

# THE GOLD NUGGET

April 2026

**We are four month into the New Year and you know what that means!! ALL membership dues were due on Jan 1 for the year of 2026. The Late RENEWAL rate is \$45.**

## **The Prez Sez..!** by Kevin Singel



March has been an exciting month for me as your president. Lots of folks have stepped up to help with various things, brought great ideas forward and just been encouraging to your new president! We had an excellent meeting with Chris Stone presenting on the Hidee Mine with some fascinating information shared about the mineralization of the general area. We followed his talk up with a tour of the mine, on the Saturday after the club meeting. This was a ton of fun for all who were able to attend. Enjoy the trip photos shared by several of the participants in this newsletter!

We also just set up texting groups to make it easy for club members to let other members know their plans to get out prospecting or detecting. I am hoping this makes small, informal outings happen spontaneously. I know I often make plans on less than 10 days' notice, based on weather reports and my to-do list. I am looking forward to inviting people to go out digging this way! If you'd like to be added to either (or both) of the texting groups just drop me an email at [gporpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gporpresident@gmail.com) (yes, that is another new thing) with your phone number and which group(s) you want to be added into.

Our next meeting, on April 15th, will include a presentation by Scot Grossman from Jefferson County Open Space. He will be both presenting on plans for the next stage of construction on Clear Creek recreational path AND looking for the club's input on how to design the path in a way that serves our needs as prospectors. Please come with your thoughts and questions. Please also be sure to treat him with respect and kindness; he is trying to listen and support us as they design the trail. I've already had the chance to spend a couple hours in a group meeting with him which is good because I won't be at the club meeting. Instead, Secretary Gordon Smith will be running the meeting in my absence. I will be going to a metal detecting class & prospecting trip to the Rye Patch area in northern Nevada. While I am there, the club will also be having a prospecting and gold panning lessons day at Arapahoe Bar. Several board members will be hosting that so please plan to go digging on Saturday April 18th!

## **Vice President's Corner..!** by Gary Hamilton

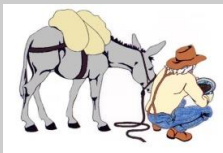


Well hard to believe that another month has flown by and it has been great to see that most people have been able to take good use of the warm weather prospecting and detecting wishing it would include me.

The talk by Chris Stone presenting on the Hidee Mine was very interesting and informative. My biggest take was how old-timers prospected up the creek until the gold ran out and showed them the source. just something I had never thought about. I wish that we could carve out a little more time when speakers have so much to talk about. I did talk to Chris about me coming to the mine when I am able to navigate it and he offered the same tour later in the year. I plan to take him up on it so if any of you were not able to go and want to let me know.

I want to say to the club that I am sorry about letting you down on my VP responsibilities as Kevin is out of town. I am very thankful that Gordon, Secretary Smith is stepping up and bailing me out. I am getting my second hip surgery a few days before the April meeting. Thank you Gordon.

Not sure if any of you posted to Next door last month but that system let me know that my post got about 600 views the first few days. Not sure if it brought anyone new to the club but Kevin did report an increase in website hits last month. I am going to do it again this month and encourage all to do it as well. Here is what I will be posting the week before the meeting..



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

### **GOLD PROSPECTORS OF THE ROCKIES**

We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7 to 9 PM, at the:  
 Lloyd G. Clements Community Center  
 1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood, Colorado  
 Monthly speakers, outings, panning, sluicing, metal detecting.  
 A great place to meet people with like interest.  
 You won't get rich but you will find some.  
 Check out the website <https://goldprospectorsoftherockies.com>  
 Hoping to see you all at the April meeting.

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



Responding resoundingly to a prompt from the president, the membership bought a goodly amount of both red (gold nugget drawing) tickets and blue (special nugget drawing) tickets. So many blue tickets were purchased that the break-even point has been reached and this special nugget will be awarded to some lucky member at the April 15th meeting. While you don't need to be present to win, we enjoy sharing the happiness of the winner. So please make a concerted effort to attend when the winning name is drawn. That name drawn could be yours! Congratulations to Wendy Hamilton who took home the largest nugget in the gold nugget drawing; a 1.26 gram beauty from the Yukon.

By a vote of the membership, the **next** "special nugget drawing prize item" will not be a nugget at all but a shiny new Minelab™ Gold Monster 2000 metal detector. Buy lots of tickets, as this 'gold getter' is very highly desirable.

