

THE NUGGETEER



April 2022

Vol.2 No.4

A Message from the President Tim's Tidbits

Hi there to all members and Prospectors. The more dirt that you can move is the key to finding more gold.

Tim Pitney

President COSC GPAA

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
2021	\$1743.10	\$25.35	\$1,235.82	\$2,650.06	\$26,500.00
2022	\$1,938.00	\$24.68	\$971.15	\$2,282.66	\$18,150.00

4/7/22

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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 , or call 800-551-9707 , and Please mention that you want to be part of the COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER.

MEETING MINUTES



April 6, 2022

Attendees: 20 in person; 128 by e-mail



The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, by Chapter President Tim Pitney and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Tim welcomed new members Ben Wilson and Leonard Cloer. The proposed dowsing class at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI) will be held in May - dates are pending. Tim announced that Kevin Hoagland, GPAA Director of Development, is now involved in a new TV series on the History Channel, titled: *Lost Gold of the Aztecs*. The show airs on Tuesdays, at 10/9c.

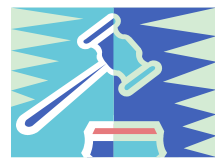
A couple members said they received an email from GPAA stating that GPAA and LDMA required separate memberships. A call to GPAA clarified that effective June 1, 2022, purchase of a LDMA membership would no longer include the GPAA lifetime membership; however, this policy change does not affect existing LDMA members. This has raised many questions from both memberships, and we should see a detailed policy statement published prior to the effective date.

VP Joel Swisher had a Zoom call with a producer for the British TV documentary crew two weeks ago and discussed the support our Chapter could provide; however, he has not received a response to date. The original shooting schedule for Colorado Springs was April 11th through May 1st. Tim added that after repeated attempts he still has not received a response from the BLM about our request to provide a demonstration of motorized equipment on the Railroad Bridge claims. We will keep you informed.

Our outing to Arapahoe Bar on March 19th was attended by six members and the weather was great. Everyone found flour gold. We will be returning to this site on May 21st. Weather permitting, we will have an outing to Reynolds Landing Park in Littleton, on April 23rd. For general information see the Outings Page of this newsletter and watch your e-mail for details.

Treasurer Alton Oakes spoke about the use and maintenance of deep cycle batteries used for prospecting pumps and motors. He explained that depleting a 12v battery charge below 50% (a voltage reading of less than 12.1 volts) could reduce its lifespan by 60% - 75%. He displayed monitoring equipment used by at least two members that could accurately show battery life and discussed proper charging requirements for different types of deep cycle batteries.

MEETING MINUTES



March 2, 2022

Continued



Alton also gave an update on PLPs success with “reclamation dredging” in California and recommended that we document our own chapter’s recovery of lead shot, mercury, and other pollutants during our prospecting activities.

PLP is selling raffle tickets for their drawing on July 14th. Prizes range from an ounce of Silver to a \$5k Gold claim. Details are in their monthly newsletter, forwarded separately.

After the treasurer’s report and the door prize drawing, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. Thank you again to member Phyllis Bray for providing cookies for the meeting.

The next Chapter meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at the Salvation Army building, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

FYI. The next monthly meeting for Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) is Wednesday April 13th, 7-8:45 pm, American Legion Post 38, 6685 Southmoor Dr, Fountain, CO.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS April 6, 2022

Silver Tom Braidwood

Lorriane Sirois

Gold Tim Pitney

Richard Cook

Tom Braidwood

Tom Braidwood

Teresa Bailey

A Day in the Life of a California 49er

by [STEVEN NUBIE](#)



By Steve Nubie

It all started when a sharp-eyed carpenter spotted the glint of gold in a small tributary of the American River in California in 1848. The carpenter was James Marshall who was supervising the construction of a mill for a man named John Sutter near Coloma, California just northeast of Sacramento. Marshall was sure he had found gold and informed Sutter of his find. Both men agreed to keep it a secret, but word leaked out and an article announcing the find appeared in San Francisco newspapers. No one believed the stories. No one until a shopkeeper from the small town of Sutter's Creek walked through the streets of San Francisco brandishing gold flakes in a bottle and proclaimed Gold! Gold! Gold! The shopkeeper had purchased the gold from Sutter and promised to keep it a secret. He didn't. The stampede to the California gold fields soon followed and Sutter's Creek was the first destination. Sutter's property was overrun as a result and he died in poverty.

Who were the California 49ers?

The men who flocked to the California gold fields made their first major migration in 1849. Their sudden appearance in California earned them the nickname "49ers" and the name stuck.

