THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2025

The Prez Sez..! by Bobby Manning



Hope your Christmas was wonderful and you have a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Now is @)@% ,it means 2025, and now is the time to help the Club in the planning of outings, or things you would like to do. I will be working on an Outing Committee, so talk with your fellow Board members. Would you like to do a picnic, would you like to go to a museum, tour an under-ground mine to see what it is like, or maybe even do a gem and mineral show. Do a Pay Metal Detecting Hunt where all the money goes into coins to put in the ground? So, we will need your HELP in coming up with ideals. And I Thank You, just like Mrs. Ross for her hard work on helping to

keep the food warm on the food table at the Christmas Dinner. And a BIG Shout Out Thank You on a wonderful job!! I finely got a call on the gold order and it is in process of getting processed. Gold has come down a little and we only have so much to spend. At the time of writing this, gold was 2,624.00, down from 2650.00. Ww will find out what Gold is and how much we can buy. I did get some gold for the Special Drawing. One piece of gold in quarts will be given away at the next meeting. And I have two other pieces of gold to give away and so will get some smaller gold and have smaller ¼ Oz or really nice piece of gold or close to it. This has been hard when you have a hard time getting gold. Well, at the next meeting we will have an Ask A Question to members of the Board, and they will try to answer all your questions, and tell you what we do for gold and how we do it. It should be fun. The Board will meet on the 9th of January 7:30 pm per Zoom and we will send out an Email on it. Will see you all at the Jan General Meeting. May Your Pans shine with Gold!

Vice President's Corner! by Kevin Singel



I hope you had fun at the club Christmas/Holiday party and got to chat with some fellow club members and maybe family members who also attended. I sure had a great time! Beyond that, the holidays can be a busy, or lonely, stressful, or happy time for folks. I was lucky enough to have both of my adult kids and their spouses with us in Silverthorne for the Christmas holiday this time. Boy that sure did make our little house seem jam packed! I hope the holidays went well for you and that you are getting a chance to start the new year with a fresh commitment to your priorities. For many of us, getting out prospecting or detecting is a great way to refresh our perspective on life. Where am I going with this? Well, as I have suggested before, this may be a good time to make a New Year's resolution to get out searching for treasure in your favorite way, or to try something new. What are you setting as your New Year's resolution?

This month at the club meeting we will try something a little different. Some members of the board will participate in a panel to help you get to know them a bit better and to talk about what sorts of prospecting they do. Then members will be invited to ask any questions they may have. It should be a fun way to get to know each other a bit better and to learn something too. I hope to see you there! Either way, get out there and "Find your gold!"



From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by John Johnson

I didn't have any treasure business to conduct at the Dec meeting as it was time to eat. However come 2025 be ready for 2025 club membership dues. More information to come.

Board Meeting Minutes from 12 Dec 2024 (Zoom)

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



Quorum Present:___Y___.

Call to Order by: Pres Manning at _8:23 p.m.__.

<u>Reading and Approval</u> of Minutes: Corrections: _Tabled due to technical difficulties getting everyone logged on_

_as Read /corrected: __n/a___.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: __Tabled_

Approved:__n/a___.

Correspondence: phone calls _____emails____ mail ___.

Webmaster: Total Hits in last 30 Days 167625 - 132 total.

<u>Committee Reports</u>: N/A **Unfinished Business**:

President Manning jumped right in on planning for Club outings in 2025. Some suggestions presented were: Colorado School Of Mines, the numismatic museums in Colo. Springs and Denver. Other suggestions were solicited from the members on the Zoom meeting and some brainstorming took place with concerns brought up about legal parking, legality/permission to be at a site, safety for participants and potential for adverse weather, especially in the January through April time frame. President Manning will pursue some contacts he has made and a committee will need to be formed in January to keep working on this so an Outings Calendar can be communicated to the general membership as soon as possible in the new year.

New Business: N/A

Planned Outings: See "Unfinished Business" section

Board Members Items of Discussion:

* Robert

*Andy - indicated he could send a monthly text to the membership with the pertinent Zoom meeting information for upcoming board meetings so any interested member could join the meeting to **listen in.**

*Roger

*Gordon - alerted President Manning that JJ Long would be forwarding any pertinent information/paperwork regarding the annual renewals with the Colorado Sec. of State and that the information should be passed to me as I will be taking that duty over as the Secretary of the Club

*Mike

*John - brought up the renewal on the side meeting room that the board has used for meetings. Now that we are using Zoom, that needs to be stopped/renegotiated with the Clements Center. President Manning indicated he would be taking care of that in January when the contract with the Clements Center is up for renewal.

