

THE GOLD NUGGET

October 2024

Obituary

It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of **Brian Henry**, a long-time member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies, in late September. There will be a Celebration of Life on Sunday October 6, 2024, 3:00 PM, Boettcher Mansion, Lookout Mountain.



The Prez Sez..! by Bobby Manning



Hello my fellow prospectors. September was a busy month had two panning demos one in Highlands Ranch, the other in Wallace Kanas. An outing to Rollins Ville did not do too much for I had to work on my equipment. I had a new pump but needed fittings to hook it up. So, I walked around getting pictures. I did do a little digging and I did manage to find a little Gold. And I saw

that at the beginning of the year we should probably have an equipment over haul. Set up your equipment up so you are not doing it when we go out, then we were to have a panning class and it did not happen! The person that said would do it forgot. Myself, I got called out for an

emergency water leak. When I got done, I called the person who was to do it; we will have a talk in the board meeting. Then with great sadness I heard that an old member had passed away, his celebration of life will be Sunday October 6, 2024, 3:00 pm Boettcher mansion, Lookout Mountain.

Don't forget to bring you carving entry to the pumpkin carving contest at the October meeting for a prize.

We will also be auctioning off a silver bar, and a blue bowl to raise money for the club My end note is to apologize to jack and jj for not having enough help to do your panning demo. After this I will be talking to the board. The Oct speaker will be Kevin Singel speaking about his recent prospecting trip to Alaska, should be great. May your pans be filled with gold! see you all at the meeting 7:00 pm October 16th at Lloyd g. Clements Community Center 1580 Yarrow st Lakewood Co. will see you there. Bobby Manning.



Vice President's Corner! by Kevin Singel



As Dominic Ricci (Executive Director of Operations for the LDMA) recently wrote: "Gold prospecting in autumn is pure magic. The crisp air, vibrant colors, and the thrill of knowing every pan holds the promise of uncovering gold make every moment an unforgettable adventure." While I passionately enjoy gold prospecting year-round, I agree with Dominic, there's something special about the waning days of summer and the early days of fall. The rivers are low, so access is safe and great. There's no ice or icy cold water yet, but the cooler sunny days make the hard work of digging feel easier. Autumn is really my favorite season for prospecting, how about you?



Last month, the talk by Jay Lesser sure was interesting. He is doing some impressive things in the hard rock milling arena and he does a great job talking about it. After the talk, he took lots of good questions from the audience and then used his XRF scanner to tell lots of folks what elements were in their mineral samples. A few people got good news about the gold & silver content of their rocks, others (like me!) were dismayed to find they really just had a piece of "leaverite"- ha ha!



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This month at the club meeting I will be doing a presentation on my July trip to Nome. I stayed at the AKAU Resort for a week. I was able to metal detect (successfully!), high bank, run a commercial-scale wash plant, eat like a king and sleep in a real bed. Fun times for sure! Come see some pictures of the facilities, the mining, the adventure, and even a musk ox or two! Oh, and I will bring along the gold I found for show-n-tell. See ya then!!

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by John Johnson



We had a great turnout for the September 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. 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 October meeting. See you all there!!

Board Meeting Minutes from Sept 2024

X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll	X	Robert Ahr	X	Gordon Smith
X	Kevin Singel	X	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 6:00 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: None Approved as

read/corrected: Roger S. moved to accept;
2nd by Billy M. Unanimous

Treasurer's Report: Questions: \$154 check not deposited by time report was printed
Approved: Motion to accept & 2nd by same as above. Approved Unanimously

Correspondence: phone calls 1 emails 7 mail 0

Webmaster: Total: 227 Hits in last 30 days

Committee Reports:

Bylaws – Suggested changes/updates presented to the board by Committee Chair Gordon S. This took up a significant portion of the meeting. Board members were asked to reach out to Gordon before the next meeting with any changes/suggestions. The board will vote on this at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business:

A thank you note was read by Gordon S. for approval to send to the organizer of the Ft. Wallace, KS panning demo the club was invited to participate in. The board approved and Gordon S. will mail it this week.

