

Jade State News

Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

2132 Gail Lane, Cody Wyoming 82414

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WSMGS OFFICERS

President: George Tillman
pres@wsmgs.org

Vice President: Linda Richendifer
vpres@wsmgs.org

Secretary: Carla Tillman
sec@wsmgs.org

Treasurer: Stan Strike
treas@wsmgs.org

Historian: Rod Baltes
hist@wsmgs.org

Jade State News Editor: Jennifer Flowers
jsn@wsmgs.org

RMFMS State Director: Stan Strike
wydir@wsmgs.org

RMFMS WY PLAC Representative:
Rich Garow

The WSMGS conducts meetings quarterly
and as special events require

THE 2005 OPAL PROSPECTOR CLAIM RUSH AT BEAVER RIM, WY

SWEETWATER STATION - The scattershot stakes of different sizes and colors stand out among the sagebrush with nothing more than a lonely, sauntering wild horse as far as the eye can see. Over here is a four-by-four stake spray painted pink and yellow on the top with rocks painted the same colors at its base. "Giddy Up and Go 3-4-05" is written in black marker on one side. Bird droppings mark the flat top of the post. Over there is another stake, bearing a clipboard bound with duct tape; written on the board: "2 claims Total Size 200 yds x 500 yds." Across a dirt-and-gravel road is a two-by-four stake, with "Discovery Cor 23" written on two sides. A plastic freezer bag is attached near the top with duct tape. Inside is a folded document that describes the claim's dimensions.

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The stakes are monuments to a 21st-century rush of prospectors. They descended on this remote, hilly area in south-central Wyoming last March with grand hopes and dreams of striking it rich by finding a precious gemstone called opal. The rush caught federal officials off guard, resulted in a bureaucratic paper jam that has delayed actual mining and prompted authorities to take measures to protect an endangered flower from being trampled. Opal is considered the most colorful of all gemstones, and the best opal gems are more valuable than diamonds, fetching as much as \$10,000 a carat, according to the International Colored Gemstone Association.

The Wyoming opal site is a 3-square-mile area about 100 miles west of Casper. It was initially discovered by a local rock hound who told the State Geological Survey, which undertook a more extensive survey and found large deposits of opal. Most of the opal is "common opal," which isn't worth much. But geologists found some of the highly valued "precious opal," leading them to conclude that there was more to be found.



Opal hunter Willie Rios, of Boulder, Colo., stakes out his claim in the western Rattlesnake Hills,

northeast of Sweetwater Station, Wyo., on March 5. Opal is considered the most colorful of all gemstones, and the best opal gems are more valuable than diamond.

Fremont County Clerk Julie Freese said her office received 1,048 mining claims over a nearly two-month period after the State Geological Survey publicly announced the exact location of the opal deposit. Each claim cost \$135 in fees. "I thought it would be more; it didn't seem too bad a price," said Jim Montgomery, of Cheyenne, who along with a partner staked out two claims - named "Mother Lode" and "Lucky Strike" - for a total of \$270. "We went up and kind of picked around a little bit, but didn't find anything too exciting yet," Montgomery said.

Unlike the gold rushes of Old West lore, these new prospectors aren't allowed to begin digging until their paperwork is properly filed with the state and the federal Bureau of Land Management, which manages most of the land where the opal is located and which must record all the claims.

The Wyoming BLM office in Cheyenne has received only 50 of the 1,048 claims. Even among those 50, most lack the proper legal description to be accepted, further delaying the digging. "They'll all be getting letters asking them to correct the legal description," said Pam Stiles, a land law examiner with the BLM.

There may be more delays for other prospectors trying to pick their way through complicated federal and state mining rules. For instance, claims of 10 acres or more require additional paperwork, and prospectors who plan to use heavy equipment to dig must obtain a special permit from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

In addition, every Sept. 1, in order to keep the claim, each prospector will either have to pay the BLM another \$100 or document \$100 worth of improvements made to their claim. While the paperwork has put a clamp on actual digging for

THE 2005 OPAL PROSPECTOR CLAIM RUSH AT BEAVER RIM, WY continued from page 2

now, the rush to the 1,680-acre area, where the only known resource of value previously was oil and gas, certainly wasn't lacking for adventure, surprise and some comic relief.