*Gary - suggested that the Zoom Administrator credentials be provided to several members of the board in order to be able to start a Zoom meeting in case President Manning was unavailable.

* Erik

* Bill

(Joe) - has been in touch with his Marine Corps contact that is the coordinator of the Toys-for-Tots program and all is in order for getting any donations from this evening's get together to him

Tonight's General Meeting Program: The annual Christmas Party.

<u>Announcements:</u> Next Board Meeting <u>9/25</u> at ?? pm Next General Meeting: <u>01/15/25</u> at 7:00pm.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at <u>9:05</u> pm.

General Meeting Minutes from 18 Dec 2024 Christmas Party

- 1. **Meeting** was **opened** at <u>6:19</u> **pm** by **Pres. Manning** with the Pledge of Allegiance. Following that, the 55 folks in attendance were invited to the buffet table to share in a magical pot luck dinner where the Club provided the ham and the smoked beef as well as water and soft drinks. The attendees all participated in bringing assorted side dishes and deserts of all kinds, colors and flavors.
- 2. After dining, the attendees were treated to a gift from Santa and **President Manning** began the evenings Program.
- 3. He outlined the Club activities for the previous year to include the Outings, panning demos

2025 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

OUESTION OF THE MONTH

The oldest golden object from

in what country??

6500 years ago, was discovered

Bobby Manning

Vice President

Kevin Singel

Treasurer

John Johnson

Secretary

Gordon Smith

2 Year Board Members

Robert Ahr (2025)

Andy Doll (2024)

Mike Stevens (2024)

1 Year Board Members

Joe Kafka

Gary Hamilton

Erik Von Halle

Bobby Manning

Past President

Joe Johnston





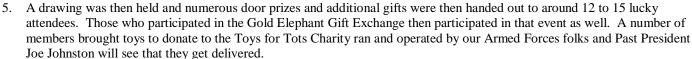


done, metal detecting hunts and all the other activities conducted by the Club during the year. It was noted that the Club has updated our Policy and Procedures and the Board has implemented a Zoom process in which to conduct future Board Meetings. This process will save hundreds of dollars a year in rental fees for the Board Room. The 2025 Board of Directors were introduced to the Club and will be taking Office at the January Meeting. Those who were moving on were



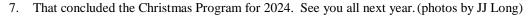
2024. **Robert Ahr** was also recognized for organizing the Pirate Hunts which have become a monthly Outing and is very popular amongst members.

4. Next, President Manning handed out Certificates of Appreciation to all the 2024 Board Members for all that they do to keep the club going and active. In addition, Certificates were presented to other members who have gone above and beyond to donate time and services to assist the Club throughout the year such as providing refreshments, managing the Newsletter, selling raffle tickets, over-seeing the Club Library and so on and so forth. The winners of the 2024 Finds of the Year were presented with their Certificates for their achievements as well.



acknowledged for their hard work and service to the Club for

6. Finally, the winner of the 2024 Ken Barker Award was announced. Bill Chapman was presented with the Award and it was noted that Bill was an original member of the Club back in the early 1990's and was kicked out of the Club for opening Golden Detectors and selling prospecting equipment to Club members. Apparently, the President at that time was also selling equipment and was upset that Bill took some of his customers away. When that old President was thrown out by the Board for mismanagement and theft, Bill came back to the Club. Bill worked as a recruiter for the Club while running his shop in Golden and steered many future members to the Club. Bill has always been a strong supporter of the Club and participates in many of the Club functions and Outings. Bill Chapman truly demonstrates all the qualities of the Spirit of the Ken Barker Award and is the living embodiment of what that Award stands for. His picture will be added to the Club website Gallery of Ken Barker Recipients.





.<mark>A Miner's Laugh</mark>

An old geezer, who had been a retired miner for a long time, became very bored and decided to open a medical clinic. He put a sign up outside that said: "Get your treatment for \$500 - if not cured get back \$1,000." Doctor "Young," who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000. He went to Dr. Geezer's clinic and this is what happened. Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me? Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth." Dr. Young: "Aaagh! This is Gasoline!" Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be



\$500." Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money. Dr Young: "I have lost my memory and I cannot remember anything." Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth." Doctor Young: "Oh no you don't, that's Gasoline!" Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500." Dr. Young (after having lost \$1000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days. Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak I can hardly see!" Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so, here's your \$1000 back." Dr. Young:

"But this is only \$500..." Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."



