

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

Club News,
April, 2011



Regular Meeting of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, April 9, at 9:00AM (note time change)
Lake George Community Center

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club will feature a presentation by **Steve Veatch** on "**The Greater Alma Mining District: A Colorado Mining Legend**" on April 9, 2011. This program explores the history of the Greater Alma Mining District, how it accelerated the settlement of the West, and the contributions the district made to the economic growth of Colorado. Life in frontier mining camps, early prospecting methods, and lode mining adapted to high elevations will be presented. The first gold strike in Park County, Colorado was on the eastern slope of the Mosquito Range in the northwest part of the county at Buckskin Gulch in 1859—the same year the “Piles Peak or Bust” gold rush started. This remote area of mountains, streams, and forests was still part of Kansas Territory when a number of mining camps were established. The Greater Alma District included the Alma Placers, Montgomery, Buckskin, Horseshoe, Mosquito, and the Pennsylvania subdistricts. The extremes of the landscape presented harsh conditions to those who came to mine gold, silver, and other valuable mineral deposits. People came and established frontier mining districts, built towns, and created roads and rail routes. All of this activity, combined with other mining camps in the region, accelerated the settlement of the West and made major contributions to the economic growth of Colorado.

This is the third Lake George Gem and Mineral Club study group's work, and was presented at the 2010 Denver Gem and Mineral Show and at the 31st New Mexico Mineral Symposium last November. The study group's expanded abstract has just been published in *New Mexico Geology*, volume 33, no. 1. This is a publication of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, a research and service division of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Steven Veatch will tell this story with rare historical photos, stunning photography, and incredible mineral photos. Steven Veatch, a member of the LGGMC, is a life-long

resident of the Pikes Peak region. He started a rock and mineral collection in the 5th grade and is still adding to his collection.



Specimens from the Alma mining district. Images from *The Collectors Edge* by permission

Coming Events

- Columbine Gem & Mineral Society** monthly meeting, 6:30PM, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida. ... April 14
- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock. ... April 21
- Pueblo Rockhounds** monthly meeting, 7:30PM, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle; "Twinning in Crystals", by **Bob Carnein**. ... April 21
- Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show (spring)**, Denver, Holiday Inn, 4849 Bannock Street. Free parking and admission. ... Apr. 22-24
- Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies 2011 Convention and Show**, hosted by Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; call 316-742-3746 or 719-488-5526 or visit the website for information. ... June 24-26
- Victor Gold Rush Days** ... July 15-17
- Annual Continental Divide Tailgate (CONTINTAIL)**, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds; call 720-938-4194 for information. ... Aug. 12-15
- Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Annual Mineral Show**, next to the Lake George Post Office. Free parking and admission. (Jump Start begins Aug. 16) ... Aug. 19-21
- Alma Geostudy Presentations at Alma** ... Sept. 10-11

Club News

Welcome, New Members:

Jan and Barney McKamy (Woodland Park)

❄️❄️ Vice President and field-trip director **Dan Alfrey** already has a great and ever-expanding field-trip line-up for the coming summer. Here's the latest list; please visit our website often for updates, and, remember, you must be a Lake George Gem & Mineral Club member to attend trips. Please remember to pay your 2011 dues—still a bargain at \$15 for individuals or \$25 for a family; a membership form can be found at the back of the newsletter.

April 16: Topaz Gem mine (private claim of **Pinnacle 5 Minerals**). 9AM. **Fee required; limited attendance.** Contact **Dan Alfrey** (AlfreyDan@aol.com) for information.

May 14: Forever mine (9AM)

May 28: Patience club claim (8AM)

June 4: Devil's Hole mine (Texas Creek) (tentative) (**very limited attendance; contact Bob Carnein** at ccarnein@gmail.com).

June 11: Spruce Grove interclub trip (with Denver Gem & Mineral Guild) (tentative)

June 18: Pebble Pups interclub trip to Leadville (with Colorado Springs Mineral Society and FMC)

June 18-19: Last Chance mine (Creede) and **Bonanza/Marshall Pass exploration** (tentative)
Dan needs a head-count asap!

