

# THE GOLD NUGGET

July 2024

## **The Prez Sez..!** by Bobby Manning



Congratulations to Ron Copper he Won the BIG NUGGET, 22.5 Grams. Now we need to look at the next round of nuggets. Would you like to do several smaller nuggets or one large one?

That will be my next question to you all so I will need your feed-back on this matter. So, please let me know as I'm thinking about getting some ¼ oz nuggets to do the large drawing.

On the Cache Clue, to keep it going, a Silver Coin will be given out to the winner for now. For this month's program, we will be doing a swap meet so bring in your old prospecting equipment to sell, and please bring in a cover for the table on your Equipment so that we don't scratch the tables. Thank you. The Water is still very high so be careful in the water. We will be doing the next outing in Overland Park. To beat the heat, I think we should meet at 8:00 Am until Noon there is a parking lot right off W Florida Ave. May your pan shine with yellow gold..!!

Keep your pans in the water and may you fill them with Gold!! so be real careful out there if you should go!!

## **Vice President's Corner!** by Kevin Singel



Our June meeting included a talk by Allen Mershon on sluice technology. As you may know there are many new types of rubberized mats being produced these days as folks try to innovate. We also have the choice of varieties of drop riffle and fluid bed sluices. So many choices...all good ones depending on your situation as he mentioned near the end of his talk. However, very few, if any of them have been well tested, especially in large-scale operations. Allen talked about one of the most important scientific studies ever done on gold retention using sluices. Very interesting stuff about how good ole riffles and miner's moss can do the job just great! His emphasis on the importance of a skid plate was one key thing for all of us to learn. For those who use miner's moss/Nomad in your sluices, I hope you caught his tip about using high quality synthetic fleece under the last foot of your moss. Allen has been involved with the club for many years, even as he led the life of a professional

placer mining advisor. I am very appreciative of his support of the club and his willingness to share his knowledge so freely. I will miss our July meeting due to a family event. I am sorry to miss the meeting since it will include a gear sale and swap. If you have gear you aren't using at this point, bring it in to sell. Please also bring a blanket or table cloth to throw over the sales table you set up because the club is liable for any damage such as scratches on the tables. My July also includes a big gold prospecting adventure. I have been learning to use my new (to me) Minelab Gold Monster 1000 in preparation for this adventure. You can count on a presentation about the prospecting trip at a club meeting later this year. Hopefully my talk will include lots of gold!! Until we meet again, be safe out there in the face of all the high water this year and FIND YOUR GOLD!



## **From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger** by John Johnson

We had a great turnout for the May meeting. We gave away lots of gold nuggets and other door prizes as well. Be sure to buy your gold nugget drawing tickets as well as your 50/50 tickets. We gave away the Special Nugget in June and the lucky winner was Ron Cooper. If you have any door prizes you would wish to donate to the Club Door Prize coffers, be sure and bring those to me as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the June meeting. See you all there...!!



## Board Meeting Minutes from June 2024

X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll	X	Robert Ahr	X	Gordon Smith
X	Kevin Singel		Gary Hamilton	X	Roger Schlenger	X	Bill Manning
X	Mike Stevens	X	Erik Von Halle	X	John Johnson	X	Joe Johnston

**Quorum Present:** \_Yes\_

**Call to Order by:** Pres Manning at 6:09 pm.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Corrections: Joe Dorus, not Doris as in last month's minutes

Approved as read/corrected: M. Stevens moved to accept; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Manning.

**Treasurer's Report: Questions:** None Approved: Unanimous

**Correspondence:** phone calls 0 emails 0 mail 0

**Webmaster:** Total: 175 Hits in last 30 days

**Committee Reports:**

- Bylaws – No action by the time of this meeting.
- The committee will begin virtual meetings in July using the free app -- Whereby.

