

THE NUGGETEER



May 2024

Vol.4 No.15

A Message from the President Tim's Tidbits

Hello members and Prospectors always be mindful with the spring runoff the water's going to get high and pay attention.

Tim Pitney
President COSGPAA

Web address: <http://cosgpaa.org>

Facebook address closed <https://www.facebook.com/groups/733783243720768/members/>

Facebook address open <https://www.facebook.com/cosgpaa>

Tonight's precious metals spot prices per Troy ounce

Year	Gold	Silver	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium
2023	\$2,034.19	\$25.61	\$1065.49	\$1,478.86	\$6,900.00
2024	\$2,331.30	\$26.29	\$974.14	\$991.68	\$5,300.00

5/5/24

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GPAA

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

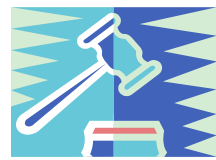


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Hospitality Committee	Position Open		

Renewals, multi-year discounts and life memberships available on-line at www.Goldprospectors.org , or call 800-551-9707 , and Please mention that you want to be part of the COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER.

MEETING MINUTES



April 3, 2024, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes

Attendees: 27 in person; 154 by e-mail

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chapter President Tim Pitney and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened a discussion on guest speakers. Tim asked if we would like to have Lizabeth Duckworth give her costumed presentation on historical Colorado mining figure “Poker Alice” Tubbs. Several members recommended her based on a talk she gave at a recent GPOC meeting. Tim will schedule her for a future meeting.

Tim mentioned that the July monthly meeting would be on Wednesday, July 3d, the evening before the July 4th 4-day holiday weekend, and asked if we should have the meeting, reschedule, or cancel. A majority of those present voted to cancel the July meeting. Tim also led a discussion on the August meeting and Chapter picnic. The membership voted to hold a combined meeting and picnic on Saturday, August 3d, pending venue availability. Details will be finalized at the June meeting.

While the GPOC “Let’s Go Gold Panning Weekend & Poker Run”, May 11-12, is open to the public, our chapter was specifically invited to attend. Poker Run participants start at the River Front Park in Florence between 9 am and noon on May 11th. The run

MEETING MINUTES



April 3 2024, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes (continued)

finishes at Woody's Claim in Wellsville that evening, with a cookout and prize drawing for the best poker hand. GPOC will provide the entre and participants are asked to bring side dishes to share. The GPOC Poker Run event flier is included in the Nuggeteer. At the next GPOC meeting on Wednesday, May 8th, attendees can ask any questions and buy poker score cards in advance. Score cards will be sold at River Front Park. [Notes: There is no charge to participate in the panning activities along the poker run or at Woody's Claim during this open training weekend. Purchase of Poker Score Cards are only required for participation in the drawing. Except for this annual training event, access to Woody's Claim is exclusively for GPOC members. GPOC membership can be applied for at each monthly meeting or on-line at <https://gpoc.club>.]

Member Elizabeth Vine provided an update on panning training for scouting organizations. For our first training event, the scouts will attend our August picnic. Elizabeth will provide a head count at the June meeting.

Members Jon Ray and John King braved the weather during the weekend of our cancelled outing to the Railroad Bridge Claims, April 27-28. They reported the Arkansas River was running higher than expected, possibly due to snow melting, storms, pre-raft season flushing, or some combination; and that it was a good weekend to not have an outing. Pending another spring storm, we have re-scheduled that outing to May 18-19. A check of CPW

MEETING MINUTES



April 3 2024, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes (continued)

(Colorado Parks and Wildlife) reservations for the RRB Campground shows it is already booked for every weekend through the third week of July, while sites are mostly open for August thru October.

Chapter Treasurer Alton Oakes gave the monthly financial report which added gold and silver to our reserves and reminded members that trying to predict precious metals' prices is the same as trying to time the stock market.

At 8 pm we had a mid-meeting break, and the chapter provided a birthday cake to celebrate member birthdays for May.

After the break, Chapter VP Joel Swisher provided an update on next year's group outing to Skookum Gold Camp, Central, Alaska. The group cost is \$2,000 per person plus air fare to Fairbanks (currently about \$600 from Denver) which covers transportation to and from Fairbanks, mining equipment, lodging and meals for the seven-day adventure. A 50% deposit is required at booking with balance due by March 15, 2025. No cash refunds, but 100% credit is transferable. The group is limited to 12 people and is being planned for the week of August 18-25, 2025. For basic information about the destination, visit the website:

www.skookumgoldcamp.com. If you are interested in going on this trip, please email Joel directly at joelswisher1@gmail.com.

MEETING MINUTES



April 3 2024, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes (continued)

After the door prize drawing, the meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. Lastly, Tim reminded us that when prospecting we should be wary of finding plastic bottles that are sealed and possibly wrapped with duct tape as they may have been used for illegal drug manufacturing and could be highly flammable and explosive. Do not touch them and report your siting to law enforcement/park rangers.

