



THE BEMS TUMBLER

December
2007

The monthly newsletter of the **Boeing Employees' Mineralogical Society, Inc.** Seattle, Washington

Christmas Party:
December 9, 2007
11:00 am - Set-up
Noon to 4:00 pm - Party

**Boeing Recreation
Activity Center**

Room B at
22649 83rd Avenue S.

Just off the Valley
Freeway (Highway 167) North
edge of Kent

**First Place for Small Bulletins
in the 2007 NFMS Bulletin
Editors' Contest!**

Merry Christmas!



*This month remember
to wish a
Happy Birthday to*

Karen Boucek on December 1,
Eugene Martin on December 11,
Wanita Martin on December 14,
Vinnie Noble on December 14,
John Carter on December 16,
Peter Lo on December 17,
Fanny Poston on December 27,
Dave L. Scott on December 27,
Beverley Williams on December 29,

*and also remember
to wish a*

Happy Anniversary to
Larry & Mary Kissinger on December 14 (62 years),
Gerald & Mary Stickman on December 16,
Peter & Beverley Williams on December 29 (25 years)



This publication is an official bulletin of the Boeing Employees Mineralogical Society Inc. (BEMS) however, news items and editorial comment herein do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the BOEING COMPANY.

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Tips, suggestions, recipes and experiments printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea.

When on field trips this organization uses CB Channel 7.

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

Postal, or Email, Exchange
Bulletins are welcome.
Email preferred.

morgangraphix@yahoo.com

Officers & Directors 2007

President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.
Vice President John Carter
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Keith Alan Morgan
Director Dick Morgan
Director Bill Cook
Past President Mike Brimmage
Federation Representative Michael Blanton
Federation Representative Jerry K.F. Chilson
Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie
Program John Carter
Refreshment Esther McKain
Membership Keith & Dick Morgan
Health & Welfare Steve Mackey
Library Charlotte Churchill
Raffle/Display Keith & Dick Morgan
Field Trip Bill Cook
Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan
Webmaster Keith Alan Morgan
Shop Operations Leslie Brooks
Shop Instructors:
 Casting Joe Poston
 Faceting Cliff Frome
 Jewelry Joe Poston
 Lapidary Dick Morgan

Club eMail address is
morgangraphix@yahoo.com

2007 BEMS Dues are \$15 flat rate Individual, Family, or Retired.

Send or deliver dues to:
Richard Russell

(or pay him at the meeting)

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts and related subjects.

This Society is affiliated with the *Boeing Company*; the *American Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; the *Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; and the *Washington State Mineral Council*.

Every member of the club should be receiving a copy of the Northwest Newsletter. If you are not receiving a copy contact Dick Morgan

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to **morgangraphix@yahoo.com** Please put Tumbler and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month, (except December which varies).

The BEMS external website is **<http://www.bemsonline.com>**

Hints for Successful Soldering

1. Use the smallest amount of solder necessary to make a good solder joint. Do not flood the joint with solder;
2. Pieces to be soldered should fit tightly together with no air space in between;
3. The joint and solder must be clean. Prior to soldering, flux all surfaces well with the proper flux to prevent oxidation, which can inhibit solder flow; and
4. All pieces being soldered should reach soldering temperature simultaneously.
 via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 11-12/07; via Snoopy Gems, 6/07; via Boulder Bouncer 04/07; from <http://www.riogrande.com>



December



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			Why does the celebration of peace, love & joy offend some people?	Merry Christmas!		1
2	Lapidary Shop	Board Meeting 	5	6	Faceting Class	8
Christmas Party 	Lapidary Shop	Lapidary Casting Jewelry	12	13	Faceting Class	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	Merry Christmas 	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Lapidary Class Hours:.....Monday.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:00 pm

More Field Trip info can be found on Page 9
 More Show info can be found on Page 10

