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The Nuggeteer



3 June 2020

Tonight's precious metals spot prices per Troy ounce were:
Gold \$1710.79, Silver \$17.72, Platinum \$844.52, Palladium
\$2013.75, Rhodium \$7800.00.

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

Hang in there we will be soon finding gold again hope all is
well and healthy.

Tim

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June 3rd, 2020 COSGPAA Chapter Update

The June 3rd, 2020, monthly meeting was cancelled because of the COVID 19 Pandemic, in compliance with Colorado Executive Order D 2020-091, Safer At Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors, signed June 1, 2020; and the subsequently published Colorado Fifth Amended Public Health Order 20-28, signed June 2, 2020.

Quoting from the Public Health Order (PHO): "As of June 1st, there are 26,577 known cases of COVID-19 in Colorado, 4,372 Coloradans have been hospitalized and 1,185 Coloradans have died from COVID-19." To our knowledge, none of our members have contracted the virus; and we, as the Chapter Board of Directors, will not schedule meetings or outings that put our membership at risk.

Our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020. We will confirm, re-schedule or cancel the week prior based on current public health guidance. Prior to June 3rd, we were not permitted to assemble in a group exceeding 10 people and our current meeting location at the Salvation Army Building in Security, CO, was closed. While the newly released public health order allows for the resumption of religious services, with restrictions, it does not specifically allow the use of church facilities for outside groups. We are waiting for the Salvation Army to provide guidelines on the re-opening of their facilities, which have been closed since March.

We do not have any outings currently scheduled as the rules in effect prior to June 1st, restricted travel for recreation to your county of residence and to within 10 miles of your home, and to groups of no more than 10. The current state guidance relaxes those restrictions. Individual and group outdoor and sports activities, access to parks, playgrounds and camping are now allowed with restrictions and social distancing requirements. If we travel outside of our county of residence, we must follow the restrictions of the jurisdictions we enter and follow the additional restrictions of any venue we visit. Appendix K to PHO 20-28 provides the state requirements for outdoor recreation. Here is an extract of the rules we would need to follow for a prospecting outing:

1. Maintain 6' distance between participants. (family members and persons residing together excluded)
2. Limit the number of people inside a facility to no more than 10 at one time. (Mine or facility tour)
3. Teams participating in organized recreation against one another, and as a result, experiencing greater contact, should still observe the limit of 25 players, excluding coaches. (OK, we can have an outing with 25 people if we compete against each other to see who gets the most Gold)
4. A limit on vehicle occupancy (bus and van tours)
5. Conduct staging operations such as customer check-ins and end-of-trip operations outdoors with 6' spacing.
6. Wear face coverings at staging and when in groups.
7. People who are sick (COVID symptoms) or recently exposed may not participate and should quarantine as appropriate.
8. No sharing food or drink. (Darn, no cookouts)
9. Sanitize common surfaces and equipment between use. (With this and 6' distancing, common operations would not be feasible)

Continued on next page.

3 June, 2020 COSGPAA Chapter Update, continued

While these new rules give hope for group outings, we must check with the counties to see if they also relax their restrictions and check with the mining venues to see if they will be opening and what rules they will enact. We will publicize any outing with at least two weeks advance notice.

Many of our members prospect as individuals or families and we certainly encourage them to do so whenever possible. For those who do, please call, or send us a message, text, or email and tell us about your trip and we can put a summary in the next newsletter. Include pictures. If you have a recommendation to share, we can send a notice to the membership at any time. If you are planning any individual or family recreation, please check the new state guidelines at www.covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/recreation. Here are the basics from that site:

- Continue to physically distance, staying at least 6 feet from members of other households .
- Stay home other than getting tested if you are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Avoid recreating in public spaces if anyone in your household is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Encouraged to wear a mask while recreating.
- Bring hand sanitizer to clean hands when soap and water is not available.

For our members and guests who also attend meetings of the **Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC)**, held the second Wednesday of each month, they have also **cancelled their June 10th meeting**.

Last month, the Western Museum of Mining and Industry held free tours and hayrides and they ran their stamp mill and other large equipment. We would like to hear if anyone attended; and if so, what did you think? Please send comments and pictures to our Nuggeteer Editor, Del Cox.

