

THE GOLD NUGGET

December 2025



The Prez Sez..! by Bobby Manning

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Over the last few weeks, I've had a lot of information to take in. Learning to give myself new shots so, I've not been myself lately and things have not gotten done. My apologies to the Club for that!

With the new Board, I will help give them some guidance in the direction to go. There is a lot of work that goes into doing all this and it takes a lot of your time. I will help the new President and Vice President in the job that needs to be done. One thing the Club needs to work on is getting new members & the members need to help the club in doing the panning demos that helps PAY for the Facility in which we have our meeting. To give you an example, say we have 60 members and the price of this to the members comes to \$44.29 a member, and our dues are only \$40.00, and gold now at an all-time high, the Club is going to have to figure out how to raise money for the Club. I do know of a way but not sure if I want to start doing it so, I will discuss it with the board and see.

I will not go away, I will be at the meetings and will be available at the meetings, and will do what I can do with a lot more time to do things for the Club, that is one thing that I've have always done. I will always give to this Club. We didn't have many outings this year and I tried something NEW and it did not work so there are things that we, as a Club, need to do better and one of those is outings. And getting Members together and work together. We added more Board members to the club this year and you as a member, need to use the Board to help the Club. If you have an idea, tell a board member.

For the Christmas dinner, I will have a roast and Robert will get the Ham and we should have a great feast. In Finds of the Year, we had a few slips that were filled out wrong. The top was category and to the Left was the Month. Some put the number on the slip which made it more fun to figure things out, so we will have that straightened out at the meeting. Don't forget your White Elephant gift. It must be gold related!! Will see all at the Christmas Dinner, it all starts at 6:00 PM sharp

Vice President's Corner! by Kevin Singel



I guess this is my last VP column after two years serving as your Vice President. I'm honored for your support for me to serve the club as president. Let's make 2026 a great year for the club!

At the last meeting I did a presentation on finish processing your concentrates. I hope many of the meeting attendees got a few tips that will make their efforts to get the gold out of their concentrates a bit more fun and rewarding.

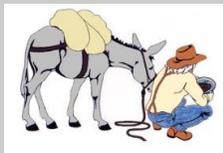
As I am sure Bobby is mentioning in his column, our December meeting will be our annual club holiday party. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and tasting some of your favorite holiday recipes. If I don't get to say it to you there, happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and happy New Year!

Right now, I'm making plans for personal winter prospecting trips and also starting to make plans for the club for next year. Please chat with me if you have requests for meeting topics, speakers, or outings. I want the club to be what the members want it to be as we all find our gold in our own ways. You can contact me at 720-934-1428.

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by John Johnson



We had a decent turnout for the November 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 December Christmas Potluck Feast. See you all there!!



Board Meeting Minutes from Nov 12, 2025 via Zoom

x	Bobby Manning (P)	x	Mike Stevens	x	Andy Doll (W)	x	John Johnson (T)
x	Gordon Smith	x	Kevin Singel (VP)	x	Robert Ahr	x	Joe Kafka
x	Gary Hamilton		Erik Van Halle		Bill Manning		
x	Joe Johnston						

Quorum Present: Yes _.

Call to Order by: Pres Manning at 7:32 p.m. _.

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Corrections: None as Read

/corrected: Motion to approve by K. Singel; 2nd by John Johnson. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: \$948 entry for Newsletter had decimal in wrong place Approved as corrected: Motion to approve by A. Doll; 2nd by M. Stevens. Approved.

Correspondence: phone calls ___? email ___? mail ___? _____.

Webmaster: Total Hits in last 30 Days - ?

Committee Reports:

Nominations: Voting for the 2026 Board. No additional nominees or proxies received at this point. Discussed using Acclamation rather than ballots since only one person was running unopposed for each position.

Speakers/Presentations: Jan-Mar meetings have no speakers at this point. Request made to board members present to give input or consider doing a presentation. A suggestion was made to do a board member round table for the January meeting.

FOM/FOY: R. Ahr clarified for the board the changes being implemented. He will be given time at the November meeting to update attendees.

Unfinished Business:

- Joe Johnston obtained the personal cell # of the scheduling person at the Veteran's Center in Aurora. He was requested to reach out to her in January for a panning demo.
- Going to smaller nuggets for the blue ticket drawings has caused a drop in ticket sales. This may turn around with more frequent drawings with the next one at the November meeting. Ability to make up new gold bags with gold at its current levels is still undecided as well.
- G. Hamilton has contact information for a Scout Master who was very interested in having his Scouts attend a meeting and/or earn a Mining Merit Badge. Gary will pass it to E. Von Halle, who was not on the call, for follow up. [Ian Welch, 720-320-5181, iwelch82@gmail.com]

New Business:

- With a new President coming in 2026, a transfer of Club materials and a complete inventory of Club gold is to be conducted as soon as practical, and before the January General meeting.
- Potential to have a Club booth at a show coming up at the N. Western Complex in 2026. Details forthcoming and will be brought before the board to determine if costs to the Club can be justified. Discussion then centered on the need to find additional venues to promote the GPOTR.
- The club was able to purchase some British Columbian gold at below market pricing through a contact of K.Singel

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

There will be no question of the month for December Back in January 2026.

