



# THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting is our annual Christmas party and potluck:

**6:00 p.m.**

**December 14, 2023**

**Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center**

**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

**2023-24 Officers**

<b>President:</b>	Kelli Wold	605 381-6418	kelli@dakotastar.org
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**CLUB Mailing:** Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 1954, Rapid City, SD 57709-1954

**CLUB Website:** [www.WDGMS.org](http://www.WDGMS.org)

**CLUB Facebook:** Western Dakota Gem and Society/groups

**CLUB Email:** [westdakota.rocks@gmail.com](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:westdakota.rocks@gmail.com)*

**Dues:** \$15.00 per person - \$20 per family with children under 18 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**

## November Minutes

President Kelli Wold called the meeting to order at 6 pm. There were 18 members and 7 guests. There was a brief introduction of Board Members and then an introduction of all members including guests.

Kelli asked if there was a motion to approve October 12<sup>th</sup>'s meeting minutes. Debbie motioned to approve and Mickey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Leslie reviewed the treasurer's report.

[REDACTED]

Mickey motion to approve the treasurer's report and Myesa 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Kelli gave a brief recap of board members meeting.

Kelli informed the members that currently we purchase tickets for our raffles \$1 for 4 tickets. Beginning in January the ticket price will increase to \$1 for 2 tickets. We are looking to purchase prizes for the raffle with the money earned from the sale of the raffle tickets. Club member donations for prizes are still accepted.

December's club meeting will be our holiday potluck. There will be a Rock B-I-N-G-O game with prizes. There will be a gift exchange between members. Gifts value should be between \$10-\$15. Myesa will put together a google sign-up for potluck so we don't have duplicate foods. Debbie will send this out to the members soon. There will be no field trip after the meeting due to the holidays.

Next meeting in January our guest speaker will be Don Hamm from the Black Hills Prospecting Club. Don's father, Robert Hamm, was a long time member of WDGMS.

Another future guest speaker will be Tom Wooden, The Fairburn Agate guy.

There was an open discussion about future field trips. Last meeting Sean had asked members to bring a list of places they visited for rock hounding or trips. Debra compiled a list of places and passed it around for comments.

Mickey Snook will be our guest speaker on March 14<sup>th</sup>. He will be going over map reading and great rock hounding locations. This will be a very important meeting before adventuring out once the weather turns nice.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm.

The Meeting was followed by a presentation of our guest speaker, Jason Hammer, on rock tumbling.

Thank you Leslie and Baileys for snacks. Thank you Baileys and Jason for the raffles items.

## November Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting brought to order at 5:03 pm

### Attendees:

President Kelli Wold

Secretary Debra Bailey

Treasurer Leslie Lysenko

Past President Debbie Vick

Board of Director Myesa Fixx

Board of Director Rod Woodcock

Board of Director Jason Hammer

President Kelli Wold led the meeting. The agenda followed an email sent by Debra Bailey with items to be discussed.

December meeting will be the end of year/holiday party. There will be a potluck sign-up. Myesa will put together the google sign-up and send to Debbie V. for club distribution so there are no duplicate dishes. There will be a gift exchange, rock related, costs of gift asked to be between \$10-\$15. Kelli would like to play a game at the party, Rock B-I-N-G-O. Debbie has a bingo game set (cage, balls, card & chips). Due to time length of the games there will only be 3 games played. Club will supply 3 prizes- no more than \$50 for all 3 prizes.

Club Raffle- It was brought up that we should have between 6-10 raffles per meeting. Raffles should be fun and exciting. Too many items takes away time from the speaker and show & tell time. The current cost of a raffle ticket is \$0.25/ 4 for a dollar. Starting January 2024 the cost of a ticket will be \$0.50/ 2 for a dollar. We have not raised the cost of a ticket in many years. Debra asked that besides the club members donating prizes that the club purchase some prizes using the money from the previous club meetings raffle. There are no by-laws regarding this; only a welcome letter to new members with information on door prizes being donated by club members. Table the club paying for some raffle prizes until next board meeting.

