

# CSMS General Assembly Thursday, Sept 17 2020, 7:00 PM Mt. Carmel Veterans Center <u>CANCELED</u>

Please note: Members whose names begin with A-L are responsible for refreshments in Sept

In case of inclement weather please call Mt. Carmel Veteran's Service Center 719-309-4714

## Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Founded in 1936 Lazard Cahn Honorary President Sept 2020 "Pick & Pack" Vol 60 Number 7

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COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY PO BOX 2 COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80901-0002

# **Upcoming CSMS Events**

## ALL CSMS activities are CANCELED until further notice

General Assembly Meeting CANCELED	Sept '20
Pebble Pup Meeting CANCELED	Sept '20
Crystal Club Meeting CANCELED	Sept '20
Board Meeting CANCELED	Sept '20
Fossil Club Meeting CANCELED	Sept '20
Faceting Club Meeting CANCELED	Sept '20

# **CSMS** Calendar

Sept '20	Oct '20						
09/01/20	10/06/20	Fossil Group	1st Tues	7:00 PM	Pikes Peak United Methodist Church	Jerry Suchan	303-648-3410
09/03/20	10/01/20	Board Meeting	1st Thur	7:00 PM	Pikes Peak United Methodist Church	John Massie	719-338-4276
09/17/20	10/15/20	See session online	3rd Thur	5:30 PM	Mt. Carmel Center	Steve Veatch	719-213-1475
09/17/20	10/15/20	General Assy Meeting	3rd Thur	7:00 PM	Mt. Carmel Center	John Massie	719-338-4276
09/24/20	10/22/20	Crystal Group	4th Thur	7:00 PM	Mt. Carmel Center	Kevin Witte	719-638-7919
09/24/20	10/22/20	Faceting Group	4th Thur	7:00 PM	Berta's House	John Massie	719-338-4276
by appt	by appt	Lapidary Group	by appt	by appt	Sharon's House	Sharon Holte	719-217-5683

For more information on any of the sub-groups, meetings or other valuable CSMS information, go to our website: <a href="https://www.csms1936.com">www.csms1936.com</a>

# Upcoming Community Events (Submitted by Pete Modreski)

**SUSPENDED** Van Tuyl Lecture Series, Colorado School of Mines, Iron Ores in North America – Past Importance, Future Promise, by Dr. Phil Brown, Univ. of Wisconsin. Berthoud Hall Room 241, CSM cam-pus, Golden. All are welcome. See https://geology.mines.edu/eventscalendar/lectures/ for the upcoming schedule. [Note:] *Lecture series suspended until further notice* 

**10 Sept 2020:** Rise of the Mammals: Exceptional Continental Record of Biotic Recovery after the Cretaceous– Paleogene Mass Extinction (about the Corral Bluffs fossil mammal discoveries), by Ian Miller and Tyler Lyson, Denver Museum of Nature and Science; ONLINE ONLY. Visit https://coloscisoc.org/ for further details and link to the Zoom meeting. **This event is on.** 

**POSTPONED** Symposium on Water and Energy in Colorado, to be held in Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Cosponsored by the Colorado Scientific Society, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Center for the American West, and others. Details forthcoming. [Note:] was scheduled for Sat, May 16, 2020, now postponed until TBD date.

**UNKNOWN Sun, May 17, noon (ish):** for the monthly FSS (Florissant Scientific Society) meeting, Christine Siddoway (Colorado College) will give a talk on the Tava Sandstone (the geologically famous "sandstone injectite dikes of the Pikes Peak region") followed by a short field trip. Osborne Center, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. All are welcome to attend; contact Beth Simmons, cloverknoll@comcast.net, for details or to be put on the FSS mailing list.

#### Adult CSMS Rock Hound of the Year

CSMS is in the process of selecting an Adult Rock Hound of the Year. Since there is no deadline, this will be handled at the (TBD) general assembly meeting.

# - End of Event Section -

## Bye, Bye Dick's Rock Shop: Thanks For The Memories

Mike Nelson csrockguy@yahoo.com

There are many items that are disappearing from the U.S. society. Some are downright gone such as transistor radios and Sear's Christmas catalogs while others are on a steep slippery slope—such as Windows 7©. No one misses the radios while large masses moan about losing Windows 7©, missing out on versions of Windows 8©, and are now being pushed screaming into Windows 10©. However, rockhounds, tourists, school children and a variety of others are tearing up about losing "mom and pop" local rock and mineral stores—they are fast going by the way of teepee-themed traveler's lodges.



