



## NEWS NUGGETS

- The California Supreme Court Ruled against Reinhart in a highly-watched dredging case
- Prospector Brandon Reinhart was arrested on his legitimate mining claim in the Plumas National Forest (northern CA) in 2012 for using a banned mining technique (suction dredging)
- After 4 years of court battles, the CA Supreme Court determined that theca Environmental Laws that protect coho salmon and drinking water from mercury they claim is stirred up in suction dredging trumps the rights of Reinhart to mine his Federal Claim with suction dredging.
- Stay tuned—as this may go to the US Supreme Court!

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# The Prospector's Quill

VOLUME XLII, ISSUE IX

SEPTEMBER 2016

## GPOC Claims Get Refreshed Signage

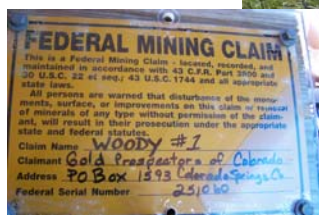
by  
Andrew C. Hawkins

The ever-present CO sun is great for solar power and seeing that glint of yellor gold in your pan while out on GPOC claims.

However, it reeks havoc on our claim markers and signs! GPOC volunteer claims administrator Howard Divelbiss and his wife Marilyn took

Woody's 1 & 2 and Prospector 1 & 2. Howard reports that the water on the claims is going down and that they were able to sluice. He and Marilyn found a bit of gold. As water continues

be easier. Road is very good to Woody's. The photos are com-



care of that issue while enjoying a weekend day out on the claims.

Since all claim markers were faded out, Howard updated the info on all of the signs at

to drop, the dredges should be out having fun. On August 11, the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office also lifted a Stage 1 Fire ban on lands that it manages. This means camping near the Woody's and Prospector claims will



pliments of Marilyn Divelbiss, taken while out enjoying the day at the claims.



## Second 2016 GPOC New Member Outing a Success!

by  
Andrew C. Hawkins

The GPOC held its second New Member Orientation of 2016 on Saturday August 13 at the WMMI. New Members were treated to an overview of the GPOC, as well as a refresher on our Code of Ethics and an opportunity to attend a motorized equipment class for training and permits for GPOC claims. This was followed on Sunday by a New Member Outing on Clear Creek in Adams County (north of

downtown Denver). I must first provide my apologies to those for whom I've already forgotten names - because I didn't write them down! Let me know who you are and at the next GPOC General meeting, and I'll write down your names so I won't forget and publish an update in the next Quill!



In all, we had three new members join the outing that day. Two "new-old" members - a  
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## Schedule of Events

\*\*\*Official GPOC Events/  
Outings are preceded with  
"GPOC" \*\*\*

- } **1st— GPOC** Board Meeting,  
Gold Hill Police Station, 955  
Moreno Avenue, Colorado  
Springs, CO, **7 pm** (access from  
W. Moreno Ave.)
- } **14th — GPOC** Gen Member-  
ship meeting, Starting at **7 pm**,  
Elks Lodge, 3400 N. Nevada Ave,  
Colorado Springs, CO (Public  
Welcome).
- } **16th-18th—Denver Gem and  
Mineral Show.** GPOC panning  
troughs are out to teach visitors  
how to pan for Gold! 9a-6p Fri  
& Sat; 9a-5p Sunday.
- } **28th—GPOC** Planning Com-  
mittee Meeting. **7 pm** at Den-  
ny's on Academy Blvd. in CO  
Springs.

# SEPTEMBER 2016

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. Member Meeting	15 	16 Denver Gem Show	17 Denver Gem Show
18 Denver Gem Show	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 GPOC Planning Comm Mtg	29	30	

## GPOC Board & Committee Chairs

### GPOC BOARD

#### President

Ben "Big Ben" Higley  
[gpocpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gpocpresident@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Marty Allen  
[gpocvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:gpocvicepresident@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Lynn Murphy  
[gpocsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:gpocsecretary@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Wayne Wittkopp  
[gpoctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:gpoctreasurer@gmail.com)

#### One Year Trustee

Calvin Johnson  
[gpoctrustee1yr@gmail.com](mailto:gpoctrustee1yr@gmail.com)

