

# THE GOLD NUGGET

August 2026

## The Prez Sez..! by Kevin Singel



Your club has been busy, and I hope you have (or will!!) take advantage of it! We had a great meeting in July. It was well attended and we learned from John Olsen about how he does gold plating. His techniques are a bit more than I feel ready for, but he made it look pretty easy! The Following Saturday a bunch of us were out in the HEAT at Big Bend running high bankers and checking out each other's gear. Of course, some were keeping it simple by panning and such when they weren't gawking at the various high bankers. I was impressed to see three different types of trommels out there including one impressively well-built custom one. I think the heat kept some folks away, but it didn't stop the fun for about 10 of us including one new member, Matthias, who signed up on the spot! I look forward to digging with him again when I am back to dig with the club in September. Then on 7/26, 7 of us ran a panning demo and training booth at the Arapahoe County Fair. As I have mentioned before, these events are big fundraisers for the club, without them, the annual dues would have to be much higher to cover the rent at the Clements Center! We have one more of these events in September with several key folks already signed up to run it. These hardy volunteers could use your help though, so look for the sign-up sheet at the next meeting! Look for the photos of both recent events elsewhere in this newsletter. Next time, the photos could include you!

As I mentioned, I won't be around in August so I will leave it to our wonderful VP Gary to talk about the speaker for August and our incredibly unique August outing. ALL of the detectorists should be planning to come!

I'll be around again in September, and I am excited for more meetings and adventures together then. Meanwhile, join a Pirate Hunt or get out digging on your own sometime soon...the summer is whizzing by!

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



The summer months just keep flying by but it continues to be great for Prospecting, detecting and mining, most creeks have low water making good accessibility, and good weather if you like hot. I have been able to go prospecting and sluicing 3 times in the last month and found some gold each time. The one thing I messed up and regret this month is that I did not mark my calendar for the last Wednesday of the month for the Pirate Hunt and made other appointments for that day, I now have it on my calendar for each month and encourage all that are interested to do so as well. I am very excited about this month's meeting and its speaker and our scheduled outing. Our speaker this month will be Ed Pedersen, Lost Dutchman Mine - a geologist's point of view. I am sure most of you have heard of the Legend of the Lost Dutchman.

The Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine is a legendary, undiscovered gold mine believed to be hidden in the rugged Superstition Mountains near Apache Junction, Arizona. Named after a German immigrant Jacob Waltz who allegedly found it in the 19th century, the site has inspired over a century of dangerous searches and remains famously lost. I encourage everyone to do some you-tubing about it before the meeting. They say if it is to ever be found that geology will play an important role.

Our August outing this month is what I think is a unique opportunity for the detectorists in the club. We have been invited to come and detect in Caribou City and also have an opportunity to detect the tailings dump for the mines. The town was established in the early 1870s for workers of the Caribou silver mine. The silver mine did well and by 1875 at its peak, about 3,000 people lived in town. There was a church, three saloons, a brewery, and a town newspaper, the Caribou Post. A fire took over the town in 1879. By the 1920s, Caribou was home to fewer than 50 people. One collapsed wooden cabin and two stone ruins remain of Caribou but no one knows what is left below the surface.

Let's see what we can find. If you have detecting friends that are not part of the club you might bring them to this month's meeting and see if they might want to join. Only paid club members are available to go to Caribou. I did see that the permit to expand and reopen the mine was pulled back and now reclamation will need to begin due to not being able to protect the downstream Boulder drinking water from the larger operation. So, who knows if we might get this opportunity again?

Hope to see you all at the August meeting, and as always that you find lots of gold shiny stuff in your pan and a fistful of gold rings in your pouch.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

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



There is considerable excitement in the back of the room as we have the Minelab™ Gold Monster 2000 prominently featured. The detector is still sealed in its original box and was so close you could almost touch it. The drawing winner only will get to break the seal and open the box. Blue ticket sales were quite strong as nearly 500 have been sold thus far. The detector drawing will be held once 2,000 tickets have been sold, so buy early and buy often. Kevin is in the lead for blue tickets purchased, followed closely by Joe Johnston with yours truly a distant third. We three know how good this detector really is as getting the gold.