"It would have been helpful to have more time to get prepared to respond to the intensive level of activity out there," said Jack Kelly, manager of the BLM office in Lander, who had to call in help from other BLM offices around the state to handle the onslaught. "The bottom line is it impacted our staff, who were totally unprepared for the workload," BLM spokeswoman Cindy Wertz said.

W. Dan Hausel, a state geologist in charge of metals and precious stones, said the state office didn't want to chance a leak that would have given some prospectors an unfair head start and didn't expect environmental problems because an oil field is located in the same area.

However, the BLM was forced to restrict vehicles on 360 acres in the area because some prospectors were driving off roads and endangering the desert yellowhead, a sunflowerlike plant listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Some deep wheel ruts were gouged into the ground. "It's going to have to heal over time," Kelly said.

Hausel said he found the initial interest and rush both surprisingly strong and amusing. The Geological Survey received hundreds of phone calls in the weeks after announcing the deposit, he said. "It was

quite a rush, and 99 percent of the people I talked to had no idea what they were doing, so it was pretty entertaining," Hausel said.

Some people ended up miles away from the opal because "they didn't know how to read a map," he said. Many had no clue about mining regulations and how to stake a claim.

Kelly said some prospectors had erected signs warning people to keep off their claim. That's illegal because the mining claim only prevents people from grabbing minerals, not from accessing the land for other legal purposes, such as hunting. Others were well prepared. Hausel recalled that some prospectors, acting on early news reports, had positioned colleagues with satellite telephones in the general area of the deposit so they could get a jump on others when the exact location was announced. Kelly said he expects prospectors to start digging on their claims this summer and into the fall before winter forces a halt. For prospectors like Montgomery, who described himself as a casual rock collector, the digging can't start soon enough. "We kind of can't wait to get up there," he said.

REFERENCE SOURCE: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/staking-a-claim-promise-of-opals-lures-would-be-miners/article_86075ba6-8e37-5a68-a6d4-c706231f92c5.html



CEDAR RIM OPAL

The Cedar Rim deposit in Wyoming consists of vast amounts of white to very light-blue translucent to opaque common opal, with significant amounts of translucent to opaque yellow, yellow-orange to orange fire opal, and significant clear, transparent hayalite opal. Only trace precious opal (both white and black) have been identified in samples collected. Based on the fact that all varieties of opal have been identified and much of the

field remains unexplored, the potential for discovery of significant seams of precious opal must be considered.

During this study, opal was identified within 12 sections of land over hundreds of acres, and large amounts of agate were also identified, including the source beds of the popular Sweetwater agate. In places opal beds are between a few feet to more than 50 feet thick and primarily found as

CEDAR RIM OPAL continued from page3

siliceous caps. Additional material is also exposed along a pipeline that cuts through the field.

Location. Cedar Rim is located 25 miles south of Riverton along Sand Draw Road. The deposit is found along Cedar Rim Draw near the northwestern margin of Beaver Rim. Beaver Rim is located in the western portion of the Granite Mountains uplift. The nearest towns are Riverton to the northwest, Lander to the west, and Jeffrey City to the southeast. Much of the deposit is located on the US Geological Survey Lander 1:100,000 sheet, with some reported opal further east on the Rattlesnake Hills 1:100,000 sheet.



Transparent opal from Cedar Rim

History. The first report of opal in this area was probably by Sinclair and Granger (1911). In their report on the Eocene and Oligocene sediments, they depicted opal in a cross-section near Wagon Bed Spring. They also noted that opal and chalcedony were repeatedly observed as replacements of soft tuffaceous limestone at the top of the Oligocene sediments that capped Beaver Rim as well as on several buttes to the south. In places, the limestone formed a layer with masses of white chalcedony and opal nodules that are enclosed in calcareous crusts. The presence of cylindrical pipes of silica, cutting through some of the limy

layers was also noted.

The source for both the limestone and silica was interpreted by Sinclair and Granger (1911) to be from underlying ash beds. The silica was thought to have mobilized in percolating water which surfaced in springs. Some chalcedony and opaline cement was also described in silicified arkose lower in the section, possibly in what is today known as the Wagon Bed Formation.

Cedar Rim Draw Opal. Early mapping by Van Houton (1954) suggested that the opal samples recovered by the Wyoming State Geological Survey (WSGS) were found in rock mapped as

Miocene marlstone, claystone, siltstone, sandstone and conglomerate, and from rock units of the White River Formation (Oligocene) known as the Beaver Divide conglomerate and boulder facies, and the Sand Draw Sandstone. Later mapping by Van Houton (1964) indicated these units to be the White River Formation (Oligocene) and the Split Rock Formation (Miocene).

