Rocky Mountain Federation News

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From the Editor

Please submit your contributions for the next issue by August 15th to rmfmseditor@gmail.com.

Heather Woods, PG

Affiliations

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

Cover photo courtesy and copyright of Erin Delventhal of the San Juan County Gem and Mineral Society. “Geothite, hematite and gypsum in situ, Iron Hill District, Doña Ana County, New Mexico”
Hello All,

As you probably all know by now, we did have our 2020 convention this year. Donna and I left out of Albuquerque a little before 6 AM on Wednesday morning heading North to Wyoming. We made our first stop in Pojoaque where we met up with Dr. Bob to pick up the trophies. From there we just Zigged and Zagged our way up to Marbleton, Wyoming. A short 12 1/2 hours later and we were checking in to our hotel.

We got up early Thursday for our trip out to Kemmerer to hunt for fish fossils. We met up at the fairgrounds and this was the first time we got to meet up with all of those familiar faces and also when we realized who we were probably not going to see this year. It was great to see all of the familiar faces of those that made it and sad for the people that we did not get to see. It was quite a drive to the collecting site but well worth it. This field trip was a fulfillment of a lifelong dream of mine. From the first time I saw one of these fish fossils I have wanted to collect them myself. The gentlemen who were running Safari Fish Fossils couldn't have been better hosts to our group and they could not have been more helpful. Everyone found some fish and a few of us found some very amazing fossils. This was not only one of the best fishing trips I have ever been on, and it was a fantastic way to start off our convention.

The trip to the Blue Forrest just wasn’t in the cards for me on Friday as we had the executive meeting scheduled for 1 PM. We ended up being just shy of having a quorum, but we still had a pretty good meeting with quite a few interesting discussions and moved a few items to the agenda for the delegates meeting. We also had time before and after the meeting to check out the gem and mineral show. I must say that this was a very good show and we all enjoyed it. As I was walking around the show one of the vendors saw my Albuquerque club vest and called me over. He said he saw I was from New Mexico and he had something for me. He had been at an estate sale a while back and he picked up some old maps that they were just going to throw out. He didn't want to see them go to waste so he held on to them and now he passed them on to me. They are old maps that show all kind of dividing lines, mining areas and old rail lines that do not even exist anymore. I promised him that I would make good use of them and he passed them on to me.

Our Saturday adventure actually started out on Friday evening at dinner when we walked into the restaurant. A gentleman eating dinner saw us walk in and made the comment that we looked like a couple of rockhounds. That started a conversation that lasted all the way through dinner with arrangements of meeting up again in the morning after the editors breakfast. There were not very many people at the breakfast but it went very well and it was over all too soon. We met up with our new friend Scott and headed out for a mini collecting trip where several of us found some very cool
blue/green petrified wood and a few other interesting things on the side of a mountain. We had to cut this trip short due to the delegates meeting, but we decided we would meet up again on Sunday.

We got our delegates meeting going and it went pretty well. We did have a quorum but we mostly just discussed future plans. I believe we only voted on a couple of issues and you can read all about it when the minutes of the meeting come out. The meeting actually lasted a bit longer than I thought it would for the limited amount of business we had. As the meeting ended, we all ran off to get ready for the dinner. This is one of my favorite "meetings" because we all get to visit with who we want for as long as we want. This year was even more special because I had the honor of awarding Liz Thomas with the Gold Pan Award.

Sunday morning came around a little bit bittersweet as now all of the RMFMS business was done but we were going on another little side trip. On this day we collected some fossil bones, pet wood and some other odd formations and fossils. It was pretty much a kickback kind of day and we also got ready to head for home as others got packed up to go to other vacation spots. Even with all that is going on in the world right now, this was a pretty great convention.

This is now a very good time to thank and congratulate Jim Gray and his crew for an outstanding and successful show and convention. Their club is only 4 years old and they somehow managed to put on a safe and fulfilling show and convention. I also heard that they beat their attendance record by several hundred people before it was all over on Sunday afternoon. A great show, great field trips, great meals, great hospitality, and a great convention. Thank you to all who attended a from the Rocky Mountain Federation and also to special guests. I am hoping to hear that the AFMS convention in Knoxville is a go for this year. It is in October and we have already started packing our bags.