#### Two Year Trustee

Dick Margeson  
[gpoctrustee2yr@gmail.com](mailto:gpoctrustee2yr@gmail.com)

#### Three year Trustee

Linda Jent  
[gpoctrustee3yr@gmail.com](mailto:gpoctrustee3yr@gmail.com)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Memberships

Elise Pearce  
[membershpgpoc@gmail.com](mailto:membershpgpoc@gmail.com)

#### Raffle

Wayne Wittkopp  
[gpocraffle@gmail.com](mailto:gpocraffle@gmail.com)

#### Claims Committee

Richard Cook  
[gpocclaims@gmail.com](mailto:gpocclaims@gmail.com)

#### Championship Committee

Gary Baderstradt  
[gpocchampionship@gmail.com](mailto:gpocchampionship@gmail.com)

#### The Quill

##### Editor

Dr. Andrew C. Hawkins  
[gpocquilleditor@gmail.com](mailto:gpocquilleditor@gmail.com)

##### Associate Editor

Steven Wade Veatch  
[gpocquilleditor@gmail.com](mailto:gpocquilleditor@gmail.com)



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!

# Upcoming Activities in the Area

Compiled by Steven Wade Veatch

Sept. 10-18, Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil, and Gem Show, 10-6 daily, 4600 Humboldt St., Denver CO. Free admission. See <http://www.coliseumshow.com/>.



Sept. 11-18, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show, 10-6 daily except 10-5 Sun. 9/18. Ramada Plaza - Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St., Denver, CO. Free admission, and free shuttle to the Denver Mart. See [www.mzexpos.com/denver](http://www.mzexpos.com/denver).

Wed. – Sat., Sept. 14-17, Denver Fine Mineral Show, at Marriott Denver West, 10-6 Wed.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., 1717 Denver West Blvd., Golden CO. Free admission. See <http://www.finemineralshow.com/>.

Wed., Sept. 14, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Open House at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum. All are invited; refreshments and viewing of new exhibits prepared for the coming year. A chance to meet museum curators, mineral collectors, and dealers who are in town for the Denver Gem and Mineral Show.



Thurs, Sept. 15, 5:45-9:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society, Student Presentation Night, at Arbor House, in Maple Grove Park, 14600 W. 32nd Ave., Golden (Applewood area). All are welcome to attend, no admission charge, free refreshments. A selected group of graduate students from area universities will give presentations about their geology/earth science thesis research topics, and all attending will be able to vote for "the best presentation". For details (to be posted in the coming month) see <http://www.coloscisoc.org/>.



Sept. 16-18, 49th annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Mart, Denver, CO. Minerals of Africa is the 2016 show theme. 9-6 Fri., 10-6 Sat., 10-5 Sun. See <http://www.denvermineralshow.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/Denver-Gem-And-Mineral-Show-154290574610235/?fref=ts>

Fri., Sept. 23, 3:00 p.m., Earth Sciences Colloquium at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Jurassic-Cretaceous paleogeographic evolution of the Western Interior Seaway, by Ron Blakey, Colorado Plateau Geosystems. In Ricketson Auditorium. All are welcome, museum admission is not required.

Mon., Sept. 29, 3:00 p.m., Earth Sciences Colloquium at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Deciphering the Rocky Mountains, by Beth McMillan, University of Arkansas-Little Rock. In VIP Room. All are welcome, museum admission is not required.

Thurs., Oct. 20, 7:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society October meeting, Climate Change, Part I and II, by William W. Little & Thom Fisher. Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 11500 W. 20th Ave., Lakewood CO. Social time beginning at 6:30; meeting & program at 7:00. All are welcome to attend; see [www.coloscisoc.org](http://www.coloscisoc.org).



Oct. 25-28, Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO (plus pre- and post-meeting field trips). See <http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2016/home>.

Thurs., Nov. 17, Colorado Scientific Society November meeting, Terrestrial ecosystems during the Mesozoic, by Joe Seritch, DMNS. Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 11500 W. 20th Ave., Lakewood CO.



