

THE GOLD NUGGET

August 2025



The Prez Sez..! by Bobby Manning

Thank you, Kevin, for your donation to the Club from your sales at the last meeting and I hope members found lots of things for their prospecting. Our next speaker is going to be from the USGS Library and they will be telling us how to file a prospecting claim. The program should be a really good one.

We will have an outing up at Kevin claim and there will be a signup sheet for that at the table during the upcoming meeting in August. You will be able to pan, sluice and/or high bank and gas operated motors are okay. We will have the Club high banker at the site and I will have the gold cube as well. In September we will be going back up to the Caribou mine in Nederland to do some metal detecting up there and this is something you can't normally do on a mine and old town site. It is 26 acres and there are lots of old mining tailings piles to go over.

I'll talk to Gordon on his panning class that was canceled. Will talked to John to see if we sold enough gold to get more gold for Club Store gold bags. The water level is down to a mere trickle in places so you can easily get into the local waters to do some prospecting. So, keep your pans up and fill them with gold!! And I will hope to see you all at the meeting on Aug 20th at 7:00 pm.

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'!

Vice President's Corner! by Kevin Singel

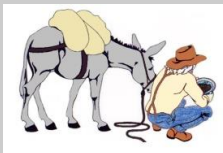


Wow, we had great attendance at the July meeting! We also had the most guests in recent memory with 7 joining us. Seems folks like having a gear swap! In addition to quite a few people selling their excess gear, the club made \$115 selling off gear various people have donated in recent years. Since all of that was stored at my place most recently, you can be sure my wife Laura and I are glad to see all that stuff gone to folks who will appreciate it.

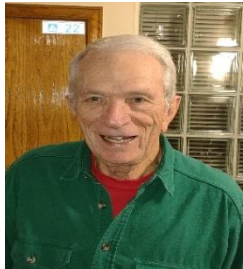
Due to my upcoming surgery, I'll miss the next meeting but I hope you all enjoy the talk by Keith Van Cleave from the USGS Library at the Federal Center. I bet lots of us don't even know this free-access resource exists. As you know, I've been working hard to get new, unique speakers and this should be another good one!

On the prospecting front, I just spent a day on my claim with four members of the board the club. They all got gold of course and we enjoyed a great day together. Even more than that, they are all prepared now to help me host the club outing to my claim, on the Blue River, on the last Saturday of September. This should be another great time for all who come up to Silverthorne to join me there. Pans, sluices and highbankers will be welcome, even those with gas powered pumps. I hope the pictures here inspire you to start planning for this big outing. See ya there!





From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by John Johnson



We had a decent turnout for the July meeting. We gave away lots of gold nuggets and other door prizes as well. Be sure to buy your gold nugget drawing tickets as well as your 50/50 tickets. We also gave away the 'Special Nugget' at the meeting, which was won by Gordon Smith. We will soon have a new one to offer and you will want to buy your tickets for that upcoming giveaway as well. If you have any door prizes you would wish to donate to the Club Door Prize coffers, be sure and bring those to me as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the June meeting. See you all there!!

Board Meeting Minutes from July 10, 2025 Zoom

x	Bobby Manning		Mike Stevens	x	Andy Doll	X	John Johnson
x	Gordon Smith	X	Kevin Singel		Robert Ahr		Joe Kafka
X	Gary Hamilton		Erik Van Halle		Bill Manning		
X	Joe Johnston						

Quorum Present: Y

Call to Order by: Pres Manning at 7:30 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: None Approved as read/corrected: Moved by K. Singel; 2nd by G. Hamilton. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: Additional Printer supplies this month? & Date on CD list needed correcting as June only has 30 days. Approved: K. Singel Moved; 2nd by G. Smith. Approved.

Correspondence: phone calls 1 emails 1 (related to the Castle Rock panning demo) mail 1

Webmaster: Total hits _____ Hits in last 30 days 306

Committee Reports:

Unfinished Business: New Club business cards. President Manning has not had time to follow up with the previous printer the Club dealt with. This is not an urgent need of the Club so it has been tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

- The mail received this month regarded a P.O. Box rate increase to take place next February. The Club has held the same box for over 20 years. A suggestion was made to move to the smallest box available to save costs.
- Board member Smith asked if any contact has come from the Ft. Wallace Museum as they seemed very interested in the Club running our panning booth after last year's event. No information has been received so far.