Finds of the Month for 2025

The Finds of the Month will continue for 2025, so be sure to bring those treasures that you find to the Club and enter them in the competition. Remember, finds from November and December 2024 may be entered into the running in January 2025. All gold submitted must be dry and weighed. Categories are for best coin, jewelry, artifact, mineral and most gold. So, let's get out there and get busy and may the best submission win. Good Luck..!!

Creede Colorado – Silver & Gold on the Rio Grande

For an adventure into old-west mining, scenic views, historic ruins, and more, Creede Colorado and Bachelor Loop will not disappoint.

There's Silver in Them Hills! Or, at least, there was when Nicholas C. Creede discovered it here in 1889. But there was settlement in this area long before Creede found his rich vein of Silver on Willow Creek. The Upper Rio Grande Valley had long played a part in the lives of indigenous peoples, including the Ute tribe, who transverse the San Juan Mountains based on the season, moving to the valleys in the winter and the high country in the Summer.

Another attraction for the Natives of Southwest Colorado was the hot springs at what is now known as Wagon Wheel Gap, less than ten miles downriver from where Creede would be established It was there that settlers began farming as early as 1840, curtailing Native migrations and eventually taking over the land as troops from Fort Garland forced them onto reservations. By the 1870s, stage stations connecting mining camps over the Divide with the East further increased settlement.

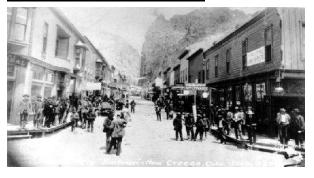
Tourism was also on the growth. Books about the American West helped lure Easterners and European immigrants to the region, and the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad was transporting tourists to Wagon Wheel Gap by 1883 with the opening of a depot. The hot springs soon became a popular destination for those wanting to take in the 'healing waters.'

Nicholas 'Nic' C. Creede

Then, in 1889, Nicholas C. Creede, a former soldier and scout who had been drifting up and down the Rockies in search of striking it rich, found his fortune in Willow Creek Canyon. It wasn't his first success, as Creede had already discovered rich mineral veins, including the *Monarch* in Chaffe County in 1878 and *Bonanza*. Not knowing how to develop the mines and lacking the capital, Creede sold both and used the money to tour mining districts and increase his knowledge. His discovery of the *Holy Moses*, a high-grade silver vein on the Rio Grande tributary in 1889, would start a great rush, and by 1891, the area mining camps population swelled from 600 to over 10,000.

It was near Jimtown camp in June of 1891 that Creede caught the attention of David Moffat, one of Denver's most important financiers and industrialists of the late 19th Century. Creede had discovered his biggest strike to date with the *Holy Moses* mine, which convinced Moffat and his consortium to lease the mine from Creede and enter into an agreement with him to fund his prospecting, paying him a one-third share of all future finds, along with \$100 a month. This benefited Creede greatly, who soon after discovered a rich Amethyst vein that would lead to several mines, including the *Bachelor, Annie Rooney, Sunnyside*, and the *Commodore*. It is estimated that the Amethyst vein made Creede up to \$1,000 a day in 1892.

Creede, Colorado May 23, 1892



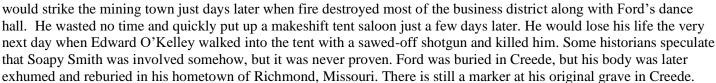
The original townsite that would become Creede was located on East Willow Creek, just above its junction with West Willow Creek. Below the townsite were Stringtown, Jimtown, and Amethyst. After the discovery of the *Holy Moses*, the entire area from East Willow to Amethyst was renamed Creede in honor of Nicholas. Railroad tycoon William Palmer extended the line from Wagon Wheel Gap into Willow Creek Canyon just above Creede in 1891, eventually leading to two trains arriving and departing daily, shipping over a million dollars in Silver down-valley by 1892.



Bob Ford's Tent Saloon in Creede, Colorado, 1892.

During this boom, the region also attracted numerous gambling houses, as the State Capital of Denver was experiencing a reform movement against drinking and gambling. Infamous confidence man Soapy Smith would become the uncrowned king of Creede's criminal element. Other well-known names attracted to the town include Bat Masterson, William Sidney "Cap" Light, the first deputy sheriff and Smith's brother-in-law, and Robert Ford, the man who shot and killed Jesse James a decade previous in Missouri.

Ford opened Ford's Exchange Dance Hall on May 29, 1892, but disaster





Men stand at the corner of Wall Street & Creede Ave after the June 1892 fire. Photo courtesy Colorado Museums.

