

December 2021 Vol.1 No.12

A Message from the President Tim's Tidbits

Happy holidays to all our members and guests. Let's get ready to go find lots of gold this coming year.

Tim Pitney
President COSGPAA

Web address: http://cosgpaa.org

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Facebook address open https://www.facebook.com/cosgpaa

Tonight's precious metals spot prices per Troy ounce					
Year	Gold	Silver	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium
2020	\$1,777.05	\$22.64	\$968.90	\$2,384.50	\$16,100.00
2021	\$1,775.76	\$22.48	\$949.37	\$1,812.22	\$12,850.00

GPAA

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER



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Do you want to join GPAA? You can see David Vigil at Sunny Mountain Prospectors located at:3007 North El Paso Street, Colorado Springs CO 80907

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



December 4, 2021

Attendees: 32 in person; 127 by e-mail



- •The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chapter President Tim Pitney and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended his wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season. Tim reported that he is still working on dredging issues for the Arkansas River claims; and that Colorado State Director Ben Crane is still in ICU fighting COVID 19. Our prayers go out to Director Crane and his family.
- •Treasurer Alton Oakes gave a financial report and a brief review of the proposed change of venue for the Chapter meetings. There are now three options: Continue meeting at the Salvation Army and keep the required liability insurance at a per meeting cost of \$68; drop the liability insurance and move to the VFW, also in Security, at \$70 per month; or move to the Orbit restaurant in the Satellite Hotel located at Academy & Airport Road, at no charge. After several minutes of discussion, a motion was made to postpone the decision till the January meeting to allow more time for consideration. The motion was seconded and approved by a majority present.
- •VP Joel Swisher supervised the election of officers. Current nominees are President Tim Pitney, VP Joel Swisher, Treasurer Alton Oakes, Secretary Pat Oakes, and Membership Chairperson Lorraine Sirois. All nominees were present and accepted nomination, and no additional nominations were received. Members present voted unanimously to elect the nominees.
- •After the door prize drawing, Tim announced that there are no outings or events planned for the remainder of the year. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 5th,2021, at the Salvation Army in Security, beginning at 7:00 pm.





December 4, 2021, Continued

- •To start the Chapter Christmas dinner party, Tim presented Alton and Pat Oakes a Thank You card and a two-gram gold nugget gift from the members for everything they do to sustain the Chapter. Both have served in elected and appointed positions continuously since 2009. Alton and Pat thanked the membership for their show of appreciation and for their participation in Chapter activities.
- •After dinner and conversation, Member Nancy Wood ran the White Elephant and the Member-to-Member gift exchanges. The accommodations at Daniel's Tacos were perfect and several members said they would be returning as regular customers based on the menu and service they received. The Angel Tree toy donations were collected by John and Nancy Wood and transported to the Salvation Army. Thank you all for your generosity. Also, thanks to Members Nancy Wood, Phyllis Bray and Lynnel Boerem for bringing desserts. The party concluded with the last members leaving the parking lot by 4:30 pm. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS 4 December 2021

Silver Bar Earl Boeram

Gold Nugget Richard Logue Gold Bar Richard Cod

Black Magic Table. Lyrniel Boeren



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 cosgpaahospitalitycommitee@gmail.com. To add an article please submit it to the editor at cosgpaahospitalitycommitee@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

January 5, 2022

February 2, 2022

March 2, 2022

April 6, 2022

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

GPAA

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

4 December 2021 Christmas Party



















COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

4 December 2021 Christmas Party



From GPAA Magazine November/December 2021

I am putting this article in the newsletter because the Rand Mining District is south of where I lived for over 40 years before moving to Colorado Springs.



Here is a map of where I lived for over 40 years in Ridgecrest.. The LDMA Duisenburg Camp is about half way between Ridgecrest and Randsburg near Searles station.



