

10/17/06 Westside board meeting minutes

President Mike Messenger opened the meeting at 7:30pm

Kathy Earnst gave the treasurer's report

Wagonmasters report:

The last field trip, Little Naches area, was lightly attended with about 10 participants.

Ed Lehman will be retiring as Wagonmaster at the end of the year

The Mineral Council needs someone to step up and take over the organization of the field trips for the year. Ideally each of the member clubs would sponsor one field trip per year. The Wagonmaster would then co-ordinate the years field trips, act as a contact point, support the member clubs in getting the word out, securing access, and supplying insurance forms. The last important function the Wagonmaster performs is setting up the annual field trip planning meeting in January.

Ed will also retire from the map book making enterprise that he has so capably performed for the last 10 years or more. The biggest job has been the distribution of the map books to the various clubs for sale at their shows. The Mineral Council needs someone to take over this important role.

The question about how best to go about selling the map books was discussed at length. Among the options were to sell them via mail, on CDs, via the website, or give the member clubs more incentive by increasing the percentage of the sales they get to keep. Each of these options have their own problems so perhaps a combination of approaches will eventually set up.

Mike Messenger has volunteered to set up the January field trip planning meeting for next year. It was suggested that the President or West second vice president act as the Wagonmaster since the planning meetings take place on the west side.

Norma Kikkert will draft a letter that will be sent out to the clubs to explain the Wagonmaster responsibilities and the plan to requesting member clubs to sponsor at least one field trip per year. The board will then review the letter prior to it being sent out to the clubs.

New business:

Last month Bob Pattie put together a proposal regarding the combined meetings. It is re-printed below.

Proposal for Consideration

I would like to propose that the Washington State Mineral Council change their meeting schedule. I would propose that the Council have four general meetings a year instead of the current practice of three meetings.

I would propose that the current March and November meeting remain as they are currently scheduled. I would propose that we replace the August meeting with two meetings one in late June and early September. I would select one of these new meetings to be a meeting with a speaker.

Reason for consideration of this proposal:

- 1. The August meeting has dropped in attendance the last few years to where it becomes a question of having a quorum to attend to business.*
- 2. Depending on the weather, the March and November meetings have varied in attendance.*
- 3. It is difficult to start or complete any projects with just three meetings a year.*
- 4. The officers just get thing started and then their term of office is over.*
- 5. August is a good month for field trips and vacations, so many people just forget about the WSMC meeting.*
- 6. New representatives may come to one meeting but with a lack of continuity of topics, they don't seem to come back very often.*
- 7. I sometimes think that some of the new representative feel that if they have missed one meeting that they are hesitate to attend the one or two remaining meeting for the year.*
- 8. With a scheduled speaker at a particular meeting, maybe some of the new members will be attracted to the meeting and our activities and will continue to attend the meetings.*
- 9. We need to attract more people and activities to our meetings, particularly new blood.*

Reason for not consideration of this proposal:

- 1. One more meeting for many busy people.*
- 2. Expense of driving to Ellensburg one more time a year.*
- 3. Someone would have to spent time getting a speaker once a year.*
- 4. Getting a schedule put together with the fewest conflicts with currently schedule shows and holidays.*

This is just a proposal for consideration at this time. The intent is to attract more people to our meetings and get some new blood into the organization. Many of the members that attend the meetings have been doing so for many years and would like to be able to sit back and provide guidance to the new members while bringing back some life to a vary important organization.

Bob Pattie-West side Trustee

A question came up about the regulations concerning rock collecting on state lands. There are several types of state lands and the regulations differ on each type. For example the regulations on State Parks Department land is covered in RCW 79A.05.165. One of the ideas that came out of this discussion is that the mineral Council could research the regulations and put together a database for publication in the newsletter and on the website. That way the information will be readily available.

The rest of the meeting was a long discussion about the lack of representation of the member clubs at the board meetings, particularly the combined meeting which used to draw as many as 60 or more members. It is unclear how much information is passed on to the clubs via their Mineral Council reps. Each club is supposed to get as many as three copies of the newsletter and the information passed along to the membership. Many may ask the question "What does the Mineral Council do for my club". Many would say that the Wagonmaster field trips are its main function or perhaps the publication of the map books. At one time the Mineral Council was more "politically" active in that it called on people to attend the public hearings that were held when land access issues were at stake. Perhaps the Mineral Council should again take a more active role.

Meeting adjourned,
Glenn Morita, Secretary Pro-Tem

Abrasives To Zirconium...

