

THE GOLD NUGGET

August 2017

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



The Creek is down and I was the first to get into it on the lower corridor. I could find no evidence of any digging at all in the 'special' areas I like to dig. This is too doggone bad, because as we all know, Mother Nature replenishes her magical gold each year during the high water runoff. And I can assure you that the gold is still there!!! So if you want some of it, you know what you are going to have to do..! I included a photo of my cleanup pan after only 3 buckets through the old sluice box, so that should give you a hint as to what is there.

Before the next meeting, I will be hosting another Beginners' Class down on Youngfield for those who need a little help and some of the newer folks who need sincere guidance. I remember when I broke into prospecting, if I hadn't been fortunate enough on the Arkansas River to run into an old timer who took pity on me, I would have continued to struggle to learn and I don't know how long it would have taken me to finally figure it all out. Sometimes, all you need is just a little push or a little tip to get you going in the right direction. Some folks are just downright stubborn and don't want anybody knowing that they don't really know what they are doing. That just leads to frustrated and grumpy prospectors and not very much gold in their 'pokes'. There is no loss of pride in getting a little help. And only a fool turns away willing help and/or advice, especially when it is free and comes from a knowledgeable source. I will readily admit up front that there are some aspects of prospecting and mining that I am short of experience on. Basic small scale prospecting is not my problem. But there are things I could learn about hard rock mining and there are some aspects of large scale dredging that I could use some more experience on. But my rudimentary knowledge of geological formations and likely gold bearing strata/material is better than average and I rarely go out anywhere and not be able to find some gold. My toolbox is certainly not empty but it is not as full as it could be. What I have learned in the last 30 years only makes me wish I had gotten started even 30 years before that. Like the old song goes, "I wish I had known you sooner when you were a little younger, I might have been able to teach you a thing or two"..!

One of the most important things in prospecting is taking the time to learn about it.

Ever since the huge spike in gold prices around 2007 or so, many folks just wanted to get rich quick and weren't interested in taking the time to learn about the process. Gold prices shooting up from 700.00 an ounce to nearly 2000.00 an ounce will do that to people. And, of course, just like in the old days of the Gold Rush, there were many who aspired but very few who succeeded. The few who were successful were the ones who learned, I mean really learned, what it was all about and took the time to learn how to do it. Of course, Lady Luck always plays a hand in this game as well. Every professional athlete will tell you that not only is skill important, but that lots of physical and mental preparation is also very important and having a little luck never hurts either. A little good luck is always in the hip pocket of a successful metal detectorist. But good research, good preparation, practice with your machine (and I do mean practice, practice, practice, and then practice some more), and learning how to do it all helps a good deal too. That is how a guy can detect an area that has been hard worked by many, many people, suddenly hit a target that turns out to be a giant nugget of many ounces, if not pounds. An event like that can certainly be life changing, as an Australian man recently discovered. Though he had experience and knowledge, I think a little luck was riding on his shoulder that day. The day that George, Perry and Tom Massie dove under the water and found an incredible previously, undiscovered 'pocket' of gold that was in excess of 800 ounces of gold was certainly their lucky day. But that luck came as a direct result of a combination of research, experience, knowledge and hard work. When they first saw the spot on the American river, they thought it should hold some gold. They had no idea how much until they went to work on it with their dredge.



Gold prices have gone back down in recent years, but certainly not as low as it was just a mere 15 years ago. Some say it will go up again. If it does, it may well result in another modern 'gold rush'. And once again, there will be some who will think that the gold at the end of the rainbow will be easy to just reach out and pluck from the pot. But every experienced prospector knows that you can pursue the 'rainbow' forever and never quite reach the end of it to see if there is a pot of gold there or not. And there are a lot of those old boys who know that the true thrill is not necessarily in the finding, but in the magic of looking. Me, I personally think it is a little of both. I get a distinct 'thrill' in the finding, but there is a definite satisfaction in the 'having'.



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Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be...!. And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured 'Yaller Gold'!.

