

# THE GOLD NUGGET

May 2026

## The Prez Sez..! by Kevin Singel



I have to start with a **big** thanks to Gordon Smith. He ran our last meeting and the April club outing while I was off in the deserts of Nevada having fun with my (new-to-me) Minelab GPX-6000 metal detector. The original owner didn't have any luck finding gold with it, but I sure did! While the pieces aren't big (I'm looking at you Joe F!), I was delighted to come home with 5 small nuggets. "It's still out there" folks! I'll bring the nuggets to the next meeting, so be sure to come if you want to see them. Anyway, I heard very good things about how the meeting went and the outing too, so great job Gordon! I also want to give a shout out to everyone who was at the club outing and took a little time to toss cobbles in the holes up on the south bank of the creek. That went very well and maintenance work like this is valuable. It does a lot to keep the city happy and keeps that site open for everyone.

Looking forward, we have an interesting speaker coming to our next meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. You may be aware that our club celebrated its 30th birthday last year. Can you believe there is another mining club out there which is far older...and it's right here in metro-Denver? The Denver Mining Club started as a group of mine owners and investors who met regularly for lunch starting in 1891! We will have a speaker from the club to talk about the "old days" and to highlight what the club is like these days too. It's quite different from our club. As a result, several members of GPOR, including myself, are long-term members. Perhaps after this meeting you will want to be as well!

We also need a few more volunteers for the Aurora Water Festival on Thursday, May 14th. We will be teaching local 5th graders how to gold pan. We do this event each year and it is a great fundraiser for the club. Please email me at [gporpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gporpresident@gmail.com) or call me at 720-934-1428 if you can help on that Thursday morning. The event is out at the Community College of Aurora (16000 E. CentreTech Pkwy) from 8:30 or so for setup through to no later than 2pm. Lunch will be provided. All you need to do is show up ready to do some gold panning and enjoy the day!

The group dig opportunities for May include

- (1) An invite to all of us from the Gold Prospectors of Colorado to join them on their "Woody's Claim" on the Arkansas River on May 10th. To get there, from Wellsville, travel downriver as you would to get to Point Barr. You'll see signage for the claim and a bunch of other vehicles, I am sure. Be sure to wear your GPOR name tag! For driving instructions check out this article on my website: <https://findinggoldincolorado.com/point-barr-prospecting-site/>
- (2) The club outing on May 23rd will be at site C-06 in my first book. That spot is on North Clear Creek downstream of Blackhawk. We will have a flyer with driving instructions at the club meeting or contact me for the flyer at [gporpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gporpresident@gmail.com) if you can't make the meeting but want to join the outing. There is an option to visit Vic's Gold Panning after the outing, since it is nearby. If you haven't been on the underground mine tour there, it's a very fair price and I highly recommend it!

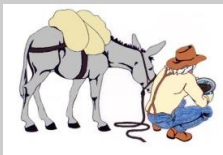
I hope some of these events fit nicely into your schedule and "see ya there"!

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



Nothing much for me to report this last month as far as prospecting, detecting or GPOR meeting, but I did have my second hip replacement a few days before the meeting.

I again want to thank Gordon for making things happen, I heard he did a great job. Sounds like the talk from Scot Grossman from Jefferson County Open Space was very interesting and informative and the attendees had a good discussion. I heard that Scot was also lucky enough to win two nuggets. Maybe that will help our cause as prospectors. The one thing I did get to do, as Kevin was out of town, was to call the special nugget ticket drawing winner as he was not at the meeting. I called him and no answer and his v-mail was full. So, after a bit I texted him and soon I got a call back. He said he has been working late a lot



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

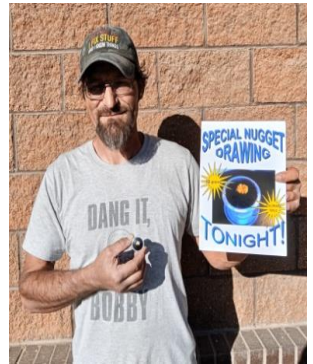
and missed the last meeting or 2 but finally got a day off and was out prospecting. How appropriate! I then asked him if he would be able to be at the next meeting so he could pick up his special drawing nugget, a little pause and he said really? I am hoping that he had the same luck prospecting that day. Congratulations to Max Brookman, the special nugget drawing winner.

Hope to see all at the next meeting and see from your finds of the month and hear what all I have missed.

