

# THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2026

## **The Prez Sez..!** by Kevin Singel



Hope We sure had a fun time at the club Christmas Party didn't we! If you missed out, I'm sorry...the food was excellent with several new delicacies, gold to take home, and even a dessert with 24k edible gold on it! My compliments to everyone who brought food and especially to those who planned the evening!

Bobby did a great job of recognizing the many people whose volunteering for the club has made our club successful this past year. A big thanks to him too. Now, as you're new President, I'm excited to lead us into 2026. I already have the first three speakers booked with more in mind. As always, if you'd like to do a talk or demonstration...or have a suggestion of a speaker, please reach out to me.

In our December board meeting there was some productive brainstorming about 2026 outings. We are thinking to do a mine tour in a couple months and to have our first prospecting outing in April. More to come on that soon. Your board and I are looking forward to 2026 and to making the club all you hope it'll be. Happy New Year!

## **Vice President's Corner..!** by Gary Hamilton

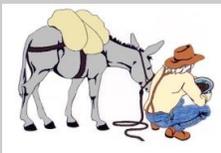


I guess this is my first attempt at a VP column. I certainly am a beginner in comparison to the VPs of years past but will do what I can to support President Singel and our Club. Last year we made good progress in growing the club back to pre-covid member status but still have a way to go. We will have some challenges as Bobby mentioned in our last meeting. We are all excited to see the price of gold at an all-time high but it does present some challenges in our monthly gold ticket drawing. For the January meeting, I would like everyone to think about why they are a member of the club, what else they would like to see from it. Types of outings, places they have panned or detected, mines, museums. Colorado has a season for most every kind of outing. Also, speakers you have heard, know of or possibly you could speak on something you have done or are learning that you would like to share. I hope to see you all at the January meeting.

## **From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledge..!** by Bill Chapman



We had a great turnout for the December Potluck and Awards Banquet. We gave away lots of door prizes as well. Be sure to buy your gold nugget drawing tickets at our January meetings as well as your 50/50 tickets. We also have a new 'Special Prize' to give away so be sure to buy your blue 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 as well. I am happy to be serving as your Treasurer and looking forward for the coming year. I hope to see everyone at the January meeting. See you all there...!!!



**Board Meeting Minutes from Dec 11, 2025 via Zoom**

x	Bobby Manning (P)	x	Mike Stevens (VP)		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:** Y

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

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Corrections: None Approved as read/corrected: Motion: M. Stevens; 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Singel.

**Treasurer's Report:** Questions: \$900 check from October Panning Demo has not been deposited yet. Approved: Motion: K. Singel, 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Stevens.

**Correspondence:** phone calls        emails        mail       

**Webmaster:** Total hits        in last 30 days       .

**Committee Reports:** Club has spent approximately what it took in in 2025.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Ken Barker Award selection not finalized yet
- E. Von Halle needs to reach out to Scout Master who showed an interest in working with the Club

**New Business:**

- "Free Table" experiment worked well so it will be continued at future meetings
- V.P. Singel has a line on speakers for both January and February meetings. Coin Grader Kyra Morgan was mentioned as another contact to pursue for a presentation. She spoke to the Club once before.

**Planned Outings:** Outings are finished for 2025

**Board Members Items of Discussion:**

- R. Ahr – Suggested raising dues as a way to offset some of the problems caused by the price of gold being so high. He will also work on getting a couple of speakers for the club in 2026.
- G. Hamilton – Asked for a total on the number of paid members currently. Answer: 58. Driving up membership has to be a high priority so board members should be thinking of ideas to present to accomplish that goal.
- J. Johnson – A handover meeting needs to be scheduled with Bill Chapman for the Treasurer's job before the next General meeting.
- J. Kafka – His wife Kris is offering to decorate tables for the Christmas Party again this year.
- M. Stevens – Suggested the Board stress to the membership that paying dues on time helps to keep the Club afloat.
- G. Smith – Announced he will attend the January Board meeting but will miss the General meeting. Yvonne Smith will take the meeting minutes.