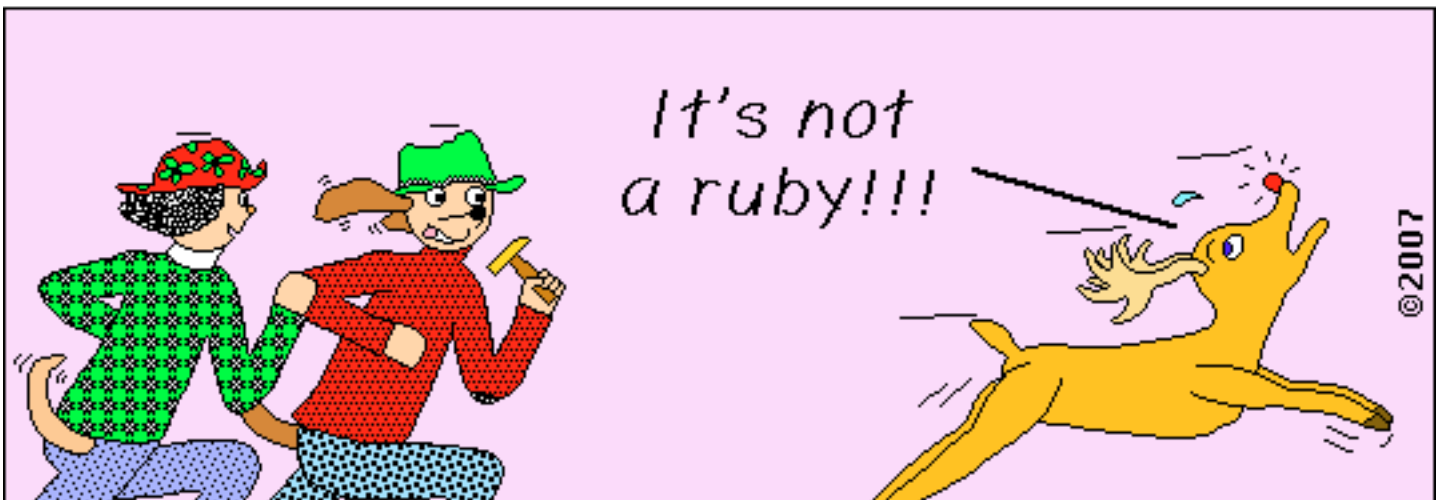
Jewelry Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm
 Jewelry Casting Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm (Casting Information All Day)

Faceting Class Hours:.....Friday.....4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

BEMS Board Meeting:.....Tuesday, December 4.....9:30 am to 10:00 am
 BEMS Christmas Party:.....Sunday, December 9.....Set-up 11 am, Party 12 Noon - 4 pm

Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



The Tumbler has received One-Time Rights to publish this cartoon

BEMS Board Meeting Minutes October 30, 2007 

by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

Members present:

- President Malcolm Wheeler* *Secretary Keith Morgan*
- Director Dick Morgan* *Field Trips Bill Cook*
- Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie*
- Shop Operations Les Brooks* *Guest Pat Morgan*

Meeting began at 9:45 am.

Show: Cases are repaired & electrically up to code. Some are missing liners. Showed the ribbons that people will be wearing at the show.

Shop: Replacement bearings for the trim saw were purchased for \$12.50 each. Some people who were not cleared to use the Diamond Demon were using it. Ordered six of each type of pad for the Diamond Demon, total was \$74.92. The 24" saw is out of commission. The split nut needs replacing. The seal on the water faucet next to the sink is broken.

Mineral Council: Would like a list of people who are available to go & give talks at schools. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

I was asked why I didn't have the picture of me receiving the Bulletin Editors Award in either the October or November Tumblers. Well, I didn't have room in October's & I just didn't think about it for November's. Anyway, here it is.

Photo by John Carter.



For Sale

6-man tent with dining canopy, all in a trunk. Contact Charlotte Churchill at (253) 854-9782

Conrad Grundke's Guide to Selecting the Perfect Slab of Lepidolite

First, wet the slab. Then, wipe it with your left underarm. Then, with your right hand, raise it to the light and examine it for potential cracks. (Do the same when you buy it at the shows... it will impress the dealers!) Lapidary master Conrad Grundke is renowned for his intarsias - pictures rendered in stone.)

via Quarry Quips, 3/06; from The Pegmatite, 1/06

BEMS General Meeting Minutes November 1, 2007



by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm, President Malcolm Wheeler presiding.