**Unfinished Business:** 22 June Clear Creek outing will be postponed due to dangerously high water.

**New Business:**

- No one able/ready to take over club store. Motion made by Pres. Manning to give the current inventory of hats/pins, etc. away as door prizes. K. Singel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Joe Johnston made a motion to have the cache clue continue, using silver rounds for the prize as opposed to a gold nugget to help stabilize club costs for this activity. K. Singel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Planned Outings:**

- Gear swap/sale in July
- TBA – August
- Jay Lesser - September

**Board Members Items of Discussion:**

A. Doll will not be at the next board meeting.

R. Schlenger mentioned Gold-A-Palooza tickets go on sale August 1.

K. Singel will not be at the next board meeting.

**Tonight's General Meeting Program:**

Allen Merschon, a Gold Recovery Specialist, will discuss sluice technology.

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting July 17 at 6:00pm Next General Meeting: July 17 at 7:00pm

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:45 pm.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What year did King Croesus of Lydia create the first pure gold coin??

**2024 GPR Board of Directors :**

**President**

Bobby Manning

**Vice President**

Kevin Singel

**Secretary/Treasurer**

John Johnson

**2 Year Board Members**

Robert Ahr (2024)

Andy Doll (2024)

Gordon Smith (2024)

**1 Year Board Members**

Gary Hamilton

Roger Schlenger

Bill Manning

Erik Von Halle

Mike Stevens

**Past President**

Joe Johnston

## General Meeting Minutes from June 2024

1. Meeting was opened at 7:02 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Manning then announced that the evening Program which was Sluicing technology with Allen Merschon.
3. Pres. Manning then gave the Metals Report: Gold 2341 Silver 29.75 Platinum 991 Palladium 4600 Rhodium 5400
4. Web hits for last month: 175.



### Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

5. Treasurer John Johnson reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review by anyone who wishes to see it. The winning ticket for the 'Special Nugget' will be drawn tonight.
  6. Robert Ahr and Shellie Zornes from the Membership Table reported that we had 42 members in attendance. There were 2 Guest(s) present tonight. New members 2. The total meeting attendance was 44.
  7. Pres. Manning read the 'Question of the Month', which was "What year did the price of palladium overtake the price of gold ? The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
  8. Pres. Manning 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, 2024. 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. Kale Smith found the hidden club cache and along with John Johnson, discussed how he deduced the clues and exactly where he found the cache. He will receive his gold nugget prize next month. Additionally, the board decided to continue the cache clues using a silver round for the prize as opposed to a gold nugget to continue the tradition while saving the club funds.
  10. Pres. Manning advised that since the Club Store does not have someone to run it, the board had approved the inventory be used for door prizes until the inventory was gone. Gold bags are still for sale at the ticket sales table and that should continue for the foreseeable future.
  11. Pres. Manning informed the membership that the next activity on 22 June Outings schedule (Clear Creek) is being postponed due to dangerously high water.
  12. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break
  13. Pres. Manning announced the break at 8:10 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:27 pm.
  14. Pres. Manning announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'.  
The answer was, "2018"! There were 31 winners who received their extra ticket for the gold drawing.
  15. Pres. Manning announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
    - Best Coin – Shellie Zorne with a 1907 Indian Head penny
    - Best Jewelry – Mark Rowland with a medal on a chain
    - Best Mineral – Bobby Manning with a piece of turquoise
    - Best Artifact – Shellie Z. with a small jewelry sword
    - Best Gold – No entry
  16. Pres. Manning concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by Yvonne Smith & ?, followed by the drawings for the gold nuggets. Pres. Manning also wants to remind 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 John Johnson and John Olson.  
Next came the drawing of the blue tickets for the large gold nugget. The lucky winner of this beautiful specimen was Ron Cooper. Congratulations Ron!
  17. Pres Manning announced the winning ticket number for the 50/50 drawing. M. Stevens had the winning ticket and won \$38 and the same went to the Club.
  18. Pres. Manning 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.
  19. Pres. Manning thanked Greg and Nancy Knerl and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Each member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Remember to contribute to 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.
  20. The July Meeting Program will be TBD.
- Having nothing further at this time, remember to always prospect safely.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

21. Meeting was adjourned at \_\_8:59\_ pm.

### **A Miner's Laugh**

Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve in her extra-curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member and an old retired miner, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked behind the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (along with many others), that everyone there would know what he was doing! Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a few moments and then turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend or deny, he said nothing. Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his old pickup in front of Mildred's house, walked home, and left it there all night.....! You just gotta love old Frank...!!!