Planned Outings:

- Board member R. Ahr to do a metal detecting outing at the Caribou ghost town site (23 August)
- Board member G. Smith rescheduling Arapahoe Bar outing to October (18th?)
- A Club outing to board member K. Singel's claim is scheduled for 27 Sept.
- Pamphlets on the Nederland museum tour given to Bobby to assign to a board member to coordinate

Board Members Items of Discussion: J. Johnston mentioned the WMMI in COS is hosting a talk about women in the Gold Rush the evening of 12-August. Cost is \$5 per person.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

This month is a 2-part answer, you need to know them both.

How many ounces of gold did it take to coat the dome of the Colorado state capitol dome in 1907 and what organization donated it??

2025 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

Bobby Manning

Vice President

Kevin Singel

Treasurer

John Johnson

Secretary

Gordon Smith

2 Year Board Members

Robert Ahr (2025)

Andy Doll (2024)

Mike Stevens (2024)

1 Year Board Members

Joe Kafka

Gary Hamilton

Erik Von Halle

Bobby Manning

Past President

Joe Johnston



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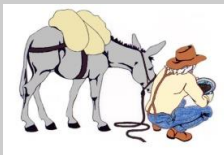
This month's General Meeting Program: Annual Swap Meet.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting August 14 at 7:30pm via Zoom Next General Meeting: August 20 at 7:00pm

Adjournment: Move to adjourn by K. Singel; 2nd by G. Hamilton. Meeting stands adjourned at 8:26 pm.

General Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2025

1. Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Manning then announced that the evening Program was The Annual Swap Meet.
3. Pres. Manning then gave the Metals Report: Gold 3337, Silver 37.93 Platinum 1418 Palladium 1229 Rhodium 5675.
4. Web hits for last month: 306.
5. Treasurer Johnson reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. The 'Special Nugget' is on display at the ticket table to raise funds for the Club, so be sure to buy lots of tickets. It is a beautiful specimen.
6. Shellie Zornes from the Membership Table reported that we had 38 members in attendance. Of that number there were 8 Guests present tonight and 0 New members.
7. Pres. Manning read the "Question of the Month", which was: "... How many robbery attempts have there been against Ft. Knox?" The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
8. Pres. Manning 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, 2025. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. Pres. Manning advised that the last of the gold bags are available at the Treasurer's table. Unless the price of gold were to drop significantly, it is not cost effective for the Club to make more and sell at the current cost we are charging.
10. Pres. Manning informed the membership that the 2025 Outings schedule is on the website and to monitor it in order to plan for any outings you may want to participate in. Announcements will also be made with the Newsletter postings.
11. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break. Additional items to be discussed include... The Monthly "Pirates" Hunt = Board member Ahr reminded everyone when the hunts take place and reminded everyone that some very nice finds have been made by our members. If you reach out to his email he will send reminders to those interested.
- Roger Schlenger announced the upcoming Gold-A-Palooza happening August 30-September 1. This is not a sanctioned Club event, so Roger can provide further details.
12. Pres. Manning announced the break at 7:20 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:06 pm.
13. Pres. Manning announced the winners of the "Question of the Month". The answer was, "... Zero, although Bill Chapman provided some research that a breach had been attempted at some point in the past, so One was also accepted." There were 28 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. Pres. Manning announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month':
 - Best Coin – Joe Kafka
 - Best Jewelry – Robert Ahr
 - Best Mineral – Nancy Knerl
 - Best Artifact – Robert Ahr
 - Best Gold – Joe Kafka(See the winner's pictures with their finds in next month's newsletter)
15. Pres. Manning concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, and JJ Long followed by the drawings for the door prizes and gold nuggets. Pres. Manning also wants to remind 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 John Johnson and John Olson.
16. Pres Manning conducted the 50/50 drawing. Robert Ahr won \$ 30 and \$ 30 went to the Club.



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17. Board member Kevin Singel generously donated the proceeds from his Swap Meet table of \$125 to the Club.

18. **Pres. Manning** 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. Additionally, this past month he was not able to devote much time to Club business due to his brother, and Club member, Billy, being in the hospital. Billy had recovered enough to attend tonight's meeting where he received a Get Well card signed by folks in attendance tonight.

19. **Pres. Manning** thanked **Greg and Nancy Knerl** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Each member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Remember to donate to 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 August Meeting Program** will be: The USGS Library with speaker Keith Van Cleave.