**This month's General Meeting Program:** Not determined at time of publishing.

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting January 15, 2026 at 7:30pm via Zoom Next General Meeting: January 21, 2026 at 7:00pm

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: K. Singel; 2<sup>nd</sup>: R. Ahr

**Recorded By** Secretary Gordon Smith

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

What was 24 karat gold on Elvis Presley's first Stutz Blackhawk prototype car?

**2026 GPR Board of Directors Members**

**President**

Kevin Singel

**Vice President**

Gary Hamilton

**Treasurer**

Bill Chapman

**Secretary**

Gordon Smith

**2 Year Board Members**

Robert Ahr (2025)

Andy Doll (2024)

Mitch Ross

**1 Year Board Members**

Joe Kafka

Erik Von Halle

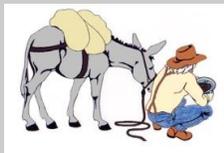
John Johnson

Ron Yamiolkoski

Shellie Zornes

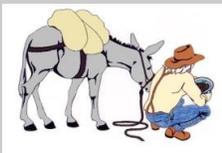
**Past President**

Bobby Manning



## General Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025

1. Meeting was opened at 6:20 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.
  2. Pres. Manning then invited those in attendance to head back to the beautiful and overflowing buffet at the back of the room.
  3. There were 47 folks in attendance.
  4. At 7:43 p.m. President Manning gave a recap report to the attendees on the status of Club gold and purchases made amid the rapidly rising price of gold along with information about the three successful panning demonstrations and one panning class this year.
  5. Vice President Singel made a motion to add outgoing President Manning to the board as a Member-at-Large by acclamation. It was seconded by Ron Yamioloski and approved by the members in attendance.
  6. Recognitions were then presented by President Manning to the following:
    - Greg and Nancy Knerl** for all their efforts running the Refreshment Table each month.
    - Shellie Zornes** for her efforts with Membership and manning the Sign-in table each month.
    - Joe Johnston** for his work with the Club Library each month.
    - John & Cindy Olson** for their assistance with the back table and ticket sales.
    - J.J. Long** for all his assistance as Editor of the Newsletter and Advisor to the President/Club.
    - Gina Ross** for her work on table/food arrangements, setting tables and general assistance with the venue.
    - Gordon Smith** for handling Secretarial duties.
    - Robert Ahr** for his work with the FOM table/Board member.
    - Andy Doll** for his work with the Club website/Board member.
    - Gary Hamilton** for his work as a Board member
    - John Johnson** for his work as Treasurer/Board member
    - Erik Von Halle** for his work as a Board member.
    - Mike Stevens** for his work on the Board.
    - Bill Manning** for his work on the Board.
    - Joe Kafka** for his work on the Board.
    - Kevin Singel** for his work as Vice President. Kevin then took the microphone and presented outgoing President Manning with a certificate for his dedication to the Club as its President for the past two years.
  7. Next came the **Ken Barker Award**. It was presented posthumously to **Dan McConnell** for his handling the Membership Table prior to it being taken over by Shellie Zornes and Robert Ahr. The cash award will be mailed to his widow Becky.
  8. **Drawings of white tickets were then conducted** for prizes donated by the Club and J.J. Long and Bobby Manning. Once that process was completed, members who had brought a wrapped present for the “Gold Elephant” exchange were invited to pick a present from under the tree.
  9. Pres. Manning announced the winners for the ‘**Finds of the Year**’ for 2025 and presented certificates.
    - **Best Coin** - **Mike Stevens** with his old ½ penny he found while metal detecting.
    - **Best Jewelry** - **Roger Schlenger** with his elephant pendant found metal detecting.
    - **Best Mineral** – **Angie Yen** with her sample of Jasper from Utah.
    - **Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with his old .32 colt pistol he found while metal detecting.
    - **Best Gold** – **Bobby Manning** with his 2.5 grams of gold he found while prospecting.
  10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm with everyone being wished a Safe and Happy Holiday season. We’ll see you all in the New Year!
- By **Secretary Gordon Smith**



