



## NUGGETS

- The world's largest gold hoard is not at Ft. Knox—but rather at the New York Federal Reserve. Weighing 5,890 tons (yup with a T), over 93% of the gold belongs to foreign governments and is stored at the NY Fed for safe keeping.
- The deepest mine in the world is the Mponeng Gold Mine in South Africa. At more than 2.4 miles deep, temps raise above 131°F on the rock face and some serious A/C is required to bring the temps down to 82°F!!!

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# The Prospector's Quill

VOLUME XLII, ISSUE IV

APRIL 2017

## GPOC New Member Orientation, 1<sup>st</sup> Prospecting Outing

by  
Andrew C. Hawkins

GPOC held it's second annual Spring New Member Orientation and Prospecting Outing on March 25 and 26, 2017. This marked our third New Member Orientation and Outing—two last year in March and September 2016 and this was the first Club outing of 2017!

New GPOC members were invited to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> for New Member Orientation and a Motorized Permit class (for those interested in using any motorized equipment on GPOC claims). The Orientation and Class

were a success—with enough new members in attendance to fill the room at WMMI—almost 30 people.

Following the Orientation and Motorized training, new members were invited to join GPOC President Mary Allen, GPOC First Lady of Prospecting, Tina Allen as well as long-time GPOC member Stan Gurley and Quill Editor/Two Year Trustee Andrew Hawkins on an inaugural prospecting outing on Clear Creek in Denver, CO.

Even though the snow was still lingering in some places from an earlier March snowfall in Denver, the weather was warm enough, with pretty low water flow on the Creek. The sky was a bit murky—

as were the waters of Clear Creek—but the sands and cobbles relinquished their treasures and all members got a little of that yeller gold in their pans, sluices, and buckets! The lower water levels before the spring melt also meant that gravel and cobble bars were easily accessible. The bank on the high water side was also accessible with visible layers of cobbles, sands, and striations of black and blonde sands. In fact, Andrew had a pair of waterproof muck boots (Walmart, \$18 a pair) and was pretty much able to wander freely up and down the creek. Marty, with chest waders, could go even in the deepest hole.

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**GPOC New Member outing, Clear Creek, Denver CO. We had a great turnout of 9 members, new and experienced on Sunday March 26. Not quite as nice of weather as last year—but for those who toughed it out—everyone was rewarded with a little bit of that yeller GOLD!**

# GPOC Board & Committee Chairs

## GPOC BOARD

### President

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

### Vice President

Stan Gurley  
[gpocvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:gpocvicepresident@gmail.com)

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer

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

### One Year Trustee

Dick Margeson  
[gpoctrustee1yr@gmail.com](mailto:gpoctrustee1yr@gmail.com)

### Two Year Trustee

Dr. Andrew C. Hawkins  
[gpoctrustee2yr@gmail.com](mailto:gpoctrustee2yr@gmail.com)

### Three year Trustee

Calvin Johnson  
[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

Bud Yoder  
[gpocclaims@gmail.com](mailto:gpocclaims@gmail.com)

### Championship Committee

Dermot Haley  
[gpocchampionship@gmail.com](mailto:gpocchampionship@gmail.com)

### Speakers

Lou Espinosa  
 Email coming soon!

### 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!

# 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](http://www.gpoc.club) for more info on events including location and start times.

## APRIL 2017

### GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER: ED & SHARON, SEWINDER SLICES

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 POWER SEA- SON STARTS
2	3	4	5	6 GPOC Board Meeting	7	8 Power Class @ Rock Doc
9	10	11	12 GPOC Gen. Member Meeting	13	14	15
16 Easter	17 	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day Claims Comm. PPAL Outing 
23/30	24	25	26 GPOC Plan- ning Comm.	27	28	29

## MAY 2017

**GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER: DAVE, PROSPECTORS GOLD AND GEMS, FT. COLLINS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 GPOC @ School: Aspen Valley Ranch, Woodland Park	4 GPOC Board Meeting	5	6
7	8	9	10 GPOC Gen. Member Meeting	11	12 GPOC @ School: Prairie Heights Ele- mentary, Fountain	13 GPOC Let's Go Gold Panning!
14 Mom's Day  GPOC Let's Go Gold Panning!	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 GPOC Planning Comm.	25	26	27 GPOC Claims Comm. Territory Days
28 Territory Days	29 Memorial Day Territory Days			31		

- **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** Gen 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 Denny's on Academy Blvd. & I25, CO Springs. 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

## JUNE 2017

**SUMMER TIME FUN!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 GPOC Board Meeting	2 NOMAD Race	3 NOMAD Race
4 NOMAD Race	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 GPOC Gen. Member Meeting	15	16 Gold Panning Championships	17 Gold Panning Championships
18 Dad's Day Gold Panning Championships	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 GPOC Planning Comm.	29	30	



## GPOC New Member Orientation, 1<sup>st</sup> Prospecting Outing, Continued

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We had a great representation of hand-sluices and pans for testing. Gold Hog, Jobe, Keene (several models) and even a new Royal Backpack sluice! We also had several styles, colors, and sizes of pans that members could test and a few members that stuck with good ol' panning with their own pans for the day (and got gold!)