The first wave arrived from the west coast of the U.S. but soon people from around the world began to make the journey to California including people from Hawaii which was then called the Sandwich Islands, Asia, Mexico and South America, Canada and all points East of the Rocky Mountains including Europe.

It's estimated that more than 300,000 people eventually joined the gold stampede to California from all parts of the globe. 98% were men of all ages and from all walks of life. San Francisco became an overnight

boom town and the fastest growing city in the world with its population soaring from 800 to 20,000 in less than 2 years with hundreds of thousands of prospectors passing through to get to the gold.

How did they get to California?

There were basically only three ways to get to the California gold fields. One way was overland on foot, horseback or wagon train across the great plains, two mountain ranges and the Nevada desert. The transcontinental railroad would not be completed until 1869 and the overland journey was harsh.

People who lived on the west coast of North America had it easier, but few people lived in the western United States at the time. Most chose a second option which was to travel by boat especially from the East coast but there was a problem.

Before the Panama Canal

The Panama Canal was not completed until 1914. Until that time, the isthmus of Panama effectively blocked all shipping forcing voyages from the east coast of North America to travel down the length of South America around Cape Horn and back up the western length of South America to reach California. On average it took a sailing ship, or clipper ship as they were called, 6 months to make the trip from New York to San Francisco going the full way around Cape Horn and South America. A third travel option was by boat through the Gulf of Mexico to the Panamanian isthmus and across the isthmus either on foot or horseback to a second boat heading up the coast to California. There were occasions where small boats would continue the isthmus crossing across lakes or on rivers but there was no direct route across the isthmus with one mode of travel. The average time for the Isthmus trip from New York to San Francisco was 45 to 60 days with about 20 of those days involved crossing overland on the isthmus. While the duration was shorter the isthmus crossing was fraught with dangers particularly from diseases like cholera and malaria. Many people died as a result of something as simple as drinking contaminated water or a mosquito bite. The cost for a one-way trip ranged from \$150 to \$300 including transit across the isthmus of Panama. In today's dollars that's a range of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for a one-way ticket. Unfortunately, those prices skyrocketed as the demand grew for transit to the gold fields to a range of \$400 to \$1200 for a one-way ticket. At today's prices that would be \$13,000 to \$40,000 for a one-way trip regardless of the route.

To be continued next month.

GPAA

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

WHEN: Saturday, 23 April 2022,

WHERE: Rendezvous 9:30 – 10:00 am, north end of parking lot in Reynold Landing Park, Brewery Lane, Littleton, CO. This is behind the Breckenridge Brewery.

DETAILS: All forms of prospecting are allowed within the riverbanks, but no gas-powered engines may be used. Battery operated equipment is permitted. Access to the river is readily accessible from the paved parking lot with more than three miles of waterway available along a greenway path. Public restrooms are onsite.

WHEN: Saturday, 21 May 2022,

WHERE: Rendezvous 9:30 – 10:00 am, northeast corner of the parking lot for the Youngfield Trailhead, 4100 Youngfield Street, Wheat Ridge, CO.

DETAILS: This is a public access prospecting park and Clear Creek Trail access point. Panning, sluicing, and battery-operated equipment allowed. Public toilets (Porta-Potty) on site.

WHEN: Saturday & Sunday, 7-8 May 2022, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM daily

WHERE: GPOC Claim Woody's 1&2, Salida, CO

DETAILS: GPOC Lets Go Gold Panning Days – Open to the Public for this event. Panning, dry washers, battery operated equipment and shoreline sluicing. Powered dredging and high banking demonstrations.

Complete details and driving directions provided by separate e-mail. Any Questions, contact Alton Oakes, 719-439-3590

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COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

19 March 2022



John the teacher. Here is John with Debbi. She was a first time prospector.



This is Debbi's gold. Very good for a first time

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COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

19 March 2022



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COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

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.

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

May 4 2022

June 1 2022

July 6 2022

August 6 2022 Picnic Saturday

September 7 2022

October 5 2022

November 2 2022

December 7 2022 Christmas Party

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Colorado Springs Chapter Links

Sunny Mountain Prospectors

Golden

802 N. Washington St.

Golden, CO 80401

(303) 529-0060

Hours:

Thursday - Saturday: 11 am to 5 pm

Closed Sunday - Wednesday

<https://sunnymountain.net>

Colorado Springs (temporarily closed)

3007 N. El Paso Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

(719) 722-3998

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

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Concentrating equipment includes a hand sluice, complete sieve kit and a 'Blue bowl' system with levelers, tub, 12 volt battery and circulating pump.

Asking price of \$1200 includes training on the assembly and use of this equipment.

Contact:

Ken Bond at 719-573-0452 to leave message

Kennethbond2@comcast.net