



THE AMMONITE



Newsletter of The Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society – February 2010



FROM THE PRESIDENT by Deb R.

2010 is off to a fast start it seems, but an item from the repeating past has already been brought forward again. At the January 8th meeting, I was passed a letter addressed to the club from the office of Tim Johnson on the Wilderness issue. In it Senator Johnson states that he has heard from many people over the last several years on the issue of designated wilderness in some areas of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland (including the areas of Indian Creek and Red Shirt). It is his intention to 'move forward' and introduce legislation in Congress to protect a portion of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland as federally designated wilderness. An expected 40,000 - 50,000 acres will be involved, based upon the 2002 recommendation from the Forest Service and incorporating some additional lands in Red Shirt and the Chalk Hills area. Per the letter, Senator Johnson states that he intends to include the recommendation to keep the 6-mile long Indian Creek Road open by excluding it from the wilderness boundaries. He continues that a clarification of wilderness designation does not eliminate grazing on public lands, nor does it preclude hunting, fishing, or recreational rockhounding (for personal use).

A fact sheet accompanied the letter describing the purpose of wilderness and the activities allowed, and not allowed. I will bring the entire letter back in for the February meeting, so please come up and review it. Senator Johnson welcomes comments through his website at <http://johnson.senate.gov/contact/>, or by contacting his staff, Matt Thornblad or Janelle Gren at (202) 224-5842.

Items regarding our Show that need to be considered: We looked into a food vendor at the Show, but the Civic Center requires 30% of the take, making it unacceptable to vendors - we will have to rely on the Center's food or the chance of losing the public when they go out to eat.



It was also voted at the January meeting not to have a live auction the Saturday evening of the Show. Concern was for the upset and loss of sales to the Dealers. The weekend after the meeting I was called with an alternative which I believe has merit. I would like everyone to consider the possibility of a live auction for JUST dealers and members who help set-up/tear-down/work the Show. It would be held, along with the potluck, on Friday night (the day of set-up). We will be holding discussion and a vote on this option at the February meeting.

The February meeting will be held in the back room of the senior center. Agenda highlights follow.....

Old business:

- (Paula H.) - Wire Wrap schedule
- Has 211 form been completed and submitted (Rita)? Need members as resources for information when public contact us through 211 (calls will be filtered by Mickey or myself first).

New business:

- Show Flyer
- Show Live Auction on Saturday was voted down; another proposal now is a member/dealer Live Auction Friday after set-up – discussion and vote.
- UPS copy card is used up. Options to be discussed.
- Call from Richard in WI – his family coming in May and wants to go rock hunting.
- **Program** – Intarsiq-Roger V.

By-Laws By-Laws By-Laws By-Laws By-Laws

If your dues are current but you did not attend the January meeting, a hard copy of the by-laws will be sent to you. The most current membership list will be used for this mailing. If you have not received a copy and your dues are current, there will be extras at the February meeting.

We Thank You

Ginger and Tom F. were our RMF Show reps last year. Don and Annette will attend the Show again in 2010 and the club accepted their offer to represent us there during the Jan meeting.

IMPORTANT!!!! If you have any club materials or equipment, please make a list of the items that you hold, and submit it to President Deb. We are trying to compile a comprehensive list of who has things and where they are located.

Club items and where they are currently living.....

Deb R.- gavel and president's correspondence. Rock Exchange (received) material and very few items left we can send out. A few club dinosaur & rock field guides and a box of business cards.

Paula & Stan H. / Gene & Hazel W. - the button maker.

Don & Annette R. - box of club business cards, green rock cards for Show, Saw, Club history books/file cabinet, trailer with Show material (cases, signs, etc)

Tom & Ginger F. - currently have the club's Show rock display - this is usually kept by Don & Annette with the Show material.

Calling all members...211 needs you!



