



The Prospector's Quill

VOLUME XLIV, ISSUE III

MARCH 2018

NUGGETS

- **Almost 40% of all the gold ever mined in history came from South Africa over just the last 130 years. It still holds the world's 3rd largest unmined reserves, behind Australia and Russia.**
- **The world produced more steel every hour in the year 2015 than all the gold mined in human history!**
- **Gold is the most ductile of all elements. Just one gram can be stretched into a wire 540 feet long at the diameter of a human hair!**

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GPOC Power Season and Reclamation Permits

by Calvin Johnson & Andrew Hawkins

It seems like each year, we get questions on GPOC reclamation permits, so we definitely need to provide some information here. Here are some facts to help you understand GPOC Reclamation Permits.

GPOC permits are for GPOC claims only. They are NOT valid for the BLM Point Bar area or any other areas!!! Information on the BLM permits can be found here: <https://www.blm.gov/basic/rocky-mountain-district-mining-operation-forms>.

In 2014, GPOC changed our motorized permits to reclamation permits, due to continuing issues with power equipment users digging large holes and not filling or reclaiming them. The permit fees help offset the amount GPOC spends on reclamation of our claims and provides money for bonds held by the government for reclamation

GPOC permits are good for one year's motorized season, 1 April through 30 September.

Permits are by type of equipment, either High Banker or Dredge. A high banker used as a combo unit with a suction nozzle is a dredge and so if you have a combo and want to use it as both a high banker and a suction dredge, you need both permits.

GPOC reclamation permits are for the equipment operator, they don't cover your equipment unless YOU are operating it. For example, Calvin has both permits and if he takes a crew of GPOC members out to Woody's with a high banker and a dredge, he will have to choose

which equipment he will operate. If one of the other members has a permit, say Andrew, then Andrew can operate the second piece of power equipment for which he has a permit while Calvin operates the other. We can each have a crew of a few additional members learning on the equipment, but the permit holder is accountable.

Do you need a permit for a recirculating machine? If you pull water from the stream you need a permit (even if battery operated) and are limited to operating during the power season on the Arkansas claims. If you pull material (dirt, sand, etc.) from the river to run through your equipment that is pulling water out of the river it should be considered a dredge unless you are shoveling it. If you are shoveling material directly or after screening into equipment that is pulling water from the river it is a 'high banker' or 'power sluice'.

Members have used a Gold Cube in either configuration, so its sort of like a 'combo', you need a permit for the configuration you are using and if it can change, then you need both to cover what you may decide to do on a particular day.

High Banker permits are \$100. They are good for GPOC's Prospector 1 and 2 and Woody's 1 and 2 claims.

Dredge permits are \$50. They are good for GPOC's Prospector 1 and 2, Woody's 1 and 2 claims.

In the 2018 season, there will be NO POWER EQUIPMENT ALLOWED on the Private Reserves claims

Permits are available from the

GPOC Membership Chairperson, Elise Pearce, at "Sidewinders" in Florence, CO and "The Rock Doc" in Nathrop, CO.

GPOC offers a Motorized / Reclamation class that when taken, will reduce the cost of a highbanking permit from \$100 to \$50 and the dredge permit from \$50 to \$25. The class is free of charge, and will be offered multiple times at dates to be announced. The next one is currently scheduled for March 24th 2018. The purpose of the Power Class is to teach each member responsible use of power equipment and how to reclaim the land that is affected by their work.

The class covers the GPOC Code of Ethics; member responsibilities on our claims, even if you didn't dig that hole you can help reclaim it; equipment limitations; how to properly back-fill and reclaim holes; discussions about the allowable forms of prospecting on each of our claims; and the claim(s) Plan Of Operations approved by the government. There is a test that covers the information presented, but you can re-take it if needed at another power class.

To get the discount on permits, you have to take the class before paying for the permit. You can only get the discount from Elise, as she keeps records of class attendance and test results.

Please keep your permit(s) away from the water!!! Many put them in ziplock bags or keep them in their vehicles.

Get the GOLD!!!



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The Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) was founded around 1974 as a non-profit organization for recreational gold prospectors in the Colorado area. Our membership at any given time has grown to over 600 members and continues to grow across the Front Range, the nation, and even the world!

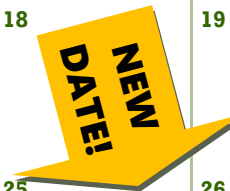


GPOC Outings & Events Planner



In response to feedback from our members, we are adding a rolling three-month planning calendar to each issue of the Quill. Now you can see and plan for events months in advance—and make requests to the Planning Committee for outings and events in YOUR club! Also check the next page and the GPOC web site at www.gpoc.club for more info on events including location and start times.


