Gold Prospectors of the Rockies

THE GOLD NUGGET

GPR Website Link:
www.goldprospectorsoftherockies.com

November 2026

The Prez Sez..! by Kevin Singel



This past month has been so out of the ordinary for our club…we could use the Clements Community Center where we normally meet. However club member Dave Mullen saved the day by opening his place of business to us. Over 40 people, including a couple brand new club members and a couple guests found their way to our meeting spot on south Santa Fe. We had a panel of experienced prospectors and heard some inspiring stories from their past adventures, as well as getting a few good tips for ourselves! Outing-wise, we had our first weekend long prospecting outing in quite a few years. A group of 10 intrepid club members traveled to the Ruthless Fortune mining claim south of Gateway, Colorado for a four day weekend adventure. There was digging, high banking, a tour of the commercial Bancroft Mine, and a little attempted metal detecting as well. Some will probably have their fondest memories of the beauty of the area and the fun around the campfire each morning and evening. At least one person found a picker, as displayed on the fines table this past month, and I think everybody was finding some larger (+30 mesh) flakes in their concentrates. A good time was definitely had by everyone and as our host Wes Morlang says "life is good!

November's meeting will include a little slide show about the October outing and our **annual club elections**. I'm delighted to say some great folks have stepped forward to offer to help lead the club forward. It should be a fun evening! You can reach me at 720-934-1428

Vice President's Corner..! by Gary Hamilton



Well first I need to apologize to JJ and Andy for getting this to them a day or more late. I am not really sure everyone in the club realizes how much work they do for our club putting together the newsletter each month but I truly thank them both. Making no excuses. The October meeting did happen with no place to have it thanks to club member Dave Mullen offering his place of business to hold our meeting, the space worked great. Thank you, Dave…! I really enjoyed the different format learning from longtime experienced member prospectors. I definitely learned from JJ that it takes doing, takes hard work, spending time with fellow club members, from Joe that you need to have patience and be prepared and to not give up and from the pumpkin carving contest that you never know. You might be sitting on a Gold Mine. I hope we will do it again next year.
I was able to do some prospecting this month but did not find a new honey hole and I also made it to the pirate hunt the last Wednesday of the month. Both had a lot of learning but not much finding this time. I probably will not be at this months' meeting. My wife and I are going to a 3 day Detecting class in Nevada to learn how to best use your detector to hunt for Gold. I hope we will have some good information to bring back to the club for detecting in Colorado. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas potluck and as always, that you find much gold in your pan and a fist full of gold rings in your pouch.

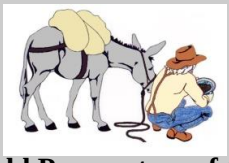
From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledge..! by Bill Chapman



I may seem to be repeating myself by saying once again, that the club is the beneficiary of individual members stepping up when needed. We were faced with the possibility of not being able to hold an October meeting because the Clement Center was closed for maintenance. Fellow prospector David Mullen stepped up and offered the use of his auto dealership's showroom to the club. The board readily accepted his offer. While there were physical differences to work around, the meeting went pretty well and we all appreciate David's contribution.



As anyone managing an existing business knows, relocating causes a loss of business at the onset. Our move was no different and we experienced the expected drop in ticket sales. We actually realized the second lowest monthly income for the year, but it was better than a big ZERO by not having a meeting. While it was projected that we could be drawing for the Minelab™ Gold Monster 2000 at the November meeting, that may be just outside reality. It can happen with a rush of blue ticket sales, but the reality is that



we average just over 300 ticket sales a month and we need to sell just under 500 more in order to give the detector away. Blue tickets are only $1.00 each, so buy early and buy often and DON'T FORGET TO WRITE YOU'RE NAME ON THE BACK OF EACH TICKET! But, it could still happen at the November meeting.
Thanks again David for providing us a meeting place and also to all those members who support our club through ticket sales.

