

## Minutes of the 03/27/04 Combined Board Meeting

President Martin Casto opened the meeting at 9:30 AM

Kathy read the treasurer's report.

### Old business:

Two metal Walker Valley Signs will be installed on site, April 10th, with a crew of WSMC members.

One sign is to be placed inside the gate the other at the pit.

One group is needed to pick up the signs and will meet at The Crossroad Shopping Center and the intersection of cook & Hwy 20 in Sedro Woolley at 9AM. Contact Ed Lehman.

A second group will meet at Walker Valley and 9AM to start digging the ditches. Contact Bruce Himko.

It was brought up that it would be nice to give thank you gifts to the people who cut the signs for Walker Valley since it was done for labor costs only. Suggestions of cabs, bola ties, etc were mentioned. Ed said he had a pen base that he could donate

There are three meeting per year in Ellensburg.

The next WSMC meeting will be Aug. 7th, 2004 in Ellensburg.

Stu will confirm the meeting place for the August meeting.

### New business:

If you are in the Darrington area, please stop by the ranger station and inquire about the trailhead to Peek-a-Boo lake. The road has been washed out and is closed 2 miles before the trailhead. If we make enough noise they may repair the road and remove the roadblock.

Leonard Laudin be a potential council member.

Permission was given to contact Charles Mason to do a program in the future for the Council.

The report that Kitsap Mineral & Gem Club took a busload in March, to see the Rice Museum in Hillsboro, Oregon and was well received.

It was reported that the BLM Dept of Interior wants volunteers to be on a Regional Advisory Committee for various areas in Washington.

If interested, a resume should be submitted to BLM. There are 6 regional committees.

You are encouraged to submit your resume. Contact Ed Thomas for more information.

### Officers:

New Officers reported by Stu Earnst:

Pres. - Stu Earnst

1st Vice Pres. - Ed Thomas

2nd Vice Pres. - Mike Messenger

Treasurer - Kathy Earnst

Secretary - Norma Kikkert

WSMC Trustees for the East and West Sides of the state were also given.

There was a motion to vote on officers, seconded, all nominees passed, no opposition. Judy will continue on as the temporary secretary.

If you have any information on Bob O'Brien's stolen property, contact Ed Lehman. Bob will be back in Washington the first part of May. End of May he will be out rockhounding again.

### Wagonmaster Report:

Ed Lehman reported that new maps color or black & white were available. There were no new pages but there were revisions to approximately 18 pages. A reminder to clubs that maps purchased in quantities of 10 or greater would receive a dollar per map discount. See your WSMC representative for maps.

There was talk of the POW Wow schedule as to whether it would be put on the WSMC website.

So far the trips have had good turn out.

About 35 attended Walker Valley, and about 50 attended Cherry Creek.

There was a guest reporter from the Seattle PI at Cherry Creek. The article was published in the 3/11/04 issue. There was plenty of material, everyone did very well.

The beaver dam has been opened and there should be plenty of material (jasper) above the dam.

April 18th trip to Race Horse Creek:

Leaf fossils should be plentiful along the shoulder of the road.  
There will be kids there from a school.  
Since it's mushroom seasons, hopefully the afternoon will be spent hunting for more mushrooms.

Ed apologizes for not attending the March 27 trip to Twinn Rivers.

On the Twin Rivers Field trip Kitsap Mineral and Gems Club member, Tony Schackmann is doing a fantastic job in being Field trip leader. He may have a report for his club next month.

The April 18th Field Trip for Ray Creek expects to find fossils and lots of school children may attend

Ed stated he would be working on a website to act as a clearinghouse for information people have on prospecting.

It will be a place to post and to get information. Judy offered Donn's help in this endeavor.

Also anyone wanting the Northwest Rocky bulletin just requests it from Ed Lehman by e-mail

Kalama trip rules.

WSMC is the unofficial site for info. It is asked that the clubs post the rules in their newsletters and/or websites. Follow the rules.

The August 28th trip to Lake Wenatchee will be Saturday only.

Meet at the Ranger Station 9AM. Permits are required to park at the trailhead.

Bill Williams sold his property near Lake Wenatchee where the group has camped in the past. You are invited to camp at his house at 5950 Hwy 97, Peshastin. Phone #509-548-5865.

Sunday will be spent prospecting for Serpentine, tan soapstone and looking for crystals near his place.

The August 14 & 15th trip to Kalispell is very tentative. The forest service is not allowing large groups in and has stopped people from digging.