The club finances, including the purchase of the Gold Monster and some additional drawing nuggets, remain sound with both savings and checking accounts well in the black. I have the printed reports on the back table at each meeting for any and all members who want to see the particulars.

The gold nugget drawing (red ticket) sales were brisk as was the 50/50 (green ticket) sales. I appreciate Cindy Olson filling in for her husband John who was our featured speaker.

Fortunately, Yam was able to be here this month so things ran smoothly. Just a final reminder, the 2026 membership annual dues **renewal rate** is now \$45.00. Thanks to all the members who support our club through ticket sales.



### Board Meeting Minutes from July 10, 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: Motion by treasurer Chapman; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Hamilton.

**Treasurer's Report:** Questions: Treasurer Chapman asked the board for clarification on column to place name badge purchases. They should go under Misc. Expenses. The Asset totals were incorrect on the Income spreadsheet as it does not automatically create that total. It must be manually updated, and will be corrected by treasurer Chapman. Approved as read/corrected: Motion: Yam; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bobby M.

**Committee Reports:**

Panning/Outreach: Next demo at the Arapahoe County Fair, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are already lined up. The next demonstration is in September at a ranch in Douglas County. President Singel and Yam are currently slated to handle this one as it is a small booth.

**Unfinished Business:**

Panning lesson at Arapahoe Bar needs finalizing. Possibility of combining with Club picnic? President Singel will propose a camping/gold prospecting event at the July general meeting to determine interest. This claim is owned by a friend of Kevin's and allows all forms of prospecting, including gas-powered equipment.

**New Business:**

A CD owned by the Club is coming due. Treasurer Chapman has been tasked with investigating shorter term interest rates to improve the yield before the CD automatically rolls over.

An annual Silent Auction idea was promoted by Director Yam. Items supplied by members would have an option on the form to donate a portion of the proceeds to the Club. It is under consideration at this time.

A good deal on Club badges was accomplished by Director Zornes and the Board voted to reduce the cost to members to \$12.00 per badge. (Sidebar: The next time the Club needs to order badges, the provider indicated February is the best time to order them.).

**Planned Outings:**

The High banker Fest at Big Bend is scheduled for the Saturday after the July Club meeting.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Gold is mined on every continent except \_\_\_\_\_?

### 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 Yamioloski

Mitchell Ross

#### Past President/At Large

Bobby Manning



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August 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date for the relic detecting trip to Caribou ghost town above Nederland. President Singel won't be able to attend so VP Hamilton and Secretary Smith will step in to coordinate the outing.

September 19<sup>th</sup> - An outing is scheduled at President Singel's Lucky Goose claim.

### Board Members Items of Discussion:

Director Yam – inquired about connecting with the Flatirons Mineral Club Show to set up a panning demo with them. President Singel requested contact information in order to pursue this.

Director Hamilton – spoke to thoughts on combining the Club picnic with the Annual Metal Detecting contest. The date still needs to be determined and he is looking at an October date rather than the typical November date to increase the odds of favorable weather. He will work on locking in the location and date prior to the next board meeting. Several board members were concerned with red tickets being sold to non-members/guests. After further discussion, a vote was taken and the majority voted to restrict red ticket sales to paid-up members only. This also applies to winners of the QOM – only paid-up members are eligible to receive a red ticket for entering a correct answer.

This month's General Meeting Program: John Olson on metal plating techniques

Announcements: Next Board Meeting August 13th at 7:30 pm via Zoom

Next General Meeting: July 15th at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Bobby Manning. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Johnston. Meeting stands adjourned at 8:52 pm.