Bob

Preserving Fish Fossils from the Green River Formation

*By Jim Laughter, rigboss88@gmail.com*

For those who brought home fish fossils from the Convention field trip:

1. Let it dry, completely. It will turn from a light gray to a light tan in color.

2. Using a dental pick and/or flex-shaft clean up or expose your fish.

3. Using a small brush, paint just the fish with Vinac (or Minwax Clear Polyurethane). Let dry.

4. Mix 7 oz of Elmers Glue with 1 gal. of water. Immerse entire slab in solution to soak. Let dry.

If you do not do this, your prized collection will crumble.

Jim Laughter, Laughters Fossils, rigboss88@gmail.com
I found out about the Rockhound of the Year Award a few years ago when I went to my first Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) convention. It is an award that originates from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). I got excited about it because it is a way to honor the unsung heroes of our club. Through the years I have heard various descriptions of what the award was for. It ranged from a “Rockhound of the Year” to a lifetime achievement award. My Rockhound of the year goes way beyond any of these qualifications and someone who was in my opinion qualified for this award years ago.

Ray DeMark has been a member of the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club (AGMC) since 1971 and a lifetime member since 2005. He is a 3-term president from 1985-1987, VP of Programs for four years, VP of Field Trips for nine years, Show Chairman for two years and Ad Hock for two years.

Ray has articles published in everything from the News Nuggets all the way through the Mineralogical Record, and every publication in between. He also has minerals that he has collected in museums all over the country. Ray is one of the original founders and speakers of The New Mexico Mineral Symposium in founded in 1979 and he has been a presenter at every symposium since.

Since I joined the club 8 years ago and long before that, Ray DeMark has been there whenever he was asked to help with anything. He has done multiple presentations, seminars, mineral identification sessions, field trips and the list goes on and on, and so does Ray. This is why Ray is to me the ultimate Rockhound of the Year.
Ralph “Doc” Stuart: GJGMC’s 2020 Rockhound of the Year

Submitted by Patrick Martinez

The Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club (GJGMC) of Colorado is proud to recognize Ralph “Doc” Stuart as its 2020 Rockhound of the Year. He was a radiology physician, thus his nickname. He and his wife Gerry were highly active and involved in all aspects of the GJGMC. Each served as President of the club at different times. Gerry was involved with junior members, and Doc has always been a part of the Faceters group. He demonstrated faceting at our annual Gem & Mineral Show and taught many members how to facet over the years. Doc and Gerry donated nearly 2,000 specimens to the club and many of these are displayed at the clubhouse. After 30 years of continuous membership, both became Life Members. Sadly, Gerry passed away, but Doc continues to support the club and participate in rockhounding activities. He and fellow GJGMC member Helen Kauffman enjoyed many years of friendship, traveling to Quartzsite, many gem shows and sightseeing around the country until her passing. Doc’s other specialty is Micro Minerals, especially those that are radioactive. He spent many hours preparing specimens for viewing under a microscope and was involved with starting the club’s Micro Mineral Group. Doc is doing well at 94 years old, driving his Porsche, and occasionally attending club meetings. Many have benefited from the knowledge he has shared with members of the GJGMC.

RMFMS Website Contest Results

By Jennifer Gerring, RMFMS Website Contest Chair

This year’s website contest was a great success! Congratulations to these excellent websites and thank you for entering the website contest! All RMFMS webmasters are encouraged to enter their websites in the 2021 contest. Contest guidelines and entry forms will be placed on the AFMS and RMFMS websites as well as sent out to the RMFMS Directors and club webmasters. Please note, if you are a new club, or new webmaster, I may not have your contact information, please send it to the email listed below. Winners are announced and awards presented at the annual RMFMS Convention, so try to attend. The 2020 RMFMS Website Contest had four entries. The first and second place winners were forwarded to the AFMS Website contest.