July 9: Petra Placer (9AM)

July 16: Smoky Dog (private claim of **Pinnacle 5 Minerals**) (amazonite/smoky quartz); 9AM

August 27: Hartsel petrified wood (not barite!)

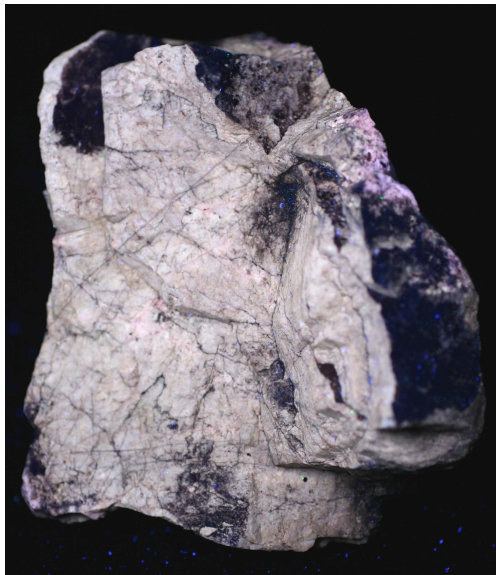
September 10: GeoStudy presentations (Alma); Sedalia mine (with Columbine Club)

September 24: Holcim quarry; meet 8AM in Florence

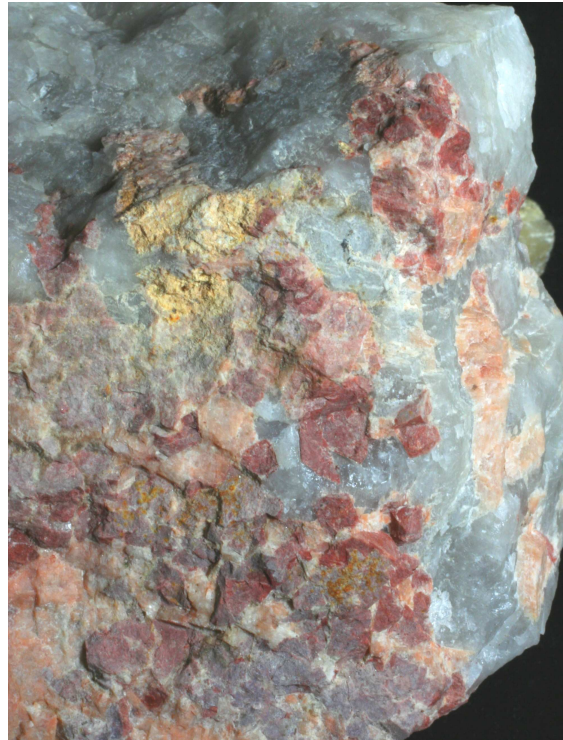
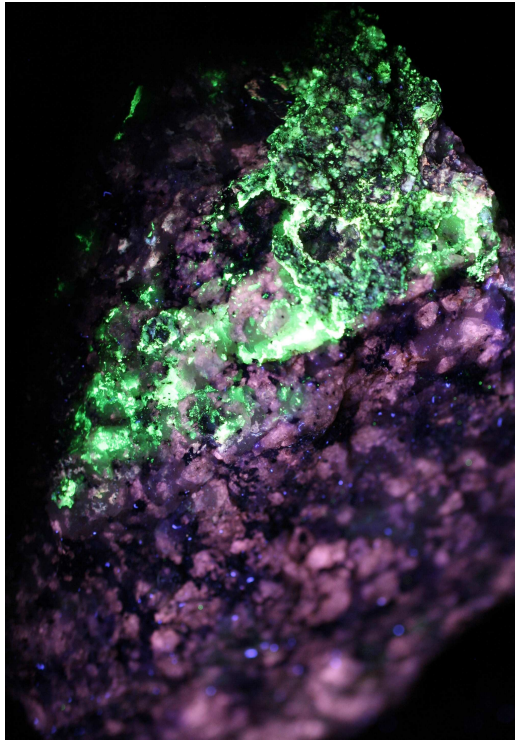
October 1: Patience club claim (8AM)