## New GPOC Members Teach and Learn at Clear Creek Outing



**This hole was 2 feet deep before being reclaimed!**



**A gorgeous CO day!**



**New members dig for that yellor gold!**



**Yellor gold!**

The Quill wants your feedback! Send us your story ideas, photos, artwork, summary of your prospecting trips, stories, and stuff you want to see published in the Quill. Got a great campsite that you want to share with your fellow GPOC prospectors? Know a nugget of Club history? Found your first nugget? Email us!

[gpocquilleditor@gmail.com](mailto:gpocquilleditor@gmail.com)

## Second 2016 GPOC New Member Outing, *continued*

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husband and wife sluicing team who were members of the club 10 or more years ago - and came back. Welcome back! We had one additional new member who brought out his new 4-stack Gold Cube with a Gold Banker attachment. Two additional new members could not make it. We also had Stan Gurley and Andrew Hawkins (me!) to educate and help out the new folks - as well as sluice and Cube for some of that yeller gold. Further - we had a great family of eight visit us, by chance, in the parking area the same time we pulled in. They were on a road trip from Oklahoma. Mom, who was home-schooling the kids and was teaching them about Western history and the Gold Rush, wanted to give the kiddos hands-on experience at how hard it was. Dad and the Grandparents were also along for the ride. So we had a full house - er - creek! (I forgot their names too, by the way - equal opportunity forgetter).

First, Stan explained how to read the stream to our new members and visitors. Since there was very low flow of water on this particular day (about 120-140 CFPS), the gravel bar and low water channel were both very evident. Andrew explained that at peak water flow during the spring runoff, which was closer to 1,600 CFPS, we'd all be standing in the middle of the creek! Stan pointed out the fast water side - with a clearly eroded bank and the current low flow stream channel below that. Stan told the story of our earlier 2016 spring outing in this same spot, where new and seasoned members alike ran right for the exposed river bank on the fast water side to dig their dirt. They got gold (I was one of them, see the March 2016 issue of the Quill) but Stan got more by digging in the right spot! He also pointed out the slow water side, where he had previously prospected and where we were standing on the cobble and sand-covered bar. He went on to explain how gold will drop out of slower moving waters, which in this case was on the leading (upstream) edge of the large gravel bar on which we stood.

The visiting family from Oklahoma had a couple of kitchen strainers and some eager kiddos - but that's it. A few of us GPOC folk lent them pans to go get wet and dirty in the creek. Stan spent about an hour instructing the family how to properly pan for gold, while the rest of us picked a spot to sample and do test pans - and as such demonstrate our varied panning techniques to the crowd. I remember Stan saying "If you get a hundred prospectors together and ask them to show you how to pan, you'll learn 100 different ways." Even the youngest kiddos found color! And needless to say, so did Andrew, Stan, and the new GPOC members. No one went home empty handed. Further - the OK Mom could not have been more thrilled to have her family learning from some seasoned Prospectors - and experience first-hand how challenging it must

have been back in the Gold Rush days of the 1860s to make enough money for food, clothing, and shelter. Everyone was, of course, treated to the traditional Gurley family battle cry of "YELLER GOLD!!!" at the first sight of color. Some folks smiled. Some jumped a few inches.

Stan brought a sluice to run his dirt and was classifying down to about 1/2". It was perfect, because the husband and wife sluicing team were doing the same. Stan ran four or more buckets of material through his sluice. The husband and wife team ran a similar amount (perhaps even a few more because they had twice the number of hands). Stan was determined to be a model Prospector - test running a bucket here and a bucket there - while also test panning various locations on the sand and gravel bar for the best pay dirt. All the while, Stan sought out some smaller prospecting holes left by previous prospectors and filled them in with cobbles and sand to make them safe.

