

THE NUGGETEER



October 2025

Vol.5 No.9

A Message from the President Tim's Tidbits

Hello members and prospectors with winter not too far away you might consider pay dirt to get through the winter here in Colorado.

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	\$2,669.55	\$32.02	\$1,020.95	\$1,056.75	\$4,825.00
2025	\$3,876.50	\$47.50	\$1,574,.15	\$1,276.55	\$7,350.00

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



October 1, 2025, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes

Attendees: 24 in person; 166 by e-mail

The October monthly meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chapter President Tim Pitney and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Several members reported on local panning trips during August and September and commented on the great access due to low water levels in the Arkansas River in Buena Vista and the South Platte River at E. 78th Ave in Denver (Site A-10 Big Bend). With Fall weather permitting, many said they would be returning to Big Bend as it is closer than the Railroad Bridge claims in Buena Vista and the gold seems bigger. They also reported that digging only the top six inches in the gravel bar yields the best results, and battery powered equipment is allowed which makes up for the difficulty in setting a sluice with the low water levels. In response to a question about public access to the GPAA Railroad Bridge claims, Tim clarified that GPAA still owned the claim at the Railroad Bridge, but ceded access when the Arkansas Headwater Recreation Area (AHRA) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) built the campground and rafting launch ramp.

VP Joel Swisher recapped the Chapter participation at the Skookum Gold Camp in Alaska in August and opened a discussion on our returning August 18-25, in 2026. Six members from this year's trip said they planned to return next year and take advantage of the special rates we were offered. We have priority on the first 14 spaces, but only until October 15th. To secure one of the discounted spaces, participants must contact Skookum directly, identify themselves as a COSGPAA Chapter member, make a reservation and pay the 50% deposit (\$1,000). After the 15th, the remaining spaces will be opened to the public at their new rates (\$2,800 per person per week).

Minutes continued.

Note: This benefit was accrued for our Chapter members and guests and does not require formal GPAA/LDMA membership. An Outing/Event Notice was sent by email on September 11th.

Chapter Treasurer Alton Oakes provided the chapter financial report and reviewed the Event Notice for the Chapter Christmas Party scheduled for Saturday, December 6th, at the Airplane Restaurant in Colorado Springs. A signup sheet was provided at this meeting and will be available at the November 5th meeting. For those who cannot make the regular meetings RSVP instructions are in the Notice.

VP Swisher announced the Chapter elections and opened the floor to nominations. President Pitney, VP Swisher, Chapter Membership Chairperson Lorraine Sirois and appointed Nuggeteer Editor Del Cox volunteered to continue in office if their positions were uncontested. Treasurer Alton Oakes, Secretary Pat Oakes and Facebook editor Cindy Swisher declined automatic re-nomination. Member John King volunteered to serve as Outings Chairman. Final nominations will be taken at the November 5th meeting with voting held at the December 6th meeting. The elected positions of President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Chapter Chairperson must be members of GPAA/LDMA in good standing. Appointed positions are at the discretion of the Chapter President.

After the door prize drawing, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. Thank you, Lorraine Sirois, for bringing donuts and thanks to those who helped with meeting setup and tear down. There is no scheduled outing before the November 5th Chapter meeting.

EVENT NOTICE: December Meeting and Chapter Christmas Party

When: Saturday, December 6, 2025, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Where: Airplane Restaurant, 1665 N. Newport Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80916.

Directions: From the intersection of South Powers Blvd and East Fountain Blvd, drive East on Fountain one block to the first left turn, which is N. Newport Road. You will see the “airplane” that is part of the restaurant in the NE corner of that intersection. Turn left onto Newport and take the first right turn into the parking lot which is shared by the restaurant and the Radisson Hotel. The main entrance to the restaurant faces this parking lot.