21. Having nothing further at this time; remember to always prospect safely. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.**

A Miner's Laugh

An old retired miner received a letter from his son who was in college. It read: "Dear Dad, School i\$ really great. I am making lot\$ of friend\$ and \$tudying hard. With all my \$tuff, I simply can't think of anything I really need. \$o, if you would like, you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I would love to hear from you. Love, your Son"

After rereading the letter, the old boy replied thusly: "Dear Son, I kNOW that astroNomy, ecoNomics and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOr student busy. But do NOT forget that the pursuit of kNOWLEDge is a noble task, and you can never study hard eNOugh. Love, Dad"....

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



Finds of the Month 2025

The Finds of the Month for July 2025. Remember, only finds from the last meeting date to the next meeting date may be entered. All gold submitted must be dry and weighed. Categories are for **best coin, jewelry, artifact, mineral and most gold**. You can also bring stuff for merely 'show and tell', so, let's get out there and get busy and may the best submission win. Good Luck to all!!

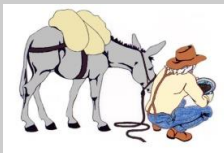
- **Best Coin – Joe Kafka**
- **Best Jewelry – Robert Ahr**
- **Best Mineral – Nancy Knerl**
- **Best Artifact – Robert Ahr**
- **Best Gold – Joe Kafka**

Apparently, we forgot to take photos of the winners for this month....OOPS..!!!!

The Pirate's March Hunt (July 2025)

by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello everybody, on Wednesday morning there was 10 of us for breakfast but only 9 that went hunting. We ended up at City Park. The weather was good, and we found an area in the park with a lot of trees so it wasn't too hard to find shade to hunt under. Shellie Z. and Joe F. came up with the most Money with the total amount was \$9.06. Joe K. found a 10K neckless and pendent and John O had a .925 earring. City Park is still giving up the treasure which is nice to see. Metal detecting is a lot of hard work but just about as fun as digging for gold. You still wind up with a sore back and tired legs when all is said and done. Anyway, treasure is treasure and either way, it is a lot of fun. Hope to see everyone at the next G.P.O.R. meeting on 8-20-25 at 1900hrs and don't forget to bring in those finds for the F.O.M's table!



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The 52 Best Places To Find Gold In Colorado In 2025

Feb. 18, 2025

Part 1 of 4:

Colorado's gold rush history isn't just confined to the past. Even today, prospectors can strike it rich in the Centennial State. Did you know that the largest gold nugget ever found in Colorado weighed a whopping 156 troy ounces? That's nearly 10 pounds of pure gold! Many rockhounds make the mistake of focusing solely on popular spots, overlooking hidden gems scattered across the state. This often leads to disappointment and wasted time. Don't worry, though. We've done the hard work for you. We've researched and compiled a list of the best places to find gold in Colorado. These locations have been carefully selected to maximize your chances of success.

Hunting for gold is a ton of fun and there are only a few pieces of equipment you need to be successful.

In this article, we'll reveal these prime spots, saving you time and energy!

What We Cover In This Article:

How Gold Forms Here

Different Forms of Gold Found in the US

What Rough Gold Looks Like

Tips on Where to Look

Some Great Places To Start

Places Gold has been found by county

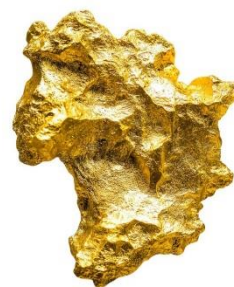
How Gold Forms Here

How Gold Forms Here

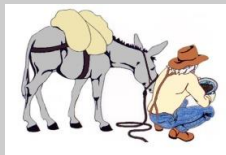


Gold forms through a fascinating journey deep within the Earth. It begins when hot, mineral-rich fluids rise from the mantle. These fluids travel through cracks in the Earth's crust, carrying dissolved gold and other minerals.

As these fluids cool, the gold precipitates out and accumulates, often forming veins in surrounding rocks like quartz.



By Keith Jackson - Geologist



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Another way gold forms is through magmatic processes. When magma rises, it can also carry gold. As the magma cools, gold crystallizes out, creating deposits.

Over millions of years, geological activities like erosion expose these deposits, allowing us to discover and mine this precious metal. This intricate process makes gold rare and valuable.