Opal at Beaver Rim was later noted by Van Houton (1964). Van Houton described opal with chert and chalcedony in the Wagon Bed Formation, the volcanic facies of the Beaver Divide conglomerate member of the White River Formation (now the Wiggins Formation), the White River Formation, and the Split Rock Formation. Numerous chert nodules and silicified zones are found in both the White River and Split Rock Formations. Locally opal and yellowish-brown to light olive gray chert, in masses up to 3 feet in diameter, are found in mudstone of the Wagon Bed Formation in the vicinity of Wagon Bed Spring and northeastward as far as the Rogers Mountain Anticline. Irregular chert masses up to 15 feet long are found in the Kirby Draw syncline (which extends northwest from NE section 31, T33N, R94W to section 14, T33N, R95W).

CEDAR RIM OPAL continued from page4

The Wiggins Formation, which in this area forms a wide channel fill within the basal White River Formation, is characterized by debris derived from the Yellowstone-Absaroka volcanic field. This ranges from sand-sized material to boulders 8 feet long. Within this unit, sandy limestone lenses up to 5 feet thick have been partly replaced by irregular fibrous chalcedonic chert and massive gray opaline silica containing irregular tubes and pores: many of which are filled with calcareous montmorillonitic clay.

The Cedar Rim opal deposit still remains unexplored. The extent of the deposit is only poorly known and additional field work and trenching is highly recommended to determine the aerial extent and thickness of the opal deposit, as well as to search for seams of precious and fire opal. The source of the opal was undoubtedly silica leached from volcanic ash scattered throughout the area.

OPAL TRIVIA:

ENCHANTING GEM: The American Gem Society describes fine opal as a “enchanted gem” through which some believe “the mysteries of love can be exchanged.” The Gemological Institute of America says opal is the “world’s most popular phenomenal gem” that some cultures credit with “supernatural origins and powers.”

ALL ABOUT COLOR: The more color the opal shows - what geologists call “play of color,” or rainbow effect - the more valuable it is.

SOURCES: The largest known source of opal is in Australia. Other deposits exist in Brazil, Mexico and parts of Africa. In the United States, some opal is found in Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, & WYOMING.

Reference: <http://wdanhausen/geologicalconsultingllc.pbworks.com/w/page/12175356/OPAL%20DISCOVERY>



WSMGS BOARD REPORT

1. The WSMGS TREASURER’S DOCUMENTS were transferred from Mel Gustin to the new WSMGS treasurer, Stan Strike. Wyoming Community Bank has provided documents to the new WSMGS President George Tillman, for him to be authorized to write WSMGS checks and to use a WSMGS Debit Card.
2. The SUBLETTE COUNTY ROCK HOUNDS have petitioned the WSMGS Board to approve an increase in the number of dealers at the 2018 WSMGS State Show that they will be hosting. They also sent out a draft copy of their Dealer Contract to the WSMGS Board for their input.
3. The WSMGS CARGO TRAILER was transferred after the 2017 WSMGS State Show in Riverton by Jim Gray to Marbleton. A WSMGS State Show Agreement, Trailer Use Agreement, Trailer Inventory, and the 2018 Wyoming license plate/ registration have been sent to the Sublette County Rock Hounds.
4. The ANNUAL REPORT and payment were made on 9/16/2017 by the WSMGS to the Wyoming Secretary of State to renew our Nonprofit Incorporation status.
5. The RIVERTON MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY donated \$200 to help fund the Jade State

WSMGS BOARD REPORT *continued*

News and paid the WSMGS \$246.04 for 20% of their 2017 State Show net profit.

6. A NEW ROCK CLUB IN N.E. WY?? The WSMGS has been contacted by an individual in Gillette about starting a new rock club and has asked for the WSMGS's help in organizing. The following is a summary of our email conversations to date:

"A Cody Rock Club member gave me your address to contact you about how the WSMG can help or offer info to get our club going. We are currently at a point of gathering info to present to interested person around here. We have had two get-togethers to meet each other, visit and show some rocks. We have only talked to rock hounds thru our Facebook pages, and not advertised too much to the public. We have had 30-40 people at each get-together. I think if you can get us some info, we will start moving forward. Thanks for any info you can provide.

