

# THE GOLD NUGGET

September 2025



## **The Prez Sez..!** by Bobby Manning

September is upon us and Club Election are right around the corner. I myself will be stepping down as your President. We will need at least two or even three board members so please think about stepping up to help the club. With Bill, he is going to need more of my help. And then I just found out that I have a very rare disease and will find out this month what my treatment will be, so I'm going to need more time for myself and family.

The Club needs to put an Outing Committee together for planned outings, and you, as a member, can help do this. What helps this Club is its' membership, and the more members we have, the more money the Clubs has, the more gold we can get. Support the refreshment table by putting money in the jar and bring something to put on the table, help the 50/50, or come up with a way that the club can earn extra money. The Club needs your help. We put together a committee on the finds table with rules for finds of the month/ Year. These rules will be out soon for you to look at and then give your input and vote on them so it goes into the club bylaws. We will have two outings this month. One will be the outing that was recently canceled and the other is to Kevin's clam to dig. Joe will have the Club highbanker to use up there, so if you don't have panning equipment, then you can use one of the high bankers as we have two. And, we should be able to help with your panning so you will be able to take your gold home. Don't forget that we also have the Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show which will be at 10 E. 120<sup>th</sup> Ave in Northglenn on September 5-13. Also, we have the National Public Land Day on the 27 of September. You can volunteer to help by registering on line at [offer0.jeffco.us](http://offer0.jeffco.us) or call 303-271-5925. So, keep your pans up and fill it with Gold or use your metal Detector for the gold!!

## **Vice President's Corner!** by Kevin Singel



Hi all, I've never been happier to be writing this column than right now. As you may know, I had to miss the August meeting due to having my cancerous prostate removed. The surgery went well and, although I am expecting a couple month long recovery period, I am on the mend! I heard from others that our August speaker from the USGS Library had a lot of useful information to share. I was sorry to miss it!

I did get a day of prospecting done during early August so my "every month" streak continues! My September prospecting will be with a bunch of you! I am hosting a club dig day on my claim on the last Saturday of the month. Mark your calendar now and make plans to spend the day up the hill with me, just north of Silverthorne at my claim right off of Highway 9. We will have handouts with driving details, etc. at the meeting for those who

sign up. I am excited to see the big fat flakes that'll be found!!

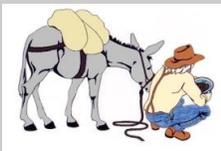
Our speaker for the September meeting is Brad Martinez of Geo Sluice Mining. Brad bought the business and brought it to Colorado so we now have high quality, affordable, drop riffle sluices being made right here in metro Denver. I look forward to his talk about how drop riffle sluices work and all of their advantages...see you at the next club meeting to learn more!

Until then, find some time to spend an hour, or a day, prospecting and Find Your Gold!

## **From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger** by John Johnson



We had a decent turnout for the August 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 have a new 'Special Prize' to give away so be sure to buy your tickets for this 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 September meeting. See you all there!!



**Board Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2025 via Zoom**

x	Bobby Manning	x	Mike Stevens	x	Andy Doll	x	John Johnson
x	Gordon Smith		Kevin Singel	x	Robert Ahr	x	Joe Kafka
	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: Dates on two outings were reversed Approved as read/corrected: Moved: G. Smith; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Johnston.

**Treasurer's Report:** No changes Approved: Moved: M. Stevens; 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Johnston

**Correspondence:** phone calls 0 emails 0 mail 5.

**Webmaster:** Total hits: 169,197 Web Hits in last 30 days: 212.

**Committee Reports:** Panning Demos – President Manning is checking into insurance as required by the organization behind the October 18-19 demo scheduled.

**Unfinished Business:** New business cards for the Club are still in process. Logo changes are not complete yet.

The inflated cost of gold is making it difficult to replenish the gold bags that are sold at the ticket table. President Manning will check with another supplier and report back.

**New Business:**

- Reschedule date needed from board member Smith on the Arapahoe Bar outing
- Due to recent complaints around the FOM table, the board decided a committee needs to be convened to come up with revised rules/limits to make the process more fair. It was also discussed to request G. Hamilton to come up with a survey to obtain membership input for the committee to consider.
- (The HR panning demo has been cancelled per J.J. Long as of August 26<sup>th</sup>)

**Planned Outings:**

- Caribou Ghost Town metal detecting outing scheduled for August 23rd
- Outing to K. Singel's claim scheduled for September 27th
- Arapahoe Bar Club outing = TBD for date in October

**Board Members Items of Discussion:** None

**This month's General Meeting Program:** USGS LIBRARY at the Denver Federal Center - Keith Van Cleave

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting September 11 at 7:30pm via Zoom Next General Meeting: September 17 at 7:00pm

**Adjournment:** Move to adjourn at 9:04 pm. Moved: M. Stevens; 2<sup>nd</sup> by: G. Smith

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

Certain metals are added top batches of molten glass to impart vivid colors to the glass. When small parts of metallic gold in the form of gold chlorides are added to the batch, the resulting colored glass is known by what names?

