

THE GOLD NUGGET

March 2026

We are one month into the New Year and you know what that means!! **ALL** membership dues are due on Jan 1 for the year of 2026. The current yearly due's rate is \$40.00. We had a good start with 33 paying at the January meeting, but we need everyone to pay ASAP to keep the club financially afloat to buy GOLD and meet out other obligations.

The Prez Sez..! by Kevin Singel



I just got home from a beautiful day prospecting at Grant Frontier Park with a big group of fellow GPOR prospectors. We also gained a new member or two! It seemed to me that folks prospecting results varied broadly from 'I didn't find much' to 'I found larger flakes than I'm used to seeing!'. Either way, folks definitely enjoyed the day together on the river. I know I did too!

Our next meeting will include a presentation on the history of the Hidee underground mine near Central City as well as information about the modern tourist operation of the mine. The following Saturday, a group of 12 of us are invited to tour the mine for half price. This will include the opportunity to get a sample of ore from the vein face. Participants will need to be physically able enough to walk on an uneven mine floor and down, then up staircases in the mine. There will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting. Act quickly if you are excited to do the tour since we will be limited to 12 people on the tour.

If you missed the chance to dig today, find another time to get out prospecting, the gold is waiting for you!!

Vice President's Corner..! by Gary Hamilton



Hello all, the February meeting was a good one even though I was not able to get around much at all. I am sorry if I did not get around to say hi to all and especially to meet some new members. I hope to do better at the March meeting. I really enjoyed our speaker Jon Jiggs, owner of The Denver Gold Shop. He gave us some practical experience as to how he decided to own a Minelab Gold Monster 2000 and see some differences between the 1000 and the 2000. I hope you all received an email from Andy with the 2026 GPR Outings and events schedule and have it printed out. I hope you are seeing what you are wanting from your surveys. If not please let a board member know. One thing that I did notice that may not be clear, is some info on the event site. For example, for February, Grant Frontier Park (A-01). The (A-01) is the listing in Kevin's book, "Finding Gold in Colorado." If you

haven't seen the book, you need to check it out and get one. One idea that we got from this year's survey on how to get new members, is to place an event in your neighborhood, "Next Door." Here is an example of what I am going to try for the next couple of months in my "Next Door." You could also print it out and post it in your favorite coffee shop.

GOLD PROSPECTORS OF THE ROCKIES

We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7 to 9 PM, at the:

Lloyd G. Clements Community Center

1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood, Colorado

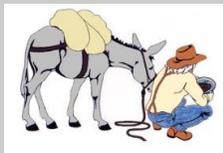
Monthly speakers, outings, panning, sluicing, metal detecting.

A great place to meet people with like interest.

You won't get rich but you will find some.

Check out the website <https://goldprospectorsoftherockies.com>

Hoping to see you all at the March meeting.



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



We had a great turnout for the February meeting. We gave away lots of door prizes as well. Be sure to buy your gold nugget drawing tickets at our February meeting 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 March meeting. See you all there.

Board Meeting Minutes from Feb 12, 2026 via Zoom

x	Kevin Singel (P)	x	Gordon Smith (Sec)	x	Robert Ahr	x	Ron Yamioloski
x	Gary Hamilton (VP)	x	Andy Doll (x	Shelly Zones	X	Joe Johnston
x	Bill Chapman (T)	x	Erik Van Halle	x	Mitchell Ross		Bobby Manning

Quorum Present: Y

Call to Order at: 7:30 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections:
Yam’s name corrected & Board Zoom mtg remains on Thursdays at 7:30pm Approved as read/corrected:
Erik V. moved/ Gary H. 2nd.

Treasurer’s Report: Questions: Transfer of gold inventory and banking details taking place on 2/18. Some spreadsheet work/cleanup still needed. Approved as read/corrected: Tabled until next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Membership: Gary H. survey results were synopsized for the Board. A lively discussion was generated by the comments Gary shared. Ideas were noted and more action will be taken on these in addition to things already being put in place by the Board.

Unfinished Business:

- Gold inventory and Club President’s materials being transferred to K. Singel on 18-Feb. at 9a.m.

New Business:

- Bill C. has invited a guest selling high-end jewelry to the February meeting.
- Erik V. has donated 10 American Eagle silver bullion coins to the Club. President Singel proposed substituting one each month in place of a gold nugget in the red ticket drawing to stretch our gold reserves. There were no objections so, we will start with the February meeting drawing. MANY THANKS to Board Member Von Halle!

Planned Outings:

- Sniping, Panning and Sluicing at Grant-Frontier Park, Denver, on 28-Feb.starting at 10 a.m.
- March 21 outing of a mine tour still being finalized
- April 18 outing is a Dig Day and Panning/Sluicing class at Arapahoe Bar, Wheatridge. Starts at 10 a.m. Beginners are welcome!