There were 48 members present.

The minutes were accepted as printed in the Tumbler.

Editor's Report: Everything is going fine. Could use articles from club members.

Webmaster Report: Everything is fine.

Treasurer's Report: Accepting dues for 2008, it's still \$15.

The second batch of badges ordered haven't arrived yet.

Bills are being paid.

Shop Reports: Malcolm reported that he found the file cabinet unlocked when it should be locked.

Dick Morgan some problems with the machines. He will write up a set of instructions for using them.

A list will be made of people qualified to instruct & pictures snapped of them.

Les Brooks replaced some worn bearings. The 8" saw blade was dished & the diamonds worn.

The 24" saw's split nut needs to be replaced.

Remember, the saws are not intended to cut curves, just straight lines.

Keep the rock above the carriage or it could lock up the belt.

The leather lap is intended for polishing rock. Someone put jeweler's rouge on it, that is intended for metal, not rock.

When using cerium oxide a little is all you need. Wet lap, wet stone, dip stone in cerium oxide, that's all you need.

Library: Eight new books have been donated by Esther McKain.

After the beginning of the year anyone with books out for more than three months will receive a postcard from Charlotte reminding you to bring it back so other members can enjoy it.

Health & Welfare: Steve was sick. Cards were sent to John & Charles. Has anyone heard from Herm & Vera recently?

Mineral Council: Nothing until Saturday when they have the meeting in Ellensburg.

People have been stealing locks at Walker Valley. Keep an eye out. If you can, snap pictures of people driving around the gate.

The Mineral Council is looking to put out a new map book & are hoping to add GPS coordinates.

Federation Report: It's time for the club to pay it's dues to the NFMS. Not much else is going on.

South Sound Show: Regional cases have been repaired, but some of them need risers. Inside dimensions are 22" x 39.5" x 11". (Margaret Squires had some spare liners.)

The show is a week away, so sign-up to help if you haven't already.

Elections: The election was held & the new officers for 2008 are...

President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.

Vice-President Mike Brimmage

Secretary Pete Williams

Treasurer Rich Russell

Director Dick Morgan

Federation Representative Mike Blanton

Mineral Council Representative Bob Pattie

Raffle: The winner of the special prize, Selenite Crystals, was Alec Lane.

Displays:

Steve Mackey - Serpentine from Bustanico, Corsica, France

Eric Chilton - Jasper, agate & rhyolite

Theo & Faith Olson - Garnet from Wenatchee trip

Camille Olson - Rocks from her collection

Ed Laville - Smack'em rocks

Club Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 9, in lieu of the Regular Meeting, in Room D, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. The club will supply Turkey, Ham, coffee & punch.

Members should bring their favorite dish & serving utensil(s) for pot luck. NOTE: Please mark any items you wish returned. Sometimes serving spoons & other items get left behind. Members should also bring plates, silverware & cups for themselves. (Unless you enjoy drinking a handful of hot coffee.)

Deadline for the January Tumbler

Because of Christmas the January Tumbler will be printed before Christmas so get any articles you want in the January Tumbler to me before December 14. The rest of the year the deadline is the 20th of the month prior, as usual.

From Atop The Rock Pile



By Malcolm Wheeler, Sr., (2007/2008 BEMS President) & Karin Wheeler

This my state of the club report ;

I am glad to report, we still have a club, it's in Washington State.

I love what the club does and who benefits from it. This year we have grown in new members and in participation.

I look forward to doing and going and cutting and oooooing and laughing with everyone.

I hope to be amazed by what members bring in and show and tell.

Please write articles for the tumbler and send in pictures.

Thank you in advance for the wonderful times coming our way.

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

The only way to have all the rights you want is to be the only person in the world. As there are other people in the world, for you to have rights, then you must respect the rights you want for others.

As Good As Gold

And gold is good. No other metal is as dependable as gold, it does not corrode, crumble or tarnish, no matter what the conditions. It is unaffected by moisture, oxygen or ordinary acids. It is virtually indestructible.

