



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

# **Mineral Minutes**

*Affiliate of:*

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

December 2010  
Volume 74 Issue 9



# Mineral Minutes

December 2010

## President's Message

*By Daryl Lamb*

Hello everyone. I hope all CMS members had a wonderful Christmas and a happy and restful New Year's Day. We had a great CMS Christmas party at our December meeting with lots of great food, fun activities, and wonderful music presented by the Green Mountain High School chorus. Thanks so much to everyone who helped with the planning and preparation of the party.

A special New Year's "thank you" goes to Sandra Gonzales and Norm Hyndman who have graciously agreed to serve on the CMS Board of Directors in 2011. Sandra will be the Club's Secretary and Norm will serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

Our next club meeting is Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at our usual location – St. Paul's Episcopal Church on the corner of Garrison and 10<sup>th</sup> in Lakewood. Gary Rowe has lined up an interesting program for us, so be sure and come to the meeting. Till then, be safe and enjoy the holidays.



## January Speaker

*By Gary Rowe*

The talk at our January general meeting which will take place on Friday, January 7 will be given by Dr. Markus Raschke, who recently took a job with the University of Colorado at Boulder as a professor of Physics and Chemistry. He joined CMS this summer and got introduced to Colorado mineral collecting on the CMS field trip to Mt. Antero. The title of his talk is:

## "The Geology and Exotic Minerals of the North Cascades in Washington State".

Dr. Raschke came to Colorado in summer 2010 from Seattle having previously studied and held positions in Bayreuth, Rutgers, Munich, Berkeley and Berlin. He and his students use laser spectroscopy to study extremely tiny crystals of metals and metal oxides with distinctive properties. Some, for example, behave as optical antennas, others as magnets, and yet others, depending on their temperature, as electrical insulators or conductors. To study these nano-crystals, which are smaller than 1/10,000th of the diameter of a human hair, Markus and his students have developed new microscopy techniques. Their goal is to understand the fundamental mechanisms by which light interacts with these new nano-materials and thence the physical origin of their properties. This enables the group to optimize materials for the development of faster optical communication, more specific optical medical-diagnostics devices, or new kinds of solar cells.

As a diversion from his scientific work, Markus has developed a passion for geology. While living in the Pacific Northwest, he ventured into remote regions of the North Cascades in search of rare minerals. His favorite area the past two summers was the Golden Horn Batholith in the North Cascades. This alkaline-granite formation contains an unusual suite of chemical elements (lithium and rare earth) and that led to the formation of several very exotic minerals. In his presentation Markus will show many of these minerals, introduce you into the geology of the region, and share his collection adventures.

Before the meeting, some members might enjoy reading the brief history of the North Cascades Highway in Wikipedia see:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington\\_State\\_Route20](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_State_Route20)



# Mineral Minutes

December 2010

## 2010 CMS Holiday Party

*By Eva and Leslie*

Our party started off with a bang around 5:30 PM when people started showing up with food and trays that needed to be prepared and tables set up, chairs moved around and decorations to be put out. Bruce Sales came in with some hand turned trays made by him, that we used to put the bread on.

This year we had the Green Mountain Senior High Choir, directed by David Gleason. They sang some lovely Christmas and seasonal songs, one was even sung solo with no accompaniment! This year our club gave the performers Christmas tree ornaments made from overly large and gaudy beads. It just wouldn't do to have non rock/mineral gifts for our entertainment.

The 'cake steal' generated a lot of fun and earned \$61.00; a special thanks to John Kleber, Jeff Self & Donna Ware, Marge Regel, Viola Padilla, Sandra Gonzales, Mark Danuser, Karen Heckman, Leslie Osgood, Debra Kalscheur, and we hope we named you all!!!. It was funny to see the participants in the Cake Steal turn their backs on the next person drawn so their cake would not get "stolen". I think Donna actually ended up with the chocolate decadent cake this year after losing it every year before.

Our little mini auction garnered \$161.50 and 100% donations to the club were given by Artisans at Woodfeather, John Kleber, Bill Harrison, GEOdyssey and Judith Holmes. Thank you to all who participated.