💧 About 25 members attended the March 12 meeting, including guest **Fred Ceconi** from the DGMG and new members **Jan and Barney McKamy**. President **John Rakowski** announced that **Steve Veatch** will present the Alma Study Project at a Chautauqua for the Pikes Peak Historical Society April 17 at 2PM at the Florissant Library. He also reported that the Pebble Pups article has been published in "Deposits" magazine. **Pete Modreski** noted that they will send a free issue to anyone who asks for one. **Dan Alfrey** announced a great line-up of field trips for this summer and fall (see above). The Club claim can be accessed anytime by contacting Dan or John. **Duane Russell** is in charge of our new Club library, which is growing, thanks to donations from several individuals, including, most recently, **Ann Lembcke** and **Marilyn Krummel** (who has donated Ross's collection of *Rocks and Minerals* and *Rock and Gem* magazines). Duane also wants to get Woodland Park 8th-graders involved in the Club's activities.

After the business meeting, **Pete Modreski** presented an overview of "Pegmatites of the Northern Part of the Pikes Peak Batholith". He noted that the South Platte pegmatites aren't noted for open cavities but contain many rare-Earth minerals, fluorescent fluorite, etc. Pete's talk focused on the two White Cloud pegmatites, which were found in the 1920s and mined for white quartz and feldspar. These are zoned and contain the rare-Earth carbonate mineral synchysite-(Y) and the iron-beryllium silicate gadolinite-(Ce), along with massive fluorite that fluoresces yellow-white, pinkish, and faint green under shortwave UV. These are NYF-type pegmatites that correlate with anorogenic granites dating to between 1.4 and 1.1 Ga (billions of years ago). After the presentation, Pete and 6 other Club members, plus Fred Ceconi of the DGMG, drove to the Colorado Trail parking area, east of Deckers, and hiked to the White Cloud pegmatites to see all of this for themselves. We found a lot of fluorite and synchysite-(Y), and smaller amounts of gadolinite-(Ce), along with some caliche that fluoresces green, probably due to small amounts of uranium. Photos of a few specimens follow.



Fluorite in white light (left) and shortwave UV (right), White Cloud mine (Carnein photos)



Uranyl caliche and fluorite in SWUV (left); synchysite-(Y) (dark red) in pegmatite, White Cloud mine, Jefferson Co., CO (Carnein photos and specimens)

◆◆ On **Dan Alfrey's** recommendation, members voted on March 12 to award our annual Club scholarship to **Samuel Barrett**, a student at South Park High School (in Fairplay). Samuel will pursue a degree in outdoor education, with a minor in geology, at Ft. Lewis College. The Club also agreed to provide \$500 to help support a 2011 summer intern at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

💧 **Dick Lackmond** reports finding a crude amethyst scepter (see photos by Dick below) near the 30-ft.-deep entrance hole to the New Hope amethyst mine, near Canon City. He plans to muck out the entrance to allow better access to the deposit.



Crude Amethyst Scepter (D.L. Photo)



Our "hole diver" at the entrance (D.L. Photo)

💧 The program for the May 14 meeting will be Amanda Adkins of *Colorado Rocks!*, talking about "Examples of Colorado Prospecting, Gems, and Locales. After the meeting, we'll once again visit **Frankie and Townsend Wolfe's** Forever Mine claim.