Since 1976, gold has helped save the lives of hundreds of American pilots through the faultless operation of aircraft escape systems. The sophisticated electronics of aircraft escape mechanisms, the parachutes and the air-survival radios all rely on gold parts to ensure that they function without flaw. Millions of automobiles are now equipped with air bag systems. In each, gold-coated electrical contacts ensure that the system will work flawlessly for the life of the car. Since the beginning of the jet age, gold has been used with nickel to bond compressor vanes in the huge turbines of commercial jetliners, enabling them to withstand exhaust temperatures of more than 1,150° Fahrenheit. At subfreezing temperatures, which threaten visibility, a thin transparent film of gold helps to keep the windshields clear. In hospitals and office buildings, a gold-coated infrared instrument detects unhealthy buildup of carbon monoxide and other indoor pollutants. In space, gold's ability to reflect infrared radiation helps ensure the safety of the astronauts, shielding ultra sensitive electronic equipment and circuitry and the tether that secures the astronauts on space walks. Gold also increases the reliability of weather satellites.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 6-7/07; via Golden Spike News, 4/07; via Petrograph, 4/01; via The Santa Clara Gold, 12/96; from The Gold Institute

Gold In The Sky

The first metal asteroid known to have an orbit near the earth contains about 10,000 tons of gold and 100,000 tons of platinum valued at the astronomical figures of 90 billion and 1 trillion dollars, respectively. The astronugget is reportedly 1.2 miles wide and shaped like a canned ham according to the Washington Post.

Like other metal asteroids and meteorites, Asteroid 1986 DA also contains huge amounts of iron and nickel. Although no other metal asteroid is closer to Earth, its 4.7 year orbit around the sun takes it nearly as far out as Jupiter. It periodically approaches the Earth's orbit but never crosses it, so it does not pose a threat to the planet.

NASA is eyeing the asteroid as a potential sources of metal that could be used to construct space stations.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 10/07; via Carny Hound, 8/07; via Washington Agate & Mineral Society Newsletter, 8/07; from Lapidary Journal, 2/99

Poisonous Malachite

Did you know that malachite is very poisonous in its raw state? Never lick the material to see the color. Don't even repeatedly lick your finger and apply. When you grind or cut the stone remember to wipe/wash the oil or splatter off your skin right away. If you smoke and the taste becomes very sweet, you are absorbing the malachite dust. The copper oxide dust is mixing with the moisture in your mouth and reacting to the tar in the tobacco turning it into saccharin. Needless to say, you should take some immediate steps to stop the inhalation.

Skagit Gems Editor's Note: To be on the safe side, always wear gloves and masks when working with malachite or azurite/malachite. Remember to clean up your machine and tools so that any contamination does not appear on your next project.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 10/07; via Carny Hound, 6/07; via The Hard Rock News, 4/05; via Skagit Gems, 4/02, via Golden Spike News, 3/02

Access To Public Lands by John Wright, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

Many of you have heard at club meetings or learned through the news media about all the new federal and state lands that have recently been added to “preserves” where rock hunting is prohibited or severely restricted and how many other areas of public lands have in other ways also had access to them limited and/or restricted. Proposals are constantly being considered to substantially increase these land preserves and to add more restrictions for access to almost all public lands. The total acreages being placed off limits to us is in the millions and primarily it is our own fault because with the exception of a very few, we have done nothing to prevent it from happening.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requires permits in many areas, plan to increase the areas where permits are required, and are considering raising the fees for permits. Their counterparts in some states have followed suit for state owned lands or are currently working on legislative initiative and agendas along similar lines. Environmentalists and paleontologists, plus a host of other groups, are diligently working to limit access to public lands and restrict the removal of minerals, fossils, and almost everything else imaginable. Quite a number of bills are pending in Washington and many state capitols right now that will further restrict our right to use public lands, and they are virtually unopposed.

