GPR Website Link: www.goldprospectorsoftherockies.com

THE GOLD NUGGET

October 2011

<u>Reminder</u>: Election Nominations are coming up in November. Nominations may be made for offices at October Meeting. We are seeking nominations for <u>Vice President</u>. All other Board Officers will be re-running but we welcome anyone interested in seeking to run for Office. You may be nominated for Office by anyone or you may nominate yourself.



The Prez Sez by Jim Long

The September meeting featured a great presentation on 'Gold and How to Find it' put on by former Club

Member Glen Godat. This was a truly great presentation that held the attention of the entire membership. Glen brought some of his 'finds' with him that really grabbed your attention. Great Job Glen.!!! You wowed the socks right off everybody. Glen stressed that you must always know where you are and never trespass on private property or you will pay the consequences. But he proved there is still gold to be found for those willing to invest the research and time.

The active part of the prospecting year is beginning to wane as the fall season fast approaches. It seems that with the unusually long period of high water this last spring, it really impacted our ability to access the streams, however, when we did get to the water, we found that the gold had really been replenished in spades. I personally had better luck this year than some in the past. I hope that many of you had the opportunity to get out and collect some of that wonderful mineral we call gold. If not, there is still a little time left before the weather gets too cold to bear. It is no fun to be digging in frozen ground, breaking through ice, or suffering from frigid temperatures. And remember, the higher the elevation, the colder it is going to be. No matter where or when you go out, always be sure to stay safe.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed at least some of the activities that we planned for everyone this year. There will have been 3 Mine tours and 1 Museum tour as well as a rock hounding tour/outing, 1 metal detecting outing, 3 prospecting outings, and a total of 2 beginner 'how to prospect' classes. The Club has conducted 3 panning demos for various civic events and has scheduled an 'Instructional Prospector Class' for the JeffCo Open Spaces Rangers. We will have hosted a Club picnic and will finish the year with a Christmas pot luck dinner and 'gold elephant gift exchange'. I have seen a few more faces at some of these outings and events than previously seen and that tells me that more and more of you are participating in the events. All of us who volunteer to organize and lead these 'outings' certainly appreciate it when lots of folk show up to enjoy the event, no matter what it is.

We have enjoyed a multitude of very interesting and informative program presentations this year from a variety of speakers from within the Club as well as outside the Club. The Newsletter has been full of informative information and history as well, as it relates to our hobby of recreational prospecting. We have had the opportunity to talk to several social media outlets and speak about prospecting in modern times and how different it is today from the 'old days'.

And we have observed a bit of history taking place this year with mineral prices reaching highs that have never before been seen. And no one knows where the prices will peak or when. These are truly intriguing times indeed.

I have heard a rumor that the GPAA will be hosting a show in the Denver area during 2012. It will be my intent to once again have a booth at the Show and we will be seeking some volunteers to man the booth and to assist the GPAA in setting up and tearing down the Show. The GPAA Show is always a good time and they do raffle off a lot of very good prizes including a free trip to the GPAA Cripple River Camp in Nome, Alaska. I can't wait!

At the October 19th meeting, I have asked Board member Joe Fortunato to speak to us about his trip this summer to the Paradise Valley area of Alaska. He took a lot of photos and will show them and talk about his experience metal detecting and prospecting the 'Last Frontier'. It should be a very interesting and entertaining program.

Anyway, that is how I see it from here. So until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that 'Yaller Gold'!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at inslong945@msn.com.

Happy and safe prospecting!!!

The V.P. Corner by Don Bray

Territorial Gold Coins

As appearing in *The Gold Nugget*, February 2002 Submitted by Doug Taylor



The Clark, Gruber & Company banking firm was established in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1857 by Milton E. and Austin M. Clark (brothers), and E.H. Gruber. They opened a new branch house in Denver in 1859. Denver was in dire need of coinage. Most of the business transactions were conducted with gold dust and the purity of the gold was always an issuewas it 16 caret or 20 caret? The shopkeepers usually came out ahead in transactions with the miners. If the miner sent his gold back east for exchange he had to pay for shipping and by the time he got back his cost had brought the price lower than what the local shopkeepers would give him.