Review events schedule: Field trip ideas. A list of field trip locations given to each board member, compiled by Debra from ideas given and past trips/notes found in the former secretary notebook. There will be no field trip in December due to holiday. Next field trip is to SDSMT museum in January. Possible field trip to Hot Springs Mammoth site for February.

Debra brought up to the board members about the need for a field trip waiver. There was a waiver in the notebook that was used when the club hosted field trips before and after the rock show. These field trips included non-club members. It was decided that we needed to look further into the waiver, contact RMFMS.

Email system: currently Debbie and Leslie have access. This will continue with Debbie answering emails received. Debbie and Leslie will continue to send emails out to club members.

Facebook and Website: This will be run by Mimi.

Rock Show: Dates for the show were discussed. Things to consider – Custer Gold Discovery Days will be July 19-21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and Sturgis Motorcycle Rally will be Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Best date for our rock show is July 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Debbie and Debra both had information on venues for the next rock show. Debbie had information for the show to be held at the

fairgrounds again. Info sheet attached. Debra had information for the show to be held at the SDSMT Beck ballroom. Information sheet attached. Further information was needed for the SDSMT location. (Parking, cost of drape/pipe and electric power, back door/double doors for vendors, cost of half day, parking and dimensions of room) Debbie explained that if held at the fairgrounds, \$1000/day, we would need a minimum of 16 vendors to cover the costs. Once further information was gathered by Debra it was decided that we need to tour the two possible venues. It was asked that tours be held beginning of Dec, Friday afternoon best.

Scholarship: It was decided to donate \$100 to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

### **A word from the President**

Thank you to everyone that attended the November club meeting.

The field trip to the Black Hills Institute in Hill City, was fun and very informative. A big THANK YOU goes out to Alex Ruger for showing us around.

The December club meeting is our holiday potluck with a gift exchange. Hope everyone is ready to play rock B-I-N-G-O. Prizes and fun are in store for the night.

Hope to see all of you there!

Kelli Word

### **Treasurer's report**

Treasurer - Checks were issued as voted on at the Nov. meeting

#1 - \$100 donation to American Federation Scholarship Foundation

#2 - \$15 to SD Secretary of State with the Application for Amendment to Articles of Incorporation

#3 - \$39.12 to Kelli Wold for Christmas raffle items

#4 - \$84.20 to Rocky Mountain Fed. for 2024 membership and insurance

Membership – Remember this will be your last Ammonite if you do not renew your membership!!! I'll send out an email also but if you can't make it to the Christmas potluck & gift exchange, please mail to PO Box 1954, Rapid City, SD 57709.

Library - I plan on bringing books for the January meeting. You can peruse them at the meeting or take a book home for a month. I'll bring a new assortment every month.

### **Events for the upcoming months:**

12/14/2023 Holiday Potluck – email coming out with potluck sign up, gift exchange and prizes!

1/11/2024 General Meeting – Guest speaker Don Hamm , VP of the Black Hills Prospecting Club

1/13/2024 Field Trip – SDSMT Geology Museum

2/8/2024 General Meeting – Guest speaker Kayleigh Johnson, SDSMT, Rock Identification

2/11/2024 Field Trip – TBD

3/14/2024 General Meeting – Guest speaker Mickey Snook, Map reading & locations for rock hounding

3/16/2024 Field Trip – TBD

## **Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Society/American Federation of Mineralogical Society information**

This little informative article came from the AFMS newsletter

### **Robert's Rules of Order**

Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

What would we do without the Robert's Rules of Order and our Parliamentarians! I have a lot of admiration for parliamentarians. Our societies, Federations and the AFMS use them as the framework for our meetings.

This famous, "how to run a meeting," rule book was named after Colonel Henry Martyn Robert back in 1876.

