

Flatirons Mineral Club Coming Attractions

Rocks & Rails, the Annual Club Show - December 13-15

Every December the Flatirons Mineral Club teams up with the Boulder Model Railroad Club to bring a weekend of rocks, minerals, and model trains to the community! Sounds crazy but it works. Come and enjoy the show, where you can see and purchase beautiful specimens, and enjoy member displays, kid's activities, and model trains. The Jr. Geologists will be performing their Rocks R Magic Show throughout the weekend. And, the club's lapidary equipment will be there for you to polish a rock.

Rocks & Rails is at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont (9595 Nelson Rd, Longmont, CO 80501) from 10 am to 5 pm each day. Adult admission is \$8, children 12 and under are free with a paid adult.

Club members can sell their rock-related items at the Club Artisan Sales Table. Contact Kevin at knotheis@gmail.com for more information about the Artisan Table.

We have a number of display cases, where club members showcase some of their specimens. There is one case still available; contact Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com if you would like to fill a display case.

And, volunteers make it happen! Here is where you can help:

- Run games for kids and sell grab bags at the Kids' Area
- Help with security
- Help with parking
- Help set up the show on Wednesday, December 11
- Help tear down after the show closes on Sunday, December 15

Contact Char at showvol46@gmail.com to sign to help. **And, you can get into the show for free, if you volunteer!**

Holiday Party – December 19

To finish the year, come and join the fun at the annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 19. It is a time to exchange gifts and share snacks and stories with one another. So, bring a gift and some snacks to share with others.

One of the highlights of the evening is the annual gift exchange. Bring a wrapped \$5 to \$10 mineral-related gift. The gift exchange is great fun, with gifts changing hands throughout the evening. Members young and old will have a great time and you never know what gift you will go home with.

The party starts at 7:00 pm at Frasier Meadows, 350 Ponca Place, Boulder, CO 80303. Just ask the receptionist for directions to the room when you come into the building.

A Friendly Reminder to Pay Your 2020 Annual Dues

Your 2020 dues are now due. Dues are still only \$18 per individual and their immediate family. You can pay two ways:

- **PAY** Gerry Naugle, Treasurer and Membership Chair, at any FMC monthly meeting. Gerry is at or near the sign-in table when you enter the room for the monthly meetings.
- **SEND** a check made to "Flatirons Mineral Club" or "FMC" to P.O. Box 3331, Boulder, CO, 80307. Please do not send cash in the mail.

Remember that your dues for next year must be received by January 20, 2020 in order to stay current with your member benefits, which include electronic club newsletters containing the information about club activities, club

field trips, annual show opportunities, silent auction opportunities, the annual club summer picnic, and access to the club website.

Jr. Geologists Activities

The Jr. Geologists will not meet in December. Families are encouraged to help with the Rocks & Rails Show and come to the Holiday party. At January's meeting, Craig Hazelton will be leading the program on making jewelry by the wire wrapping technique.

The Jr. Geologists program is open to all Flatirons Mineral Club families. Meetings start at 6:30 at the Meadows Branch Library at 4800 Baseline Rd, Boulder, CO 80303 (behind the Kaiser Permanente medical offices). For information about the Jr. Geologists program, please contact Dennis at gertenbach1@gmail.com or 303-709-8218.

Club Meeting - Thursday, January 9

January will feature **Ed Raines discussing tungsten mining in Boulder County**. As prospectors combed the hills west of Boulder in search of gold and silver in the 1800s, they encountered rocks of a heavy black mineral they called "heavy iron," "barren silver," or "black iron." Prospector after prospector had the rocks assayed, but it always showed to contain no silver or gold. However, in 1899, a miner/pro prospector/developer with experience in Arizona, where he had encountered ferberite-bearing tungsten ore realized the value of this black mineral. Boulder County's tungsten production began to supply this valuable metal to harden steel. Come to the meeting to learn more about this fascinating story.

Club meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Frasier Meadows North Community Room, 350 Ponca Place, Boulder, CO 80303. When you enter the building, ask the receptionist for directions to the meeting room.

Club Elections at the January Meeting

Also, at our January meeting we will elect the club officers and Board directors for the year. (The election was postponed, because of snow in October.) Consider volunteering to help the operation of the club. For more information about the duties of our officers or to volunteer to serve on the Board for the next year, please contact Gabi at accatino@colorado.edu.

Other Rockhounding Events and Activities in the Area

With our club's Rocks & Rails show an exception, rockhounding activities slow down in December. Here is one other rockhounding-related activity this month in the area for both adults and juniors that you might be interested in. Thanks to Pete Modreski of the USGS for providing this notice.

- **Saturday, December 7, 2:30-5:30 p.m., WIPS (Western Interior Paleontological Society) Annual Auction Fundraiser**, Clements Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood. All are welcome. For more information, see <http://www.westernpaleo.org/>.