

The Gold Nugget

The Prez Sez, by Gary Hawley



AHH! WINTER IN COLORADO. A temperature of 55 degrees today helped melt the 14 inches of gold producing white stuff on my back deck. The good part is that snow helps move gold down the mountain sides and into the stream so we can find it... after the ice melts.

The December meeting was our annual pot luck dinner, so there was no Board Meeting and therefore, no Board Meeting minutes or General Meeting minutes. These will resume with our February newsletter.

We had a great turn out at the Christmas pot luck. Thanks to everyone who attended and supplied the wonderful food. Christmas gifts consisted of a little gold, a little silver and three good little boys and girls received a one-year membership to the GPR.

Thanks to **Joe Johnston** for his work on the Find-of-the-month/year Program. Joe keeps track of the monthly entries/winners and prepares the certificates/awards given out at the December meeting.

Larry & Shirley Weilnau told me they will not be able to continue the Q&A article in the newsletter. My thanks to both for the time they spent on this fun project.

Continued on page 4

VP's Corner by, Allen Mershon

Hello Prospectors. Thanks for electing me to this office - big shoes to fill from Jeff's astounding work previously.

I have been talking to Gary about this year's plans, and he is ready to make it a good one. We will be concentrating on more events outside looking for the elusive, heavy, yellow rocks. By doing more outings we should

have better chances of coming home with heavier pockets. I would like to extend an invitation to all members to join us in the field, as the more who attend the more fun and learning we can share. It is my hope to help as much as possible in promoting the hobby.

Last year was full of different events and I want to keep the

momentum going. Please don't hesitate to suggest new areas to explore. If you have a favorite topic and want to share it with the club, please contact me anytime at allenm@q.com; even if speaking in front of an audience is not your forte', I will be happy to find a speaker that will present your idea. There are so many

Continued on page 6

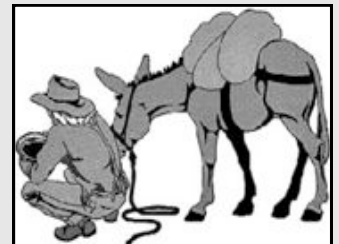
GPOR Website

If you have updates for, comments about, or anything else regarding the club website; contact the webmaster at:



prospector@phantomranch.net

Dick will be happy to review any comments or suggestions that you may have.



Inside This Issue

Crazy, Lonely and Toothless	2
Kathy Hawley, Ken Barker Award...	3
From the Ledger	3
Planning Calendar 2008	4
Question of the Month	5
January Meeting Program	6
Place your Add HERE	7



Crazy, Lonely, and Toothless

By,
Paul Nagy

Mercury was a critical element in pre-twentieth century gold mining. Gold has an affinity for mercury, not a chemical bond, just a curious tendency to attach.

Tables smeared with a mercury coating were placed in front of the stamp mills. The mined rock, smashed to sand by the stamps, would bounce across the tables with the gold particles sticking to the mercury and the waste rock traveling off the end of the table into the waste pile. Periodically, the tables would be scraped clean and the gold-laden mercury sent for refining.

Today mercury is mostly used by hobby miners, especially for placer clean-up. But watch out! Mercury is toxic! It is easily ingested, inhaled during retorting (*distilling to recycle*), or absorbed through the skin. Two MILD symptoms of mercury poisoning are loss of short term memory and loosening of the teeth. Need we go on?

Gold, although electrically

conductive, is chemically inactive and so is most often found as a native element. It will, however, react with the element Tellurium to form gold Telluride minerals, none of which look like gold. Gold Tellurides are important in Colorado mining history and are major gold sources at Cripple Creek, in Boulder County, and at camps in the San Juan Mountains, including Telluride.

Prospecting manuals and historical accounts will tell you that the test for any Telluride mineral is to toss some into a hot frying pan. If there is a puff of white smoke, then it may be a gold Telluride. What may

not be mentioned is that Tellurium Fumes are TOXIC!

Early miners, who roasted gold Telluride Ores to recover the gold some-time's poisoned themselves. An early symptom of Tellurium Poisoning is "Telluride breath", which is offensive to others past the point of nausea. It is a permanent condition which will guarantee a lifetime of solitude. The lifetime may also be short.