MARCH 2018						
CALVIN JOHNSON—EQUIPMENT PREP FOR THE SEASON						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 GPOC Board Meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 GPOC Gen Meeting	15	16	17 WMMI Family Day: Science
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 GPOC New Member Orientation & Power Class
25 GPOC New Member Outing	26	27	28 GPOC Planning Comm.	29	30	31 GPOC Claims Committee



APRIL 2018

DON BRAY—MINERAL IDENTIFICATION



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 POWER SEA- SON STARTS	2	3	4	5 GPOC Board Meeting	6	7
8	9 DMNS Free Day	10	11 GPOC Gen Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Earth Day 	21 Rocky Mtn Nat'l Park Free Day
22	23	24	25 GPOC Plan- ning Comm.	26	27	28 GPOC Claims Committee
29 DMNS Free Day	30					

- **GPOC Board Meetings** are held the 1st Thursday of each month at **7 pm**, Gold Hill Police Station, 955 Moreno Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO, (access from W. Moreno Ave.). GPOC Members only.
- **GPOC General Membership meetings** are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at **7 pm**, Elks Lodge, 3400 N. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO. The General Public is welcome!
- **GPOC Planning Committee Meeting. 7 pm** at La Casita, 3725 E Woodmen Rd, Colorado Springs, CO GPOC Members Only.
- **GPOC Claims Committee Meetings** are held at WMMI at **10am**, the last Saturday of the month. GPOC Members Only.
- **GPOC New Member Orientations** are held on Saturdays indicated at 10am @ WMMI. March and June are also followed by a GPOC Power Class—where you can study the GPOC Rules, Ethics, and Regulations—and earn discounts on Power Permits.
- **GPOC New Member Outings** are held the Sunday after New member Orientations. Meet @ 9am in the Cabela's parking lot, off the Ridgeway Parkway exit off I-25, south side of Denver. Look for the YELLER GOLD FLAG!

MAY 2018

SYDNEY MOON—SPANISH MONUMENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 GPOC Board Meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9 GPOC Gen Meeting	10	11	12 GPOC Let's Go Gold Panning!
13 Mom's Day GPOC Let's Go Gold Panning!	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 GPOC Plan- ning Comm.	24	25	26 Territory Days
27 Territory Days	28 Memorial Day Territory Days	29 	30	31		

MORE INSIDE!



The Prospector's Quill Spring Edition

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Prospecting Clear Creek, Colorado

by Andrew Hawkins

Back in February, GPOC held a member's outing on Clear Creek. We had a decent turnout - about 9 members in all. Weather was incredible - I got hot and had to take my coat off...in February! Almost 70 degrees and sun. Not bad for prospecting! Clear Creek was running about 45 CFPS at Golden. That's much lower than the 1,300 CFPS when I was there last June! I could wade anywhere I wanted in my chest waders and was never cold.



We dug upstream of the usual gravel bar - that we normally prospect on new member outings. Instead, many folks dug between a gravel bar just upstream and the usual one. I was on the low water channel side (left in the photo) and started with some

sample pans 15 feet apart to locate the spot I wanted to dig.

I screened to #4 mesh and did three test pans: downstream, mid, upstream - each in the bank. Turned out the middle pan in some rusty sand (right) was best. This was below a one foot thick cobble layer that Wayne had sampled that same day and knew contained 8-12 colors per pan. I saw 8-10 colors per pan in my sample and chose to dig there. I did a further test run of one bucket of the two best spots and cleaned up and panned each cons to settle again on the midstream spot. It was on one of the straight lines from a bend - but not pictured here. I classified to #4 mesh and dug and ran 16 5 gal buckets total (pretty full). I ran one bucket at a time through my new Angus MacKirk Alaskan Flair sluice (4') coupled above my Le Trap. I cleaned out both sluices after each bucket run, because it's so quick!



At home, I cleaned up the cons. A nice amount of gold was recovered—not enough for gas money, but surely enough to make moving those 16 buckets worthwhile!

The Rock Doc

At Prospectors Village

Between Buena Vista & Salida
on Hwy 285 719.539.2019
TheRockDoc.net



Check out our
new wine and
shot glasses
with store
accents -
drink in style

Time to check
those hoses and
supplies - the
season is upon us
Stay tuned for the
"Reclamation Class"
to be scheduled at
our store SOON

Saint Patrick's Day
Celebrate !!

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