The privately operated mint was just what the miners and Denver needed. The building was located at 16th and Market Streets and started to produce coinage on July 20, 1860. They issued coins with their own stamp upon it, in denominations of \$20, \$10, \$5, and \$2.50. They had the best of facilities for assaying and designed to have their coins so pure that it would be worth par at the U.S. Mint.

The \$10 gold piece displays on one side the American eagle and the words "Clark, Gruber & Co" near the edge of the coin, with the date 1860 in the usual place. On the reverse side is a picture of the "Peak" with the words "Pikes Peak Gold" above and "Denver" beneath. "Ten-D" (ten dollars) appears in its appropriate position.

The first year of coins came from unalloyed native gold. It was soon discovered that they abraded too easily and for the second year's production in 1861, an alloy was added to harden the coins for circulation.

On April 21, 1862, the Government acquired the Clark, Gruber & Company for \$25,000. Unlike Clark, Gruber & Company, the Denver plant performed no coinage of gold as first intended. One reason given by the Director of the Mint for lack of coinage was, "... the hostility of the Indian tribes along the routes, doubtless instigated by rebel emissaries (there being a Civil War) and bad white men."

John J. Conway & Company started another territorial mint. Very little is known regarding the mint except that it operated in Parkville, Summit County, in the Summer of 1861. Conway & Company, jewelers and bankers, advertised to receive gold dust and coin it into \$10, \$5, and \$2.50 gold pieces. An unknown quantity of such coins was produced at its mint. Another short-lived entrant in the game of coining Colorado gold was Dr. John D. Parsons who, in partnership with a Mr. Black, formed Parsons & Company, setting up his assaying and minting equipment near Tarryall in South Park, Colorado. The coins are undated but the Weekly News of Denver and the Miner's Record issued at Tarryall carried news items in 1861 concerning the J. Parsons & Co. gold coinage.

The final curtain came down on private coinage with Congress' passage of the Act of June 8, 1864. This act intended to stop the minting of Civil War tokens and legislation prohibited the private manufacture of any coins designed to pass as money.

Contact me at: don_bray@copper.net

From the Ledger of Peg Brozek, Treasurer/Secretary

Thanks to Lloyd Lauck, JJ Long, Joe Johnson and Don Bray for last months member only drawing prizes. It's October, time to volunteer for the board or other positions. So to encourage a large turnout, for the monthly drawing there is a total of 8.1 grams with the largest being 3.4 grams. We continue to sell tickets for the special nugget. Good luck to all. Peg

ELECTION TIME by Joe Shubert

Hello GPR Club Members

Please think about running for office or nominating someone. If you nominate someone for an office you must have their permission to do so.



I will have the nomination forms at the October Meeting.

Oualifications to run for office:

- 1) Must be a Club member in good standing.
- 2) Candidates for President and Vice President must have been active as a Committee person, Officer, or a director on the board.
- 3) All nominations must be received by the Nominations Committee Coordinator at the October meeting, mailed or emailed to him. I must receive them by November 9, 2011.
- 4) The list of nominees will be compiled on a ballot form for the November meeting. Only Club Member will receive a ballot when they sign in at the meeting. A sealed ballot box will be present for all completed ballots to be placed into.
- 5) The ballots will be counted and the results printed in the December newsletter.

Step up and run for a position. We could use some new blood at the helm. You can run for any office that you are qualified to run for even if the person that holds the position is running for reelection.

Board Meeting Minutes From Sept 2011

X James Long	X Joe Shubert	X Joe Fortunato	X Don Luchtenburg
X Don Bray	X Joe Johnston	X Terry Weatherly	X Mike Hurtado
X Peg Brozek	X Sue Lemieux	X Andy Doll	
Gary Hawley			

Quorum present?

Yes

Call to Order: Meeting was called to Order at 6:02 by Jim Long.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Aug Minutes were not Available and were tabled

until the Oct Meeting.

Corrections: N/A. Approved as read/corrected: N/A

Treasurer's Report: Read by Jim Long. Questions: None Approved: Yes

Correspondence: Received 11 e-mails and 14 phone calls from within as well as outside the Club. 3 mailing.

Committee Reports: None due.

Webmaster: Andy Doll reports 114,562 hits total on the web site, 1,409 since Aug

meeting.