💧 Here's the latest "scoop" on the new lapidary workshop (provided by **John Rakowski**):
Lapidary Workshop:

We will soon be setting up a lapidary workshop on the premises of the **Mountain Aspen Granite Company**, just east of the Safeway shopping center in Woodland Park. The owner of the business will make space available to the club at no cost. *In return for his generosity we want to encourage all club members to keep **Mountain Aspen Granite** in mind for stone counter tops, hardwood flooring and window coverings. They have polished natural granite and other rock that they can custom fit to kitchens, bathrooms or elsewhere. Their phone number is **719-641-0214** and the owner is **Glenn Raymond**.*

When the workshop is up and running we'll post the hours and phone numbers to members so that you can use the shop and/or learn the lapidary hobby.

Thanks to **Dick Lackmond, Willy Hofmeister**, and others for getting this off the ground.

💧 And here's the latest from **Steve Veatch** about Study-Group activities:
Update on Lake George Gem and Mineral Club Study Group
By Steven Wade Veatch

The LGGMC study group has decided not to pursue our original project of studying Crystal Peak for our project this year. The decision to abandon this as a study site was agreed to by the study group due to the fact that Mark Jacobson (author of "The Aquamarines of Mount Antero") will be doing a major project on Crystal Peak. Jacobson is a geological historian who has studied many different collectors, collecting sites, and collections, particularly here in Colorado (but he's working in China right now). His last project was the biography of J. Alden Smith, the first territorial geologist, and mineral collector supreme, who published the first lists of minerals from Colorado.

The LGGMC study group will continue to work on different aspects of the Alma Project. A group from Colorado Preservation Inc. <http://coloradopreservation.org/>, members of the Park County Historical Society, and representatives of the South Park National Heritage Area, <http://www.parkco.us/index.aspx?NID=166>, will meet with the leaders of the study group to plan

a huge event this fall. I will provide all dates and times of the planning meetings to the study group very soon.

These organizations will be hosting a series of special events on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11 at Alma. The "Colorado on the Road" historical group will spend the 10th of September attending presentations and tours conducted by the LGGMC. September 11 will be a day open for the general public. The LGGMC will continue the same presentations on the following day. **Marge Breth** from our club has painted a number of excellent watercolors to be auctioned off to help raise money for historical preservation. **Marge and Adam Breth** will be helping with that aspect and some additional duties. They plan to bring their camper and stay the weekend.

The LGGMC will charge a fee to attend the slide lecture and tour. All of this money is being turned over to the Alma Foundation and the Mosquito Range Heritage Foundation.

Meetings are planned with all the major ranchers in the area for possible tours of their large, historic ranches. The club will play a possible role in helping with tours of these ranches in the future. A sub-group will work on the geology of the ranches, and discuss a variety of Earth-science topics ranging from soil conditions, springs, streams, water tables, and much more. Another group will finish the Buckskin field guide which will be published and sold by merchants in the local area. All money raised from the sale of the guide will go to historical preservation.

Several exploratory field trips will be organized this summer to examine Mosquito Pass very carefully. There are some interesting sites where glaciers have left striations on boulders, and we need to explore the Horseshoe Cirque area. We may also obtain permission and get tours of some of the local mines.

A series of meetings is scheduled to ensure the success of one of the largest projects the LGGMC has ever undertaken. Look for lots of interesting things to do with the LGGMC Study group in 2011.

💧💧 Here are the latest "Bench Tips" from Brad Smith:

EMERY BOARDS

The sanding boards for doing your nails are one of my favorite finishing tools. I use the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand just the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface. Plus they're inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company or at your local dug store.

DENTAL FLOSS

When testing the fit of stone in a bezel, it's all too easy to get it stuck. Often the only way to free it is to drill a hole in the bottom and push it out with a needle. To avoid this, lay a piece of dental floss over the top before you press the stone in. Then just pull on the string to remove the stone.

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More **BenchTips** by **Brad Smith** are at: groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/
or: facebook.com/BenchTips

Pebble Pups Corner

Pebble Pups will NOT meet on April 12. Instead, please plan to attend the Saturday April 9 club meeting at the Lake George Community Center at 9am for a C-E-L-E-B-R-A-T-I-O-N and some cake!!! Steven Veatch will coordinate the event, then make a presentation on the Alma Mining District. Please be at the April 12 regular club meeting!