The rock club we are considering is located in Gillette. We do have interested people in Sheridan, Buffalo, Sundance, Newcastle, Douglas, so were looking to cover the whole NE Wyoming area."

"The WSMGS Board Members would like to help your club organize and become a WSMGS affiliated club. I would like to refer you to our WSMGS website: wsmgs.org - then open "Menu" and select "Who We Are". Under the "Who We Are," you will be able to view several subtopics which will introduce you and your potential club members to the WSMGS.

-Two years ago we started a new club in Marbleton/Big Piney. This club now has over 100 members and has been accepted to host the 2018 WSMGS State Show. In order to start this club, several WSMGS officers attended an advertised meeting for interested individuals. At this meeting there were door prizes and silent auction items to help the new club's treasury. There was a brief introduction to the WSMGS & RMFMS and it was suggested that voting occur for officers, an official club name, and a dues structure. [Note the other club names in our website, officers=President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, WSMGS dues are \$1/member and RMFMS dues & Liability insurance is \$2.10/member so most clubs have dues of \$10/single & \$15/family.]

-At this point the WSMGS Board can vote on your Application (under "Who We Are") to become a WSMGS affiliated club.

-The WSMGS will also provide your club with some draft options to choose from for your club's Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws. With your club's submission of your Articles of Incorporation to the Wyoming Secretary of State, your club can be accepted as a Nonprofit Corporation, which protects your officers in terms of liability. Your club also needs to apply to the IRS for an E.I.N. number.

-I would also suggest that the above mentioned meeting be held in February which allows us some lead time to plan and organize and hopefully experience milder weather. Would your club meetings be based in Sheridan or Buffalo or Gillette?? Jeff-please feel free to email [wydir@wsmgs.org], at any time with questions or information.

7. THE WSMGS WEBSITE [wsmgs.org] has been updated and reformatted by our webmaster. During these upcoming winter months, members should spend some time exploring the wealth of information that it contains. Please contact us if you have suggestions for additional information that could be included.

8. SPECIAL REQUEST BY OUR WEBMASTER: PLEASE SEND PHOTOS OF YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES –FIELD TRIPS, ROCK SHOWS, MEETINGS, LAPIDARY ITEMS, ROCKS /MINERALS/

WSMGS BOARD REPORT *continued*

FOSSILS with captions & photographer's name(s) TO: info@wsmsg.org
PHOTOS SELECTED WILL APPEAR ON OUR WSMGS WEBSITE!!!

9. WSMGS AFFILIATED CLUB YEARLY DUES SURVEY:

1 CLUB	\$5.00/MEMBER	
1 CLUB	\$7.50/SINGLE	\$10.00/ FAMILY
3 CLUBS	\$10.00/SINGLE	\$15.00/FAMILY
1 CLUB	\$15.00/SINGLE	\$20.00/FAMILY
1 CLUB	\$24.00/MEMBER	

10. UPCOMING SAVE THE DATES:

- JUNE 15,16,17	2018 WSMGS STATE MINERAL & GEM SHOW	BIG PINEY, WY
- JULY 20,21,22	2018 RMFMS MINERAL & GEM SHOW	RAPID CITY, SD



WSMGS TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance-June 1, 2017 = \$1,879.71

Credits:	9-22-17	RMGS for 20% of 201state show profit	\$246.04
	10-02-17	RMGS Donation to JSN	\$200.00

Total Credits = \$446.04

Expenses:

06/05/17	1048	WY State 4-H state fair geology winner	(\$50.00)
06/ 013/17	1050	Art,Sand,&Steel-State ROYengraving	(\$52.50)
06/ 19/17	Debit	Cody UPSstore-Annual Meeting printing	(\$10.50)
07/ 07/17	1005	Riverton MGS-meat for State Show Dinner	(\$100.00)
09/20/17	Debit	WYsec.state-2018 Incorp.fee	(\$27.00)
10/02/17	1007	Jennifer Flowers-Aug. JSN	(\$75.00)
10/16/17	1126	Blue & Gold-State ROY engraving/3 plates	(\$28.35)
10/23/17	1127	Park Co. Treasurer-WSMGS Trailer Plates	(\$51.27)

Total Expenses = (\$394.62)

Ending Balance-October31, 2017 = \$1,931.13

WSMGS CLUB REPORT REMINDERS

A. November 1st to December 15th– 2018 WSMGS Membership Dues Report to current WSMGS Treasurer: Stan Strike-2132 Gail Lane-Cody, WY 82414 9(treas@wsmsg.org). (Form can be found on the WSMGS website: wsmsg.org under “Who We Are-Forms”.)

