



Rocky Mountain Federation News

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The official publication of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. The RMFMS is a regional member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. The Rocky Mountain Federation News is issued ten times a year (except June or July). It is a privilege of membership of the RMFMS and cannot be exchanged by the Editor for individual club newsletters from other regional Federations

To ALL RMFMS Clubs;

What is one of the first things you should do after your officer elections?? Simple, send a list of your officers who should be receiving the RMFMS News via e-mail to wgms2001@yahoo.com or for those needing the newsletter via snail-mail (up to seven) to Connie Bishop, 1105 Glenwood St, Bloomfield NM 87413-6437, 505-632-2837, cbishop@infoway.lib.nm.us . Don't forget to send your list of three to the AFMS also!

RMFMS Convention 2008

By Richard Jaeger, Show Advisor

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society will be hosting the RMFMS Convention and Show next year. The show site will again be on the fairgrounds but in a new building which is now under construction and will be a much nicer facility. Show dates will be Oct 31 - Nov 2, 2008 with the editors breakfast and awards banquet to be held on Saturday, November 1. We are still considering options for the headquarters hotel and meeting and banquet locations and will let you know more as soon as we can.

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Happy Holidays



Merry Christmas

Thank you,

*Stan Nowak
Richard Jaeger
Doris Perkins
Linda Jaeger
James Hurlbut
Pete Scholten
Richard Pankey
and everyone else*

*for your contributions
to the December issue
of the Rocky Mountain
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DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions to the bulletin are due the first day of the month prior to the publication date, i.e., the deadline for January is December 1.

President's Message

By Stan Nowak

I want to thank all of you who have put your trust in me to be your new leader of this most essential organization. It is my goal to put the RMFMS as the leading regional federation in education, not only through scholarship programs, but also primary and secondary schools (public and private), home schooled and the local populace. We have the resources and talents needed to provide these services.

The cooperation I have seen and gotten is tremendous in the RMFMS. When we work together as I have seen, a lot can be accomplished. We need to properly approach each other and our fellow members to volunteer for various club and federation positions no matter how small or major it may be.

Some of you may be saying, "what kind of hogwash is this?" or "what kind of political office is he trying to get?" Well, I just know that the more that we can work together, the more we can accomplish. I know, that everyone cannot not get along with everyone else but, the more we can tolerate or cooperate, the more we can get done.

Enough of that for now. Now I will give you a little about myself. I was born and raised in southern Minnesota. I joined the U.S. Air Force just over a year after I graduated from high school. After 20 years of traveling around the world (the Philippines, Turkey, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Italy, various other places), I retired to Oklahoma which is where my wife lived. We joined the Enid Gem and Mineral Society (EGMS) in 1989. As a new member it didn't take me long to be elected president as what happens to a lot of new members. I've held various offices in the EGMS as well as the Oklahoma State Council of Mineralogical Societies. And as many of you know, I was the Show Chairman for the RMFMS Convention and Show in Enid in 2002.

I am currently employed as a contractor for the Air Force at Vance Air Force Base here in Enid. My job is Lead/Quality Monitor Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory. In other words I am in charge of the calibration laboratory which calibrates gages, torque wrenches, scales, weights, electronic test equipment, and various other equipment that the technicians use to maintain the aircraft, civil engineering, fire department, clinic, and other numerous activities on base.

From McCurtain Gem and Mineral Club, Idabel, OK

By Doris Perkins

Our club has just finished its annual show and sale. We think we are unusual in that we are open from Tuesday through the following Sunday in order to have school groups to attend. We are the only club in the southeastern corner of our state and arrange educational exhibits to try to interest students in the earth sciences. We have had very good cooperation with the schools and our local museum which has a cast of the Acrocanthosaurus dinosaur which was excavated by two of our club members.

We were at the fairgrounds in a metal building with no insulation so it was very noisy at times. However, we plan to move to the Museum of the Red River this next year when they have completed their new addition which will be more suitable.

This club began thirty years ago as a school activity but developed into a community club with members attending from AR, TX, and Oklahoma. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Museum and welcome visitors.



QUICK TIPS for EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger
RMFMS/AFMS Club Publications Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: LjgrAlg@aol.com or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we'll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.

