

THE GOLD NUGGET

September 2026

IMPORTANT! OCTOBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The October GPOR meeting will be at a special location. You may recall that we were considering cancelling it since the Clements Center is unavailable due to maintenance work. The great news is that member Dave Mullen will be hosting our meeting at his showroom on South Santa Fe Blvd. There is a big space for our meeting with many of the facilities we need (break room for the refreshments, tables, parking, etc.). We will need to make two key adjustments:

1. **Bring your own chairs!!!!**
2. There isn't a good way to project a slide show so our program is changing. Instead of a talk from Jack Meineke about desert mining including dry washing, we will have a panel of experienced prospectors answering your questions and telling stories.

The location is JCB EURO at 4747 S Santa Fe Blvd. This is just a bit south of US-287/Hampton Ave. It is a big white building with black accents and is on the west side of the street. Our general schedule for the meeting will be normal. We will be taking Board nominations/volunteers at this meeting so consider volunteering to help run the club! The November meeting will be back at the Clements Community Center as usual.

The Prez Sez..! by Kevin Singel



Hi all, I heard the August meeting went great and the Caribou outing was a success too. I'm sure our great VP Gary will have more to say. I'm sorry I had to miss them. I'm hoping to see lots of the items folks found, on display at the finds of the month at the September meeting. Mike Stephens sent me a pic of the things he found and if you look closely, you'll see an antique hat/cravat pin. Congrats Mike on the cool finds!

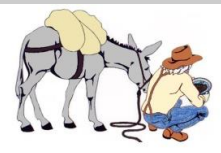
In September we have more fun stuff scheduled including a presentation by our own Bill Chapman on relic detecting. As you may know, Bill used to run the Gold-N-Detectors prospecting shop and has decades of amazing relic detecting experience to share. His presentation should be inspiring! Of course, I'm also excited about the outing to my mining claim in September. All club members are invited. Due to limitations and high gas prices, I encourage carpooling for the trip up to the claim north of Silverthorne. Details on the outing, and a sign-up sheet will be at the September meeting...one more good reason to make it to the meeting!

It's not October yet, but at the September meeting, I'll also have a sign-up sheet for one last panning demo we are doing on October 13th at 1:30. This one is at Wind Crest Assisted Living, just east of Chatfield Reservoir. I will be there and am hoping for three additional volunteers to join me. Like our other demos, this is a significant fund raiser for the club and does a lot to keep our dues more affordable.

But, wait, there's more! We will also talk about the camping & prospecting outing that the club will be doing in October, AND our new club mining claim (sponsored by Finding Gold in Colorado)!

Finally, we are looking to update the club logo with an image that works better online, and in the newsletter, biz cards, flyers, etc. The intent is to keep it close enough to the old logo that we can still use existing materials too. Here it is:





Vice President's Corner..! by Gary Hamilton



Well what a fun, crazy and awesome month for me and my wife. I have learned a new and grateful respect for our current President as well as Presidents past. A total of 4 since I joined the club. Also, I totally understand what Keven says every month about our awesome board members and how it takes everyone to make things happen. You many times don't appreciate it until you try to walk in their steps.

This last month our speaker Ed Pedersen gave us a great talk about the Lost Dutchman Mine and presented it as a geologist's point of view. It gave me a new respect for how I look at each place I go prospecting.

Then there was this month's outing to Caribou City ghost Town. We had 30 people sign up for this one and I think we had at least that many show up. From a view at the top of the hill, it looked like there were people across the whole town at one time. I know it was a new kind of detecting for me, and I want to do more. Relics of the past are very interesting in detecting.

Some other good news is that we have a new librarian. John Lewis has stepped up and taken that position for the next year. Please give him a big thank you and support the library and what he is doing.

We did not have a location for our October club meeting, and with just an ask for ideas, new member, David Mullen stepped up and offered his businesses' location. When Kevin is back we will come up with the logistics for the October meeting. Thank you so much David.

I made it to the Pirate hunt the last Wednesday of the month. I thought I was doing well with a good target but, my pin pointer was letting me down. Pirate Ahr came over and gave me some help and a new battery for my pin pointer but, no change. I thought I would give up but he showed me how to dig a hole without a hole. The parks don't allow holes. He then pulled up a Susan B Anthony and a 1966 or 56 quarter. This is what I think our club is all about. Learning, sharing and having a good time with good people.

Hope to see you all at the September meeting and that you find much gold in your pan and a fist full of gold rings in your pouch.

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



First of all, the club finances, including the purchase of the Gold Monster metal detector 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.