New Business:

Discussion about clarifying the sale of red tickets to non-club members and QOM participation for red tickets. No action was taken at tonight's meeting. With the price of gold currently at over \$2500/ounce, allowing non-members to purchase red tickets could detrimental to the gold drawings.

President Manning indicated a possible panning demo at the Colorado Convention Center could happen on February 13, 2025. More details forthcoming and volunteers to work the booth will be needed.

The site of the train wreck in Fountain Creek near Manitou Springs appears to be on private property. Board member Gordon S. attempted to reach the registered agent of the owning corporation several times without response. **At this point, the club's stance is not to plan any outings to that location until we can get permission.** Any member choosing to go to that site is doing so at their own risk and should not wear their name badge or represent the club in anyway.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The average human body contains how much gold??

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



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Planned Outings:

South Boulder Creek west of Rollinsville is scheduled for this Saturday, September 21st.

Board Members Items of Discussion: NA

Tonight's General Meeting Program:

Jay Lesser is a mining consultant and will be presenting on his operations. He also generously offered to use his XFR "gun" on any samples that attendees brought in

K. Singel will present on his prospecting trip to Alaska in October

Yvonne Smith will present on Women in Mining in November

Announcements: Next Board Meeting October 16 at 6:00pm Next General Meeting: October 16 at 7:00pm

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:58 pm.

General Meeting Minutes from Sept 2024

- 1 Meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Manning then announced the guest speaker, Jay Lesser, of Lesser Family Gold and MRD, Inc.. Jay spoke of his many years' efforts to develop a means of cleaning up Colorado tailing piles, removing the toxic materials like cyanide, mercury and others as well as getting paying materials such as gold and silver. The program was fascinating and Jay has had his process and mill approved by Clear Creek County and the State. His process is ground breaking and innovative and may prove to be the next viable means of cleaning up a lot of Super Fund sites as well. Well done Jay, keep up the good work..! Jay also brought his RDF scanner and checked a number of samples brought in by members to verify the values contained within.
3. **Pres. Manning** then gave the Metals Report: Gold 2577 Silver 30.67 Platinum 989 Palladium 1136 Rhodium 4975
4. **Web hits** for last month: 227 .
5. **Treasurer John Johnson** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review by anyone who wishes to see it.
6. **Shellie Zornes** from the Membership Table reported that we had 37 members in attendance. There were 8 Guest(s) present tonight. New members 0. The total meeting attendance was 45.
7. **Pres. Manning** read the 'Question of the Month', which was: **In 1999, which was the last country to go off the gold standard?**
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. Starting with the 2025 contest photos of the winning FOMs will be on display for members to vote on. This will alleviate winners needing to bring their finds back to the November meeting. Also, 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 items found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. **Kale Smith** read clue #3 for the cache clue.
10. **Pres. Manning** reminded the members to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break. Additional items to be discussed include:
The two panning demos that occurred recently went well, however more volunteers are needed to make sure these events are not short-handed. President Manning made a plea to members to volunteer for these and other club events to make them successful. President Manning announced there is a possible panning demo coming up in February at the Convention Center downtown. A reminder that the annual pumpkin carving contest is next meeting so, bring your entries to be judged by the membership!
11. **Pres. Manning** announced the break at 7:43 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:30 pm.
12. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'.



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The answer is, "...Switzerland__" ...! There were 23 winners who received their extra ticket for the gold drawing.

13. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:

- **Best Coin – Joe Johnston**
- **Best Jewelry – Mark Rowland**
- **Best Mineral – Joe Johnston**
- **Best Artifact – Gary Hamilton**
- **Best Gold – Joe Kafka**

14. **Pres. Manning** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes, 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 JJ Long**.

15. **Pres Manning** announced the winning ticket number for the 50/50 drawing. **_JJ Long_** had the winning ticket And won \$30 which he then donated back to the Club. Thank You JJ!