Board Members Items of Discussion:

- Yam suggested the Board take on an outreach project to connect with gem and mineral clubs in the metro area and determine the interest in our Clubs doing things together to increase outings and potential to grow via crossover memberships. (Other potential to build membership: CSM Engineer Days, Scout Jamboree and the Denver Gem and

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How many continents has gold actually been found on?

2026 GPR Board of Directors Members

President
Kevin Singel

Vice President
Gary Hamilton

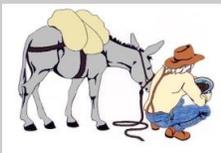
Treasurer
Bill Chapman

Secretary
Gordon Smith

2 Year Board Members
Robert Ahr (2026)
Andy Doll (2026)
Erik Von Halle (2026)
Joe Johnston (2026)

1 Year Board Members
Shellie Zornes
Ron Yamiolkoski
Mitchell Ross

Past President/At Large
Bobby Manning



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Mineral Guild). Additionally, he suggested a paydirt bag could be another substitute for an actual nugget in the red ticket drawings. Action on these suggestions will be determined at the March board meeting.

- G. Smith spoke with a Minelab marketing rep. at the SHOT Show booth last month. The rep. indicated that if GPOR would purchase a unit to raffle off, Minelab sends a box of swag along with the metal detector which could be used as white ticket door prizes. Further discussion will take place on this once the Treasurer's records are all transferred over and balanced so that it can be determined if funds are available for this and the Board can discuss it further.

This month's General Meeting Program: John Jigs, co-owner of Denver Gold Shop, will speak on metal detecting with the Minelab Gold Bug 2000.

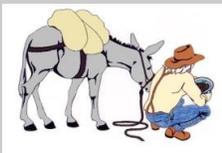
Announcements: Next Board Meeting: **March 12, 2026 at 7:30 pm via Zoom** Next General Meeting: **February 18th** at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: R. Ahr; 2nd: S. Zornes. **Meeting stands adjourned at 8:59 pm.**

Recorded By Secretary Gordon Smith

General Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2026

1. Meeting called to order at: **7:12** p.m. by **Pres. Singel** with the Pledge of Allegiance. The FOM table is now closed to new entries.
2. **Pres. Singel** announced the evening Program: John Jigs, co-owner of Denver Gold Shop, speaking about metal detecting.
3. **Pres. Singel** then gave the Metals Report. Gold: \$4987, Silver: \$77, Platinum: \$2094, Palladium: \$1732, Rhodium: \$ 10975.
4. **Web hits:** Life of site to date: 170648.
5. **Treasurer Chapman** reports that the Club remains in the black. A report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Our total income and total expenses were within just a few hundred dollars as planned. The Club has some great nuggets at the back table, so be sure to buy those red raffle tickets!
6. **Dir. Zornes** reported the Membership figures for this evening. We had 49 people in attendance consisting of: 44 paid members, with 2 of those being New and 7 guests. As it is a new year, a gentle reminder that keeping your dues current helps the club immensely. Also, pro-rated dues are only offered to NEW members signing up late in the year and does not apply to current members who wait to pay their dues.
7. **Pres. Singel** read the "**Question of the Month**", which was: "**What country is currently the top gold producer?**" Members are encouraged to submit their answers at the front table. **Be certain to print your name and the answer on the entry form legibly!** Those with correct answers will receive a red ticket for the gold nugget drawings later in the evening.
8. Additional items to be discussed include The Monthly "Pirates" Hunt – conducted on the last Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. The outing for February was announced at the meeting: Sniping/Panning/Sluicing at Grant-Frontier Park in Denver on Saturday, 28-February beginning at 10 a.m. Water will be cold so bring the necessary gear!
9. Speaker of the Month Introduction.
10. **Pres. Singel** informed the membership that the 2026 Outings and Speaker schedules are being booked now. Please share any requests or suggestions with him or another board member.
11. **Pres. Singel** reminded attendees to vote on the **Finds of the Month** and answer the **Question of the Month** during the break. Monthly winners from the FOM tonight will be photographed and should be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in December, 2026. All gold submissions must be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Entries must be submitted to **Dir. Ahr** at the FOM table **prior to the start of the meeting**. Entry forms need to be completely and legibly filled out. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
12. The break was announced at: 8:02 p.m. **Pres. Singel** reminded everyone to patronize the Refreshment Table as well as vote on the FOMs and answer the QOM question. Members are encouraged to purchase Special Drawing (blue) tickets while 50/50 (green), and gold drawing (red) tickets are available for purchase by our guests here tonight.
13. The meeting was called back to order at: 8:24 p.m.
14. Winners of the "**Question of the Month**" were announced. The answer was: China. There were 24 winners who received their extra red ticket for the gold drawings.