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### **A Miner's Laugh**

Three brothers, all old retired miners and aged 92, 94, and 96, all lived together in their home. One night, the 96 year old draws a bath, puts his foot in it and pauses. He yells down the stairs, "Hey, was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know, I'll come up and see." He starts up the stairs, pauses, and then yells, "Was I going up the stairs or coming down?" The 92 year old was sitting at the kitchen table having coffee and listening to his brothers. He shook his head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." He knocks on the wooden table for good luck. He then yells, I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who is at the door...! (Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')

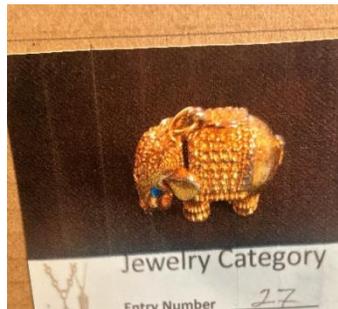


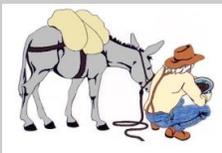
### **Finds of the Year for 2025**

The Finds of the Year were voted on by the membership and the following were declared the winners by popular vote. There were many entered and there were some great entries, but these are the winners. Congratulations to the winners for getting out and looking for their treasure.!!

(photos by Bobby Manning)

- **Best Coin** - **Mike Stevens** with his old ½ penny he found while metal detecting.
- **Best Jewelry** - **Roger Schlenger** with his elephant pendant found metal detecting.
- **Best Mineral** – **Angie Yen** with her sample of Jasper from Utah.
- **Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with his old .32 colt pistol he found while metal detecting.
- **Best Gold** – **Bobby Manning** with his 2.5 grams of gold he found while prospecting.





## **Finds of the Month 2025**

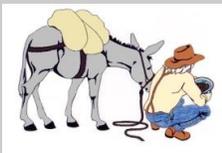
The Finds of the Month will continue but there have been a few changes made by the Board, so be sure to bring those treasures that you find to the Club and enter them in the competition. Remember, finds from the last meeting date to the next meeting date may be entered each month into the running. All gold submitted must be dry and weighed. Categories are for best **coin, jewelry, costume 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** –
- **Best Jewelry** –
- **Best Mineral** –
- **Best Artifact** –
- **Best Gold** –

## **Annual Christmas Awards Banquet 2025**

The annual Christmas Awards Banquet was held on December 17, 2025, with some 50 folks who showed up to break bread and share fellowship. Outgoing President Bobby Manning led with the Pledge of Allegiance and then everyone ate a great meal which was a pot luck with the Club providing ham and beef and drinks. Following the meal, Pres. Manning recognized past Board members and new incoming Board members as well as those volunteers who help to make the Club function each month throughout the year. Pres. Manning then handed out numerous door prizes to various winning ticket holders from free memberships to gold nuggets. The winners of the Finds of the Year were announced as well. A recap of the year's activities was then covered and those who had brought a gold elephant gift were invited to collect their gifts. It was a great evening that was capped off with incoming President Kevin Singel greeting everyone and wishing them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with many Club events being scheduled. See you all next year...!!! (Photos by JJ Long)





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

Hello everyone, well it was the end of the year and the last Pirate's Hunt for 2025. We had 7 people for breakfast and 6 that hunted. We decided to go to Tennyson-Knolls Park in Arvada, it was a big park but more of a neighborhood park and not too busy. We all found some loot but not a lot, Joe and Chris K walked away with .36 and a 10 peso. Bob M walked away with .25 + and Bob A. .50+ and Leslie with her new Legend pulled change and pull tabs but she was unable to better identify what the targets were by the VDI screen. Now it's just time on the machine for Leslie to become a Legend. Anyway, better luck next time and I'll see everyone at the meeting Jan. 21, 2026 at 1900hrs. Don't forget to bring in your Dec and Jan FOM's. Keep swinging and find your treasure..!