RMFMS CONTEST

If you do not receive the contest materials in the mail by mid-December, please notify me at the above email address to give me the correct information for mailing and go to the RMFMS website <www.rmfmts.org> to download and print the rules and entry forms. If necessary I can send another set of copies in U.S. mail. *The entry forms for the 2008 contest will be available online by the first week of December, 2007.*

ON THE WEB

AFMS webmaster **Marty Hart** has done an outstanding job of putting the AFMS contest material online. In addition to AFMS Guidelines and sample scoresheets for each category, there are articles by **Diane Dare** ("Judicial Opinions"-advanced articles, "SEZ Who??"-research & references, "What is a 'Special' Publication?") and a short slide show by **Terry Yoschak** (*Reader Forums*-using online forums to find rockhound hints & tips to use in your newsletter).

If you haven't checked this out, be sure to visit the AFMS website at <www.amfed.org>. It will be worth your while!

THEMED ISSUES

Are you having fun editing your newsletter? Have you considered occasionally publishing a themed issue? Maybe something that goes along with a holiday or an issue that looks at one subject from many different perspectives?

We receive a number of exchange bulletins from other clubs, and as I write this it's not yet Halloween. I can't help but think of the October newsletter I looked at yesterday – what a treat for the eyes and my sense of humor! The paper was a pleasant orange with a scary-looking Halloween font in black, and the first article I saw was about "devil's toenails" (a fossil, if that's not your bag). There were several other clever

Halloween-related titles that belonged to rock-related topics, as well as some appropriate clipart. What fun! (And you can still include Federation News and other items required for editors' contests.)

How about an issue on dinosaurs? Any found in your state? Specimens at a local museum? Find an online virtual tour to recommend. Include a coloring page or dinosaur cut-out for very young rockhounds. Ask a couple of members to research and write articles about the types of rocks dinosaurs are found in, locations around the world or in the USA where specimens are found, why dinosaurs are extinct, or the controversy related to dinosaurs & birds. Have any members who write poetry? Ask for a poem about dinos. Or have any exchange bulletins with poems or cartoons about dinosaurs? Look at the clipart on the SCRIBE CDs. Know anyone who has carved a dino out of soapstone? Done any beadwork related to dinos? Made dioramas of the Cretaceous or Jurassic periods? Talked to kids' groups about dinosaurs? Photos of club members on a field trip to a dig or museum?

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. You can take almost any subject and explore the same types of questions I asked/answered above. Voila! You have a themed issue.

So, are you having fun yet? Are your readers having fun? Let's make our readers open that newsletter the minute they get it!

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)



Observations on Diamond Crystals

By James Hurlbut

One of the 92 stable elements found in nature is the element carbon. Its chemical symbol is "C", the atomic number is 6 in the periodic table. Carbon in its pure form is found in two substances, graphite and diamond. Graphite crystallizes in the hexagonal system and may be found as crystals or large masses. Diamond crystallizes in the cubic system and has never been found massive, but always as crystals or crystal fragments

The basic unit to describe the size of Diamonds is the carat weight.

1 Carat	200 Mgr	or 3 grains
3 Carat	1 gram	437.5 grains
146 Carat	1 oz Avoirdupois	480.0 grains
160 Carat	1 oz. Troy	
16 oz. or 1 lb	2336 Carats.	

The largest crystal fragment ever found was the Cullinan, which weighed 1 lb 5 1/2 oz or 3106 Carat, It was found at the Premier Mine, Kimberly, South Africa, on January 25, 1905.

The largest diamond found in Colorado was 28.2 carats which was cut into a 16.87 cushion cut gem of light yellow color. This was from the Kelsey lake mine.

Diamonds grow deep in the earth at high temperature and pressure. These conditions exist about 150 miles below the surface. They grow slowly atom by atom when there is a excess of carbon atoms in the rock. When the carbon is used up they stop growing. If due to convection currents in the molten rocks the temperature or pressure changes there may be an excess of carbon and the diamonds begin to grow again. If due to changes the solution becomes deficient in carbon the diamond will begin to dissolve.

Now we come to a peculiar characteristic of crystals, namely; in certain directions the attraction of the atoms to each other, and therefore the tendency of growth, seems to be greater in certain direction than in another direction. On the other hand, in certain directions, the tendency of "solution" (Dissolving Power) is greater than in others. Each crystal form has its own peculiar, preferred direction of growth as well as dissolution.

The crystallography of diamond crystals and the arrangement of the atom in the lattice cause some crystal faces have a stronger attraction for the carbon atoms than others. The directions are crystallographically defined through the faces that lie

in those directions. Accordingly, we have main growth as well as main solution faces these are, at the same time, the most important crystal faces. The directions of growth or solution are normal (perpendicular) to the face. On the diamond the main growth is the octahedron face, and the main dissolution face the cube face and the dodecahedron face.