If you want to use mercury or try documented "nifty" field tests, at least investigate what you are doing first. As they say, "You won't make the same mistake twice!"

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6 p.m. Board Meeting

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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 month's issue of the newsletter.

Keith R. Hawley, Editor
GPR Newsletter
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(Layout Design Subject to Additional Cost)



Kathy Hawley 2007 Ken Barker Award Recipient



By,
Joe Shubert

Kathy Hawley is a very qualified person to receive this award. She has been directly involved in club activities for about 4 years. She has been in charge of the club clothing table that involved maintaining the inventory and running the sales table of our club shirts, hats, vests, etc. She took on the responsibility of the snack table for a period of time.

Kathy then took on the very important job of Secretary/Treasurer, and one that comes with a lot of responsibility and headaches. She keeps records of all income and expenses of the club and prepares a monthly report for the president to pass on to the club members at the meeting. Included in her responsibilities is keeping the club archives of important documents.

She also took on the responsibility of running the gold drawings that are held at each monthly meeting. This includes assisting the president in purchasing gold nuggets for the drawing, cleaning

the gold, getting 12 nuggets ready for the drawings, and then selling tickets. She then helps with the drawing of the winning tickets and tracking the winners.

Kathy attended most of the panning demos and made the dresses that she wore from *period specific patterns*. She had not done much panning before becoming involved in the demos. She soon became proficient with this activity and enjoyed teaching young kids how to pan.

Kathy takes on the task of finding and buying the large nuggets for the special Club-Members only fund raising drawing.

Kathy gets involved with many of the club activities outside of her responsibilities. She found the last GPR Cache and has hidden the target for the next Cache and prepares the clues that are given at each meeting.

She is a valuable member of the GPR and helps in numerous behind-the-scenes activities that help make the club what it is today. She works hard to make sure everyone gets something at the Christmas meeting and potluck.

Kathy possesses a warm personality that makes new members feel welcome and makes other club members

feel at ease, when they need her assistance with something.

The one question, I believe, every club member has on their mind is:

“How does she put up with Gary all the time?”

From the Ledger
of, Kathy Hawley,
Treasurer/Secretary

I want to thank you for the vote of confidence in re-electing me to the treasurer’s office. I also want to say what an honor it was to receive the Ken Barker award. Thank You!!

We will give away a total of **10.2 grams of gold** at the January meeting. **3** nuggets will be **1 gram or over**, with the largest being undetermined at this time.

We began selling tickets for a *“Special Nugget”* at the September meeting. The Siberian nugget weighs 12.3 grams. Tickets will be sold to members only. We may be able to give this nugget away in March depending on ticket sales.

So like I always say, come prepared to buy some extra tickets and Good Luck!!

Gold’s chemical symbol, Au, comes from the Latin word for gold:
Aurum

Your Write
GPR members, guests and visitors are welcome to submit articles of interest, topic ideas and even creative artwork for consideration to appear in the GPR monthly newsletter.
Submit your ideas and artwork (pictures or hand illustrations) to the editor by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the first Tuesday of every month for appearance in the coming issue of the GPR newsletter.
(All submissions are subject to approval and editing by the GPR board president and the editor).
Please respond or contact the editor.
Keith R. Hawley,
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GPR Newsletter
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303/929-4714



**Planning Calendar
2008**

January
16th. Club Meeting

February
20th. Club Meeting

March
19th. Club Meeting

April
16th. Club Meeting

May
Point Bar Outing
21st. Club Meeting

June
18th. Club Meeting
22nd. Hydee Mine
Tour

July
16th. Club Meeting

August
20th. Club Meeting

September
17th. Club Meeting
20th. Club Picnic

October
15th. Club Meeting

November
19th. Club Meeting

December
17th. Annual Potluck
Dinner

*The Prez Sez,
Continued from page 1*

Ian Duncanson will take over the Q&A section of the newsletter beginning with this issue. Look for his question and let's see if he can stump us.

New board members **Andy Doll** and **Henry Chambless** will be attending their first board meeting in January. Thanks to both for stepping up to this challenge.

Congratulations to **Kathy Hawley** for being the latest recipient of the Ken Barker award. Look for Joe Shubert's article for more information on Kathy and the award.

