



Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Founded 1936
~ Lazard Cahn ~
Honorary President
"Pick & Pack"
Volume 62 No. 7
September 2022

CSMS General Assembly

Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:00 PM
Mt. Carmel Veterans Center

Program Speaker:

Mike Nelson

"Rockin' thru Utah with a Peripatetic Geologist"

M-Z BRING SNACKS

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

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Mike Nelson: "Rockin' thru Utah with a Peripatetic Geologist"



Mike is a former University professor and administrator who enjoys outdoor activities, and writing articles for the Pick & Pack, other rock and mineral clubs, and the Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (www.rmfmts.org). He also writes, and occasionally speaks, about members of the Colorado Cavalry/Infantry who participated in the march to Glorieta Pass (1862), helped settle central Kansas (1865), and later fought at Beecher Island (1868). In CSMS he heads up the Undergraduate Research Committee as introducing students to geology research is a long-time passion. But mostly he just tries to enjoy life with frosty IPAs, travel, and collecting mundane facts and pretty rocks/minerals.

CSMS Group Calendar

Sep '22	Oct '22						
14 Sep	12 Oct	Fossil Group	2nd Wed	6:00 PM	East Library Annex	Jerry Suchan	303-648-3410
1 Sep	6 Oct	Board Meeting	1st Thur	6:00 PM	Zoom	John Massie	719-338-4276
15 Sep	20 Oct	Pebble Pups	3rd Thur	5:30 PM	Mt. Carmel Center	David St. John	719-424-9852
15 Sep	20 Oct	General Assy	3rd Thur	7:00 PM	Mt. Carmel Center	John Massie	719-338-4276
22 Sep	27 Oct	Crystal Group	4th Thur	7:00 PM	Mt. Carmel Center	Kevin Witte	719-638-7919
By appt	By appt	Faceting Group	By appt	By appt		John Massie	719-338-4276
By appt	By appt	Lapidary Group	By appt	By appt	Sharon's House	Sharon Holte	719-217-5683

CSMS Club Events

Sep 10: Field trip; Mt Antero; For questions contact: Kyle Atkinson: atkinson.kyl@gmail.com

Sep 24: Field trip; Club Claim; For questions contact: Kyle Atkinson atkinson.kyl@gmail.com

Community Events

Sep 8-11: Hardrock Summit/Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Colorado Convention Center, Denver.

Sep 9: 6-9 PM, Colorado School of Mines Museum Open House, showcasing new exhibits opening to coincide with the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. All are welcome!

Sep 9-17: Colorado Mineral & Fossil Fall Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel (near DIA).

Sep 9-18: Miners Co-op gem & mineral show, at National Western Stock Show complex (north side of I-70).

Sept 9-18: Denver Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show; National Western Complex 9-6 daily

Sep10-13: Just Minerals and Crystal Show, Summit Conference & Event Center, 411 Sable Blvd, Aurora

Sep15: Colorado Scientific Society Annual Past Presidents Dinner, "The White Sands footprints — humans in North America 23,000 years ago," by Kathleen Springer and Jeff Pigati, US Geological Survey. Dinner and presentation at the Mount Vernon Canyon Club; all are invited to make reservations and attend the dinner & program. See the website, coloscisoc.org.

Oct 20: Colorado Scientific Society, S.F. Emmons Annual Lecture, "India's Deccan Traps and the KT Boundary," by Gerta Keller, Princeton Univ. Berthoud Hall Room 241, Colorado School of Mines campus; all are welcome, no charge. Hear about the controversy as to whether it was the Chixlub asteroid impact or the massive eruption of the Deccan Plateau flood basalts, or a combination of both, that killed the dinosaurs! Likewise to above, see coloscisoc.org for details.

Nov 11-13: New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Socorro NM

Nov 18-20: Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show, Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Dec 9-11: Flatirons Gem and Mineral Show, Boulder County Fairgrounds (Double check these dates—club website still only lists 2021 show dates).



