

Minutes of the 11/01/03 Combined Meeting

Old business:

The Mineral Council signs for the Walker Valley area are being made of steel and the wording burned in. Information on locks for the gates of Walker Valley can be on request obtained from the WSMC wagon master and website.

Filing for a claim on the Teanaway Ridge has been dropped.

Forest Service special permits for Davis creek Jasper is \$25.

Remember, Portland, Oregon is where the headquarters are for BLM. It is important to know the regulations for each District.

New business:

Mineral Council meeting location in August is in question. Some don't like to combine the meeting with field trip. It was encouraged members of WSMC voice their option as to place and date for the August WSMC meeting by Dec. 15 to Glenn Morita. As the place and date for the August meeting will be determined at the planning meeting.

Bob Pattie was given the OK to replace the present worn out copier.

Presentation of the incoming officers was announced.

Short discussion was made on inventory of all Washington State collecting sites. Stu Earnst will continue to work on this matter.

Maps for collecting sites in Washington State can still be obtained at Club meetings from the club's Mineral Council Representative.

Wagonmaster Report:

It was announced that the Mineral Council Field Trip Planning meeting will be held at Ed Lehman's home Jan. 10th, 2004. Member clubs should send a representative or send information to Ed on where they would like to have Mineral Council field trips in 2004.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stan & Ruth Brooks

What Sort of Mineral is Soapstone?

The Chinese have treasured soapstone for centuries and used it to carve their delicate figures. Eskimos use it to make lamps and cooking pots. In ancient Babylon, it was used to make signet rings and other pieces of jewelry. In North America, the early pioneers used it to make laundry tubs; but this is not why it is called soapstone. The mineral got its name because of the waxy polished surface, which looks and feels soapy.

Geologists classify soapstone as a hydrous magnesium silicate, and call it steatite, a mineral related to talc. Its main ingredients are magnesium, silicon, and moisture. It is one of the softest stones - easily carved with a knife and polished to shine with a waxy glow. Its color may be pearly or bluish gray, milky white, or pastel yellow. A few rare examples are vivid apple green, some are opaque like dense rock, and others are translucent like foggy glass.

Since early times, artists have treasured its lovely colors and soft, carveable qualities. It makes durable linings for boilers and electric furnaces because it insulates both heat and electricity. It resists all stains and corrosion. As a filler ingredient, powdered soapstone gives body to certain papers and prints and a spreading quality to face powder.

Soapstone is classified as a metamorphic rock, and a mineral completely altered from its original form by a tremendous force within the earth's crust. The original rock was most likely lava, rich in magnesium and silicates fused in the furnace of some ancient volcano. For ages it was buried amid the soothing activity of growing mountains.

Steaming underground waters and enormous pressures gradually remodeled and refined its texture. The original rock was metamorphosed and completely changed into something different. The various colors were added by traces of magnesium, chlorite, mica, and other ingredients that seeped into the recipe.

Considering its long history of hardship, it is not surprising that the lovely soft mineral is not marred by its past experience.

from Bellevue Rockhound 11/03

Kalama Update

Longview Fiber has provided the WSMC with some additional guidelines for access to the Kalama area:

For safety reasons, Longview Fiber requests all rock houndingrecreational users of the Kalama Green Mountain area to get permission before going onto their property. In the summertime they generally close their land to recreational use due to FIRE hazard. Also they may be working the land and at that time there would be no access to the general public. All who take a group must have permission from Denny Mohan of Longview Fiber.

Also the area is open, so the closed notice may come off the page, but do not say that it is open, this way people can call LVF.

Thanks for your help

Walker Valley Lock Issues

The WSMC received this e-mail regarding the lock on the gate at Walker Valley:

Hello there!

The rockhounds' lock is missing from the Walker Valley gate and the lever has been bolted shut. Also, the last two times I visited the pit the rockhounds' lock has been locked on the wrong lever and the gate left open. I'm afraid that we're going to lose access to the pit if we can't lock the lock on the correct lever and keep the gate shut. You may want to give more detailed information about how the lock box works on the web site. For example, the lock needs to be put on the lever labeled 'rockhounds'; putting it on other levers will not lock the gate. In addition, the lever must be lifted when closing the gate in order for the pin inside of the lock box to secure the gate.

Pete