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

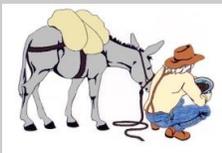
Gary Hamilton

Erik Von Halle

Bobby Manning

Past President

Joe Johnston



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Planned Outings:

- Annual Club Metal Detecting event now scheduled for 22-November @ Robby Ferrifino Park off Carr Street with a 10 a.m. start. This is a no dig event.

Board Members Items of Discussion:

*Gordon – Will there be a December Zoom meeting? Yes, to finalize any Holiday Party details

*Mike *John * Gary * Erik * Bill *Bob *Andy – nothing at this time

November General Meeting Program: Voting for the 2026 Board and K. Singel presenting methods for recovering fine gold from your concentrates.

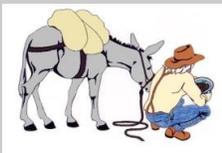
Announcements: Next Board Meeting __12/11/25__ at Zoom 7:30-9:30 (to finalize party details)

Next General Meeting: __12/17/25__ at 6:00pm (Holiday Party)

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at __8:53__ pm.

General Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2025

1. Meeting was opened at 7:11 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Manning then announced that the evening Program which was Election of 2026 Board & Kevin presenting his methods of retrieving fine gold from concentrates.
3. Pres. Manning then gave the Metals Report: Gold 4033, Silver 50.08, Platinum 1547, Palladium 1412, and Rhodium 8225.
4. Web hits for last month: 273.
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’ will be drawn at tonight’s meeting. Blue tickets will continue to be sold through the break.
6. Shellie Zornes from the Membership Table reported that we had 44 members in attendance. Of that number there were 3 Guests present tonight and 0 New members.
7. Pres. Manning read the “Question of the Month”, which was: “ How many 1933 gold \$20 double eagle coins are known to exist today?” 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 both ‘**Finds of the Month**’ and ‘**Finds of the Year**’ during the break. A reminder to all that gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Only finds from the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. There was a reminder to be sure to answer the Question of the Month during the break.
10. Additional items to be discussed include...The annual metal detecting hunt on November 22nd; sign-up for the Holiday Pot Luck next month; changes to the FOM/FOY process from Robert Ahr; introduction of the candidates for Board positions and Voting. Highlights of the FOM/FOY changes are: Period is from November to October, addition of a new costume jewelry Category, the winners of FOY will be announced at the Holiday Party next month and the January meeting will have a table for December finds as well as one for January. See a board officer for more details. The only nomination from the floor was for Bill Chapman to be the Club Treasurer. No other changes led to a motion made by R. Yamiosky for the Secretary to cast an acclimation ballot. Motion was seconded by K. Kafka. The “ayes” were unanimous and congratulations went out to the 2026 Board members. Also, a heartfelt Thank You goes out to those who are stepping down from the Board. Without these folks participation, there would be no GPOTR!
11. Pres. Manning announced the break at 8:10 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:36 pm.
12. Pres. Manning announced the winners of the “Question of the Month”. The answer was, 13 .! There were 28 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.



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13. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the ‘**Finds of the Month**’ for Nov. Those were:

- **Best Coin – John Olson**
- **Best Jewelry – Nancy Knerl**
- **Best Mineral –**
- **Best Artifact – John Olson**
- **Best Gold – Joe Fortunato**

14. **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. It was Pres. Manning’s night as he also won the Blue Ticket drawing for the 2.6-gram gold nugget! Congratulations! 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. Assisting in the drawings were **John Johnson and John Olson**.

15. **Pres Manning** conducted the 50/50 drawing. He had the winning ticket, winning \$29, which he donated back to the club and \$29 went to the Club. **Thank You President Manning!**

16. **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.

17. **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.

18. **The December Meeting Program** will be: **The annual Holiday Party and white elephant gift exchange. The festivities begin at 6 p.m.**

19. Having nothing further at this time; remember to always prospect safely **Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.**

A Miner’s Laugh

An old retired miner in Denver calls his son in San Diego the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough". "Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer", the father says. "We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in New York and tell her".

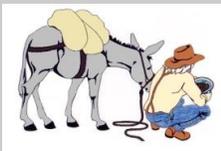
Frantically, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone, "Like hell they're getting divorced", she shouts, "I'll take care of this".

She calls Denver immediately and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Done! They're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way."