*(There were no photos taken of this Hunt, my bad....Pirate)*

### **Long lost shipwreck packed with gold discovered in the African desert**

Story by Harriet Brewis

One of the most significant shipwreck finds of recent times was made in an ostensibly unlikely place: a southwest African desert.

The Bom Jesus (The Good Jesus), a Portuguese ship, set sail for India from Lisbon on 7 March, 1533, when it got caught up in a devastating storm.

The vessel, which was laden with treasures, seemed to disappear without a trace until, in 2008, its remains were finally discovered along with around \$13 million-worth of gold coins.

It was unearthed by diamond miners in a desert on the coast of Namibia, who had drained a man-made lagoon in the area.

Dr Dieter Noli, chief archeologist of the Southern Africa Institute of Maritime Archaeological Research, said he had expected miners to one day come across a shipwreck.

Indeed, the Namibian miners, who worked for the diamond company De Beers, called Dr Noli as soon as they made the find, since he had been telling them for more than a decade what to look for.

"Having first started doing archaeological work for the mine in 1996, I had at that point been preaching to them for a dozen years that 'one day' they would find a shipwreck, and to let me know when they do," he told *Fox News* back in 2016.

"When asked what exactly I was *really* expecting to find, I said 'a Spanish sword and a bag of gold.'"

Nevertheless, it wasn't until almost a week into the excavation of the ship that a treasure chest packed with gold was found.

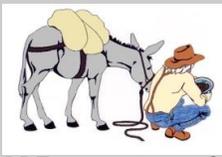
"As luck would have it, we found the treasure chest on day six," Dr Noli recounted.

"Academic arguments are all very well, but once you have literally filled your hat with a 25.5lb mixture of Spanish and Portuguese gold coins (there were indeed swords as well), the value of the site is no longer in doubt."

It was at this point that the ship was confidently identified as the Bom Jesus, which records showed had been loaded with tin, ivory tusks, and 44,000 pounds of copper ingots, as well as gold.

In fact, the copper ingots ended up playing a key role in the wreck's preservation since, according to Dr Noli: "Marine organisms may like wood, leather book covers, peach pips, jute sacking and leather shoes, but copper really puts them off their food – so a lot of stuff survived the 500 years on the bottom of the sea which should really not have done so.

"All this adds up to an extremely unusual situation, which led to truly excellent preservation of an in any event unique site."



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In total, the excavation of the ship yielded thousands of Portuguese and Spanish gold coins, Portuguese silver coins, bronze cannons, tonnes of copper ingots, more than 50 elephant tusks, navigational instruments, cooking utensils, and swords and muskets.

Dr Noli told *news.co.au* that more than 2,000 gold coins were uncovered, as well as five anchors, three navigational dividers and part of a ship's compass. But only a small part of the ship's original structure remained, having been "extremely badly battered" by the sea.

It remains unclear exactly how the report ship went down and why it ended up on a stretch of coastline notorious for its fierce storms and dense fog.

However, experts believe that the Bom Jesus sank when it was pulled too close to shore by an especially violent storm, causing its hull to collide with a rock, capsizing the vessel, the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote in a 2011.

As the coastline waters receded over the subsequent centuries, the ship later re-emerged in the desert.

Sadly for DeBeers and its team of miners, the company didn't enjoy the spoils of their discovery.

"The Namibian government [got] every single coin," Dr Noli confirmed to *Fox News*.

"That is the normal procedure when a ship is found on a beach. The only exception is when it is a ship of state – then the country under whose flag the ship was sailing gets it and all its contents.

"And in this case the ship belonged to the King of Portugal, making it a ship of state – with the ship and its entire contents belonging to Portugal. The Portuguese government, however, very generously waived that right, allowing Namibia to keep the lot."