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



It was an exciting evening at the tables in the back of the room (the ledge) because the special nugget drawing was to be held that evening. Many members wanted to increase their odds of winning by purchasing additional blue tickets for the 2.0 gram Colorado nugget drawing. As stated in last month's newsletter, "you don't need to be present to win", and that was the case for lucky fellow prospector **Max Brookman**. Congratulations!!! Max commutes all the way from Greeley to attend the meetings and some Wednesday's just don't work for him. This was one of those nights, but we



contacted Max who was planning to remove a little bit of the yellow metal from Clear Creek over the weekend. Needless to say, he took home much more than he had figured on. Looking beyond the nugget to your t-shirt Max, is it a subliminal message to our immediate past president who wins drawings so often? Congratulations to Roger Schlenger for taking home the largest nugget in the gold nugget drawing; a 1.23 gram beauty from the Yukon.

By a vote of the membership, the "special nugget drawing" prize beginning with May's drawing will not be a nugget at all but a brand new Minelab™ Gold Monster 2000 metal detector. This is a very pricy piece of prospecting equipment, the value of which was aptly demonstrated by our guest speaker, Jon Jiggs of The Denver Gold Shop, at the January meeting.

Thanks once again to the outgoing treasurer, John Johnson, for setting up the accounting system we continue to use and for continuing to help yours truly. Because of the system of checks and balances John set up along with the participation of the membership through their dues and drawing ticket purchases, the club's finances remain in good order. The club is in good shape financially and a copy of the treasurer's report is available for scrutiny at the drawing table.

The membership dues renewal fee is now \$45.00 (you pay only \$40 January – April) at the May meeting. So, continue to support the club by paying your dues (even if you're late), buying those colorful tickets and by supporting those volunteers who are working on your behalf

## Board Meeting Minutes from April 9, 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 Zornes	X	Joe Johnston
x	Bill Chapman (T)		Erik Von Halle	x	Mitchell Ross	X	Bobby Manning

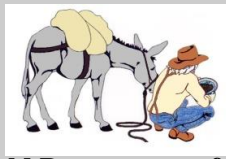
**Quorum Present:** Y

**Call to Order at:** 7:34 pm.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Corrections: None  
 Approved as read/corrected: Moved: Bobby M.; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Shellie.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How much gold was used in the 2026 Winter Olympics Gold Medals?



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**Treasurer's Report:** Questions: \_CD shows 12/31/2025 maturity, needs updating. No entry for the refreshment table for March. It was inadvertently added to the "club store" column.

The 50/50 drawing amounts are being corrected to reflect only the portion the Club receives.

A \$23.19 entry for the Newsletter actually belonged in the Website column. \_ Approved as read/corrected: \_Motion: Yam, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bobby M.\_

**Committee Reports:** None

#### **Unfinished Business:**

The remaining Club gold for the Christmas party was delivered to President Singel along with a binder and details of the President's Office.

Dates for two pending Panning Demonstrations are now set: July 26<sup>th</sup> for the Arapahoe County Fair and September 26<sup>th</sup> for the Sanderson Ranch/Douglas County demo. There was no invitation to the Aurora Water Festival this year.

#### **New Business:**

Based on board member Ahr's suggestion to update the Director Handbooks, President Singel suggested a Non-standing Committee as a formal committee is not necessary. Current board members Yamiolkoski, Zornes and Ross have not received binders yet. VP Hamilton will give his Director binder to board member Zornes and keep the VP binder. The other two directors will receive their binders as soon as extras can be produced.

Treasurer Chapman requested an update to the status of acquiring a Minelab metal detector for an upcoming blue ticket drawing. He needs details as soon as we have them so he can create marketing materials to generate member interest/sales. President Singel will reach out to the Minelab contact provided by Secretary Smith. He also reported that the Club made up some lost ground on red ticket sales at the last meeting and to keep encouraging meeting attendees to purchase those tickets!

The speaker for the August meeting will be geologist Ed Pedersen. He will talk on the Lost Dutchman mine.

Our own John Olson will speak at the May meeting on gold plating.

President Singel has created a new Gmail account and is asking everyone to use it for any and all Club business as opposed to his Findinggoldincolorado.com email. The new email is: gporpresident@gmail.com.