Gold and Fish books are required on many of these trips. Be sure you have one on you or very near by.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Stan Brooks and Judy Ayers

**From an e-mail from Ed Lehman.  
Subject: STOLEN CRYSTALS**

Date: Fri, 30 Jan 2004 04:36:51 GMT

Greetings all...This is Bob O'Brien... I am on leave from Iraq for the next week and a half.

The purpose of this is let you know that while I was on active duty in Iraq in the Army, someone entered my property and broke into my house and storage building and took every last rock and crystal that I have collected in the last 15 plus years. They also took identification information, 5,000 board feet of lumber, an 18 inch slab saw, sliding glass doors, Anderson windows, speakers, a Highland Park cabbng machine, a large tumbler and extra barrels, arbors and expandable drums and everything else they could load up and haul out.

Among the rock there was 70+ crates of thundereggs, jaspers and agates, pet wood , talc.

Among the crystals there was Calcite from Gallatin Gateway min. 10 boxes.

Mostly large cabinet specimens not cleaned. Quartz from Big chief, spruce, green ridge and Peterson Mtn.

There was also 5 or 6 - 5 gallon buckets of choice Holley Blue.

There was also Walker Valley and several flats of Rock Candy.

If any of you see any of this entering the market would you please notify the Island County sheriff.

Thanks  
Bob O'Brien

**Federal Way Gem & Mineral Club sale**

We are holding a lapidary material and jewelry sale on May 1st & 2nd, 9 - 6 each day.

The address is 33228 33rd Pl. S., Federal Way.

Easy driving directions: from N or S I-5 exit eastbound Hwy. 18 to first exit, Weyerhaeuser Way S.

Head northbound on WWS to 33rd Pl. S., turn right, go .5 mi., North Lake Comm.

Center on right. Look for the signs.

Any questions, Dave Estes at 253 661 1193

## **Diamonds Conjured from Greenhouse Gas**

Conjuring gemstones from thin air sounds like one of the alchemist's more ambitious projects. But that is what a team of chemists from China is claiming to have achieved by making small diamonds from carbon dioxide.

"We are changing a waste gas into gems," claims Qianwang Chen, head of the team producing the diamonds at the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei, Anhui province.

The team claims its method could be cheaper and more efficient than some existing methods of synthesising diamonds, which require pressures of up five million atmospheres and temperatures that reach 1400 °C.

Chen and his colleagues make their diamonds by reacting CO<sub>2</sub> with metallic sodium in a pressurised oven at only 440 °C and 800 atmospheres. "This is the lowest temperature reported so far for diamond synthesis," he says. After 12 hours, the grains of diamond can be separated from the sodium carbonate, graphite and unreacted CO<sub>2</sub> that remain.

### **Small gemstones**

Metallic sodium is a hazardous material, as it reacts violently with water vapour. To ensure that it all gets used up, the team starts with an excess of CO<sub>2</sub>. "We have now undertaken the procedure more than 80 times without any safety problems," says Chen.

In the online edition of the Journal of the American Chemical Society (DOI: 10.1021/ja035177) Chen's team reports that the first diamonds reached diameters of about a quarter of a millimetre. While that is far too small for gems in wedding rings and necklaces, it is ideal for use in industrial cutting tools and abrasives.

But since the group's paper was accepted by the journal, they have improved the process to the point at which it can be used to make small gemstones. "We can grow diamonds as large as 1.2 millimetres," Chen says. "They are transparent and colourless, and so could be used as gems."

### **"Horribly nasty"**

While the Chinese process works at a more reasonable temperature, 800 atmospheres is "still a horribly nasty pressure to work at", says Alison Mainwood at King's College London, who chairs the UK's Diamond Research Network.

She doubts whether the Chinese process will seriously challenge today's industrial diamonds because the diamonds it yields are so small and gritty: "I'm sure it could be improved, but I doubt to the point where it could become a rival."

De Beers, the largest diamond-mining company in the world, says that while it welcomes advances in the technology of diamond making, manufactured gems should be kept distinct from natural ones.

"We hope that any organisation involved in diamond synthesis would openly and transparently declare any such product as being synthetic and clearly distinct from natural gem diamond," the company says.

Andy Coghlan

From 07/28/03 New Scientist Online Edition

## **Mineral of the Month Fluorite**

Chemical composition: CaF<sub>2</sub>, Calcium Fluoride

Uses: As a flux (hence the name) in iron smelting, a rare gemstone, a source of fluorine, as special optical lenses and a popular mineral specimen.

Color is extremely variable and many times can be an intense purple, blue, green or yellow; also colorless, reddish orange, pink, white and brown. A single crystal can be multi-colored.