I wish to once again thank the outgoing treasurer, John Johnson, for setting up the accounting system and for continuing to help at the table. The club owes a great debt of thanks to John for implementing a redundant system of checks and balances to keep the club's finances in good order. The system works very well...it is just taking me a little time to learn it.

The club is also indebted to both John Olsen and Ronald "Yam" Yamiolkoski for their much appreciated help with ticket sales. It can get pretty hectic in the back of the room and these two make it SO much easier.

The membership dues 2026 renewal fee is now \$45.00 starting with the April meeting. So, continue to support the club by paying your dues and by supporting those volunteers who are working on your behalf.



### **Board Meeting Minutes from Mar 12, 2026 via Zoom**

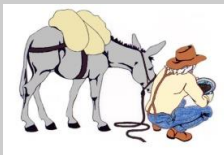
x	Kevin Singel (P)	x	Gordon Smith (Sec)	x	Robert Ahr	x	Ron Yamioloski
x	Gary Hamilton (VP)	x	Andy Doll	x	Shelly Zornes	X	Joe Johnston
x	Bill Chapman (T)	x	Erik Von Halle	x	Mitchell Ross	X	Bobby Manning

**Quorum Present:** Y

**Call to Order at:** 7:40 pm.

### **QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

How many gold coins remain unaccounted for from the wreck recovery of the 'Ship of gold' located in 1988?



### Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Corrections: Spelling of Feb. speaker name: Jon Jiggs and Dir. Von Halle donated 20 American Eagles to the club, not 10. Approved as read/corrected: Bobby M. moved/ Rob A. 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Treasurer's Report:** Questions: None Approved as read/corrected: Bobby M. moved/Rob A. 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Committee Reports:**

- Outings: Excellent turnout at Grant-Frontier Park on Feb. 28. One new member joined that day.
- Membership: Three applications received via email with two being renewals.

**Unfinished Business:** Club gold was handed off to President Singel last month with the exception of the Christmas gold. Former president Manning will bring that gold to the March meeting to give to Pres. Singel.

A reminder from director Ahr that multiple updates to the Director's handbooks are still needed. Volunteers need to step up to work on this project.

**New Business:**

- The Club is almost out of website hosting space. A discussion on upgrading to 20gb for minimal outlay included how Pres. Singel and Dir. Doll were updating the website plus the expectation of more prospecting and Club speaker videos being uploaded to the site and led to a motion by Pres. Singel to approve the additional cost; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dir. Yam, which passed unanimously. Dir. Doll will facilitate the change at the time of annual renewal.
- The Club is going in the hole each month on the red ticket drawings due to the high price of gold and the dollars being taken in through ticket sales. It was initially decided by the board that nuggets would be removed prior to the drawing based on the ticket sales that evening. This dilemma will be discussed with membership at the next meeting along with encouragement to purchase additional red tickets. The board is interested in any ideas anyone has to help alleviate this situation that could be presented to the membership.
- The Club will be participating in the Arapahoe County Fair with a panning demo. Date TBD.
- Pres. Singel is working on someone from Jeffcott Open Space to be a speaker. This could provide a path to discussions about opening up JOS for metal detecting.
- A member of the board is needed to host the Caribou Ghost Town metal detecting outing on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Planned Outings:**

- Hidee mine tour on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Maximum of 12 people.
- Arapahoe Bar on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Board Members Items of Discussion:**

- Pres. Singel informed the board he will not be in town for the April and August meetings. Since VP Hamilton is having surgery shortly before the April meeting, Sec. Smith will lead that one.
- Dir. Yam mentioned his contact, Pete, who curates a list of various clubs in the metro area that share similar interests (i.e.: gems, prospecting, mining, mineralogy, etc.) and suggested Pres. Singel reach out to Pete to put our Club on this list.

**This month's General Meeting Program:** History of the Hidee Mine .

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm via Zoom

Next General Meeting: April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**Adjournment:** Moved to adjourn by Bobby M. Meeting stands adjourned at 8:42 pm.