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15. **Pres. Singel** announced the winners for the “**Finds of the Month**”:

- **Best Coin** – **Shellie Zornes**
- **Best Jewelry** – **Joe Fortunato**
- **Best Costume Jewelry** – **Shellie Zornes**
- **Best Mineral** – **Angie Yen**
- **Best Artifact** – There was no entry for this category this month
- **Most Gold** – There was no entry for this category this month

16. **Pres. Singel** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Kevin Singel, JJ Long And Erik Von Halle** followed by the drawings for the door prizes and gold nuggets. **Pres. Singel** also reminds holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win, may redeem those tickets by presenting them at the end of the meeting where they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar. Otherwise, they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Members assisting in the drawings: **John Olson**.

17. **Pres. Singel** then conducted the 50/50 drawing. Robert Ahr won \$34 and \$34 went to the Club.

18. **Pres. Singel** reminds members that sometimes during the meetings, his time is overwhelmingly taken up. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail at kevin@findinggoldincolorado.com or phone at: 720-934-1428 outside the meetings at any time.

19. **Pres. Singel** 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. The Club appreciates the efforts that each of you make to add to the refreshment table.

20. The March outing will be a mine tour of the Hidee Mine near Central City.

21. The next meeting will be held on March 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

22. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. Remember to always prospect safely!

A Miner’s Laugh

An old retired miner brings his best buddy home for dinner without informing the wife, unannounced at 6pm. The wife threw a fit and started yelling and carrying on while the buddy just sat down and listened. She yelled, “My hair is not don, my makeup is not done and the house is a mess. I am in my pajamas and the dishes aren’t done and I can’t be bothered to do any cooking at this late hour. Why in the blue blazes did you bring him home with you anyway?” The old boy looked her in the eye and replied, “Well, he is thinking of getting married and I told him I would show him what it was like!”

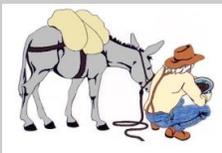
(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us ‘old miners’)



Finds of the Month for February 2026

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!!

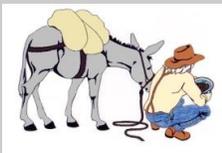
- **Best Coin** – **Shellie Zornes**
- **Best Jewelry** – **Joe Fortunato**
- **Best Costume Jewelry** – **Shellie Zornes**
- **Best Mineral** – **Angie Yen**
- **Best Artifact** – There was no entry for this category this month
- **Most Gold** – There was no entry for this category this month



Grant Frontier Park Club Prospecting Outing

The Club hosted our first Outing of the 2026 season at Grant Frontier Park in Denver on February 28. It was absolutely perfect weather to get out into the river and dig for gold. Most everybody had a good time and most folks found some gold and as usual, some found more than others. But, as we often say, “it is not so much about the finding as it is about the searching!” Here are some photos taken by Kevin Singel, Bobby Manning and Chris Liparato.





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The Pirate's March Hunt (Feb 2026) by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

On February 25, we had the Pirate's Hunt we started out with 7 people for breakfast and went to the field with 7. Shellie made the decision to go to Rudd Park the weather was fair with the temperature at 1030 and by 12300 it was 67. We didn't do too badly with Joe K. \$3.18 next was Joe F \$2.20 followed by Robert A. \$1.10, Shellie Z. \$.98 with Ron Y. \$.69 and Bill C. \$.31 which give the Pirate's a total of \$8.46. There was also 1 ring and a nice piece of pig iron found. So that day the Pirate's Came, Seen and Conquered Rudd Park. Hope to see you all at the next G.P.O.R. meeting Mar. 18, @ 1900 hrs. Until then everyone be safe and stay healthy.



Colorado's Abandoned Gold Mines and Ghost Towns

(As reported by the Colorado Geological Survey)

Colorado is home to numerous abandoned gold mines and ghost towns, remnants of the state's rich mining history, with over 23,000 abandoned mine sites documented.

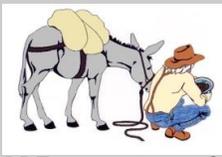
Colorado's mining history is marked by the discovery of gold and silver, leading to the establishment of many towns during the 19th-century gold rush. As resources were depleted, many of these towns were abandoned, leaving behind ghost towns and abandoned mines. Today, there are an estimated 23,000 abandoned mines sites across the state, which include both public and private lands.