Board Meeting Minutes from Oct 15, 2026 via Zoom

	Kevin Singel (Pres.)	**x**	**Gordon Smith (Sec.)**	**x**	**Robert Ahr**		**Mitchell Ross**
x	**Gary Hamilton (VP)**	**x**	**Andy Doll (Webmaster)**	**x**	**Shellie Zornes**		**Joe Johnston**
x	**Bill Chapman (Treas.)**		**Erik Von Halle**		**Ron "Yam" Yamiolkoski**	**x**	**Bobby Manning (Past Pres.)**

Quorum Present: _Y__
Call to Order at: _7:35_pm.
Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: _None___ Approved as read/corrected: __Moved by Bobby M. 2nd by Shellie Z. _.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
Which continent has no gold in it?

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

Treasurer's Report: Questions: _Funds received from Arap. Cty. Demo? = Yes; DougCo waiting on Club's W-9 to pay invoice. __ Approved as read/corrected: _Motion from Bobby M.; 2nd by Gary H.

Committee Reports:
Nominating – Asked if any board members had been approached by potential nominees for board vacancies; none had been. Forms will be at the meeting for nominations and proxy voting.
Demonstrations – DougCo Fall Festival demo went very well and weather was perfect.
Barker Award – V.P. Hamilton pursuing this at this time

Unfinished Business:
New Club logo – Still waiting to see a b&w version for consideration
Coordination with Eureka Club outings/activities – Still in process, nothing currently planned.

New Business:
Ken Barker Award typically voted on in November. Suggestion: have a separate ballot for this award from general board voting in November. Past President Manning will be scaling back his Board duties due to health concerns.

Planned Outings:
The annual metal detecting contest is still in play but logistics have to be worked out. BP Hamilton is working on a location and prizes to be announced soon.

Board Members Items of Discussion:
Gary H. – asked if the Board should consider dissolving the Ken Barker Award at this time. Several Board members expressed how disappointed they would be if the Board went that way.

This month's General Meeting Program: Panel of experts taking questions from the audience

Announcements: Next Board Meeting __November 12_ at 7:30 pm via Zoom Next General Meeting: __October 21__ at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: Bill Chapman moved to adjourn. Meeting stands adjourned at __9:06__ pm.

General Meeting Minutes from Oct 21, 2026

1. **Meeting** was **opened at _7:11_ pm** by **Pres. Singel** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Singel** then announced this evening Program which is: Expert panel taking questions
3. **Pres. Singel** then gave the Metals Report: Gold _Not reported___ Silver __NR__ Platinum

NR Palladium NR .

4. **Web** hits for last month was not reported

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!

6. **Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes** from the Membership Table reported that we had 41 members in attendance. There were 3 Guests present tonight and 0 New members! The total meeting attendance was 44 .

7. **Pres. Singel** read the 'Question of the Month': What is the Latin word that the symbol AU stands for?
ANSWER: AURUM

8. Additional items to be discussed include:
   - A big THANK YOU to Dave Mullen for arranging the use of JCB showroom for this meeting. The turnout was much better than expected since a change in venue tends to draw a smaller attendance.
   - The annual pumpkin carving contest.
   - Many thanks to our expert panel this month: J.J. Long, Joe Fortunato and Clarence Douthett for their interesting tales and expert advice!
   - Reminder that November marks the end of the FOM for 2026. No FOM table will be at the December Annual Christmas party. In January there will be two FOM tables, one for December finds and one for
   - January finds to start the 2027 year.
   - The Monthly "Pirates" Hunt on the last Wed. of the month.
   - 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.

9. **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. 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.

10. **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.

11. **Pres. Singel 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. **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 8:15 pm with reminders to vote for FOMs and the pumpkin contest. Meeting was called back to order at 8:42 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 24 winners. The winner of the 50/50 Green Ticket drawing was Jon Clark . He takes home $ 58.50 and the Club receives the other half.

15. **Pres. Singel** announced the winners for the **'Finds of the Month'.** Those were:
   - **Best Coin -** Ali Danke
   - **Best Jewelry -** Bobby Manning
   - **Best Mineral –** Kevin Singel
   - **Best Artifact –** Nancy Knerl
   - **Best Costume Jewelry –** Joe Johnston
   - **Best GOLD -** Mathias Orfield

16. The winners of the Pumpkin Carving contest will be announced at the November meeting.

17. **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 **Bill Chapman** & John Olson.