A fancy portable transistor radio with leather case (hidden). Most of my radios were AM only. *Photo: EBAY* 

In my numerous decades of traveling around the country I had a tough time passing up rock and mineral stores, especially if they had added highway attractions like a petrified lizard or something. I always pestered my father to stop at the stores while visiting Colorado or whizzing down U.S. 66 and I actually have a few minerals purchased in the 1950s. At any rate, rock and mineral stores were, at one time, numerous attractions along tourist highways and byways. I miss them.

In 2006, after moving to Colorado Springs, I was pleased to locate two "old timey" stores, Ackley's, and Dick's; both had started in the 1970s. I spent a good many hours down at nearby Ackley's since the owner, Mr. Ackley, was an interesting person and always had an answer to my questions. His major passion, however, was stamps and I enjoyed looking at his collection. Ackley's closed a few years ago and now Dick's Rock Shop down in south Colorado Springs in Fountain has pulled the blinds. Diana Wing, the proprietor of Dick's, told me this was their 42<sup>nd</sup> year in business but the Covid 19 pandemic was just too much of a loss to handle. In addition, like me she is in the high risk category and does not want to take a chance of contacting the virus. So, Diana liquidated the inventory and allowed CSMS members free access to the outside rock piles. I was down for visits a couple of times and picked up some interesting items for my collection.



Dick's Rock Shop in Fountain CO. Photo: M. Nelson

Now, do not misunderstand me--there are still

plenty of places to purchase minerals. The internet is full of "minerals for sale" and there is always EBAY. However, it is pretty much buyer beware at some of these web sites. There are some very reputable online dealers that have a sterling reputation. Dakota Matrix up in Rapid City, South Dakota, was one of the first dealers to establish an online presence. Shannon Family Minerals in Arizona has an amazing online inventory. Check out the advertisements in a professional magazine like Rock & Gem to locate reputable dealers and learn if these dealers sell online or have brick and mortar sales. And, then there are always the shows (except this year), big and small, that offer just about everything. There are still a variety of store front dealers; however, some handle more exquisite minerals and cater to more discerning collectors. The Denver area has Dave Bunk and Brian Lee with the latter selling museum-worthy specimens in 5 figures. Locally, Canon City has the Gold Mine Rock Shop west of town, Nathrop has the Rock Doc, and the Rock Hut is in downtown Leadville-all have nice reasonably priced selections. What I miss is driving down a country two lane highway and suddenly there is a shop selling minerals, turquoise (always in the west), and trinkets, with a petrified dinosaur for the kids to see. These are the small time, mom and pop stores where selling rocks and minerals is a labor of love and the front yard of the store is filled with large piles of rose quartz, obsidian, etc. priced per pound with a warning sign that these minerals are sharp and will cut your pinky. I love those many stores in the Custer-Hill City-Keystone section of the Black Hills in South Dakota.

So, what nifty specimens did I pick up down at

Dick's? Atacamite is a fairly rare copper++ chloride hydroxide [Cu<sub>2</sub>Cl(OH)<sub>2</sub>] mineral collected from a few localities in southern Australia, and coastal Chile in the Atacama Desert. Atacamite is secondary mineral oxidized from other copper minerals and in Chile formed in an arid and saline condition.



These 2-4 mm crystals show the green color of Atacamite; however, the vitreous luster of the crystals confuses my digital camera and does not allow good photomicrographs. *Photo: M. Nelson* 

However, atacamite is also known to form as a sulfide weathering product around subsea black-smokers, volcanic sublimates associated with fumarole deposits, and interestingly, crystals have been located as alteration products on very old copper and bronze (alloy: copper plus tin or arsenic) human artifacts.

The chisel-end crystals of atacamite vary in color between a very dark, blackish green and a light, bright green. The mineral is soft (3.0-3.5 Mohs) and brittle with a vitreous luster. The transparency varies between translucent (in the dark green variety) and transparent (light green specimens). Collector crystals are slender, prismatic, and striated, and/or tabular (others are massive or fibrous). MinDat noted that atacamite may alter to malachite or chrysocolla.