WSMGS TREASURER'S REPORT continued

B. November 1st to December 15th- 2018 WSMGS Club Election of Officers Report to current Vice President: Linda Richendifer at 10709 Hwy 26-Kinnear, WY 82516 or vpres@wsmsg.org (Form can be found on the WSMGS web-site: wsmsg.org under "Who We Are-Forms".)

C. November 1st to December 15th –RMFMS 2017-18 Dues/Liability Insurance to current RMFMS treasurer: Gene Maggard-8318 SE HWY 77-Leon, KS 67074(gandpmaggard@gmail.com) Form is available on RMFMS website: rmfms.org-Information-Pages-Forms-Annual RMFMS Report

D. December 15th to January 15th- WSMGS Club Annual Report and or Club Minutes to current Historian: Rod Baltes at-41 Y Road-Riverton, WY 82501 or hist@wsmsg.org

E. January 1st to May 15th- Form 990N must be electronically submitted to the IRS (The Registered agent for each club should receive this form from the IRS in advance of the deadline).

F. Deadline for Annual Report to WY Sec. of State Varies by WSMGS Club-Deadline for renewal of "Non Profit Corporation Annual Report" varies by club and is due the 1st day of the month in which the club was first recognized by the Wyoming Secretary of State as a Non Profit Corporation. (The Registered Agent for your club should receive this form in advance of the club's deadline.)



Lapidary Tips: Fast Inexpensive Lapidary Slab Saw

After finding or acquiring lapidary rough the work has just started in terms of cutting high quality slabs for cabbing. Cutting rough into slabs can be time consuming especially using expensive slow cutting self feed diamond saws with oil lubricant. Investment for diamond saws like these exceeds \$1500. Using oil lubricated diamond saws may be necessary for cutting specimens, display slabs, or large rough because the slab surface is smoother for polishing. But for cabbing slabs, it's simply too expensive and time consuming because of slow cutting speed and surface oil removal from the slabs before cabbing.

If you want to reduce cost and improve productivity, start hand cutting rough using a water-cooled tile saw. It's at least 10 times faster because cutting speed is much faster and it eliminates all of the steps for cleaning oil from slabs. Also, hand cutting allows you to see the rocks cut surface immediately so that you can flip it around if the pattern is not what you want. It's possible to cut a 5 inch diameter piece of rough into 5 slabs in less than 15 minutes. [With a maximum cutting thickness of 3 1/2 inches, this requires materials that exceed that thickness to be carefully rotated to result in a smooth cut.] Finally, with water you are not breathing and handling oil, so it's environmentally better.

Hand cut slabs may not be perfect dimensionally but they will be good enough for cabs. One downside is that saw blade wear is faster but the upside is that the investment required for a tile saw is significantly less. Harbor Freight sells a 10 inch 2.5 horsepower tile saw for about \$250:

Description:



The two-position cutting head on this 2.5 HP tile saw lets you adjust blade for a variety of tiles or bricks. Includes built-in 3 gallon per minute water pump, removable easy-to-clean high-impact ABS water tub.

- Adjustable cutting head lets you adjust blade for standard tiles or bricks up to 3-1/2 in.
- 24 in. cutting capacity
- Head pivots to allow 22.5° and 45° bevel cuts
- Powerful dual capacitor motor with sealed bearings and thermal overload protection
- Heavy duty cast alloy column and cutting head for reduced vibration
- Oversized steel frame with precision linear bar system for smooth operation

***** Stand and Diamond blade sold separately.

Specifications:

Name	10 in. 2.5 HP Tile/Brick Saw	Amperage (amps)	15
SKU	69275	Cutting angles (deg)	0-45°
Brand	Chicago Electric Power Tools	Horsepower (hp)	2.5
		**Maximum cutting thickness (in.)	3-1/2 in.

Lapidary Tips:

Fast Inexpensive Lapidary Slab Saw continued

Modified Lapidary Tile Saw

To make the saw usable indoors you can:

- mount a removable modified plastic storage box over the frame to contain water mist
- mount a splash shield and light at the end
- hook up a water feed tube and drain



This may appear dangerous but I have cut thousands of slabs with no problems. You can cut hundreds of slabs using a \$40 ten inch Ridgid diamond saw blade from Home Depot. Always wear a face mask to avoid breathing silica carried by the cooling water mist.

