

03/25/06 Combined meeting minutes

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Ed Thomas

Ed's opening comments – He would like to see more activity from the Eastside member clubs. It was noted that 5 of the 6 clubs had representatives at this meeting.

Introductions were made since there were several new members (from Yakima and Kennewick) present.

Kathy gave the treasurer's report.

- The State Leasehold tax has been paid, new billing expected soon.
- In process of changing banks. New account will be at North Coast Credit Union with no service fees.
- Insurance policy will be ready soon. Norma Kikkert will check into rates for WSMC.
- Treasurer's report accepted as read.

Wagonmaster's report::

- Last two trips were well attended with about 30 people. Race Horse Creek trip will be one week earlier to co-ordinate with Mt Baker show.
- Details for the Oregon/California trip:
 - 6/21-22, Davis Creek, CA; obsidian. Permits (free) required. Available from Davis Creek Store.
 - 6/23-24, Spectrum mine, Plush, OR: sunstones
 - 6/25-27, Maury Mtn and surrounding areas, near Prineville, OR. Pre-registration required
- Mt Higgins rhodonite, private land: Mike Messenger is in process of gaining access. Needs copy of insurance to get access for 7/15 field trip.
- Kalama/Green Mtn, 50 people per day maximum. Pre-registration required, \$20 fee refundable @ site on day of dig. WSMC will hold fee.
- Point to ponder: How does WSMC handle the money if the party is a "no show"? Issue to be taken up at a later meeting, need to have written policy.
- First Creek. There is a need to limit requests for access. Too many clubs are requesting the key and might create issues with continued access. Also, issues of fire danger, road quality, impact issues, etc. Off road use and people going around gates are other issues that may wear out everyone's welcome. Ed Thomas suggested that we form a small group and try to resolve this issue; no one volunteered to help set up a meeting or contact the various clubs. It is still an open issue at this time.
- Suggestion: Get a written agreement to work with the Timber Company to assist in maintaining use of land in the future. Guidelines, copy of insurance policy, etc. Discuss at future meeting.
- Lake Wenatchee garnet area: now limited to 12 people in a group, not in a wilderness area but over wilderness trail system. At least one group was stopped last year because of size even though they were only going to the garnet collecting site. We haven't gotten any official word on the Wagonmaster trips. Trail Head permit is no longer required. Gold and Fish handbook required for each person. Guidelines must be followed. Collecting "season" is from 8/15 through 9/15.

New business:

- Bill Snell remarked about the amount of collectable material between Ellensburg and Yakima. He feels we should be looking in possible getting some of this area open to collecting. It is in the canyon between the cities and includes wood, agate and other material. We will be looking into what is the current status of collecting on the Department of Game lands. We have looked into this a number of years ago but lost interest when we finally got to the point of getting a permit system in place, very few people tried to get the permit and fewer actually used the permit to collect on game lands.
- New book on CD is out: Jim Miller of Bothell has published "Flint Knapper's Guide to Rocks". \$17.95 plus shipping. Book is in PDF format, explains soak times, heat, etc. Jim's email address is: goldnpoint@comcast.net. Note, this is not shareware.

Election of new officers

President: Mike Messenger

First VP: Diane Rose

Second VP: Stu Earnst

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Kathy Earnst

Trustees Eastside: Bill Snell, Jerry Sorensen, Ed Thomas (Past President), Dean Angstrom (Honorary)

Trustees Westside: Bob Pattie, Dave Eckert

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept slate of officers.

Old business:

- Golden Age Passport is still good.
- East side case: Nice materials, needs a bit of updating showing more new finds, especially from the east side. New labels would be

nice as well. Need to state some materials are in state but no longer available for collecting in all areas. Ed suggested donations of Washington material to the Rice Museum

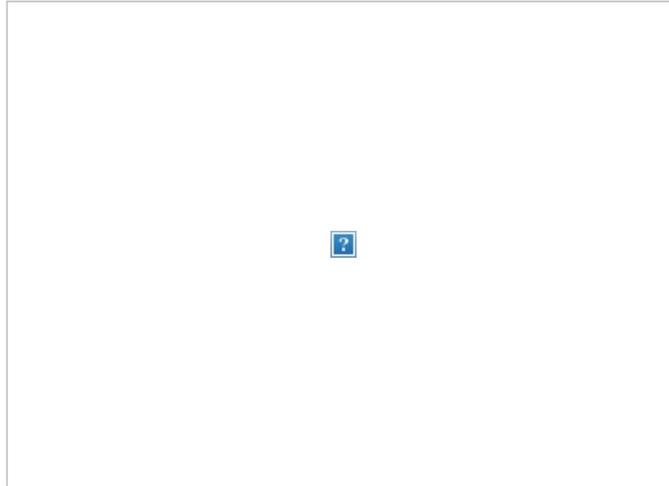
- The outhouse on Red Top appears to be in good condition and we will not need to have a workshop for any repairs.
- Mineral Council maps are in the process of being updated.