As said before, when the mother liquor (the magma) is neutral, no particles are added or taken from the already formed diamonds when the magma is not neutral, particles are added to the octahedron or taken away from the direction of the cube and dodecahedron faces. (Octahedron with rounded edges so frequently observed).



The Earth's Oldest Rocks, revisited.

The article by Wes DeCoursey was printed in the November 2007 RMFMS News

I hate to rock the boat and take away from someone who wrote an article but in **Wes DeCoursey's** article "The Earth's Oldest Rock's" there are a couple of mistakes that should be addressed for clarification.

First let me say I am not a geologist, my degrees are all in Biology, paleontology and geology are sidelines that hold a great deal of interest for me. That being said, the Earth is not quite 5 billion years old. The most accurate date I am aware of is 4.54 billion years, give or take a couple of years of course. Point 47 (.47) billion years may not seem like much but life on Earth has not been around much longer than that and brachiopods have only been around for about 550 million years. A long time to be sure but a far cry from 5 billion. Everyone should take a hike as **Wes** has done and be inspired by what nature has created over billions of years and be enthralled by the many formations and beauty provided and should you visit the Vishnu Schist at the bottom of the Grand Canyon be aware that it is a half a billion years older than **Wes'** age of 1.2 billion.

Sincerely,

Pete Scholten

Education director and Vice President
White Mountain Gem and Mineral Club
Science Dept. Chair Show Low High School
P.S. most of this information can be found on Wikipedia

Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous

By Richard Pankey, Inter – Regional Field Trips

As promised the announcement flier with detailed information on our 2008 Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous is now available. The flier has the information about the Rendezvous: material available; location; directions to camp; schedule; motels and RV parks nearby; and various activities that are planned. It is available on American, Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations' web sites and, depending on available space, may be published in your the Federation Newsletter. I request and hope that whoever in each club that receives the Newsletter will pass this information and the 2 page flier on to your club Field Trip Leader or Editor or to someone to make copies and distribute to interested members of your club. A challenge with any event is the advertising, with getting the word out to the user. In this case, to the people who might be interested in attending this field trip/rendezvous. So we are looking to the people who get the AFMS and/or your Federation Newsletter to get this information to your members.

Look for the flier and other Rendezvous information on these web sites:

AFMS – www.amfed.org

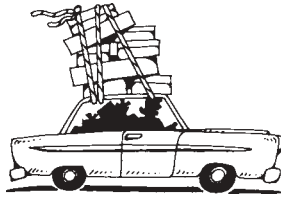
NFMS – www.amfed.org/nfms

RMFMS – www.rmfmts.org

CFMS – www.cfmsinc.org

For more information and to sign-up to attend the Rendezvous e-mail (preferred) or call your respective Federation Field Trip Leader (bottom of the first page of the flier). Or Contact me at dickpankey@juno.com.

Come join us for a great Tri-Federation Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship. Mark your calendar, schedule your vacation, and plan to join us next May 21 to 26, 2008.



Commemorative Stamp Committee

By Wendell Mohr, Commemorative Stamps Committee Chair, Updated 11/04/2007

This Committee of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is responsible for the efforts to obtain stamps featuring subjects of interest such as minerals, fossils, gems and general geology. The Committee has been active for years and submits an annual report at the AFMS annual meeting.

Our current efforts are directed to trying to convince the United States Postal Service to produce stamps showing Birthstones. No stamps featuring gems have ever appeared on US stamps although there have been some beautiful ones from other countries. The mechanism is to encourage both AFMS members and the public at large to send requests to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the USPS. It is very difficult to succeed in getting any desired stamp. Only about one out of a thousand requests are approved. It took 10 years of lobbying efforts to get the first set of Mineral Stamps in 1974 and 18 years to get the second set in 1992! The USPS has rules by which the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, which recommends adoption of stamp subjects, operates, although the Postmaster General has final say. Rules say there will be no repeat subjects in 10 years.

Our message continues to be the same. The address for the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee has recently changed. A new promotional flier has the updated address. AFMS Clubs are strongly encouraged to make copies of it. Use the fliers at your club meetings, at your shows, and to groups your members might encounter such as when presenting talks at schools, to Boy or Girl Scouts, or at Nature Centers etc. Use the Teacher, Student Information Page in working with Children. A tent card for use with the fliers at your shows can also be used. Non-AFMS members are requested to support the campaign. Although many of you may have previously written, do it again so we may flood USPS with requests.