16. **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.

17. **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.

18. **The _October_ Meeting Program** will be Kevin Singel presenting on his recent Alaska gold prospecting Adventure and the annual PUIPKIN CARVING CONTEST.

Having nothing further at this time, remember to always prospect safely.

19. **Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

A Miner's Laugh

Earl, an 82 year-old retired miner, went to the doctor to get his annual physical checkup. A few days later, the doctor saw old Earl walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on each arm. A couple of days later, the doctor saw Earl again and spoke to him. Earl, you seem to be doing really great, aren't you?' Earl replied, "I'm just doing what you told me to do, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful'."

The doctor said, "oh for Pete's sake, I didn't say that Earl. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful'. Now let's schedule you a hearing test..!!!"

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



The finds of the Month sept 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 September meeting:

- **Best Coin –Joe Johnston** with a .50 cent piece he found.
- **Best Jewelry – Mark Towland** with a beautiful pendant that he found metal detecting.
- **Best Mineral – Joe Johnston** with gold ore from an old ore dump.
- **Best Artifact – Gary Hamilton** with some old spikes he found.



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- **Best Gold – Joe Kafka with a gold ring he found metal detecting**



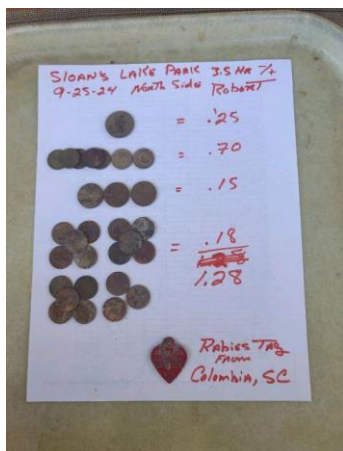
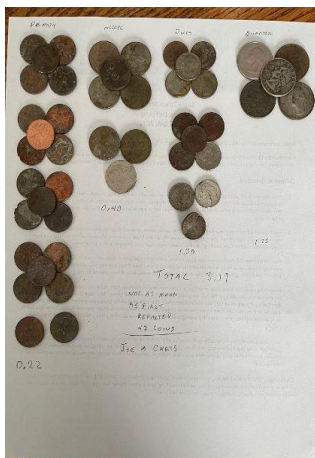
Remember that all gold must be dried and weighed. All monthly winners need save their entries for the November 2024 meeting when the years Finds of the Month winners will be judged for the Finds of the Year. So, be sure and save them...!

The Pirate's Sept 25 Hunt by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Good Well G.P.O.R. members, the Pirate's had a great day. We started off with 8 for breakfast and that was the crew for the day. We all agreed that Sloan's Lake Park was the place to go and we headed down there and went to the North side of the park. It was a chilly morning with temps in the 60's, and we started hunting around 0930hrs. and by 1000hrs, I wished I would have worn shorts. Anyway, we geared up and hit the park swinging. Jack M. was the first to leave to serve lunch to the seniors back at the Clements Center. About 2 hours later, Chris and Joe K. took off with a pocket full of change. Shellie Z., Mike S. and I were the next to leave 3 hours later and Gary H. and Joe F. were the last to leave. So, we pulled \$9.19 out of that section of the park. That is a pretty good haul. Joe F. was at the top with 2.56 and a nice .925 Pendent with a center stone. Chris & Joe K. had a great day with \$3.17 worth of coins. Shellie Z. had a total of \$1.81, Robert A. \$1.28 and Mike S. .37 cents. We all had a great day, and we will see you all at the next G.P.O.R. meeting 10-16-2024. Keep gold in your pans and silver under your detectors!



