

09/19/06 Westside board meeting minutes

As there were only four people at the meeting no business could be conducted. However, I did hand out copies of the proposed "Hold Harmless" agreement that Ed Lehman had sent to the board. A copy of the agreement is re-printed in this issue. Please review the form and send the board any feedback you have.

The board also received word of the passing of Bill Snell last week. He was a great friend to all of us and his passing is a great loss to the community.

Bob Pattie also handed out a copy of a new proposal regarding the Combined Westside/Eastside meeting schedule. The proposal is presented here for consideration by the membership.

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

Submitted by Glenn Morita
Secretary Pro-Tem

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.

Subject: Garnet Area

EDITOR'S note: This is a report on the Emerald Creek garnet area filed by Diane Kose of the North Idaho Club

Here are some photos taken in the "new area" They have dug a huge pile of dirt, rock, with garnet and have it above the road about 1/2 to 2/3 of the way up to the "old A frame check in". The pile, as well as an area to sift out the loose dirt is uphill, then below the road is the check in area and the trough system with water flowing into the troughs. They pump the water from a pond about 40-50 feet below the troughs thru a [4-6 inch guess size] pipe to the troughs, it runs thru and dumps into a "make shift" poor settling pond and the runs stream-like back to the original pond to do it all again. The system is powered by a pump, gas powered. You place the concentrate in a screen and rinse the dirt and mud off the rocks to reveal the garnets. We have gotten a pound each time we have gone. Before we were luck to find a few chips and mostly muck, tired and shoeless because the muck devoured our shoes too many times to ever get them clean again.

It is a lot easier to get garnets since you do not have to dig in the MUCK and water for most of the day to get to the garnet rich area, then have to leave because they close at 5 PM.

		
Check in area	Two troughs, high one on right	Our garnets 2 days [4+ pounds]
		
This is the low trough Kelly took the prize on Friday [3/8 ounce]		