FIRST PLACE: TOPEKA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY; Jason A. Schultz, webmaster
SECOND PLACE: SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY; Lorrilee Stackhouse, webmaster
THIRD PLACE: DAISY MOUNTAIN ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB; Nancy Gallagher, webmaster
HONORABLE MENTION: PRESCOTT GEM AND MINERAL CLUB; Colleen Denton/Gail Walker, webmasters
The Jemez
By Ken Zahn, Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies President

Past the Tent Rocks’ ash and pumice
Up Peralta’s gentle course
With thoughts of Jemez campfires
Or Cochiti on horse.

From Colle to La Jara
I trek the rugged hills
In search of Fire Opal
Hidden in tuffaceous sills.

How can I show my pleasure
At the sight of sparkling blue
Which glints back from the geode
To serve as my first clue.

Oh, to see the subtle color
In siliceous milky gel
Triggers scenes of Coober Pedy
Or of Spencer – who can tell?

Scrambling back to cold, clear water
I am taken by the spell
Of this silent, empty wildness
Of great beauty worn so well.

In an hour, back in traffic
As I plan for work and home
The pines of Jemez whisper
To return and search – alone.

Ken Zahn     5 July 76

About the Poem: The Jemez Mountains north-northwest of the Cochiti Pueblo (north of Albuquerque, New Mexico) are rugged volcanics that are part of an ancient caldera. Some whispers of one Albuquerque rockhound having found fire opal in partially potch-filled gas bubbles within (primarily) Jemez rhyolite were mentioned to me during several trips to Los Alamos National Laboratory and Kirtland Air Force Base in the 1970s. I was hooked, of course, and usually rented a “rent-a-wreck” car on those trips and would spend a day after the business was completed to search for the elusive opal-filled, thundereggs-like gas bubbles in the Jemez. After one of my last hikes on July 5, 1976, I penned this poem.
Fluorescence, a Lifelong Hobby

By Brian Walko, Flatirons Mineral Club President

Reprinted from the July-August 2020 edition of the Flatirons Facets with permission

My interest in fluorescence started in elementary school. As a kid I always was interested in collecting rocks and fossils. While attending a local Rock & Mineral show I saw a display of fluorescent minerals from the Franklin, New Jersey area. That influenced me for life.

I saved my newspaper route money and purchased a Black Light kit from Edmund Scientifics. It included a longwave lamp, fluorescent paint, invisible ink, crayons, a piece of wernerite, chips of fluorite, and the book, “The Story of Black Light”, which I still have.

Studying this book helped me learn about ultraviolet (UV) fluorescence, the electromagnetic spectrum, and electron shells. The book also included experiments with filters, optical bleach, phosphorescence, tracer powder, and minerals.

In seventh grade I entered my school’s science fair. I constructed a box lined with black cloth, a viewing window, and my best fluorescent material. It was illuminated by one seven-inch longwave lamp. The judges were scientists and engineers from the local Bell Labs. Besides viewing my project, the judges asked me questions. My effort paid off, I won First Place in the Physics category.
This was the catalyst to start building my fluorescent mineral collection. I purchased an electric longwave/shortwave (LW-SW) lamp. My parents drove me to the Franklin, NJ, mining dumps to collect specimens. The collecting fee was nominal by today’s standards. I had to dig down through the dirt, find prospective minerals, carry them to a shed, plug in my lamp, keep the best and return the others. Hard work in the hot New Jersey summer.

While in college, I continued visiting the Sterling Hill dumps and brought back material to Colorado. My goal was to have enough material to build a fluorescent fireplace.

My first job out of college was teaching Earth Sciences in Chadron, NE. The students loved the day when I demonstrated fluorescent minerals. Additionally, I collected local agates, chalcedony, and calcite checking for fluorescence. Then I started selling my Franklin material to other collectors. While attending Chadron State College graduate school in geology, I taught a unit on UV radiation & fluorescent minerals for one of my professors.