Secondly. we're half way there! Exactly 1,000 of the necessary 2,000 blue tickets have been sold for the Minelab™ Gold Monster 2000. Blue tickets, which are only \$1.00 apiece, were selling quickly this evening. **DON'T FORGET TO WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF EACH TICKET!** The detector drawing will be held at the meeting when the

2,000th ticket is sold, so buy early and buy often (kind of like voting in Chicago). At this rate the drawing could be held as early as the November meeting.

The gold nugget drawing (red ticket) sales were brisk and to a lesser extent the 50/50 (green ticket) sales. Last month Cindy Olson filled in as ticket seller for her husband John who was our featured speaker. Fortunately, Yam was able to also be with us that month so things ran smoothly. This month Yam, who normally helps with the ticket sales was hosting the evening's featured speaker, so Cindy filled in for Yam (she's very versatile). Thank you, Cindy. Thanks also to all the members who support our club through ticket sales.





Board Meeting Minutes from Aug 13, 2026 via Zoom

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

Quorum Present: Y

Call to Order at: 7:47 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections:

None Approved as read/corrected: Moved:

YAM; 2nd: B. Chapman.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: None Approved as read/corrected: Moved: YAM; 2nd R.Ahr.

Committee Reports: Membership: Announced that the Club has grown by 27 new members so far this year!

Unfinished Business:

Arapahoe Bar outing before end of year? Consensus was to table this Clements Center will be closed the week of our normal meeting. The initial thought was to cancel the meeting and utilize the funds saved for a membership outing/gathering of some sort, paid for by the Club. Some of the board thought we should attempt to find another location and hold the meeting as usual. This will be brought before the membership at next week's meeting and a final determination made after that.

YAM sent details on conducting a Club Silent Auction to the board. This activity is slated for early next year although the exact date has not been set yet. A motion to table until Spring was made by YAM; 2nd by B. Manning.

Club CD rolled over for another year at the same rate as before.

New Business:

There was a question on the exact address of the location of the August Caribou ghost town outing.

That will be Clarified and printouts/maps with GPS coordinates will be available at the next meeting.

A suggestion was made that GPOTR needs to reach out to the Eureka Club and coordinate so that our outings are not in conflict with dates of Eureka outings. This activity was tabled for now.

Webmaster Doll renewed Host Gator service for another year and with President Singel's approval, took advantage of a special price that doubled the storage space for our Club site for a modest upcharge. The storage is now up to 20 gigabytes.

Treasurer Bill Chapman will give the September presentation on: Successful Treasure Hunting. Bill requested additional help at the back table as he will need prep time prior to the presentation. VP Hamilton's wife Wendy, has assisted at the table in the past and he will ask her to help again.

YAM will be introducing our presenter, Ed Pedersen, at the August meeting

Planned Outings:

Caribou ghost town – August 23rd

President Singel's claim – September 19th

Board Members Items of Discussion: None

This month's General Meeting Program: Lost Dutchman's Mine – A Geologist's Point of View.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting September 10 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

Next General Meeting: September 16 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: YAM. Meeting stands adjourned at 8:52 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What percent gold is 18 karat gold?

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

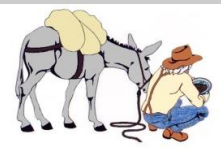
Shellie Zornes

Ron Yamiolkoski

Mitchell Ross

General Meeting Minutes from Aug 19, 2026

1. Meeting was opened at 7:08 pm by VP. Hamilton with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. VP. Hamilton then announced this evening Program which is: Ed Pedersen: Lost Dutchman Mine – A Geologist's Point of View



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

3. **VP. Hamilton** then gave the Metals Report: Gold 4553.90 Silver 65.97 Platinum 1851.10 Palladium 1334.00 Rhodium 9400.00.

4. **Web** hits for last month was life to date for our website of 171,841, up 392 hits this month

5. **Treasurer Bill Chapman** reports that the Club remains in the black. The red ticket drawing changes worked great and will be kept up. We have some great nuggets in the back so be sure to grab those raffle tix, especially the blue tickets for that new Minelab Gold Monster!

6. **Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes** from the Membership Table reported that we had 43 members in attendance. There were 2 Guests present tonight and 2 New members! The total meeting attendance was 47.

7. **VP. Hamilton** read the 'Question of the Month': Gold is mined on every continent except ??. ANSWER: Antarctica!