Also, just days after the fire, Creede was officially incorporated on June 13, 1892. At the same time, politics at the state capitol were cooling to the anti-gambling movement, and Denver businessmen began moving out of Creede and back to their original operations. The mining boom lasted until the next year when the Silver Panic of 1893 shuttered most of the mines. But unlike some boom towns, Creede survived the economic downturn, as they increasingly relied on lead and zinc mining. Prospectors and families began moving from nearby abandoned mining camps to Creede, which by then had installed its

own electric system.

Tensions rose between the town and nearby Wason Ranch leading up to the incorporation of Mineral County. M.V.B. Wason felt his ranch was best suited as the county seat with its location at the confluence of roads and waterways, as well as safety from flash floods, which Creede had already experienced. The state agreed and named Wason the County Seat on March 27, 1893. Citizens in Creede disagreed, and Mineral County voters chose Creede as the seat that November. Wason attempted to delay the move on technicalities, so residents of Creede raided Wason, taking all the town's records, docket books, and other important material.

Mining would see a small resurgence in the early 1900s, and through the ups and downs of the market, Creede continued to be supported primarily by hard rock mining. Total production through 1966 included 58 million troy ounces of silver, 2 million metric tons of copper, 150 thousand ounces of gold, 112 thousand metric tons of lead, and 34 metric tons of zinc. Mining continued all the way up to 1985, when the last mine, the *Homestake*, closed permanently.

Today, Creede has gone back to its tourism roots. City and County leaders began leading efforts to preserve historic buildings and promote the area's mining history and scenic views. In 1976, the Creede Historical Society was founded, and during the 1980s, the town developed into a vibrant arts community with galleries, theatres, and cultural events. In 1992, the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust was founded to protect and conserve land, water, and wildlife resources in the region. With its location by the headwaters of the fourth longest river in North America, Creede and Mineral County feature rafting and kayaking at various difficulty levels to suit everyone. The Trout fishing is also excellent here, with the Rio Grande and its tributary streams providing opportunities for fly fishermen. Hiking is also very popular in the area.

For history buffs, a journey on *Bachelor Loop Historic Driving Tour* tops off your Creede Adventure. Seventeen miles through the historic mining district above Creede, you will experience mining remnants and abandoned camps, tour the *Last Chance Mine*, and take in the Creede Underground Mining Museum & Community Center adjacent to the loop at the north end of town.



The loop's route includes 14 interpretive pullouts telling the history of the mining operations and abandoned camps, including Bachelor. The East part of the loop is specified for four-wheel drive vehicles as you go up the steep terrain. However, the Western part of the loop is much easier, and traveling this way allows you to go down the mountains on the rough parts if you can't make the steep climbs.

You'll find the Last Chance Mine & Museum toward the north end of the loop, not far north of Bachelor on the west side of the route. The mine would be a pile of ruins if not for the efforts of Jack Morris, who, over the past couple of decades, has rebuilt some of the mining buildings, reopened the shaft for tours, and established a couple of museums on the site. Well worth a stop to talk to Jack and take in the history. He is featured in a PBS documentary on Creed talking about how the Last Chance Mine came to be, which you can see here. (This Hyperlink works....Ctrl + Click)

<u>Article taken from the internet and produced by Legends of America, Traveling through American history, destinations & legends since 2003</u>

Desert Properties Snapped Up Because of 'Billions' In Untapped Gold

Story by

Emma Richter For Dailymail.Com

Bargain desert properties are being snapped up due to the 'billions' in untapped gold that lies underneath.

Potential buyers are rushing to Johannesburg - a small mining town in the Rand Mountains mining district, located in California's Mojave Desert - after realizing there are pockets along the ground that could potentially lead to boatloads of cash.

The holes, or abandoned mines, are sparking a real estate boom in the West Coast town with a tiny population of around 80 residents, because of the 'modern day gold rush'.

David Treadwell, a real estate agent based in Hemet, has seen the dramatic shift in the small town ever since word got around about the potential to make money after purchasing properties in the desert for less than \$50,000.

'The market is heating up. I get 2-3 leads per month on buyers looking for patented mine claims. If you can get the gold out of the ground, there's money to be made,' Treadwell told the LA Times.

Over the last couple years, the realtor has sold several gold mining properties to professional miners and even amateurs who are looking to cash in on the underground gold.

In 2017, Treadwell sold his uncle's 47-acre property, and shared the news in a local mining journal, which sparked interest from others.

'From there, people would call and say, "I saw you're selling a gold mine. Wanna sell mine too?",' he told the outlet.