Above: Very dark green Atacamite crystals from Copiapo, Chile. Width of specimen ~4.1 cm. *Photo: M. Nelson* 



Above: A bundle of olive green Libethenite [Cu<sub>2</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>) (OH)], a copper phosphate often associated with atacamite. Bundle about 2 mm in width/length. *Photo: M. Nelson* 

So, I already had a specimen of atacamite at home and I really did not need another specimen; however, the price was right, and the crystals are beautiful. Home it came. Besides, atacamite is interesting as a member of the Halide Group where one of the halogens, something like bromine, iodine, chlorine, or fluorine are the major anions. These anions (negative charge) combine with cations (positive charge) like sodium (NaCl, halite or salt), calcium (CaF, fluorite), potassium (KCl, sylvite), or copper with a hydroxyl radical thrown in (atacamite).

I am not much of a geode collector but could not resist a silver dollar size, mostly solid, specimen labeled Sonora Alondra Geode, Sonora, Mexico. Now, I know where Sonora is located, but "Alondra? No idea. The reason for the purchase is in examining the small hollow center I noted three different sizes of quartz crystals: a tiny druse covering the sides, an intermediate, non-gemmy size, and then



Above: Crystal clear, gemmy, purple-tinted quartz enclosed in a druse-lined vug in a Sonoran geode. Note the reverse scepter quartz crystal (top). Width of photomicrograph ~1.1 cm. *Photo: M. Nelson* 

larger, water clear, gemmy, crystals. The latter were even more clear than Herkimer Diamonds. And, there were some complex habits in the crystals, and one gem was double terminated. There is a strong hint of amethyst color in the clear crystals. I could not pass it up for a buck and a quarter. As for the location? Somewhere in Sonora! I have seen similar geodes advertised on web sites with the water clear quartz; however, not much locality information was released. I am certain that collectors of Mexican geodes know exactly where this geode was collected.

Most specimens of mimetite in my collection have a botryoidal or spherical habit. However, at the rock shop I picked up an absolutely beautiful group of golden orange, transparent, prismatic mimetite crystals with pyramidal terminations.



Above: Prismatic crystals of mimetite each ~ 1mm in length. Photo: M. Nelson

Mimetite is a lead chloroarsenate [Pb<sub>5</sub>(AsO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Cl], a secondary mineral that usually forms by the oxidation of galena [PbS]. The specimen came from the famous Santa Eulalia Mining District in central Chihuahua, Mexico. The District is part of a large Carbonate Replacement Deposit that includes many of Mexico's famous polymetallic mines.



Above: Prismatic crystals of mimetite each ~ 1mm in length. *Photo: M. Nelson* 

The Summitville Mine in the San Juan Mountains of Rio Grande County, Colorado, has received much attention during the last three decades, not for its minerals and ore, but for the environmental damage caused by acid water drainage. Rocks containing the coppergold-silver ore at the mine are hosted by the 22 Ma. South Mountain Volcanic Dome that is mostly composed of a quartz-rich latite (an extrusive volcanic rock) with feldspar (orthoclase?) phenocrysts. Additional magma underneath the dome later released gases rich in sulfur dioxide that migrated along fractures toward the surface, condensed into a sulfuric acid liquid, and leached much of the country rock. Left behind was a vuggy silica progressing outward into various other zones. Hydrothermal solutions arrived latter with various metallic minerals.

Placer gold was discovered, perhaps by 1860, in the San Juan Mountains while lode gold was found at Summitville in 1873 and the race was on to establish claims. Mining continued off and on at Summitville until about 1959 with production of ~258 ka troy ounces of gold. In 1984 an open pit mine was constructed and a large heap leaching operation using cyanide commenced with production until 1992 of ~295 ka ounces of gold. But then the mining company closed the mine, declared they were insolvent, and left the mess to the U.S. government. Taxpayers then spent over 150 million dollars of Superfund money cleaning up the site. In the meantime, water had leaked from faulty heap leaching pads and the company left with leaking retention ponds. All of this very acidic water ended up in the Alamosa River draining into the San Luis Basin.