Steve Veatch has announced that our Pebble Pups will be honored at the Editors' Breakfast, held on June 25 at the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies meeting in Colorado Springs. Details will follow.

Dan Alfrey has arranged for Chris Peterson to talk about meteors and fireballs at the May 10 6pm meeting at the Lake George Community center!

At the March meeting, **Bob Carnein** gave a presentation on "Luminescence in Minerals" for 3 Pups and their parents. Bob provided samples from Franklin, NJ for the kids to add to their collections.

Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein, Editor
ccarnein@gmail.com
719-687-2739



I'm very pleased, this month, to include an article written by our own Pebble Pup Junior, **Patrick Glover**. After that, you'll find an historic article sent in by **Steve Veatch**, thanks to **Beth Simmons**. Both articles are of special interest to LGGMC members, and I hope you enjoy them.

Spessartine Garnet and Smoky Quartz: An Interesting Mineral Combination

By Patrick Glover

Junior Member, Lake George Gem and Mineral Club,
Lake George, Colorado

The smoky quartz and spessartine garnet sample shown in figure 1 is about the size of your palm. The spessartine garnet is reddish-brown in color. The smoky quartz is a translucent crystal that ranges from a brown at the bottom of the crystal to black at the tip, and seems to sprout out of the ground mass of the specimen. This sample comes from the Wushan Spessartine mine in Tongbei, Yuxiao Co., Zhangzhou Prefecture, Fujian Province China. The Mine is in the southeastern edge of China (source: "Wushan spessartine mine").

Spessartine garnet (magnesium aluminum silica) is a semi-precious gemstone (in this specimen it is translucent) and is found primarily in places such as Germany, Sri Lanka, China, and Brazil (source: The mineral and gemstone kingdom: spessartine). It was discovered in 1832. On the Mohs scale, spessartine has a hardness of 6.5-7.5. Spessartine has a specific gravity of 4.15 (Pellet, 1992). Spessartine is formed in manganese-rich metamorphic environments.

Smoky quartz (silica dioxide) forms in a variety of mineral environments and is found worldwide in places such as China, England, Scotland, and the United States (source: The mineral and gemstone kingdom: quartz). Smoky quartz is more common than spessartine, and was discovered in 300 BC. It has a hardness of 7 on the Mohs hardness scale and has a specific gravity of 2.65 (Pellet, 1992).

Both minerals are valuable as beads and talismans. The Egyptians made spessartine into beads and sold them as gems. The Scottish once believed that smoky quartz would heal the body (source: Folklore, legend, and healing properties).

The study specimen in this paper is one of the few samples imported from the southern edge of China. Other minerals imported from this area of China are helvite and topaz. This interesting combination of spessartine and smoky quartz crystals makes an attractive addition to a mineral collection.



References Cited:

Folklore, legend and healing properties. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.smokyquartzjewelry.com/>

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The mineral and gemstone kingdom: quartz. (n.d.). Retrieved from

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The mineral and gemstone kingdom: spessartine. (n.d.). Retrieved from

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Wushan spessartine mine. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<http://www.mindat.org/loc-21240.html>

Note: This article was written by Patrick Glover, a Junior (Pebble Pup) member for the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club. A modified APA reference style was used. © 2011, Patrick Glover. This article may be reprinted as long as author and home club are given credit.

The article below was published by Jesse. S. Randall after he resigned as printer of the *Georgetown Miner* in 1875 but before he started publishing the *Georgetown Courier* in 1877. There are only two issues known of “The Centennial.” The article below was written after J. S. Randall had during 1872-73, completed an 8 part “Glossary of Colorado Minerals” which he had published in the “Weekly and Daily Miner” of Georgetown.

This article is also the only known mineralogical article written by his father. It is also one of the earliest known accounts from the Crystal Peak pegmatites. Square brackets in the transcribed article is used to identify clarifying additions by Beth Simmons, PhD.