Winners from the 3 June 2020 meeting:

Since we did not have a meeting this month we did not have the drawing so there was no winners.
Such a sad thing about the Corona Virus.

**"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."
Aristotle**

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.

July 1 2020

August 2020

August 8 2020 Club Picnic

September 2 2020

October 7 2020

November 4 2020

December 2 2020

December 5 2020 "Christmas Party"

**"Whoever is happy will make others happy too." -
Anne Frank**

June Member Profile:

Alton Oakes, Treasurer, Claims Committee Chairman, Outing Coordinator

My wife and I and our three daughters moved to Colorado Springs in 1982, all expenses paid, courtesy of the US Army. While stationed at Ft Carson, I attended night classes at Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC) to learn the HVAC/R trade. I retired from the Army in 1985, and the following day I began my new career in HVAC/R. In this career, I held mechanical contractor licenses in El Paso, Pueblo and Teller Counties for 16 years; worked for the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department as a mechanical inspector for five years; earned a Colorado Adjunct Instructor's Certification while teaching night classes at PPCC over 20 years; and taught trade classes throughout the state for professional development and technical certifications for various trade organizations, equipment suppliers and state agencies. I guess I officially retired after teaching my last class in June 2018. So that is how I earned a living. Since arriving in Colorado in 1985, my wife has also retired, our children are grown, married and have their own families. We have eight grandkids and 9 great grandkids. They all live in town, so the house is full on the holidays.

I became interested in Gold prospecting while watching George "Buzzard" Massie on the Gold Fever TV shows in the 1990's. It must have been a sub-liminal indoctrination rather than gold-fever, as I usually fell asleep during the show. I joined the GPAA around then and got my first pan, mining guide and VHS instruction tape. My first trips were good exercise, but not productive. Without a local GPAA chapter, I joined the Gold Prospectors' of Colorado (GPOC) in 1999. Through their meetings and events, I learned the difference between gold and mica and developed panning skills. I don't recall where I found my first Gold. It may have been at Cache Creek or the public area in Fairplay. In 2006, I joined LDMA, which includes a lifetime GPAA membership and access to additional claims with hosted campgrounds. Although our Colorado Springs GPAA Chapter was founded in 2006, I didn't know they existed until I attended my first meeting in 2008. By that time, I had the fever. In 2009, we had a joint outing with the Grand Junction Chapter at one of their claims on the Dolores River south of Gateway. It was a great time, and everyone came home with some Gold. They were planning to open additional claims on the river and invited our chapter to participate. At our next chapter meeting, I was elected as our Chapter Claims Chairman to coordinate the claims application through BLM; and appointed Assistant Treasurer so that I could handle the finances through our club bank account. The Outing Coordinator position just went along with the job. When our previous Treasurer moved to California in 2015, I was elected as her replacement. I have collected an assortment of equipment over the years. I have a high banker – dredge combo and it works well in either mode. However, my floating dredge is the most fun to use. While I was at the LDMA claim in Arizona, I bought a gas-powered vacuum for crevicing. It works wet or dry. During that same trip, the LDMA camp held a nighttime metal detector hunt. They had roped off a rectangular area and planted metal targets. We were led to the area by flashlight, positioned around the perimeter, and then released at once with all lights out. Prizes were awarded based on the number and size of the targets each person found. It was an overcast night and pitch black. Contestants walked into each other, hit one another while swinging their detectors, and fell over unseen obstacles. Getting a location with the detector was basic; however, then you had to find the target with your fingers and pick it up. It might have been more fun if the search area had less cactus. Ouch! To work the dry areas of Cache Creek, Lake Creek and Gateway, I ordered a dry washer. The one I selected could be used with a hand crank or with an optional 12v motor. I thought the hand crank would be a good choice as it could be used where motors were prohibited. After using the hand crank for 15 minutes, the dry washer was carried back to the truck. I ordered the 12v motorized adapter as soon as I got home. If there is any option to use water, leave the dry washer at home. When I go on an outing, I try to run as much dirt as possible and save the concentrates to process at home. While under the "Safe at Home" restrictions, I have started to go through my cons. The next bucket in line is labelled "Memorial Day 2012 Arkansas River dredge AM".