## General Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2026

1. Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by Pres. Singel with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Singel then announced this evening Program which is a short presentation by John Olson on the process of plating with gold.
3. Pres. Singel then gave the Metals Report: Gold 4,325 down over \$200/month Silver 70.25, down about \$6, Platinum 1,787 down about 75 Palladium 1,345, down 25, Rhodium 8,125 down 1,700!!
4. Web hits for last month was life to date for our website of 171,449, up 150 this month
5. Treasurer Bill Chapman reports that the Club remains in the black. Last month the red ticket drawing changes worked great and we will keep them up. We have some great nuggets in the back so be sure to grab those raffle tix! And of course, the BIG news: we got our hands on a Gold Monster 2000, get your blue tix now!!!
6. Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes from the Membership Table reported that we had 46 members in attendance. There were 0 Guests present tonight and 3 New members! The total meeting attendance was 49.
7. Pres. Singel read the 'Question of the Month': According to the Guinness Book of World Records, what is the name of the world's largest gold coin? ANSWER: The One Tonne Australian Kangaroo!
8. Additional items to be discussed include.

The club is looking for a new librarian. The temporary custodian of the library, Yvonne Smith, appealed to the membership for someone to step forward very soon or the library may not be around in the future. Chat with Joe J. about it or catch Kevin to discuss.

Outing this weekend at Big Bend – High Banker Fest (flyers and email)

A signup sheet is at the front table for those interested in relic detecting at the Caribou ghost town next month.

A signup sheet is also at the front for those planning to go to President Singel's Lucky Goose claim in September.

The Monthly "Pirates" Hunt on the last Wed. of the month. Should be HOT and the detecting will be too!

Volunteers needed for the panning demo at the Doug Co Fall Festival, September 26<sup>th</sup> (see signup sheet)

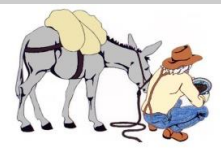
Member Roger Schlenger announced this year's Gold-A-Palooza will be the weekend of September 25<sup>th</sup>. An informational was at the front table for those interested.

President Singel has applied for a new claim near where he lives. If approved, he will make a proposal to the board for Club use that would allow members open access if the board approves.

Lastly, President Singel will not be at the August meeting and VP Hamilton will conduct the meeting.

### 9. SPEAKER OF THE MONTH INTRODUCTION

John Olson, a long-time member of the Club gave a thorough overview of the steps involved in gold plating an object accompanied by slides and short videos.



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10. 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. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray costs. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
11. Pres. Singel informed the membership that the Outings and Speakers are being booked now for 2027. Please share any requests or suggestions with him or another board member.
12. Pres. Singel mentioned the back table (Gold bags, 50/50 & special drawing tickets and red tickets)
- There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break. Pres. Singel advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will be photographed for the Finds of the Year. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
13. Pres. Singel announced the break at \_7:53\_ pm. Meeting was called back to order at \_8:30\_ pm. Treasurer Chapman was pleased to inform us that enough red tickets had been sold so no nuggets had to be removed from the drawing.
14. Pres. Singel announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month' and coordinated distribution of free red tickets to the 36 winners. The winner of the 50/50 Green Ticket drawing was \_Shellie Zornes (again!). She takes home\_\$32.50\_ and the Club receives the other half.
15. Pres. Singel announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
- Best Coin - John Olson
  - Best Jewelry - Denis Perederin
  - Best Mineral – No entry
  - Best Artifact – Shellie Zornes
  - Best Costume Jewelry – Shellie Zornes
  - Best GOLD - Angie Yen
16. Pres. Singel concluded the evening with drawings for numerous door prizes donated by club members. followed by the drawings for the gold nuggets. Pres. Singel also wants to remind holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets that they may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were \_John Olson & Bill Chapman.
17. Pres. Singel reminds the 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 [gporpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gporpresident@gmail.com) or phone at (720) 934-1428 outside the meetings at any time.
18. The August meeting will have presenter Ed Pederson speaking on the Lost Dutchman mine from a geologist's perspective.
- Having nothing further at this time, remember to prospect safely and often!
19. The next Meeting is on August 19, 2026 at 7:00 pm.
20. Meeting was adjourned at \_8:52\_ pm.