President's Corner

John Massie
CSMS President



2022 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
David St. John/ Hair/ Elick, Pebble Pups

2022 Liaisons

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument:
S.W. Veatch

Western Museum of Mining and History:
S.W. Veatch

Secretary's Spot

John McGrath

2022 CSMS Officers

John Massie, President
Rick Jackson, Vice-President
John McGrath, Secretary
Ann Proctor, Treasurer
Adelaide Bahr, Membership Secretary
John Emery, Editor
Chris Burris, Member-at-Large
William Meyers, Member-at-Large
Sharon Holte, Past President

2022 CSMS Chairpersons

Rick Jackson, Program Coordinator
John Massie, Show Vol Coordinator
Kyle Atkinson, Field Trip Coordinator
Vacant, 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 Rep
Vacant, Federation Rep



Presidential Matters



A message from CSMS President John Massie:

Looking ahead for the rest of 2022 and we have a busy three months.

We have been asked to present a program to the cub scout pack in Cheyenne Mountain in October, so we will need some volunteers. David St John is leading the event.

Elections for the board of directors will take place in November. We will need a nominating committee to present nominees during the October meeting. I have 1 volunteer I need at least two more.

We will have our usual Christmas dinner in December.

John Massie
CSMS President

CSMS General Assembly Minutes

No meeting minutes to report (No assembly in August)



Federation News Post

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies



American Federation Rockhound Information

- [William Holland School of Lapidary Arts \(Young Harris, GA\)](#)
- [Wild Acres Retreat \(Little Switzerland, NC\)](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [Crystallography](#)
- [U.S. Geologic Survey Topographic Maps](#)
- [TopoZone](#) - Topographic maps of the U.S. online



Local Club Shows

- Notify other clubs in our federation about your upcoming show, *email the editor*
- For Member Club Show general information go to the [RMFMS Club Lists](#) page and check the club or city you are interested in.
- Want to see the shows in your state? Visit the Rock and Gem Magazine's Show page and select the state you are interested in: [Rock and Gem Magazine's Show Page](#)
- Please use the following link to the RMFMS Editor Google Drive to download the Rocky Mountain Federation News: [RMFMS Editor Google Drive](#)
 - The RMFMS Newsletter is also available at [RMFMS.org](#)

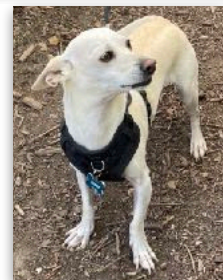
About the AFMS - A non-profit educational federation of seven similar regional organizations of gem, mineral and lapidary societies. The purpose of AFMS is to promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship. Founded in 1947.

About the RMFMS - A non-profit educational organization. The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Federation is to have a close association of all clubs in the Society to promote the study of earth sciences, including the lapidary arts, the study of fossils and paleontology, and related crafts. The RMFMS was organized in 1941, and held its first annual convention at the Argonaut Hotel in Denver, Colorado. There were 16 organizations in attendance. The RMFMS became one of the original four founders of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies when it was organized in 1947.



Annual Picnic
13 Aug 22

Hardy rockhounds gathered on an EXTRA HOT August day for the annual CSMS picnic. After pot luck lunch, we presented a check to the museum (see photo), then wandered about the grounds and explored the buildings and equipment. Others went inside the museum and took the tour; panned for gold. The museum is always looking for volunteers. *Photos: J. Emery*





Smoky Hawk Field Trip 16 Jul 22

Hardy CSMS rockhounds joined field trip leader Kyle Atkinson at the Smoky Hawk claim, Crystal Peak, Teller County, Colorado, 16 Jul 22. These are the pics of the day, photos courtesy of Kyle.



Pillars of Hercules

Steven Wade Veatch

On August 10, 1908, a visitor to the Pikes Peak region traveled up the dusty, winding road through South Cheyenne Cañon. This road, long hailed as "The Grandest Mile of Scenery" in Colorado, ends at Seven Falls, a tourist attraction since the early 1880s. Fascinated with the sights along the way, he bought a postcard at the local curio shop to commemorate his tour.

