



Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1944
Rapid City, South Dakota
57701-1954

This Months Funny:

Have you ever wondered what makes a true rockhound? Here is how.
Take a bag a marbles wherever you go. Every time you pick up a rock,
leave a marble. When you have lost all your marbles, you are an
official rockhound.



THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

6:00 p.m.

June 12, 2025

Minneluzahn Senior Center

315 North 4th Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

It is always rock hunting time!

The Purpose of our Non-Profit Club is to promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, to sponsor and promote the coordination of work efforts between groups and individuals.





The Ammonite Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society

2024-25 Officers

President:	Kelli Wold	605 381-6418	kelliwold24@gmail.com
Vice President:	Pete Lysenko		
Secretary:	Debra Bailey	571-275-1146	ddsebailey@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Leslie Lysenko	605-786-8801	leslielysenko@gmail.com
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Board Member #2	Rod Woodcock	575 956-3081	rodwoodcock001@gmail.com
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RMFMS SD Dir:	Lori Loomis	605-718-9130	sdnestatedirector@gmail.com

CLUB Mailing: Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 1954, Rapid City, SD 57709-1954

CLUB Website: www.WDGMS.org

CLUB Facebook: Western Dakota Gem and Society/groups

CLUB Email: westdakota.rocks@gmail.com

Meetings: Second Thursday of each Month (except August) at 6:00 PM (times can change)

At: Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center, 315 North 4th Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

ANY SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE IN BY THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH

Any questions about the material found in the Ammonite please contact the editor:

Deborah Vick, 265 Stumer Rd Apt 7, Rapid City, SD 57701

If you change your address, email address or have a problem receiving a newsletter:

Please Contact the Treasure at westdakota.rocks@gmail.com

Dues: \$15.00 per person - \$20 per family with children under 16 years – Includes 12 newsletters by e-mail. If you chose to receive the newsletter by mail, there is an additional \$10.00 fee. Dues cover the RMFMS insurance and an electronic copy of the newsletter.

Send dues to Treasurer, PO Box 1954, Rapid City, SD 57709-1954

May Minutes

Pete L called the meeting to order at 6:09pm. Pete informed the members that Jason Hammer would be our guest speaker tonight and would be discussing rock tumbling and polishing. There were 31 people in attendance, 5 guests (all became members). Kelli and Leslie both were out of town. Pete and Debra ran the meeting.

Old Business:

Pete asked if there was a motion to approve the April minutes, Jordan motioned and John seconded. Motion was passed.

Debra read the treasurers report for April. Rob motioned to approve and Sean seconded. Motion was passed.

The members were reminded about the prototype canvas bags were for sale. The big order of bags should be in shortly. Also, the t-shirt order is in for those that ordered shirts or hoodies. See Debra.

Brief update on the show. All vendor spots are full. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet for all three days. All areas will need coverage, that includes: Admissions, Club Info, Fluorescent Tent, Jr. Rockhounds activity center, Silent Auction, Geode Cracking, Safety, and Pot Luck. Rob Wills is heading up the advertising and has a press release completed. Show flyers are available for club members to take and post at establishments. Should not post flyers until 2-3 weeks before show. Please save your egg cartons for the Jr. Rockhounds.

New Business:

Historian- Jordan is asking club members for any club information, stories, pictures, etc, for the archives. Currently there are 2 scrap books and older Ammonites.

Librarian: Cole received two books from Don to add to the library. He will be updating the list of books and DVDs.

Field Trip: Saturday's field trip is set for Shamrock Mine east of Custer. Rob W brought in samples of rocks that we will be searching for, some were feldspar, tourmaline, watermelon tourmaline and rose quartz. Kathy K will be leading the trip.

Debra reminded the members that this is their club and would like their input on guest speakers and field trips.

RMFMS: Lori L informed the member that May was going to be a very busy month with club meetings and shows. A new mineral was discovered here in the Black Hills (by her husband Tom) and was named Tomcampbellite (after Tom Campbell). You can see the full article in the RMFMS newsletter.

Rob motion to adjourn the meeting; Jason second. Motion passed.

Thank you, Marie, for tonight's snacks. If you would like to offer snacks for one of our meetings, please sign up on the snack sheet.

May 17th Show meeting minutes

Debbie V called the meeting to order at 10:05 am with 12 members attending.

Debbie will talk with Ashley about having access to the building to place tape on floor for vendor locations.

There was a discussion about cash boxes and what tables needed them for efficiency; admissions, club info, silent auction and/ geode cracking. We will sell the canvas bas at the club info table and geodes at the silent auction. There will be 2 Squares for credit/debit card purchases. One at the Silent Auction with tax and the other at Admissions without tax. Entrance fee is \$5 for adults, under 12 free with paying adult.