**(There are 3 acceptable answer names.)**

**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

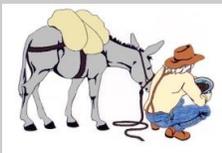
Bobby Manning

**Past President**

Joe Johnston

**General Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2025**

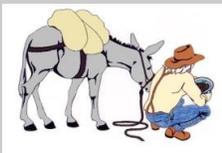
1. Meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Manning announced that the evening Program is: USGS Library at Denver Federal Center, Keith Van Cleave, Librarian.
3. Pres. Manning then gave the Metals Report: Gold 3330.90, Silver 37.20 Platinum 1330 Palladium 1129 Rhodium 7855.



### Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

4. **Web hits** for last month: 212.
5. **Treasurer Johnson** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. '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 37 members in attendance. Of that number there were 2 Guests present tonight and 2 New members.
7. **Pres. Manning** read the "**Question of the Month**", which was: "**...In 1907, how many ounces of gold were used to coat the Colorado State Capital and what organization donated it?**" The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
8. **Pres. Manning** reminded attendees to vote for the '**Finds of the Month**' during the break 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 is allowed. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. **Pres. Manning** advised that a few gold bags are still available at the Treasurer's table. The price of gold has kept the Club from making new bags at this time. The board is working on creative ways to work around this.
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 Caribou Ghost Town metal detecting outing scheduled for this Saturday has been cancelled due to a family emergency. Monthly "Pirates" Hunt and the request for volunteers to join a new committee charged with revising the Finds of the Month rules and limitations. Volunteers needed for upcoming panning demos.
12. **Pres. Manning** announced the break at 7:58 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:27 pm.
13. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners of the "**Question of the Month**". The answer was, "**... 200 ounces and Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Company**"! There were 18 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**' for Those were:
  - **Best Coin – No submissions this month**
  - **Best Jewelry – Shelly Zornes**
  - **Best Mineral – Greg Knerl**
  - **Best Artifact – Mike Stevens**
  - **Best Gold – Bobby Manning**
15. **Pres. Manning** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, JJ Long**, followed by the drawings for the door prizes and gold nuggets. Pres. Manning also wants to remind 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 Joe Kafka**.
16. **Pres Manning** conducted the 50/50 drawing. Robert Ahr won \$ 32 and \$ 32 went 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. 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 website.
18. **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 the Cost. 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 September Meeting Program** will be: TBA. Having nothing further at this time; remember to always prospect safely.
20. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm. Next meeting date is September 17<sup>th</sup>.**





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

### A Miner's Laugh

An old retired miner received a text from his daughter and reading it, it said: “Daddy, I’m coming home to get married soon, so get your checkbook ready. LOL! As you know, i/m in Australia and he is in the US. We met on a dating site, became friends on Facebook, and had long chats on WhatsApp. He proposed to me on Skype and now we’ve had a two month relationship through Viber. Dad, I need your blessing, good wishes, and a really big wedding. Lots of love, Lilly.” The old boy thought for a few minutes and then replied: “My dear Lilly, like WOW! Really? Cool! Whatever...I suggest you two get married on Twitter, have fun on Tango, register for your stuff on Amazon, and pay for it all through PayPal. And when you get fed up with this new husband, sell him on Ebay. Lots of 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 **August 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!!

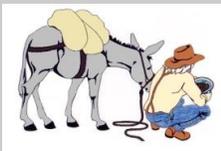
- **Best Coin – No submissions this month**
- **Best Jewelry – Shelly Zornes**
- **Best Mineral – Greg Knerl**
- **Best Artifact – Mike Stevens**
- **Best Gold – Bobby Manning**



### The Pirate's March Hunt (Aug 2025) by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello and Good Morning well it was the end of the month and time again for the pirate's hunt we meet for breakfast and decided to go to Highland Park the morning was cool with the feeling of mist in the air but by 1100 the sun was out and was warming up nicely. We had a crew of 6 for the breakfast and the hunt. One bling ring was found but nothing worth talking about, but it was a ring. So, the top Pirate was none other than Bob H. with \$4.08, Joe F. with 1.57, Shellie Z and Robert A. tied with .65 cents next was Mike S. 13cems and are newest Pirate Rob M. with .10cents and Hobo shank for a total of \$7.18. Not too bad. Be safe stay healthy and we'll see you all at the next G.P.O.R. meeting 9-17-25 @ 1900 hrs.