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





Finds of the Month 2025

The Finds of the Month for **Nov 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 – John Olson**
- **Best Jewelry – Nancy Knerl**
- **Best Mineral –**
- **Best Artifact – John Olson**
- **Best Gold – Joe Fortunato**

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

Hello everyone, The Pirate's crew must have been cooking their Thanksgiving dinners which is perfectly understandable. But there were only 3 of us that did show up for breakfast and then only 2 went out to hunt. And we did have a frosty day indeed. We started at 1100hrs. With the temperature at a blazing 31 degrees, we hunted for 4hrs. And by that time it felt like we were in a heat wave of 38 degrees. Joe F. had a great day when he found a 12K medallion and a 1.40 in coins and I followed up with 2.57 and 16 bottle caps 1 beaver tail and 3 tent stakes. Anyway, I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving and we'll see you all at the G.P.O.R. potluck Christmas dinner on Dec. 17, 2025 at 1800hrs.

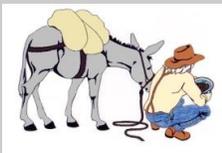
P.S. Please remember to save your December FOM's until January's meeting we will have 2 tables set up, one for each month.

Keep swinging and find your treasure..!



Man discovers 4.6 billion-year-old meteorite worth millions while gold hunting Story by Mataeo Smith

A man in Australia stumbled upon a large, mysterious rock while hunting for gold near Maryborough in 2015. The rock, which he later discovered was a rare 4.6 billion year old meteorite, was so heavy and hard that his attempts to crack it open with a saw and drill were unsuccessful.



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David Hole eventually took the reddish rock to the Melbourne Museum where geologists were intrigued by its unique appearance. "It had this sculpted, dimpled look to it," Dermot Henry, a museum geologist, told the Sydney Morning Herald. "That's formed when they come through the atmosphere, they are melting on the outside, and the atmosphere sculpts them."

After conducting tests, the geologists confirmed that the rock was indeed a 4.6 billion year old meteorite. Bill Birch, another Melbourne Museum geologist, noted the unusual weight of the rock, saying, "If you saw a rock on Earth like this, and you picked it up, it shouldn't be that heavy."

Now known as the "Maryborough meteorite," the rock is filled with dense forms of iron and nickel and is estimated to be worth hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars due to its scientific significance and rarity. Carbon dating suggested the meteorite had been on Earth between 100 and 1,000 years. Hole described his discovery as pure luck, stating, "Got more chance of being struck by lightning twice."

The meteorite, which weighs over 37 pounds and is composed of a high percentage of iron, making it an H5 ordinary chondrite, was detailed in a scientific paper published by the researchers. It also included minuscule crystallized droplets of metallic minerals, known as chondrules.

As stated by Henry to Channel 10 News: "This particular meteorite most probably comes out of the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, and it's been nudged out of there by some asteroids smashing into each other, then one day it smashes into Earth."

The meteorite forms part of a select group - only 17 examples have ever been recorded in Victoria - a province in Australia.

Mollie Kathleen Mine

Sunday, March 9, 2014

By Tiffany Amber Stockton

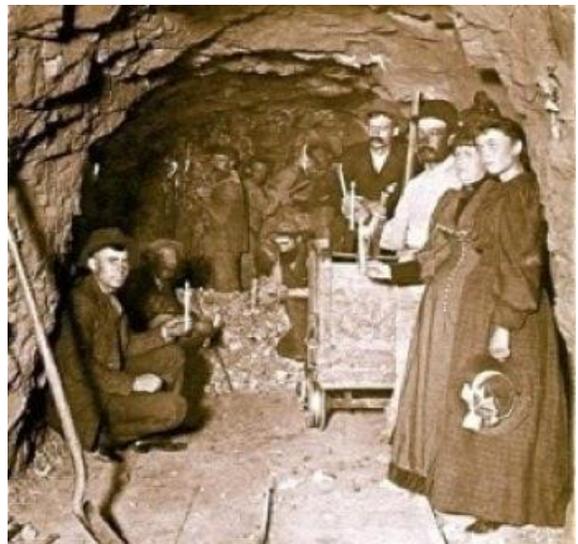


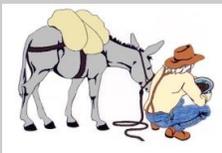
We're about to embark on a drive to St. Louis next month, and most of my family from back East will be there. Once or twice a year, they come here to Colorado to visit. And not, that is not them in the first picture. :) That is a picture of early gold miners with their work area illuminated by candlelight.

One thing my family always does is check out one tourist spot in the area during their time here. During a previous visit, we all took a tour of the Mollie

Kathleen Gold Mine in Cripple Creek, Colorado. Mining was a popular industry during the mid-to-late 1800's, and it continues today...some of it in the very same mines discovered over 130 years ago!