A specimen brought home from Dick's was collected from Summitville and is some sort of an extrusive volcanic rock that I presume is from the vuggy quartz zone, the alteration product of quartz latite; however, I am far out of my comfort zone here. What is interesting about the rock is the mass of terminated quartz crystals that are arranged in a jackstraw fashion—sticking out in every which direction. OK, but then the nifty secondary mineral inserted on open spaces between the tiny quartz crystals is composed of spheres of what appear to be tabular plates. But there



Above and below: Jackstraw arrangement of terminated quartz crystals with light tan spheres of alunite. The dark mineral is perhaps covellite, a copper sulfate. The quartz crystals are around 1 mm in length. *Photos: M. Nelson* 



are also "worm" arrangements of the tabular plates that are fascinating. I know that "worm" is not a crystal habit, but that is the shape of these tabs. My best guess for this secondary mineral is alunite [KAl<sub>3</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>], formed by acidic solutions (probably created by pyrite or acid sulfate solutions) altering orthoclase feldspar. Alunite is tough to identify if it does not appear as translucent to transparent, soft (~3.5 Mohs), white to various shades of gray to cream, pearly small crystals (usually rhombohedral to pseudo-cubic).



Above and below: Note the "wormy" habit of masses of tabular alunite crystals. *Photos: M. Nelson* 



Even then a rockhound needs to examine the environment and surrounding rocks. It becomes more difficult if the alunite habit is fibrous, massive, or tabular. The best I can tell is that the "wormy" masses are stacks of tabular crystals. MinDat lists alunite as occurring at Summitville but does not provide photographs. Patton (1917) described submillimeter tabular crystals of alunite intimately associated with quartz. Eckel and others (1997) noted that massive alunite is widespread in Colorado and often occurs in enormous quantities. They also pointed out that sodium may replace the aluminum and if that replacement exceeds 50% the mineral becomes natroalunite; both varieties are present at Summitville.

Finally, I picked up an ore specimen from the Black Cloud Mine at Leadville. I really did not need the specimen; however, the price was right, and it was attractive with galena, dolomite, sphalerite, quartz, pyrite, and chalcopyrite.



Above: Sphalerite and dolomite. The dolomite is covered by a tiny quartz druse best seen on the center rhomb. *Photo: M. Nelson* 



Above: Dolomite and sphalerite. Rhombs are ~ 1mm in width/ length. *Photo: M. Nelson* 

The Back Cloud was located about 10 miles east of Leadville near Mt. Sherman at a high elevation (11,499 ft) and was the last working



Above: Pyrite crystal. Dull gray mineral is galena. *Photo: M. Nelson* 



Above: Chalcopyrite. Photo: M. Nelson



Above: Galena (gray), sphalerite (black), and dolomite. *Photo: M. Nelson* 

polymetallic mine in the Leadville District but closing in 1999 after a 31-year run. The Leadville District is located in the Colorado Mineral Belt where mineralization in Paleozoic carbonates (dolomite at the Black Cloud) came from solutions associated with Tertiary intrusions. Lead and zinc were the primary minerals of interest at Black Cloud; however, copper, gold and silver were also in production.

So, just as the Black Cloud bit the dust and disappeared (virtually nothing left on the surface today), Dick's Rock Shop is also leaving after a long run. Dick's opened the same year as Ackley's, 42 years ago, but outlasted them by a few years. Both shops had proprietors who would spend time with visitors and answer questions. Both had the classic, old timey, glass showcases stuffed with white cardboard boxes containing a variety of minerals (often dusty) with cheap to reasonable prices. If you see Diana be certain to thank her for the memories and invite her to attend future meetings of CSMS.

# Rock and mineral stores close and are shuttered but memories last forever.

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Eckel, E. B., and others, 1997, Minerals of Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, Colorado and Friends of Mineralogy— Colorado Chapter, Denver.

Patton, H. B., 1917, Geology and ore deposits of the Platoro—Summitville mining district, Colorado: USGS Bulletin 13.



