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The Nuggeteer



1 July 2020

Tonight's precious metals spot prices at 3.00 PM per Troy ounce were: Gold \$1774.16, Silver \$18.14, Platinum \$831.78, Palladium \$1987.42, Rhodium \$5809.09.

A message from the Chapter President
Tim's Tidbits
Greetings Fellow Prospectors

We hope to go out as a group very soon hang in there and we
will see you guys soon.

Tim

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Joel and Cindi Swisher GPAA Profile

Joel's first prospecting adventure was in 1990. He was invited on a "gold hunting" day by two folks at work. That Saturday, they went to a BLM site near Bisbee AZ. His partners (Luis and Bill) found a creek bed where they wanted to dig. They lined the back of their pickup truck with a tarp. Since there was no water there, they would have to travel into the Huachuca Mountains (40 minutes away) after the dig. The group proceeded to dig to bedrock. Shoveling the dirt into the pickup. They followed the low spot down stream. They even used a dust pan to get the fine dirt.

After about six hours, they were off to a stream full of water in the Huachuca Mountains. Luis Morales (the leader) set up his sluice and they proceeded to unload the dirt from the pickup. Once they finished emptying the truck, Luis pulled the sluice out of the stream and examined the riffles. He picked up a piece of gold and passed it around. Yes, they had found a "picker". Luis said he would take the sluice home and process it.

The following Monday, Luis brought a vial to work. It had more gold in it. The others gave Luis the picker, he wanted to make a necklace for his wife. Joel's split of that HUGE haul was 0.142 grams. Joel really did not know what that meant, but he had gold.

A side note, Luis also got Joel started in metal detecting. He and Luis took a business trip to Hawaii for a week and they spent their time off and early mornings on the beach.

Unfortunately, being in the military, Joel soon moved and gold fever was forgotten until Joel and Luis reconnected via email in April 2015 and discussed gold panning and metal detecting. Luis sent him a link to the show *Detectorist*. Cindi and Joel watch several episodes.

In August 2015, in one of her on-line forums, Cindi was invited to come with a group to their private gold claim in New Mexico. In October 2015, Joel and Cindi made the trip and joined the group of five others to work the gold claim. They worked 4 days (one was a bust), but the other days they found about 0.5 ounces per day. Needless to say, they had a blast. The picture below is the group's haul.

Cindi and Joel ended up with about 2/5 oz (13.2375 grams). Other than the one busted day, the claim owners said it was a normal week. The group moved over 10,000 pounds of earth. The group accomplished this similar to the way Joel did in Arizona. They dug the dirt and hauled it to a processing location. The owners used a custom built trommel and a blue bowl. They also had an interesting processing set up designed for the clay in the area.

The owners were very open on their mining techniques and panning expertise. They told Joel to practice by cutting a lead fishing weight into fourths. Painting the weights with red nail polish. Grab some dirt from his back yard. Throw in the red weights, and pan. If the weights aren't in the pan at the end, then Joel wasn't doing it properly. This helped Joel refine his panning technique.



During the New Mexico trip, the owners talked to Joel and Cindi about the Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA) and the benefits of being members. So later in October 2015, Joel and Cindi joined.

In June 2016, Joel and Cindi attended the Denver Gold Show and toured the exhibits. They went to several classes and joined Lost Dutchman's Mining Association (LDMA).

In July 2016, Cindi and Joel travelled to Oklahoma. They prospected in a river. Much different from AZ and New Mexico which were both dry, so prospectors either had to haul water or haul the dirt. In river prospecting, Joel and Cindi were wet most of the day.

Labor Day Weekend 2016, they attended our first Colorado Springs Chapter Outing. This was a joint outing with the Wichita GPAA Chapter. The outing was at the Derry Ranch Placer. It is a private, pay-to-dig site, on Lake Creek, north of Granite, CO (19 miles north of Buena Vista, CO). Cindi and Joel tried out their new Sidewinder Sluice.

In October 2016, they attended their first LDMA outing in Stanton, AZ. The LDMA digs feature 3 days of common operations, nightly "get togethers", and seminars (to help in folk's prospecting adventures). During this event, Cindi and Joel learn how to use both dry washers and sluices. They definitely learned, if there is water, do not use a dry washer unless you love being covered from head to toes in dust. Joel and Cindi's split from the common operations was 4.19 grams. Though, Joel did win a 4.6 gram picker in a raffle.

Joel and Cindi are still learning techniques and systems: picking dig locations, sluicing, high banking, final processing and smelting. U-tube, GPAA articles and speakers help increase their knowledge.

July 1st, 2020 COSGPAA Chapter Update

The July 1st, 2020, monthly meeting was cancelled because of the COVID 19 Pandemic. Our meeting room in the Salvation Army building in security has not been available to us since March. While the room was available for the July meeting, the capacity was limited to less than 10 people because of social distancing. Our next scheduled meeting will be August 5th; however, with Gov Polis extension of the State Emergency Declaration and the rise of COVID infections, we may again have to cancel our general membership meeting. Please watch you e-mail and our website for updates. The GPOC meeting for Wednesday, July 8th, is a go.

While we have not held general membership meetings, your Chapter Board of Directors has been meeting by phone and e-mail. On June 20th, we met with members of the Golden, CO, GPAA Chapter and the owner of the Capital Prize mine in Georgetown, CO. The business owns some 90 properties of patented hard rock and placer claims. We toured the Capital Prize mine and discussed the potential for access to the mine and various placer claims for future Chapter outings. The hard rock outing we are working on will allow us to work in an active section of the mine, mucking and sluicing debris from 100 years of tunnel activity. This will not be an outing for the faint at heart and will be limited to 10 people at a time per day. We expect to have both placer and hard rock outings available for August and into the fall months, weather permitting.