Fast forward many years and I am still collecting fluorescent minerals. The UV lamps are more powerful, portable and battery powered. My field geology/prospecting skills have improved due to what I learned attending lectures at Colorado School of Mines. I participate in various Denver area mineral clubs and professional societies’ field trips.

I’ve ventured into the scientific world of fluorescent minerals by joining the Fluorescent Mineral Society (FMS) and have worked my way up to a FMS director. I am collaborating with some of the most knowledgeable people in the fluorescent mineral world. I’ve had opportunities to buy and trade spectacular minerals from around the world, but I hold true to my philosophy to only have self-collected minerals in my collection. Next year I’ll be helping the FMS at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® as a tour guide for the 75+ case Fluorescent Room. Additionally, with the help of Gerry Naugle, FMC and Conrad North, FMS, we host the Fluorescent room at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Plus, Gerry and I do the Fluorescent room at our annual FMC Rock & Rails.
Another way to show off my fluorescent minerals is to post photos of them on the Internet. Photographing these minerals is almost as challenging as finding them. The art of making a digital representation look like the original is difficult. It is very tempting to use Photoshop to over enhance a mineral’s color. I’ve been fortunate to photograph the past three Denver Gem and Mineral Show’s Fluorescent room cases and had the photos published.

A new area of fluorescence I am investigating is bioluminescence. Living things such as lichen, plants and insects can also fluoresce. This past winter I was in a mine looking for minerals. I turned off my headlamp and turned on my Convoy longwave flashlight. There were lots of multicolored squiggly lines on floor. Turning on my headlamp I could not see any different mineralization that would indicate what could be fluorescing. During a snack break the answer poked its head out at me; a pack rat. These fluorescent lines were its urine tracks. This same technique can be used to find where your dog or cat has urinated on the carpet.

Field trips for fluorescent mineral collecting are thrilling. In the daytime I use a large dark BBQ grill cover to create semi darkness and search. However, I prefer to collect at night with a small group of people. One person in front scouts the area with a spotlight. Two people have UV lamps. Another person follows up the rear with a spotlight to ensure no critters are stalking us. Whatever method I use, I find it very rewarding to discover my own fluorescent minerals. I still feel the same excitement I did as a kid.
GJGMC Hosts Petrified Wood Class

Petrified Wood Identification Class
By: Walt Wright

Walt Wright is a Botanist/Ecologist/Geologist and Paleobotanist. Walt attributes his "addiction" to petrified wood to his mother, who had a PhD in science & math, and who gave him his first piece of petrified wood at the age of 10. This opened the door to the fascinating world of petrified wood.
Walt has worked for the U.S. Forest Service and the University of California. He has been a consultant for various government agencies. Walt has written extensively in botany/agriculture and now in the field of petrified woods. He wrote a chapter on fossil woods of the Triassic Chinle Formation in the 2002 book, "Secrets of Petrified Plants" in both English and German.
Walt is a busy speaker and is booked for several months in advance. He is a resident of Brea, California and we are very happy to again have Walt bring his expertise to our Gem and Mineral Club here in Grand Junction.

September 24, 25, and 26 From 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
The Grand Junction Gem And Mineral Club
PLUS All Day Field Trips on Sunday & Monday
Location: 2328 Monument Road, Grand Junction, CO 81507

Fee: $120.00 per person (excluding the cost of food and printed materials). An additional $20.00 includes all 3 daily lunches provided.

Materials: Bring your 20X hand lens, and up to 3 pieces for identification. A computer, and a thumb drive will be useful. Hand lenses and course literature will be available for purchase.

Contact Jim Schultz at 970-242-0428 or js@jimschultz.net for more information or questions.
Mail checks to: The Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club, Attention: Jim Schultz, 686 Long Rifle Road, Grand Junction, CO 81507
Off the Beaten Path: Hahns Peak, Colorado

By Mike Nelson, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, csrockguy@yahoo.com

My personal tour guide states: If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else (Yogi Berra).

