

THE NUGGETEER



February 2025

Vol.5 No.1

A Message from the President Tim's Tidbits

Hello members and prospectors with spring just around the corner we need to see about getting our equipment polished up and ready to go find some gold.

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
2024	\$2,044.32	\$22.44	\$898.07	\$1,941.28	\$5,050.00
2025	\$2,882.87	\$32.29	\$1,001.16	\$1,029.56	\$5,000.00

2/7/2025

1

GPAA

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER



GPAA OFFICERS Colorado Springs Chapter

President	Tim Pitney		
Vice President	Joel Swisher	719-622-8693	joelswisher1@gmail.com
Treasurer	Alton Oakes	719-439-3590	aoakessprint1@earthlink.net
Secretary	Pat Oakes	719-339-0486	patoakes@centurylink.net
Membership Chairperson	Lorraine Sirois	719 391-8545	grainmax@msn.com
Claims Chairman	Alton Oakes	719-439-3590	aoakessprint1@earthlink.net
Nuggeteer Editor	Del Cox	719-591-1282	coxd@mac.com
Outings Chairman	Alton Oakes	719-439-3590	aoakessprint1@earthlink.net
Webmaster	Paul Covington	719-310-7542	Paul@covingtoncomputers.com
Facebook editor	Cindy Swisher	719-661-7542	cslactrn@gmail.com
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



February 5, 2025, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes

Attendees: 21 in person; 154 by e-mail

The February monthly meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chapter President Tim Pitney and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Tim welcomed new members and guests and wished everyone a Happy New Year. With the January monthly meeting cancelled due to weather this is our first gathering since the December 7th Christmas party. Tim started a discussion on prospecting best-practices and elicited suggestions and recommendations from our member's experiences.

The March 5th meeting will be a Show & Tell event for members to bring in and demonstrate , if practical, their unique equipment, modifications or techniques for prospecting and recovery. The membership will vote on the best entries and the Chapter will award prizes. Member John Mischler will be coordinating the event – please call or text him if you have questions, 949-233-2382.

Chapter VP Joel Swisher provided an update on the Alaska Trip to Skookum Gold Camp from 19-26 August 2025.

MEETING MINUTES



February 5, 2025, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes (continued)

Member Richard Cook announced that he was registered for the trip but will be unable to attend, so that opens a spot for someone to replace him. If you are interested, please contact Joel at 719-648-9584 or

Richard at 719-390-9145, as soon as possible. Participants are reminded that the balance of their reservation fees is due no later than March 15th.

Alton Oakes, Chapter Treasurer, gave the Chapter financial report and announced the opening of the Public Lands for the People (PLP) 2025 Raffle. This year's prizes include a \$3,500 Gold Specimen and a \$7,000 gold claim. Tickets are 12 for \$10 and are available directly from PLP. Details are available in the PLP February Update, which has been forwarded to everyone on the Nuggeteer mailing list.

Following a mid-meeting break, Joel talked about prospecting on a desert claim relating to his experiences of several years on his previous and present claims in Congress, Arizona.

MEETING MINUTES



February 5, 2025, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes (continued)

Weather permitting, we will likely schedule our first Chapter outing in April/May to take advantage of low water levels prior to the snow melt and rafting seasons. After the door prize drawing the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Thank you again to those who helped with the meeting set up and teardown. Also thank you to Teresa Bailey, Pat Oakes, Lorraine Sirois, and Nancy Wood for providing baked goods.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS October 2, 2024

Gold: Winners, Teresa Bailey, Joel Swisher times 2, Tim Pitney, John Mishler, Lorraine Siros, Daryl Barnett.

Silver: Winners, Richard Logue, Joel Swisher, Steve Sprague times 2, John Mishler, Lorraine Siros.

GPAA

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

March 5 2025

April 2 2025

May 7 2025

June 4 2025

July 2 2025

August 6 2025

September 3 2025

October 1 2025

November 5 2025

December 3 2025

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.



www.PublicLandsforthePeople.org

PLP's Annual Grand Raffle!!

ORDER YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS TODAY, SUPPORT PLP, AND BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONE (OR MORE!) OF THE PRIZES BELOW! MORE PRIZES WILL BE ADDED.

**NEW
RAFFLE!!!**

2025 FUNDRAISING RAFFLE
Drawing to be held Oct. 11th, 2025

20 Acre placer claim donated by Mac	cerberusminingsolutions@gmail.com	.....	\$7,000
- 35 Silver 1 Oz Rounds, 35 prizes!	www.publiclandsforthepeople.org	.....	\$35 each
- 1/4"x24"x48" Rock Harness...	www.MoveitCableSystems.com	.....	\$85
- Lifetime PLP Membership	www.publiclandsforthepeople.org	.....	\$1,500
- Minelab Xterra Metal Detector	www.usa.minelab.com	.....	\$300
- (2 prizes) 1 Year Membership to	www.ReinkeGoldMining.com	.....	\$160 Each
- Paid admission for 2 to the next FallFest		.....	\$150
- Garrett AXIOM Pulse Gold Detector	www.garrett.com	.....	\$4,000
- Thompson II Puffer Drywasher manuf. by Mad Mining		.....	\$1,399
- PLP Golden Paydirt Bag		.....	\$200
- 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 Pure Au Membership...	www.youtube.com/@mineoperator	.....	\$120

HURRY! Don't miss out on our **2025 RAFFLE**, which includes several great prizes -- mining equipment, metal detectors, precious metals, a mining claim & MORE!

3 WAYS TO ORDER:

1. Phone: (844) 757-1990 Toll Free
or (844) PLP-1990

Leave a message and we will call you back.

Last day to order by phone is Oct. 9, 2025

2. Buy Tickets in Person at Quartzite Gold Show
and at PLP's Fallfest 2025

Just \$10
for a Book of
12 Tickets!
HURRY!
Drawing Oct. 11th!

THE MINING EQUIPMENT CHAIN

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.

f 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 dozers 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