Ed Thomas closed the meeting by reminding us to think of ways to get more participation from our members and member clubs. He also wanted us to possibly consider going back to having the August meeting in connection with a field trip. There will be no change for this year maybe it could be considered in the future.

Submitted by Bob Pattie and Diane Rose

The Flintknapper's Guide to Rock

Author: Jim Miller, Bothell WA
A short review by Ed Thomas, Goldendale, WA



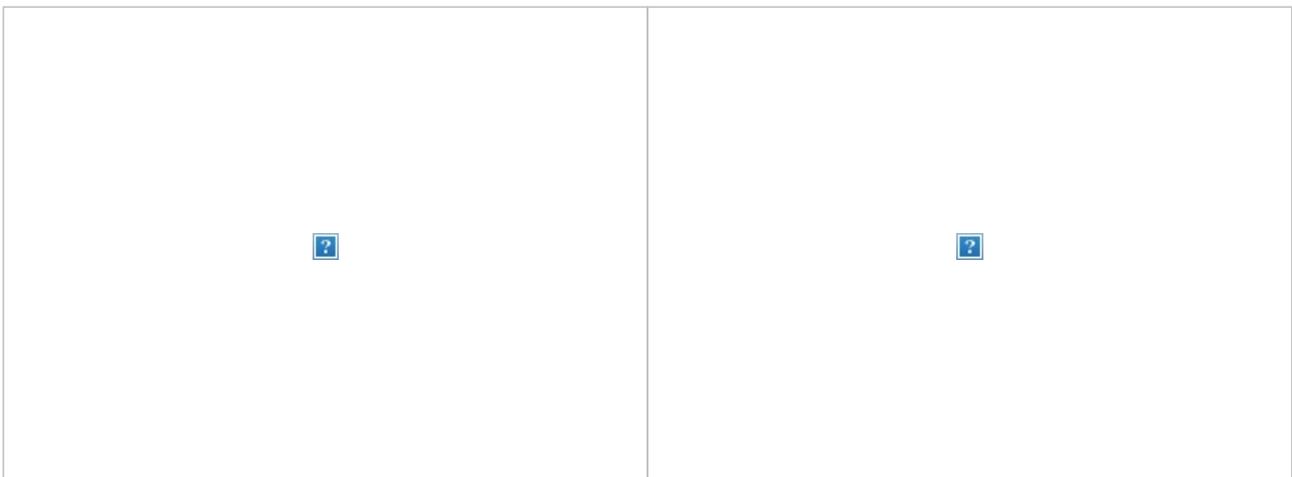
Many of us have learned about rocks the hard way and have carried a lot of the good ole "Leverites" home with us from field trips. When I found out that a good friend and Geologist, Jim Miller had put together a Guide to Rock on a CD and in Acrobat Reader format, I decided I just had to get one of his CD's and see what I could learn from it. I must say, "I am very impressed with the finished product that Jim and his friend (Producer), Karl Stomberg, have put together. It is written in pretty much Layman's terms and covers material that is of good value for Knappers and Rockhounds alike. Jim has many colored pictures and descriptions of the materials he talks about". I hadn't seen a CD "E-Book" before. The beauty of this one is a person can print out any one page, or all of the pages, as a field guide. There is a very good appendix with a lot of information for the more advanced Knapper and Rockhound, as well. However, this is not a rock location guide.

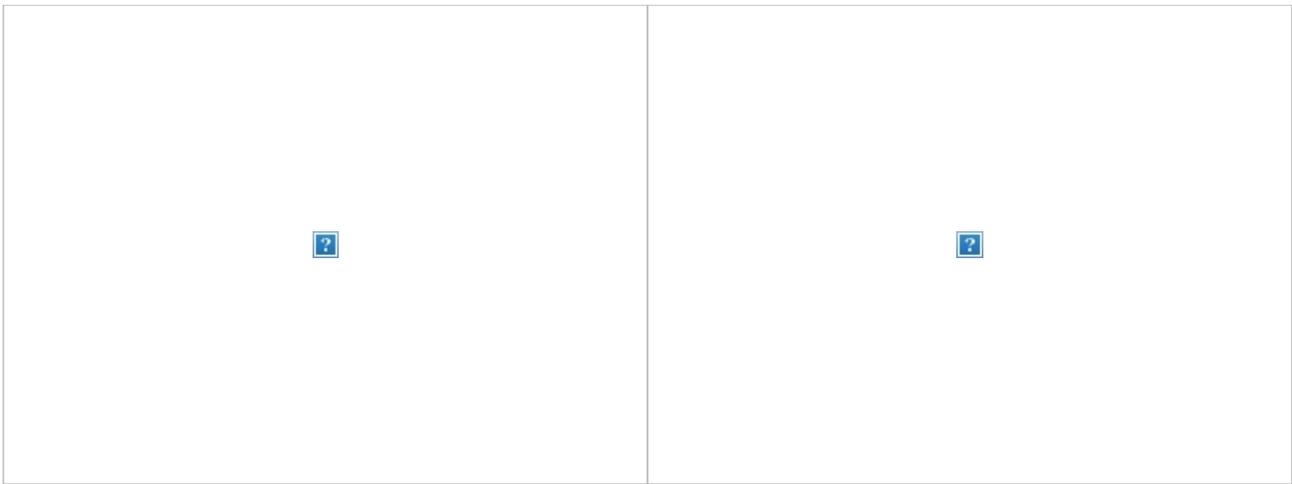
Price is \$17.95, including shipping. Order direct from Jim Miller goldnpoint@comcast.net