**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**

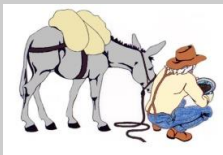
Shellie Zornes

Ron Yamiolkoski

Mitchell Ross

**Past President/At Large**

Bobby Manning



## General Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2026

1. Meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by Pres. Singel with the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that he will do his utmost to keep things moving in order to end the meeting on time. The Clements Center can fine the Club if we are not out by 9 p.m.
2. Pres. Singel then announced this evening Program which is: Chris Stone – presenting on the Hidee Gold Mine
3. Pres. Singel then gave the Metals Report: Gold 4,992, up \$22 in the last month Silver 78.60, flat, Platinum 2,109 down 350 Palladium 1,566 down 285, Rhodium 10,950 up 1,000
4. Web hits for last two months were about 500...interest is up! Prez Singel and Board Member Andy Doll spent some time updating the website for 2026, with plans to do more.
5. Treasurer Bill Chapman reports that the club finances are stable but are threatened by the cost of gold for the raffles...help us all out by buying more raffle tickets! A Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. 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 45 members in attendance, with two of those being new! There were 3. Guests present tonight. The total meeting attendance was 48.
7. Pres. Singel read the 'Question of the Month': 'Which continents has gold been found on??' (Answer: All seven!)
8. Pres. Singel mentioned there will be time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table, as well as to vote, 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.
9. Additional items to be discussed include...

**Blue ticket raffles** – should we do a raffle for a metal detector like the Nocte Legend (or the Gold Monster 2000)? [By a show of hands, the members present were interested in the Mine Lab Gold Monster. The board will follow up on this at the next board meeting.]

Signup sheets for upcoming outings

**Hidee Mine Tour** this Saturday (be sure to bring water and layers...its chilly underground!), consider doing some prospecting in Clear Creek or North Clear Creek on your way home, it should be a lovely day.

**Lucky Goose Outing** – this first one on Monday will be an experiment so I'm keeping it small. Bring water and lunch and your prospecting gear. I have extra sluices if you want to borrow one.

Signup sheet for texting group for informal club member outings

**The Monthly "Pirates" Hunt** on the last Wed. of the month should be Sunny with a high of 82 degrees this time! If you aren't on the mailing list, give your email to Robert Ahr at the "Finds Table."

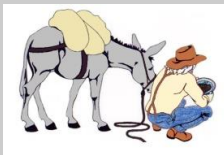
BUY MORE red tickets so we can continue to give away the most gold possible! The last couple months we've given away more gold than the \$\$ we took in.

### **SPEAKER OF THE MONTH INTRODUCTION**

**Chris Stone** runs the Hidee Mine up above Central City. He and his team provide tours of the mine year-round. He will be telling us about the mine tonight and then hosting a tour for a dozen of us on Saturday at a special 50% discounted rate.

10. Pres. Singel mentioned the back table (50/50 & special drawing tickets and red tickets), thanking those who volunteer to help our Treasurer out. Also, there is the "Free" table where folks have placed items for members to take as a way of contributing to the Club. Please consider a donation to the club if you take any of those items. Also remember to peruse the Club library table for items of interest to borrow.

11. Pres. Singel thanks 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 or remember the 'tip jar,' which helps to



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

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.

12. Pres. Singel informed the membership that the Outings and Speakers are being booked now. Please share any requests or suggestions with him or another board member.

13. Pres. Singel reminded everyone to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break. PLEASE REMEMBER to write legibly and put your name on your entry!

15. Pres. Singel announced the break at pm. \_7:55\_. Meeting was called back to order at \_8:15\_ pm.

16. Pres. Singel announced the winners of the QOM. # of correct answers: \_29\_.

16. Pres. Singel announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'- Those were:

- Best Coin – \_ Kevin Singel
- Best Jewelry – \_Joe Kafka
- Best Mineral – \_Jack Meineke
- Best Artifact – Roger Schlenger
- Best Costume Jewelry – \_Mike Stevens
- Gold – Gale Herbertson

17. Pres. Singel concluded the evening with drawings for numerous door prizes donated by club members followed by the 50/50 drawing and then red ticket drawings for the gold nuggets. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was: John Olson , who took home \$25, with the same amount going to the Club. 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 and Yam Yamiolkoski.

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 email: kevin@findinggoldincolorado.com or phone at (720) 934 1428 outside the meetings at any time.

19. The **April Meeting** will be a speaker: Scot Grossman from Jefferson County Open Space will present on the Canyon and planned construction.

20. The next Meeting is on April 15th, 2026 at 7:00 pm SO GET THOSE TAXES DONE EARLY!

21. Meeting was adjourned at \_8:46\_ p.m.

## **A Miner's Laugh**

An old retired miner and his wife were celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town. A local newspaper reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage.

"Well, it dates back to our honeymoon," Explained the man. "We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down the bottom of the canyon by pack mule.

We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, "That's once." We proceeded a little farther when the mule stumbled again. One more my wife quietly said, "That's twice." We hadn't gone a half mile when the mule stumbled a third time. My wife promptly removed a revolver from her pocket and shot him.

