



**C**olorado  
**M**ineral  
**S**ociety

# Mineral Minutes

*Affiliate of:*

*Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies*

February 2010  
Volume 74 Issue 2



# Mineral Minutes

February 2010

## President's Message

*Daryl Lamb*

Hello everyone. We had a great meeting in February – good crowd, excellent program, tasty treats at the refreshment bar, and very nice specimens for our door prizes and raffle. Thanks to all those club members and their guests who came and an extra “thank you” to our Board members and club chair persons who helped make it happen.

Over the last several months the club has purchased additional audiovisual equipment to go with our existing projector. We now have a complete system consisting of the projector, a new DVD/Video Cassette player, a new amplifier, and new speakers. In addition, we have purchased several different types of cables and patch cords which will allow us to pull audio and video signals into our system from a variety of sources, including laptops. As many of you know, there is an excellent selection of DVDs and videos on the market which cover various topics in earth science. Some of these are produced by the National Geographic Society and the Discovery Channel and feature topics such as volcanoes, earthquakes, asteroids, dinosaurs, geology, mineralogy and paleontology. There are also many others available which cover more specialized topics such as mining and mineral collecting.

Since we now have such a good A/V system and many interesting videos to choose from, I would like to add a new twist to our monthly programs. We'll call it “Friday Night at the Movies”. We will of course continue to have interesting speakers on a variety of relevant topics, but once every few months we will present a unique DVD or cassette program - one that you're not likely to see elsewhere. Our March meeting will be the first of these movie presentations and will

feature a film titled “Going for the Gold: The Story of the Phoenix Mine in Colorado (2007)”. This film is narrated by the mine's owner and operator and tells the story of the Phoenix Gold Mine, which is located just up the road in Idaho Springs. We'll learn about drilling, from the double jacking techniques of the 1880's, to the modern air-driven jackleg drills used in the mine today. We'll also see how blasting and mucking were, and still are, done in a small mining operation. Having visited this mine myself in 1997, I can tell you that it has a very interesting history and some remarkable gold veins.

Our March meeting is on Friday evening the 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Garrison in Lakewood. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM, so come on out, bring a friend and some popcorn, and we'll provide the rest.

**SALE! SALE! SALE!**

**Bill Hayward is having his  
4th Annual Mineral Sale!**

3286 Quitman Street  
Denver, CO  
303-455-1977

March 20-21, 2010  
10 AM to 5 PM  
both days

February Board Meeting: It was scheduled, but a quorum was not present so the ones that were there discussed rocks. Next board meeting to be held in March.



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## CMS Meeting 2-05-10

Daryl Lamb opens meeting:

Announcements:

- a. kids meeting is about fluorescent minerals
- b. Welcome new visitors - they stand up and introduce themselves;
- Todd Reynolds; Ted Neil; Greg Davis; Linda Stannard
- c. Mr Cook - needs some help: connected with battered women's shelters; a lot of the kids have an interest in rocks. Can members bring in some rocks to share with the women's kids at the shelter?
- d. Jerry Kiefer - 55 years CMS provided awards at the science fair. It will be held on April 8th at CSU - We need judges - please contact Jerry if you can help judge
- e. Gary Rowe - welcomes the new President - Daryl Lamb
- f. CMS member, Fred Swanson, recently past away this year.
- g. Cara Reynolds is doing membership now

Greeting the new members: Richard Owens; Linda Stannard; Paul Hatfield; Bill Jones; Aaron Smith; Mark Dickson

h. Eva tells members about the mineral specimens for the raffle

Thanks to all the donators!!

