

# THE NUGGETEER



February 2024

Vol.4 No.2

## *A Message from the President Tim's Tidbits*

Hi there to all members and Prospectors when classifying be sure to double check your rocks in a classifier before you throw them out.

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
2023	\$1,964.85	\$24.49	\$1,032.35	\$1,713.99	\$10,70000.00
2024	\$2,044.32	\$22.44	\$898.07	\$1,941.28	\$5,050.00

2/7/24

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# GPAA

## COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER



### GPAA OFFICERS Colorado Springs Chapter

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Hospitality Committee	Position Open		

**Renewals, multi-year discounts and life memberships available on-line at [www.Goldprospectors.org](http://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 7, 2024, COSGPAA Meeting Minutes

Attendees: 20 in person; 146 by e-mail

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chapter President Tim Pitney and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Tim talked about pizza and show and tell at next month's meeting. Tim also talked about the outing 27 and 28 April at the Railroad Bridge campground. He wanted to know if everyone wanted to go to the arrastra and look for the gold finger bars, and other treasures. Tim also talked about dowsing rods. You need to have a mindset to make your dowsing rods to work. If you are looking for gold you need to think gold, gold, gold.

## DOOR PRIZE WINNERS February 7, 2024

Gold: Theresa Bailey, Tim Pitney, Richard Logue, Tony Rush x2, Tom Burke, John King

Silver: Theresa Bailey x2, Tom Burke, Tim Pitney

Name tag winner: John Mishler Gold

Pin Pointer: Tim Pitney

## Gold Panning

### Colorado Parks and Wildlife

- **How to Get Started in Gold Panning**

- Looking for a new way to get the family outside? Gold panning is an excellent hobby for young children, geology enthusiasts and anyone looking to spend some peaceful time outdoors. Although there is an art and a learning curve to the activity, gold panning is relatively easy to get started in; the materials aren't expensive, and starting out doesn't require long hours of practice.
- **Remember that this activity thrives on the honor system.**
- Anything found in state parks is technically state property. It's generally okay to take flakes, but if you find chunks or nuggets, please show it to park staff. Check out the [Bureau of Land Management](#) for more guidelines.
- Additionally, though gold panning is a relatively low-risk sport, remember to stay safe and protect yourself from the elements. Don't wade in fast-moving or high waters, and be sure to wear sunglasses and sunscreen!
- Ready to give it a try? Follow these easy steps for your chance to strike gold!

## 1. Find Equipment

- While some parks lend out pans, it's easiest to purchase your own panning kit. Gold panning kits range from \$20 to \$50 depending on included materials. You'll also want a shovel or a scoop, and instruction books are helpful in perfecting the process! Waders come in handy, too, especially as the water gets chillier. All materials are available at most outdoor stores and online, and we estimate a maximum of about \$100 total in equipment.
- **2. Choose Your Location**
- There are plenty of beautiful creeks and streams that promise lovely experiences gold panning! One of our favorites is [Castlewood Canyon State Park](#), but we also love Point Barr at [Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#). Choose a creek or stream with calm, slow waters to ensure your own safety. Volunteer Randy Howell recommends digging in a creek near its bank and finding sand that is dark in color, even black. Experimenting in your local parks and finding the best location is a learning process - and half the fun!
- **Safety First**
- Gold panning isn't quite a year-round activity; Howell's season usually ranges from June to October. Wading in freezing water isn't enjoyable! Also be sure to check with [each park](#) regarding water level and speed, which can vary throughout the year and can pose potential dangers.

- **3. Shovel**

- Fill your pan with sand. This is the most physically trying part - dig in!

- **4. Sift**

- Check for large chunks or nuggets by placing the contents of your pan through the sifter and catching it on the other side with the second pan. It's unlikely to find anything large enough to get caught in the sifter, so don't be discouraged if it's all rocks! Toss them away and go back to the pan of smaller particles.

- **5. Separate**

- Here's the part that requires patience! It's nice to find a place to sit, like a rock coming out of the water; otherwise you'll spend a fair amount of time hunched over. Place the pan of sand barely in the water so that heavier pieces (like gold) will sink to the bottom and the sand itself will lift out over the edge of the pan. Allow it to drift out little by little, watching carefully. The process should be fairly slow - you don't want to miss anything! Once you're down to just one layer of the heaviest particles, look carefully for shimmering gold flakes. Many kits come with snuffers, tweezers and vials to help separate the gold and transport it safely.

- **6. Practice and Keep Learning!**

- Check out books, find others in the gold panning community, and focus in on your technique! The search to strike gold is an excellent excuse to explore the various creeks and streams throughout our state.

- Whether or not you head home with a vial full of gold, you've spent time in the beautiful Colorado outdoors and interacted with nature in an activity Coloradans have participated in for centuries! Enjoy the scenery and relish the history. The riches are not in the gold but in the experience.

# Prospecting equipment for sale.

Just in time for the upcoming gold mining/prospecting season, I have the following items for sale. Cash or check accepted, but there is a cash discount!

KEENE 3" dredge suction nozzle with 1½" threaded hose coupling, also has a rock bar welded across the opening. \$100 check, \$80 cash.

DREAM MAT sluice, 35" long. Includes miner's moss matting with deep "V" matting and two types of expanded metal. \$100 check, \$80 cash.

DURALAST Marine 12 Volt lead-acid battery with BATTERY TENDER trickle charger, approximately 90 Ah battery. \$100 check, \$80 cash.

GOLD FOX 5 inch Standard trommel (RED). Runs off of a 12 volt power supply, has a 1 ¼" threaded male hose attachment. Includes two barrels(1/4 and 3/8 holes), installed speed-up gear and 2' long home-made sluice extension. Equipped with Gold Hog, Dream Mat and miner's moss/expanded metal riffles. \$1000 check, \$800 cash. If you purchase the trommel and 12 volt battery/charger together, \$1050 check, \$840 cash.

BIG ORANGE MAGNET \$10 check, \$5 cash.

~~BOAL MANUFACTURING 5 inch 1/8" mesh sieve, brass body and stainless steel mesh. \$60 check, \$20 cash.~~

DESERT DRYWASHERS Prospecting Puffer drywasher. Includes ¼ inch prescreen. \$200 check, \$150 cash.

HENDERSON NeoSport 7mm 2 piece farmer john-style wetsuit (BLACK). Men's size XXXL (3XL). New, never used. Check \$200, cash \$150.

The above items are available for viewing most Thursdays and Fridays, and some Saturdays (those are my days off) during the months of February and March ONLY. Please email Ralph at [coloradorockhound@comcast.net](mailto:coloradorockhound@comcast.net) for directions (I am at the south end of Colorado Springs near South Academy and 85/87, easy to find). I have pictures available for all of these items, I can email a photo if you wish.

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 7pm to 9:00pm*

#### MEETING DATES

March 6 2024

April 3 2024

May 1 2024

June 5 2024

July 3 2024

August 7 2024

September 4 2024

October 2 2024

November 6 2024

December 4, 2024

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](mailto:cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com). To add an article please submit it to the editor at [cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com](mailto: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