I have always enjoyed looking at geologic structures and hunting for minerals and fossils at “off the beaten path” localities; hence, my yearning to once again travel to Hahns Peak, Routt County, Colorado. I first visited the area in the late 1960’s and again in the late 1970’s. However, this time I was determined to better understand the area’s geology, and to summit the peak. So, begin my trip.

Hahns Peak looking east from the parking lot; ready for the trek to the summit.

Hahns Peak is not that difficult to locate—just drive about 30 miles north of Steamboat Springs on Routt County RD 129. However, Hahns Peak is essentially the final destination as the paved road changes to gravel and FR 129 wanders north and west and really never goes anywhere except perhaps to Baggs, Wyoming, about 50 miles away, part of it via 4-wheel drive! Most travelers on RD 129 today are heading to Steamboat Lake State Park or Pearl Lake State Park, both a few miles south of Hahns Peak. Unfortunately, the area is vastly different today than 30 years ago as the “pine beetle disease” has ravished the landscape.

Hahns Peak is somewhat of a geographic enigma and physiographers are unable to assign it to a specific mountain range. It seems geologically connected to the Elkhead Mountains to the west rather than the geologically complex Sierra Madre Range (part of the larger Park Range) to the east. The Elkheads are tied to Hahns Peak since both areas have abundant Miocene igneous rocks.

Most of the rocks in the Elkhead Mountains are Upper Cretaceous to Tertiary sedimentary rocks crisscrossed by 7.6 to 11.5 Ma igneous rocks occurring as hypabyssal stocks (magma originates within the earth’s crust and starts toward the surface but ends up cooling before reaching the surface), sills
(igneous rocks intruded parallel to the bedding), and dikes (igneous rocks intruded at an angle to the bedding). Intrusive rocks in the Elkhead Mountains are mostly alkaline (usually high in potassium and sodium) rocks as basalt and rhyodacite and their coarse-grain equivalents. Around Hahns Peak the igneous rocks are more felsic in nature, that is, the rocks are enriched in silicate minerals (Bankey and others, 2000). At Hahns Peak itself the stock is composed of quartz latite, now partially hydrothermally altered to a porphyritic rhyolite (Dowset, 1980; Segerstrom and others, 1972). What this means is that the main unit at the center of Hahns Peak has a fine groundmass with large feldspar phenocrysts. In addition, I was able to locate numerous dikes and a few hornfels (the sedimentary shale has been heated, and changed, by the contact with the hot magma). All of these igneous rocks were intruded into earlier formed Precambrian rocks and an overlying sedimentary section of Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, and Tertiary rocks. One of the units of the Mancos Shale (Cretaceous) has hard siliceous shale where I was able to collect numerous fish scales. These last few sentences are quite complex; however, geologists can interpret much about the history of igneous rocks by examining their mineral composition. I need to leave it with saying that Hahns Peak seems most closely related to the Elkhead Mountains, and that intrusive igneous rocks form the core of the Peak.

Approaching the summit of Hahns Peak. Note the cream-colored intrusive rock that forms the center of the peak. The structure on the summit is a U.S. Forest Service fire tower (no longer in use).

Hahns Peak was the site of a somewhat major “gold rush” beginning in the 1860’s. Parker (1974) gleaned the following information from an 1895 book on the history of Colorado written by Frank Hall: “the Hahns Peak placers were discovered by Captain Way in 1864. He returned to Empire and told John Hahn of his discovery. The following year Hahn, with W. A. Doyle, went to the area and prospected it. They returned in 1866 with a party of 40 men who built cabins near the site of Hahns Peak Village and placered through the summer. These men established a mining district, naming it and the peak in honor of Hahn. Faced by an early winter that year, the men returned, leaving Hahn and Doyle. During the spring of 1867, these two men were forced to return to Empire for supplies and were caught in a severe snowstorm on the Gore Range, where Hahn died.” I have noted other references stating Hahn’s name
was Joseph and that he “discovered” the gold in 1862. At any rate, Hahn left behind his legacy in the name of a mountain, Hahns Peak at 10,839 feet. Certainly not the highest peak in Colorado, but: 1) the SNOTEL (weather station for measuring snow depth) site on Hahns Peak consistently measures some of the greatest snowfalls/depths in the state of Colorado; and 2) timberline on Hahns Peak is perhaps the lowest on any peak in Colorado at 10,300 feet (www.summitpost.org). Hahns Peak is capped with a fire-lookout that was built in 1912 and reconstructed in 1942. The fire lookout lasted only until the 1950’s because of frequent lightning strikes. And finally, it seems the peak is always spelled as Hahns Peak rather than Hahn’s Peak.