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com . Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato"



My July 2017 issue of ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal arrived in the mail, the day after I submitted my July 2017 V.P. Corner article to Pres. Long. In my article, I touched on several sources of information that feed my ever-growing arsenal of gold prospecting knowledge. Two of those sources were reading and talking to experienced people. By now, you are probably thinking, where is he going with this? Let me try to explain, and hopefully, I can validate the advice I gave in last month's article. I am self-employed, and my boss (me) is a very demanding guy. One of the few luxuries that I allow myself, is, I treat myself to breakfast a couple of times a week at a local restaurant. I always bring along the latest issue of one of several prospecting or detecting magazines to which I subscribe. I like to read everything of interest while having a relaxing meal. At breakfast last month, it was the Prospecting and Mining Journal that had arrived the day after I had submitted my V.P. Corner article. Settling into a booth, I took a couple sips of coffee and turned my attention to the front cover of the magazine. When I read the bold print for one of the articles inside, I just shook my head and smiled. There it was, "Simple Rules Of Gold Geology: Comparing Epithermal And Mesothermal Deposits". During our "Stump the Panel" discussion last June, we talked about the Epithermal gold deposits of Rye Patch, Nevada. So if you would like to learn more about these types of deposits (including, why mesothermal deposits are now called "orogenic") then you need to get your hands on that July issue and start reading! This piece was written by Chris Ralph, he is the Associate Editor for the Mining Journal magazine and a very knowledgeable guy. When I finished reading what Chris had written, I turned to the next page. This time I just had to laugh aloud. Here was a story written by a guy that I was introduced to in April 2016. The "Madonna Nugget" — A Weekend Hunt to Remember by Tom Reyes. Let me back up to Chris Ralph. I attended a class that Chris taught back in about 2008, I met him and talked to him briefly afterward, but never had a real one on one conversation with him. Tom Reyes is another story, I have detected for gold twice with Tom as part of a small group. He is one of those guys that I wrote about last month, enthusiastic, experienced, (OH, and one more!!!) confident. I consider Tom to be one of my mentors when it comes to nugget hunting. He is friendly, knowledgeable, and patient. He coached me into breaking a bad habit that I have been working on fixing since I started nugget hunting, fast swing speed. It comes from years of coin and jewelry hunting, where you can typically get by with faster swing speeds. In most nugget hunting situations, "speed kills". Well, I hope that this speaks to the points that I was trying to put forth in last month's article. Take advantage of every source of information available to you, knowledge brings results. Joe Fortunato (Questions or comments call or text me 303-263-7204)

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker



The August Meeting will feature a 9 nugget drawing that will include a nugget of at least 2.8 grams or more. We have another fine specimen from Alaska to auction off.. We will also be giving away numerous door prizes as well. Remember that your chances of winning are better than the Colorado Lottery as there are so many less people participating. Be sure to support your Club and buy lots of tickets. See you all at the upcoming Meeting.

Planned 2017 GPR Meeting Programs:

August 16 To be determined

September 20 To be determined

October 18 To be determined



Board Meeting Minutes From July 2017

X	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	John Johnson
	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston	X	Chris Kafka	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Wayne Schomaker	X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll		Gary Hawley

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: By Pres. Long at 6:05 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: n/a Approved as read/corrected: Yes.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: none Approved: Yes.

Correspondence: 3 phone calls, 10 e-mails, 4 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits_148259 Hits for last 2 month 311.

Committee Reports: None at this time

Unfinished Business: Clear Creek Recreational Developmental Plan is done and public Input is over, Plan to be forwarded to Adams County Planning Commission for Approval.

New Business: None at this time.

Planned Outings for 2017:

- Notice of Outings planned for 2017 was sent out with Feb Newsletter.
- Next event is Clay County on July 22.
- Beginners Class on Aug. 5.
- The Club Picnic on Aug. 26.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the cancellation of the June 22 Clay County Event.
- Discussed the Georgetown RR Loop Panning Demo.
- Noted that Clear Creek is now down and accessible.
- J Fortunato discussed a new gold show on tv called 'Devil's Canyon', another reality tv show.
- BM J. Jonson stated that the 'Cache' had been found last night.
- BM J. Schubert was ill and unable to attend tonight.