## **Volunteer Needed**

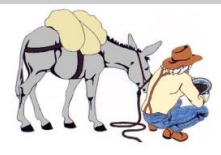
Attention fellow club members, we are looking for a volunteer to run the club library. This includes helping folks check out books and return them at club meetings. It also includes transporting these three bins (could probably be thinned out) back and forth to meetings. To learn more, see our prior guardian of the sacred tomes, Joe Johnston, Yvonne Smith who is our current, interim, volunteer, or your President, Kevin Singel.



## **A Miner's Laugh**

An old lady prospector cashed in some nuggets, sold her burros, and went car shopping. Before long, she drove her brand-new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Her first fun car after a lifetime of pack burros, and old trucks she had to fix herself. Taking off down the road, she floored it to 80 mph, enjoying





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the wind blowing through her long gray hair. Amazing, she thought as she flew along I-70 toward the mountains, pushing the pedal even more. Looking in her rear-view mirror, she saw a Colorado Highway Patrol car coming up fast, lights flashing and siren blaring. She floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly she thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this", and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival. Pulling in behind her, the trooper walked up to the Corvette, looked at his watch, and said, "M'am, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason for speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The old prospector paused. Then she said, "Years ago, my lazy, no-good, no-diggin' husband ran off with a lady state trooper. I thought you were bringing him back."

"Have a good day, m'am," replied the trooper 😊😊😊

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

## Finds of the Month for July 2026

- Best Coin - John Olson
- Best Jewelry - Denis Perederin
- Best Mineral – No entry
- Best Artifact – Shellie Zornes
- Best Costume Jewelry – Shellie Zornes
- Best GOLD - Angie Yen

*(There were no photos submitted for publication this month)*



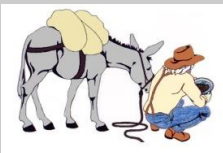
## The July GPR Program Notes

The July Program featured GPOR member John Olson who spoke of and demonstrated his gold plating process. John has been doing gold plating for a number of years now and often offers up some of his work as door prizes to the Club from time to time. **Gold plating** is a method of depositing a thin layer of gold onto the surface of another metal, most often copper or silver (to make silver-gilt), by a chemical or electrochemical (electroplating) process. Plating refers to modern coating methods, such as the ones used in the electronics industry, whereas gilding is the decorative covering of an object with gold, which typically involve more traditional methods and much larger objects. Gold plating is actually used in a great many applications, from jewelry all the way to applications in the space industry. John did a great job in his informative presentation and his demonstration. For those of you who wish to learn more about the process, the internet is a good resource to learn much more in detail and depth. Well done John!!!!



## Prospecting Outing at Big Bend on July 18, 2026

It was another great day to be out digging for gold. The Club ventured out to the South Platte River and went to 'Big Bend' located near E. 78<sup>th</sup> and York St. to try their hand at a little shiny getting. The weather was just a tad to the warm side but not unmanageable and plenty of folks got to get their hands and feet wet as well as dig a bunch of dirt in search of gold. It was kind of billed as a GPOR High Banker Fest and there was a pretty decent turnout for all the fun and we even met a few new folk who were out there as well. A good time was had by all...!



*(Photos mostly by Pres. K. Singel)*

## **Panning Demo at Arapahoe County Fair on July 26**

The Club performed a gold panning demo for the Arapahoe County Fair folks on July 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a pretty good crowd of folks who were interested in joining our volunteers who demonstrated their panning skills and helped folks to get a glimpse of some real gold in the pans. Many thanks to our volunteers, Jack Meineke, Bobby Manning, Roger Schlenger, Gordon Smith, Pres. K. Singel, and several others (whose names I did not get), for helping to make the event a success. *(Photos by Pres. Singel)*