Just last year, Treadwell sold the St. Elmo mine - a historic location with 11 mining shafts - to Sean Tucker, the founder of Gold Discovery Group.

Tucker immediately got to work drilling into his land in search of gold, as his team dug holes in the ground two feet at a time until they created an eight inch-wide hole in the dirt.

He and his crew soon examined the soil they dug up as Tucker revealed: 'There's gold here. It's a modern day gold rush. People are snapping up claims as quickly as possible.'



He and his crew continue to dig into the ground until they reach bedrock, and are determined to complete the process before the season starts to change.

This is not the first time gold was discovered in the small town, as the chemical element was found at Sutter's Mill in 1848, leading approximately 33,000 gold-seekers or forty-niners to flock over to get their hands on a fortune.

Although most gold was found in the northern part of the state and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, one of the largest gold rushes took place in the Rand District, right in Kern County, in 1895.

The Yellow Aster, the area's largest mine, soon became known for producing the modern amount of more than \$25 million over the span of 30 years.

Randsburg has long been known as a special place for the mining community as the largest known golden nugget - the Mojave Nugget- was found in 1977.

The 156 ounce piece of gold was found by a metal detector and is currently on display at the Natural History Museum of L.A. County.

When the Great Depression hit, the cost of gold was lowered significantly to about \$40 per ounce, leading miners to move on to the next best location.

Since then, the price of gold has skyrocketed to \$2,630 per ounce, as people again set their sights on the desert area.

Tucker, who founded his gold mining operation in 2020, currently owns 97 acres along five properties, and also leases out mining rights to 2,519 acres across 37 properties.

He estimates that there is \$2 billion worth of gold under his properties, based on historical documents and geological surveys.

Despite discovering the 'modern day gold rush,' the process isn't as simple, as Tucker has to obtain drilling and mining permits from the Bureau of Land Management.

The entrepreneur also has to produce reclamation plans that prove he will restore the land after he's done mining it.

Through his hard work, Tucker estimates that the cost of digging up the high-valued element will cost about \$1,220 per ounce, leaving him with a profit margin of about \$1,400 based on the current price of gold.

Presently, his team - comprised of 'master driller' Martin Delgadillo and his assistant Roderick McVay - have been granted access to drill 393 holes in the area, and so far, they have completed 226.

Through the grueling desert heat, Tucker and his team have continued on their journey, as he's spent \$5 million doing so, anticipating that the cost will rise to about \$4 million more before they start to produce gold from the mines.

He specifically plans to conduct placer mining, where gold is separated and sifted out from dirt below the ground, which Tucker believes got there from past flash-flooding and heavy rainfall.

'It's primal. There's something in the ground that we want, and we're getting it out,' Tucker said. 'It's what California was founded on, but now we're coming back with modern technology.'



The determined businessman plans to start the specific mining by next fall and will hire 80 employees over the next three years to assist.

Tucker - who previously owned the pro bicycling team Toyota United and founded Galleon Ventures, a deep-sea treasure hunting company - also plans to house the miners in the city block he owns in Johannesburg. 'Now, we just have to hope the market stays where it is,' he told the outlet.

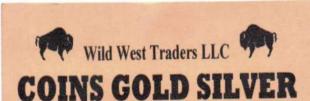
Every property in the area comes with patented mining rights, meaning people can mine there, but cannot build anything on top of it.

If you buy a home that is already built, owners typically do not get the same rights, allowing them to only dig about 20ft into the ground. Treadwell explained that obtaining a patent in the past wasn't as easy as it is now.

In order to receive a patent back in the day, you had to prove the existence of significant mineral production.

'This one I'm listing is 1,700 feet north of the Calico mines, so chances are there's something down there,' the realtor said.

Gregory Kuchan, a real estate agent for Douglas Elliman, who is currently listing a property with two mine shafts on it for \$49,950, told LA Times: 'You only need to find about 18 ounces to make this property pay for itself.



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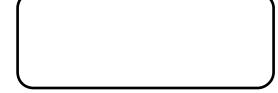
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please contact the Editor. COPY DEADLINE is due to the
editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following
months' issue of the Newsletter.



Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Jan 2025 (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 Mem		TUE	I	'HU	FRI	SAT							
						1							
Groundhog Day	3	4		6	7	8							
Super Bowl Sunday	110	11	12	13	Valentine's Day	15							
16	17 Presidents'	18	19 GPR Club Meeting	20	21	22							
23	24	25	Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting You figure it out???		28								