8. Additional items to be discussed include:

- Member John Lewis stepped up and took over the duties of Club Librarian. Thank You John! Please check with him during a meeting and check out something of interest!
- A reminder for members planning to attend the Caribou detecting event on Saturday, WEAR YOUR BADGE! This is a member-only event so that attendees are covered by the Club's waiver.
- A signup sheet is also at the front for those planning to go to President Singel's Lucky Goose claim in September.
- Details are being worked out for panning classes at Wind Crest Senior Living Community. Tentative plans are for October 13th, a Tuesday, and consisting of three one-hour sessions of 30 participants. Volunteers will be needed and a signup sheet will be at the September meeting.
- The Monthly "Pirates" Hunt on the last Wed. of the month. If you interested in being on head pirate Ahr's mailing list, please check with him at the FOM table.
- An announcement was sent out by our Webmaster, Andy Doll about the Clement's Center being closed during the week of our October meeting. The membership was asked about canceling the meeting outright or exploring having that month's meeting at another location. **VP Hamilton** asked if any in attendance might be members of civic or military organizations where the Club could rent space for the October meeting at a reasonable rate. During the discussion, member David Mullen offered a space near Santa Fe & Evans to the Club at no charge (The old World of Tile building). It is a large space, but has no PA system and members would need to bring chairs. The general consensus was to keep the original meeting date of October 21st. The October meeting is an important one because nominations for elections for open positions take place with voting following at the November meeting.
- R. Schlenger reminded attendees of Gold-A-Palooza taking place over Labor Day weekend. GPOTR club members will receive \$10 off the normal \$20 entry fee.

9. **SPEAKER OF THE MONTH INTRODUCTION:** Member R. Yamiolkoski introduced Ed Pedersen, a geophysicist with a strong interest in the legends of the Lost Dutchman Mine. The talk was recorded and will be put on our website in the near future.

10. **VP. Hamilton** announced the break at 8:27 pm.

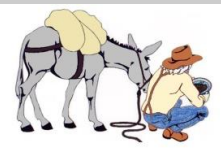
11. **VP. Hamilton** informed the membership that the Outings and Speakers are being booked now for 2027. Please share any requests or suggestions with him or another board member.

12. **VP. Hamilton mentioned the back table (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. **VP. Hamilton** 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. **VP. Hamilton** 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. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.

14. **VP. Hamilton** called the meeting back to order at 8:40 pm.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

15. **VP. Hamilton** announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month' and coordinated distribution of free red tickets to the winners. The winner of the 50/50 Green Ticket drawing was Ron Cooper. He takes home \$ 29.50 and the Club receives the other half.

16. **VP. Hamilton** announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:

- **Best Coin - Shellie Zornes**
- **Best Jewelry - John Olson**
- **Best Mineral – Shellie Z.**
- **Best Artifact – John Olson**
- **Best Costume Jewelry – Shellie Zornes**
- **Best GOLD - No entry**

17. **VP. Hamilton** concluded the evening with drawings for numerous door prizes donated by club members followed by the drawings for the gold nuggets. **VP. Hamilton** 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. Treasurer Chapman informed us that red ticket sales did not reach the necessary threshold and one nugget was removed from tonight's drawing. Those assisting in the drawings were Bill Chapman & John Olson.

18. **VP. Hamilton** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, time is limited for general conversation. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to reach out to the email: gporpresident@gmail.com or call President Singel at (720) 934-1428 outside the meetings at any time.

19. **The September meeting will have our very own Treasurer, Bill Chapman as presenter.** His talk will be on Successful Treasure Hunting.

Having nothing further at this time, remember to prospect safely and often! **The next Meeting is on September 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

20. **Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

A Miner's Laugh

An old prospector calls home from a prospecting trip, asks his brother how his beloved cat is doing. Brother says "He died." Guy says "Why'd you have to be so blunt? I'm going to be gone another 3 weeks. So, you could tell me he crawled on the roof and won't come down. Then, next time I call, that he seems sick and maybe the next time that he'd died, it would be more tactful."

The brother apologizes, says he'll try to be more tactful. The old prospector says "That's OK. By the way, how is Mom?" "Well, she crawled up in the roof and won't come down..."

