

## Minutes of the 05/20/03 Westside Board Meeting

VP Stu Earnst opened the meeting at 7:31pm.

Treasurer's report read by Kathy Earnst.

Minutes approved as published in the newsletter.

### Old business:

- Lease on Walker valley discussed. The expiration notice was sent but we are not sure who it went to. We do not see any obstacle to renewal as communication between the council and DNR are open and ongoing.
- Special thanks, to DNR representative, Laurie Bergvall and DNR staff for their time and effort in hearing our concerns and working towards mutually beneficial solutions on the Walker Valley issues.
- Sign production is on hold until the sign committee decides where and what the signs will say. We have decided that they will not be on the gate but separate from it.
- There will be a gate going up at Walker Valley but we will have access to that lock and it will probably be a combo type of thing that we can easily give to other rockhound clubs going there. Talked about the possibility of posing the combo on website but that will depend on the type of gate they put up and what ends up being possible with the mechanics of that gate.

### New business:

- Thank you from Bob Pattie and Ed Lehman to Bruce Himko and AAA Printing for donation of the paper.
- Thank you to Danny Vandenberg for providing sample Walker Valley Material to DNR to show the value of the material we are trying to preserve and enjoy.
- Bob Pattie is pursuing with the retrieval of our state seized funds through the unclaimed property process. Our bond money had no activity at Citibank so it was turned over to the state under state regulations for inactive bank accounts. We will receive the money back shortly.

### Wagonmaster Report:

- Kalama trip May 17-18 was a success. We had 52 people on Sat and 39 on Sunday. Weather was fickle Friday and Saturday, but Sunday was gemmy. Good material was found and everyone seemed to be happy with their finds. Lots of exceptional pieces found with both the beaver pond group and the forest site group.
- Fly by night claim is currently closed due to access restriction. It could be possible to make arrangements to access the area again on an occasional basis if there is interest in the marcasite and blue agate found there.
- First Creek trip will be in September hosted by the Pow Wow club. Bill Snell and Ed Lehman will accompany them so that they will have access to the key to the gate. The only obstacle could be fire hazard closures.



### Large agate "nodule" from Kalama

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Norma Kikkert, Secretary.

**Tiger's Eye is Not a Pseudomorph**

Glenn Morita

In the early 1800's, mineralogists recognized that tiger's eye was a fibrous variety of quartz. In 1873, German mineralogist Ferdinand Wibel discovered that hawk's eye, the blue form of tiger's eye, was composed almost entirely of quartz but that it also contained fibers of crocidolite, a bluish, iron bearing form of asbestos. Wibel proposed that hawk's eye forms when quartz dissolved in hot water infiltrates the spaces between the asbestos fibers and then slowly replaces the asbestos. Wibel explained that brown tiger's eye results when chemical reactions transform some of the iron in the crocidolite fibers into brownish iron oxide.

The idea that tiger's eye is a pseudomorph, in which the molecules of one mineral are replaced by another while retaining the original form of the original crystal, has been accepted for more than 125 years. In fact, tiger's eye is often cited as a classic example of pseudomorphism in many textbooks.

Peter J. Heaney of the Pennsylvania State University in University Park says Wibel got it wrong. Heaney expected to find that the quartz in tiger's eye is chalcedony, the fibrous form of quartz also found in agates. Instead he found that the quartz is in the form of column-shaped crystals of quartz more than 100 micrometers across and up to 10 millimeters long. Pseudomorphism does not produce such uniform crystals.

Heaney and his colleagues propose that the crystal structure of tiger's eye forms via a crack-seal mechanism. Basically, quartz and crocidolite simultaneously crystallize out of solution filling tiny cracks in the host rock. Repeated episodes of fracturing lead to more quartz and crocidolite crystals filling the cracks.

So why has it taken scientists so long to determine that tiger's eye is not a pseudomorph? The techniques and instruments Heaney used to study tiger's eye have been around for over 50 years. The short answer is that no one ever bothered to look. Also, since tiger's eye is only a semiprecious stone, there has been little incentive for investigation.

The bottom line is that museum curators will need to revise their mineralogy displays. Textbook editors however, will have a much tougher time reviewing all those geology texts.

Summarized from an article that appeared in the April 26, 2003 issue of Science News

## **Saddle Mountain Field Trip Report**

**4/25/03 - 4/27/03**

For about the last 50 years, the Pow-wow group of rockhounds has a scheduled trip in the spring to Saddle Mountain to dig for petrified wood. They stay at a small state park just south of Mattawa, WA, and a large number of rockhounds from all over the United States and Canada show up. Many of the people there have RV's and many of the officers of the organization attend. On Saturday night, they have a nice pot-luck dinner, and the Pow-wow provides hamburgers and hot dogs for all. On Sunday morning there is a pancake and sausage breakfast.

This year, a large number of Whidbey Pebble Pups (WPP) members decided to go on this field trip. We had 11 adults, 8 kids, and 3 dogs present. The group set up a small tent city, and made some fire pits to have a bonfire at the camp site. Unfortunately, rain came up on Friday night and early Sunday morning, which made it difficult to really get organized for our field trip. But needless to say, it finally quit raining and we all went up to the top of Saddle Mountain to dig for petrified wood. Everyone seems to have brought back a lot of the wood. That evening, everyone enjoyed the pot-luck dinner, and the awards of rock specimens given out after the meal. The breakfast on Sunday was enjoyed by all, and then we went to the Diatomite and opalized wood pits near Vantage, WA, where everyone picked up more specimens to take home. Everyone had a really good time on this trip.