Club members are needed with knowledge of how to identify specimens and how to get to rock hunting places. If you have other areas that you are comfortable with such as fossils, wire wrapping, rock cutting or polishing, please let us know. You could be a resource for questions that might come up through the new 211. Mickey or Deb would initially receive the call, and then refer them to someone in our club with the appropriate expertise. This is your time to step up and shine. Mickey will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting.



Meeting minutes for January 8, 2010



The meeting was opened by the President, Deb R., at 7:30 pm. It was voted to accept the minutes as written by Mickey and seconded by Ellen.

Deb passed around a signup sheet for new members and existing members to sign. Also passed around was the new Bylaws; each member was to initial by their name as they took a copy of the Bylaws. It was noted the copies were unsigned; the original with signatures is on file.

The club has two new members: Don B., LeAnn and Dan O. One visitor: Curt L. who just moved to Rapid City from Wisconsin. The club members welcomed the new members and the visitor.

The April program will be brought to us by Ellen and will be on rock hunting sites. Walter B. will present a rock carving presentation in May.

CLUB CALENDAR – Below is our calendar for the year. As you can see, we still have a few openings for Door Prizes and Programs for 2010. Sign up at the January meeting, or contact Deb Radomski with your chosen month(s) and item(s). Contact Mike Joebgen, our Vice President, if you have an idea for a program or would like to present one. We are all a very enthusiastic audience and would love to learn what you have to share. Jamie Brezina has also offered to present programs on just about any topic you want – let him know your suggestions.

MONTH	REFRESHMENTS	DOOR PRIZES	PROGRAM
JANUARY	Paul & Jan G.	Paul & Jan G.	Ammonites by Neal L.
FEBRUARY	Don & Annette R.	Don & Annette R.	Intarsiq-Roger V.
MARCH	Deb R.	Mickey S.	Dinosaurs of SD-Jamie B.
APRIL	Mills	Martin O.	Rock hounding sites-Ellen T.
MAY	Cathy A.	Joebgen	Rock Carving-Walter B.
JUNE	Becky B.		30 th SHOW-Last minute review
JULY	Rita & Lyle H.		
AUGUST	Summer Meal	Summer Meal	Summer Meal
SEPTEMBER	Hazel W.	Gene and Hazel W.	
OCTOBER	Calvin L.		
NOVEMBER	Cliff N.		
DECEMBER	Holiday Dinner	Holiday Dinner	Holiday Dinner



Webmaster - Steve E....Don't forget to check out our new website at www.wdgms.org. Site Overview.....

The first month was free. The first payment of \$19.95 was taken from our account on December 29, and will continue to be withdrawn on the 22nd or 23rd of each month.

Since the sites inception on November 25, 2009, we have had 133 visits, with a mean average of 3 per day. Fifty seven percent of the hits came from the local network, forty percent from the rest of the U.S., and one hit came from Germany. The site generally gets one to six hits a day.

Seven hits came from websites other than our own. Three people found us using a search engine.

Most people do not leave messages. I have had three non-members email me for more information about the club, or something they saw on the website. Most comments about the site were of a positive nature. Shivers was misspelled, which was pointed out by another member, and has been corrected.

Deb had some helpful suggestions which have been incorporated concerning the layout.

One page recently added, which I would like feedback on is the forum, which is actually a link to the forum on the old website. It's for group discussions. So far, I am the only one who has used it. If the group wants this feature, I will need feedback from you all. Personally, I would prefer a forum that was not linked to another site, but, at the present time, and with the resources Intuit gives me, I do not know how to do this.

I am always looking for new stuff to put on the site, whether it be announcements, photos, or what have you. If you have any such material that you would like added to the website, let me know. It should be club related of course. Overall, I would say that wdgms.org is doing well.

Wire Wrapping has started. Contact Paula H. at 716-3656 if you would like to join the group.