1876 February

The Centennial [newspaper] Vol 1, no. 2, page 1, col 3 and page 2, col 1 and 2.

Published by Jesse Summers Randall, Printers’ Alley, west of the Miners’ Assay Office, Georgetown, Colorado

Article written by Abram Joshua Randall (J. S. Randall’s father)

A Fruitful Field for the Specimen Hunter

Florissant, in El Paso County, 35 miles west of Colorado Springs, is celebrated for the great variety and abundance of geological and mineralogical specimens found in its vicinity; and it has become a noted resort for tourists passing through that portion

of the Territory. Until about three years ago [1873], the locality went by the name of The Petrified Stumps, there being within a circuit of about a mile in diameter 15 or 20 of, probably, the largest petrified stumps of trees in the world; the species, a cedar, apparently the same as the big trees of Calaveras Co. California. The largest one, six years ago, measured twenty-two feet in diameter, but each succeeding year it became less owing to the depredations of specimen hunters. One of them, the most beautiful of this group on their first discovery, and one that should have been left as a monument of the Tertiary Period, during which it flourished, was about fifteen feet in height, but it was demolished by the hand of some vandal and now nothing but a few scattering fragments remain. The land on which these mammoth stumps stand, is now principally occupied by settlers, and efforts are being made to preserve these remnants of a former age.

In the immediate vicinity of the stumps are numerous beds of argillaceous shale abounding in beautiful impressions of the leaves, fruits, flowers and insects of a former age. In the lower strata are many perfect impressions of ganoids, and other kinds of fish. Calcareous Satin Spar occurs in seams in some of these shale banks, but the color generally is not good, being stained by other minerals. Petrified bitter, or swamp hickory nuts, are found near, not only showing the external

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form of the nut, but the shape of the kernel is also preserved complete. About a mile west of the stumps is a vein of Kaolinite, very pure, but not in sufficient quantities to pay for working.

Eight miles north-east of Florissant are the ragged peaks of the Crystal Mountains. A range of rocky peaks, so named from the amount of crystals there found. In the last two years [discovery of locality circa 1874-5] many thousands of pounds have been taken out, the greater part of which have been sold in Manitou, Colorado Springs and Denver, but many have also been shipped east. The crystals formed there, are Smoky Quartz, Orthoclase, Adularia, Amazonstone, Green, Purple and White Fluor Spar, Specular Iron and also a few specimens of Amethystine Quartz, but these last are rare. The Veins containing these crystals usually, like our silver veins, have a general trend N. E. and S. W. the metal they carry being iron; they open out at indefinite distances into pockets filled with red oxide of iron and the crystals mentioned above. These pockets contain from a single handful to several hundred pounds of crystals. From one pocket opened last September [1875], by Mr. Anthony, about 4,000 pounds were taken. Some of the Quartz crystals are of immense size; one taken out last spring by Mr. Disbrough, was about 4-1/2 feet in length, and 10 inches in diameter at the base, and is now in [Reverend Lewis] Hamilton's Museum, in Denver [formerly of Central City in 1869]. During the summer [of 1875], several were found from 20 to 30 inches long.

The surface indications of these pockets, or in miners' parlance, the blossom-rock, is usually a graphic granite, called by the crystal miners rice rock, from its resemblance to a conglomeration of the grains of that cereal. The upper wall, called the caprock, is lined with crystals of feldspar, with sometimes a few small quartz crystals disseminated, but it is on the lower wall that the finest cabinet specimens are found, the crystals being larger and finer. Sometimes the associated feldspathic crystals are Amazonstone.

Crystallized Fluor Spar is usually found at or near the bottom of the larger pockets, sometimes in isolated cubes, and sometimes an aggregation of large and small cubes. The prevailing color is green, although purple and white are sometimes found. One unique specimen found here, is worthy of note. It was a cube of transparent green Fluorite; four inches square, and on two of the opposite faces the corners of two small cubes projected and crossed each other in such a manner as to form an almost complete representation of the masonic symbol, the Square and Compass. Specular Iron [geothite?] is sometimes found in nodules in these cavities, from an ounce in weight to 15 or 20 pounds. These nodules are rough and unsightly outside, but on breaking, they often display a mass of splendid radiated crystallization.