#### **Planned Outings:**

Arapahoe Bar on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Request at the meeting that any members planning to attend bring extra pans/equipment to make sure there is enough for any new folks to use. Also, ask everyone that attends to spend a few minutes throwing cobbles into the large holes someone is digging into the south bank of the creek not far from the upstream sign designating where the panning area stops. This is against the rules of the gold panning park and could cause a loss of the privilege.

#### **Board Members Items of Discussion:**

Robert A. = Director Handbooks need updating, except for the Bylaws section.

Secretary Smith = mentioned a small error in the last newsletter regarding last month's speaker. His name was incorrectly listed as "Scott Stone" instead of Chris Stone. It was not considered something that needed correction in the next newsletter and anyone wanting to reach out to Chris or the Hidee Mine can refer to his business card in the advertising section near the bottom of the newsletter.

VP Hamilton = wants to present ideas to the members for a Club "Fest" and "Bring-a-Friend" meeting as well as on the swap meeting generally held at the June or July meeting. He would like to have some time on the floor at the May meeting.

**This month's General Meeting Program:** Scot Grossman of Jeffco Parks on the Clear Creek Canyon trail system.

#### **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**

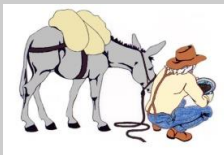
Shellie Zornes

Ron Yamiolkoski

Mitchell Ross

##### **Past President/At Large**

Bobby Manning



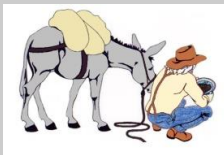
## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

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

**Adjournment:** Move to adjourn by Yam. Meeting stands adjourned at 8:59 pm.

### General Meeting Minutes from Apr 15, 2026

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:03 p.m. by **Sec. Smith** with the Pledge of Allegiance. The FOM table is now closed to new entries.
2. **Sec. Smith** reminded everyone that he was covering the meeting as President Singel was in Rye Patch, Nevada for a metal detecting course. He announced the evening Program: Scot Grossman with Jeffco Parks speaking on the Clear Creek Canyon trail system. Other announcements: the drawing of a blue ticket will be conducted at tonight's meeting; yellow business cards with Club meeting info are at the front table and members are encouraged to take some to put up on community bulletin boards as they travel about; and, a reminder that there are only 5 days left to send your comments on the Forest Service proposed regulatory change that would have negative impacts on small-scale mining – basically lumping our activities in with negative environmental impacts of large-scale operations and imposing severe limits, even on your own claim! President Singel has indicated that if the proposal goes into effect as written, approximately 80% of the sites listed in Finding Gold in Colorado would no longer be open to casual prospecting! Information on how to comment on Docket FS-2018-00052 was given and an information sheet was at the front of the room as well.
3. **Sec. Smith** then gave the Metals Report. Gold: 4821, Silver: 79.73, Platinum: 2126, Palladium: 1560, Rhodium: 9600.
4. **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!
5. **Dir. Zornes** reported the Membership figures for this evening. We had 43 people in attendance consisting of: 41 paid members, with 3 of those being New and 2 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 do not apply to current members who wait to pay their dues. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, a \$5.00 late fee is collected on dues to encourage members to get their dues in early.
6. **Sec. Smith** read the “Question of the Month”, which was: “How many gold coins remain unaccounted for from the wreck recovery of the “Ship of Gold” located in 1988?” 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.
7. Additional items to be discussed include The Monthly “Pirates” Hunt – conducted on the last Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. Also any club outings recently completed as well as upcoming outings.
8. Speaker of the Month Introduction:
9. After the presentation, **Sec. Smith** 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.
10. **Sec. Smith** encouraged 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 be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in December. All gold submissions must be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. A reminder that entries must be submitted to **Dir. Ahr** at the FOM table prior to the start of the meeting. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
11. The break was announced at: 8 p.m. **Sec. Smith** reminded everyone to patronize the Refreshment Table as well as Vote on the FOMs and answer the QOM question. **Club Members only**, are encouraged to purchase Special Drawing (blue) tickets while our guests tonight are eligible to purchase gold bags, 50/50 (green), and gold drawing (red) tickets to support GPOTR.