Moved by the striking geology along the road, he began to consider the geologic processes at work. He observed how South Cheyenne Creek relentlessly carved down through the faulted Pikes Peak Granite to create the cañon. He wrote messages on both sides of the postcard to remember how these geologic wonders moved him on that summer's day. On the front of the postcard, he wrote:

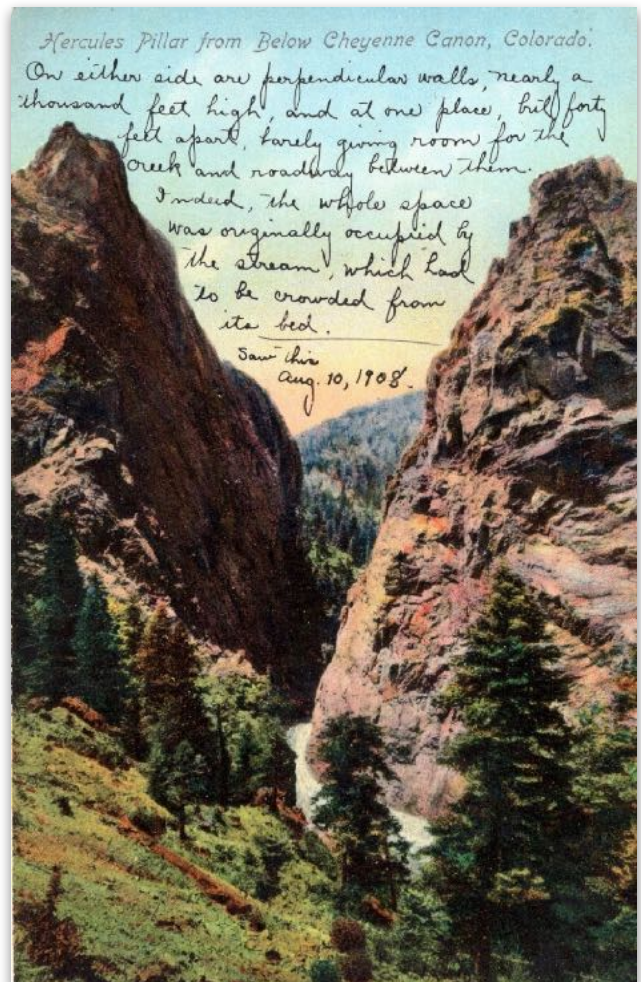
On either side are perpendicular walls, nearly a thousand feet high and at one place, but forty feet apart, barely giving room for the creek and roadway between them. Indeed, the whole space was originally occupied by the stream, which had to be crowded from its bed. Saw this Aug. 9, 1908.

And then, on the back of the postcard, he typed:

Before us are two tremendous cliffs "The Pillars of Hercules." They seem to stand squarely across the cañon, completely filling it and demanding a halt. The way seems barred, and the stranger is at a loss to know which way to go, but the brook has found a way and so must we. Here is a most wonderful demonstration of the action of water. For hundreds of feet the

cañon at this point has been worn through the solid granite.

The anonymous visitor did not mail the postcard but kept it with his important papers and keepsakes. That this postcard has lasted all these decades is as remarkable as the magnificent mountain scenery it portrays. The cañon continues to this day to impress visitors.



Above: Postcard showing South Cheyenne Creek flowing between the imposing granite Pillars of Hercules. A visitor to the Colorado Springs area in 1908 wrote a message on the front and back of the postcard. *From the S. W. Veatch postcard collection.*



General Assembly 21 Jul 22

Happy rockhounds gathered the evening of 21 Jul 22 to see Ms Adelaide Rich speak at general assembly. Adelaide talked to us about her efforts to map the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument using GPS. Afterward the club conducted regular business and did the usual drawing for free gem and mineral samples.

Photos: J. Emery and F. Rosenberg



Jackstraw Minerals, Atlas Missiles, and Life in the Fast Lane

Mike Nelson
csrockguy@yahoo.com



Above: Life in the fast lane in Tescott, Kansas, ca. early 1950s. Life was good and note the great overalls.

As a kid growing up in rural 1940s-50s Kansas “the boys” essentially had the run of the town and created their own “fun.” No electronic games, no TV, and not much money in the families. But virtually everyone in town was on the same level and my brothers and I really did not notice much of a socio-economic difference in the population of maybe 396 (that is a stretch), plus numerous dogs, only a few cats (no dog was a “house pet” and they all loved to chase cats), and one yellow canary who laid eggs and pined for a mate. We knew the local bankers had more monetary resources than most, but on the other hand, my family was

able to borrow money to keep my father’s business above water. Well, not always above water since the town usually flooded about every five years (and still does). I always thought the village was a Ford and Chevy (always used vehicles) town with a scattered Mercury or Plymouth and an occasional Hudson, Packard or Studebaker thrown in the mix. In other words, a non-wealthy small town much like the others in rural farm/ranch Kansas. Most families had provided a father and/or a brother to World War II and Gold Star mothers proudly hung the medallion in the front window (and grieved for the remainder of their lives). Korea sort of came and went (for a kid) but I do remember the WWII vets talking about the “commie reds” trying to take over the world. At 10 years old I was too busy climbing trees, swimming in the local ponds, fishing, and trying to blow things up with firecracker powder to think much about the “commies.”