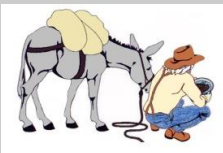
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## **The Pirate's July 2026 Hunt**

by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

The Pirate's hunt went well we went to Memorial Park in Arvada and pulled up \$9.02 in money and 2 rings But backing up a little we had 10 for breakfast and 9 that hunted. We started about 0930hrs. and we all finished up two hours later, it got HOT quick. Bob M. was the top pirate with a total of \$4.30 and 2nd was Cindy & John O. with \$1.94 with 3rd place going to Shellie Z. with \$1.10 and 4th place Joe F. holding at \$.98 cents followed by Chris and Joe K. \$.47cents and 2 rings, and Robert A. at .41 cent with Mike S. 1 vintage western belt buckle. Hope to see ya all at the next meeting August 19, 2026 @ 900hrs. And remember, the next and every Pirate's Hunt is always the last Wednesday of the month. Any questions, just give me a call. Remember to keep on swinging and you can contact me at 720-532-5210.



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## The Prospect of Prospecting

AUG 13, 2021

By Rachel Moyer

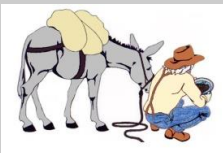
### ***Gold Panning in Colorado***

The search for precious metals brought many immigrants to Colorado in the nineteenth century, but our mountain streams still draw adventurous gold seekers each year. Rachel Moyer interviews a longtime gold panner for *The Colorado Magazine* to explain how it all works.

Imagine a gold prospector. Do images of a thin man in overalls with a white, scraggly beard and a floppy hat come to mind? Maybe there is a covered wagon in the background and a make-shift campsite? Something akin to a still from an Old Western film?

What about a four-year-old or an ex-corporate consultant? For many people, the act of finding gold is something of the past. Seemingly, gold panning and gold prospectors are relics of the Colorado Gold Rush in the mid-nineteenth century. In reality, gold has always been a part of Colorado's story, even before Europeans arrived in the area. While the gold rush was definitely the most significant moment for prospecting in Colorado's history, people have been finding precious metals in Colorado's rivers and streams for centuries. Generally, anytime a new group explored the area, a survey of the land revealed varying amounts of metals and gems that were considered valuable.

While many people believe that all the gold in Colorado was scooped up during the gold rush, that simply isn't true. Today, there are still communities of Coloradans that search for gold, mostly as a hobby. Some amateur gold panners enjoy the technique and science behind the activity, some just like something to do on a sunny day, and others are motivated by the jewelry and other items they can produce with their collection.



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In an interview with *The Colorado Magazine*, amateur gold prospector and author of *Finding Gold In Colorado* Kevin Singel discusses how approachable gold panning can be. Here are some of Singel's responses to questions from a prospecting newbie:

**Rachel Moyer: First off, can you tell us what gold panning is?**

Kevin Singel: Well, it's really the simplest way to find gold out in the wild.

What you're doing is gathering some sand and gravel from the bed of a river that flows through a gold-bearing area. And then, taking advantage of the fact that gold is much heavier than literally anything else in the river, separate it from the sand gravel.

If you get some water, sand, and gravel in your pan, and you shake it really hard, all the heavy stuff is going to fall to the bottom of the pan. Just like marbles in a bag of popcorn. If you think about a bag of popcorn with marbles in it, you give it a good shake and the marbles fall right to the bottom. You do the same kind of thing with sand and gravel; all the heavy stuff falls to the bottom. Then using a beach wave motion with your pan, wash the lighter material off the top. Shake it again and repeat until you get down to just the really, really heavy bits. There, you're likely to find some black sand, other metals in oxidized form, little pieces of lead from the fishers or hunters, and hopefully a few flakes of gold at the bottom.

**Is this the only way that people find gold?**

Well, it is the most common way. Even people that are looking for hard rock deposits would traditionally use panning to follow deposits of gold up a river. Then, they look for changes in the gold they're seeing in the pan. If there was suddenly less gold in the pan, for example, that might suggest that just downstream of them there was a hard rock deposit that had been eroding into the river and so they would backtrack a few hundred yards or so, hike up the hills, and look for the hard rock deposits.