Here's a summary of the advantages of hand cut water cooled tile saws versus automatic feed oil cooled lapidary saws:

- * 5x lower diamond saw investment
- * 0x faster slab cutting
- * No messy oil to remove from slabs
- * Quickly flip rough around to cut the best pattern
- * Environmentally safer water versus oil

Reference: silverandstone.wordpress.com/2010/09/22/cutting-fast-track-slabs-for-cabochons-2/



Club Reports

CHEYENNE MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

Summary of May 2017 Rock Show

We had 1077 paying attendees which was approximately 300 more than 2016 and we had 365 children, 69 more than 2016.

The Barite Roses were a big hit on Mother's Day, the biggest turnout on a Sunday for a really long time.

Prior to the show it was voted and approved that 2 gifts would be given to UW students but only if the Silent Auction made enough to do that. The Silent Auction did not make enough money this year for 2 gifts, only for one. BUT at the September meeting a motion was made, seconded and approved to give a 2nd gift anyway, since the show did well in other areas.

A great big Thanks! to the following people from Jan, Show Chairman:

John Eggleston, for once again being our transportation network.

Fred Hart and the Ft. Collins Rock Club for loaning us the black tent for our Fluorescent Display. Jim Kasal & Fred Hart for the Fluorescent Display itself.

For helping with the setup & tear down and manning the booths: Bruce & Carla Keating, Bob King, Gordie Mills, Fred & Gina Holzum, Brandi Dahill, Donna Arnold Paul & Brenda Gregg, Mark Shively, Jessie & Steve Ruybal, Jen Runyan, D'Lynn VanValkenburgh, Glenna Hansen. I am sorry if I have forgotten anyone.

Laura & Nick Lampman and Margaret Smith for the kids area, LOTS of compliments.

Mark Shively & Donna Arnold for being there to keep me grounded when I needed it.

Fluorescent Lights:

The club has purchased 2 used fluorescent lights, 1 short wave and 1 long wave. We paid the about the same price for both lights that 1 new one would have cost us. According to the maker of the lights, Mark Shively called him, he says the lights are in good condition and should last for many

years. The reason for this purchase is because the people who currently provide the displays have told us that they may have to stop providing them due to age and medical concerns. Now, with their help, we can start preparing displays that belong to the club and we will have them for a long time. Storage/Transport boxes are being built.



Christmas Party

Our party will be on December 9, 2017 at 5:30 pm at the Cheyenne Alliance Church on Ridge Road.

The address is 5200 Ridge Road, 82009. Go north on Ridge from Dell Range and it is on the left (west) side of the road.

Please plan on bringing a side dish to share, the meats are taken care of. Please bring your dinner service but we will also have paper plates and plastic ware for your use.

We will need mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, cranberry sauce, vegetables, salad(s), rolls and OF COURSE, desserts.

Our gift exchange will be the same as always:

Everyone brings a rock related gift,

Everyone gets a ticket,

When your ticket number is called, you pick a gift or can take someone else's gift.

A gift can be taken 2 times after the original owner, the 3rd person to have it keeps it!!!!!!

We always have such a good time and some good laughs, especially at some of the resourceful gifts people bring.



Club Reports continued

CODY 59ers CLUB NEWS

October 15 Field Trip: Sunday's weather looks pretty good, so if you'd like to get out for a little trip that is not too far from town, meet up at the Old Cody Airport parking lot. We will leave from there at 10am, so come a few minutes early to get signed in and maybe arrange for carpooling. Remember, the club pays mileage when non-related members ride together on club field trips.

We will be going to Oregon Basin and taking the YU Bench Road. There are two good stops. The first one will take us a short distance on a two-track trail. I was just there a few days ago and was glad I had the clearance of the pick-up truck, without clearance you might get high-centered. For the second stop, you just pull over on the gravel road and start searching right from the edge of the road, both sides.

If the first stop sounds difficult for your vehicle, the second stop is just a short distance up the road, a quarter mile maybe, and you could go there directly.

I looked around both places a few days ago, and found the usual variety of gravel: jasper, chalcedony, chert, wood, and quartzite (some nice green quartzite). It is hunting season, so you want to wear blaze orange.