I know that many of the areas involved hold little interest to most of you. Well, you better wake up and get interested, because each time our adversaries win, they are encouraged to try for even more and one day they may be plotting to close areas in your own neighborhood. Another and probably more important reason is that if we join with other clubs in our efforts to safeguard public access to federal and state lands, we all gain strength in unity and numbers and can stop a lot of these idiotic restrictions. At the 2007 AFMS annual meeting held in Roswell, NM, it was reported that we have 48,677 members and that is a larger membership than any of the environmental groups have. Joining with other clubs will help us overcome the attitude that the situation is much too big for us as individuals to do anything about. Cooperation with other clubs will also help us keep more up-to-date and informed about the proposed changes in land usage and accessibility.

My wife and I recently attended a meeting conducted by the U.S. Forestry Service regarding road closures in a local National Forest area. We actually found out about the meeting from other AFMS members in California and Idaho. The meeting turned out to be either the worst organized unprofessional event I have ever attended (I have actually seen Cub Scouts do better), or the meeting was a very carefully orchestrated “sham”. Since the early 1900’s the Forestry Service has spent “billions” of our tax dollars building roads in National Forest areas to act as “firebreaks” and to make areas more accessible to emergency equipment. With forest fires establishing new records in occurrence and destruction of public and private property all around the country, the sudden decision to close all these roads just doesn’t make sense. Something is going on that smells a little bit “environmentally” fishy.

According to ALAA (American Lands Access Association) many of the agencies and governing bodies at local, state, and federal levels do not always keep the public informed about plans that could ultimately restrict access to public lands. When they do let you know, normally through public hearings, the plans are usually complete and the “mind set” is to prevail. Often changes are made without any prior notification or public input and it’s not surprising that this is done on purpose to prevent public interference.

I have just briefly touched on some of the problems that are confronting us, but I think it is enough to give you an idea of what needs to be done. We need to collectively (club petitions) and individually write our state and federal representatives. Writing these letters actually requires very little effort and could quite easily be turned into an interesting and enlightening club project. I might add at this point that “emails” and particularly “email petitions” have little or no effect.

Remember, the majority of representatives we send to our state and nation’s capitol really like their job and want to keep it. They also know that keeping their job often depends on a very narrow margin of votes, so they are very keen on keeping their constituents happy. If we fail in letting them know what is bothering us or what we want done about the varying legislation that affect our access to public lands, we shoot ourselves in the foot. Why, because there are hundreds of organized groups with very dedicated members that are earnestly working to restrict the use of public lands and you can bet they make their desires known.

from AFMS Newsletter, 11/07

Congressional Wilderness Proposals by Jon Spunaugle, ALAA Director

As promised, the following is a report on areas proposed to be included in the National Wilderness System in the current (110th) Congress. There are 17 Bills introduced (plus additional Bills for inclusion of rivers into the Wild and Scenic River System). Thirteen States are involved with most of the States west of the Mississippi River. The Exceptions are Georgia and Virginia.

The States with the largest proposed wilderness are Utah, California, and Alaska, with a three-state proposal bringing in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming into the list of large acreages. Utah has the distinction of the largest amount of proposed wilderness acreage, 9,351,840 acres, all of it in one Bill (Senate Bill 1170 and House Resolution 1919) entitled “America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2007”.

California is a distant second with 1,652,844 acres in two separate Bills. The largest is the “California Wild Heritage Act of 2007”, (S-483 and HR-960 which establishes 1,538,158 acres in 53 locations) and the other the “Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Act” of 2007” (S-1744 and HR-3022) with 114,686 acres as proposed wilderness.

Alaska is third with 1,605,031 acres in two Bills: “Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act” (HR-39) with 1,559,538 acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve, and the “Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge and Wilderness Enhancement and King Safe Access Act of 2007” putting an additional 45,493 acres into wilderness.

The other large acreage proposal is a multi State proposal entitled “Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act” which proposed to connect all Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming wilderness areas with wilderness corridors. The total for this proposal is 2,155,433 acres of additional wilderness.