18. **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 or phone at (720) 934-1428 outside the meetings at any time.
19. **The November meeting will be to hold annual elections for the Board.**

Having nothing further at this time, remember to prospect safely and often!

20. **The next Meeting is on November 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**
21. **Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.**

Last Meeting Program Notes

The October Program featured President **Kevin Singel** and long-time members **JJ Long, Joe Fortunato** and **Clarence Douthett**, who all served as an 'Experts Forum' to field questions from the membership about gold prospecting. Their areas of expertise pretty well covered every aspect of prospecting to be encountered today in modern small-scale prospecting. **Singel,** a member since 2012 and currently Club President, has written several books on gold prospecting and is one of the leading modern day experts in Colorado for small scale prospecting in general. **Long**, an 18 year member since 2009 is a past President and expert small scale miner with over 40 years' experience at panning, sluicing and high banking. **Fortunato**, a 22 year member since 2004 and past Board member, is also an expert small scale prospector with high expertise in metal detecting for gold. **Douthett**, a past member since 1995, lives in Alaska on Faith Creek near Anchorage now and was a hard rock miner before moving north and now runs a 'Pay to Dig' operation in Alaska. These guys are sort of who's who and great assets to tap into for information on how to get things done when it comes to all aspects of gold mining. There were some interesting questions from the membership and it was kind of cool to see these guys all up at the front at once. *(Photo by Sherry Long)*



Prospecting Outing at the Ruthless Fortune

In mid-October, the Club participated in a gold dig at the Ruthless Fortune Claim owned by Wes Morlang located on the Dolores River on the Western slope. Some ten members made their way out there for the four day dig. Wes Morlang is the gracious owner who made all this happen and is a real standup guy to say the least. There was digging, high banking, a tour of the commercial Bancroft Mine, and a little attempted metal detecting as well. Some will probably have their fondest memories of the beauty of the area and the fun around the campfire each morning and evening. At least one person found a picker, as displayed on the fines table this past month, and I think everybody was finding some larger (+30 mesh) flakes in their concentrates. A little gold was found by all who shared a good time on and in the water. This was the first multiple day dig in about 10 years for the Club and it was a good one. It is a little far over south of Grand Junction but it was a really good time with really good weather. Pres. Singel managed to get in a few photos of the fun as well!



Working the cut…



Jim working the Crux…



Kevin and Wes Morlang…



Most of the 'Crew'…



High banking for gold….

October 2026 Pumpkin Carving Contest

The October Pumpkins submitted at the meeting were pretty impressive. They were put on display and the attending membership of 40 plus voted their preferences and the winners were announced. Congratulations to the First Place winner, **Robert Holmberg,** for his dazzling mine display. **Pres. Singel** was the Second Place finisher with his laser cut Club Logo pumpkin. All the submissions were within the parameters of a mining theme. Pictures by JJ Long..



1st Sitting on a gold mine



2nd Laser cut Club Logo



3rd A gold nugget



4th Gold Pox…!

A Miner's Laugh



A teenage boy, the son of a miner, had just passed his driving test and asked his Dad if he could start using the family car. The Dad said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car"
The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it. After about six weeks, the Dad said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."
The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."
His Dad replied, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"
(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')

Finds of the Month for Oct 2026

- **Best Coin -** Ali Danke
- **Best Jewelry -** Bobby Manning
- **Best Mineral –** Kevin Singel
- **Best Artifact –** Nancy Knerl
- **Best Costume Jewelry –** Joe Johnston
- **Best GOLD -** Mathias Orfield