Announcements: None at this time.

Next Board Meeting: August 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Next General Meeting: August 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Tonight's general meeting program: We will feature a video referencing the Canadian Gold Rush of 1898 in British Columbia.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:43 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What was the name of the **railroad** that today is known as "Gold Camp Road" between Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek?

2017 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Wayne Schomaker

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2014)

Joe Shubert (2015)

1 Year Board Members

Chris Kafka

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

Mike Hurtado

Past President

Gary Hawley

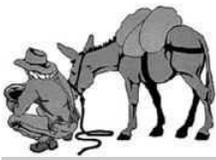
General Meeting Minutes From July 2017

1. Meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that the evening Program would feature a video of the 1898 Canadian Gold Rush in northern British Columbia. Though filmed some 20 years ago, the film was entertaining and interesting from a historical standpoint.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report: Gold 1241.00, Silver 16.26, Platinum 924.00, and Palladium 866.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month were approx. 347.
5. **Treasurer Wayne Schomaker** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, be sure to buy tickets for the 'Special Nugget' drawing. We have a brand new Alaskan chunk of raw gold weighing in at 13.9 grams. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.6 grams.
6. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 72 members in attendance. There were 0 guests present. The total meeting attendance was 72. Summer is in full swing and many members remain out and about traveling the country.



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7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was **"Who was the presenter of the first Ken Barker Award in 2004 and again in 2005 and 2006??"**
8. **Pres. Long** 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 need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2017. A reminder to all that gold submissions need to be weighed dry, and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out entry cards completely.
9. **John Johnson** announced that the 'Cache' had been found the previous night by **Sara and Jesse Saucedo**. A discussion of the clues was held and what led Sara and Jesse to the discovery. They were awarded a beautiful 8.7-gram nugget from Australia for their effort. They will now hide the next 'Cache' and the next hunt will begin soon. Be sure to attend the meetings to get the clues and you too, may win a beautiful nugget.
10. **Pres. Long** advised that there were lots of stuff in the **Club Store** for sale. We have bags of sand containing gold for members to buy as well as lots of other stuff, and we have discounted several items. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over the Store. We thank **Mike Hurtado** (who was ill tonight and unable to attend) for helping out at the Store in the meanwhile.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership:
 - The next 2017 Outing will be another impromptu Prospecting Outing in Blackhawk on **July 22**. Following
 - We will host another Beginners panning/sluicing Class on Clear Creek at Youngfield. Both events start at 9am. On August 26, we will have a Club Picnic at Cross Park at 10th and Carr starting at 12 noon.
 - The Panning Demo at the Georgetown Loop RR on July 1 and 2 went very well and we had a good turnout. Many thanks to those folks who volunteered.
 - The Adams County Clear Creek Recreational Developmental Plan finished its last public input session on June 26 and the Plan will now be forwarded onto the Adams County Planning Commission before getting to the Adams County Board of County Commissioners for final approval and implementation.
 - It was noted that Clear Creek is now low enough to safely access so let's get out there and find some gold!!!! Just be cautious of the potential of unexpected surges from rainstorms in the mountains during this time of year.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:24 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:38 pm.
13. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'. The answer, **"Jackie Barker"!!** There were 22 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'. Those were:
 - **Best Coin** – **Kelsey Cheer** with a 'Cross punched' penny she found in Denver.
 - **Best Jewelry** – **John Olsen** with a silver sea horse necklace pendant he found in Sonora, Mexico while metal detecting.
 - **Best Mineral** – **Herman Garcia** with a sample of corundum he found near Phillipsburg, Montana.
 - **Best Artifact** – **Joe Johnston** with a pair of old dice he found in a Denver park.
 - **Best Bottle** – **Joe Johnston** with an old 'orangina' bottle he found in Eaton, Colorado.
 - **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with 0.8 grams of gold he found at various locations within the last 30 days.
 - **Largest Raw Gold** – There were no submissions in this category this month.
15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Dick Oakes, and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets 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 **Wayne Schomaker and Kathy Schomaker**.
16. **Pres. Long** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
17. **Pres. Long** thanked **Chris and Joe Kafka** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any 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.