Another enigma associated with the Peak is that virtually all gold extracted from the district is placer gold and the exact source for the precious metal has never been fully located. Perhaps the source rocks were eroded away and now form the secondary (placer) source?

Several mines were constructed on the Peak attempting to locate significant reserves in the central porphyry pipe, the most prominent mines being the Minnie D. and the Tom Thumb. However, “no important ore deposits have been found in the Hahns Peak District” (Parker, 1974). There do seem some anomalous reports, however, as George and Crawford (1909) noted that “a 9-ton shipment ran 2 oz gold and 52 oz silver per ton with 51.8 percent lead”. In today’s world two ounces of gold per ton of ore would seem rich; however, none of the gold was/is free gold so these rocks seem not the source of the placer gold. But, before one jumps into the prospecting and mining game, consider the more recent reports. Dowsett (1980) noted that mineralization in the quartz latite stock at Hahns Peak was in the form of “lead-zinc-silver sulfide”. Bankey and others (2000) stated that “samples from the Hahns Peak mining district... contained anomalous concentrations of antimony, arsenic, lead, molybdenum, silver, and zinc... probably related to disseminated silver-lead-zinc mineral deposits associated with the Tertiary Hahns Peak porphyry stock.” There was no mention of gold.

Closed mine shaft below summit of Hahns Peak.
So, the great majority of gold in the district is placer gold with the major deposits being: 1) Poverty Bar, just west of Hahns Peak Village and now mostly covered by Steamboat Lake; 2) and Ways Gulch southeast of Poverty Bar and east of Hahns Peak Village. Both of these deposits probably represent alluvial fans radiating off the Peak.

How much gold was taken from the Hahns Peak District—a question for the ages! Voynick (1994) reported that the placers produced 10,000 troy ounces and hard rock mines $200,000 of lead, copper, silver and gold (prices calculated when?). George and Crawford (1909) noted that estimates ranged from $200,000 to $15,000,000 with the more conservative estimates being $200,000 to $500,000. But, the price of gold in 1909, at the time of their publication, was $18.96 ounce. In today’s market the price was $1719 per ounce. Could a conservative estimate of $200,000 turn into 20+/- million dollars today? I suppose that we will never know.

The boom years for gold mining in the Hahns Peak District were during the 1860’s and 1870’s. By around 1880 the major boom was over but sporadic mining remained. Burchard (1882; 1884) estimated production in 1881 as $20,000, in 1882 as $15,000, and in 1884 as $40,000. Dredges were brought in during the late 19th and early 20th centuries but I could not locate production figures; however, they were probably small. Since the 1920’s there have been small-scale attempts to resurrect the mining but evidently they were unsuccessful. Even today observers may note evidence of prospecting.

The climb to the summit of Hahns Peak is exhilarating and a great hike “before breakfast”! Two weeks into June I was breaking through snow crust on the trail and was one of the earliest summer hikers. The Cretaceous Dakota Formation is well-exposed on the lower part of the trail and has a widespread conglomerate unit. The central core of the mountain, the altered quartz latite, has large phenocrysts of feldspar, many of which have weathered out leaving a void. Pearl (1972) noted the occurrence of large clear quartz crystals near the summit. However, I was unable to locate good specimens. Perhaps I needed some strenuous “digging” to locate the cavities containing the five-inch crystals. The view from

*Summit porphyritic rhyolite with voids left by tabular feldspar phenocrysts.*
the summit is quite spectacular with the high Sierra Madre Range directly to the east and the Elkheads to the west. To the far south the volcanics of the Flattop Wilderness are evident. And with binoculars I could spot my campsite at Steamboat Lake.