Above: View of Dave Harvey's Barite claim, Hartsel, Hartsel Mining District, Colorado, undated photo. On July 11, 2020 members of CSMS met in Hartsel, Colorado for a field trip to Dave Harvey's Barite claim. Many good samples of blue Barite were found by happy rock hounds and it was a wonderful day. *Photo: James Christopher at mindat.org* 



Above Left: Barite found by club member Randy Hurley at Dave Harvey's Barite claim, July 11, 2020. Above Right: Same Barite as above, after one day in the sun. *Photos: Randy Hurley* 



**Above Left:** Cluster of Barite found by club member Chris Burris at Dave Harvey's Barite claim, July 11, 2020. **Above Right:** A second cluster of Barite found by club member Chris Burris at Dave Harvey's Barite claim, July 11, 2020. *Photos: Chris Burris* 



Above: Rick Jackson stash from at Dave Harvey's Barite claim, July 11, 2020. *Photo: Rick Jackson* 



## Field Trip to Dorris Family Topaz Mine

Aug 1, 2020



Above: View of the Doris claim as seen from the Rocky Mountain High claims #1 & #2, May 16, 2020. Photo: Barbara Middlemist





## Rock Hounds in the Wild



CSMS rock hounds gathered at the world famous Topaz mine of the Dorris family August 1, 2020. They uncovered a

number of specimen quality Topaz including more than one being at least 100 carats. We thank the Dorris family for inviting us to experience this unique opportunity. The blue Topaz to the right is 105 carats found by Frank Rosenberg.

Photos: F. Rosenberg; Writing: F. Rosenberg





#### Pieplant: A Taylor Park Mining Camp Steven W. Veatch

The story of the Pieplant mining camp, in Taylor Park, begins with the Ute people who hunted and roamed this land of dense forests, rushing streams, and imposing mountains. During the summer of 1860, a prospector by the name of Jim Taylor was rounding up stray horses when he rode into this remote region. The area soon became known as Jim Taylor's Park, then as Taylor Park. With the discovery of gold in 1867, placer mining began to appear (Parker, 1992).

Several creeks—Texas, Illinois, Pieplant, Trail, and Italian, flow from higher elevations on the Continental Divide into the Taylor Park basin, forming the Taylor River. The Bureau of Reclamation began construction of a dam in 1935 on the Taylor River. It took two years to complete the project. Taylor Park Reservoir (figure 1) provides excellent fishing and boating opportunities.



Fig. 1: Taylor Park Reservoir is a 2000 surface acre reservoir located 29 miles northeast of Gunnison. *Photo date 7/2020 by S. Veatch.* 

The directions to Pieplant are easy: from the north end of Taylor Park Reservoir, head north

several miles on road 742. Watch for a forest road on the right-hand side. There is a sign pointing to the town/mill site. Turn right and follow this dirt road for about four miles to a clearing where several old log cabins mark the little settlement of Pieplant.

Miners built the town beside a wide meadow near Pieplant Creek, below the summit of Jenkins Mountain (13,432 feet). Both the town and creek were named for the clumps of rhubarb (pieplant) growing wild along the banks of the creek. Pieplant Creek flows southwest from Jenkins Mountain and ranges from less than one foot to seven feet across.

Prospectors worked gold placers along Pieplant Creek as early as the 1890s. These placers did not produce much gold. Miners later established the mining camp of Pieplant around the turn of the 20th century (Vandenbusche, 1980). Over forty men worked at the Pieplant mine, which was about a mile away from the settlement (Vandenbusche, 1980).

By 1903, Pieplant had 100 residents, a post office, and a stamp mill (Vandenbusche, 1980). Four-horse teams hauled ore in wagons down a steep road on Jenkins Mountain to the mill (Wolle, 1962). The mill, built by Wood's Mining and Milling Company of Kansas, handled 200 tons of ore each day from the Pieplant and other area mines (Pieplant, n.d., Eberhart, 1969). The mill was 280 feet long and 110 feet wide, and employed 50 men (Vandenbusche, 1980). Day (1906) mentions that gold bullion was shipped from Pieplant's "cyanide plant" in 1905. A newspaper article from the *Turret Gold Belt* (1905) describes some of the excitement of the mining camp:

Just a year ago (1904) the Burton brothers of Virginia sold to John Lynch of this city [Turret] and J. W. Harrison, a capitalist of St. Louis, a group of four claims known as the Clinton group and which adjoins the property of the Woods Gold Mining company at Pieplant. The consideration of the sale was \$16,000, and the claims are practically undeveloped. That the judgement of the purchasers was good has now been proven, as their tunnel a few days ago cut a lead [vein] which is fourteen feet between walls and from which highly satisfactory assays have been had. The average of the entire lead is good, and a portion of the vein carries gold and copper to the value of \$120 per ton, while picked samples run way up into the hundreds. As soon as the assay certificates were received Mr. Lynch started at once for the East, where a plan of development will be decided upon. . . . While this district is rich in minerals lack of transportation has held it back for a number of years.