For you prospectors who want to get away and make a trip to this area, the LDMA/GPAA has one of their patented mining properties just north of Randsburg. It's about 5 miles from Randsburg up Highway 395. After you pass the railroad tracks, you'll see a dirt entrance/road with a sign that says LDMA that leads to Duisenburg (which is the name of this particular mining property). You go a little the richest tungsten mines of that period. Tungsten was more than a mile and a laff to the club office. Stop by and used to hands ted during the war, placed in light bulbs, visit with your fellow gold diggers and share prospecting etc. It still has many uses today. stories!

A few miles south of Randsburg is the old mining claims there and members still find gold in this old district town of Atolia. This is where the second mining boon took place. In the late 1800s, miners were dry washing fo gold in the area but were getting frustrated by a whole lot of whitish-looking material that kept clogging up their rif-fle trays. They cursed it and called it "heavy spar." But in 1904 the richest tungsten (Scheelite ore) deposits in the world were discovered here with the Papoose Mine and the Union Mine. Many more tungsten mines dotted the area as around 2,000 people came to be a part of this rich discovery. They had a dairy, a movie theater, and several saloons, one of which was called "The Bucket of Blood." Atolia happened in the area, Around 1919, two men, Jack Nosser

was named after two mining officers, Atkins and Degolia I have a lot of cool old photos of the people and mines of the area from that period

The town eventually folded as China sold tungsten to the U.S. at a cheaper price, thus phasing out what once were

The nearby historic Stringer Mining District is adja cent to Atolia and a lot of gold and tungsten was pulled out of this area as well. Gold prospecting clubs have mining

ost of the Atolia area is under private owne ship, but it's worth driving by (or pulling off the highway) to have a peek at the old mining structures such as A-frames, ore shoots, and a few outhouses that are left. There are hun-dreds of tailing piles that dot the area.

As tungsten mining began to phase out, a third boom

Atolia with Red Mountain in Background

and W. H. Williams, while looking for red clay accidentally discovered ore bodies of the richest silver mine in the United States at that time. It was so loaded, it initially needed no processing - it was just pure horn silver! It was so rich, in fact, everyone wondered why it was never discovered in all these years with so many miners walking over it!

It first was worked by the California Rand Silver Mine Co. They named it the Kelly Silver mine after the Kern County sheriff who came up with the initial cash needed to invest in the development of the claim.

(Interesting trivia: In the 1920s, Wyatt Earp was a security guard here for the Kelly Silver Mine.)

Many brothels and saloons lined the highway here, en-campments popped up all over the place and there were confusing names for the town at first. Pete Osdick (a miner) named it Osdick, while others named it Inn City. Still oth ers called it Sin City. The postmaster got so fed up with the confusion that he officially named it Red Mountain.

Over time, new veins of silver were discovered in the area and many mineshafts dotted the landscape. (In my re-search, I also learned that at about the 700-foot level many of these same silver mines had beautiful gold in quartz imens pulled out by the miners)



Slim Riffle - The Owl

In 1921, two years after the Kelly Silver mine discovery, at all, lean, unsavory fellow by the name of Silin Riffle built for Onl' ("Gie") — an illegal gambling and booze-making joint — in Red Mountain. Next door, he built the Onl' "floet" let," which was the big brothed area. There wasn't any Las Vegas or Palm Springs back then, so a lot of the Hollywood and the contraction of the Contract elites and actors came to Red Mountain as word got out that it was a red-light district with little to no law enforce-ment, it being out in the middle of nowhere. Fatty Arbuckle, the famous Hollywood silent film star comedian of the '20s, used to sneak drinks here along with other famous and interesting characters of that era.



I had a few people tell me that Slim shot and killed people right out in front of the Owl if they got nasty with his girls and with him. He'd disappear and no one saw there in 1933. He was compassionate and well-liked, treat-anything when the authorities arrived. He also had tunnels ing the miners, merchants, and "ladies of the night" of varunderneath the area (in fact the entire town had connected tunnels and mineshafts everywhere) so escaping would be relatively easy. The Owl was one of the few establishments that were never shut down during Prohibition because of Slim's "connections" — he was good friends with the sher-iff. Slim was well-known and well-liked by many people in California.

When Prohibition was repealed, Slim made a legitimate saloon while still engaging in other illegal activities.