Like some of our experiences, Henry was asked at the spur of the moment to lead a meeting for the community. He was well versed for the job since he was an Army Engineer about to lead a meeting concerning local defense. Unfortunately for Henry, a lot of conflict arose during the meeting, and he soon realized he didn't have a clue how to run a meeting efficiently. No one at the meeting knew how to run a meeting either. He swore he would never go through that experience again, and he went to work creating what is now known as Robert's Rules of Order.

Back in 1876 there were rules and practices of conduct for the United States Congress. Robert's Rules of Order are modifications of those rules and practices for organizations like ours to easily run meetings with a spirit of cooperation and a sense of eloquent order.

Since 1876 there have been 12 revised editions, and you can buy the handy Robert's Rules of Order In Brief.

Parliamentarian question for the day:

"Does it still qualify as a quorum if half the participants slept through the meeting?"

## Jason Hammer's Rock Tumbling Presentation

Submitted by Sean Bailey

Jason Hammer was our guest speaker at the WDG&S' November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jason brought in several items that go along with his passion of "Rock Tumbling". Jason had a table with rocks spread out on it from the different stages of being polished. He brought in a small tumbler to demonstrate the action of tumbling and along with four different grades of polishing media that smooth and polish the rocks. Jason uses a rotating rock tumbler. He explained the difference between a rotating rock tumbler, which rotates and uses the energy of that rotation to grind the rocks and polishing media against each other, and a vibratory tumbler, which uses vibrations to cause the rocks and polishing media to rub against one another.



Jason passed around plastic bowls of rocks which included Bubblegum Agate, Badlands Jasper, Petrified wood, and Prairie Agate. Jason also passed around specimens of rocks and explained why they would not be good for tumbling along with samples of rocks that were being processed in stage one.



Jason emphasized the first stage, using the coarsest polishing media, as being the most important. He explained the coarse grit was the roughest and would remove the most material during the polishing process. It's important to note at this time that each stage in Jason's polishing method may last several weeks coupled with weekly rinsing using clean water and a simple dash of blue dish soap. This soap is important as it helps break the surface tension in the water and prevents any of the polishing media or sand from the rock to adhere to the rocks he intends to polish.

Jason's first stage with the tumbler can last more than seven weeks depending on the hardness of the rock(s) he's polishing. This example was shown in the bowl of rocks labeled "Needs more time in stage 1".

These rocks were beginning to become smooth but had noticeably visible defects in them. Jason further explained that these defects would come out with time and fresh coarse grade polishing media. Jason noted that the more the rocks were tumbled, in an attempt to remove the defects, additional rock would be lost from the specimens that he intended to polish.



Jason then explained that after stage one was completed he would utilize progressively finer polishing medias during stages two through four. Jason further mentioned that each of these stages usually last a week for him but it also depends on the rock(s) he's polishing. He may adjust how long he tumbles the specimens and may even skip a stage if he feels it's unnecessary. Jason then took time to field questions from the group ranging from his use of ceramic polishing media to how he selects rocks in the field to polish. Eighteen members attended the presentation along with seven guests.



## Upcoming Area Shows

Most of this information was obtained from [www.rockandmineralshows.com](http://www.rockandmineralshows.com). Please check the website for other shows across the country and in Canada.

### Rocks & Rails Mineral, Gem & Model Train Show/Expo

Dates: 12/8/2023 - 12/10/2023

Boulder County Fairgrounds

9595 Nelson Rd

Longmont, CO 80501

Find their website by searching for flatironsmineralclub

This is a great example of two hobby clubs coming together and creating one great show. By joining efforts, they feed off each other's traffic, cut costs for each club, and have plenty of people to help. It's not too far to travel if you need some great gift ideas.

### R.O.C.K. Gem & Mineral Show

Dates: 12/8/2023 - 12/10/2023

Viridian Library and Event Center

8030 South 1825 West

West Jordan, UT 84124

Find them on facebook by searching for rockhounders

Utah has incredible shows all year round so if you are traveling in this direction, I recommend stopping in to see their setup. This club focuses on education.



**Now for a lighter side of life as a Rock-hound**



From Rockbuster News 2/85  
Gem-n-l.org 11/09