## **The 52 Best Places To Find Gold in Colorado in 2025** by Keith Jackson - Geologist

Feb. 18, 2025

Part 2 of 4

Types of Gold continued:

### **Sponge Gold**



Sponge gold is a fascinating type of gold that looks just like its name suggests – a golden sponge! It's full of little holes and spaces, giving it a unique, bubbly appearance.

The way sponge gold forms is pretty cool. It happens when gold comes out of a special gold-bearing solution. As it forms, it creates all these tiny spaces, making it look spongy and irregular.

Collectors get excited about sponge gold because it's not very common. Its unusual look makes it a prized find. Each piece of sponge gold is different, with its own pattern of holes and bumps.

Despite its holey appearance, sponge gold is still valuable. Its unique texture doesn't take away from its worth as gold. In fact, some people think this unusual form makes it even more special and interesting.

### **Electrum**

Electrum is a naturally occurring alloy primarily composed of gold and silver, with trace amounts of other metals such as copper and platinum.

Electrum's color varies significantly based on the gold-to-silver ratio. It can range from **pale yellow** to **bright yellow**, and sometimes even to a near-white appearance when silver content is high

One cool thing about Electrum is its history. People have been using it for thousands of years. In fact, it was one of the first metals used to make coins way back in the 7th century BC.

Unlike many other alloys, electrum occurs naturally, which makes it unique among precious metals. It's tougher than pure gold, which makes it great for making things that need to last.

In nature, electrum forms in interesting shapes. It often makes octahedral crystals, which are like two pyramids stuck together at the base. This natural occurrence makes electrum special among precious metals.



### **Gold-Copper Alloy**

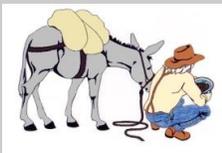


Gold-copper alloys typically exhibit a reddish tint due to the copper content, which can vary depending on the proportion of gold and copper in the alloy.

These alloys can tarnish upon exposure to air because of the oxidation of copper, leading to a darkened appearance over time. When heated, they may blacken due to similar oxidation processes.

In terms of malleability, these alloys are generally less malleable and harder than pure gold, particularly when the copper content exceeds 12%, making them more challenging to work with.

Throughout history, people have used gold-copper alloys to make coins. Different times and places had their own recipes for these alloys.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

### Gold Crystals

Gold crystals are like nature's golden sculptures. They form in beautiful, geometric shapes that can take your breath away. Unlike smooth gold nuggets, these crystals have distinct edges and faces.

The color of gold crystals is something special. They shine with a bright, slightly orange-yellow hue that's unmistakably gold. This color comes from how gold reflects light, making the crystals look almost like they're glowing.

One amazing thing about gold crystals is how soft and bendable they are. A tiny bit of gold can be stretched into a sheet big enough to cover a large area. This property makes gold crystals fascinating to study and work with.

Finding natural gold crystals is pretty rare. Most we see don't form perfect crystal shapes. This rarity makes gold crystals highly valued by collectors and scientists who study how minerals form.



### What Rough Gold Looks Like:

Identifying a rough gold might seem tricky, but with a few tips, you can spot one even if you're not a rock expert. Here's how you can do it.

### Check for a Glassy or Waxy Luster

When you're out searching for rough gold, the first thing to look at is how it shines. Real gold has a glassy or waxy luster. It should look bright and shiny, even when shaded.

If you find something that seems dull or lacks that shiny quality, it might not be gold. You can test this by holding the piece in sunlight and then shading it with your hand. If it still glows, you may have found the real deal.



### Assess the Density and Weight

Gold is heavy—much heavier than most other minerals. If you pick up a shiny rock and it feels surprisingly light, it's likely not gold.

A simple way to check this is to compare it with a rock of similar size. If the shiny one feels heavier, that's a good sign.

Gold's density is about 19.3 grams per cubic centimeter, which means it packs a lot of weight into a small volume.



### Observe the Color

The color of raw gold is typically a brassy yellow. It should look bright and vibrant, not faded or washed out.