Members helped each other with their sluice technique—getting the water flow and inverted V wake correctly located within the sluice. Folks also discussed and traded stories and experience about their favorite sluice setup. That ranged from vortex matting, Gold Hog matting, carpet and miners moss, and various carpets and v-ribbed matting.

The creek was visibly changing throughout the day, so minor adjustments were necessary to our sluices. Mary Allen quizzed the group: "How old do you think this water is?" While true that the water was almost as old as the Earth, Marty meant that the water flowing around our waders was snow and ice in the Front Range above only hours before. Hence—it really was chilly!

Members also discussed their techniques for cleaning up their cons. These ranged from Miller or Gold tables, to Gold Cubes, to panning, to spiral wheels like the Desert Fox. Some process their cons wet, some process them dry. So it was great to swap techniques and stories of their hobby.

In all the group prospected the Creek for about 7 hours—enough time to run many test pans and classify and run 5-10 buckets of material through hand sluices. The fruits of our labor were rewarding—tiny flecks of Colorado Yeller Gold in our pans and clean up systems! We all had fun prospecting, bonding, and learning about each others' techniques. We can't wait for the next outing!



**Photo Credits:**  
Scott Leidenberger and Andrew Hawkins



**Photos of the group, holes in the banks (that were correctly reclaimed at the end of the day!) This location had a plethora of black sands and heavies, as well as some well rounded river rocks for soothing planter and table décor!**

**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!**

**[TheQuill@gpoc.com](mailto:TheQuill@gpoc.com)**



## GPOC New Member Orientation, 1<sup>st</sup> Prospecting Outing, Continued

Photo Credits: Scott Leidenberger and Andrew Hawkins



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

### RECLAMATION

GPOC members should ALWAYS reclaim their holes!

More photos of the new member fun at Clear Creek, Adams County, CO.



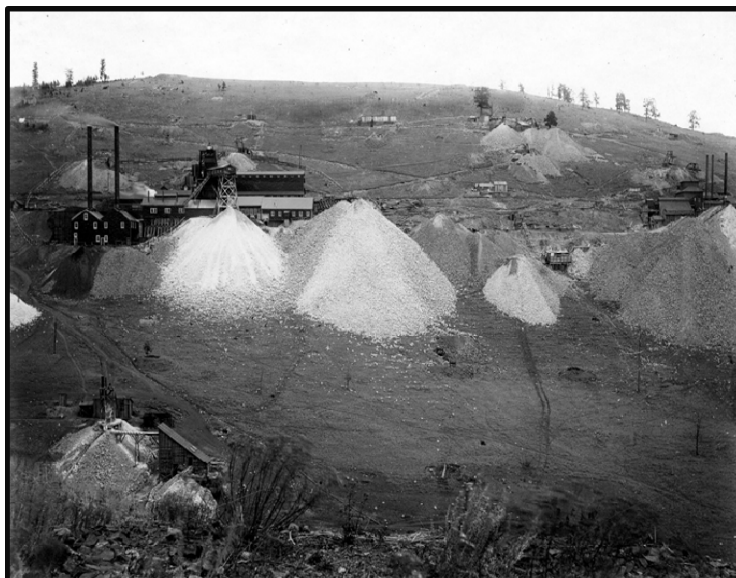
## A MEMBER OF GOLD PROSPECTORS OF COLORADO ELECTED TO THE WESTERN MUSEUM OF MINING AND INDUSTRY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

by Chase Alexander, Submitter

Steven Veatch, a life-member of the Gold Prospectors of Colorado, was recently elected to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry's Board of Trustees. Veatch has a long relationship of working with WMMI on educational and research projects. Veatch also has museum experience through the Cripple Creek District Museum.

His family came to Cripple Creek in the 1890s from England and worked in the district's mines for over 40 years. The other side of the family established a ranch in the wilderness near Boulder in 1865. They later moved to the rough-and-tumble Caribou mining camp. His great-grandfather, who was 14 years old; attended Caribou's first school session in 1872.

According to the WMMI's website, the Museum of the West was incorporated in 1970 as a private, non-profit with a mission to preserve



**El Paso and Old Gold mines from Roseland Hill. Cripple Creek District. Teller County, Colorado. Photo date 1903. Credit: US Geological Survey.**

and interpret the rich mining history of Colorado and the American West. The nucleus of the collection was a group of mining artifacts contributed to the museum by Mr. Frederick McMenemy Farrar and Mrs. Katherine Thatcher Farrar.

In 1972, the name was changed to the Western Museum of Mining & Industry to better define the museum focus. The museum received its full accreditation by the American Association of Museum in 1979 and, in acknowledgment of its exacting standards and successes, was re-accredited in 1980 and 2000.