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18. The **August Meeting Program** has not been determined at time of press but we will have something lined up for sure. It will be a surprise!! Until next time, remember to prospect safely, live long and be grateful for that golden bounty from the stars, that gleaming magical miracle, called 'gold'!
19. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Finds of the Month

The finds of the Month for July are as follows:

Best Coin – The winner was **Kelsey Cheer** with a 'Cross punched' penny she found in Denver.

Best Jewelry – The winner was **John Olsen** with a silver Sea Horse Pendent he found while metal detecting in Sonora, Mexico.

Best Mineral – The winner was **Kale Smith** with a sample of Corundum that he found near Phillipsburg, Montana.

Best Artifact – The winner was **Joe Johnston** with a pair of dice he found in a Denver Park.

Best Bottle – The winner was **Joe Johnston** with an 'Orangina' bottle he found in Eaton, Colorado.

Most Raw Gold – The winner was **Kevin Singel** with 0.8 grams of gold he found in various locations in the last 30 days.

Largest Raw Gold – There was no entry for this category.



(There was no photo taken of the dice)

Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. We would all like to know what everyone else is finding out there so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their name published in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Monthly winners will need to save their finds to bring back to the November 2017 meeting to compete for the Find of the Year 2017. Thanks to all those who also submitted, additional finds that were not judged winners.

A Miner's Laugh

A man walking by the home of an old miner noticed a stack of old unopened and obviously unread newspapers lying near the front porch of the old boys home so he stopped and inquired of the old fellow. "Say", he said, "I notice all the unopened newspapers lying around. Why don't you bother to read them?" The old miner looked him in the eye and slowly answered. "Well, you see, it is like this:

The Wall Street Journal is read by the people who run the country.

The New York Times is read by people who think they run the country.

The Washington Post is read by people who think they ought to run the country.

USA Today is read by people who think they ought to run the country but don't understand The Washington Post.

The Los Angeles Times is read by people who wouldn't mind running the country, if they could spare the time.

The Boston Globe is read by people whose parents used to run the country.

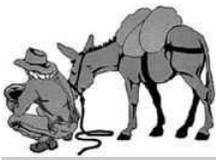
The New York Daily News is read by people who aren't too sure who's running the country.

The New York Post is read by people who don't really care who is running the country, as long as they do something scandalous.

The San Francisco Chronicle is read by people who aren't sure there is a country, or that a country is a good idea in the first place.

The Miami Herald is read by people who are running another country.





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The Chicago Tribune is read by people who live in the Midwest, which readers of the other newspapers don't think is part of the country.

And me....? I am the only smart one around. I do care who is running the country but thank the Lord, I can't read!!"

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

Georgetown Loop RR Panning



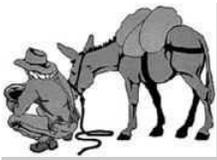
On July 1 and 2, Club members travelled up to Georgetown to assist the tourists who depart the train to tour the old Lebanon and Everett Silver Mines with panning out the bags of gold that they purchase as part of the train/mine tour package. The great thing about this event is the fact that you get to meet people from all over the world who are taking in this option during their vacation travels. And of course, most of them have never seen gold before so it is a great opportunity for them to experience a little of our Colorado history and take home a little gold to boot. The bags they buy entitles them to keep their gold and we help to ensure that they don't lose any during the panning process (and believe you me, they do lose it) by helping to show them the techniques involved. Some are only there for the gold and some are actually interested in the whole process. Either way, it is a lot of fun and the folks there pay us a small stipend for our assistance which most of the members turn over to the Club, so we make a little money for our effort. The weather was great during this event and the crowds were not overly heavy even though it was the weekend prior to the Fourth of July. Many thanks go to Jack Meineke, Steve Miller, Jim Peterson, Frank Zahn, Carl Adams and Chris and Joe Kafka who assisted Pres. Long with the panning. It was a lot of fun. Pres. Long did manage a few photos while he was at it.