**So how did you get interested in gold panning?**

For me, it started when I was six years old. My dad read me a National Geographic article about a gold rush that was occurring in Australia. I wasn't able to do much about that, living in Michigan at the time. Being six years old, one doesn't just go to Australia. But when we moved to Colorado in 1989, one of the very first weekends I went to a place where they teach you to gold pan. And by the time I left, I had a few flakes of gold. And I had bought a couple of gold pans. I was sucked in from the start.

**So, what's the process of gold panning?**

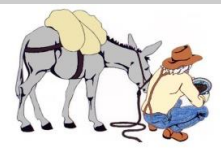
The first thing you have to do is make sure you're allowed to dig where you want to. So, the first step is a matter of checking rules and regulations and ownership of the property.

[Once] you've confirmed you can dig in the place. If there's historically gold there, then there's still gold there, because the old timers didn't get it all by any stretch. So, what you're going to do then is dig up some of the sand and gravel from a likely looking spot on the river/creek bed. Using a shovel, you can get heaps of sediment and rocks from the creek bed and shovel them into your gold pan [or classifier], so you can start sorting out the bigger materials and refining the sediment down to just gold.

As far as picking a likely place goes, it helps to learn a little bit about how the sand and gravel in the riverbed moves during floods. Whether it's a big spring runoff year here in Colorado, or some kind of major rainstorm, when rivers get big, we've all probably seen how they'll get the color of chocolate milk during a big runoff event. When that happens, what you're seeing, of course, is lots of sediment in the river moving. But in a lot of cases, especially with the steep mountain river, in addition to that fine sediment there'll be bigger and heavier material moving as well. The fine sediment is where the gold is, usually in places where the river slows down.

Now, there are things you can do to make the job a little bit easier, like using [a] sort of a sieve called a classifier. Even a kitchen sieve or spaghetti strainer would do the job. What you're trying to do is remove the big rocks. Eventually, the goal is to only have a very small amount of material. So, if we get rid of the big stuff, it makes it easier to pan out the small stuff.

Place the classifier over the gold pan. After shoveling some rocks, gravel, and sediment on top of the classifier, give the pan and classifier a pretty aggressive shaking motion, because you want to get the heavy stuff to fall to the bottom. One of the things I see with beginners is that they're too tentative. You have to be pretty rough with it at first to get the stratification by density to occur. Gentler when there's less in the pan of course. So, it's a pretty aggressive shaking motion with a handful of sand, gravel, and water and then dipping it back into the river and moving the pan back and forth in a way that creates like a beach wave motion.



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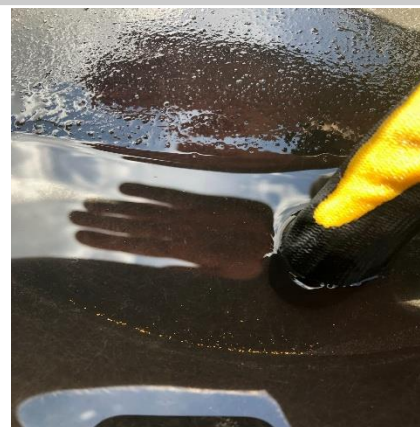
So, if you imagine a wave flowing in the beach and stripping sand from the surface of the beach as it washes back. That's to try to simulate with the gold pan at that point. Doesn't matter water splashes out or not. New people tend to be too gentle worried about losing something out of the pan, but of course, as shaking the pan, the heavy gold starts to settle downward.

Once you get all the finest materials or the heaviest, densest bottom, you can start to actually see flakes of gold. Well, you down to just a little bit of material. If you think about it, a gold starts out with something like a quart of material. And we're to a tablespoon or so before we have a chance of seeing the gold, because the gold is going to be absolutely at the bottom of the pan.

**So how long does that usually take to get you from a quart of material all the way down?**

For somebody who's brand new, twenty minutes. For me, two minutes, maybe three. It just comes with practice, and a willingness to be a little more aggressive with it.

