has yet to commit to passing the legislation before Congress adjourns next month. (And this coming from a guy who is from mining country, makes you wonder why they keep electing him to Washington...jj)
A Miner’s Laugh

An old miner was at the races playing the ponies and losing his shirt. He noticed a Priest step out onto the track and blessed the forehead of one of the horses lining up for the 4th race. Lo and behold, that horse – a long shot - won the race.

Next race, as the horses lined up, the Priest stepped onto the track. Sure enough, he blessed one of the horses. The old miner made a beeline for a betting window and placed a small bet on the horse. Again, even though it was another long shot, the horse won the race. He collected his winnings, and anxiously waited to see which horse the Priest would bless next. He bet big on it, and it won.

As the races continued the Priest kept blessing horses, and each one ended up winning. The old mineer was elated. He made a quick dash to the ATM, withdrew all his savings, and awaited for the Priest's blessing that would tell him which horse to bet on. True to his pattern, the Priest stepped onto the track for the last race and blessed the forehead of an old nag that was 100/1. This time the priest blessed the eyes, ears, and hooves of the old nag. The old miner knew he had a winner and bet every cent he owned on the old nag. He watched dumbfounded as the old nag pulled up and couldn't even finish the race. In a state of shock, he went to the track area where the Priest was. Confronting him, he demanded, 'Father! What happened? All day long you blessed horses and they all won. Then in the last race, the horse you blessed never even had a chance. Now, thanks to you I've lost every cent of my savings!'.

The Priest nodded wisely and with sympathy. "You are not Catholic are you my son?" "No, I'm not" replied the old miner. "Ahhh, well then, that's the problem", said the Priest, "you couldn't tell the difference between a blessing and last rites".

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

Last Outing of Year, Metal Detecting Hunt, Has Good Turnout

On November 5, a good number of members turned out for the final outing of the year. The weather was great and everybody enjoyed searching with their metal detectors and digging up targets hidden by the Committee. There were nearly 200 targets ‘planted’ for the hunters and we had the best results in the last four years. Only 15 targets were missed. But there was a lot of fun in looking, for sure. John Olson had the best results of the field and won the top prize. Other prize winners were Dillon Cheer, Jim Claxton, Dennis Knerle, Jim Peterson, Pam Schmitt, Bill Nees, Brian Henry, Angie Yen, and Bobby Manning. The prizes ran the gamut from one ounce silver commemorative coins to Morgan silver dollars, Peace dollars and even gold nuggets. The best find was a 11916 mercury dime which we didn’t plant. Nearly 300 targets in all were dug that included 12 coins that were not planted by us. Everybody enjoyed the day. A special thanks to my helpers for the day, Andy Doll, Chuck Cown and Mike Hurtado. Pres. Long got a couple of photos to share.

2017 Dues are Due and Payable….Please Consider Paying Your Dues in January
Lost Mine of Stevens Gulch  By Jim Long

Henry Jackson, an old Negro, lived near the mouth of Stevens Gulch, the first big gulch this side of Strontia Springs, a station on the Platte Canyon branch of the Colorado and Southern Railway. In the early 1900’s, Henry, gnarled and grizzled and gray, did not even know how old he was. His mother, a half-breed squaw, and he had lived with the Indians long before the white men came to Colorado.

When he was a little boy, he declared, the Indians used to go up Stevens Gulch and bring down ore in buckskin bags. Then the squaws would crush it up in crude mattes and wash it in a trough made of a hoowed-out log. When the sand was washed away, they would gather up the gold and put it in quills of eagle and goose feathers. Later on they would take it back to the ‘River’ (Missouri River) and trade it to the white men for beads, whiskey, and ammunition.

As Henry’s story went, some time after the Civil War, two young men had stopped by his cabin one evening. They were from St. Joseph, Missouri. They listened in astonishment to Henry’s account of the Indians mine and of the years there had been a steady flow of gold from it. The old Negro had not been interested enough to go up the gulch to see this piece of mountain that must be nearly solid with the precious metal. But the two young men wasted no time in exploring Stevens Gulch.

They had little trouble in locating the mine. They had more trouble getting an ox wagon up the narrow, rugged gulch in order to move their ore to market. It took them several months, but finally they had a wagon load of rich ore. They took it back to St. Joseph and sold it. While there, they made a crude map showing the location of their find and the hiding place of their tools.

They started back to their mine in 1867. They evidently had a road or trail somewhere near the present day Jarre Canyon Road, for their murdered bodies and the ox wagon were found near the Devil’s Head mountains. It was supposed that Indians had killed them.

Later on, one of the relatives of the two young men sent a copy of the crude map to Henry Jackson and asked him to try to find the mine. He searched diligently but was unsuccessful. Yet, in 1910, he found the rusted remains of some very old-fashioned mining tools. They were concealed in a clump of dense underbrush and the location agreed with the point shown on the map.

Strange to say, a young man named Carl R. Johnson brought indirect substantiation to this story. In 1911, he was hunting rabbits around the head of Stevens Gulch. Johnson noticed several veins of rusty quartz and picked up a sample or two from each vein. Altogether, he brought home a pocketful of rock. Later on, he was working in a testing plant in Denver and as the machinery was handy, he crushed up the pocketful of rocks and panned the lot. He was surprised to get a good string of colors.

It was not likely that all the quartz carried the gold. It was much more likely that one or two small pieces were rich and the rest worthless. So in 1912, he went back and hunted the same ground over, but he found only barren quartz. There was one place, however, which he could never find again. He remembered that he had pushed into the bushes because he thought he had seen a rabbit go in them and he had discovered a small tunnel. Johnson remembered picking up a piece of good looking quartz at that clump of bushes. It is possible that this was the rich piece of quartz that had yielded the colors and that the little hole or tunnel was the lost Indian mine.

If so, that mine is still there, waiting to be rediscovered.

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Taken from Colorado’s Lost Gold Mines and Buried Treasure by Caroline Bancroft and also told by George Jarvis Bancroft in the Rocky Mountain News in 1914.
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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 Jan 2017
(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

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