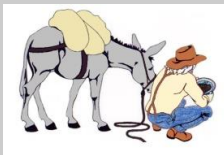
I started to protest over her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said, "That's once...!"



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

## **Finds of the Month for March 2026**

The Finds of the Month will continue but there have been a few changes made by the Board, so be sure to bring those treasures that you find to the Club and enter them in the competition. Remember, finds from the last meeting date to the next meeting date may be entered each month into the running. All gold submitted must be



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

dry and weighed. Categories are for best **coin, jewelry, costume jewelry, artifact, mineral and most gold**. You can also bring stuff for merely 'show and tell', so, let's get out there and get busy and may the best submission win. Good Luck to all!!

**Gold** – Gale Herbertson

**Best Coin** – Kevin Singel

**Best Jewelry** – Joe Kafka

**Best Mineral** – Jack Meineke

**Best Artifact** – Roger Schlenger

**Best Costume Jewelry** – Mike Stevens

*(At time of print, there were no descriptions of items or photos of winners submitted to the editor...)*

## March Program Notes

The March Program featured **Chris Stone** who is a co-owner of the **Hidee Gold Mine** in Gilpin County. Scott informed the club of the history of the gold mine and how he and others came into possession and worked it until it is what it is today. The mine is a significant historical site that dates back to the mid-1800's. It was part of the Central city-black Hawk-Idaho Springs gold rush area, which was known for its extensive and high-grade ores. The mine was originally submitted for patent in 1896 and was first accessed by a shaft at the top of the ridge. The mine has produced high value ores with some samples reaching 112 ounces gold per ton. The mine is situated in the heart of the Virginia Canyon-Glory Hole area. Today, the mine concentrates on providing a hands-on experience with visitors and eventually allows them to dig into the same vein that the mine has been working for a number of years. It was a great Program and we thank Scott for the great presentation.

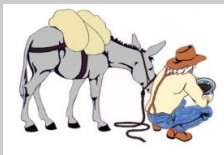
*Photo by Roger Schenger)*



## Hidee Mine Tour

The Club followed up the March meeting with a **tour of the Hidee Mine on Saturday, March 21**. The mine is located in Gilpin County off the Central City Parkway in Virginia Canyon. There were 12 Club members who were able to attend the tour which had a limited sign-up opportunity. The tour followed up a presentation to the club by Scott Stone, a co-owner of the mine. There were a huge number of photos taken by numerous folks so we have run a few of them, *taken by Kevin Singel and Gina Ross*, here for your viewing enjoyment.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7



### **The Pirate's March Hunt (Mar 2026)** by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

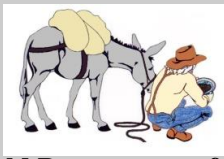
Hello to all...! We had a great hunt on Wednesday the 25th of March. We had 7 for breakfast and 7 for the hunt, We decided to go to Jefferson Park. It was a beautiful morning with temperatures in the low 70"s and a slight breeze. So, we did fair but not great and we ended up with \$3.33 and 2 rings. You don't even have to guess as to who found the rings. Bill C. was the leader of the pack with \$1.31 followed by John O. with \$.81 cents and the rest of the crew crossed the finish line like this: Bob M. \$.35, Bob A. \$.32, Chris and Joe K. \$.28 and Shellie Z. with \$.26 cents and 2 rings. Well, that's all to report and it was a great day for a hunt. I will see you all at the next meeting on April 15, 2026 @ 1900hrs. Keep on a swinging for your treasure..! *(Photo of ring by the Pirate.)*



### **Hidden Ghost Towns and Mining Ruins of Colorado**

*Published: April 14, 2025 by Sileas Herndon*

Have you ever wondered what happened to the old mining towns of Colorado? These hidden ghost towns and mining ruins tell stories of a bygone era when gold and silver lured thousands to the rugged mountains. Today, these abandoned places offer a unique glimpse into the past, with crumbling buildings and rusted machinery standing as silent witnesses to history. Exploring these sites can feel like stepping back in time, where you can imagine the bustling life that once filled these now-deserted streets. Whether you're a history buff or just love a good adventure, Colorado's ghost towns and mining ruins are a must-see.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

Colorado's rich history is dotted with ghost towns and mining ruins. These places offer a glimpse into the past, where gold rush dreams and mining booms once thrived. Let's explore some of the most fascinating hidden gems.