Other States with wilderness proposals are: Idaho, 723,480 additional acres in three Bills (S-802) “Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act of 2007”, 504,078 acres, (HR-222) “Central Idaho Economic Development Act”, and (S-1802) “Idaho Wilderness Boundary Modification Act”; Colorado, 252,534 acres in (S-1380 and HR-2334) “Rocky Mountain National Park and Indian Peaks Wilderness Act”, 252,534 acres. Oregon, 142,512 acres in two Bills, (S-647) “Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2007”, 128,817 acres, and (S-2034 and HR-3513) “Copper Salmon Wilderness Act”, and 13,700 acres.

Washington, (S-520 and HR-886) “Wild Sky Wilderness Act”, 106,000 acres.

Arizona finishes the substantial wilderness proposals with (HR-3287) “Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act of 2007”, at 83,300 acres.

The States of Georgia (HR-707), New Mexico (HR-2632), and Virginia (S-570 and HR-1011) have only small amounts proposed as wilderness.

Washington's Wild Sky Wilderness is scheduled for a vote in the US Senate and is expected to pass. This would send the then passed law to the President for signature. One hang up, however, is that all Bills passed in the U.S. Senate must provide for the Bills funding through the elimination of a like amount in the US Proposed Budget Bill. The two Washington Senators who sponsored the Bill are working to clear this last hurdle. Other Wilderness Bills that are likely to pass both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House are: "Colorado's Rocky Mountain Indian Peaks Wilderness Bill", and Oregon's two Bills. Alaska's "Izembek Wilderness" also looks to be passed. Effect on known collecting areas is not determined.

Not likely to pass is the very large Utah wilderness bill which lacks any support from the Utah Senators, the two California Wilderness Bills which lack support from one of the States Senators, and the Three-State Bill, "The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act", which lacks any support in the States effected. These Bills would have an adverse effect on many collecting locations, especially the Utah Bill.

Other Bills could be introduced, but it is late in the session for any chance of passage.

[ALAA - The American Lands Access Association is a 501(C)(4) organization that was established to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

Membership for individuals are \$25 per year. Visit the ALAA website <www.amlands.org> for more information about pending legislation and membership.]

from AFMS Newsletter, 11/07

Legislation & Conservation by John Wright, Conservation & Legislation Chair

Just a few days ago my wife and I returned from a month of traveling in the northeast and it was really a wonderful trip. Yep, I took my "rock-hammer", but it never came out of the vehicle, not even when we visited the mines at Herkimer, NY. Our intentions were changed when we arrived at the mine and found several school buses in the parking lot. It looked like someone had stirred up an ant bed of future rockhounds, so we decided it might be better to just visit the rock shop. Anyway, our trip was actually to visit some of the early American historical sites and to do some sightseeing in that part of the country. We were not really disappointed that we didn't get to do any rock-hounding, but we did find a lot of areas where we would like to return to one day for that purpose. The bad part of a trip like ours is that when you return home you find that you are way behind the power curve on things that need to be done.

As of this date (remember I write these articles for the newsletter a month in advance) the two Bills in Congress regarding the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act have not been acted on and remain stalled (at least for the time being). The Senate version (S-320) is on the legislative calendar, but has not been brought up for a vote. The House version (HR-554) is still in committee and I have not yet seen a committee report or a move to bring it to the floor. Since I had been away for a month and had a temporary computer glitch when I returned, I want to thank Jon Spunaugle for bringing me up to date on this particular issue.

With this legislation being stalled we still have a window of opportunity to voice our opposition to members of Congress and I strongly urge you to do so. Many of you have just assumed your new leadership positions and you are worried about how your year at the helm will turn out. I know that you have a lot on your plate and now I'm asking you to add more, but we have been blessed with another chance to make a really profound difference. Will your legacy be that you served the best refreshments, had nice programs, made the most money, or will it be that under your leadership the members of your federation or club help establish a national policy that will guarantee the future of an important part of our hobby and our heritage? On the other hand we can take the easy way of sitting on our butts, do nothing, and let the opportunity slip by.