Once you have the gold at the bottom of the pan, you have to be able to scoop it up so you can take it home. Usually, you'd use something like a suction pipette or an eye dropper just to pick up the tiny pieces of gold at the bottom. Then you bring it home and can pick out the really fine pieces there.



off a little bit of what we're trying if a little bit of because you're soon as you start

materials at the have to work pan probably going to get down  
*Miner's*

**What tools do you need? You said a spaghetti strainer?**

Yeah, a classifier, like your kitchen sieve or something like that, and a gold pan. If you had no money, I would say get yourself one of those aluminum pie plates and add a kitchen sieve. And you could at least start. But what I'd suggest is that you get a prospecting kit. So, the prospecting kit would include a decent gold pan, a classifier, and they'll also give you a little eyedropper-type suction pipette to suck up the little bits of gold you find and a little vial to put

*Gold panning supplies: gold pan, classifier, shovel, and sluice. Blue River, Colorado.*

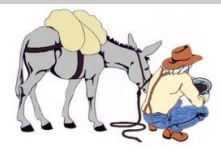
them in, because you have to have a place to put your gold. They're available at prospecting shops, of course, or online. You know, places like Amazon do sell just about everything these days after all. So, you need: a **shovel**, some kind of **classifier** (sieve), a **gold pan**, a suction **pipette**, and a **vial**. Then you're pretty much good to go at that point. Ready to go find your first wild gold.

**How does the gold that you collect become things that we want? Like jewelry?**

Well, one of the cool things about gold as a mineral is that it comes out of the riverbed in its desired form. It's already pure gold.

Right now, it might have a little bit of other metals mixed in with it; silver and copper are common here in Colorado, for example, but it looks like the gold earring or the gold ring that you own already when it comes out of the creek. At that point, all that needs to be done to use it, whether it's for jewelry or the high-quality electrical contacts on your cell phone, is to melt it down and shape it into what you want it to be.

When you're making jewelry, for example, they'll mix it with other metals, because gold by itself is very soft. Most jewelry is 14 or 18 carats. What that refers to is the amount of gold in it versus other metals. So, 18 carats, for example, is 18 out of 24 parts, which is to say three-quarters; it's 75% gold. The other 25% would typically be silver and copper. The exact blends will vary depending on the color you're trying to get and how hard you want the metal to be and things like that. But that's the basic idea. I have made several rings, or had several rings made by goldsmiths with my gold. If you go



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to your neighborhood jewelry store and say: “do you have a goldsmith that comes in?” They’ll say, “Oh yeah, she comes in every Wednesday afternoon to do repairs,” or something like that.

You come back, meet her, show her your little vial of gold you collected, and there’s a chance she’ll say “yeah, I can work with that.”

### **So, how much do you need to collect for a normal size ring?**

To make a ring, probably five to seven grams is in the range of what you’ll need. Remember, the goldsmith is going to mix it with some copper and silver. So, you actually end up with a little more volume in that sense than just the gold, you hand it to them, they won’t use all the gold to make the ring.

### **What’s the difference between yellow, white, and rose gold people find in the stores?**

It’s basically the alloys that are mixed with the actual gold.

So, rose gold might have more copper in it, for example, or other metals like that. A lot of the alloy combinations that they use are considered trade secrets. If you ask the jeweler what exactly is in their jewelry, they might be a little bit vague about it. Or they might tell you some of the other metals, but not what the exact percentages of the ratio is, because that’s considered their art.

White gold is a bit of a special case, because of course, we all know what color gold is. Gold is gold colored. What they do is plate the gold with a thin layer of rhodium, which is insanely expensive, but also very, very hard. So, it wears well and stays shiny. Over time, it will wear off just like anything else, and eventually you’re going to see a little bit of the gold color peeking out wherever it gets worn the most heavily, but rhodium is an extremely hard metal. Your white gold ring that’s rhodium plated will tend to last a long time.

### **Do you need a license to pan? Or do you just need to know whose property you’re on?**

Mostly you don’t need a license. But of course, whether you need to buy some kind of license or permit depends on the property.