I think if you question persons of my age and ask what changed their life as they lost their carefree “kidhood” and moved to adulthood, they will answer “Vietnam and Russia.” My change was almost immediate—the day they moved the giant Atlas Missile down the highway to a large hole in the ground about a mile from town (Operational Base #10 assigned to 550th Strategic Missile Squadron). I thought, wow, maybe those “commie reds” really want to “kill us.” I dreamed about some guy in the Kremlin with a map and a red pin stuck into Tescott, Kansas, noting a hole in the ground there housed a really big missile. I feared that if those Kremlin boys pushed a button the people in Tescott did not have much of a

chance. I also wondered where our big Atlas was pointed. Was it aimed at Moscow, or perhaps at a podunk small, rural town in Siberia? Dad didn't know the answer; however, he was also worried. And then it all hit, Cuba, eastern Europe, and some unknown jungle in southeast Asia called Vietnam or French Indochina. Our country is still suffering the effects of that jungle today. Will it ever go away? By the way, that ole hole in the ground is still in the pasture covered with some big steel doors—at least that is the rumor. I think there were 12 of these missile silos surrounding a Strategic Air Command (SAC) base at Salina.

*Yesterday is not ours to recover, but
tomorrow is ours to win or lose.*

- Lyndon Johnson

Now, how do all these rattling words connect to geology? It has been a long story, but I am getting there. As I noted, kids in my small town did not have electronic gizmos to play with and our games were pretty simple—dominos, board games like Monopoly (not my favorite), building “things” with Tinker-toys or Lincoln Logs, and something called Pick-up-sticks or Jackstraws. If you can imagine a number, 50 or so, of ~9-inch-long colored toothpicks that are held in a “bunch” with one end touching the floor, and then gently released to form a “pile” of sticks, you have the basics of the game! Participants tried to remove a single stick without disturbing the others. Big clumsy hands like mine were not overly successful and my final count was usually low. I suppose that today's children would be quite bored with the game—I was! Jackstraws takes its name from the straws in a scarecrow or child's doll individual straws going in many different directions.



Above: German 17th Century game of Jackstraws. Public Domain photo courtesy of Andreas Praefcke.

In rockhounding and mineralogy the name jackstraw is now applied to long prismatic crystals of several different minerals that appear in sprays or masses in which individual crystals are haphazardly arranged in “every which direction”—a jackstraw aggregate of crystals. Among the best-known Jackstraw Crystals are orange-red crocoite from the Adelaide Mine, Tasmania, millerite from Halls Gap, Kentucky, stibnite from a variety of locations, and epidote from the Green Monster Mine, Alaska. However, to most rockhounds the descriptor jackstraw brings up connotations of cerussite from the Flux Mine, Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

The Flux, at one time, produced copper, lead, zinc silver, manganese, and minor gold from a complex of Paleozoic rocks intruded by Mesozoic igneous rocks, and a Tertiary rhyolite. I believe most of the mineralization is associated with intrusive dikes and sills



All Above: Jackstraw cerussite on limonite/goethite (iron oxide) matrix. Width FOV Top: 1.2 cm; Middle: 9 mm; Bottom: 7 mm. Photo: M. Nelson

connected with both the granite and the rhyolite. Small scale mining was present in the middle 1800s while larger production centered on 1884-1963. Claims and ownership have been sort of haphazard since the end of large-scale mining in 1963 but active claims may be present although I believe the USFS has reclaimed the mine and destroyed access.

The major mineral commodities from the Flux were zinc and lead with the latter entering into the jackstraw picture. Cerussite is a secondary lead carbonate [PbCO_3] most often associated with primary galena [lead sulfide] and anglesite [lead sulfate]. In most instances the galena [PbS] oxidizes to anglesite [PbSO_4] and then to cerussite [PbCO_3] with exposure to carbonated water.