Luster is vitreous.

Transparency: Crystals are transparent to translucent.

Crystal System: Isometric; 4/m bar 3 2/m

Crystal Habits include the typical cube and to a lesser extent, the octahedron as well as combinations of these two and other rarer isometric habits. Always with equant crystals; less common are crusts and botryoidal forms. Twinning also produces penetration twins that look like two cubes grown together.

Cleavage is perfect in 4 directions forming octahedrons.

Fracture is irregular and brittle.

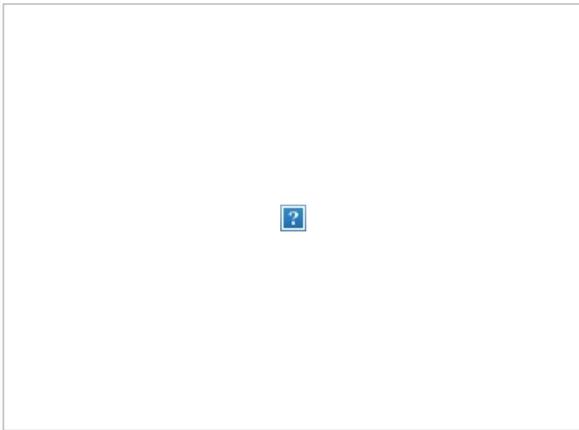
Hardness is 4

Specific Gravity is 3.1+ (average)

Streak is white.

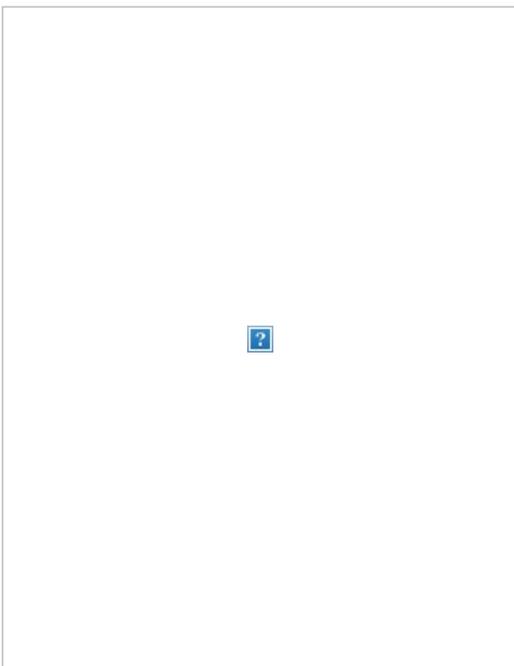
Contributed by [www.mineralgalleries.com](http://www.mineralgalleries.com). If you haven't visited this site your missing something.

from 03/04 SLABS, CABS, & GAB



Fluorite with Phantoms  
Location: Hunan Province, China

Image from [www.mineralauctions.com](http://www.mineralauctions.com)



Fluorite on Sphalerite  
Location: Elmwood Mine, Carthage, Tennessee

Image from [www.mineralauctions.com](http://www.mineralauctions.com)



Fluorite

Location: Okarusu Mine, Otjiwarongo Distr, Namibia

Image from [www.mineralauctions.com](http://www.mineralauctions.com)

### **The Smithsonian Institution**

In 1826, James Smithson, a British scientist, drew up his last will and testament, naming his nephew as beneficiary. Smithson stipulated that, should the nephew die without heirs (as he would in 1835), the estate should go "to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

The motives behind Smithson's bequest remain mysterious. He never traveled to the United States and seems to have had no correspondence with anyone here. Some have suggested that his bequest was motivated in part by revenge against the rigidities of British society, which had denied Smithson, who was illegitimate, the right to use his father's name. Others have suggested it reflected his interest in the Enlightenment ideals of democracy and universal education.

Smithson died in 1829, and six years later, President Andrew Jackson announced the bequest to Congress. On July 1, 1836, Congress accepted the legacy bequeathed to the nation and pledged the faith of the United States to the charitable trust. In September 1838, Smithson's legacy, which amounted to more than 100,000 gold sovereigns, was delivered to the mint at Philadelphia. Recoined in U.S. currency, the gift amounted to more than \$500,000.

After eight years of sometimes heated debate, an Act of Congress signed by President James K. Polk on Aug. 10, 1846, established the Smithsonian Institution as a trust to be administered by a Board of Regents and a Secretary of the Smithsonian.

From the Smithsonian web site.

from 03/04 Rock Rattler