### **GHOST TOWNS**

#### 1. ST. ELMO

St. Elmo, one of Colorado's best-preserved ghost towns, sits in the Sawatch Range. Founded in 1880, it once bustled with miners and their families. Today, visitors can wander through its historic buildings and imagine life during the mining boom.

#### 2. ASHCROFT

Located near Aspen, Ashcroft was a booming silver mining town in the late 1800s. Now, it's a quiet ghost town with several well-preserved buildings. The Ashcroft Ghost Town offers a serene, picturesque setting for history buffs and photographers alike.

#### 3. INDEPENDENCE

High in the Rocky Mountains, Independence was founded during the [Colorado](#) Gold Rush. At its peak, it had over 1,500 residents. Now, visitors can explore the remnants of this once-thriving town, including cabins and mining structures.

### **MINING RUINS**

#### 4. ANIMAS FORKS

Animas Forks, near Silverton, was a bustling mining town in the late 1800s. Today, it stands as a testament to Colorado's mining heritage. The well-preserved buildings and stunning mountain views make it a must-visit for history enthusiasts.

#### 5. CRYSTAL MILL

Crystal Mill, perched above the Crystal River, is one of Colorado's most photographed sites. Built in 1892, this wooden powerhouse once provided electricity for mining operations. Though it's no longer operational, its picturesque setting draws visitors from around the world.

#### 6. ALTA

Alta, near Telluride, was a thriving mining town in the late 1800s. Today, its ruins offer a hauntingly beautiful glimpse into the past. The Alta Lakes Ghost Town and Mining Ruins are perfect for those seeking adventure and history.

### **LESSER-KNOWN GEMS**

#### 7. VICKSBURG

Vicksburg, located in the Clear Creek Canyon, was a small mining town with a rich history. Though not as well-known as other ghost towns, its preserved cabins and mining equipment provide a unique look into Colorado's past.

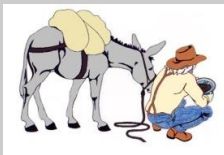
#### 8. CARSON

Carson, high in the San Juan Mountains, is a remote ghost town that few have visited. Its isolation adds to its mystique, with several buildings and mining structures still standing. Carson offers a true off-the-beaten-path experience.

#### 9. IRONTON

Iron-ton, near Ouray, was once a bustling mining town. Today, its abandoned buildings and mining ruins tell the story of a bygone era. The town's picturesque setting and rich history make it a hidden gem worth exploring.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

### 10. WINFIELD

Winfield, nestled in the Collegiate Peaks, was a thriving mining town in the late 1800s. Now, visitors can explore its well-preserved buildings and imagine life during the mining boom. Winfield's remote location adds to its charm and allure.


### DISCOVER COLORADO'S HIDDEN GEMS

Colorado's ghost towns and mining ruins offer a unique glimpse into the past. Exploring places like St. Elmo, Animas Forks, and Ashcroft lets you step back in time. These sites tell stories of boom and bust, of dreams and hard work. They are perfect for history buffs, photographers, and adventure seekers. Don't forget to bring a camera and good hiking boots. Some locations are remote, adding to their charm. Visiting these hidden gems is a great way to learn about Colorado's rich history while enjoying its stunning landscapes.

Whether you're a local or a visitor, these ghost towns and mining ruins are worth the trip. They remind us of the resilience and determination of those who came before us. So, pack your bags and hit the road. Colorado's hidden gems are waiting to be explored.

**HIDEE GOLD MINING COMPANY**

**CHRIS STONE**  
Owner / Operator



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www.HideeGoldMine.com  
Chris@HideeGoldMine.com  
720-548-0343

PLACE YOUR AD HERE



**Kevin Singel**  
findinggoldincolorado@gmail.com  
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Gold Prospectors of the Rockies  
PO Box 150096  
Lakewood, Co 80215-0096

**ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET**

**Commercial Ads**

- 3.6" x 2.0" Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)..... \$6
- 3.6" x 4.3" Four Column Inches..... \$12
- 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24
- 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
- 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48



For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*

<b>Coming Announcements and Special Events for May 2026</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>(GPR Events)</b></span>						
Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 ( <a href="https://www.wmmi.org/">https://www.wmmi.org/</a> )						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day				Zoom Board Meeting 7:30pm	Peace Officers Memorial Day	
GPoC/GPoR Arkansas River Claim dig (Joint Club Dig)	18	19	20	21	22	23
			GPoR Club Meeting			GPoR North Clear Creek Dig
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Memorial Day		Pirate's Hunt (Weather permitting)			