Details: The event set up and sign-in begins at 11:30 am followed by a short Chapter Meeting starting at 12:00 pm. The Party will begin immediately following the meeting with dinner orders taken by the restaurant waitstaff. During sign-in, attendees will pay their cost share and receive a copy of the party menu. Adults (age 15+) \$10 each; Children (age 10 – 14) \$5 each, and Children (age 9 and under) are free. The Chapter will pay for the difference and gratuity. Based on requests from several of our members, the restaurant has given us permission to bring our own desserts. Except for the Christmas drawing tickets, the Chapter store will be closed. Entertainment follows the meal and includes:

White Elephant Exchange. If you want to participate, please bring a **wrapped item**, and tag it “white elephant”. The item can be a regift, an item you already own that someone else can treasure for a while, something funny, something weird, or something nice.

Member to Member Gift Exchange. If you want to participate, please bring a **wrapped item**, and label it “Gift Exchange Man” or “Gift Exchange Woman”. Usually, a man will bring a gift for a man and a woman will bring a gift for a woman. If an odd number of members participate, you may end up with your own gift – so bring something you wouldn’t mind taking back home with you. Please limit purchases to \$20. Re-Gifting is also acceptable.

Salvation Army Angel Tree Gift Donation. If you wish to participate, please bring a new, **unwrapped toy** to donate. If you have questions, please contact the Fountain Valley Salvation Army at 719-382-1182.

Christmas Party RSVP. Those who did not sign-up at the October or November meetings can pay during sign-in at the restaurant but are asked to make a reservation by Thursday December 4th. For reservations after the November meeting, please call or text Chapter Treasurer Alton Oakes at 719-439-3590, or e-mail him at agoakes@earthlink.net. When using text or e-mail, please include the name of the person making the reservation, contact phone number, and the number of attendees by age group.

Door Prize Drawing. Prizes will consist of silver coins, rounds and bars and gold nuggets/pickers. Quantity and size of individual prizes will be based upon participation and availability.

Colorado Springs Chapter, GPAA Outing/Event Notices (Update 10/6/2025)

When: The Week of August 18-25, 2026 **Skookum Gold Camp, Central, Alaska**

Where: Participants will rendezvous at Fairbanks Airport by 2:30 pm on Tuesday, Aug 18th, 2026, for pickup by a Skookum shuttle for travel to the camp in Central, AK (est a 3-hour drive).

Details: On arrival at the camp, participants are assigned a room in the bunkhouse, provided dinner and scheduled for a tour of the prospecting/mining areas available. The camp provides equipment for panning, sluicing, metal detecting, high banking and dredging (4" & 6"). All meals are included, as are laundry machines and supplies. As August is the rainy season, boots and a rainsuit should be included in your packing. Transportation between the camp and prospecting/mining sites is also provided (single & multi-seat ATVs). With water temperatures in the low 40's, participants interested in dredging should contact the camp about required diving equipment. At 10:00 am on Tuesday, August 25th, 2026, Skookum will provide shuttle transportation back to Fairbanks Airport. Have Questions – Call or text Alton at 719-439-3590; or visit <https://www.skookumgoldcamp.com/>.

Costs: In 2024 when we booked this year's trip, our Chapter received a group discount for our 13 members. We paid \$2,000.00 per person instead of the \$2,500 regular rate. The regular rate for 2026 will increase by \$300 to \$2,800 per person. **However, we have been invited back for 2026, at the same rate (\$2k per person) regardless of group size, provided we make a commitment and pay a 50% deposit by October 15th, 2025.** The balance will be due in March 2026. After October 15th, they will take reservations from other people to fill the total of 14 available spaces. Airfare to and from Fairbanks is not included (est \$800).

Reservations: At the regular Chapter meeting on Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, six members from this year's trip indicated their intentions to return. All reservations will be taken on a "first come/first serve" basis and must be made directly with Skookum Gold Camp. When calling Skookum to make your reservation and pay the deposit please identify yourself as a member of the "Colorado Springs Chapter, GPAA. Formal membership in GPAA/LDMA is not required. This Outing Notice will be updated as necessary.

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

November 5 2025

December 6 2025 Christmas Party Airplane Restaurant 12 noon until 4 PM.

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.

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