Geode Cracking: have 57 geodes, need more. Leslie will purchase more. If attendant purchases the geode from vendor or us the cracking is free.

Jr. Rockhounds: Lori B stated she needs to know how much she can spend for the Jr. Rockhounds activity center. Items that are needed: Dino, rings, erasers, pencils, bracelets, sandwich bags, paper towels, makers, wipes and sandbags. Kelli motioned an allotment of \$300 for supplies and Rod W seconded, motion passed. Lori gave Jason stones to polish for the sandbox. Need club member to save their egg cartons. Put notice in the Ammonite.

Microphone and sound system are rented. Will have 2 mics and 2 wireless speakers. Not sure if the mics are wireless, will check on this.

Signage: Leslie ordered two more flags. Kelli motioned to reimburse Leslie; Debbie seconded. Motion passed. Debra will order signs for the walls. Geode Cracking will have price for geode purchase.

Showcases: Leslie will order the Best of Show plaque for the showcases from J and J. There are 16 cases and 6/7 are currently reserved. Need to advertise in Ammonite and Facebook about the showcases.

Badges: Need to get the names of vendors and their staff to make name tags. Need to purchase more lanyards.

Potluck: Marie will put together the online potluck system for club members. Need to check with Ashley from fairgrounds to see if we can use the hallway in the concession area for the table of food. Will need extension cords, check the trailer. Walmart can print the club logo and 50th anniversary on cake. Put in Ammonite for club members to look for an email for the potluck sign up.

Gold for Anniversary: Last month it was voted for 12 door prizes, 6 bags and 6 vials. Seven would be given out on Saturday and five on Sunday. Sylvia offered to donate gold made into a pendant. Changed door prizes to 12 bags. Debra confirmed that a bag of pay dirt from the Black Hill Prospecting Club was \$25. Debbie motioned to spend \$300 for 12 bags of paydirt peppered with gold; Rob seconded. Motion passed.

Need to pull projector out of trailer. Possibly make a loop of pictures of field trips, speakers and other club activities for club anniversary.

Fluorescent Tent: Jason has the tent parts to number them. Jason will be head of the fluorescent tent. Need a small fan for ventilation. Nancy T and Kelli will donate more specimens for the show.

Rock ID: Steve C will man table on Saturday and K&K on Saturday and Sunday. Set up table between Club Info table and K&K table. Club was given a small card table that will fit in that location.

Advertising: Look into placing ad in the Rock and Mineral. Debra will talk with Lori L. about ad.

Meeting adjourned 11:30 am.

President's message

Thank you to all that came to the May meeting. The July show is fast approaching. Any help is appreciated. If there are different places you would like us to go for our monthly field trips let us know. Happy round hounding to all of you!

Treasurer Notes:

Club Account – \$109 deposit - May's raffle, 2 canvas bags, dues & t-shirts.

We paid rent, \$300 for t-shirts & \$216 for annual Club website fee to WIX.

Show Account – We had 3 vendor deposits of \$476.72 & paid \$114 for 2 show advertising flags.

As time gets closer for the annual show, we'll be looking for volunteers to help on one of the 3 days: Friday is "set-up" day, 9-5 Saturday & 9-3 Sunday.

After setting up on Friday there is a potluck for members and vendors.

When you receive the email please get hold of the contact person & let them know which day & what time is best for you.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Annette Rathert is at Fountain Springs rehab.

WELCOME new members!

Albert & Deleen Koughl

Kayla Johnson & daughter, Brooklynn

Brett Jouvstra

List of upcoming events:

June Guest Speaker: Jordan on Wyoming Jade

June Field Trip: Conada Basin

July Guest Speaker: TBD

July Field Trip: TBD Might be somewhere to find local geodes

Club/Show notes:

There will be an on site show meeting at the Nerdy Nuts expo hall on May 30th for those who are interested in seeing what the venue looks like before anything is set up in the building. 3:00 pm is the meeting time.

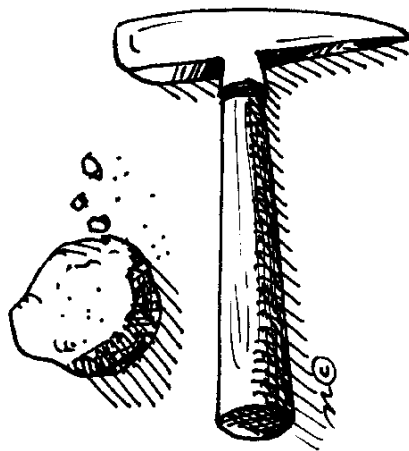
Display cases are available for club members for the show. Contact a show committee member for more information.