- i. Leslie Osgood - if you want to see your name in print, send Leslie a rock or mineral story for the newsletter
- j. Sandra & Mark Gonzales have displayed their crystals of smokey quartz fluorite and amazonites

k. Tonight's talk is: Don Koenneman from NASA

l. Door prize winners are: Erica Ramey soapstone dinosaur; Bruce Sales - smokey quartz; Ethan Stephan - galena + sphalerite; Clarissa

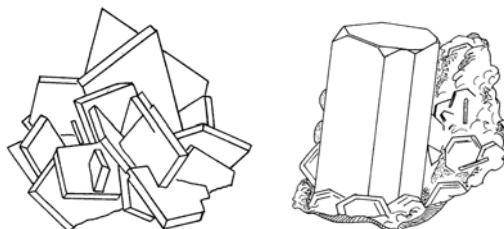
Armendariz - calcite; Adam Padilla - ccalcite & wulfenite; Bill Haywood - fluorite; Gary Rowe - smokey quartz; Bob Jordan - smokey quartz; Will Nelson - quartz & pyrite; Lynn Armendariz - quartz; Cal Lotz - smithsonite; Dan Bench - smokey; Lana Russell - amethyst in quartz; Norm Hyndman - manganese nodule; Ron Bice - smokey quartz



**North Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club Silent Auction: Friday, April 9, 2010;** Senior Recreation Center at 6842 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada. Setup begins at 5:30 PM; Auction starts at 6:45 PM; Buy or sell mineral specimens, fossils, cutting materials, finished stones, jewelry, books, crafts, tools, and baked goods. Seller code, buyer numbers, and bid sheets will be available at the door or prior to the auction from chairman Ron Knoshaug, 303-423-2923 jrknoshaug@comcast.net.

### Rules of the auctions are:

- minimum of 25% of the sale price will be donated to the North Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club;
- Number of items allowed per seller: club members – no limit; non-members – maximum of 30 items;
- minimum initial starting bid on all items, except those on the kids table, will be \$1.00;
- minimum raise of bid on all items, except those on the kid's table, will be \$0.50;
- sales tax will be charged to the buyer at checkout;
- checkout begins immediately after the auction; No early checkout. Free refreshments, free parking, free admission. Come check out our silent auction, buy or sell items and have an evening of fun.





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## Competitive Displays

By Jeff Self



Jeff Self in front of his display in Tucson AZ

Have you ever thought of entering a competitive display case in the Denver Gem and Mineral Show? The categories available are many and varied. You just need to find one appropriate to you. Read the rules (guidelines) and design your display to conform to them.

For example you may have a collection with large amounts of Beryl in it. You could do a display on the varieties of Beryl (aquamarine, morganite, etc.), or from a single locality, or self collected, or ...just find the appropriate category, follow the guidelines and you may be a winner.

Here is a short list of some of the categories available:

Minerals - Thumbnails, cabinet, species, locality, self-collected

Lapidary - Cabachons, faceted stones, carving, intarsia, polished slabs, spheres, etc.

Educational - Displays, general and informed, in and of the categories, dioramas, how to's

Fossils - Vertebrae, invertebrate, plants, locality, time unit, thumbnails, self collected

Fossil Wood - polished slabs, cabochons, carvings, specimens

There is an impressive variety of categories available. You just need to find one for you. You do not need a million dollar collection to compete, just the desire.

The information you need can be found on the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website at [www.amfed.org/rules](http://www.amfed.org/rules). Do not let yourself be intimidated by the sheer volume of information available. Figure out where your strengths are and go from there. It would also be very helpful for you to attend Jordan Sawdo's class/lecture on exhibiting and judging on April 18th. Call or talk to Jordan for further information. I attended Jordan's class last year and feel that what he taught me will continue to help improve my displays.

Good Luck to all.

## Grand Junction Mica Mine Trail

My brother-in-law mailed me an article written for the Grand Junction Sentinel about a wonderful little hike near the Redlands area of Grand Junction. It sounds like a good hike to do in the spring. The article was written by Bill Haggerty and he did some research on this trail and gave quite a few facts about mica. It is used for insulation in electrical parts and windows. Apparently oven windows use mica in them. Mica is used to separate electrical conductors in cables to give them a better fire rating, and make up some of the components for emergency lighting as it is resistant to heat.