Cerussite, or white lead ore, has a variety of crystal habits including massive, reticulate, tabular, thin plates, equant, fibrous, prismatic, and others. The colors are also varied but are mostly colorless and pale pastels and all leave a white streak. The hardness is ~ 3.5 while crystals have a greasy to adamantine luster, a conchoidal fracture, and are translucent to transparent. Because of the lead content the mineral is “heavy” with a high specific gravity (~ 6.5). As a carbonate, cerussite will “fizz” in weak hydrochloric acid.

The Jackstraw crystals from the Flux Mind are snow white in color and form spiky brittle crystals or very tight parallel bundles in a limonite/goethite matrix. Why do these jackstraw crystals form? I don't have the slightest idea. That is one of life's persistent questions that always are better described than easily answered.

Jackstraw cerussite or the game of Jackstraws is not to be confused with the song Jack Straw by the Grateful Dead!

*Leavin' Texas, fourth day of July,
Sun so hot, the clouds so low,
the eagles filled the sky.
Catch the Detroit Lightnin' out of Sante Fe,
The Great Northern out of Cheyenne,
from sea to shining sea.*

Classifieds and Announcements



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 welcome. 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.

Feature articles can be in MS Word or Mac Pages, preferably NOT pdf.

e-mail to the editor:
csmseditor@hotmail.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.

2022 Editor's Contest

Several of our newsletter contributors won awards at the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, congratulations!

Mike Nelson: **1st Place**; Adult Article Advanced, "*An Answer to the Pandemic Blues: a Road Trip to the Kansas Cretaceous Chalk Beds*"

Joshua Hair: **1st Place**; Written Feature, "*Flying Termites*"

Ben Elick: **3rd Place**; Written Feature, "*Mineral of the Month at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry*"

Steven Veatch: **1st Place**; Adult Poetry, "*Brothers*"

John Emery: **1st Place**; Large Bulletin, Nov 2021

John Emery: **2nd Place**; Written Feature, "*Crossword Puzzle - Geology Quiz (Easy)*"

Additionally, several contributors have advanced to the American Federation contest:

Mike Nelson, *An Answer to the Pandemic Blues: a Road Trip to the Kansas Cretaceous Chalk Beds*

Steven Veatch, *Walking Among Ghosts, Ironton, Colorado*

John Emery, Large Bulletin

John Emery, "*Crossword Puzzle - Geology Quiz (Easy)*"

Steven Veatch, "*Brothers*"

Awards (if won) will be presented at the Breakfast with Editors & Webmasters during the AFMS/SCFMS Show in New Orleans. The breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 16.



Classifieds and Announcements

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE!

- 2 display cases and a shelving display (see pics next page)
- 1 old combo carborundum wheel grinder belt sander polishing unit

CONTACT: Bob and Doris Drisgill 719-322-3902

FREE: Oxalic Acid

15 lbs of powder that will make ~2.5 gallons of acid.

CONTACT: Roger Pittman
PRPITTMAN@PCISYS.NET

Collecting
COLORADO

Amazonite and Smoky Quartz
Smoky Hawk Claim, Colorado
Photo courtesy of Joseph Dorris
Photo by T Spann
21 cm



The Original
DENVER
GEM & MINERAL
SHOW

SEPTEMBER 8 - 11, 2022
DENVERMINERALSHOW.COM



Sphenodiscus pleurisepta Conrad
(coiled ammonite)
Late Cretaceous Period: 70 mya
Lower Fox Hill Formation
Colorado Springs, CO
Collected by Jack Null
Photo by Nancy Kimber

HARDROCK
SUMMIT 2022
COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER

Join Us
for the 54th Annual
DENVER GEM & MINERAL SHOW

in our New Location at the
Colorado Convention Center
700 14th St, Denver, CO 80202

September 8 - 11, 2022

Hours: Thur to Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm

For tickets and information, visit
denvermineralshow.com and
hardrocksummit.com/tickets
(ticket price includes all Hardrock Summit Shows)

Dealers
Fabulous Exhibits
Speakers
Gold Panning
Mr. Bones
Fluorescent Room
Educational Booths
Door Prizes
Grab Bags