The best Amazonstone is most frequently found in veins of white quartz, associated with crystals of mica and but few quartz crystals. A vein of this kind was opened last spring [of 1875] by Messrs. Disbrough and Powell, which has since produced some of the finest crystals of the kind on Record. In September [1875] the amount quarried was over 1,000 pounds. Many of the crystals are rectangular prisms, a form of crystallization which (according to Prof. Foote, of St. Louis [soon to be Philadelphia]), has heretofore never been found, except in South Africa. The largest taken out was a prism 18 inches in length, with a base six inches square.

These deposits of crystals extend over an area of about 16 square miles, nearly all of which has been pretty thoroughly prospected. Last Summer and Fall [of 1875] there were from 25 to 30 miners here constantly, besides some thousands of tourists and excursionists. Deer were plentiful in the neighboring hills, the scenery grand and picturesque, thus inviting the hunter as well as the curiosity seeker to spend a few days among the sylvan shades of these everlasting hills. A. J. R. [Abram Joshua Randall]

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

Box 171

Lake George, Colorado 80827

LGGMClub.org

2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State __ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Names and ages of dependent members: _____

Annual membership - dues Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 are as follows:

- Individual (18 and over) \$15.00
- Family (Parents plus dependents under age 18) \$25.00

Annual dues are due on or before March 31. **Members with unpaid dues will be dropped from the roster after this date.** Any new member joining on/after August 30 shall pay one half the annual dues.

I hereby agree to abide by the constitution and by-laws of this club.

Signed _____ Date: ____/____/____

I have previously been a member of Lake George Gem & Mineral Club. Yes ___ No ___

My interest areas include:

Minerals ___ Fossils___ Lapidary ___ Micromounts ___
Other _____

I would be willing to demonstrate any of the above for a club program or educational activity? If yes, which: _____

Please indicate which of the following activities you might be willing to help with:

Writing _____ Editor _____ Mailing _____ Local shows _____

Club Officer _____ Programs _____ Field trips _____ Refreshments _____

Questions about the club or club activities? Contact John Rakowski (719) 748-3861

Rev. Jan. 2011

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 171
Lake George, CO 80827

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geography and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts and the great outdoors. The club's informational programs and field trips provide an opportunity to learn about earth sciences, rocks and minerals, lapidary work and jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about!

The club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs. The club meets the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Community Center, located on the north side of US Highway 24 on the east edge of town, sharing a building with the county highway shops. **In the winter we meet at 10:00 AM. From April through September, we meet at 9:00 AM, to allow more time for our field trips.**

Our organization is incorporated under Colorado law as a nonprofit educational organization, and is a member of the Colorado, Rocky Mountain and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. We also sponsor an annual Gem and Mineral show at Lake George, where collectors and others may purchase or sell rocks, minerals, fossils, gems or jewelry. Annual membership dues (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31) are \$15.00 for an individual (18 and over), and \$25.00 for a family (Parents plus dependents under age 18).

Our Officers for 2011 are:

John Rakowski, President
PO Box 608
Florissant, CO 80816
719-748-3861
rakgeologist@yahoo.com

Dan Alfrey, Vice President
PO Box 4164
Woodland Park, CO 80866
719-440-6234
alfreydan@aol.com

Wayne Johnston, Treasurer
207 Cooper Lake Drive
Divide, CO 80814
719-687-6067
wjohnston719@msn.com

Charlene DeVries, Secretary
280 Homestead Rd.
Divide, CO 80814
719-686-1822
dave.devries@verizonbusiness.com



C.R. (Bob) Carnein, Editor, 507 Donzi Trail, Florissant, CO 80816
ccarnein@gmail.com; 719-687-2739