This hike can be found 8.2 miles from the corner of Fourth and Main Streets in Grand Junction. Go west on Colorado 340 and turn left onto Monument Road for ¼ of a mile, then turn left onto D road before the road closed sign becomes true. D road becomes Rosevale Road and after a mile, turn right onto Little Park Road and drive for about 6 miles until you come to Bangs Canyon where there is a place to park and a short hike to check out the mica encased in the Morrison Formation. Since it is on BLM land, they would probably frown on mica hunting. This is just a hike to enjoy being out.



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## My Tucson Trip 2010

*By Donna Ware*

As a mineral dealer in the Tucson City Center Show (formerly the Inn Suites show) it was very difficult for me to get out and see what all the other shows had to offer. However I did spend some time wandering around the Inn Suites Show. I spent some time watching Jeff Scovil photographing beautiful mineral specimens. It is amazing the amount of work he puts into each shot. The artist's gallery by the pool is always a joy. I especially loved the Colorado Marble sculpture of a mountain lion (a work in progress). The Black Hills Institute always has new dinosaur books to purchase for the grandchildren as well as beautiful skeletons, skulls, footprints and fossils. I enjoyed visiting with my friends from Tasmania who mine some of the finest Crocoite specimens I have ever seen. To those who took time out from their busy Tucson experience to visit me in my room Thank You. Seeing familiar faces from home is always a pleasure. Jeff and I did close our doors for two days to visit the "Main Show". The show theme this year was Gems and Gem minerals which brought out some of the finest specimens and gemstones from around the world. Jeff set up a display of Gems and Gem Minerals of Colorado that we were both very proud of. It was fun watching the reactions of people when they realized what treasures can be found in Colorado. You can find almost anything your heart desires (and may not be able to afford) at this show. But there is always something that will fit any budget. Tucson is a sensory overload with so much to see and do. It makes me want to get home and go digging for new material. As soon as the snow melts.



## GRAB BAG CHAIRMAN ILL: NEED REPLACEMENT

Ray Story, our past grab bag chairman has been very ill. He cannot continue in his job. Those of you out there who think that you can't take on the job and probably he will continue need to know that he **cannot continue**. BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS: WHO EVER TAKES OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP WILL HAVE AN EASY TIME. Ray said he would be there for support. He has a list of volunteers to call, in fact he had so many he had to turn some away last year. IT IS A FUN JOB AND YOU GET TO MEET LOTS OF FUN CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

PLEASE CALL BARB MELBY  
303-423-5876  
AND VOLUNTEER

*We all enjoy eating, especially at club meetings. Please help out our club budget (so we can spend it on more fun rock related things). If you can, bring a snack on our meeting nights or contribute to the donation can at the snack window. Thank you for your help!*





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In accordance with our by-laws, here are new members for the first reading:

Aaron Smith  
Mark Dixon & Sue Smith  
Richard Owens  
Linda & David Stannard  
Paul & Cindy Hatfield  
Bill Jones

And for the second reading:

James & Vernice Fesing  
John Powell  
Fred Ceconi  
Jack & Carol Gray  
Alice & Jim Dempsey

*man*. A Crococite specimen from Tasmania, (\$14), donated by **Carolyn Johnson**, was won *Sandra Gonzales*. Last, *Fred Coceni* came away with a nice Lapidolite specimen from Gunnison, Colorado (\$8), donated by **Red & Green Minerals**.

Congratulations to all our lucky winners, and thanks to the young lady who drew tickets for Eva S, and also Rob Bice who sold tickets.

Reported by John Kleber,  
assistant CMS Raffle Manager.

*Bob Aussprung*

*Judith Holmes*


*Carolyn Johnson*

## December Raffle News

The December meeting raffle had some great items and brought in \$168 for our Scholarship and Science Fair accounts!