There are only two old saloons left here in Red Mountain, The Owl and The Silver Dollar up the road. I was told by more than one person about an interesting fact regarding The Silver Dollar: around mid-century, the famous Western movie actor Gabby Hayes purchased The Silver Dollar and married one of the local girls who was half his age. He purchased a home across the highway, but died about a year later. I can't validate these stories I hear from other people, entertained the guests. but they sure are interesting and sound real enough to me. Usually, if more than one person tells me something, then I may be more inclined to believe it. Prostitution was still

tory of many of these old mining towns. My neighbor Myra knew Slim and she said he was a huge man and his hands were the size of dinner plates. When he went to pet her big dog, his hand covered the entire face! Slim knew many of the well-known desert prospectors, like Shorty Harris, Sel-dom Seen Slim, and Death Valley Scotty.

As Red Mountain became more populated, a smallious ailments and injuries. He would even fly his plane to other desert communities to treat patients. In 1946, a fire destroyed his little hospital, so Doc reestablished his practice in Ridgecrest, where he became the founder of the Ridgecrest Medical Center and the Ridgecrest Hospital. There's a plaque for him in the hospital and a street there was named after him.

In 1956, another famous individual named Lodge Cunningham bought The Owl from Slim Riffle and he and his wife had a successful restaurant in The Owl. He was the first one to perfect sound in the movies in the '20s and through the following years. He was in demand by pro-ducers for being a sound genius. Rita Hayworth and Or-son Welles were among some of his patrons to dine there. He loved to show movies at The Owl that he had made on some of his trips around the world, while his wife, Alida

Another interesting trivia: My very own great-grandpa Guy Wheeler arrested Rita Hayworth for streaking when going on here until the '50s when a new sheriff vowed to be was on the Hollywood police force. He later went on to stamp it out.

become the chief of police in West Covina. My grandpa Guy was a double for Wallace Berry in the movies. Most I don't want to glorify bad things, but it's part of the hisnotably in "Treasure Island" with Jackie Cooper, where holady in Treasure Island with Jacke Cooper, where he doubled for Wallace as Long John Silver. He not only looked just like him, but was of the same stature and even had the same walk! My mom told me that my other grandpa was a prospector and they saw him once with a jar full of nuggets that he brought across the border from Mexico.



FROM THE MEMBERS

The St. Elmo Gold Mine

I wanted to briefly write about the St. Elmo gold strike because of how rich it was (as mentioned, this discovery was considered by some, as the the actual second bount of the area, making a total of four mining strikes in this his-torical district). It wasn't as large as other mines of the area but when it was initially discovered, the vein was loaded with gold. Here's a piece that was written in the Los Angeles Daily Times

August 3, 1896: "IT IS SAID THAT IN THE HILLS some distance from Randsburg, a remarkable strike has been made. The ledge found by S. Drouillard and S. H. Pyle is three feet wide on the surface and crops out for lows machines. Pretty interesting stuff! several thousand feet. The rock is literally alive with free gold, every piece showing the yellow metal in profusion. Nothing approaching has ever been brought to town. It will assay from \$1,500 to \$2,000 or more per ton." – Los Angeles Daily Times

When Lodge was younger, Howard Hughes was his According to the account, Drouilland wandered off on box in the box of the properties of the Cod while warching for a spring at The Ood while visiting Lodge. stumbled upon a rich ledge of gold. His water ran out by the time he got to the area, as he mistakenly thought that the spring would still be running. He searched in vain for another spring, but none was found. In a desperate state, he started to head back when he stumbled on an interestwas considered by some, to be the actual second boom of ing piece of quartz float, which he then followed up to the main outcropping. Every piece he broke off of the ledge was lousy with gold. Somehow, five hours later he made it back almost dead. If it wasn't for the excitement and adren-aline rush of the discovery of gold, he might not have ever

In the beginning, both ore crushing and dry washing the rich ledge were productive. I have an old photo of the miners dry washing with the big, older-type handmade bel-

The area is now under claim or it's private land, and since then, it's been pretty much worked all out, so please respect people's properties when in the area exploring. Don't think you're going to come out and get rich on any thing they missed; they were pretty thorough during the

hard times — that's how they survived in those days! And as always, please be careful — many mine shafts dot these hills for miles around and are very dangerous. So please stay out and stay away (sometimes even the entrance detrimental to the preservation of these old communities

the gradled the "St. Elmo" that is still there and people still it worthwile: no not to merition, the gold! live on it. Humorously, another one of the mine partners was also a sherift. He was a Kern County sherift. I guess a lot of sheriffs back then liked gold!