Unfinished Business: Mike Hurtado supplied receipts for the gold pan magnets and other supplies for store as well as paper and ink for the business cards which will be ready by the Sept meeting.

New Business: Elections are pending soon and Joe Shubert is working on it. Opening for VP and all other Board members indicated willingness to rerun for 2012.

Preparations for Christmas Party are underway. JJ and Peg will take care of. Will be a gold elephant gift exchange with a \$5cap.

We will have a Pumpkin carving contest for Oct. Meeting

As of this date, the following outings are established. Planned Outings for 2011:

Sept 24 Georgetown Loop RR ride and Lebanon Silver Mine Tour organized and Led by Sue Lemieux. 33.00 @ person form ride and tour. 0945am.

Oct. 6 Field Prospecting Orientation/Instruction Class for Jeff Co Open Space Rangers to be conducted in Clear Creek Canyon Park.

Oct. 19 Club Meeting at 7pm.

Oct 22 School of Mines Museum Tour in Golden organized and led by Sue Lemieux.

From the Floor: Andy advises that a request has been made to establish a base list of prospectors who regularly go out and who would be willing to take other folks along be made. Will send out mass e-mail to gauge membership and see who opts in and who opts out. Jim announced that he will not be in attendance for Oct. Meeting and Don Bray will lead the Meeting. In the event that Don is out of town with his new job, Gary Hawley has agreed to step in.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How much gold is in one ton of seawater?

> 2011 GPR Board of **Directors Members President**

James Long

Vice President Don Bray

Secretary/Treasurer

- Peg Brozek 2 Year Board Members Joe Johnston (2010)
 - Joe Shubert (2009)

1 Year Board Members Sue Lemieux

Joe Fortunato Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Don Luchtenburg

Mike Hurtado



Announcements: Next Board Meeting Oct 19, 2011 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Oct 19, 2011 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: Power point presentation on 'Gold and How to Find it' by Glen Godat, a former Club member.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6.58 pm.

General Meeting Minutes From Sept 2011

- 1) President Jim Long called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.
- 2) Jim led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, to open the meeting.
- 3) Jim introduced Glenn Godat as the presenter of tonight's program. Glenn is a former GPR member, long time gold prospector and expert metal detector user.

Glenn stated that he was born and raised around Leadville, CO, joined this club about ten years ago and bought his first metal detector from Bill Chapman at about that same time. Some tips for metal detector users gleaned for Glenn's talk follow:

- a) Search known gold locations.
- b) Search old mine dumps, road ditches, haul roads, around loading/storage bins and hoppers, around sorting houses and "float fields."
- c) Search along the base of mine dumps.
- d) The old timers sorted high-grade ore by sight and they didn't see some of the gold and it ended up on the waste dump.
- e) Look for the quartz.
- f) When you find one piece of gold you will usually find more near the same spot.
- g) When you find a piece of gold slow down and work uphill.
- h) When you have a successful trip go back to the same dump, same area, same place. In fact to the same spot year to year.
- i) Check around places where the old timers may have assayed or smelted ores. Look for kilns and ovens, fire bricks, cupels and crucibles.
- j) Keep a journal of all your collecting/prospecting trips from year to year

Thanks Glenn for this informative and interesting program, well done.

- 4) Jim announced that today's metal prices were as follows: Gold \$1806.90 per t oz, Silver \$40.08 per t oz, Platinum \$1781.90 per t oz. and Palladium \$716.00 per t oz.
- 5) Jim announced that this month's website hits total 1409 since the last meeting.
- 6) Jim updated the membership on several local news items of interest to area prospectors.

Trout Unlimited has contracted some work in Clear Creek Canyon Park for the building of fish habitat structures within the creek. The contractor has reported a problem with gold prospectors tearing apart the structures after the contractor's crew completes them. Jeffco's Colleen Gadd has instructed her Park Rangers to write tickets to anyone caught destroying these structures. In addition the prospector's equipment may be subject to confiscation.

Jim has received reports of prospectors highbanking and dredging along Clear Creek in Adams County. He reminded the membership that these two activities are still not allowed in Adams County. No gas driven equipment is allowed, however panning and sluicing are allowed.