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



Finds of the Month for Aug 2026

- **Best Coin - Shellie Zornes**
- **Best Jewelry - John Olson**
- **Best Mineral – Shellie Z.**
- **Best Artifact – John Olson**
- **Best Costume Jewelry – Shellie Zornes**
- **Best GOLD - No entry**

(There were no photos submitted for publication this month)



The Pirate's Aug 2026 Hunt

by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Well, we had our monthly outing and this time, we went to Berkeley Park. We had 6 people for breakfast and 7 people for the Hunt. the weather was great sun was out with a slight breeze. So, the best Pirate this month was Gary H. with 2.41, and next followed Robert A. with 1.71. Chris and Joe K. came in holding .96 cents, and Shellie had a hand full of



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

change that totaled .13 cents. Bill C. found a pretzel (dog tag) and I received no report from Jack M. So, we only came up with 6.21, but we were out in the field with good friends..!

Oh P.S., Shellie found a really nice .925 bracelet. You all have a good and safe Labor Day weekend and we'll see you at the next G.P.O.R. meeting on September 16th. Be safe and stay healthy.

Any questions, just give me a call. Remember to keep on swinging and you can contact me at 720-532-5210.



Deadman's Cave Treasure, Colorado

In the winter of 1880, three prospectors – E.J. Oliver, S.J. Harkman, and H.A. Melton were prospecting two miles north of what would later become known as Dead Man Camp. As they were working, the sky threatened an oncoming blizzard, and they quickly looked about for shelter.

Spying a small opening in a sheer rock wall across the canyon, they made their way through the opening, lighting several crude torches.

Wet Mountains

Though the

passageway was narrow and less than four feet high, it opened into a large 20-foot-long room.



Shining their torches around, Oliver found the first of five skeletons scattered around the dusty, dark cavern. While exploring the cavern, they found several tight passageways extending into the gloom of the mountain. Choosing one, they followed the tunnel deeper into the mountain until it opened up into a large vault-like chamber. Shining their torches around, Melton noticed shelves carved into the western wall. Bringing his torch closer, he saw several odd-looking stones stacked on one of the shelves. Picking one up, he was surprised at its heavy weight. When he and his partners scrutinized it more carefully, they were astounded to discover that the stone was actually a crude bar of gold!

Silver Cliff, Colorado, 1880

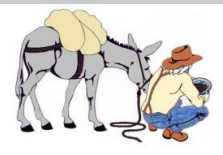


After the threat of snow had passed, the three excited men gathered up five of the bars and headed over the pass to Silvercliff in the Wet Mountain Valley. Immediately, they had the bars assayed, which proved to be worth \$900 apiece. Becoming instant celebrities in Silver Cliff, the men were questioned by all whom they encountered about the source of the gold bars. Still, all three men steadfastly refused to divulge the location, making plans to return to Dead Man's Cave in the spring.

They made their way back to Dead Man Cave in the early spring. They thought the cave would be easy to find again, but when they returned, many places looked like where the cave had been found. Over the years, they frequently returned to the area but never found the cave again.

The story of these three prospectors was reported in both *The Fairplay Flume* and *The Denver Post* in 1880. To this day, the gold has never been found.

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Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

Lost Gold in the San Juan

By Norm Vance

Find a mountain peak or scenic vista somewhere in the vicinity of Pagosa Springs and look around at the distant mountains stretching from west to east and then south, on the east side, following the Continental Divide. According to legends, you are looking over millions of dollars in lost treasure. This area has long been thought to have gold hidden by prospectors and miners long ago. There are several stories or legends of this lost gold.

As far back as the late 1500's, the French were known to have found and hidden gold. The Spanish and others came later, also finding and hiding stashes. The major problem was that gold is very heavy and the San Juan Mountains are rugged and have a short warm season. In a time before roads, this country was hard to travel even with the barest of supplies. It is easy to understand why several people or even teams of men opted to hide their treasure planning to return for it later, better supplied, or when the weather was better. The Indians were also, naturally, reluctant to allow these strange pale people free use of the mountains. Unknown numbers of prospectors and miners fell to Indian attacks. Not being a gold standard society, the Indians were said to have buried large amounts of gold left by the first white men.

Interesting stories related by early explorers, Mountain Men, and Indians refer to secretive men and groups of men who were seen in the mountains "working hard and armed to the teeth." There is little doubt why.

The Indians, being perfectly at home in the forest, often watched the activities of the strangers in the forest. To the Indian, this was a "close encounter of the third kind" and white men passing did not go unnoticed. Certainly the Indians could figure out what the strange men were up to.