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

### **The finds of the Month June 2024:**

The Club has decided to change the Finds of the Month Program to eliminate the 'Bottle' category as well as combine the gold categories into a single category. Therefore, the following submissions were selected by popular vote at the May meeting:

- **Best Coin** – Shelly Zornes with a 1907 Indian head penny she found while metal detecting.
- **Best Jewelry** – Mark R. with a sterling silver necklace he found while metal detecting.
- **Best Mineral** – Bobby Manning with raw turquoise he found on an Arizona mine tailing pile.
- **Best Artifact** – Shelly Zornes with a samurai sword she found while metal detecting.
- **Best Gold** – There were no submission for this category this month



Remember that all gold must be dried and weighed. All monthly winners need save their entries for the November 2024 meeting when the years Finds of the Month winners will be judged for the Finds of the Year. So, be sure and save them!

### **The Pirate's 29 June Hunt**

by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello to all of the members of the G.P.O.R. We had our Pirate's Hunt this month at Highland Park and it was a beautiful morning. We started out with breakfast at McCoy's restaurant with 10 hunters showing up to eat and our 11th member was there at 0900 hrs. 5 minutes, later we were all at the park. It was a nice morning with the temperature a cool 72 degrees with a breeze out of the west. Bill C. started us off with a bling copper ring and then ended his day with around 82 cents, give or take. John and Cindy O. ended their day with 4 Bling Rings, one jeweled book marker, a dog tag and about 2.50 in change between them. Shellie Z. had a nice day with 2.14 and Robert A. with 2.43. We hunted for an average of 3hrs. and by that time it started to warm up a bit. Okay, you members, I will see you all at the next meeting on July 17th and the next Pirate's Hunt on July 31st. Until then, be safe and stay healthy and happy hunting. (Photos were by the Pirate)





## **Geology Basics for the Gold Prospector** April 24, 2024 by Matthew Hospodar

A Basic understanding of geology and its principles is necessary to become a well-rounded and successful gold prospector. The starting ground for understanding geology and its principles begins with mineral identification. Mineral ID manuals are cheap and available online and at most bookstores. They should be in your pack when you are prospecting in the field.

### **Part 1, Mineral Identification:**

The ability to identify common minerals includes identifying minerals that are of economic value and those that aren't. Both are important, and their identification will help identify rock types later. Some of the identifying characteristics that are easy to test with limited equipment are crystal habit, hardness, color, streak, luster, cleavage, fracture and magnetism.

### **Crystal Systems**

Crystals can be one of the best characteristics for identifying minerals. Well-defined crystals are formed when crystalline minerals can grow and accumulate without interference from other pressures such as grown in a void underground. Crystal forms are assigned to six systems. These systems are identified by their axes, with the vertical axis running top to bottom and the horizontal axis running side to side. The six systems are: Isometric or cubic, Tetragonal, Hexagonal, Orthorhombic, Monoclinic and Triclinic.

Isometric/cubic crystals have three axes of equal length at right angles to each other, forming a near perfect cube.

Common examples are pyrite, galena, fluorite, magnetite, gold and sphalerite.

Tetragonal crystals are similar to isometric in that they have three axes right angles to each other. The horizontal axes are equal in length, but the vertical axis is shorter. Common examples are rutile, pyrolusite, scheelite and zircon.