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who voted me in as president for another year. I enjoy representing the GPR and all the wonderful people who make up the membership of this great organization.

Please continue to support your club and its governing body by attending meetings, volunteering for projects, and lending a helping hand when asked.

Until next time: May the gold in your pan be worth the effort you put into finding it.

- Gary Hawley

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No Motto vs. With Motto



In 1866, Congress had passed a law requiring the motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" to appear on all U.S. coinage large enough to accommodate it. Roosevelt, however, believed it was sacrilegious to have the word "God" appear on money, which could be gambled with, or thrown on the ground, or used for immoral transactions. He therefore ordered the Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle to omit the motto "IN GOD WE TRUST." Saint-

Gaudens Double Eagles struck in 1907 are therefore "without motto," as are some struck in 1908.

In 1908, Congress overruled Roosevelt, upholding the "with motto" law. The issue became a political hot potato for Roosevelt. Ironically, he had to be careful about being portrayed as an atheist for supporting the motto's omission! Production of Saints, now "with motto," resumed in



1908 and continued until



Classify Your Material

1933. Struck mostly in Philadelphia, \$20 Saint-Gaudens gold coins were also produced in limited quantities during some years at the Denver and San Francisco mints.

In 1933, during the height of the Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt outlawed private ownership of gold by U.S. citizens. Gold coins were recalled from circulation, and the production of new U.S. gold coins was ended. While Saints dated 1933 were minted, they were never officially released.

Mysteriously, it is believed up to ten of the banned 1933 Saints were somehow removed from guarded mint bags and replaced by earlier dated coins. As you might expect, these 1933 Saints are now worth a fortune. But before you run out and buy one for your collection, remember this: it remains against the law to possess these contraband 1933 \$20 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagles, subject to confiscation and prosecution! Forbidden fruit indeed!

Excerpt from:

American Gold Exchange
<http://www.amergold.com>

By,
Gary Hawley

At our November meeting we saw a video about black sand removal from concentrates. The information spoke of screening your material to -20 to make clean up easier. That is: a screen that has 20 openings per square inch and anything that goes through the screen is classified as -20. I want to add a personal note to that information.

We have all sampled a new area by tossing a shovel full of bank material into a pan and washing it to determine if we want to spend more time in that location. This allows us to "wash off the rocks", moss, clay and what ever else needs washing. No doubt this is a good idea...for the first pan. It will give you a visual of everything that was in the material and an indication of gold values in that area.

After that initial sample, it's time to get busy and move material quickly. The more dirt moved, the more gold recovered. With that in mind, I like to use the standard 1/4" screen, (4 holes per square inch) the one that fits on top of a five gallon bucket. Here is my procedure: Fill the bucket with water; place a shovel full of material in the screen. The material will now be sitting in water. If not, add more water. Shovel more water over the material. Grasp the screen and bucket and shake back-and-forth to allow the water to rinse over the material. You have now washed any gold off the rocks and you can break up moss and clay. Discard the larger material ONLY after you have

checked for those big nuggets. Repeat the procedure until you have a bucket full of -1/4" material.

At this point, one can run the material through a sluice, wheel, or pan. Whatever method you choose, you are running -1/4" material. I have decided that I am going to classify my material at least one more time, to -20, before running it. Here's why: from my experience, Colorado gold, is usually much smaller than 1/4". In fact, I believe that it is even smaller than -20. That means any -20 gold in my pan/wheel/sluice has to compete with 1/4" material in order to be trapped in my equipment. If I don't classify it again, it's like trying to save a marble when panning with oranges. You're going to loose more than you save.

My plan is this: First, screen the bank material to -1/4" until I have 2 or 3 buckets full. Second, screen the -1/4" material through a #20 screen. Third, pan or sluice what I estimate will be slightly less than one full bucket of material. I should save time and effort because I will be running similar sized material, less of it, and it should be richer.

I have a #20 screen that fits a five gallon bucket and I will start testing this double screening method when the weather gets better and report back to you. In the mean time, if you have other methods that get more gold or save time, or make prospecting more fun, do a write up like this one and get it to the editor.

"The Question of the Month"

By, Ian & Susan Duncanson

Name the composer of this poem:

Here's a land where all are equal of high and lowly birth. A land where men make millions, dug from the dreary earth. Here meek and mild-eyed burros on mineral mountains feed. It's day all day in the daytime, and there is no night in Creede.