Notable Ghost Towns and Mining Sites:

St. Elmo: One of Colorado's best-



preserved ghost towns, founded in 1880, it was once bustling with miners and their families. Visitors can explore its historic buildings and experience the mining boom's atmosphere.



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Ashcroft: Located near Aspen, Ashcroft was a thriving silver mining town in the late 1800s. Today, it features several well-preserved buildings and offers a serene setting for visitors.

Vicksburg: Established in 1867, this ghost town was once home to a profitable mining camp. It is now mostly vacated, with some seasonal visits by building owners.

Teller City: Founded in 1879, Teller City experienced a brief boom before declining due to falling silver prices. By 1885, it was deserted, leaving behind remnants of its past.

Bonanza: Once a bustling silver mining hub, Bonanza now stands as a near-ghost town with lingering structures that tell tales of its vibrant past.

Sources

Environmental Considerations

Abandoned mines pose various environmental hazards, including acid mine drainage and physical hazards associated with mine excavations. These issues can lead to water quality degradation and sedimentation, impacting local ecosystems. Visitors to these sites should be aware of potential dangers and the environmental legacy left by mining activities.

Conclusion

Exploring Colorado's abandoned gold mines and ghost towns offers a unique glimpse into the state's rich history. While many sites are accessible to visitors, it's essential to approach these areas with caution due to the potential hazards associated with abandoned mines. Whether you're a history enthusiast or an adventurer, Colorado's mining past provides a fascinating backdrop for exploration.

Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)

Abandoned mine lands (AML) are those lands, waters, and surrounding watersheds contaminated or scarred by the extraction, beneficiation or processing of coal, ores, and minerals. Abandoned mine lands include areas where mining or processing activity is determined to have ceased.



Colorado's abundant mineral wealth helped drive the economic development of the state and contributed to the development of the United States as a whole.

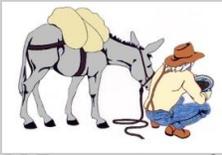
Unfortunately, the mines that hosted these minerals have left a legacy of hazards ranging from environmental issues like water quality degradation and increased sedimentation, to physical hazards associated with the mines excavations themselves.

Across the state, there are an estimated 23,000 abandoned mine sites on both public and private land.

The CGS has been involved in characterizing and

understanding various aspects of abandoned mine lands in Colorado. An inventory of environmental degradation and physical hazards associated with abandoned mines on United States Forest Service property was conducted by CGS from 1991 to 1998. In all, 18,382 mine-related features were identified and documented during this program and helped to identify sites that warranted further investigation and characterization. The CGS published a number of these mine site characterization reports.

Hazards



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Environmental Degradation:

Acid mine drainage (AMD) is water that is discharged from mining or mine-related operations, which contains high levels of dissolved metals and sulfates in conjunction with pH values less than 4.5 (acidic). AMD is formed from the reaction of various minerals (principally pyrite) with oxygen and water. AMD can degrade the water quality of streams and water supplies, often to the point of causing harmful effects to the aquatic life of the stream.

Sedimentation and Sediment Contamination

Surface runoff can carry AMD-originated silt and debris down-stream, eventually leading to stream clogging. Sedimentation results in the blockage of the stream and can cause flooding of roads and/or residences and pose a danger to the public. Sedimentation may also cause adverse impacts on fish.

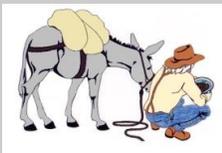
Air Pollution:

Air pollution can occur from piles of earth materials left at an abandoned mine. Windblown dust can have significant impacts on nearby residents and wildlife. The toxicity of the dust depends on the proximity of environmental receptors and the composition of the material. In particular, arsenic and lead are contaminants of concern.

Physical Hazards:

Various physical hazards may exist at abandoned mine sites. Mine openings such as tunnels and shafts are imminent hazards because they present an opportunity for falls as well as the potential for collapse onto adjacent areas. Dangerous gases may exist in mine workings and can quickly overcome an unsuspecting visitor. Historic structures and equipment can present a hazard as these features are often unstable and prone to collapse. The rule of thumb is:

Stay Out and Stay Alive!




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 findinggoldincolorado@gmail.com
 720-934-1428

www.findinggoldincolorado.com
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Finding Gold in Colorado
 books on Amazon



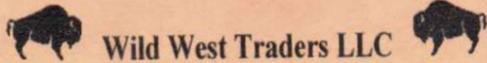
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- 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
- 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48



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 Apr 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 Passover April Fools'	2	3	4
5 Easter	6	7	8	9 Zoom Board Meeting 7:30pm	10	11
12	13	14	15 GPR Club Meeting Tax Day	16	17	18 Beginners Panning/Sluicing class
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Pirate's Hunt (Weather permitting)	30		