The hexagonal crystal system is six-sided, with three horizontal axes of equal length and a vertical axis at right angles.

The vertical axis can be shorter or longer than the horizontal axis. Common examples are beryl, graphite and apatite.

The orthorhombic crystal system has three axes that are at right angles to each other. Common examples are aragonite, bornite, chrysocolla, gothite and marcasite.

The monoclinic system has three axes of equal length. Two of them intersect at right angles and the third axis has an angle that is oblique to one of the others. Common examples are arsenopyrite, augite, azurite, biotite, epidote, muscovite, pyrophyllite, realgar and talc.

The triclinic crystal system has three axes of unequal length and all intersect at oblique angles. Common examples are feldspar of all varieties: oligoclase, plagioclase, microcline, albite and andesine. These crystal systems are a possible way to help to help identify various minerals in the field, but in many cases, the crystal will not exhibit a recognizable crystal system due to outside pressure that influenced its formation. Often, a basic crystal habit may be observed.

Crystal habits differ from those of crystal system: the three common crystal habits you will encounter are column, cubic and tabular. Crystal habits are not as positive an identifying feature as they may seem due to the influence of outside pressures like heat. An example is fluorite, which may be cubic at lower formation temperatures and pressures but octahedral when formed at much higher temperatures. This variability is why no single mineral characteristic is enough for identification.

### **Mohs Hardness**

The hardness of a mineral is one of the most important and easiest methods of assisting in the identification of minerals. Mohs hardness is determined by what minerals will scratch it and what minerals it will scratch. It is not a mathematical progression of relative hardness but a progression of ten different minerals arranged increasing degrees of hardness.

Hardness is an easy characteristic to test with either cheap hardness testing kits that can be bought online or with things that you may already have on you while in the field. The following are the approximate hardness of everyday items: fingernail, 2.5; copper penny, 3; glass, 5-5.5; pocket knife blade, 5.5-6 and a steel file, 6.5-7.

When testing, you will usually start with the softer test first and work your way up. So, if the unknown mineral scratched your fingernail, the copper penny, glass and the pocket knife blade, but was scratched by the steel file, then the hardness is between 6 and 6.5. Once again, this test alone is not definitive for identification; it is another bullet point to help rule certain common minerals out.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

### Color

Color is what usually draws a prospector to a mineral and may be the reason that they pick it up. However, color is one of the least useful characteristics since many minerals may have the same color. Also, any one mineral can exhibit many different colors, which can change based on wet versus dry,

Direct sunlight or shaded, weathered surface or fresh. So, while color can certainly help, it should not be used alone.

### Streak

Streak is a very useful method to narrow down which mineral you are looking at. While many may assume the color you see in the streak would be the same as the mineral, this is often not the case. Streak is tested by drawing the mineral across either a black or white piece of unglazed porcelain. A good example of this is black hematite, which has a reddish-brown streak on white porcelain. If no

streak is created, the mineral is either as hard as or harder than porcelain, which is a 7 on the Mohs scale.

### Luster

Luster is the way a mineral reflects light and is divided into two general categories; metallic and non-metallic. The latter class has many sub-categories that are really the identifying part of this test. The following are a few of the category luster:

- Metallic: shiny like metal in its natural form - natural silver
- Sub-metallic: between metallic and non-metallic
- Adamantine: brilliant, glossy luster - diamond
- Dull: very dull appearance – chalk or clay
- Greasy: like an oily surface – nepheline
- Pearly: like silk – asbestos
- Resinous: like resin – sphalerite
- Vitreous: like glass – quartz, topaz

### Cleavage/fracture

Unless you are dealing with a metal, the vast majority of minerals will break if struck with a sharp blow. If the break is irregular, then it is said to have a fracture; if it breaks along lines, planes, or patterns, it is said to have cleavage. If a mineral has cleavage, it will break into pieces that will have a regular pattern. For example, pyrite and galena have three axes at right angles and of equal length; when they are struck, they will break into small cubes.