The Colorado Diamond Mine

by Ray Lundin

Diamonds are forever, so says the DeBeers Diamond industry's advertisements. Diamonds are considered the premier mineral, the ultimate proof of a man's love, while gold, the coin of the realm, comes in a distant second. The first diamond in Colorado was found accidentally at a US Geological Survey lab in Lakewood in 1975. Some kimberlite, the ore that contains diamonds, was being ground flat for a thin section when a small diamond in the rock scratched a corundum-charged grinding plate. Soon headlines announced the exciting diamond discovery. Geologists began a systematic search for diamonds in that year narrowing down geological formations that could produce diamonds. Confirmation of diamond occurrence in the state came in 1987 when diamonds were recovered from volcanic structures located northwest of Fort Collins in the Kelsey Lake area on the Colorado/Wyoming border. Miners had walked over the site as they headed for Colorado's gold rush in the 1800's. "There was no gold in northern Colorado, and nobody was looking for diamonds," a geologist said. Mining companies had rejected that region as too expensive to develop. Then a company called Redaurum, a diamond mining company with producing mines in South Africa and Zimbabwe, began production at the site in 1996. Redaurum acquired controlling interests in Diamond Co., and proceeded to lease mining rights for the land around Kelsey Lake. When Jack Murphy, the curator of geology in the Dept. of Earth and Space Sciences at the Denver Museum of Natural History, first heard the report of diamonds in Colorado, he thought it was just another diamond hoax. There had been a scandalous hoax in 1872 that had upset the financial world for a short time and put Colorado in the headlines. It began when two 'prospectors' showing off a bag of diamonds and other gems in San Francisco had convinced the President of the Bank of California that they had found a rich diamond field in the little known western interior of the nation. This mystery occurrence later turned out to be in Moffat County in northwestern Colorado, where the 'prospectors' has 'salted' the area with gemstones. At that time, millions of dollars were invested in



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the venture, only to have the hoax unraveled by famous geologist Clarence King. When Redaurum ran the Kelsey Lake operation, the mine ran at half-capacity and produced almost 12,000 carats in 1996 and 9,000 carats in 1997. In 1997, Redaurum recovered a 28.3 carat yellow diamond at the Kelsey Lake mine, which sits at 8,000 feet on a rugged mountain about 45 miles northwest of Fort Collins. It was the fifth largest stone found in the United States.

The largest was the “Uncle Sam”. A 40.23-carat gem recovered in Arkansas in 1924 and cut into a 12.4-carat gem. The Kelsey Lake diamond that was cut into a 16.87-carat cushion shape was sold in New York for \$40,000 dollars. Redaurum had uncovered a 14.2 and a 9.4-carat stone before selling the mine to McKenzie Bay International Ltd. Gary Westerholm, president of the company, estimates that the mine’s kimberlite ore, a gray rock, ides between 60,000 and 250,000 carats of diamonds. There are less than 20 kimberlite diamond mines in the entire world. Under Redaurum’s ownership, the mine was operational only for a few years, between 1995 and 1997. The mine’s new owners estimate about half the Kelsey Lake diamonds are gem quality and some rough stones could be larger than 100 carats. The mine has already trademarked the name “Colorado Diamonds.” These diamonds are found less than 100 miles from Denver. Colorado diamonds probably have a leg up on the only other place in the US where diamonds are found – Murfreesboro, Arkansas. The Kelsey Lake mine was an active operating mine with the potential of mining thousands of carats of diamonds. Whereas the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro is a stop for hobbyists and tourists, who for a fee, can hunt through the grounds for diamonds, the Kelsey Lake Diamond Mine is now a defunct diamond mine in Colorado. The mine ceased operation in 2001 and the site was fully reclaimed in 2006. It is located in the State Line Kimberlite district, near the Wyoming border, and consists of nine kimberlite volcanic pipes, of which two were open pit mines. At the time it was operating, it was the United States only modern diamond mine, and only the second commercial diamond mining operation in North America, the first being in the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas which was mined in the early 1900’s.