The total retail value of this month's raffle items was big \$274. The top, or most popular item, won by *Linda Blackwell*, was a nice, huge Pyrite specimen from Eagle, Colorado, (\$69), generously donated by **Judith Holmes**. Another large specimen, Dolomite on blue Quartz, from the Black Cloud mine, Lake Country, Colorado (\$35), was also donated by **Judith Holmes**. It was won by *Gary Rowe*. *Susan Ramey*, won a beautiful 7.2 mm faceted color change Iolite weighing 1.33 ct. (\$22), cut and donated by **Bob Aussprung**. Next, a nice Quartz cluster, featuring Japan Law twinning, from Mundo Nuevo mine, Pasto Bueno District, Pallasca Province, Ancash Department, Peru (\$20), was donated by **Geodysey** and won by *Bob Heck-*

**GEOdyssey LLC**  
Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry




**Zelda Bailey**  
**Pat Tucci**

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Bob Jordan

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Golden, CO 80403



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## February Raffle News:

The February meeting raffle had some great items and brought in \$158 for our Scholarship and Science Fair accounts!

The total retail value of this month's raffle items totaled \$165. The top, or most popular item, won by *Lana Russell*, was a nice, huge Pyrite on needle Quartz (\$35), generously donated by **Judith Holmes**. A 8.23 carat smoky Quartz was a close second in popularity (\$20), was cut and donated by **Bob Aussprung**. It was won by *Merlene Solis*. *James Dennis* won an Ammonite specimen from Morocco (\$45), donated by **Geodysey**. A hardwood display box (\$20), donated by **Bruce Sales**, was won by *Lana Russell*. *Bruce Sales* won a specimen of Morgan Calcite (\$30) donated by **Judith Holmes**. Lucky *Bruce Sales* easily won an Avertine candle holder (\$15) donated by **Thompson Marketing Co.**

Congratulations to all our lucky winners, especially our lucky double winners, and also thanks to the raffle helpers, including Rob Bice who sold tickets.


Reported by John Kleber, assistant CMS Raffle Manager.

*Bob Aussprung*

*Judith Holmes*

*Bruce Sales*

**GEOdyssey LLC**  
Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry



Zelda Bailey  
Pat Tucci

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By Appointment Only

## Weird Geology: Diamonds in Space

Not all diamonds on the Earth are native to our planet. Some meteorites are known to contain diamonds. Some of these extra-terrestrial diamonds formed when asteroids collided with each other. Because of their great speeds, the shock wave of the collision is so intense (high pressure) that graphite in the asteroid is changed into diamond. "Shock diamonds" are at most only one- to two millimeters in size and are typically highly fractured. Fragments of asteroids that land on the Earth are called meteorites.

Some meteoritic diamonds, however, are older than the asteroids. Indeed, they may be older than our solar system! They formed when the star that was the precursor to our Sun went supernova and spewed out the elements that subsequently built up our sun, the planets, and the asteroids. These "presolar" diamonds – even smaller than shock diamonds – got caught up in the formation of the asteroids, and were later carried to the Earth in meteorites. These diamonds are studied for clues to the origins of our solar system.

If you desire a truly humongous diamond, you must venture beyond our solar system. White dwarf stars are the remnants of burned out suns and they're composed of carbon and oxygen. Recently, while studying a white dwarf star (technically named BPM 37093) located 50 light-years from the Earth in the constellation *Centaurus*, astronomers from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics determined that the core of the Earth-sized little star had solidified into diamond. "The interior of this white dwarf has solidified to form the galaxy's largest diamond," reported astronomer Travis Metcalfe. This diamond is 2,500 miles (4,000 km) across and weighs 3 million trillion trillion times more than the 3106-carat (five carats equal one gram, so the stone was approximately 1.3 pounds) Cullinan, the largest diamond ever found on Earth!  
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## It's Time For Another Thrilling Chapter In The Continuing Saga Of A Tow Truck Driving Rockbound