Growth In U.S. Economy Spurs Increased Mineral Consumption, Says USGS Report

The U.S. economy expanded 3.9 percent in 1998, prompting increased consumption of minerals and mineral-based products, according to a new report of the U.S. Geological Survey. "Mineral Commodity Summaries 1999" provides government statistics on 1998 events, trends, and issues in the domestic and international mineral industries. Much of this increase in consumption, however, occurred because of increased imports of mineral-based products, especially steel and other metals, according to the report.

The consumption of minerals and mineral-based products affects all Americans because it reflects use of nonfuel minerals such as fertilizers in agriculture, concrete and building materials in construction, aggregate in road building, steel to make cars and all manner of transportation vehicles, and materials crucial to the communications industry.

"Summary reports such as this provide valuable insights into our country's use of its natural resources," said USGS Director Charles G. Groat. "They also give us more information on our reliance on imported raw materials and help decision makers in government and industry plan wisely for the future."

According to Mineral Commodity Summaries 1999:

The value of U.S. raw nonfuel minerals production was \$40.1 billion in 1998, down slightly from the \$40.5 billion produced in 1997. The value of domestic minerals production, however, has increased in 31 of the past 38 years. The top three states for production were Nevada (\$3.1 billion), California (\$3.0 billion), and Arizona (\$2.8 billion).

Imports of processed mineral materials were valued at an estimated \$60 billion, and exports were valued at an estimated \$35 billion. Imports of metal ores and concentrates and raw industrial minerals increased slightly to \$3 billion. Exports of raw minerals remained essentially unchanged at about \$3 billion.

The outlook for the domestic minerals industry in 1999 will depend largely on two sectors of the U.S. economy that are significant consumers of aluminum, cement, copper, crushed stone, glass, sand and gravel, and steel. The automobile industry will be the primary source for the demand for metals, while highways and mass transit, budgeted for increased Federal spending, and other construction will be the primary source for the demand for industrial minerals.

On the international scene, the financial turmoil of countries in East Asia and Southeast Asia that began in 1997 continued in 1998. The prices of base metals, such as copper and nickel, fell to the lowest levels in 10 to 12 years. The prices of precious metals, such as gold and platinum, remained sluggish throughout 1998. The increased production of petroleum and the consequent decrease in price affected the economies of various major producers.

from Science Daily, 04/02/99

Granites Are Like Ice-Cream

from <http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rnr/analogy.html>

HOW ????

Both ice cream and granite start out as liquids which, when cooled become solid. Both will melt again if the temperature gets hot enough. However, ice cream freezes at temperatures below 0 degrees C. while granite freezes at temperatures below -650 degrees C. It is also true that as granite and ice cream increase in temperature to near their respective melting points, they get softer, as those of you who like to microwave your ice cream can tell.

Both ice cream and granite become crystalline when they become solid, different kinds of crystals in each, but crystals, nonetheless. The

crystals in ice cream are typically too small to see, but they are there.

Both granites and ice cream come in lots of “flavors” and colors, but they both have a few basic ingredients. For ice cream the basic ingredients are milk, cream and sugar. For **granite** the basic ingredients are **plagioclase, feldspar, potassium feldspar and quartz**. In both ice cream and granite, if you don’t have some of the basic ingredients, it’s not the real thing.

As with ice cream, there are things out there that might look a lot like granite, they may even have a lot of the same ingredients, people may even tell you that they are the same, and may even “taste” a lot alike, but they aren’t granite. Granite is to gabbro as ice cream is to frozen tofu. Ice milk is grandiorite, sherbet is syenite and frozen yogurt is anorthosite, (Actually, if I’m going to make statements like this, I’ll have to check and see how the Canadians feel about frozen yogurt and how vegans feel about gabbro.)

For both ice cream and granite you can have all the basic ingredients together, but if not mixed properly, you end up with something that’s only a cold dairy treat (like a milkshake or a quiescently frozen confection) or just plain old rock (like a sandstone). The Chocolate, Strawberry and Vanilla of the granite world are **peraluminous** (lots of aluminum), **peralkaline** (lots of sodium and potassium) and **metaluminous** (in between). However unlike with ice cream, all granites are going to fit in one of those chemical categories. For both granite and ice cream, appearance can be deceiving. Vanilla can look like Triple Fudge Swirl, Cherry Chunk, or Mocha Almond, but they have a lot of the same ingredients and were made in much the same way.