According to the *Twin Lakes Miner* (1906), J.W. and M.H. Woods had driven a 1,700-foot tunnel that ran along a gold vein for 1,300 feet. The best gold values, according to the article, were ahead of the tunnel where the "ore shoot widened to 4 to 7 feet in width."

The town began to decline after 1908 as the veins thinned out and transportation costs exceeded profits from mining (Pieplant Mill, nd). Soon after 1910, Pieplant was abandoned and cows grazed there. A few of the log cabins (figures 2 and 3), the collapsed ruins of the Pieplant mine, and part of the mill building (figure 4) remain today—reminders of the early mining operations that occurred there.



**Fig. 2:** In 2006, the Forest Service and Passport in Time put a new roof on this Pieplant cabin in their preservation efforts. *Photo date 7/2020 by S. Veatch.* 



**Fig. 3:** A Pieplant miner's cabin along a meadow. The long poles supported a porch roof. *Photo date 7/2020 by S. Veatch.* 

Pieplant is located on the western flank of the Sawatch Mountains, below Jenkins Mountain. Grizzly Peak (13,281 feet) is to the east. Locally, Paleozoic sediments mask folded and faulted Precambrian rocks. The area experienced uplift, folding, and thrust faulting during the Laramide Orogeny. Sometime in the Miocene Epoch crustal movement began again, resulting in a series of faults.



**Fig. 4:** View of Pieplant mill ruins. The Pieplant mine is located about one mile north of the mill on Jenkins Mountain. *Photo date 7/2020 by S. Veatch.* 

During the Pleistocene Epoch, ice was the last major geologic agent to shape the area. Alpine glaciers moved down the mountains—carving preexisting fluvial erosional valleys into distinctive U-shapes or filling them with unsorted glacial till.

Gravity and alluvial processes concentrated native gold in local placer deposits (Parker, 1974). The gold, hosted in Quaternary alluvium, appears as wires, small flakes, and as sporadic small nuggets (Parker, 1992). Early miners in the area worked Pieplant Creek gold placers below 9,850 feet in elevation (Parker, 1992). Despite careful prospecting, the source of the placer gold has never been discovered.

However, other minerals besides gold and black sand (magnetite) are found in the area. Pan concentrates yield columbite-tantalite, the ore of tantalum (Parker, 1992). This black mineral is not magnetic and is the principal ore of tantalum (Ta), a rare metallic element discovered in 1802 by a Swedish chemist, A.G. Ekeberg. The hard, malleable blue-gray metal has several industrial uses. Monazite, a slightly radioactive mineral, shows up as blackish to greenish grains in gold pans (Parker, 1992). Monazite is the primary ore of the rare earth metals cerium and lanthanum. These metals have multiple industrial uses. Because of monazite's high density (specific gravity is 4.6 to 5.7), monazite grains, along with the gold, collected into placer deposits. Other heavy minerals that appear in pan concentrates are zircon and garnets (Parker, 1992). The sources of the heavy minerals are local granites and pegmatites (Parker, 1992).

Today Pieplant is a quiet place where a few cabins and structures remain near the edge of an open meadow. Pieplant Creek, which flows nearby, is still a good place to search for flakes of gold, especially in ravines and outwash terraces, on slopes, and in gulches.

#### References and Further Reading:

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Parker, B.H. Jr., 1992, *Gold Panning and Placering in Colorado*: Denver, CO Information Series 33. Colorado Geological Survey.

Pieplant Mill. Retrieved from <u>https://www.fs.usda.gov/</u> <u>detail/gmug/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?</u> <u>cid=stelprdb5432060/</u> on July 12, 2020.

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Wolle, M.S., 1962, Stampede to Timberline: The Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Colorado: Denver, Sage Books.

## Pebble Pups Steven Veatch

# INI

CSMS Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars

<u>NOTICE</u>: Regular Pebble Pup meetings are <u>CANCELED</u> until further notice

 Please visit our blog for special announcements and field trips: <u>http://pebblepups.blogspot.com</u> <u>http://www.csms1936.com</u>

## National Fossil Day ™



Each year, the Pebble Pups participate in the National Fossil Day by creating original artwork.