Jim also advised that he has received some reports that the City of Wheatridge may be in the process of reconsidering their stance against prospecting in the city, more information to follow.

- 7) Jim reported, to the membership, on recent club outings.
 - Sept. 11, Nederland City Park panning outing Participants created a contest to see who could salvage the most glass from the creek while working the creek for gold. Contest winners were Phil Huff 4th place, Don Fling 3rd place, Bill Duncanson 2nd place and Brandon Luchtenburg 1st place. Greg Davis met with some of the town fathers and police and they were very impressed and pleased with the amount of glass removed from the creek in just a few hours. Jim reported that all had a good time and thanked Greg for setting this outing up with the town officials.



- Sept. 8 through 10, Highlands Ranch panning demonstration A very easy demo because very few visitors showed up.
- Sept. 17, Clear Creek Watershed Festival Idaho Springs panning demo Jim thanked the volunteers and stated that this demo and the Highlands Ranch one netted the club \$1000.00, toward our meeting hall rent.
- Aug. 20, Annual Club Picnic Jim reported that close to sixty people attended the club picnic and all had a good time. Thanks to Jim for cooking the meats.
- 8) Jim announced that according to Peg Brozek's Board Meeting Treasurer's Report the club's finances remain in the black. He also reminded the membership that the treasurer's report details are available, from the treasurer, at the club meetings to any member who would like to see them.
- 9) Jim asks, membership chairman, Greg Davis for his membership report. Greg reported that tonight, we have 115 paid memberships including 4 new memberships tonight and 69 in attendance including 9 guests.
- 10) Jim asked vice president, Don Bray for any announcements. Don reported that he has a full size copy of the reduced figure that accompanied the VP Corner article in the latest newsletter for those who may be interested, during the break. Don also said he has a Michigan "Half Breed" nugget (native silver on native copper) to show during the break.
- 11) Jim called on Sue Clover for her "Question of the Month" which is, "How much did Tutankhamen's solid gold coffin weigh?" Sue will collect your answers to this question during the break and distribute a "Club Nugget" drawing ticket to each person turning in a correct answer.
- 12) Jim announced that Peg Brozek is selling tickets for a 17.1-gram "Members-Only" large nugget drawing during the break. The drawing will be held at a later date.
- 13) Jim next called on Barbara Barrow to read the second of her cache clues.
- 14) Jim also stated that the Club Store would be open during the break tonight.
- 15) Jim asked Sue Lemieux for her announcements.
 - Sue announced that during the break the Club Store will be open. Also during the break tonight she will auction off two of the Wayne Hale donated books. The minimum bid on each book is \$1.00 and the minimum bid increments are \$0.25. There will be one book on Arizona, "Bisbee Queen of the Copper Camps" and one on Nevada, "Gold in them Hills."
 - Sue announced birthday brownies or cookies for those with September birthdays. Six members claimed September birthdays and their goodies Terry Weatherly, Rich Dimisco, Sandra Hall, Roy Phillips, Susan Duncanson and Barb Barrow.
 - Sue announced that Saturday, Sept. 24 is the trip on the Georgetown Loop Railroad and to the Lebanon Silver mine. The cost for the train ride only is \$25.00 for adults and \$17.00 for children 3-15 years old. For the train ride plus the mine tour (for you must ride the train to get to the mine) the cost is \$32.95 for adults and \$23.95 for children. Plan to be at the Devil's Gate station in Georgetown 9:15 to 9:30 A.M. Information and a signup sheet will be on the front table during the break.
 - On Oct. 22 she is planning a trip to the Colorado School of Mines for a tour of the geology museum.
- 16) Jim reminded the membership of some future planned outings and club events.
 - This Saturday, Sept. 24th will be the Georgetown Loop Railroad and Lebanon Mine trip.
 - Thursday, October 6th GPR will put on a prospecting demonstration for Colleen Gadd's Jeffco Park Rangers in the Clear Creek Canyon Park. The purpose of this demo is to show the rangers proper prospecting techniques so they can properly evaluate the public's methods when they encounter them prospecting on the creek.
 - If you are holding one of the club's library books, you are requested to turn them in to Joe Johnston the club librarian.
 - Jim stated that the club board is thinking that they would like to have a "Gold Elephant" gift exchange at the club Christmas Party. It is suggested that the gifts be in the \$5.00 range and that participation be purely voluntary, if you bring a gift you can take one. Jim asked for a show of hands from those who would be interested in participating in the gift exchange. A preponderance of attendees expressed an interest in participating so there will be a gift exchange at the Christmas Party in December.
 - Jim announced that at the October meeting the club would be having the Pumpkin Carving Contest again this year. Put on your "thinking cap" and come up with some good ideas, you have a month to get it done.