Andrew and the gentleman with the 4-stack Gold Cube+Gold Banker traded stories and tips on running their equipment. The "new, new" member set up his Gold Cube+Gold Banker on the creek's edge. He built a small retention pond to house his 1,100 GPH bilge pump and managed to classify about eight buckets of material down to 1/2" and run on his setup. Andrew suggested placing the plastic bilge pump with fragile plastic impeller into a smaller coffee-can sized container, under the water, and covered with some fiberglass screen from a hardware shop. Clear Creek in particular has a lot of biomass, algae, plants, and frankly sand and gravels that can easily clog a pump. He noted to Andrew that he usually has his other team member (his wife) who likes to tend the punch plate, by running the brush over the surface of the Gold Banker to thoroughly wash the material and push through smaller gravels - while rejecting anything over 3/8" inch. The remaining material trickled down his 4-stack, with tailings ejected into a small settling pond beneath his garden wagon-gold cube stand setup. Andrew chose to set his system up in recirculation mode higher up on the bar - with his 4-stack cube inside of a 12-gallon cement mixing tub. Sure, that meant a few extra trips to the Creek to shuttle water as needed to my Cube. I used a small catch tub for my tailings as well - an eight quart plastic box - that I could easily empty into a large hole left and not reclaimed by some earlier prospecting party. I took care of that - and diligently classified 20 buckets of 1/8" minus material before running in my cube. Needless to say, my arms were sore (as were other parts). But I filled in that hole - and my own - before packing up my gear. Generously, Stan helped me guide my wimpy wagon back through the cobbles and up the embankment at the end of the day (how does he have so much stamina!?) so a big thank you to Stan for that.

While I don't know what shiny, yellow metal others got that

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## Second 2016 GPOC New Member Outing, *continued*

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day, I can report my findings. I ran a total of 20 buckets that were classified down to 1/8 inch. I've heard (and read) that one cubic yard fits in about 40 buckets. So in my 6 hours of cubing, I ran about 1/2 a cubic yard. Now, mind you, I also tossed off about another 1/2 yard in screen rejects (larger than 1/4 inch) and saved two buckets of 1/8" plus material that might just contain a dream nugget awaiting discovery in my foyer. I took home about 10 pounds of material - barely 1/4 buckets full. The Gold Cube does that. They claim you can run much more than 1 yard a day through the device and still only have to sort through a few cups of "Cube Cons". They are right.

I cleaned up in my usual fashion those ~4 cups of cons. Lots of black sands made up of magnetite and hematite were in my Cube Cons. Clear Creek is known for small garnets and I definitely had some of those. Once the magnetics were removed using my two-level magnetic separation, I split the remaining blonde sands (plus gold) into 8 fractions, including down to 1/100" minus material. I carefully panned each one in a small 8" finishing pan to reveal my booty. That process took me the rest of the week - as the outing was on Sunday. But hey - I can do that while watching some shows on TV so it's not work to me. All in all, I was not disappointed with my finds.



## Gold in that there ... basement!?!...continued

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Every Prospector knows that clay can be a Prospector's worst nightmare. But, if prepared correctly, it can be run on your experiment. Since the Gold Cube is designed to capture even the finest gold (and many GPOC members have proven it works), I chose this equipment.



After a night of soaking, I used a 18v cordless drill fitted with a thin set/mortar paddle. This is the kind you can buy at any hardware store and looks like an oversized egg beater. You can see it in the bucket, still attached to my drill in the photo on the left. I whipped that clay-like soil into a frothy blend inside my two buckets. I used about 1/3 water to 2/3 clay soil in my concoction. As

larger clay chunks soaked overnight, I broke them down to particles.

After a few minutes of vigorous agitation, the mixture appeared homogenous. I



stuck in my hand to be sure—and was treated to a homemade beauty mask of clay. My hands look younger than ever. I prepared my Cube in my usual recirculation-basement mode and carefully transferred a cup-full at a time of my slurry onto the top slick plate. After only a few cups full, my crystal clear water was a milky-grey as it flowed from tray to tray and back again to the slick-plate by way of my bilge pump. It

took only a few minutes (ok, maybe 20) to run those two buckets before I stopped my pump to clean up my trays. After cleanup, I was treated to a nice surprise—gold in my pan! So, now I have a new location to prospect on those cold, snowy Colorado winter days. Plus, I get the added benefit of digging (albeit slowly) out the portion of our basement that we'd like to add a sub floor to and finish one day, without having to pay contractors to do it! A dual reward! And yes, I cleared it with my wife!





### Gold Prospectors of Colorado

PO Box 1593

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

Phone: 719-651-7930

E-mail: [membershipgpoc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipgpoc@gmail.com)

Web: [www.gpoc.club](http://www.gpoc.club)

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# Upcoming Activities in the Area, continued

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Nov. 12-13, 37th annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium, at New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, NM; see <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm>

Thurs., Nov. 17, Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter meeting , 7:30 p.m., Denver Museum of Nature and Science, VIP Room, Dr. Markus Raschke, CU, "Thalénite: from redefinition to new discoveries of a rare-earth element silicate mineral from Colorado".