I know that some of you are wondering why it is so important that we let our feelings be known, I mean after all most of us will probably never find or try to dig up a dinosaur fossil like a Tyrannosaurus Rex or a Brontosaurus. Actually, we are not even the target of this legislation; the fight so to speak is between the scientific community and private sector with commercial interest. We fall more or less in the category of "collateral damage". The majority of our members believe that fossils with major paleontological significance should be preserved, but don't think that picking up a petrified shark's tooth is going to cause a catastrophic scientific meltdown. The importance of our involvement is to insure that we do not lose any more of our recreational privileges and to make sure that the laws are sufficiently clear so that we don't end up with a hefty fine, jail time, or both. For those of you that have little or no interest in fossils, remember one very important thing, most law enforcement personnel do not know one kind of rock from another. Think about it.

If the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act becomes law in its present form it will result in major restriction being placed on our activities. If this act becomes law, will you be comfortable visiting federal lands with the knowledge that someone in your family or field trip group might inadvertently pick up the wrong kind of "rock"? Do you have fossil exhibits at your shows? Is this going to stop the commercial exploitation of fossils as intended? I don't think so, it will make the fossils even more valuable and while some individuals or smaller entities may be shut down, this is a multi-million-dollar business and many of the prized specimens will be sold on the black market or quietly slipped out of the country to be sold. Will the Paleontologists gain from this proposed law, maybe, but they will lose a lot of public input and support. I know that I wouldn't report a major fossil find because if there is any site damage, I would be a suspect and I don't want police searching my home. Think about these issues and while you are at it, I want you to remember "We the People" own these federal lands and our ancestors obtained them with their blood, sacrifice, and unimaginable hardships. We in turn have continued to support these lands often under similar conditions and with the added burden of our hard earned money in tax dollars. We should not ever consider letting our access to public owned lands or their content (in this case fossils) be restricted or taken away without a fight.

Bringing this matter to the attention of your membership might create some interest or maybe even a little excitement for a few minutes, but that will be about as far as it goes. The only sure way of getting any meaningful effort underway is to make it a club project as I pointed out in my November article. While individual letters would be best, it requires more effort and higher cost, so the better solution would probably be a club petition. The document must have the signature, printed name, and address of each individual taking part. PS: Your petition does not have to be restricted to members only, you may include family members, friends, and most anyone else you can convince to take part. Politicians are swayed by numbers, so get as many signatures as you possibly can. I found several petitions on the internet. The one I personally liked best was by the Gem &

Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina and it can be found by going to the AFMS internet site and then to the sub-site for Southeast Federation. The petition is in the Special Interest Column under the title "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act". Any letters or petitions used as a format should be re-written to reflect the views of your club.

from AFMS Newsletter, 12/07-1/08

We Need To Get Involved by Hugh G. Brady, Roseville Rock Rollers G & M Society and Fossils for Fun Society

On October 11-13, 2007 I attended a Route Designation workshop put on by the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC). This conference was located in the Sacramento, CA area. The first two days were oriented toward the Forest Service managers with the weekend session for the OHV Enthusiasts and other stakeholders. We, rockhounds, should be a serious stakeholder in this process which will affect all National Forest and ultimately BLM lands. Both Forest Service and BLM managers attended.

Though the workshop was oriented toward off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, it was enlightening, entertaining, thought provoking and very useful to me. Unfortunately, they do not have further workshops scheduled for California, but are giving them nationwide so there may be other opportunities.

The bottom line is that rockhounds must be involved in the process or we stand a high chance of losing our collecting sites on public land. ANY ROAD OR TRAIL NOT DESIGNATED THROUGH THE PROCESS WILL BE CLOSED TO WHEELED MOTORIZED VEHICLES.

Further, there will be seasonal closures. One alternative for the El Dorado Forest proposes a 6 month closure period.

All 19 National Forests in California (Region 5) are going through a Route Designation process. The plan is to have all processes complete by September, 2008. The final result will be a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). If a road is not shown (designated) on this map, you may not drive on it. Further, the roads do not have to be posted closed. You must obtain, read and correctly interpret the map or be subject to penalties. Will you want to be a field trip leader under this condition?

Some California National Forests or portions thereof had designated systems so didn't have much to do but tweaking the existing system to complete the process.