Many minerals, when struck, will not show a distinctive cleavage, but they may still show a recognizable pattern. There are many types of fracture patterns, but the main ones are conchoidal. This is the fracture you see when you break glass. Obsidian and quartz display this fracture pattern as well. Fibrous or splintery fractures have fibers or splinters when they are struck and fractured. Hackly fractures are marked by rough, jagged, torn edges. Uneven fractures are rough and irregular and are generally of little use in identification.

### Magnetism

Magnetism is the last mineral characteristic we will discuss. It can be a very useful way to identify a few minerals, and it is easy to test and self-explanatory. A mineral that exhibits magnetism will be attracted to a magnet. Magnetite is the main mineral in this category and is an easy way to distinguish it from many other silvery metallic minerals. Another one that exhibits magnetism is marcasite, which can look very similar to pyrite, but marcasite exhibits weak magnetism.

### Conclusion

Mineral identification is an important skill for all aspiring geologists. This article will not make anyone an expert, and you will still almost always be referring to a mineral ID manual to determine exactly what mineral you are dealing with. The ability to identify a good number of common minerals will increase your ability to track down gold deposits when in the field, as specific mineral groups in certain areas in certain areas of the world accompany many deposits. I hope this article was informative and you will return next month for Part Two of Geological Basics for Prospectors

*Matt is a trained geologist with a background in geotechnical engineering, mineral exploration, gold prospecting and mining. Matt's passion for gold prospecting began in 2013 when a friend told him about a local creek in Virginia where people panned for gold. Since then, he has become an avid prospector focusing in dredging and brown and green field exploration*



## Extracting Pure Gold From Electrical Trash Just Got Easier

Story by Jess Thomson

Scientists have figured out a way to recycle important metals trapped inside electrical waste.

Using textiles, researchers from the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) have improved the efficiency of extracting gold from electronic waste, according to a new study in the *Chemical Engineering Journal*.

This method achieved a gold recovery efficiency of almost 100 percent.

Electronic waste, often referred to as e-waste, consists of discarded electronic devices and components. This can include old electrical appliances, mobiles, laptops, circuit boards, and batteries, as well as toys, household tools, razors, cables, hairdryers, routers, speakers and fire alarms, among many others.

Around 50 million tons of e-waste are thrown out every year, and less than 20 percent of that is recycled. This e-waste often contains both precious metals like gold, silver, and platinum and common metals like copper, aluminum, and iron, but these metals are often quite difficult to remove efficiently from the waste.

Many methods of recovering metals from e-waste involve the use of adsorbents, which are usually granular materials that use their large surface area to attach to the metal particles. However, these are often hard to control underwater, leading to low recovery rates, and also contributing to environmental pollution.

According to the new research, high-purity gold can be removed selectively from e-waste using textile adsorbents instead. These fiber-like materials, made of a chemical called polyacrylonitrile, can be readily manipulated underwater and shaped into different forms via weaving, making them highly useful for industrial uses.

However, their thinness and fragile nature mean they often break when used in gold recovery processes. The researchers attached alkaline molecules to the fibers to improve their stability and their gold recovery performance.

This fiber method can recover up to 2.5 times more gold ions than granular materials, thanks to having a much higher surface area.

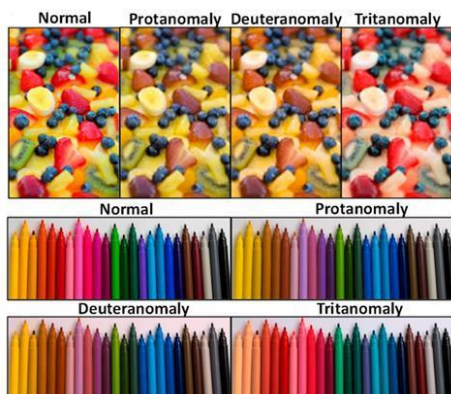
"By enabling efficient and eco-friendly metal resource recovery, the fiber-type adsorbent developed by KIST can reduce Korea's dependence on resource imports and prepare for the risk of rising raw material prices," study author Jae-Woo Choi, a researcher at the Water Resource Cycle Research Center at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), said in a statement.