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12. The meeting was called back to order at: 8:25 p.m.
13. Winners of the “**Question of the Month**” were announced. The answer was: 500. There were 26 winners who received their extra red ticket for the gold drawings.
14. **Sec. Smith** 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. Members are reminded that holders of 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 Treasurer Chapman in the drawings were: John Olson.
15. **Sec. Smith** then conducted the 50/50 drawing. R. Schlenger won \$ 37 and \$ 37 to the Club.
16. **Sec. Smith** then conducted the blue ticket drawing for a very nice gold nugget. The winner was member Max Brookman.
17. **Sec. Smith** then announced the winners for the “**Finds of the Month**”:
- **Best Coin** – **Robert Ahr**
  - **Best Jewelry** – **Shellie Zornes**
  - **Best Costume Jewelry** – **Shellie Zornes**
  - **Best Mineral** – N/A
  - **Best Artifact** – **Shellie Zornes**
  - **Most Gold** – **John Olson**
17. **Pres. Singel** will be back leading the meeting next month and encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail at: [kevin@findinggoldincolorado.com](mailto:kevin@findinggoldincolorado.com) or phone at: 720-934-1428 outside the meetings at any time.
18. **Sec. Smith** 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.
19. **Sec. Smith** also announced that multiple totes were available in the back of the room free for the taking, thanks to the donation of board member Joe Johnston. When there are items on the “Free table” that you want to take home, please consider giving a donation to the Club.
20. The May presentation will be: John Olson speaking on gold plating.
21. The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
22. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Remember to always prospect safely!

## A Miner’s Laugh

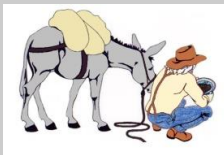
An old prospector goes to see his lawyer. He says “My mining partner owes me \$500 and he won’t pay up. What should I do?” “Do you have any proof he owes you the money?” asked the lawyer. “Well, no, it was just a handshake” replied the miner. The lawyer smiled. “Then here’s what you do: write him a letter demanding the \$5,000 he owes you.” “But it’s only \$500” replied the prospector. “Exactly, and when he sends you a letter correcting you, you’ll have the proof you need...!”

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



## Finds of the Month for April 2026

- Best Coin** – Robert Ahr with 3 dimes he found metal detecting.
- Best Jewelry** – Shelly Zornes with a .925 silver ring with Ruby setting, metal detecting.
- Best Mineral** – There was no entry for this category this month.
- Best Artifact** – Shelly Zornes with a MJ pipe she found metal detecting.
- Best Costume Jewelry** – Shelly Zornes with a ring she found metal detecting.
- Gold** – John Olson with a little gold he found in the Blue River.



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(Photos by JJ Long)

### **Aprils Program Notes**

The April Program featured **Scot Grosman** who is the Project Director of Jefferson County Parks and Open Spaces. Scot presented an overview of the Peaks to Plains Trail, now known as the Clear Creek Canyon Trail, work in Clear Creek Canyon. All but about 6 miles of the project has been completed and Scot showed how the work was being completed and what was left to do. Money for the project comes from a .01% sales tax in Jefferson County, as well as other monies from donors, federal and state grants as well as some GoCo monies from the state lotteries. The GPoR has been a stakeholder in this project since 2012 and we continue to have a seat at the table to represent the interests of the prospecting community. The Canyon is shared by a very diverse community of recreationalists and it is important that they all have a say in how things are managed. We knew when the project started that prospectors would lose some of the rather wide-open access that we had all enjoyed back in the day and that has certainly been the case. We still have access but it has been reduced as we had expected.



Yet, the Canyon is one of the most heavily visited area along the front range currently. It has changed its shape dramatically. President Singel now sits at that table to continue to advocate for our prospecting community and our voice does have an impact. Scot did a great job and answered a lot of our questions. (Photo by JJ Long)

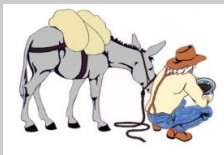
### **The Pirate's March Hunt (May 2026)** by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

The Pirate WALKED THE PLANK! Be back nest month.

### **Arapahoe Bar Outing April 18, 2026**

As announced at the regular meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, and in an e-mail blast sent out by Andy Doll, attendees contemplating showing up for the Saturday outing were told it would be starting at Noon instead of 10 A.M due to the freezing weather expected the night before. Saturday's forecast predicted a quick warm up and, thankfully, that is exactly what happened. Hosted by Secretary Smith, the hope was for some newbies to show up for some beginner panning and sluicing instruction. However, most likely the weather situation made them stay home. It didn't turn out to be a problem though as the afternoon warmed up beautifully and the water was comfortable to work in. Even so, several regular members showed up to help out and join in the fun and since there were no beginners, we all got to concentrate on finding our own gold. The folks that showed up were: **Leslie Schomer, Jack Meineke, Joe Kafka and the Ross family – Gina, Mitchell and Jason.**