If you cannot wait to get out, the standard one-hour mine tour is open to the public and takes about an hour. For more information and a video tour, see their website: www.capitalprizegoldmine.com.

We are also working to access a private BLM placer claim in Alma, CO. Motorized equipment including high bankers and dredges would be allowed; however, participation would be limited, and access supervised by the claim owner. This would be a pay-to-dig opportunity.

One of our members reported a trip to the Arkansas Group Claims at the Railroad Bridge in Buena Vista in June. As expected, the river was high and fast. Be careful around fast-moving water especially if you are out with children. Even if you find a stream with reasonable flows, thunderstorms in the distance can result in flash floods downstream. Watch the weather!

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.

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER GPAA 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

Meeting Dates:

Future meeting dates are dependant on the COVID-19 pandemic.

August 2020

August 8 2020 Club Picnic

September 2 2020

October 7 2020

November 4 2020

December 2 2020

December 5 2020 "Christmas Party"

**"You will face many defeats in life, but never let
yourself be defeated."**

Maya Angelou

News and Updates

Categories: GPAA STATE SPOTLIGHTS, FROM THE GOLD PROSPECTORS MAGAZINE, FROM THE PICK & SHOVEL GAZETTE

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

7 Questions with State Director Benjamin Crain

Colorado State Director Ben Crain gives us his rundown on prospecting in the Centennial State
by BENJAMIN CRAIN



1. Where can GPAA members prospect in Colorado?

There are a few GPAA and LDMA claims scattered through the entire state, the online mining guide is the best resource to look them up. You can also use websites to locate claims in the area you are interested in and just call the owner and ask if they would mind if you came in and dig, sluice, or dredge, many will say absolutely and join you but others may want to keep a particular claim private. There are four claims on the Delores, one in Silverton, and we are about to open three new ones near Placerville. There are also ones near Cripple Creek.

2. Are there any public places to prospect and treasure hunt?

The entire state is rich with prospecting opportunities to do both. BLM and the Forestry department have a form they will ask you to fill out free of charge just to let them know when and what you will be doing. You can camp on BLM campground sites for 14 days free of charge and they are well maintained with bathroom services. There are two very rich claims on the San Miguel River that come to mind with fantastic camp sites nearby. There is a public claim just upstream from the Pinion Bridge that has produced large quantities of gold and there is another just upstream from the Norwood Bridge that is a natural drop zone for gold. I recommend before you plan a trip always to call the local BLM office and verify the site is still open, this changes from time to time.

3. Are there any relevant places of interest?

The Black Canyon, the Colorado National Monument, Rifle Falls, Creed, Telluride, Ouray Hot Springs (clothing optional), Red Mountain Pass to say a few. The entire state is full of beautiful areas and the old mining town of Central City is a must see for all, especially if you are a prospector. Estes Park is a tourist town and a nice place to visit prior to going the Colorado National Park as well.

4. Recommended tools and techniques?

This all depends on the claim you are working and the area you are in. Pry bars are nice to move rocks in the river, and I am talking the really big ones. Buckets, classifiers, shovels, pics, dredges, river sluices, and suction tubes for working cracks in bedrock. Every BLM office and claim area has different restrictions so you need to contact them or the owner of the private claim to see what is allowed.

5. Any rules and regulation prospectors should be aware of?

Always stay two feet from the high water line on the river when dredging, never undercut a bank, make sure you fill in your holes, make sure you do not cross onto private property, and never dig into the side of a bank of the river. The BLM allows removal of up to 60lbs of material per day so if you have a rock hound wife like myself make sure you bring a extra bucket.

6. What else should prospectors know before prospecting in Colorado?

Makes sure you are not crossing onto a private claim by accident and always call the local BLM office. Colorado has a lot of Rattlesnakes, the Prairie Rattlesnake, the Western Midget Faded Rattlesnake, and the Massasauga Rattlesnake. I am originally from Texas and been around poisonous snakes my entire life and found if you just give them distance they will leave you alone, but that is not true of the Colorado Rattlesnakes which I was recently bitten myself. In the morning and at dusk is the most dangerous time to use a trail, in the morning they go to the trails to warm up and in the evening they are on the trails to hunt for food, but midday they move under the rocks for shade. I would recommend snake gators for any canyon trails that heat up during the day, even above 9000ft.

7. Must see places for anybody visiting Colorado?

From the front range to the Utah border the entire state is a must see. There are so many places of beauty it just knowing what you want to see to determine where you go. When I married my wife I took her out West to meet my father and her from being a Cajun Coon Ass she had never seen the mountains and was absolutely mesmerized and got bit by the mountains. We moved from Texas to the Western Slope where the people are hard working miners, ranchers, and farmers. We carry our guns openly, people are polite, it's not overcrowded, and we just love it here, each day you see something new plus having deer, elk, bears, badgers, and mountain lions all come through your yard on a regular basis is incredible.

Final Word:

Enjoy the beauty of the state and don't abuse it. Make sure you are not breaking the law because it gives prospectors a bad name and we would like to continue our prospecting. If you pack it in make sure you pack it out, and most of all have fun. Keep a companion near by always because it is easy to get seriously injured or killed in the mountains, and in a great deal of locations there is no cell phone service.



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Lets support our local prospecting business.

**"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in
rising every time we fall."
Nelson Mandela**

OUTING INFORMATION

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic restrictions in Colorado, there are no Chapter Outings or Events being scheduled until further notice.

GPOC will host the Colorado Gold Panning Championships at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry August 7, 8 & 9, 2020. This was originally scheduled for June in Breckenridge, but was cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions.



**"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."
Babe Ruth**