The Pirate's October 2026 Hunt

by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello everyone. The Pirate's had small crew for breakfast as only 5 showed up. We all decided to go to the Thornton Rec Center on the Northside of the park and started there and we ultimately finished there. It was 42 degrees when we started but it warmed up to a pleasant 55 degrees. Only 2 of the 5 Pirates' had a good day. Bobby M. picked up $3.30 followed by Bob H. with $2.04. The next 3 people, Shellie Z, Gary H and Robert A. pulled in only $1.04 which gave us a total of $6.74 not the best but better than nothing. We did find 2 rings thanks to Shellie and Bob H. and of course some other jewelry but nothing to brag about, but there's always November, weather permitting. Well, that's it for now; hope to see you all at the meeting on Nov. 18th at 1900hrs. Remember we'll be voting on Finds of the Year and Nov. will be the start of next year's FOM so a lot of things going on this meeting so be prepared. Remember to keep on swinging and you can contact me at 720-532-5210.








Make Money with Gold: 12 Creative Ways for Prospectors to Cash In

Written By Monica of Bering Sea Gold *March 31, 2023*

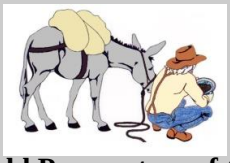
Part 1 of 3

How to make money with gold



Gold prospecting is like a thrilling treasure hunt, where the glint of gold can ignite a spark of excitement and possibility. While the most obvious way for prospectors to cash in on their hobby is to sell their gold, there's a whole world of creative opportunities out there that can turn your passion into profit.

In this guide, we'll explore a treasure trove of innovative ideas that not only



let you sell your gold in unique ways but also show you how to make money from your hobby without parting with a single flake. So, grab your trusty gold pan and let's embark on this golden journey together, uncovering the secrets to turning your love for prospecting into cold, hard cash.

Sell Raw Gold

Selling your raw gold might be the most obvious way to cash in on your discoveries, but being creative with where you sell can make a big difference in how much money you make. By selling your gold online, you can usually get more than what a traditional gold buying business would pay. And remember, don't sell your gold nuggets by weight just yet – we've got some tips later on for getting the best prices for those. For now, let's focus on how to sell your smaller gold finds, like flakes, flour gold, and fine gold.

Real World Story

Judy's (JudyJudyGold on eBay) a gold prospector from Alaska who knows the value of her gold finds. Instead of letting her flakes and fine gold collect dust, she started selling her gold on Ebay in 2009. Her listings showcased her gold's purity, uniqueness and the story of where it was mined. She soon found herself with a growing number of eager buyers, turning her once overlooked gold dust into cold, hard cash.

Getting Started

a. Understand your gold: Know the differences between flakes, coarse gold, and gold pickers, and how their size and purity affect their value.

How to Test the Purity of Gold Nuggets & Placer Gold Dust

b. Choose the right platform: Take advantage of online platforms like eBay and Etsy, where you can reach a wider audience of gold enthusiasts who appreciate the beauty and value of smaller gold finds.

c. Make it look good: Create attractive listings that highlight your gold's unique characteristics, where it's from and emphasize its purity, making it more appealing to potential buyers.

By focusing on the value of your smaller gold finds and using the power of the internet, you'll be turning your flakes and fine gold into sweet profits in no time. And don't forget to stick around for our tips on getting top dollar for your gold nuggets!

Create Gold Jewelry

Transform your gold finds into wearable art by crafting unique, handcrafted jewelry pieces like rings, necklaces, and bracelets. Envision your gold as raw material for a blacksmith, forging one-of-a-kind items that carry the story of their origin. We have a great video that shows you how you can melt gold with a TIG Welder to get yours into a state where you can start making jewelry with it.

Real World Story

Gold Smith Jack on Youtube makes gold jewelry out of his gold. He shows how he melts it down and makes rings and other pieces of gold jewelry from it using basic tools. He has almost 250k subscribers on his channel. Millions of viewers watch as he turns gold dust into beautiful jewelry that he sells.

Getting Started

a. Partner with local artisans or learn the basics of jewelry making. Many local community centers or libraries offer classes on how to make jewelry.

b. Create one-of-a-kind pieces that carry the story of their origin.