There have been, in addition to the two sets of mineral stamps which were the direct result of the AFMS Committee's work, many prehistoric animals including dinosaurs, the Klondike and California Gold Rush stamps and other geology related subjects on stamps, not a result of the this Committee's efforts.



SHOWS & MORE

REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS & CONVENTIONS

Eastern Federation Convention & Show

Hosts:
Jackson Mississippi
February 23 - 24, 2008

Northwest Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: Stallknecht-Morgan Museum G&MS
Ontario Oregon
June 20 - 22, 2008

Midwest Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts:
Lincoln Nebraska
June 20 - 22, 2008

California Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: California Federation
Ventura California
June 27 - 29, 2008

South Central Federation Convention & Show

Hosts: Houston G&M Society
Humble Texas
September 25 - 28, 2008

Rocky Mountain Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: Tulsa Rockhounds
Tulsa Oklahoma
October 31 - November 2, 2008

Southeast Federation Convention & Show

Hosts:

CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

December 7 - 9, Longmont, CO

Flatirons Mineral Club annual show, titled this year: "Rocks and Rails" will be at the Boulder County Fairgrounds at Nelson and Hover Roads in Longmont, CO. The show is in conjunction with the Boulder Model Railroad Club on Dec 8th and 9th, and FMC only on Friday Dec 7th. Adults \$5, kids under 14 free. Lectures, classes, exhibits, many mineral and gem dealers. Contact Gerry Naugle at 303-591-2830 (or) gnaugle@earthlink.net

January 18 - 20, 2008, Globe, AZ

51st Annual Gila County Gem & Mineral Show, Gila County Fairgrounds 3 miles North of Junction US60 & US70. Contact Andy Clark 928-473-3042.

March 21 - 23, 2008, Cottonwood, AZ

Mingus Gem & Mineral Club presents: Verde Valley Gem & Mineral Show, Mingus Union High School 1801 E Fir St. Contact Doug Evenson 928-634-0459 dougeverson@verdecomm.net, Mike Ramsey 928-592-0666 ramsey6264@yahoo.com, Free Parking, Admission Fri-\$1, Sat \$3, Sun \$3, 3 day pass \$5

March 28 - 30, 2008, Fort Collins, CO

Fort Collins Rockhounds 47th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Theme: *Minerals of the American West*. Lincoln Center, 419 W. Magnolia St., Fort Collins, CO 80521. Hours: Friday, March 28, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Sunday, March 30, 10 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Fort Collins Rockhounds, P.O. Box 482, Fort Collins, CO 80522 Web: www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org Dealer information: 970-221-0338. Show chairman: 970-493-6168, email showchairman@fortcollinsrockhounds.org

April 25-27, 2008, Wichita, KS

55th Annual Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, "Nature's Wonders - Dazzling Gemstones", Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd. For more information: www.wgmsks.org Show chairman: Gene Maggard show@wgmsks.org

May 2 - 4, 2008, McPherson, KS

16th annual Rock Sale & Swap, sponsored by the McPherson Gem & Mineral Club. Located at 4-H Fairgrounds, Woodside and Hickory. Contact Jim Nutter 620-241-2433 or Marvin Lundquist 620-241-7003.

May 16 - 17, Elinwood, KS

35th Annual Rock Swap, hosted by the Ellinwood Chamber of Commerce, Buy - Sell- Trade, Bring your own table, free camping, electrical hook-up \$5.00 per day. Located at the City Park, Northwest corner of Ellinwood. For more information call 620-564-3300.

May 21 - 28, 2008, Texas Springs, NV

Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous & Field Trip

REMEMBER - to insure that your RMFMS member club sponsored event is listed here, the responsible person should send a written notice to the RMFMS Editor: Sandy Riekeman, 220 W Harry St, Wichita KS 67213-5135 or e-mail at: wgms2001@yahoo.com. Include the following information: Show dates and times, Sponsor (Club), Show Location, Contact Name, phone number and e-mail, and Club Web Site. You may include other information about your show if you wish, but this information will only be printed if space permits. ALL RMFMS CLUBS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER THEIR EVENT LISTINGS ON THE RMFMS WEBSITE AT: <www.rmfm.org> e-mail your submissions to the webmaster.

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