The following have final or draft maps: Angeles, Los Padres, San Bernardino, Stanislaus (Summit Ranger District), and Tahoe Basin. El Dorado is under court order to finish their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) by December, 2007, so is further along than the rest. The final comment period for their Draft EIS closed on October 20, 2007. If they implement the Preferred Alternative unchanged, they will close over half of the roads currently inventoried as accessible to 4 wheeled drive vehicles. And this does not include ones not even on the inventory.

Most of the other California National Forests have a completed inventory and have or will be shortly publishing their Notice of Intent/ Scoping Document for the EIS. This is about equivalent to 9 or 10 PM on a 24 hour clock of the process. You can still make impacts but only by quick action.

If you have collecting sites in any National Forest which you want to access, you need to contact that Forest now and:

1. Find out where they are in the process and get on their mailing list. Become familiar with the process.
2. Obtain and study the inventory maps and determine if the routes to the site are on the map. If not let the FS know in writing.
3. Stay involved in all further steps through the Final EIS and map preparation. Scoping is important because if every purpose is only to minimize some impact, roads are sure to close. The battle in El Dorado was basically lost at this stage. Be sure to comment on the Draft EIS both positively and negatively, as needed, or you lose any standing for later action.
4. Obtain a final Motor Vehicle Use Map and determine where you can go and maybe even when to go or how you park.
5. If precluded from an area, see if you can work with the Forest Supervisor to open it up.

If you work on the Internet, you can go to <www.fs.fed.us/r5> which will take you to the Region 5 site. From here you can work to the individual forests and look for Route Designation information. I have also had luck adding /forest name/ after r5 to get to the individual forests. I have not looked at every site and the ultimate contact is a meeting or call to the forest supervisor or his designated route manager.

(Note: This was written from a California perspective, so other areas may have to adjust accordingly.)

from AFMS Newsletter, 12/07-1/08

If you are doing some silver work and want a soft finish, use pumice. What! You don't have any? Guess again. Use a bit of your favorite toothpaste. Most people do not realize that pumice is the polishing agent in toothpaste. If it is fluoride toothpaste, it can be used for cleaning crystals.

via The Council Reporter, 10/07; via Carny Hound, 8/07; via Pebbles, 8/07; via Rockhound Special, 10/06; via the Rockytier, 7/04; via The Stone Chipper, 4/04; via Quarry Quips, 12/03; from Golden Spike, 6/03

Ruby The Bright Red Gemstone

by Natalie Darling

You know Diamond & Sapphire, Emerald & Garnet,

Citrine and Topaz, Opal and Onyx,

But do you recall...

The brightest gemstone of all

Ruby the bright red gemstone,

Moh's gives it a number 9

After you cut and polish it,

You can really see it shine!

Very few other gemstones,

Can say that they are quite as hard,

via Gneiss Times, 12/06; from Gem & Mineral Journal, 12/05

Oh, if I could only find one
maybe in my own back yard.

Then I joined this group in town,

The gem and mineral club -

Ruby with your shine so bright,

You are closer in my sights.

Field trips and monthly workshops,

Collecting and sorting rocks-yip ee

Ruby the bright red gemstone,

Someday you'll belong to me!



No shows this month



Rough Rock Liquidation Sale
December 1: Saturday 9 am - 4 pm
Pacific NW, Jade & Gems
 30211 23rd Ave. South
 Federal Way, WA 98003



Merry Christmas
 and a
 Happy New Year
 to one and all!



Internet Addresses



World of Amber
<http://www.emporia.edu/earthsci/amber/amber.htm>
 from Rocky Trails, 9/04

The Gem Connection
<http://www.thegemconnection.com/index.html>
 Sells tutorials & supplies

The Gem Case
<http://thegemcase.com/>
 Sells tutorials as ebooks (computer pdf documents rather than paper)

Jewelry Making For Dummies
<http://www.craftingjewelry.com/>

Art Jewelry Magazine
<http://www.artjewelrymag.com/art/default.aspx>

Professional Jeweler Magazine
<http://www.professionaljeweler.com/>

The Gemology Project
<http://www.gemologyproject.com/wiki/index.php?title=Home>
 A non-profit gemstone & gem science encyclopedia