The cliffs are solid silver with wondrous wealth untold. And the beds of the running rivers are lined with the purest gold. While the world is filled with sorrow and hearts must break and bleed. It's day all day in the daytime, and there is no night in Creede.



January Meeting Program

We have a guest speaker scheduled for the January 16th meeting. However, he is "on call" and may not be able to attend this meeting. In the event he is unable to attend, we will continue the GPAA film we started in November about *black sand*.

If we do the video, Gary Hawley and Allen Mershon will have concentrates, pans and magnets to help demonstrate removal of magnetic sands from your concentrates.

All membership dues are to be paid in January of each year. Please check with Jackie Barker at the January 16th meeting to confirm you are current.

Greetings from Jeff

I wanted to thank the membership for their support of me as Vice President and Panning Demo Coordinator for the past few years. It has truly been a joy to work with all of you. My activities in these positions exposed me to more people and experiences than I can write about in a limited space. I want to encourage you all to keep involved with the GPR and that includes the administration side of the club. New people and new ideas keep

VP's Corner *Continued from page 1*

aspects of this hobby to explore. I am always impressed with the collected knowledge and experience our club members have to offer.

I would propose a list of expertise be made up that can be included in a future copy of the newsletter and posted on the website. This might help new members to find the niche they joined up for. Let's keep sharing our stories and adventures looking for gold with those who might not have found as much.

Again, let me thank all members for their participation in the elections, as you determine where this club is going by your vote.

Thanks for the chance to guide our group of metal seekers, but please let me know where YOU want to hunt. Whether it is in streams, books, videos, or hillsides by sending me feedback, and I will be able to help us better in the search for gold.

I hope we all can have fun together, and I can't wait for the runoff that redepot's more of the shiny stuff in nooks and crannies for us to find.

Pans, shovels, sluices, dredges, are the tools we collect, but my most valued prospecting items are memories of being with friends who like to share time together.

Wishing all a new year of discovery... Good luck.
- Allen Mershon

along with the folks at South Platte Valley Historical Society. We also want to be involved with the rebuilding of the 1800's Trappers Fort in Ft. Lupton. If you are interested in this important effort, check out their website at: <http://www.spvhs.org>.

The last item I have for now is there is another Front Range Rendezvous in the works for 2008. I'll keep ya posted on that one. Signing off for now.
- Jeff Mosteller

"What have you been doing?"

Where did you prospect last summer?

What did you find?

What kind of equipment did/do you use?

How did/do you research your location?

Did you file any claims?

What would you have done/do differently?

Did you take any pictures?

Answer any or all of these questions in an article about your prospecting related experiences from recent times and send it to:

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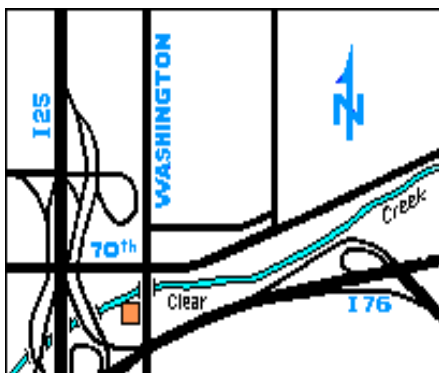
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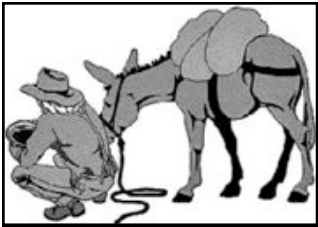
GOT STUFF? WANT STUFF? PUT YOUR AD HERE!

Members of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies are welcome to submit their personal classified ads for items they want to sell, or for items they may be looking to buy. Place your ad in the Gold Nugget. If you are interested, please contact the newsletter editor. “Deadline” for submission is on the 25th of the month for publication in the next month’s issue of the newsletter.

Keith Hawley, daotter@msn.com

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The Gold Nugget

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Coming Announcements and *Special Events* February 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8	9
10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentines Day	15	16
17	18 Presidents' Day	19	20 Club Meeting	21	22 Washington's Birthday	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Leap Day	