or contact

Jim Miller
4803 196th St. SE
Bothell, WA 98012-7420

March 2006 Field Trip Report





The March trip was to Woodside mountain, just east of Harrison Mills on highway #7. Up a logging road is a road cut through some rock that has some small pyrites, along with some seams with more pyrites and some small cubes. Lots of boulder bashing by the 30 or so rock hounds. The weather was great, the 'spot' was a nice sunny south facing location. After a couple of hours, we retreated to the Fraser River bar at Chilliwack for some river materials. See some pictures provided by Diane Bowman of the Hastings club....I forgot to bring my camera. Duh.

April 23, Cam Bacon (604-854-1711) from the Abbotsford club is leading a group to the Harrison Lake Fossils location. Again, the meeting place is the Sasquatch Inn on highway #7. This location has been a popular spot for clam fossils, and belemnite fossils. The clams are fairly easy to pick up, however the belemnites usually require some encouragement with hammers & chisels to set them free. This trip is ~20Km off the paved roads on a logging road. Fill up with gas, and bring a lunch.

For the field trip, bring warm clothing, rain wear, rock hammer, larger hammers, and chisels, and a lunch! Please dress appropriately, with proper hiking boots. If you have larger boulder bashing equipment, bring that too...

The meeting place is the Sasquatch Inn parking lot at 9:00AM. If you don't know where this is, please get a map and look for Highway #7, and Harrison Mills. You will see a road that cuts off of Highway #7 for the Hemlock Valley Ski area. The Sasquatch Inn is where you turn off of Highway #7.

Submitted by Harley Waterson, BC Wagonmasters

Identifying Gems and Minerals on Earth and Mars

By Mari N. Jensen
March 09, 2006
Science Daily.com

It'll be a snap to identify gemstones once Robert Downs finishes his library of spectral fingerprints for all the Earth's minerals.

Downs is almost halfway there. So far, the associate professor of geosciences at The University of Arizona in Tucson has cataloged about 1,500 of the approximately 4,000 known minerals using a technique called Raman spectroscopy. The effort is known as the RRUFF Project.

"We're developing a tricorder," Downs said, referring to the instrument used on the "Star Trek" television show that could be waved over materials to identify their chemical composition.

Downs' work is destined for space. Although Downs' current Raman spectrometer takes up an area the size of a tabletop, his colleague M. Bonner Denton, a UA professor of chemistry and of geosciences, is developing a pocket-sized Raman spectrometer to be used on the 2009 Mars rover.

Downs is collaborating with George Rossman of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena to develop the database of minerals.

The technology being developed for Mars will help create handheld instruments for use on Earth.

One use for a hand-held instrument would be the identification of gemstones. Downs and Denton will both give presentations on that aspect of the project on Sunday afternoon, March 12, at the 57th Annual Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (PITTCON 2006) to be held in Orlando, Fla.

Other ways to accurately identify minerals, such as X-ray diffraction and electron microprobe, require grinding a bit of the sample to powder or polishing the sample in a specific manner.

However, such rough treatment may not be the method of choice to determine that a glittering gemstone is truly a diamond, rather than just a piece of cubic zirconia.

Unlike other methods of identifying minerals, a Raman spectrometer does not require destructive sampling. It shoots a laser beam at the sample. The laser excites atoms within the sample, which then emit a very weak light of a wavelength in a pattern characteristic of the material.

"It's like a fingerprint," Downs said.

The technique is named after Sir C.V. Raman, who won a 1930 Nobel Prize for figuring out the underlying physics.

But no Raman spectrometer, big or small, can conclusively identify Mars rocks or any other kinds of minerals without the kind of comprehensive database Downs is creating.

When an unknown material is analyzed with a Raman spectrometer, it can be identified by comparing it with reference information from a database.

In Downs' lab, a small army of undergraduate researchers is helping complete the RRUFF Project, the first comprehensive database containing the Raman spectra of all the Earth's minerals.

The RRUFF project is supported by funding from gemstone connoisseur and collector Michael Scott, founding president of Apple Computer. Scott has a degree in physics from the California Institute of Technology. RRUFF is the name of Scott's cat.

NASA provided funding to develop the instrument for the 2009 Mars Rover.