We became part of a Community We have a patrol car. We also became a part of

Our Adventure Living Here!

About five years ago, I gave up my Spy and Security shop to my friend who installed security cameras for my customers in the Los Angeles area. I had my wife quit her supp to my ritted was necessary currents not my
or customers in the Los Angeles area. I had my wife qui her
ye've make. I mile also almost deteriorating to the
job diving a school bas with handicapped children in Po
mona, and we got out of the city to pursue a less-stresful
about the rate on the history associated with it purchased
life and live in this wonderful and historic area. We pursuper the control of the buildings in the neighboring towns have been installed and
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some of the buildings in the neighboring towns have been
some of the buildings in the neighboring towns have been a museum and prospecting shop with a few other things that we sell. (Back in the days, Slim Riffle made a huge place here with bedrooms, spare rooms, etc.)

Within these few years of living here, we've had some exciting times in our quest for gold. We've also had some challenging times as we had to deal with issues that were sag out and say away (onneumes even use entantee and a continuation and manifold can collapse). There are nice people here and some strange characters here are nice people here and some strange characters here are nice people here and some strange characters here are nice people here and some strange characters here will because there was a hotel in Randsburg named after it justices. It is such time in comparison to the ligit of the time of the manifold of the properties of t

> We became part of a Community Watch and we now nave a patrol car. We also became a part of a group to clean up the area of a lot of junk as well as place historical markup the area of a not of Junk as went as pace instorted many ers at points of interest, etc. It's such a pleasure seeing the joy of visitors to the area as they talk about the neat stuff they see. Older visitors who used to live here or had relatives who mined here in those days are happy with the progress restored by the new residents there. We had Edison replace burned-out streetlamps, so it's been encouraging. We want to live in a cool old mining town, not a junkyard, so that's



by we volunteer our time to be a part of the community

Store in Randsburg serves food on the weekends and there are a couple of other shops opened there as well. There's Many of the old lasto the Rand Desert Museum, which is always fun to visit.

It's been there since the 1940s. My wife and I stouched up ron, Troma, etc.) the old Randsburg sign as you enter the old town, which kind of makes it more inviting for visitors.

This area is a great place to live and the city of Ridgecrest is only 20 minutes from here. Ridgecrest has a population of about 30,000 people with just about anything you need there. There are also smaller towns and cities in the area. Johannesburg sells water at the Water District for you prospectors who want to head this way — just be sure with the largest being the GPAA, of which we're also members. This way you can legally dig for gold on their mining

from the mining days — rough and rugged! Gold pros-pecting, off-roading, camping and hiking, sightseeing, and visiting ancient petroglyph art are just a few of the interest-A couple of miles up the road from us, the old General rie fittings to do in the area. The secrety is truly assessment in distings to do in the area. The secrety is truly assessment in a couple of other shops opened there as well. There's May of the old towns surrounding this area also have maseums and interesting historical places to visit (such as Bo-

My wife and I belong to several gold prospecting clubs My wite and i being to several gold prospecting cuits and I own a few mining claims as well. The first club we joined (and I recommend to everyone) is the GPAA. The reason why I tell customers and newbies about them first is that there are more claims for them to explore for gold and they're in many states. They have thousands of memyou're a member of one of the several gold clubs in the area. bers who have joined since the organization was founded bers who have Joined since the organization was founded in 1968 "to preserve and promote the great heritage of the North American Prospector." Smaller clubs have their ad-vantages as well, but they're usually limited to a certain geographical area that is more localized for members who Don't expect much in the way of commercialism here, are not too far from that location. The GPAA and other but that's why it's fun. Much of it is still in its natural state clubs have claims in and around the Rand Mining District.