The food was once again outstanding and many thanks go to Mike and Jennifer Senary for such great hospitality diligence at keeping everyone fed and happy. And for all of us who brought all that wonderful food . . . .

Thanks to "Santa" for his presence and the wonderful way he was with the kids!!!! We actually got a picture of Santa on page 5!

The mineral challenge for both amateur and professional was a test to all who participated. Bob Aussprung put together the amateur challenge with winners: #1 John Kleber, #2 Bill Hutchinson, #3 James Pool. Jeff Self and Bill Hutchinson did a fine job

selecting specimens that stumped the best of the club with their professional specimens. The winners were: #1 Kevin Atwater, #2 Scott McClendon, #3 Cheryl Harrison

The evening wrapped up with the gift exchange. There were many happy faces as they retrieved a gift from under the tree.

Many thanks to all who brought scarves, mittens and hats for the church's mitten tree.

The party felt like, and everyone looked like, they were having a marvelous time. There are so many people to thank for all their participation in setting up and cleaning up the hall for the Holiday Party. Many hands make the job much more manageable. *The party would not be a success without all of you helping and participating .*



**Our Bountiful Table**





# Mineral Minutes

December 2010



The Visitor from the North



Our CMS club Snowman. He has a club vest on and guards our food table. Right now he is holding the rolls back.



Green Mountain Choir

Our club received six diamond drill bits for members to try. If you would like to have one, please see Leslie Osgood at the meeting. They are all 2mm, 120 grit bits and they came from [www.badgersinteredtools.com](http://www.badgersinteredtools.com)

Next year marks the 75th Anniversary of CMS. Those of you interested in planning events for our 75th, please let Daryl Lamb know. We have a lot of history in Denver, and it would be wonderful to honor our existence since 1936.

## Display Case Schedule

January: Dick Tripp  
February: Ken Porter  
March: Junior club member Alejandro Trochez.  
April: OPEN  
May: Field Trip Specimens

# 75th



# Mineral Minutes

December 2010

## The Life And Times Of A Homeless Unemployed Rockhound

Chapter 1, 12-09-2010

By Eric Hedricks

Greetings out there in CMS newsletter land, I had access to a computer and thought that I should put down a few lines just to let everyone know what's up these days. As I said a few months ago, I lost my job and place to live, that's what happens when you work for the same people who own your home. It ain't worth making a fuss over, I left. All my stuff is in storage, and I have been spending time with my family and at the ranch, so I have, at least, been sleeping indoors for the most part. The ranch is cold, no heat but wood, and no running water, but there is a well 1/4 mile away. Money is real short, so I tried to sell some of the jewelry I made, thinking with the holidays coming on it would be a good time. No luck, I have had a few people ask me where I stole the stuff. A friend of mine's father asked me what jewelry store I robbed. Real nice! I have heard that some folks from CMS have tried to reach me on my cell, well, that's not going to work, my cell phone belonged to the tow company and I don't have it anymore. I have missed the last 2 meetings because it is a 75 mile drive into town and gas is \$2.60 a gallon.

I have had the chance to do some digging, I found a few Quartz crystals, and a bunch of broken up fluorite, but nothing real good. Rumor has it that back at the job things are not going real well without me there and I may do some driving for them again just to make a few bucks. If that happens I may make the next meeting.

That's about it, I hope you all had a very happy holiday season and new year, and I will see you the next time I see you.

## November Raffle News

The raffle brought in \$121.00 for our education and science fair endeavors!

The total retail value of this month's raffle items was \$198. The beautiful faceted opalized quartz by **Bob Aussprung**, was won by *Rob Deschambault* (\$38). The next popular specimen of barite from Stoneham (\$21) was won by *Bob Heckman*, and donated by **Glacier Peak Fine Arts Gems**. *Karen Heckman*, won a specimen of hematite (\$15), from the **Judith Holmes** collection. The last three items were neck and neck in popularity and brought in \$15 each. *Boyd Cook* won a specimen of calcite from the LaSirena Mine, Guanajuato, Mexico, donated by **Xtal**. *John Kleber* won a quartz, (Japanese Law twin), Peru, donated by **GeoOdessy**. Lastly, the lucky *Paul Crowell* won the ilseemannite specimen from Jackson City, CO, donated by **Bob Jordan and Joe Maez**.