Over 4,000 artifacts are on display at the 27-acre indoor/outdoor exhibit site; which includes a ten-stamp ore mill, a multi-purpose center with exhibits, a theater and a 5,000-volume research library. The entire exhibit complex is an exciting and exceptional tool for learning about Colorado history, mining and industrial technology, geology, and the environment.



## LONG-TIME MEMBER OF GOLD PROSPECTORS OF COLORADO PRESENTING RESEARCH ON CRIPPLE CREEK

by Chase Alexander, Submitter

Steven Veatch, a long-time member of the Gold Prospectors of Colorado is writing a detailed history of Cripple Creek, and will present his work at a symposium on Colorado gold and silver deposits this summer. There will be other speakers presenting their work on other mining districts in Colorado. The symposium will include two days of incredible field trips associated with the symposium. Veatch will co-host a field trip to the Cripple Creek District.

Save the date: Fri.-Mon., July 21-24, Gold and Silver Deposits in Colorado, a symposium cosponsored by the Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, the CSM Museum, DREGS (Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society), and Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter. "The event will feature two days of talks (July 22 - 23) and two days of field trips (July 21 and 24) to historic Colorado gold and silver mining areas, focusing on

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**Cripple Creek, looking northeast. The partly wooded knob on the left is Rhyolite Mountain. Just beyond the town are Mineral and Carbonate hills and in the background is Pikes Peak. Teller County, Colorado. Photo date: 1906. Credit: US Geological Survey.**



### Gold Prospectors of Colorado

PO Box 1593

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

Phone: 719-651-7930

E-mail: [Membership@gpoc.com](mailto:Membership@gpoc.com)

**Prospecting Colorado since 1974.**



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the Front Range and the northern half of the Colorado Mineral Belt.

Registration cost will be \$100; students, \$50; banquet, \$40; each field trip, \$40. A complete registration form will be available soon.

Veatch teaches community classes on Earth science and writing based in the Pikes Peak region and teaches graduate classes on geoscience courses for the Colorado School of Mines in the Special Programs and Continuing Education (SPACE) department. Veatch is a former adjunct professor of Earth science at Emporia State University.

Veatch retired from El Paso County government. He served in the Navy Reserves for 16 years. He is a volunteer interpretive ranger at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Veatch is currently the director of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups, an award-winning youth group that studies the geosciences. Veatch serves the Cripple Creek City Council as a member of its Historic Preservation Commission. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Western Museum of Mining and Industry in Colorado Springs.



## Greetings Prospectors!

Get ready for the new season,  
**GET OUT and PLAY.**

**We've got your toys  
and great weather is finally  
on the way!**

**We'll feed your desire for great mineral  
hunting adventures**

**Books, maps, advice, encouragement  
all available**

Check website or call for hours.

## The Rock Doc at Prospectors Village



Highway 285  
between Salida and Buena Vista  
in gorgeous central Colorado  
**719.539.2019**



VOLUME XLII, ISSUE IV

# The Prospector's Quill Spring Edition

APRIL 2017

## Get Yer Gear! Short notes about the gear you wish you had after reading this. Seriously.

by Andrew C. Hawkins

We've all been there. We're cleaning up our cons from last weekend—maybe in the kitchen, maybe in the basement, maybe in the garage. As we see that beautiful yellor gold peeking out from behind our black or blonde sands in the pan – we grab a pipette or a sucker bottle and mop up those lovely flakes. Then what do we do? We put those flakes in vial! But wait....all the plastic ones are full!! So grab a glass vial, just this once, to store our treasure. In goes the gold, back on the counter or shelf goes the vial! On to the next pan. Next thing you know, you have more flakes of a different size mesh ready for deposit in that show-and-tell vial. You reach for the vial, with water and Jet Dry soaked hands –and....bounce, bounce, CRASH! Vial does a nice pirouette and then bounces to the floor, smashing into 1,000 pieces and a week's worth of hard work sprays all over your floor and maybe even the stove. YIKES! But...DON'T PANIC! Here's what you do:

- 1) Breathe! Very important. Most likely your instinct will be to gasp, hold breath, and this can lead to blackouts.
- 2) Grab a nice paper towel or two. I prefer Costco select a size, but others will do the job. Moisten those paper towels with tap water.
- 3) Get down on your hands and knees and wipe. Be careful! Broken glass cuts fingers!
- 4) Let that paper towel dry in a gold pan (like an hour in Denver). Transfer to a **metal pan** and ignite (yes, burn) the paper towel. Do this outside (or under your range hood if it is a really good one). **THIS IS WHY YOU NEED TO OWN AT LEAST ONE METAL PAN!**
- 5) Burn completely to ash. Now—all that is left are minerals! Really!
- 6) Add some water to the ash, a spritz or two of Jet Dry, and pan as you normally would.
- 7) Et voila! Recover your gold—and this time, put in a plastic vial! You may not recover 100%. But it's way better than leaving that gold on the floor!



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