November Meeting: The next meeting for the Cody 59ers is Friday, November 17th, at 6:30pm. Teresa Rowan will be taking running the meeting while I am traveling. Instead of a program, there

will be an extended silent auction. Along with the rocks that Roger brings for the auction, Linda Jennings will bring some of the rocks the club recently acquired in a trade with a visiting rockhound from California. I understand there is some great lapidary material in that material. There isn't a ton of business to cover, but the agenda will include:

- *Christmas Party report
- *2018 Handbook update
- *Membership dues
- *Equipment committee report
- *Club Library report

The silent auction format allows members time to visit and show off personal finds, and makes for a fun club meeting. Remember, this is the last regular meeting of the year, since for December, we only meet for the Christmas Party.



Christmas Party: Our annual Christmas Party is planned for December 7th at Olive Glenn Country Club. We spoke with the chef yesterday and have the menu choices now. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting (Fri, Nov 17) but I thought I'd give you a heads up to think about it. If you have any questions or concerns please reply to me asap. We will need to know how many adults and how many children are in your party as well as what your menu choices are. The club will pay for the dessert again this year.

Shoshone Rock Club Aug-Oct 2017

August 2017: As President Gary Olson was taking his wife, Ilene, out to dinner this evening for her birthday, Vice President Mary Vogel, conducted the meeting and did a wonderful job!. Members and guests in attendance totaled 23. One guest was Nella Flurkey, President of the Cody 59'ers. Others guests that were appreciated were former members: Shirley Cox, Donna Brasher, Gale Heny & Nancy Ryan. Guest, Cindy Boles

joined as a new member. Dorine Strom had led a field trip during the state show to the Sweetwater agate flats area and she brought in some nice samples of the material. Mary Ann Northrup won the door prize, a heart shaped cabochon of Tempskya, a silicified fossil fern from Cretaceous age. (OR). Sharon & Carl Brown provided refreshments. The program being presented was by Gretchen Hurley, a geologist from Cody. She stated she wanted to

Club Reports continued

Shoshone Rock Club Aug-Oct 2017



Gretchen
Hurley

make geology more understandable and she talked in length about plate tectonics, the Laramide orogeny, (a period of mountain building in the western No. America), the Beartooths, the Laramide Uplift, Big

Horn Basin, Willwood Formation & the Heart Mtn. Detachment. This was a most interesting program and we hope to have her join us again. On display were many Show and Tell items and some wire wrapped jewelry.

September: President Olson welcomed members, and guests that were in attendance were: Jacob Mancuso, Timothy DeFuentes, Saughn DeFunetes, Anthony Brochy, Heatherdawn Hetrick, & Sheri & Scott Vredenburg. Treasurer, Linda Thomas presented a certificate from WSMGS to June Rich for being the club Rockhound of the Year. Linda and June were both thanked for being the refreshment hosts this month. Elyse Lynn won the door prize provided by Mary Ann Northrup, a beautiful painting on a rock slab. As our Vice President, Mary Vogel is in charge of the club hostess box, which contains napkins, coffee, and miscellaneous supplies, she was also thanked for this monthly service for the club. The program was to help identify rocks, minerals or fossils and many guests brought in Items for assistance. Lynn Neale was a big help in identification. This was also "Book Day", and Jane Neale as our club librarian is in charge of the DVD's, lapidary books, maps, geology books, & more. She & her husband, Lynn, brought in items to be checked out, some items were sold, and other items were given out free. This was a lively meeting with many discussing field trips & where to go. It was a fun night for information.

October: During the board meeting, Field trip chairmen, Dorine Strom reported she had taken

a spur of the moment field trip to the Bighorns and ended up finding a large horn coral which she brought in for Show and Tell. She shared her knowledge of this area, should anyone want to go.