Different Forms of Gold Found in the US

Several incredible types of gold can be found in the US as well as in our state. Each is uniquely beautiful and interesting including:

Flour Gold

Flour gold is a fascinating form of gold that's incredibly tiny. Imagine gold particles as small as grains of sand or even finer, like flour. That's flour gold for you! These little specks are usually less than 40 mesh in size, which means they're super small.

The tiny size of flour gold makes it tricky to find and collect. It often slips through regular gold panning methods. You'll find it hiding in the nooks and crannies of riverbeds or mixed in with sand on beaches.

Prospectors get excited when they find flour gold. It's not just about the gold itself, but what it might mean. Finding these tiny particles can be a clue that larger gold deposits are nearby. It's like a treasure map leading to bigger finds!

Despite being small, flour gold is valuable. It requires special techniques to collect, like using fine screens or special sluice boxes. This challenge adds to its allure among gold hunters.



Course Gold



Coarse gold is the showstopper of the gold world. It's the kind of gold you can actually see and hold in your hand. These pieces are usually bigger than 2 millimeters, which might not sound huge, but in the gold world, it's pretty significant.

The texture of coarse gold is interesting. It's often rough and bumpy, not smooth like you might expect. This roughness comes from how it formed in nature. Each piece has its own unique shape and feel.

One cool thing about coarse gold is its weight. Gold is really dense, so even small pieces feel surprisingly heavy. If you've ever held a piece, you know what I mean. It's like holding a tiny, shiny rock that weighs more than it should.

Coarse gold isn't just valuable for its gold content. Many people collect it for its natural beauty. Each piece tells a story of how it formed and where it came from.

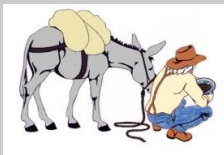
Gold Pickers

Gold pickers are nature's little sculptures. They're small pieces of gold that have been shaped by water and time. Each picker is unique, like a tiny work of art.

These nuggets have a bright, yellow color that really catches the eye. It's not the brassy yellow of fool's gold, but a rich, warm color that's unmistakably gold. When you see one, you know it's the real deal.

Gold pickers are heavier than they look. This is because gold is denser than most other materials found in riverbeds. If you pick one up, you'll be surprised by its weight compared to its size.





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Collectors love gold pickers for their individuality. No two are exactly alike. They're shaped by nature, so each one has its own bumps, curves, and character. It's this uniqueness that makes them special beyond just their gold content.

Gold Nuggets

Gold nuggets are the rock stars of the gold world. They're larger pieces of natural gold, often with interesting shapes and textures.



The color of gold nuggets is something special. They have a deep, rich yellow that almost seems to glow. This color can vary a bit depending on how pure the gold is, but it's always eye-catching.

What's really cool about gold nuggets is their rarity. Less than 2% of all gold found comes in nugget form. This makes them extra special and valuable. Collectors and investors often pay more for nuggets than for the same weight in gold bars.

Notable gold nuggets like the "Welcome Stranger" and "Pepita Canaã" have gained fame due to their size and historical context. The Pepita Canaã is currently recognized as the largest surviving natural nugget, weighing approximately 60.8 kg (134.1 lbs).

Leaf Gold

Leaf gold is a stunning form of gold that appears as large, thin plates or sheets of gold that can resemble leaves. These sheets often display intricate dendritic patterns or smooth growth forms.

What makes leaf gold special is how flat and thin it is. Unlike chunky gold nuggets, leaf gold spreads out in large, thin pieces. This unique shape makes it really eye-catching and different from other types of gold.

One of the most sought-after qualities of leaf gold is the labor-intensive process required to extract and shape it. The beauty of leaf gold specimens is such that they are often considered museum-quality items.



Wire Gold

Wire gold is typically found in elongated, thread-like structures that resemble fine wires or filaments. This formation is a result of the way gold crystallizes in certain geological conditions.

Wire gold exhibits the characteristic metallic yellow hue of gold, but the wire-like formations can create a visually striking contrast with the surrounding materials, enhancing its aesthetic appeal.

Wire gold is pretty rare. It needs special conditions to form, which is why it's not as common as other types of gold. This rarity makes it extra special to collectors and scientists who study how minerals form.

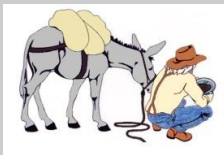
People love wire gold not just because it's gold, but because it's beautiful. Its delicate, intricate shapes make it popular with collectors who appreciate natural art. Some pieces of wire gold are so impressive that they've become famous in the world of mineral collecting.