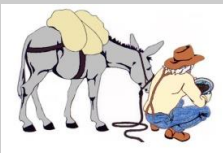
Of the prospectors who took gold out of the mountains in the early years, few stories exist. Most of their gold was found by panning for flakes and nuggets in streams without actually mining for it. Many found and took all they wanted or could carry. The first white men, the Mountain Men looking for beaver, would have seen gold in the rivers as this is where the beaver were. It was their stories that inspired the quest for gold that later became the classic "gold rush." When many seekers came the gold available in streams was quickly found and removed. They followed these nuggets and flakes upstream and sometimes up networks of side tributaries until the place where it was washing out of the earth was found. Then they mined back into the "vein" of gold ore, sometimes finding much more. When they dug the prospector became a miner.

Although the mountains surrounding Pagosa Country were rich in gold the immediate area had no big gold finds or mines. The largest finds were north of Pagosa in the Silverton-Telluride area and over to Lake City and Creede. The exceptions were the Black Diamond Mine on the East Fork of the San Juan and Summitville, just east of the divide south of Wolf Creek Pass. So, there were no big mines here but gold was found in streams, is there still natural gold under the mountains along with the hidden treasures that haven't been found, yet?

The earliest legend revolves around the area now known as Treasure Mountain. (*Follow Treasure Mtn. Trail from the East Fork of the San Juan Road*) A French group is said to have mined several millions of dollars in gold. They had time to smelt it down into crude ingots but winter, disease and Indian attack forced them to bury it somewhere in the area of Treasure Mountain. Of almost three hundred men only a handful made it out of the mountains and only one made it back to France. It was a hard time with war in Europe and no immediate effort was made to return for the treasure. The person who made it back was leader of the expedition and he kept a map and many years later his son traveled here looking for it. When he failed, he rode horse back down the East Fork to the San Juan where his horse bucked him off. He became the first recorded drowning in the San Juan River. For more see The Legend of Treasure Mountain on this website.

In the early part of this century, a family lost a teenager in the Treasure Mountain area. After several days and search parties he finally wandered into Pagosa Springs in poor condition. When able to talk he told of having stumbled and "fell through the ground." He fell into a deep hole where he found rotten leather bags of gold. He said he believed he could lead a team back to the spot. Then he promptly died. Could this have been part of the Frenchman's gold or another hidden treasure?

During the early years people found and hid gold for various reasons. One story involves a man named Stewart. He was a young captain in the U.S. Cavalry on a mission to California with a detachment of cavalrymen. They traveled the Old Spanish Trail that passes across the San Juan Basin that Pagosa Springs is now located in. Captain Stewart wanted to camp by and use the Pagosa Hot Springs but found an Indian camp on the flats around the spring. He then turned north and into the mountains to avoid contact with them. He and his men camped by a stream in the forest. In the stream, a young "chore boy" found "most unusual sand." The existence of "fool's gold" was well known so Stewart took a sample on to California where it was assayed as rich in real gold. His military duties kept him busy and he later became well off in California. It was thirty years before he came back to search for his "lost placer." He, nor any of the others he enlisted to help, or many others in later years ever found the gold.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

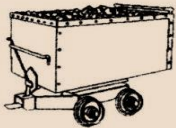
There is an Indian legend that tells of a group of Indians that actually observed Stewart or perhaps a similar group discovering gold in a stream. When the men left the Indians covered the gold with rock and dirt, causing the stream to be redirected. It is possible that gold exists buried on a stream bank up in the Wiminuche Wilderness waiting to be rediscovered.

There is still interest in finding gold and other valuable ore in the San Juan. Some local shops sell gold pans and instruction books on searching for gold. Someday, somebody will be panning and a gleam of yellow will be seen. The fortunate panner will walk upstream and begin digging in the bank. He will find a natural placer, a hidden treasure, or perhaps Captain Stewart's placer, "Gold as small as sand and as large as wheat grain covering the entire stream bed." Good luck!

Many other such stories are relayed in "Golden Treasures of the San Juan". This book is on reference at the Sisson Library in Pagosa Springs.

By norm vance|June 13th, 2011|History of Pagosa Springs

HIDEE GOLD MINING COMPANY
CHRIS STONE
Owner / Operator



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1950 HIDE MINE ROAD
CENTRAL CITY, CO 80427
www.HideeGoldMine.com
Chris@HideeGoldMine.com
720-548-0343

PLACE YOUR AD HERE



Kevin Singel
findinggoldincolorado@gmail.com
720-934-1428

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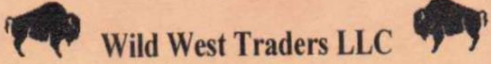
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3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

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)

Upcoming Announcements and Special Events for Oct 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	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15 Zoom Board Meeting 7:30pm	16	17
18	19	20	21 GPoR Club Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Pirate's Hunt (Weather permitting)	29	30	31 Halloween