Thanks go to Bruce Sales and Leslie Osgood, for running the November raffle.

Congratulations to all our lucky winners.

Submitted by Eva,  
CMS Raffle Manager.

See page 7 for the Business Cards for both  
November and December  
raffle donations.



# Mineral Minutes

December 2010

## December Christmas Raffle News

The December meeting raffle brought in \$155 for our Scholarship and Science Fair accounts!

The retail value of this month's raffle items totaled \$173, and our winners got bargains as well as nice specimens. We had two double winners this time!

The top, or most popular item, was a really nice specimen of Smithsonite from the Kelly mine in Magdalena, New Mexico donated by **Judith Holmes** (retail \$50, raffle income \$61) and the lucky winner of this fine specimen was *Fred Ceconi*. A 7.73 carat, 9.2x22.1mm, long oval faceted Apache Tear [obsidian] was cut and donated by **Bob Aussprung** (retail \$25; raffle income \$27), with the lucky winner *James Mahony*. A vintage Quartz crystal cluster specimen, labeled as originally collected in October 1971 from the Ellenville Lead mine in Ellenville, New York, was donated by **Judith Holmes** (retail \$25, raffle income \$26). This specimen was won by *Fred Ceconi*, a second win for him.

**Geodysey** donated a specimen of Opal in matrix from the Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia (retail \$28, raffle income \$22), which was won by

*Stan Horton*. **Bob Heckman** won a specimen group of Quartz from the Portland mine, Ouray, Colorado (retail \$25, raffle income \$10), another **Judith Holmes** donation. A second win for *Bob Heckman* was a specimen of Turquoise in matrix, from the King mine, San Luis Valley, Colorado, donated by **Judith Holmes** (retail \$20; raffle income \$9).

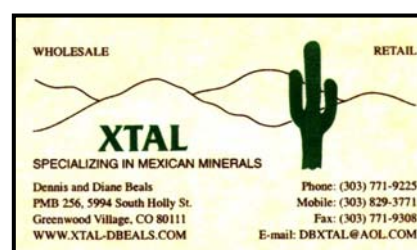
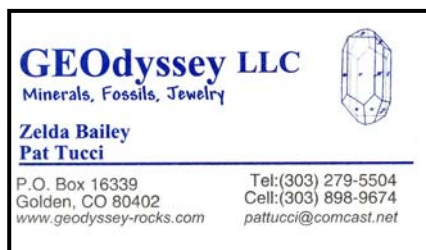
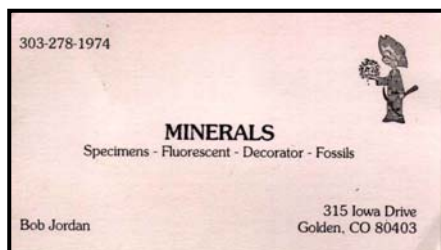
Those of you at the drawing will remember the many green tickets that were drawn without a winner. Well we have discovered why that happened. There were 21 tickets in the can left from last month! By mistake, the green can was not emptied of stubs after the November raffle. This did not change our drawing because the counterpart tickets were not present, but did string out that part of the drawing. Thanks for your patience!

Congratulations to all our lucky winners, Eva and the young member who patiently helped draw the winning tickets. Unfortunately I did not get his name.

Reported by John Kleber,  
Assistant CMS Raffle Manager.

*Bob Aussprung*

*Judith Holmes*





# Mineral Minutes

December 2010

## Up Coming Events:

January 7, 2011 CMS regular meeting at St. Paul's Church, 10th & Garrison  
January 1-31, 2011 Quartzsite AZ Desert Gardens Gem & Mineral Show  
February 4, 2011 Regular meeting at St. Paul's Church, 10th and Garrison  
February 10-13, 2011 Tucson, AZ Gem and Mineral Show  
February 12-13, 2011 WIPS Founders Symposium at Green Center, CSM, Golden



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

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