The clubs are affordable and worth being a part of. Most of them are very friendly "salt of the earth" type of people.

When the weather is cooler we'll dry wash and/or metal detect in the desert. When it gets too hot, then we'll periodically shoot up north to the Motherlode area to sluice or snipe in the rivers and creeks. If it's getting pretty warm in the desert, I might also get up real early and do some dry washing or metal detecting and quit around 9 or 10 a.m. before it gets too warm. (Sometimes, we'll even set up a tent for shade. Just be sure to bring lots of water and your

Do we find gold? You bet we do! That's one of the reasons we moved up here. It takes time before you learn where and how to get gold, but after all of the hard work it can be very rewarding. Many customers who have been in our place here have expressed their frustration of not being able to find much gold, even after joining a club. Most





easy to find, why would it be fun to find?

Newbies want to find a lot of gold right off the bat but that doesn't always happen at first. It's a skill that takes a lot formation of the research, but it can be very fiscinating and enjoyable in the process. Some people make a living at it, but it's hard work. I know of several places where I can make at least minimum wage or better. Sometimes I find pust yetted and offer nice nuggest. Other times, you hardly find anything. But it's still good fun and either way, we always enjoy cureless. But it is more about the experience and memories rather than how much gold you get. Even and memories rather than how much gold you get. Even those who've stumbled upon some valuable pockets or nugthose who've stumbled upon some valuable pockets or nug-gets will usually tell you that the hunt is the fun part and it's and we hope to see you up here soon! not so much about trying to get a ton of gold.

Because of my experience, I can usually find gold. Usually I find a little, but sometimes I'll find a lot. If I'm in a new area exploring, I may not find anything but I'm still enjoying myself, learning and exploring, and enjoying the scenery. I'm also spending time with family and friends. We need to thank God for the privilege of still being able to do these types of activities because one day, we may be cut off from the things we take for granted by certain groups of mosels who does the form of the control of the still provide of mosels who does the form of the still provide of the still provided the form entirely are set of the still provided the form entirely are set. of people who don't feel we should be doing particular ac-tivities because they're control freaks. That's why it's im-portant to be good citizens and fill in your holes and pick up your trash, and then we won't be blamed for anything.

Always Be Prepared

Anytime you travel to remote areas far from the city, you should prepare in advance for mishaps (i.e. bring lots of water, spare tire and gas, duct tape, rope, antifreeze and oil, tire repair stuff, umbrella and hats, extra jackets because even though it's hot it can get cold at night, a mirror, maybe a satellite phone, spare prospecting equipment, etc.)

There is plenty of information online and in books on how to be prepared for these types of trips, so please be like the "wise old owl" and plan accordingly. Be sure to give a friend or loved one your GPS coordinates or give them at least the general area that you'll be heading to if you're not sure of the exact spot.

Also, keep security in mind as well. It doesn't happen often but you have what I call "desert pirates" in the western desert portions of the U.S. who sneak and cruise around

sample, you'll be rewarded for your efforts. That's what is so interesting about this hobby. If gold was everywhere and easy to find, why would it be fun to find?

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God bless!

Dan and Arlene Stanton

Prospectors for 17 years, and proud members of the GPAA!







GPAA

Colorado Springs Chapter Links

Sunny Mountain Prospectors LLC 3007 North El Paso Street Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907 (719)722-3998

https://sunnymountain.net

Let's support our local prospecting business.

Gold Prospectors of Colorado

https://gpoc.club

(20+) Gold Prospectors of Colorado | Groups | Facebook

Meeting location has changed to:

•American Legion Post 38 •6685 Southmoor Dr, Fountain, CO 80817

The Rock Doc 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

Western Museum of Mining and Industry https://wmmi.org

Prospecting Equipment for Sale

If you have any prospecting equipment for sale or trade please email me at coxd@mac.com