- Jim reminded members to be aware of the closing dates for the various prospecting sites by checking the BLM Canon City website.
- 17) Jim announced that Gary Hawley has some items for sale in the back of the hall during the break.
- 18) Jim announced the meeting refreshment break, at 8:26. At 8:40 Jim reconvened the meeting.
- 19) Jim asked Sue Clover to announce the answer for her "Question of the Month" contest. Sue's correct answer is "243 pounds, 110.39 kilograms or 3049.44 t oz.". Twenty-two people turned in answers with 20 being correct answers tonight. Each person with a correct answer received a red nugget drawing ticket.
- 20) Sue Lemieux announced that the successful bidders in tonight's book auction were Glenn Glass for the NV book at \$4.50 and Keith Schuler for the AZ book at \$5:00.
- 21) Jim thanked all that donated to the snack table tonight.
- 22) Chuck Cown, Peggy Brozek, and Jim conducted this evening's "Members-Only" and the "Club-Nugget" drawings. For the "Member's-Only" drawing, 8 prizes were awarded to members, our thanks go to all who donated tonight's prizes. Eight nuggets for the "Club-Nugget" drawing were won tonight, the largest being 2.1 gram. The nuggets tonight are from various localities (as noted on the containers).
- 23) Jim asked for two volunteers to help bring refreshments for the October meeting. Ed Fielding and Sandra Hall volunteered thanks Ed and Sandra.
- 24) Next meeting is Wednesday, October 19 at 7:00 P.M.
- 25) Meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M

Submitted by, Don Bray, Recorder

President Panning Demo at Highlands Ranch Days by Jim Long

The 3 day Panning Demo at the Highlands Ranch Days Festival held on September 8, 9 and 10 went very well. The Festival was held at the Douglas County Law Enforcement Training Facility at Hwy 85 and Ron King Rd this year instead of at the Highlands Ranch Mansion due to the fact they have been remodeling the Mansion. Because of the remodeling, the turnout for the festival was lighter than hoped for, but very manageable for the volunteers who helped.

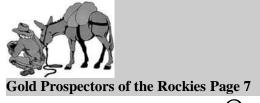
My personal thanks go to Gary and Kathy Hawley, Jack Meineke, John House, Mike Hurtado, Ed Fielding, Leslie Schomer, Lloyd Lauck and Brandon Luchtenburg for volunteering to man the booth during the 3 day festival.

The weather was great and I think everybody had a good time and didn't have to work too hard. Photos by Jim Long.









Sue's Sluice Box



5th Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest

It's that time of year to be creative!
Bring in your carved Pumpkins, for the
October Meeting, and let the club
Members vote on your creations!

The more creative, the best chance of Winning a Prize & ribbon!

All ages are encouraged to participate



THEN

Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum Tour

Saturday, October 22nd

Meeting Time: 9:30am (Tour starts at 10:00am Sharp) Where: Corner of 13th and Maple Street, Golden, CO

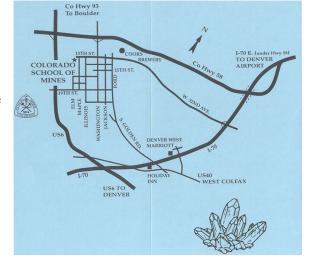
Cost: FREE

Enjoy a two hour tour of the CSM Geology Museum. Our tour guide will be Bruce Geller, Geology Museum Director. Bruce promises to give our group a "special tour". If anyone has not visited this museum, you are in for a treat. The exhibits include: Gold & Silver Displays, Mining Artifacts, Minerals of Colorado, Colorado Mining Heritage, Gemstones – Rough & Cut, World Minerals, and Fossils.

Any Questions: Come and talk with me or call 413-668-6008.

I hope you can attend these great educational and fascinating tours!!!!!!!