Nancy Ryan offered her deceased husband, Pat's rock collection to club members. She asked those who were interested to please call ahead before coming over. Her donation was very much appreciated. During the meeting Dorine mentioned she had not been able to give many field trips, but she wanted members to check out Facebook to help get identification for rocks, minerals and fossils. She said go to "Rockhouser" and post your photo, and ask for assistance. There are a number of these rockhouser groups on FB, and one is called WY Rockhouser. Elyse Lynn provided the door prize won by Lane Schilling. The greeting cards she made with her beautiful photos was much appreciated. Tuesdee Oswald and Linda Dandy were thanked for providing the refreshments. The program this evening was two fold, elections for new officers and board & Show and Tell. Since this was a small group, we decided to wait on the nominees that accepted, and then vote at the November meeting to make sure there were no further nominees. Some of the Show and Tell items were as follows: Gary Olson brought in some beautiful tumbled polished obsidian and Sweetwater agates, Linda Dandy showed a polished Turritella agate slice, polished Dryhead agate slice and a baculite. Dorine Strom showed her horn coral and limonite after pyrite samples, & Linna Beebe had samples of jade. Lots of interest was shown at the meeting, but we finally had to say, "It's time to lock the door!"

Respectfully submitted, Linna Beebe, Sec.



horn coral



The Sublette County Rock Hounds

Sponsored their first Mineral & Gem Show Last Aug 18-20, 2017
at the Sublette County Fairgrounds, Big Piney, WY
The theme of the show was Roping the Moon Eclipse & Rock Fest



Sublette County Rock Hounds



present the

Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society Show

Rock the Wyoming Range

Gem & Mineral Show

Show Theme: Petrified Woods of

Wyoming

Friday, June 15, 2018 9am-5pm

Saturday, June 16, 9am- 5pm

Sunday, June 17, 9am-4pm

Sublette County Fairgrounds Events Center,

Marbleton, Wyoming

Fluorescent Mineral Display

Exhibits

Demonstrations

Field Trips

Wheel of Fortune

Door Prizes

Knapping

Opals

Jewelry

Rough Rock

Slabs

Petrified Wood

Jade

Food Concessions

Admission \$2, children under 12 free

Contact: jimgray@wyoming.com

WSMGS CLUBS

Information subject to change; updates will be posted upon notice. Contact the Editor with changes at: jsn@wsmgs.org

Cody Fifty-Niners Rock Club

P.O. Box 1251
Cody WY 82414

cody59ers@wsmgs.org
www.Cody59ers.com

Meets 4th Thursday 7:00 p.m. Park
County Courthouse, Cody

President: Nella Flurkey
Vice-President: Teresa Rowan
Treasurer: Roger Lyons
Secretary: Linda Jennings
JSN: Linda Jennings
Historian: Jackie Platt



Shoshone Rock Club

P.O. Box 256,
Powell, WY 82435

shoshonerockclub@wsmgs.org

Meets 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Powell Library,
317 E. 3rd Street, Powell

President: Gary Olson
Vice-President: Mary Vogel
Treasurer: Linna Thomas
Secretary: Linda Beebe
JSN: Linna Beebe
Historian: Linda Beebe
Field Trips Dorine Strom



Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 21412
Cheyenne, WY 82001

cheyennemgs@wsmgs.org

Meets Sept. – May 2nd
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

LCCC Health Science Bldg., 1400 E.
College Dr., Room 309, Cheyenne

President: Donna Arnold
Treasurer: Jan Shively

Natrona County Rockhounds

P.O. Box 123,
Casper, WY 82644

natronarockhounds@wsmgs.org

Meets 1st Monday 7:00 p.m.
Clubhouse, 5211 Rambler, Mills

President: Mac Goss
Vice-President: John Hine
Treasurer: Kenny Platte
Secretary: Mac Goss



Rex Young Rock Club

112 East 3rd
Lingle, WY 82223

rexyoungrockclub@wsmgs.org

Meets 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Senior Center
216 E. 19th, Torrington

President: Kim Nielsen
Vice-President: Sherman Lenhart
Treasurer: Leroy Meiniger
Secretary: Joyce Trowbridge
JSN: Joyce Trowbridge
Historian: Joyce Trowbridge



Riverton Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 1904,
Riverton, WY 82501

rivertonmgs@wsmgs.org
www.RivertonMGS.com

Meets Sept.–May 2nd
Monday 7:00 p.m.
303 E. Lincoln, Riverton

President: Rod Baltes
Vice-President: Rob Currier
Treasurer: Melvin Gustin
Secretary: Kim Brown

Sublette County Rock Hounds Club

P.O. Box 1351 Big Piney, WY 83113

subletterockhounds@wsmgs.org

Meets 3rd Saturday 1:00pm
The Bench Grill,
415 Winkleman, Marbleton, WY

President: Jim Gray
Vice-President: Mike Schaffer
Treasurer: Deb Jess
Secretary: Leane Gray