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America's First Gold Rush

The first significant gold rush in the United States was in Cabarrus County, North Carolina in 1799. The discovery of a large gold nugget by a 12-year-old boy named Conrad Reed led to the Carolina Gold Rush. In 1835, President Andrew Jackson opened three branch mints, one of them in Charlotte, to mint the newly discovered gold. The California Gold Rush, which began on January 24, 1848, when gold was found by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California, was the largest gold rush in the United States

The **Carolina gold rush**, the first gold rush in the United States, followed the discovery of a large gold nugget in North Carolina in 1799, by a 12-year-old boy named Conrad Reed. He spotted the nugget while playing in Meadow Creek on his family's farm in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Conrad took the 17-pound (7.7kg) gold nugget home to show his father. However, gold was not commonly seen in their community and the value of the nugget was not understood. The nugget was used as a door stop in the family's home for several years. In 1802, Conrad's father, John Reed, showed the rock to a jeweler, who recognized it as gold and offered to buy it. Reed, still unaware of the real value of his "doorstop," sold it to the jeweler for US\$3.50 (equivalent to \$74.53 in 2023) (approximately one week's pay for a farm laborer at that time). The large nugget's true value was around \$3,600.



Carolina Gold Belt, showing, south to north, the Haile, Brewer, Howie, Stuart, Moore, Long, Means, Pioneer Mills, Reed, Ferris, Rocky River, Buffalo, Phoenix, San Cristian, Concord, Moratock, Eisenhauer, Mt. Mackin, Russel, Gold Hill, Reimer, Dunns Mt., Salisbury, Silver Hill, Emmons, Silver Valley, Hoover Hill, and Jones mines. Gold-quartz veins are found in the schists.



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History

After learning of the value of the resource on his land, John Reed entered into a partnership with Federick Kisor, James Love, and Martin Phifer. In the year 1803, the men found a nugget weighing 28 pounds (13kg). News of the discovery was quickly spread by regional newspapers, and land owners across the area began to search for gold on their property. Nearly all of the land was privately owned and the beginning of the Carolina gold rush was largely conducted by farmers at the end of the growing season each year. These farmers were capable of conducting shallow surface mining of the stream-beds known as placer mining. However, by the late 1820s these placer deposits had been exhausted and the first lode mine shaft was excavated in pursuit of a gold-containing quartz vein in 1825 by Matthias Barringer in Montgomery County, North Carolina (now Montgomery and Stanly counties). With this progression of mining technique, the profession of mining became a necessity as tunnels and ventilation issues were outside the skill set of land-owning farmers.

By the 1830s placer mining had been nearly entirely replaced by the more technical lode mining, including at the Reed mine; with this development came opportunity for immigrants from southern England. The region of Cornwall had bred miners for decades, who skillfully extracted the copper and tin from their deep mines until, by the early 19th century, those deposits became exhausted. Learning of new opportunity in North Carolina many of these miners immigrated in pursuit of work and brought their expertise with them. Some of the ore mills built in the Carolinas can be seen to resemble the design of the old mines in Cornwall. The expertise that these miners taught to the Carolina men spread throughout the region as men sought gold across the Carolina terrane. According to writer Joshua D Glawson, by the height of the Carolina Gold Rush, as many as 600 gold mines were operating in North Carolina. The establishment of a skilled and experienced workforce from this Carolina gold rush can be directly credited for the success of the much larger gold rush of 1849 in California, which drew many of these now skilled miners West.

Over 2,500 ounces of gold was deposited in the Philadelphia Mint by 1824.

America's Largest Gold Rush

The California gold rush (1848–1855) was a gold rush that began on January 24, 1848, when gold was found by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill, in Coloma, California. The news of gold brought approximately 300,000 people to California from the rest of the United States and abroad. The sudden influx of gold into the money supply reinvigorated the American economy; the sudden population increase allowed California to go rapidly to statehood in the Compromise of 1850. The gold rush had severe effects on Native Californians and accelerated the Native American population's decline from disease, starvation, and the California genocide.