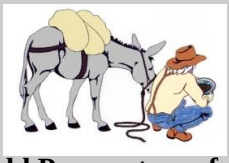
c. Sell your creations through platforms like Etsy, local markets, or gold prospecting events.

Each sale contributes to your growing reputation as a creator of exclusive, gold-infused jewelry that have a story behind them.

Offer Gold Panning Experiences

For gold prospectors who want to share their passion with others, offering gold panning experiences can be a fun and rewarding way to do it. You don't have to start your own camp – you can offer day tours much like a hunting or fishing guide, or even work part-time as a guide at existing gold mining operations or camps. By providing a hands-on adventure for visitors, you can create unforgettable memories while educating them about gold prospecting.

Real World Stories



Our friends at AKAU Alaska Gold & Resort (and Hosts for our 2023 Gold Rush Get Away) the Krutzsch family mined their claims near Nome, Alaska for many years under the name of Krutzsch Mining. With a rich history in gold and a deep love for Alaska, Augie Krutzsch decided to carry on his family's legacy by offering visitors a rare opportunity to not only experience the breathtaking beauty of the Alaskan landscape and tundra but also immerse themselves in the historic past of Nome, Alaska. By providing gold panning experiences, Augie introduced guests to the art of gold prospecting, allowing them to try their hand at finding gold while learning about the region's history. This unique offering quickly became a hit, attracting tourists from all over who wanted to dive into the exciting world of gold hunting and stay at their camp.

Gold prospecting vacations

Kim Rodman and her family have been teaching people how to find and pan for gold for over 3 generations at their Roaring Camp Mining Company located in Pine Grove, California. They offer gold prospecting tours, camping and various family friendly activities for guests in the Mokelumne River Canyon.
They turned their love of prospecting into a fun adventure they can share for generations and make money.

Getting Started

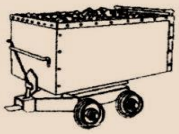
a. Assess your knowledge and experience: Before offering gold panning experiences, make sure you're well-versed in gold prospecting techniques and the history of your chosen location. This will ensure you can provide a fun, informative, and safe experience for your guests.
b. Choose a suitable location: Select a location that is not only rich in gold but also easily accessible and safe for visitors. Be sure to research and obtain any necessary permits or licenses for conducting gold panning tours in the area.
c. Develop a tour plan: Outline your gold panning experience, including the duration, activities, and information you'll share with your guests. Consider incorporating lessons on gold prospecting techniques, equipment, and the history of the area.
d. Set your pricing and create promotional materials: Determine the cost of your gold panning experience, taking into account expenses such as equipment, transportation, and insurance. Develop promotional materials like brochures, business cards, and a website to showcase your offerings and attract customers.
e. Network with other businesses: Reach out to local gold mining operations, camps, and tourism agencies to explore opportunities for collaboration. By working together, you can increase your exposure and tap into a larger client base.
f. Advertise your gold panning experience: Use online platforms, social media, and local tourism outlets to promote your gold panning tours. Encourage satisfied customers to leave reviews and share their experiences with friends and family to help grow your business.
Promote your workshops or tours through social media, local event listings, or by partnering with travel agencies and tour operators. As you inspire and educate others, you'll cultivate a new generation of gold prospecting enthusiasts and simultaneously turn your passion into profit.

Part 2 of 3 will publish next month…

Monica's a treasure hunter at heart and loves watching adventure seekers around the world on TV and online. She has been learning and exploring the world of gold prospecting with the help of seasoned professional gold miners while continuously learning more each day.She panned her first gold from the Bering Sea on the beaches of Nome, Alaska. Monica's been writing content and designing websites for over 15 years

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Owner / Operator



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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)

Upcoming Announcements and Special Events for Dec 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 **Zoom Board Meeting 7:30pm**	11	12
13	14	15	16 **GPoR Club Meeting** ***Christmas Pot Luck Dinner***	17	18	19
20	21	22		24 **Christmas Eve**	25 **Christmas Day**	26
27	28	29	30 **Pirate's Hunt (Weather permitting)**	31 **New Year's Eve**		