Book Review: Guidebook to the Geology of the Black Hills, South Dakota by Lufkin, Redden, Lisenbee, and Loomis, Copyright 2009 by Golden Publishers, ISBN 978-1-61539-870-6, \$29.95, plus postage and handling

This colorful new guidebook is dedicated to N.H. Darton – the de facto father of Black Hills geology who was a self taught geologist before joining the U.S. Geological Survey. The book begins with an introduction to basic geology that will be quite useful to the beginner. It then gives a thorough but non-technical description of the recognized geologic strata of the Black Hills from oldest to youngest. A brief section covers the description of some of the major landforms of the Hills. Most technical terms that the reader may be unfamiliar with are italicized in the text and defined in a glossary at the end of the book. The references cited are extensive, and those publications listed that are still available will be able to satisfy a thirst for more that this excellent introduction to the Hills will likely stimulate in some readers.

A good overview of the Precambrian rocks is provided, including 37 specific localities, the directions to which are described in varying levels of detail. Much attention is given to the pegmatites, with seven mines discussed in detail. Gold deposits are also highlighted, but don't expect to find much on fossils or agates. A brief discussion of Badlands National Park geology is also provided, along with a discussion of Devils Tower. Other attractions such as the Mammoth Site, Mount Rushmore, The Needles, Crazy Horse, and Jewel Cave garner about a page apiece. The book concludes with a brief discussion of Black Hills minerals and 22 beautiful color mineral photographs that I personally wish had some sort of a scale reference. It's a very nice publication, but seems to me to be a bit pricey for the size. That is probably due to a limited print run size and the high quality of the color illustrations.

The authors have generously provided one copy for our club library. To order your own, contact Golden Publishers via email at lufk3@comcast.net, or or call 303-997-7365. (Review submitted by Steve S.)

Notice: Stan and Paula H., the new **Field Trip Chairs**, would like to know where members want to go in 2010. Give them your ideas for outside trips and ones we can take inside when the weather requires it.

Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society 2009-2010 Officers and Chairpersons (area code 605)

President:	Deb R., 430 E. Idaho St., Rapid City, SD 57701.....	343-7850
Vice President:	Mike J., 5884 Legacy Ln., Rapid City, SD 57703.....	716-9886
Secretary:	Paula H., 533 Enchantment Rd., Rapid City, SD 57701.....	484-3754
Treasurer:	Rita H., 2569 Ambush Ranch Rd., Rapid City, SD 57703.....	348-3916
BRC SD Rep:	Donald R., 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....	348-8948
BHRMUC Rep:	Donald R., 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....	348-8948
RMFS SD Dir.:	Donald R., 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....	348-8948
Field Trip Chairs:	Paula & Stan H., 533 Enchantment Rd., Rapid City, SD 57701.....	484-1591
1 yr. Board Member:	Ellen T., 21653 Piedmont Meadows Rd., Piedmont, SD 57769.....	787-4659
2 yr. Board Member:	Dale J., 14974 Back Country Trail, Rapid City, SD 57703.....	393-2011
3 yr. Board Member:	Mickey S., 201 Patton St., Rapid City, SD 57701.....	791-1953
Newsletter Editors:	Steve & Linda S., 11809 Eastridge Hill Dr., Black Hawk, SD 57718	716-4047
Historian	Donald R., 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....	348-8948
Librarian:	Steven E., P.O. Box 1123, Rapid City, SD 57709.....	786-5974
Webmaster:	Steven E., P.O. Box 1123, Rapid City, SD 57709.....	786-5974

As always old/new ideas are welcome. This is “your” newsletter and we would love to hear from you.

Club Address: 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702

Meetings: Second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Minneluzahan Senior Center, 315 N. 4th St., Rapid City

Dues: Family - \$15, Single - \$10, Payable by cash, check, or money order. Senior Citizens free membership (does not include bulletin)

The purpose of our club is to promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology, and lapidary, to sponsor and provide means of coordination the work efforts of groups and individuals interested in these science fields.

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**Material in this newsletter may be used if proper credit is given.
Material for this newsletter must be given to the editor by the
25th of the month preceding that issue.**