The National Park Service and National Fossil Day partners are sponsoring an art contest to celebrate the 11th annual National Fossil Day. The 2020 National Fossil Day celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2020, during Earth Science Week. The theme for this year's art contest is: "Life of the Paleozoic Oceans!" For this theme we would like contest participants to depict aquatic organisms from the Paleozoic oceans, particularly those found in the United States of America. The Paleozoic era (541 to 250 million years ago) was the earliest of the three geologic eras with diverse life, and is subdivided into six geologic periods: the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, and Permian. The 2020 National Fossil Day logo features a wide variety of sea creatures that formed and lived within a 270 million vear old Permian Reef from Glass Mountains and Guadalupe Mountains of Texas and New Mexico.

Please follow this link for more details and how to submit.

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/fossilday/art-contest-2020.htm

Also, please let me know if you are planning to participate. I will need your artwork scanned and emailed to me. We will publish it in the newsletter. Betty Merchant and I can help you with this. Just let us know. Thanks.

Steve

#### CSMS Annual Picnic Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Aug 15, 2020



CSMS President John Massie and several club members presented a check for \$500 to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry during the picnic at the museum, August 15, 2020. *Photo: F. Rosenberg* 

#### CSMS Annual Picnic Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Aug 15, 2020



## President's Corner John Massie



#### 2020 Satellite Group Chairs

Kevin Witte/ Bob Germano, Crystals John Massie/ Bertha Medina, Faceting Jerry Suchan/ Joy Price, Fossils Vacant, Jewelry Sharon Holte, Lapidary Vacant, Micro-mount Vacant, Photography Steven Veatch/ Betty Marchant, Pebble Pups

#### 2020 Liaisons

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument: Steven Veatch

Western Museum of Mining and History: Steven Veatch

## **Presidential Matters**



#### Message to Club Members

I would like to thank Adelaide Bahr for the good job she did on the new membership roster.

The not pleasant subject is people have not been filling the holes they dig while prospecting on our claim. The club has always stressed that holes will be filled when you finish for the day.

The elections for the board of directors is coming up in October. If any one is interested in helping the board by serving on the board of directors please let me know,

I am going to schedule another FIELD TRIP FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2020, to our Rocky Mountain High claims. Please let me know if you want to attend. We will all fill an old hole before we start a new one and will fill the new one before we leave. This will help keep us in good standing with the forest service.

We will meet at the Venture Super Market Parking lot in Divide, corner of highway 24 and county 51 at 9 AM.

John Massie President

#### Smoky Hawk Field Trip Joe Dorris "Smoky Hawk" claim, Aug 22, 2020



Above: Host, owner and operator of the Smoky Hawk mine, Joe Dorris. *Photo: F. Rosenberg* 



#### Trip Report Smokey Hawk August 22, 2020

Nineteen club members met at Lake George and traveled to the Smokey Hawk Mine to look for amazonite and smokey quartz. The host, Joe Dorris, explained the safety rules and what part of the claim we could dig on. Many nice samples were found.

It was interesting to watch the back hoe operate and how they use it to locate pockets of gem stones. Standing in the hole and inspecting the pocket of smokey quartz the back hoe operator found was exciting, but scary looking up at the huge bank of dirt above me.

I believe all had a good time.

John Massie CSMS President





Smoky quartz and amazonite collected by Frank Rosenberg at Smoky Hawk Mine, 22 Aug 20. *Photo: F. Rosenberg* 

Smoky quartz collected by Frank Rosenberg at Smoky Hawk Mine, 22 Aug 20. *Photo: F. Rosenberg* 

# Secretary's Spot

Lisa Cooper

#### 2020 CSMS Officers

John Massie, President Vacant, Vice-President Lisa Cooper, Secretary Ann Proctor, Treasurer Adelaide Bahr, Membership Secretary John Emery, Editor Chris Burris, Member-at-Large Renee Swanson, Member-at-Large Sharon Holte, Past President

#### 2020 CSMS Chairpersons

John Massie, Program Coordinator John Massie, Show Vol Coordinator Mike Webb, Field Trip Coordinator Steven Veatch, Science Fair Chair Frank and Ellie Rosenberg, Librarians Mark Schultz, Social Committee Chair Ann Proctor, Store Keeper Lisa Cooper, Show Chairman Lisa Cooper, Webmaster Lisa Cooper, Facebook Keeper Mike Nelson, Federation Representative Vacant, Federation Representative

Hey! We still need to nominate and elect a 2020 CSMS Adult Rockhound of the Year!