The state of Colorado doesn’t require one, but certain lands do. Well, they don’t actually sell gold panning licenses. Instead, you buy a fishing license, which is really just a license to be on and use their land. There is some conversation at the state legislative level about creating other kinds of licenses that would allow for other uses of the land where you’re not actually going to be taking fish away. I mean, what if you want to just picnic? Well, you still need a license to use the land. So, a fishing license seems a little weird at that point, doesn’t it?

There are some lands where you need a fishing license, specifically if they’re managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. There are [also] a few places that are managed by either private parties that own the land or cities where they require you to buy some kind of a permit or join a club.

But there’s an awful lot of places across the state, probably 150 or more, that don’t require any licensing, paperwork, or paying anybody. You just show up and scoop up some sand and gravel out of the riverbed and see if you can find some gold.

### **What is a fun fact that you would like potential new prospectors to know?**

There are lots of places around Colorado where you can learn to gold pan. One of the things I get a big kick out of is that in many of the historic gold rush places in Colorado, you can still go to that exact spot and stand there right where somebody stood and made their discovery and pan. So many of our mountain towns were founded during the gold rush. They allow people to go pan in the river or creek where the gold was first discovered and find their own little sample of gold. So, you can have that incredibly historic experience of doing the same thing somebody did in 1859 or 1860.

### **Do you think gold panning is a family activity?**

Very much so, yeah. I would say developmentally, it’s something that most kids can’t do until they’re about nine or ten years old. Just the act of gold panning requires some coordination and whatnot.

Now, that said, I’ve seen children be very successful gold panners at the age of four, with a little ten-inch gold pan and a modest amount of dirt at a time. Some kids can pick it up, especially if they’ve been watching the TV shows, because they know what they’re doing... By the time you get to fifth or sixth grade, pretty much anybody can learn to gold pan in 10 minutes. It is a lot of fun to do as a family activity. And I have taken families out gold panning to teach them to do it, and they’ve had a great time. It’s a lot of fun.

Does gold panning sound like an activity for you and your family?

According to Singel, the best way to begin gold panning is to just get out there and give it a try, with whatever materials you have, in a place where it’s legal to do so.

If you are more interested in the history of gold in Colorado, different gold panning techniques, or different locations to find gold, there are many resources available to you. Of course, Singel’s book *Finding Gold In Colorado* is a good place



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to start. You can find a link to *Finding Gold In Colorado* in the **History Colorado bookshop**. There is also a heap of online resources available. Facebook groups, YouTube channels, and websites are some digital resources. Here are some notable resources for novice gold panners:

Websites:

**Gold Prospectors of the Rockies**

**Gold Prospectors of Colorado**

YouTube Channels:

**Ask Jeff Williams**

**Dan Hurd**

Facebook Groups:

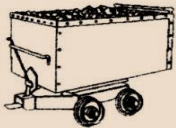
**Finding GOLD In Colorado**

Many thanks to Kevin Singel, Laura Hoepfner, and William Singel for taking the time to talk about gold panning and actually getting out on the river for all the educational videos.

*(This article was retrieved from History Colorado and was reprinted here. There are a number of videos that accompany the article and readers are encouraged to view them as they are very informative. The photos are credited to Rachel Moyer I believe...)*

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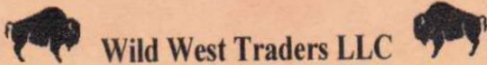
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- For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

#### Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)

| Upcoming Announcements and Special Events for <b>Sept 2026</b> <span>(GPR Events)</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<br>Labor Day | 9   | 9                                        | 10<br>Zoom Board Meeting 7:30pm | 11  | 12                                 |
| 13                                                                                                                                                 | 14             | 15  | 16<br>GPoR Club Meeting                  | 17                              | 18  | 19<br>Prospecting at Kevin's Claim |
| 20                                                                                                                                                 | 21             | 22  | 23                                       | 24                              | 25  | 26<br>Douglas County Demo          |
| 27                                                                                                                                                 | 28             | 29  | 30<br>Pirate's Hunt (Weather permitting) |                                 |     |                                    |