Now, more than 15 years since the historic find was made, the Bom Jesus remains the oldest and most valuable shipwreck ever discovered in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## **Archaeologists Stunned by 2,200-Year-Old Shackles at Egyptian Gold**

**Mine** Story by Melissa Ait Lounis

Archaeologists have unearthed a chilling discovery at an ancient Egyptian gold mine—two sets of iron shackles dating back 2,200 years. The find, located at the Ghozza mine in Egypt's Eastern Desert, sheds stark light on the harsh and often brutal realities of gold mining during the Ptolemaic dynasty (305–30 B.C.).

According to findings published in the journal *The Archaeology of the Egyptian Eastern Desert: Recent Discoveries and Research*, researchers believe the shackles provide undeniable evidence that forced labor was a driving force behind Egypt's gold industry, raising serious questions about the human cost of sustaining the ancient empire's wealth and power.

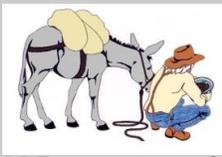
### **A Dark Past Buried In The Desert**

The discovery was made at Ghozza, the northernmost known Ptolemaic gold mine, which was operational between 250 and 200 B.C. While historical records suggested that Egyptian mines housed both paid laborers and enslaved workers.

Archaeologist Bérangère Redon, who led the research, explained that the shackles were found in an ancient storage building, buried among iron tools and discarded ore. One set contained seven ankle rings and two links, while the other had four links and two ankle-ring fragments. Their purpose was clear: restraining miners to prevent escape.

Redon noted that these shackles closely resemble those used in Greek silver mines at Laurion, suggesting that Greek engineering techniques—and perhaps their system of labor control—were imported into Egypt during the Ptolemaic period *Forced Labor In Egypt's Gold Industry*

After Alexander the Great's conquest of Egypt, the Ptolemies opened numerous mines across the desert to extract gold, which funded their military campaigns. While some workers received wages, the discovery at Ghozza indicates that others had no choice in their labor.



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Ancient texts mention that prisoners of war and criminals were often sent to these mines as punishment, forced to endure extreme conditions. Yet, at Ghozza, researchers previously believed that most workers were free laborers since no guarded dormitories were found—unlike at other mining sites, where structures were built specifically to control enslaved workers.

The newly discovered shackles contradict that assumption. “These objects give us irrefutable proof of the miners’ status, which we did not have until now,” Redon stated.

### **Life And Death In The Gold Mine**

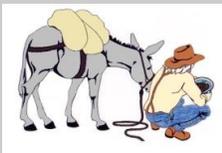
The Ptolemaic gold mines were notorious for their harsh conditions. Workers used handheld grinding stones to extract gold from natural ore, a backbreaking process performed under scorching desert heat. Housing for laborers varied, with some sites heavily guarded, preventing enslaved workers from escaping.

At Ghozza, archaeologists also found hundreds of ostraca—pottery fragments used as scrap paper—which provide glimpses into daily life. Some miners received wages, but others, as the shackles suggest, were forcibly detained.

While no human remains were found in connection with the shackles, historical accounts indicate that miners often worked until they died. Ancient Greek historian Diodorus Siculus described Egyptian mines as hellish prisons, where men were condemned to endless labor, subjected to extreme hunger and thirst, and rarely saw the light of day.

The Ghozza discovery adds to a growing body of evidence that gold mining in ancient Egypt was not just an economic enterprise, but a brutal system of exploitation. While the gold extracted from these mines helped fund Ptolemaic expansion and maintain the royal court’s lavish lifestyle, it came at an enormous human cost.

The findings also highlight the continuities between ancient mining practices across the Mediterranean world, showing that techniques—and systems of oppression—were often imported and adapted.




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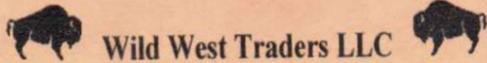
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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*

<b>Coming Announcements and Special Events for Feb 2026</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
	Ground Hog Day					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				Zoom Board Meeting		Valentine's Day
15	16	17	18	18	20	21
	Presidents' Day		GPR Club Meeting	Ash Wednesday		
22	23	24	25	22	27	28
			Pirate's Hunt (Weather permitting)			