This tour is America's longest continually operated gold mine tour. The most jarring experience is descending a mine shaft 1,000 feet in a modified open ore bucket. For those who





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don't know what this is, it's a VERY small cage-like container suspended on cables and secured into a mine shaft. The space is probably about 4 or 5-foot square and we managed to fit 6 full-grown adults PLUS 2 kids into that tiny space. Talk about being packed in like sardines! Yet, this is how many miners also descended and ascended every day to do their work.

Once out of the bucket cage, we had a bit more room to spread out and join the rest of the tour. And this is some of what we learned about the history of the mine itself: Coming West to Colorado from Ottumwa, Iowa, arriving with her husband Henry, son Perry, and daughter Elizabeth, the Gortner family first settled on North Nevada Street in Colorado Springs.



In the spring of 1891 Mollie's son Perry arrived in the Cripple Creek area employed as a surveyor assigned to map mining claims of this country's newest and overlooked frontier. With all news of the day focused on Cripple Creek's gold. Mollie loaded the family wagon with supplies and joined the next wagon train heading west up Ute Pass to visit her son. After a four-day trip, Mollie was relieved to find Perry had completed construction of a half log half canvas field tent. Mollie wasted little time setting up housekeeping.

In September of that year (1891), Perry while surveying upper Poverty Gulch, saw a huge herd of elk. Later he told Mollie of the herd so she headed out to see for herself. As she made her way up Poverty Gulch (three hundred yards past Cripple Creek's first gold strike--- Bob Womack's Gold King Mine---), winded Mollie decided to rest.

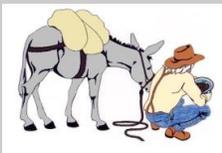
Looking downward, as she caught her breath, Mollie noticed an interesting rock formation that winked back at her. Using a rock to break off a sample, she could hardly believe her eyes, the outcropping was pure gold laced in quartz.

With her heart racing Mollie nonchalantly hid gold samples amongst her clothing, she had to be calm, there were a number of prospectors in the area. Earlier that day Mollie had mingled with Bob Womack who had overlooked her find for more than a dozen years prospecting an area he had nicknamed Poverty Gulch.

By her determined act, Mollie Kathleen Gortner became the first woman in the Gold Camp to discover gold and strike a claim in her own name. This was clearly a bold move out of step with the times. Most men of the time, only named their horses, jack asses, and mines after their women, it was very uncommon to let a woman claim something of such value.

Even after her mine was in production and when visited by the National Geological Survey, it's authors entered their report of the mine being "Discovered by Mr. M.C. Gortner" Mr. Gortner's name was Henry --- Mollie's





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name was Mary Catherine Gortner. Mollie Kathleen Gortner Died in 1917. Henry would later die of a broken heart one short year later. Perry Gortner was left 1/3 interest in his mother's gold discovery and was managing operator of the Mollie Kathleen until his death in 1949. The Gortner family lay to rest in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs, CO.

Amazing to think something which began in such an unorthodox manner has continued to exist and the mines in this area are still producing gold ore which funds many organizations and outreaches throughout the Pike's Peak Region.

I have a 3-book series set in Silverton and Durango, but I just might shift a little northeast and move my setting to near Cripple Creek. It would be a lot easier to do research. :) We'll have to see which region my editors prefer.

QUESTION FOR YOU

Have you ever been down inside a gold or silver mine? Was it active at the time or merely for tourists? Where was it? And if you haven't, are there any mines near you? Or is there a mine you'd love to visit? Why?

BIO

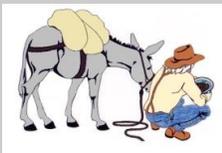
Tiffany Amber Stockton has been crafting and embellishing stories since childhood. Today, she is an award-winning [author](#), [speaker](#), and brand partner with [Nerium International](#), who lives with her husband and fellow author, [Stuart Vaughn Stockton](#), in Colorado. They have one girl and one boy, and an Aussie/retriever mix named Roxie. She has sold fourteen books so far and is represented by Sandra Bishop of [MacGregor Literary Agency](#). You can also find her on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Posted by [Tiffany Amber Stockton](#) at [3:00 AM](#)

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Labels: [Amber Stockton](#), [Colorado](#), [Cripple Creek](#), [gold miners](#), [Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine](#), [Tiffany Amber Stockton](#)

(Note: On January 31, 2025, an accident occurred at the mine in which the cage door was left unlatched and the tour guide fell to his death. The incident resulted in a major accident that injured several other people as well. You can search for more information about this tragedy on the internet. The bottom line is that there is always a risk anytime you enter a mine. You should understand that even when safety practices are in place, a single moment of inattentiveness can -kill you. Just saying...! JJJ)




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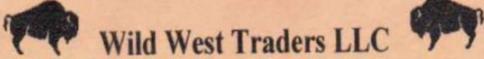
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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Jan 2026 (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 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Day	20	21 GPR Club Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Pirate's Hunt (Weather permitting)	29	30	31