If you visit the area, make certain to stop in at the Columbine General Store dating back to the mid 1880’s. This “ghost town” lies near the base of the mountain and near where the pavement ends and was an important location during the mining days. A few miles to the south several historic buildings from the mining days, including the “Little Green Schoolhouse” museum, are well preserved in the Hahns Peak Village, the first county seat of Routt County.
In 1901 the Laramie, Hahns Peak, and Pacific Railway Company was established to support the gold fields in the Medicine Bow Mountains west of Laramie but was late to the party as much of the mining had fizzled out. So, it became a coal railroad and purchased mines south of Walden, Colorado, in North Park reaching the area in 1911. North Park is east of the Sierra Madres so I often wondered why they incorporated the name “Hahns Peak” into their name? Perhaps they had visions of reaching the mines. At any rate, the railroad was sort of a scam and several investors lost money. Amazingly, the railroad struggled on, under a variety of names, until 1987.

Before my hike I sat on a rock and read a small poem written by Rose Wheeler (an early settler) with one stanza being:

I look up at the mountain,  
And my soul with rapture fills,  
For as I gaze, it seems  
That God is smiling down on me

REFERENCES CITED


__________, 1884, Report of the Director of the Mint upon the Statistics of the Production of the Precious Metals in the United States (1883): U. S. Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint.


Upcoming Shows and Events

Editors Note: Check before you go!

September 4 – 7, 2020; Northwest Nebraska Rock Club’s 34th Annual Rock Swap and 22nd Annual Fairburn Agate Collectors Gathering (See flyer on page 19); Friday through Monday opening at 8am; free admission; Crawford City Park, Crawford, Nebraska. Buy-Sell-Swap, rocks, minerals, fossils, agates, gems, jewelry. For more information contact Valerie (308) 430-4404 or Wade (308) 430-1399, wadebeins87@gmail.com, on Facebook at Crawford Rockswap.

September 18 – 20, 2020; Southern Utah Rock Club’s 2nd Annual Festival City Rock, Gem and Mineral Show; Friday and Saturday 10am-6pm, and Sunday 10am-4pm; Free admission; Diamond Z Arena – Cross Hollow Arena, 11 Cross Hollow Drive, Cedar City, Utah. Displays of rocks, minerals, specimens, and educational materials. Many vendors displaying their wares, products, and interesting demonstrations. Lapidary equipment, jewelry, books, minerals specimens and much more will be offered. For more information go to southernutahrockclub.org.

September 25 – 27, 2020; Tooele Gem & Mineral Society’s Annual Show; Friday and Saturday 10am-7pm, Sunday 10am-4pm; admission free; Dow James Building, 400 North 400 West, Tooele, Utah. Rocks & gems, fossils, door prizes, displays, demonstrations, jewelry, silent auction, vendors. For more information contact Robert Vigil (801) 205-0385 and on Facebook at TooeleGemSociety.
Upcoming Show Flyers

Northwest Nebraska Rock Club
Welcomes You To The
34th Annual Rock Swap hosted by the Northwest Nebraska Rock Club
22nd Annual Fairburn Agate Collectors Gathering

For more information, contact:
Valerie - (308) 430-4404
Wade - (308) 430-1399 - wadebeins87@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook at Crawford Rockswap

Sept. 4, 5, 6 & 7
Crawford City Park

Watch Facebook at Crawford Rockswap
for updates and Covid 19 restrictions

Vendors selling food must obtain a license from the City of Crawford

ROCK SHOW 2020
## 2020 RMFMS Board and Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Bob Regner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rnregner@aol.com">rnregner@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Sheri Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Wayne Cox</td>
<td><a href="mailto:waynec3@earthlink.net">waynec3@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
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