The effects of the gold rush were substantial. Whole indigenous societies were attacked and pushed off their lands by the gold-seekers, called "forty-niners" (referring to 1849, the peak year for gold rush immigration). Outside of California, the first to arrive were from Oregon, the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), and Latin America in late 1848. Of the approximately 300,000 people who came to California during the gold rush, about half arrived by sea and half came overland on the California Trail and the California Road; forty-niners often faced substantial hardships on the trip. While most of the newly arrived were Americans, the gold rush attracted thousands from Latin America, Europe, Australia, and China. Agriculture and ranching expanded throughout the state to meet the needs of the

settlers. San Francisco grew from a small settlement of about 200 residents in 1846 to a boomtown of about 36,000 by 1852. Roads, churches, schools and other towns were built throughout California. In 1849, a state constitution was written. The new constitution was adopted by referendum vote; the future state's interim first governor and legislature were chosen. In September 1850, California became a state.

At the beginning of the gold rush, there was no law regarding property rights in the goldfields and a system of "staking claims" was developed. Prospectors retrieved the gold from streams and riverbeds using simple techniques, such as



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panning. Although mining caused environmental harm, more sophisticated methods of gold recovery were developed and later adopted around the world. New methods of transportation developed as steamships came into regular service. By 1869, railroads were built from California to the eastern United States. At its peak, technological advances reached a point where significant financing was required, increasing the proportion of gold companies to individual miners. Gold worth tens of billions of today's US dollars was recovered, which led to great wealth for a few, though many who participated in the California gold rush earned little more than they had started with.

(Information from the free Wikipedia internet sites)

Smugglers melted and spray painted \$10 million in gold to look like machine parts

Story by Andrew Paul

It could have been the perfect crime, had they used better spray paint.

Recently, authorities have seized over 320 lbs worth of suspected smuggled gold during a cargo freight search at Hong Kong International Airport, according to yesterday's customs announcement. Bound for Tokyo on March 27, investigators recovered the roughly \$10.7 million haul from within two actual air compressors, the bureau's largest ever in terms of overall gold value. But these weren't goldbond bricks or stacks of doubloons stashed deep within the machinery—they were hunks of precious metal molded into the shapes of compressor parts, then camouflaged with silver-colored spray paint.

Customs agents first noticed something suspicious after running the 1,708 lbs pair of air compressors through a security X-ray late last month during a standard screening process. As Business Insider explains, similar air compressors are made from aluminum or iron, and usually intended for industrial and mining projects, as well as to fill divers' gas cylinders.

The two air compressors seized by authorities. Credit: Customs and Excise Department Hong Kong

Speaking with the South China Morning Post (SCMP) on Monday, the assistant superintendent of Hong Kong International Airport's customs air cargo division said technicians removed the motor casing and found a rotor "wrapped in a cord wheel which was tied to tape."

"It was not similar to a normal motor," he added.

After examining the rotor, authorities found traces of glue at both ends of the machinery part. Using a hammer, they then tapped the part and "noticed unevenness," indicating the metal was far more malleable than it should have been. Scraping away at an outer layer of silver paint showed flecks of gold. At that point, the whole situation was pretty clear—these were dummy parts made of precious metal. Authorities believe the air compressor scheme was an attempt to evade Japan's precious metals tariff that would have cost smugglers around \$1.07 million, were they to go through official channels.

To create their industrial decoys, authorities believe smugglers must have first melted their gold down before pouring it into molds shaped to resemble motor rotors, screw shafts, and a gear piece. This probably was no easy feat, given that gold's melting point is 1,948 degrees Fahrenheit.

According to Hong Kong Customs, police arrested the director of a local company on April 3 after finding his firm's name listed as the shipment's consignee. An initial investigation appears to show the company having no actual business dealings, potentially indicating it's a shell outlet for smuggling. The investigation is still ongoing and the man has since been released on bail. Under Hong Kong's Import and Export Ordinance, anyone found guilty of smuggling cargo could receive over \$255,000 in fines alongside a maximum 7 year prison sentence.




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- 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)

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Nov 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 Daylight Saving ENDS	4	5 ELECTION Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 VETERANS Day	12	13	14	15	16 Metal Detecting Outing
17	18	19	20 GPR Club Meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting)	28 Thanksgiving	29	30