Sluicin' Sue



GPR Prospecting Outing in Nederland big Success by Jim Long

The Prospecting Outing organized and led by Greg Davis in Nederland on Sunday September 11, was well attended and a big success. Some 15 to 20 members attended and most folks ran sluice boxes and there was one high banker.

To make things a little more interesting, Greg offered a gold nugget for the Prospector who turned in the most found glass from the stream. Ultimately, there were four contestants who vied for the prize. Bill Duncanson, Phil Huff, Don Fling and Jim Long all turned in hefty bags of glass. The winner with nearly 100 pieces of glass collected was Jim Long who gave the prize, a .4 gram gold nugget, to Brandon Luchtenburg who does most of Jim's digging. Second Place went to Bill Duncanson who received a small vial containing .2 grams of gold. Third place went to Don Fling who received a .1 gram gold nugget. Honorable mention went to Phil Huff who received an award of 5 gold presidential dollars. Way to go guys. Some of the glass specimens were just way too cool.



Nearly everyone who attended found gold also, and though nobody got rich, it was a whale of a lot of fun. This event was so much fun that we may well make this an annual outing for the Club.

Thanks to Greg, the City Officials of Nederland have gone on record stating that Club Members are welcome to pan, sluice, high bank and/or dredge within the City Limits of Nederland whenever you wish as long as no one uses any chemicals. If you use motorized equipment, please be sure to use a drip pan. Save your glass, wear your Club Badge and don't go outside the City Limits. Boulder County is not as gracious as the City of Nederland.

Panning Demo at Clear Creek Watershed Festival by Jim Long

A Panning Demo was conducted on September 17 in Idaho Springs for the Clear Creek Watershed Festival. The Festival was well attended by the public and the Panning Booth got plenty of attention. The Festival was held at the City Park and was right next to the Creek providing a great backdrop for the Booth.

My Personal thanks go to Don and Brandon Luchtenburg and Dan McConnell for volunteering to assist the Club in completing this final project for the year. All of our volunteers do the Club proud. Several prospective new members showed up as well and found our set up very interesting and enjoyed visiting for a short while.

The monies obtained from the very few Panning Demos (3) that we do each year are put to pay for the meeting room at the Clements Center as well as to pay for the Board Meeting Room as well. The left over money is directed to off set printing and associated costs attributed to the Club for business cards, brochures, applications and such. So please, when the opportunity avails itself, volunteer to do at least one of these events each year for your Club. They actually are a lot of

fun. Photos by Jim Long.





<u>Lebanon Mine Tour and Georgetown Loop RR Ride</u> by Jim Long

On Sept. 24, Club members met at the Devils Gate Station in Georgetown and rode the Georgetown Loop single gauge Railroad train up to Silver Plume and then back down to the Lebanon Silver Mine.

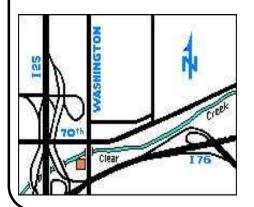
The tour of the Lebanon Mine was extremely interesting and consisted of nearly 1mile of tunnels on 6 different levels that produced an enormous amount of silver in the 1800's helping to assist the town of Georgetown earn its title of the 'Silver Queen of the Rockies'. The lower 2 tunnels are completely flooded with crystal clear water as there is no drain or pumping system in place to drain it. The Lebanon Mine was a sister mine, meaning two mines sharing a common vein or ore, to the Everett Mine when the two mines cut a tunnel that ran into one another. The incident resulted in a court battle with the Lebanon winning out. The adit to the Everett Mine is sealed off today.

Following the very informative tour, the members continued on the train back down to Georgetown and took in lunch at the Happy Cooker Restaurant and then took in part of the vendors and local color at a local festival taking place in

Georgetown. Photos by Jim Long.



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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)

Coming Announcements and Special Events for November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	WMMI - Heritage Lecture	A Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	5
Daylight Savings Time Ends	7 NATIONAL ELECTIONS	8	9	10 Marine Corp Day	11 Veterans Day	12
	14	15	GPR Club Meeting ELECTIONS	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26 WMMI - The Gold Assay Process: Magic or
27	28	29	30			Chamistur9