(Ray Lundin is a geologist who writes a column called ‘Gemstones & Minerals’ for the ‘Colorado Gambler’ a local newspaper in Central City, Colorado)

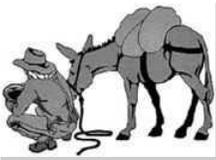
Jeweler Sells Gold Darth Vader Masks

A Tokyo jewelry store is offering life-size Darth Vader masks made of 24-karat gold at a hefty price of \$1.4 million dollars to mark the 40th anniversary of the release of the first Star Wars movie. The creation measures 10.4 inches wide and is 11,8 inches high. The Ginza Tanaka store says the masks are not designed for wearing. They weigh 33 pounds and have no opening for the head. It is reported that it took 10 goldsmiths three months to mold and assemble the prototype. “The most difficult aspect was that each section of the mask was created by a different gold craftsman and then assembled to make one Darth Vader Mask”, the storeowner reported.

Lake Gulch Prospecting Outing

On July 22, Club members traveled up above Blackhawk to a private claim to do a little digging for gold. We have been traveling up to this location for the last 5 or 6 years now and the area always produces gold. This trip was no exception. The claim is usually dry with no water available so it is just dig and dig and dig. We generally head back down into Clear Creek Canyon after lunch and set up a couple of high bankers to process everyone’s material. Most folks dig anywhere from 5 or 6 buckets up to 12 or so and after running them, we give them their concentrates to take home and pan out. Quick panning at the site usually shows plenty of color so everybody is usually happy with the results. The weather was great until noon when we caught a pretty good little downpour which lasted about half an hour. There was no rain down in the canyon this time. Many thanks to Jack Meineke, Roger Luallin, and Pres. Long for the use of their high bankers for everyone’s use. Pres. Long took a few photos.





Top 10 Gold Producing Countries of 2016

by Greg Miller

According to the US Geological Survey (usgs.gov), the top 10 gold producing countries in 2016 accounted for 1,969 estimated Metric Tons (MT) making up more than 63 percent of the year's total gold production worldwide. So here we go:

10. INDONESIA – 100 MT

Rounding out the list an No. 10, Indonesia produced 100 metric tons of gold in 2016. Indonesia's largest mine, the Grasberg mine in Jakarta, is operated by the American based mining company Freeport McMoRan. While political issues halted operation of the mine in early 2017, resulting in thousands of layoffs and costing both sides hundreds of millions of dollars, according to Reuters, the mine is expected to return to full production later this year.

9. UZBEKISTAN – 100 MT

Ninth on the list is the home of the Muruntan mine, one of the world's largest open-pit mines with reserves expected to last until 2032, according to Business Insider.

8. MEXICO – 125 MT

At No. 8, Mexico has held steady as a top producer of gold for many years. According to data from Investing news Network, Mexico currently has more than 1,100 gold mines in operation with plenty of room for expansion, considering that 75 percent of the country has yet to be explored.

7. SOUTH AFRICA – 140 MT

The last time South Africa found themselves at the top of this list was in 2006. Now ten years later they are barely hanging on at No. 7, even though they have the third most in-ground resources in the world totaling some 193 million ounces of gold according to the USGS. According to Business Insider, South Africa's steady decline has been blamed on issues like "tough relations between mining companies and workers' unions pushing up costs...creating delays or full-out stoppages...the kind that South Africa courts have ruled...illegal." Hope for regaining some ground on this list may be in South Africa's future.