Rockhound of the Year (RoY) nominations

CSMS club members, it's time to submit nominations for rock hound of the year for our club. Submit your nominations to any CSMS board member, such as the editor, via email or in person at assembly or however the club member wishes to submit the nomination. Things to consider in a RoY nominee:

- Active club member in good standing
- Volunteers to lead or coordinate field trips, group meetings or serves on committee
- Participates in field trips, assemblies or at the rock show
- Educates fellow members with demonstrations, writing or speaking engagements
- Not all of the above must be included and other rockhoundy virtues will be considered

Classifieds and Announcements

FREE

FREE

FREE

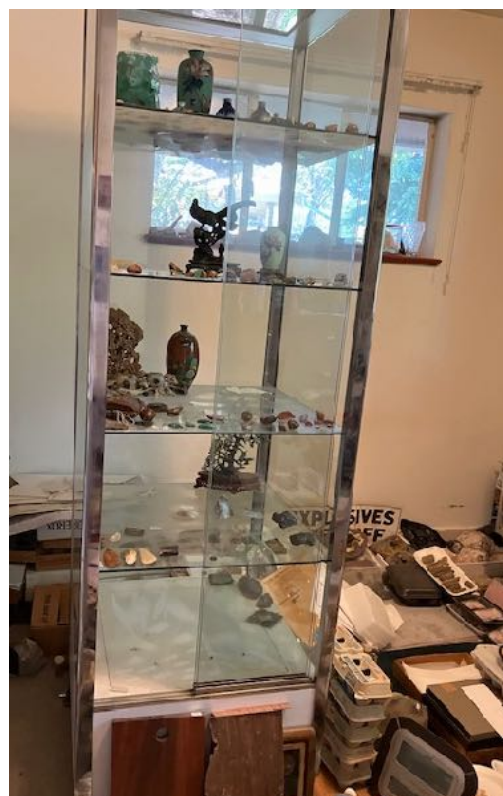
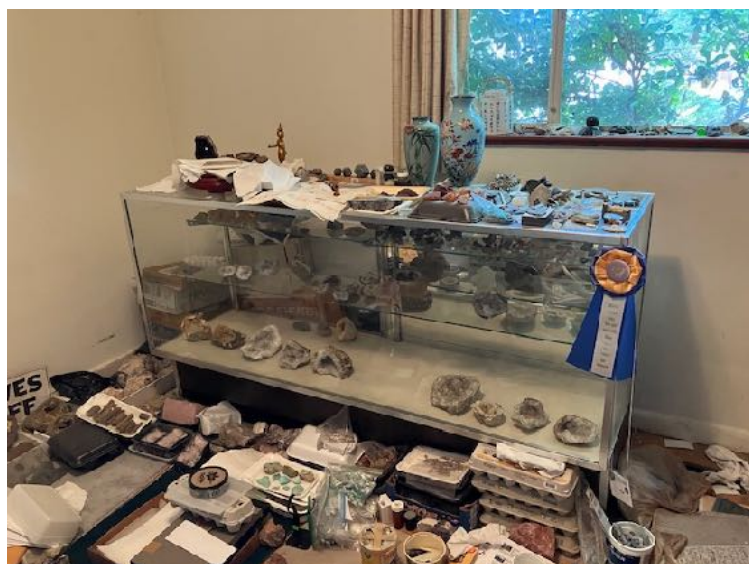
FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE!

- 2 display cases and a shelving display
- 1 old combo carborundum wheel grinder belt sander polishing unit
- Shelf contents shown below are not included



CONTACT: Bob and Doris Drisgill 719-322-3902

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE!

Petroglyphs

By Steven Wade Veatch

Desert varnish
drips down rocks
marking time.

Spirals, stars,
animal shapes,
sacred symbols,
pecked on rocks
from centuries past
reveal a silent song
and the shaman's path.

A breeze whispers
through sagebrush
while a sunbaked lizard
rests on a rock.
A hawk, flying high,
disappears into the canyon
where echoes of ancient
chants draw me
to where I
belong.



Fremont petroglyph panels, Dinosaur National Park and surrounding areas. *Photo by S. W. Veatch*



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



CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with the following 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: www.csms1936.com. 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.rmfmms.org