Thank you to Chapter Chair Lorraine Sirois for donating multiple items for the door prize drawing.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS May 1, 2024

Gold: Dale Lee x2, Lorraine Sirois, Joel Swisher, x2 Daryl Barnett, Del Cox

Silver: Jon Ray, Theresa Bailey, Mike Sargent, Bob Oakland, Daryl Barnett

Red Ticket: Joel Swisher, Bag of gold

Green Ticket: John Ray, Theresa Bailey, Jim Fairclough, Steve Sprague



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www.PublicLandsforthePeople.org

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Drawing to be held **August 4th 2024**

LIST OF PRIZES AND DONORS

VALUE

- Gold Quartz Specimen donated by Meeting of the Mines/Goldstrike Corp.....\$2,500
- 20 Acre placer claim donated by Ron Kliewer..... \$6,000
- 34 Silver Rounds (one ounce each) 34 prizes! PLP \$30 each
- 1/4"x24"x48" Rock Harness... www.MoveitCableSystems.com \$85
- Lifetime PLP Membership www.publiclandsforthepeople.org \$1,500
- 2 Year ICMJ Subscription www.icmj.com \$75
- (2 prizes) 1 Year Membership to www.ReinkeGoldMining.com\$160 Each
- Paid admission for 2 to 2024 FallFest \$150
- Nearly new Minelab Gold Monster Metal Detector...By PLP..... \$900
- Thompson II Puffer Drywasher manuf. by Mad Mining.....\$1,395
- PLP Paydirt Bag \$250
- Roaring Camp 4 days/ 3 nights donated by www.roaringcampgold.com \$450
- Gold Cube 4-Stack donated by www.goldcube.com \$ 480
- 1 Week Alaska Mining donated by www.SkookumGoldCamp.com \$2,500
- 1 Yr MineOperator PureAu Membership www.youtube.com/@mineoperator \$300

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COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

COLORADO SPRINGS GPAA CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the First Wednesday of each month

From 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at:

The Salvation Army building:

208 Cunningham Drive

Security, CO 80911

All General Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7pm to 9:00pm

MEETING DATES

Next outing May 18 and 19 Railroad Bridge

June 5 2024

July 3 2024 Meeting cancelled

August 2024 meeting will be the picnic on 3 August 12 noon.

September 4 2024

October 2 2024

November 6 2024

December 4, 2024

The Nuggeteer is published monthly following the regularly scheduled chapter meetings. It will be distributed by email and posted to the Chapter web site. To be added to or removed from our email list, please send your request to cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com. To add an article please submit it to the editor at cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com.

THE MINING EQUIPMENT CHAIN

REPRINTED FROM THE GPAA NUGGET

BY TOM MASSIE

I often see people getting excited about finding gold...catch the fever if you will. They watch a television show or someone shows them a big ol' gnarly nugget. Then they want to find some for themselves. They wind up buying a highbanker or sluicebox, heading down to the stream, digging in an old sandbar (where there isn't any gold) all day long, end up with blisters on their hands, a sore back and no gold in the box; then think these miners are a bunch of liars.



If you're starting out in prospecting, start out small. Start with a gold pan. If you can find gold with a gold pan then by all means move up the equipment chain. The gold pan is a basic tool. They use it in large scale mining and it's also used for sampling here and there. From a gold pan you move up to a sluicebox, which is one of my favorite ways of getting gold. Sluiceboxes don't require any gasoline, and a light-weight one can be back packed into some remote locations. All you need to complete a nice package for prospecting is a five-gallon bucket, shovel and a snuffer bottle. It is also inexpensive.

From the Sluicebox you move on up to a highbanker, which is just a glorified sluice box that you can move right next to your diggings. Typically, you pump water from a river or a pond straight to your sluicebox and shovel into it. Grizzling off the larger rocks is important because this increases your recovery. If you have large rocks they can displace a small piece of gold. By taking those large rocks off, it's easier for the gold to get trapped inside your sluicebox.

After a highbanker you move on up to a gold dredge. They come in varying sizes from a one and a half inch all the way up to 12" and larger. A lot of people ask me what size of dredge they should get. I tell most people they don't want to go any smaller than a four-inch, there is a lot of rocks that won't fit through a four-inch hose out there.

Where smaller backpacker type dredges come in handy, is places like Arizona where there isn't much water to start with. Seasonal creeks and streams that flow just a little bit of water, but contain a goodly amount of gold, is where a backpacker dredge can do you some good.



If you're going to be working a dredge larger than a five inch you're most likely going to need a partner.

After a gold dredge things pretty much move into the commercial range with a backhoe, a loader, and varying sizes of screening plants that can run many yards an hour. So before you start buying D9 dosers and Cat excavators make sure you can find gold with a gold pan first.

I've seen a few prospectors sink too much money in the equipment, not find enough gold and get disenchanted.

If you can find enough gold to pay for your gold pan, then buy a sluicebox. Paying for a gold pan isn't much. Paying for a sluicebox is a little more. Make your gold prospecting pay for itself as you go along. That's a good rule of thumb.

Another helpful hint is to make hay while the sun shines. I often see too many people that when they first start out, clean up too often. That gold will stick inside your sluice box. You just got to trust it. If you stop and clean up every 30-minutes you'll spend more time cleaning up than diggin'. The point is to go home with the most amount of gold for the trip. You have to resist the temptation to clean up...keep diggin'. Some people say that miners are greedy – they want to rip the gold out of the ground, but I can tell you that's just not true. It doesn't take too long with a number two shovel, digging in the dirt, for that greed to leave ya. But I do have the fever! So, I gotta grab my pan, my sluice box, my bucket and my shovel and head out. 'Til next time, I hope the bottom of your pan turns yellow with gold. Good luck

GPAA

Colorado Springs Chapter Links

Gold Prospectors of Colorado

<https://gpoc.club>

[\(20+\) Gold Prospectors of Colorado | Groups | Facebook](#)

- American Legion Post 38
- 6685 Southmoor Dr,
Fountain, CO 80817

The Rock Doc

17897 US Hwy. 285
Nathrop, Colorado 81236

(between Buena Vista & Salida, 5 miles south of Nathrop)

<http://www.therockdoc.net>

Public Lands for the People

<https://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org>

- Public Lands For The People
- PO Box 1660
- Inyokern, CA 93527
- 1-844-757-1990