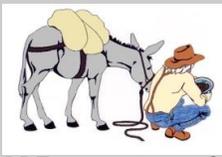
If you find something that looks golden but has a more muted color, like brown or greenish hues, it's probably not real gold. Remember, real gold maintains its color even when wet or in the shade, while fake gold often loses its shine.



### Feel the Texture

When you hold rough gold, notice its texture. Real gold is smooth but can also have some bumps from tumbling in rivers and streams. If you find something that feels rough or crumbles easily under pressure, it's likely fool's gold (like iron pyrite).





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

You can also gently squeeze it; if it bends easily without breaking, it's a good indicator that you're holding real gold.

By keeping these tips in mind while you're out searching for rough gold, you'll improve your chances of identifying genuine pieces versus imitations!

### 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 3 of 4 coming next month)**



## **Sunken ship with £16bn of treasure 'found in Caribbean'**

Story by Timothy

Sigsworth

For centuries, a £16-billion treasure trove of gold, silver and emeralds were lost beneath the waves of the Caribbean.

But now researchers believe they have identified the "holy grail of shipwrecks".

The rich treasures of the Spanish galleon San Jose appeared to have been gone forever after they were sunk by the Royal Navy in 1708.

A squadron commanded by Charles Wager, who would go on to serve as the First Lord of the Admiralty, intercepted the treasure fleet near Baru Island, off Cartagena, Colombia, and attacked, detonating its powder magazines and sending it to the seabed.

The treasure was being transported from Peru to Spain to fund the War of the Spanish Succession against Britain and its allies.

Gold and silver coins, pearls and gems, claimed to be worth as much as £16 billion in current prices, sat aboard the San Jose.

The sinking of the ship dented the Spanish effort in the war, which ended with Britain gaining Gibraltar, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

Academics in Colombia now claim to have confirmed that a wreck found off the South American country's coast in 2015 is the San Jose.

Using underwater drones, they photographed cargo scattered on and around the [wreckage of a ship](#) found on the seafloor near Baru Island, in 2015.

Analysis of the images found silver coins – minted in 1707 with the hallmarks of the mint at Lima, Peru – among the wreckage.

Other finds included Chinese porcelain from the Kangxi period (1662-1722) and inscriptions on cannons that dated to 1665.

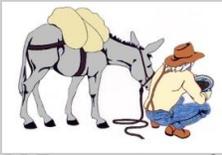
These finds suggest the wreckage is of a ship that sank in the early 18th century.

"This body of evidence substantiates the identification of the wreck as the San José Galleon, a hypothesis that has been put forward since its initial discovery in 2015," the academics found.

"The finding of coins created in 1707 at the Lima Mint points to a vessel navigating the Tierra Firme route in the early 18th century. The San José Galleon is the only ship that matches these characteristics.

"This find presents a rare opportunity to explore an underwater archaeological site and deepen our understanding of colonial maritime trade and routes."

The analysis will likely deepen a battle over the legal ownership of the wreckage.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

Claims have been made by Colombia, Spain, Peru, indigenous communities in the area, descendants of miners who dug up the treasure, and Glocca Morra, the treasure hunters which says they found the wreck as far back as 1981.

Glocca Morra's new owners, Sea Search Armada, insist that the galleon was found within a mile or two of the coordinates of its 1981 discovery.

The company, which is claiming £7.9 billion, is also challenging a 2020 law that deemed everything on the ship was Colombian government property

The researchers added: "Coins are crucial artefacts for dating and understanding material culture, particularly in shipwreck contexts.

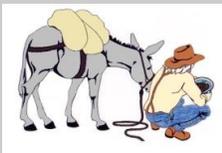
"Hand-struck, irregularly shaped coins—known as cobs in English and macuquinas in Spanish – served as the primary currency in the Americas for more than two centuries."

The finds follow previous carbon dating analysis of the wreckage that indicated that it was approximately 300 years old.

The ship's cargo will not be recovered from the seafloor until the wreckage is "fully characterized" using "non-invasive surveys".

With the galleon lying several hundred metres below the sea surface, it is too deep for human exploration.

The study is published in the journal *Antiquity*.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9



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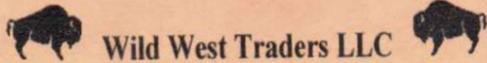
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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*

<b>Coming Announcements and Special Events for Oct 2025</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>(GPR Events)</b></span>						
Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 ( <a href="https://www.wmmi.org/">https://www.wmmi.org/</a> )						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day Tour USGS Library	14	15 GPR Club Meeting	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting)	30	31 Halloween	