10 Essential Mercury Facts

1. The Food and Drug Administration writes that its dietary mercury guidelines were “established to limit consumers’ methyl mercury exposure to levels 10 times lower than the lowest levels associated with adverse effects.” Americans who consume twice as much mercury as the FDA recommends are still protected by a 500-percent cushion. The same generous safety margin applies to the Environmental Protection Agency’s mercury “Reference Dose.” And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that zero percent of American children exceed the EPA’s hyper-cautionary guideline.

2. The U.S. government’s Institute of Medicine (a division of the National Academies of Science) warned in a major 2006 report that a “spillover effect” from one size fits all fish warnings could deny most consumers the health benefits of seafood consumption. This report demonstrates a severe disagreement between serious scientists and activists who demand “warning” signs (aimed at all consumers) on grocery-store fish counters.

3. There are no scientifically documented cases of Americans developing mercury poisoning from eating commercially available fish. The only documented cases in the medical literature are from Japan in the 1950s and 1960s, following a massive industrial spill of mercury into fishing waters. Mercury levels today (in both fish and people) are nowhere near the levels measured during this tragic episode.

4. The federal government’s mercury in fish recommendations are based largely on a single study whose participants were exposed to mercury by eating whale meat not fish. The study was conducted in Denmark’s Faroe Islands. Unlike fish, whale meat is contaminated with a variety of pollutants, so isolating mercury’s effects is practically impossible. In 2004 the lead Faroe researcher acknowledged in *The Boston Herald* that “fish consumption does not harm Faroese children ... the fish consumption most likely is beneficial to their health.”

5. A twelve year study conducted in the Seychelles Islands (in the Indian Ocean) recently found no negative health effects from exposure to mercury through heavy fish consumption. On average, people in the Seychelles eat between 12 and 14 fish meals every week, and the mercury levels measured in the island natives are higher than those measured in the United States. But they suffered no ill effects from mercury in fish, and they received a significant health benefit from eating fish in the first place.

6. In February 2007, *The Lancet* (the United Kingdom’s most prestigious medical journal) published U.S. government funded research demonstrating a clear health benefit to children whose mothers ate large amounts of fish while pregnant:

A. Researchers wrote that they could find “no evidence to lend support to the warnings of the U.S. advisory that pregnant women should limit their seafood consumption.” Of the more than 9,000 pregnant women in this study, those who ate the most fish regardless of mercury levels had children with the highest IQ’s.

B. Studies published in 2005 in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that even eating small amounts of fish each week can result in a 17 percent lower risk of heart disease, a 12 percent lower risk of stroke, and (when eaten by pregnant women) a modest increase in children's IQ. The Omega 3 fats found in fish can also protect against Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, breast and prostate cancer, and many other conditions

C. Researchers at Harvard University concluded that the health benefits of fish "greatly out weigh the risks," including those from trace amounts of mercury. Their study was published in JAMA (the Journal of the American Medical Association) in October 2006.

9. Over forty years of scientific research has established that selenium, a plentiful nutrient in fish, can effectively neutralize the toxicity of trace amounts of mercury in seafood. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 16 of the 25 best sources of dietary selenium are ocean fish.

10. There's solid scientific evidence that the amount of mercury in fish has remained the same (or even decreased) during the past century. Researchers from Princeton University, Duke University, and the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum have all compared specimens of ocean fish preserved between 25 and 120 years ago with current samples of the same species. In these studies, mercury levels in the fish stayed the same or declined.

MercuryFacts.org is a project of the nonprofit Center for Consumer Freedom. Write us at info@ConsumerFreedom.com or call 202.463.7112 to request an interview.
www.consumerfreedom.com



Dredging is good for removing lead and mercury from our water ways.

Photo from Public Land for the People Org



**Sunny Mountain Prospectors LLC
3007 North El Paso Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907
(719)722-3998
<https://sunnymountain.net>**

I just talked to David from the Sunny Mountain Prospectors and the business is now open for walk in customers.

So lets support our local prospecting business.

**"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else."
Margaret Mead**

OUTING INFORMATION

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



**"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's
the life in your years."
Abraham Lincoln**