About Keith Jackson - Geologist

Keith Jackson is an avid rockhound who is constantly exploring new sites to expand his collection. He is an active Geologist with a wealth of experience and information from across the country that he loves to share with the Rock Chasing crew.

Part 2 of 4 next month



Real alchemy: firm says it knows how to turn mercury into gold

Aug 2, 2025

Could nuclear fusion be the key to alchemy?

A Californian startup believes that it can achieve the seemingly impossible using nuclear fusion.

Adrian Bevan: The alchemist's dream is to make gold from common metals, but can this be done? The physics needed to explain how to change one element into another is well understood and has been used for decades in accelerators and colliders, which smash sub-atomic particles together.

The most notable present-day example is the Large Hadron Collider at Cern, based in Geneva. But the costs of making gold this way are vast, and the quantities generated are minuscule.

For example, Cern's Alice experiment estimated it produced only 29 picogrammes of gold while operating over four years. At that rate, it would take hundreds of times the lifetime of the universe to make a troy ounce of gold.

The Californian startup company Marathon Fusion has proposed a very different approach: to use the radioactivity from neutron particles in a nuclear fusion reactor to transform one form of mercury into another, called mercury-197.

This then decays into a stable form of gold: gold-197. This process of particle decay is where one subatomic particle spontaneously transforms into two or more lighter particles. The team from Marathon Fusion estimates that a fusion power plant could produce several tonnes of gold per gigawatt of thermal power in a single year of operation.

Bombarding the isotope mercury-198 with neutrons leads to the creation of the radioactive isotope mercury-197 - which subsequently decays to the only stable isotope of gold.

The key is to have energetic enough neutrons to trigger the mercury decay sequence. If this could be made to work, then it is an interesting idea. But whether it could make a tidy profit is another matter.

To do this, a large neutron flux (a measure of the intensity of neutron radiation) is required. This can be generated using a standard fuel mix for fusion reactors, deuterium and tritium (both of which are forms of hydrogen), to create energy in the plasma of a fusion reactor.

Neutrons penetrate material easily and scatter off the nuclei (cores) in atoms, slowing down as they do so. Neutrons with energies above 6 million electron volts are required to transform mercury-198 into gold.

To come up with its estimates, Marathon Fusion has been using a fusion reactor's "digital twin" - a computer model that simulates the physics of the fusion reaction and the resulting radioactive processes. A limitation of this type of work is that the digital twin needs to be validated against a real commercial fusion reactor - but none currently exist.

There are many challenges to overcome before scientists can realise a commercial fusion reactor. These include the creation of new materials for its construction, and understanding the science required both to operate the system to continuously extract power, and to develop AI systems that can help keep the plasma fusion reaction running.

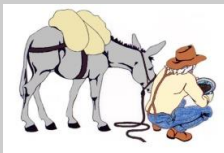
Even some of the most advanced fusion experiments, such as the UK-based JET (Joint European Torus) project, could only generate relatively small amounts of energy. However, researchers in the UK have devised a new way to shrink the size of fusion reactors by changing the way the exhaust plasma is controlled. A prototype of this novel fusion reactor concept, called Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (Step), aims to be ready by 2040.

Radioactive waste

On paper, it is possible to make gold from mercury in a fusion reactor. However, until commercial fusion reactors are realised, the assumptions used by Marathon Fusion in its digital twin studies will remain untested.

Furthermore, any gold produced at a fusion reactor would initially be radioactive, meaning it would be classified as radioactive waste - and thus need to be managed for quite some time after production.

As nuclear and particle physicists know well, it is very easy to forget to include important physical effects and critical details when creating a digital twin of an experiment. But while the processing of that waste into usable forms of pure gold would be a further challenge to address, it will not necessarily deter long-term investors.



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For now, this remains an attractive proposition on paper - but we're still some way off from kickstarting a new kind of Californian gold rush.

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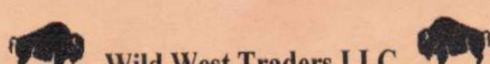
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3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

- For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Sept 2025 (GPR Events)						
Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (https://www.wmmi.org/)						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 GPR Club Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting)	25	26	27 Prospecting on Kevin's Clam
28	29	30				