## Minutes of the 6/18/02 Westside Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm by president, Dave Sanders.

Treasurer's report was read. Upcoming maintenance expense of copier approved.

Minutes for last meeting approved as published.

**Wagonmaster Report:**
· Walker Valley has been blasted again. Rock is now down to about 10 feet above parking lot level. Lease of the area is to be reviewed to see if our lease rights are violated by this removal of material. Collecting is very good at this time. We may want to reconsider renewal of lease if are becomes depleted.

· 6100 Rd. trip was canceled this year due to Weyerhaeuser policy against rockhounding on their lands. Some people that showed anyway went on to Greenwater area for alternative rockhound trip. 6100 Rd had snow all over the roads anyway.

· Wenatchee Trip. Water level may be too high for garnets so alternatives of First Creek and Pine Canyon Rd are being explored this week. The weekend should be exciting either way.

· Saddle Mountain area status. Still has access through private property via public access road. Area by water towers is BLM and open for collecting. East Kingco club was accosted by landowner ranting and raving. So verified no rights were violated by their presence.

**Old Business:** None presented.

**New Business:**
· Bruce Himko made us new field trip signs. Very nice. Thanks!!

· BLM is having a meeting with the Ginko club for question and answer session. If anyone has questions for the BLM dept, would be a good opportunity to meet with them. Bill Williams will be our contact at that meeting.
· Now that we have official BLM rock collecting regulations/ rules agreed upon, the suggestion is raised that we find out how to submit those same rules for Forest Service departments to see if they will adopt same guidelines. Vi will see if she can find some contacts for us.

· Political presence at State, Fish & wildlife dept, etc. needs to be focused on. Many projects could be in the works that are not being learned about in time to make rockhounding rights heard about. We have members on some advisory councils but need more volunteers. Vi will work on a job description to use for volunteer recruitment for these watchdog positions. Ideal is to have people in various counties getting their local offices newsletters and report any actions pending to council. Discussed leases and claims as options to politics.

· Stu would like any GPS coordinates for rockhound sites he can get to work on his mapping projects. Also wants any vintage quadrangle maps circa 1930 – 1960 as they show the old mine sites on them and can be good for prospecting.

· Snohomish scouts looking for geo educational donation. Ed given name of a contact that does that for the community.

· Moving Mineral Council website to commercial grade server was approved. Due to AOL's technical difficulties and access issues, this should be a big improvement. Glenn will begin working on the switchover.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Norma Kikkert, Secretary

## Memoriam

The Spokane Rock Rollers report that Jean Angstrom passed away on May 29, 2002. Her memorial service was held on June 5.

Jean was very active in her club as well as the Mineral Council. Her beautiful jade collection was displayed at the annual Spokane show and at many others in the area.

To Jean's husband Dean and her family our condolences.

## Why Do Rocks Fluoresce?

The word takes its name from fluorite and was first discovered by Vincenzio Cascariolo, cobbler and part-time alchemist. In 1602, he tried to

smelt a heavy white metal he thought was gold. He was very disappointed, and at one point he put it into bright sunlight. It seemed to drink in the warm light and afterwards it would glow in the dark (it was calcined barite).

It was two centuries before the significance was noted by Sir George Stokes. With the mineral fluorite, he recognized the principle of fluorescence. He set it apart from other known forms of fluorescence, such as "thermoluminescence", the beautiful glow radiated by many minerals when heated gently, from "chemiluminescence", the cold light produced by some chemical reactions, from "bioluminescence", as seen in decaying wood, and from "triboluminescence", the sparks of light seen in the dark when struck or scratched with a sharp object.

At that time the only known source of ultraviolet light was sunlight. Then in 1867, a Frenchman by the name of Becquerel, using a new "phosphorescope" detected a delicate red fluorescence in calcite and timed its phosphorescence at one-half second.

from Rockhound Special 6/02, via Surrey Rockhounder newsletter, 5/02, via
Pebble Press, 7/01

## Utah's Red Horn Coral

The Unitah Mountains, coral lived during the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian geologic ages. In ancient seas, they grew on reefs and rocks on the ocean floor as separate, distinct solitary corals. Some floated; some were attached to anything solid. The myriad corals in the colony began to be buried in limey silts and oozes which came from the eroding land masses nearby. Some sources estimate that the tiny particles accumulated at the rate of 1/4 inch in 400 years. As the corals experienced a natural death, they were slowly entombed along with crinoids, pelecypods, and brachiopods. Excess silica on the ocean floor and different cracks and openings deposited as gelatinous silica which would later harden into chert.

With the accumulation of thousands of feet of sediment and the drying up and resurgence of various oceans, one above the other upon the sedimentary column, the intense pressure and weight hardened the oozes into solid limestone rock. The layers were separated by clay and shale beds representing times when the surrounding seas became shallower.

The Unitah coral colony was and is not an ordinary colony. In relatively recent times, the coral beds were fractured by crustal movement and then buried by a lava flow on early Tertiary age.

The pyroclastic lava flow covered over 180 miles with jumbled steaming lava formations. Rainwater and upward circulating ground waters carried silica, calcite, manganese, iron, and other constituents into the fractured fossil grey coral layer. Trapped beneath a thin layer of green clay, which overlays the coral layer 10 or 12 feet above it, the silica bearing waters gradually soaked the fossil material. The silica was colored by manganese and was precipitated upon the walls of solution cavities, joints, cracks, and especially, into the interior of a great many of the fossil corals - probably by ion exchange between silica and calcium in a process known as selective replacement.

A few crinoids, pelecypods, and brachiopods and their fossil parts have been preserved in the carnelian agate, although they are not as bright red as the horn coral. They are decidedly rare in occurrence and are very expensive, but found complete except for the full crinoid calyx and stem.

The final process of formation was the exposure by erosion of the sunlit ridge once covered by lava and sedimentary cover to reveal the rockhound "gold" treasures of the Unitahs.

from The Petrified digest 6/02,
via Stoney Statements 1/02