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As per a request from President Singel, several of us took time to head toward the upstream end of the panning area to throw cobble into holes created by inconsiderate prospectors in the south bank of Clear Creek – a violation of posted signs and a surefire way to cause us all to lose that venue for recreational panning and sluicing. A reminder to all of us to prospect respectfully and leave recreational spaces cleaner than we found them. *We got a few photos taken by Gordon Smith and Mitchell Ross.*

### **A Prospector and his Burro - Grubstake**

"Do you know what a 'grubstake' is?" said the prospector to his burro. "I am of the opinion that you think that it is some new variety of sagebrush; something different from the usual kind from which you derive the most of your nourishment. As a matter of fact, it does mean something to eat, but the term also implies a camping outfit, tools and supplies to be used in prospecting the hills for the bonanzas that Dame Nature has scattered around so lavishly and yet which are so hard to find.

"In mining parlance 'grubstake' means that one man or more has agreed to furnish some other man with provisions and supplies, and a certain amount of money to be used on a prospecting expedition; the man furnishing the 'grubstake' to share with the prospector in anything that the latter may find.

"I see by your looks that you think that this is a very nice arrangement. It always is for the prospector, but not always so with the man who furnishes the 'grubstake.' Much depends on the prospector. If he is honest, industrious and a man of ability and experience, it is possible that the man who puts up the 'stake' may realize on the enterprise. Otherwise, he is out and injured.

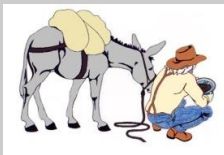
"I want to tell you, Old Long Ears," continued the prospector, "the man who puts up a 'grubstake' will not realize out of his venture one time out of twenty, and for the reason that the man sent out is utterly worthless, incompetent and dishonest. How do I know this? Well, I will tell you. "If you will go with me into town today, I will show you half a dozen men hanging around the saloons, drinking, gambling and dissipating. Some of these men, without doubt, are out on a prospecting trip for some man who has put up a 'grubstake.' But they never get far out into the hills, they never think of the interest of the man in the city. who has been putting up for them, and they lay around for two or three months, blow in all of their 'grubstake' and then return with a doleful tale of lack of success. "I hate to peach on a fellow prospector, but it is so evident that the dishonest man with a 'grubstake' is a menace to the mining industry that, at times, I must express my indignation, even if I have no one better to talk to than a burro. Good people lose confidence in mining after they have been bilked a few times by the shiftless, irresponsible prospector who is ever on the alert for a soft snap. "Do you remember that man who passed through our camp a month ago? He had a fine team and wagon, and the finest outfit and supplies I have ever seen in these parts. At that time you told me you were sure he would succeed, and wanted me to join with him in his trips through the mountains. Well, that prospector never got further on his way than that little camp down on the river where there are three tent saloons, one store, one restaurant, and a little 'red-light' establishment.

"Here he unhooked and prepared to have a good time. He began drinking, gambling and carousing. Being half drunk all the time he lost all of his ready cash at the gaming table. When this was exhausted, he began putting up his supplies against the red and blue chips. When these were gone, he put up the team and wagon, and, inside of a week he was cleaned out, losing every portion of his 'grubstake' that was worth all the way from \$600 to \$1,000. Then he skipped the country, and the man who put up the 'grubstake' never heard of him again.



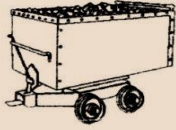
dreamstime.com ID 231575397 © Wisconsin






### HIDEE GOLD MINING COMPANY

**CHRIS STONE**  
Owner / Operator



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PLACE YOUR AD HERE



**Kevin Singel**  
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- 3.6" x 2.0" Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)..... \$6
- 3.6" x 4.3" Four Column Inches..... \$12
- 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24
- 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)*

<b>Upcoming Announcements and Special Events for June 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	8	9	10	11 <b>Zoom Board Meeting 7:30pm</b>	12	13
14 <b>Flag Day</b>	15	16	17 <b>GPoR Club Meeting</b>	18	19	20 <b>GPoR North Clear Creek Dig</b>
21 <b>Father's Day</b>	22	23	24 <b>Pirate's Hunt (Weather permitting)</b>	25	26	27
28	29	30				