



THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

6:00 p.m.

September 12, 2024

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

2023-24 Officers

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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 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

August Minutes

A brief meeting was held during our August Potluck Picnic.

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Kelli.

There was 29 people in attendance that included members, new members and 2 guests.

Kelli asked if there was a motion to approve July's general meeting minutes. Debra motion to accept the June minutes, Julie second. Motions approved.

There was no treasurer's report.

Kelli asked all attending to introduce themselves.

Kelli thanked all who volunteered for this year's show. It was greatly appreciated and made this year a great success. This year we had 1426 paying adults and 233* under 12 attending for a total of 1662. (*exact number of under 12 is only going by number of bags given at Jr Rockhound table)

We had a record breaking 39 new member applications taken during the show. We look forward to see everyone at meetings and fieldtrips and getting to know you better.

Julie Lundin reviewed Saturday's trip to Tepee Canyon and items to bring and what to expect.

It was asked of new members and members to give ideas for guest speakers and field trips. This is your club and your ideas count.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Remaining events for the rest of the year:

September 12th meeting guest speaker - Gareth Patton, 6th generation of the Calumet Mine

September 14th Field trip - Calumet Mine led by the Bailey's

October 10th election of officers, meeting guest speaker - TBD

October 12th Field Trip - The Mammoth Site (needs confirmation)

November 14th meeting guest speaker - Heather Aziz from Hell Creek Paleontological Society

November 16th - Field trip TBD

December 12th - Holiday Potluck

December 14th - Field trip TBD

President's message

The picnic went really well. Bunch of new members showed up.

With the money raised at the shows silent auction the club will be able to give out several scholarships at the School of Mines

Treasurer Notes for August:

Club-Only bills for August were chicken for the meeting & postage for mailing Silent Auction checks. Balance is looking great! (*See Note below*)

Membership- You know we have new members – too many to list here in the Ammonite. Please make sure to introduce yourself at the next meeting.

IF you think you would be interested in keeping track of member info (changes in address, email, etc.) & helping with dues I'd be so happy to discuss with you!

Library- I'll bring a selection of books to the September meeting for looking over.

Note:

One of the purposes of the Silent Auction is to provide funding to the Willard L. "Bill" Roberts Scholarship through the School of Mines Foundation. Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society set up this scholarship in 1982 and since that time we have been able to fund over \$20,000.

Mineralogy of the Black Hills by Roberts & George Rapp, Jr. is considered one of the best books written about the geology and minerals found in the Black Hills. The Financial Aid office sends student applications to the Scholarship Committee at the Foundation.

Please note: October will be the elections for the club's board members. Please be thinking about who would be willing to help out. The club cannot function with out you!

Since I am recovering from having my left knee replaced I really could not come up with a longer article. I also know that I may ruffle someone's feathers, yet I felt like this little piece of information should be shared

White Buffalo Turquoise - What is it really?

This beautiful stone is unfortunately NOT turquoise! The reason for this is because it does not have ANY copper content nor the characteristic blue hue. It is a unique stone and is only found at the Dry Creek Mine in Tonopah, Nevada.

This stone is actually a dolomite stone. The stone does exhibit the black spider webbing pattern usually found in turquoise. It grows next to magnesium which bleaches the stone's pigment.

White Buffalo was first discovered in 1993 by the Otteson family. This family was scouting for turquoise when they discovered this stone. They initially thought the stone was a variety of turquoise because of the veining property. They named it after the Sacred White Buffalo of Native American lore.

Because of the rarity of White Buffalo dealers have resorted to mislabeling similar stones such as Howlite, Magnesite and even dyed turquoise.

This is directed at all our new members out there. I am need of fresh material. It can be anything from why you became interested in Rocks and minerals to an informative article that is related

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.

Because of the large space that is used just to list current shows it was voted by the board just to include the link to find a show in ANY state.

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

I have shared these in the past. I am reprinting them for the 'newbies'.

You've ever purchased an individual, unfaceted rock, regardless of the price.

The polished slab on your bolo tie is six inches in diameter.