• Please refer to the November 2019 issue of the Pick & Pack, page 3. If you do not have a copy, you can access www.CSMS1936.com and go to the Newsletters. Print off a form or two and nominate your best rockhound!!

# Meeting Minutes

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

#### No minutes to present at this time

#### "Code of Ethics"



A large measure of the enjoyment of our hobby consists of collecting in the field. For that reason, the members are proud to endorse the following:

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

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#### Our Staff... John Emery—Editor

Thanks to our contributors. We encourage everyone to submit articles, photos, illustrations or observations!

Share your experiences, your new finds, or simply your enjoyment of our last field trip.

Handwrite it, type it, or email it. Format does not matter. All submissions are welcomed. The DEADLINE for items to be included in the next Pick & Pack is the **last day of the month.** 

#### To submit an item:

For hardcopy photos or articles, mail to the address below or bring them to the General Meeting. All hardcopy photos remain the property of the submitter and will be returned. Electronic photos can be submitted at resolutions above 200 dpi in ANY format.

Articles are preferred in MS Word, preferably NOT pdf, but the editor will correct font.

e-mail to the editor: physikker@gmail.com

Mail to: Pick & Pack Editor PO Box 2 Colorado Springs, CO 80901

The PICK & PACK is published ten (10) times per year (no issues in January or August). Unless otherwise marked, materials from this publication may be reprinted. Please give credit to the author and CSMS PICK & PACK.

# **Classifieds and Announcements**

#### FIELD TRIP! CSMS Rocky Mountain High claims #1 & #2

Volunteers needed to lead trips, contact CSMS President John Massie to volunteer: jsmassie1075@gmail.com

#### Sept 26: Rocky Mountain High claims #1 & #2

- Sign up with John Massie\_jsmassie1075@gmail.com
- Meet at 9 AM Saturday, Sept 26, 2020 at the Venture store parking lot in Divide, corner of highway 24 and county 51
- Everyone fills an old hole before starting a new one

#### **Instructions**

-- State social distancing requirements will be in effect in the staging areas, also on site at the claims while exploring

-- Car pooling is discouraged

-- Suggested equipment: shovel or hand shovel, rock hammer or pick, any other digging tools you have instead, bag or small bucket to store found treasure, spray bottle (water) for cleaning mysterious rocks, hat, gloves, sunscreen, camera

-- Pack a lunch and lots of water

-- 4WD not required, however a vehicle with HIGH CLEARANCE is advised. Not super high clearance like a monster truck, just take the highest clearance vehicle you have. Driving a vehicle with especially low clearance is not recommended.

Postage Here



Pick & Pack P.O. Box 2 Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0002



#### CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with these goals:

- To promote and disseminate knowledge of the earth sciences, especially as they relate to mineralogy, lapidary, and fossils.
- To encourage study, collection, and fashioning of minerals.
- To accomplish the same through social meetings, lectures, programs, displays, shows, and field trips.
- The Pick & Pack newsletter is published 10 times each year to assist and promote the above.

#### Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS):

- · Meetings are held the third (3rd) Thursday of each month, except January & August.
- 7:00 PM at Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center; 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80905
- · Visitors are always welcome.
- Individuals \$30, Family \$40, Juniors \$15, Corporate \$100.
- Find the application at the web site: <u>www.csms1936.com</u>. If you are interested in joining CSMS or would like more information, we encourage you to attend our next General Meeting or visit our web site.

#### **Meetings:**

CSMS also offers Satellite Group meetings that allow more focused attention in specific areas of our members' interests. Our current Satellite Groups consist of the following: Crystal Study Group, Faceting Group, Fossil Group, Lapidary Group, and Pebble Pups/Juniors. For details on Satellite Group meetings, check out the calendars on page 2 and the web site.

#### **Membership Benefits:**

Yearly dues include 10 issues of the *PICK & PACK*, all field trips (additional fees may be required on some field trips, and members are responsible for all transportation to and from), participation in all Satellite Groups (some groups may request additional fees to help cover resource costs), free admission to the *Western Museum of Mining & Industry* (carry your card), a year of learning and enjoyment, plus a lifetime of memories.

#### Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society is a Member of the following organizations:

- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) www.amfed.org
- Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) www.rmfms.org