*By Eric Hedricks*

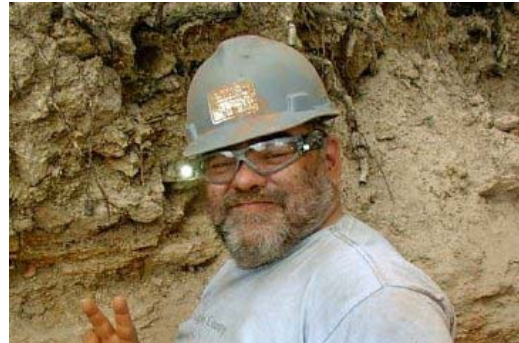
Hello everyone out there in CMS land. This year seems to be flying by, yet this winter seems to be dragging on, and on, and on. It has been a cold one up here on the hill this year. I don't think we have had three days since Christmas above 40 degrees. But some sure signs of spring are showing up. The Sun is setting after 5:30pm now, and the other day I saw a very confused Robin in the snow. I keep telling myself that this is Colorado, the state with nine months of winter and three months of bad sledding.

Since the weather has been so uncooperative I have not been out to do any digging since before our last meeting. So I have no new discoveries to share with you at this time. I have been passing the time that I would have spent digging working on my photographs. I have not had a whole lot of time for that because the work load has been tremendous. We have not worked any fatal or serious injury accidents since early January. However there seem to be quite a few boneheads out there who can't figure out how to drive in the snow. And it seems that I am the guy who always gets to go pull them out. It strikes me as being rather funny, how I can be so incompetent, according to the bosses, yet I'm always the guy for the job. It must be nice to be the guy who makes all the money while not doing any work, while you criticize the guy who works.

By mid February the long hours and cold weather had taken its toll on me and I ended up in bed for a week with the flu. The good side of being laid up was that it just happened to be the five days that it was cold and snowing. The bad side is that I missed a week from work, and am now out a weeks pay. And naturally I am the biggest jerk on Earth for letting myself get sick.

So now I have recovered from the flu, I'm flat broke, and hoping that spring is not far off. I'm really looking forward to getting back down to the claims, where I can stick my head in a hole in the ground and ignore the rest of the world for a while. Until then there is a lot to do. I have been getting my Pyromorphite collection ready for the display at the April meeting. The last time I had it in the case at the meeting I only had twenty or so specimens. There are now a hundred plus pieces from at least forty localities. I have also started

to put together my three flats for our auction in May. And I have been getting my tools and equipment together, and getting the old Dodge ready for the collecting season. Well, I guess I could stop rambling on for now, you all stay safe out there, and I will see you at the meeting on March 5th.



What a miner looks like

## Weird Geology: Rocks that Explode

Researchers from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography rediscovered the source area for "popping rocks" in two-mile deep ocean waters off the coast of Mexico. Originally discovered in 1960 by Scripps oceanographer Dale Krause, the exact site of these unusual rocks was uncertain. In 2005, using sonar and deep ocean dredging techniques, scientists were able to relocate a small volcanic mound on the ocean floor and dredge up samples. When the rocks were hauled up onto the research vessel's deck, they popped and hissed evilly. These volcanic rocks formed at great pressures on the bottom of a two-mile deep ocean. Gases escaping from the Earth's mantle became trapped as bubbles in volcanic lava when it froze solid. As the rocks are brought to the surface, the tremendous exterior pressure of the ocean water is removed and excessive pressures inside the gas bubbles in the rocks cause some of the bubbles to burst. Gases that escape include water vapor, carbon dioxide, argon, and helium. Scientists are eager to study these gases because they are thought to be unaltered samples of gases found in the Earth's mantle.

*By A.A. Sicree 2009*



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## Up Coming Events:

March 5, 2010 Regular Meeting at St. Paul's Church  
March 20-21, 2010 Bill Hayward Mineral Sale, see inside for details  
March 26-28, 2010 Ft. Collins Gem & Mineral Show at the Lincoln Center  
April 2, 2010 Regular Meeting at St. Paul's Church  
April 9, 2010 North Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club Silent Auction, 6:45 PM  
May 7, 2010 Regular Meeting at St. Paul's Church



[www.coloradomineralsociety.org](http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org)

THE COLORADO MINERAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 280755  
Lakewood, CO 80228-0755

## DATED MATERIAL

If counties in the Denver Metro area are on Accident Alert on the day of our club meeting, consider the meeting canceled.

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