Nov. 18-20, Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden CO.

### Special museum exhibits:

- The "Critical Materials" exhibit continues at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum. It highlights critical materials and rare-earth elements - including the minerals these elements can be derived from - essential to the development of advanced technology and energy. The exhibit is a joint project of the Critical Materials Institute at the School of Mines and the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum. The exhibit focuses on the elements Li, Y, Te, Nd, Eu, Tb, Dy, their minerals, and their uses in technology. You'll find the exhibit downstairs in the museum, which is open daily, 9-4 Mon.-Sat., 1-4 Sun., no admission charge; see [http://www.mines.edu/Geology\\_Museum](http://www.mines.edu/Geology_Museum).
- Unearthed: Ancient Life in the Boulder Valley, on exhibit at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History (Henderson Building; in the Anthropology Hall), CU campus, Boulder. Featuring a collection of 80+ stone tools known as The Mahaffy Cache that was found in a Boulder backyard in 2007. The artifacts were studied by CU Boulder Professor of Archaeology Doug Bamforth, Ph.D. He dates the tools to 13,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age. The exhibit includes interactive elements and video, as well as replicas of the tools that visitors can pick up and hold." The museum is open daily, no admission charge. See <https://cumuseum.colorado.edu/>



More inside!

# The Prospector's Quill Summer Edition

VOLUME XLII, ISSUE IX

SEPTEMBER 2016

## Gold in that there ... basement!?!

By  
Andrew C Hawkins

GPOC members are always looking for new places to prospect. We enjoy our claims in central Colorado, but frequent other places like Clear Creek (Adams County), Clear Creek Canyon (Jefferson County, near Golden), the South Platte and its three headwater forks in the mountains, Holy Cross, and many creeks and streams inside and outside of Colorado. It's true—there is still gold left in “them thar hills”. The Old Timers left us a little! But did you know you can find gold in other, unlikely places?

The definition of prospecting, according to Google, is “search for mineral deposits in a place, especially by means of experimental drilling and excavation”. In this case, excavation meant digging in the 1/3 portion of my unfinished basement that is literally dirt covered with some black plastic lining! I live near Parker, CO and not far from a site where commercial mining operations occurred in the late 1800's and early 1900's—Newlin Gulch. Geologically speaking, Parker has several thousand feet of sediment built up since the Ancestral Rockies began to erode shortly after they were formed about 300 million years ago. Yes, that's right—we're on our second set of Rocky Mountains! The current Rockies formed during the Laramide orogeny, about 80–55 million years ago.

Anyways, if you look at a topographical map or, even better, a 3D map of Colorado, you would notice the large area, peaked at Monument Hill, that spreads out radially to the north, east, and south of Monument, CO in gentle, sloping hills. This area, known as the Palmer Divide, houses both rocky escarpment as well as layer upon layer of sediment that has eroded from both the current Rocky Mountains as well as the Ancestral Rockies over the last 300 million years. What does that mean? Lots of soil to dig and prospect across the Palmer Divide!

Parker is one of several cities and towns present of the Palmer Divide that sit atop deposited sediment. Castle Rock, Franktown, Elizabeth, Kiowa, Elbert, Sedalia, Larkspur, Palmer Lake, Monument, and northern communities of Colorado Springs, such as Gleneagle, Black Forest, and Briargate, are all situated on the Palmer Divide. In my basement and surrounding my house, under the sod and landscaping, lay miles of sediment just waiting for excavation. So one rainy day in August—yes, we do get a few—I decided to test run some of the soil from my unfinished basement on my Gold Cube. I had previously classified it—about 2 buckets worth. Quickly I realized that this soil was extremely dry and appeared to be hard and clay-like. Not surprising, since my side yard floats on the water every time we get a hard spring rain! My strategy was to soak the soil in water overnight to form a slurry and be able to run it on my 4-stack Gold Cube.

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Gold Prospectors of Colorado  
PO Box 1593  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