The researchers found that using fibers could achieve a gold recovery efficiency of over 99.9 percent, across a range of acidic pHs, even when other metals were present in the solution. Additionally, after 10 uses, the gold recovery rate remained high at 91 percent, meaning that these fibers are reusable.

"We plan to expand the scope of future research to selectively recover various target metals in addition to gold, study co-author Youngkyun Jung, also a KIST researcher, said in the statement."

## Contact lenses with gold nanoparticles can help correct colour blindness

Helen Albert 12 March 2021



Source: © Salih et al, 2021 ACS Nano, American Chemistry Society





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

Different types of colour vision deficiencies affect the range of colours people are able to see

Contact lenses embedded with gold nanoparticles have been used to help correct red–green colour vision deficiency. The researchers believe the lenses will be more comfortable, effective and safer for wearers than the options currently available.

Although many variations exist, the most common kind of colour vision deficiency or ‘blindness’ is when people have difficulty differentiating red from green. People with colour blindness, which mostly affects men, are able to live perfectly normal lives day-to-day. However, not being able to differentiate certain colours can make some tasks difficult and can exclude people from certain jobs, for example, some types of driving. It can also make daily life harder in small ways, for example, not being able to tell if fruit is ripe, pick out clothes of the right colour or appreciate art in the same way as everyone else.

The first glasses to help people with colour blindness were created by James Clerk Maxwell in 1854. The idea of using contact lenses to correct colour vision is also not new, but previous lenses, such as the Chromagen lenses, are not as effective as the glasses.

‘For the colour vision deficient, the spectacle lenses are the most helpful, being darker tints, but the contact lenses are relatively undetectable,’ says Stephen Dain, an emeritus professor specialising in optometry and the science of vision at the University of New South Wales, who wasn’t involved in this study.

Adding gold chloride to molten glass has long been known to create ‘cranberry’ glass, which gives the glass a red tint. Ahmed Salih and colleagues from Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi drew inspiration from this ancient technique and added gold nanoparticles to soft contact lenses to give them a red tint that can help people with red–green colour blindness to better discriminate colours in this spectrum.

Salih says that they focused on using gold nanoparticles because they absorb light in the desired region for filtering, as well as being non-toxic and non-reactive. ‘The main challenges were in the fabrication stage,’ he says. ‘We tried to optimise the proportions of the nanoparticles to the material of the lenses to get the optimum material properties, while trying to avoid agglomeration or aggregation of the nanoparticles.’

A key benefit of the new lenses is that they are very similar to modern soft contact lenses, with good water content, making them less likely to dry out. When the team compared the transmission of light through their lenses with that of other colour correcting glasses and lenses, they found their lenses were just as good.

The biocompatibility of the gold nanoparticles also makes the lenses attractive, according to Dain. Although he says ‘the only colour vision advantage would be if the tint could be made darker than the current ones... One of the problems with the Chromagen was getting enough dye into the soft contact lens to make it dark enough to be really effective.’

Salih and colleagues still need to test their lenses in a wider group of people and carry out further tests to assess how oxygen permeable the lenses are. But the results are promising. ‘I believe that there is, and there will be, a high demand for such lenses, because from a comfort point-of-view, many people would rather wear tinted lenses like ours than tinted glasses,’ he says.






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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 Aug 2024 (GPR Events – Check the Outing Schedule)**

Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (<https://www.wmmi.org/>)  
(Free to GPR Member with badge)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <b>GPR Club Meeting</b>	22	23	24 Prospecting site TBD depending on water levels
25	26	27	28 <b>Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting)</b>	29	30	31