6. PERU – 150 MT

Although illegal mining is still a major problem in the Tambopata National Reserve, Peru has seen a slight increase in gold production since its worst year of 2014 when an estimated \$1 billion worth of gold was smuggled out of the country, according to the New York Times.

5. CANADA -170 MT

Dating back to 1897, during the Great Klondike Gold Rush in the Yukon Territory, Canada has played a major role in the world's gold production. In 2016, the country saw a noticeable increase up 17 MT from 2015's 153 MT. They are expecting their numbers to continually rise as existing mines announce plans over the coming years.

4. UNITED STATES – 209 MT

It is the moment we have all been waiting for. The United States is in at No 4 on the list after seeing a 5 MT drop from 2015 to 2-16. We can expect see 2017 numbers modestly increase if the current trend continues. According to a Mineral Industry Survey by the USGS, production of gold by US mines in March 2017 was up 7.4 percent at 19,700 kg, up from Q1 2016 totals of 51,600 kg. Where does this gold come from? According to the USGS, 99 percent of all US gold comes from the top 26 operations run by mining giants such as Barrick Gold (ABX), Freeport McMoRan (FCX), and Newmont Mining (NEM).

3. RUSSIA – 250 MT

Up 8 MT from 2015, Russia ranks third in top gold producing countries of 2016, and with their sights set on the future, Russia anticipates increasing annual gold production to 400 MT by 2030, according to investor Intel. To get to this number and to tap into the reported 40,000 MY reserve, development will take place in the ore fields while the alluvial fields will see a steady decline to a full stoppage by 2050.

2. AUSTRALIA – 270 MT

Second on our list is Australia, a country known for giant nuggets. Despite seeing a drastic decline in gold production from 2015 to 2016, there is hope for their numbers to increase as the free fall in the exploration budget for Western Australia has finally come to an end. According to ABC Australia, "Gold exploration in WA increased 38.75 percent last year and hit a fresh four year high in the December quarter."



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1. CHINA – 455 MT

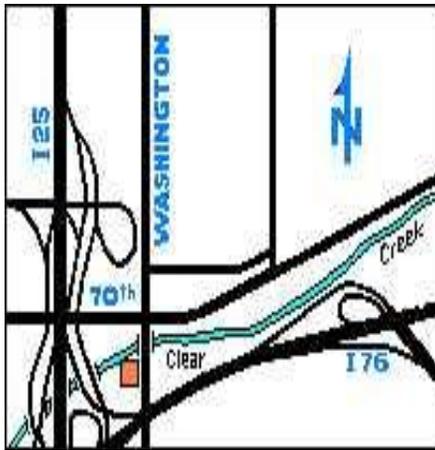
For their tenth straight year, China claims victory at the top of this list after producing 455 MT of gold in 2016. Not only do they sit at the top of the production list, they also top the gold consumption as well, and have for the past four years. According to South China Morning Post, “China remained the world’s No. 1 gold consumer for a fourth straight year in 2016 as a weakening yuan and increased market volatility underpinned investment demand.”

TOTAL WORLD PRODUCTION IN 2016 – 3,100 MT

ONE METRIC TON (1,000 KILOGRAMS) = 32,150.7 TROY OUNCES

(Greg Miller is the Creative Director at the Gold Prospectors Association of America and is acting Managing Editor of the Gold Prospectors magazine)

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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Sept 2017

(**WMMI** - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
WMMI New exhibit & Lecture! "The Disappearing Mining Landscape of Grant County, New Mexico. Sept 14					1	2 GPR Panning Demo, Georgetown Loop RR Sept 2. 3
3	4 LABOR Day	5	6	7	8	9 GPR Panning Demo, Highlands Ranch Festival
10 National Grandparents Day	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15 National POW/MIA Recognition Day	16 GPR Panning Demo, Idaho Springs Festival
17	18	19	20 GPR Club Meeting	21	22 Fall Begins	23 GPR Prospecting Outing Lake Gulch
24	25	26	27	28	29	30