A fine-grained granite may not look much like a coarse-grained granite but they have a lot of the same ingredients and were made in much the same way. Like ice cream, a lot of the fun in granite comes from things that get folded and mixed in or dumped on top and the way it gets served up. The chocolate chips and nuts are **schlieren** (layers of dark black minerals that occur in granite). The M & M’s, Health Bars and Oreo Cookies of the granite world called **xenoliths** (rocks originally from outside the granite) and **enclaves** (dark bits of granite that aren’t really granite but are igneous rocks). The mint and pistachio in ice cream are like chemical elements such as **fluorine, boron, and titanium** in granite. A little bit really influences the final “flavor”. Both granite and ice cream can come in many different shapes ... Ice cream can be served up as cones, or cups, or sundaes, or bars, or on a stick, etc. Granite can be served (emplaced) as batholiths (large rounded masses) or laccoliths (dome-topped sheets), or lopoliths (cone-bottomed sheets) or sills (horizontal flat sheets) or dikes (non-horizontal flat sheets), and on for about 20 different types of granite bodies. Also, like ice cream, the different granite shapes don’t necessarily say anything about the composition.

In much the same way as ice cream can be served in sugar cones or waffles, or whatever kind of cone, granite can be served up in (surrounded by) “cones” of igneous, metamorphic or sedimentary rock.

In ice cream there are a bunch of things you can’t see – like emulsifiers, carrageenan and Carob Bean Gum, but which seriously effect how ice cream behaves. In granite there are minerals like **zircon, apatite, and titanite** which you commonly can’t see but which have a big influence on how the granite behaves (at least how the chemistry of the granite “behaves”). Some of the best known ice cream (Ben & Jerry’s) and some of the best known granite (Barre Gray) come from Vermont ... but for both ice cream and granite, the stuff from **TEXAS** (Amy’s or Bluebell; Llano or Red Bluff) is really better.

From SWMS Carny Hound 08/06 via Rimstone Review, 12/05/1/06, via T-Town Rockhound 08 /03- The Rockhound Gazette—04 /05, via THE CALGARY LAPIDARY JOURNAL, 06/05.

2nd Annual South Sound Gem, Opal and Mineral Show

The 2nd Annual South Sound Gem, Opal and Mineral Show will take place this year on November 10th through 12th, co-sponsored by the Northwest Opal Association and the Boeing Employees’ Mineralogical Society. The venue will be the Expo Hall at the Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup.

The show’s opening on Friday, November 10th (Veterans’ Day Observed) is a school holiday and admission is free for all students from kindergarten through high school. A parent or adult should accompany students under 13 years of age. School class groups, including their teachers, will be admitted free.

The show will feature individuals’ display cases containing lapidary, faceting and jewelry arts, along with mineral and fossil collections. Special displays will include fossil specimens from the Burke Museum of Seattle, and a model dinosaur diorama. Other possible displays will be an array of Ellensburg Blue agate, carved stone, and a Space Needle model constructed of cut and polished rock provided by the Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club.

Thirty retail dealers will be offering their products, including gemstones, opals, minerals, rough rock and slabs, jewelry, beads, findings, fossils, books, lapidary equipment and tools.

Approximately a dozen demonstrators will be showing their skills in such areas as gemstone faceting, opal cutting and carving, wire wrapping, gem identification, beading and intarsia.

Last year’s Junior Section is now part of the “Creative Center” which include activities for adults and children.

There will be a silent auction, a fluorescent mineral display, a raffle and door prizes. Food will be available at the concession booth in the building. The show is wheelchair accessible and parking is free in the Gold Lot located across the street from the Fair Gold Gate entrance.

Show times this year are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is: Adults - \$4.00, Seniors (+55) - \$3.00, Students (age 13-17) - \$3.00, and children age 12 and under accompanied by a parent or an adult – free.

There Are Gems In Those Hills

Canadian jewel hunters say they have discovered tantalizing blue gems on a hillside in the Yukon that are potentially more valuable than emeralds. The transparent stone, the color of blue velvet, could be a new gemstone, according to a federal agency that described the find as a jaw dropping discovery. If they are not unique, geologists say they could be the next best thing, the world's second occurrence of Maxixe, a deep blue beryl, which is in the same family of minerals as emeralds. It has only been found once before, in Brazil.

While plenty of people are talking about the glittering crystals, few people have actually seen them. The blue stones were discovered earlier this summer at a secret location in south-central Yukon. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council provides funds for research to the University of British Columbia geologist Lee Gloat and some of the students who are a part of the team that found the glittering blue rocks. The field crew found the gems in a half-kilometer site on a rocky hillside. The crew was literally picking them up off the ground but most of the blue crystals were found in rocks covered with lichens. The crew was also crisscrossing the hillside, turning rocks over and trying to locate the source of the gems.

The blue crystals, which measure a millimeter to 25 centimeters' across, are said to range in color from pale blue through sapphire blue to pale green. Some appear to be a combination of green and blue which makes them very unusual.

via BEMS etumbler, 10/06, West Seattle Petroglyphs, 8/06; via Golden Spike News, 6/06; via By-Grader, 4/06