Egg cartons are needed for the kids area. Please bring any with you at the next meeting in June.

There will be an email sent out mid June for sign-up for bring food to the Friday evening show Potluck. Please sign up.

The Rocky Mountain Mineralogical Society yearly convention will be in Grand Junction Colorado September 19-21 2025. Although the delegates have been chosen anybody is welcome to come and check the show out.

The editor is in need of fresh material for the Ammonite including articles, tips and tricks, and even a funny or two. Don't be bashful, bring them in! Even a bit on why you became a rockhound would be nice.



How to Dye Quartz at Home

Ever been at a tourist rock shop or a souvenir shop and seen brightly colored crystals especially Quartz. First of all they are not natural and second you can do the same affect at home. All you need is a few supplies.

Supplies

- quartz crystal
- safety goggles
- metal tongs
- heat resistant work gloves
- hand held butane torch
- bucket
- water soluble dye

Step 1 Fill bucket with cold water

Step 2 Using a higher concentration of dye than what is needed for dyeing cloth, dissolve the dye in the bucket fully

Step 3 Must put on safety goggles and gloves. This step is very important!

Step 4 Turn on the butane torch then pick up the crystal with the metal tongs

Step 5 Apply flame to crystal for about a minute

Step 6 Drop the crystal into the bucket

This process will cause the Quartz crystal to crackle. The dye will absorb in the cracks and change the overall color of the crystal.

Please note: This process should be done by a responsible adult as there are many risks involved. The piece could shatter and cause shards to fly, hence the safety goggles. There are also inherent risks involved with using the butane torch. Last but not least use a bucket that can withstand the abuse it will receive.

Also, do this experiment **OUTSIDE!!!**

Reference:

Saandvik, Danio. "How to Dye Crystals" *sciencing.com* April 24 2017

Upcoming Area Shows

This information can be found at the www.rockandmineralshows.com. Please check the website current shows across the country and in Canada.

Fairburn Agate & Rock Swap - 06/06/2025

Start Date: 06/06/2025

End Date: 06/08/2025

Venue: Custer County Fairgrounds

Address: 72 Fairground Place

Custer County Fairgrounds

Hermosa, SD 57744

Summer Gem Festival - 06/21/2025

Start Date: 06/21/2025

End Date: 06/22/2025

Hours: Sat 9:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

Venue: Beer Family Farm

Address: 18701 Ashland Rd

Beer Family Farm

Ashland, NE 68003

Website: <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/>

Sublette County Rock Hounds' Annual Gem & Mineral Show - 06/13/2025

Start Date: 06/13/2025

End Date: 06/15/2025

Hours: Fri/Sat 9:00 - 5:00 Sun 9:00 - 3:00

Venue: Sublette County Fairgrounds, Events Center

Address: 10937 Hwy 189

Sublette County Fairgrounds, Events Center

Big Piney, WY

Website: <https://www.wsmgs.org/upcoming-events.html>

Kemmerer Fossil & Mineral Expo - 06/13/2025

Start Date: 06/13/2025

End Date: 06/14/2025

Hours: 9:00 - 6:00

Venue: South Lincoln Training & Event Center

Address: 215 HWY 233

South Lincoln Training & Event Center

Kemmerer, WY

Website: <http://kemmererexpo.com/>

The Rock-N-Gem & Artisan Show - 06/13/2025

Start Date: 06/13/2025

End Date: 06/15/2025

Hours: 9:00 - 5:00

Venue: Hairy Mosquito Trading Company!!

Address: 21287 Hwy 169

Hairy Mosquito Trading Company!!

Milaca, MN 56353

Website: [https://www.facebook.com/photo/?](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1152672529990851&set=pcb.11526725966575116?context={\)

[fbid=1152672529990851&set=pcb.11526725966575116?context={\"event_action_history\":](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1152672529990851&set=pcb.11526725966575116?context={\)
[\[{\"surface\": \"page\"}\]](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1152672529990851&set=pcb.11526725966575116?context={\)

Des Moines Lapidary Society Rock Swap - 06/21/2025

Start Date: 06/21/2025

End Date: 06/21/2025

Hours: 10:00 - 1:00

Venue: Des Moines Lapidary Society

Address: 2608 24th St

Des Moines Lapidary Society

Des Moines, IA 50310

Website: <http://www.dmlapidary.org/>