

GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS



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SEPTEMBER

GOLDEN SPIKE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



Members of
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
and
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The Purpose of this Non-Profit Organization is to stimulate interest in the collection of minerals and gem materials, and in the cutting and polishing of gem materials, and related arts; to disseminate knowledge of lapidary arts, mineralogy, collecting and classification of minerals and fossils, and their application in the arts, so that greater pleasure may be derived from these hobbies, and to actively protect gemstone and mineral resources for hobby use, including the location and acquisition of mining claims and properties for noncommercial purposes.

General Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except April, August & December) at 7:00 PM at George Eccles - Dinosaur Park, 1544 E Park Boulevard, Ogden, Utah, in the Dinosaur Museum.

Guests are Welcome!

Board Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month. Currently they are on zoom. Members who wish to attend can request a meeting link from President Deborah Blake.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual	\$15.00
Couple	\$20.00
Family	\$25.00
Juniors	\$5.00



Payment for 'Renewal' of dues is required by **December 31st.**



2024 - BOARD of TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT:	Deborah Blake	5925 N 4800 W	Bear River City	UT	84301	435-279-7986
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Mark Hirschi	4691 S 250 W	Ogden	UT	84405-5708	801389-3826
SECRETARY:	Diane Collins	5705 W 12000 N	Tremonton	UT	84337-8811	801-201-4423
TREASURER	Rich Dunaway	5742 W 4275 S	Hooper	UT	84315-9373	801-698-1701
HISTORIAN:	Rod Miller	853 E 3200 N	Ogden	UT	84414-1744	919-452-7658
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At Large Trustee:	Margie Miller	833 E 3200 N	Ogden	UT	84414-1744	919-452-7658
At Large Trustee:	Dianne Ingle	1717 N 2225 W	Clinton	UT	84015-7981	801-776-6836
Past President:	Michael Rhodes	317 E 200 S	Brigham City	UT	84302-2621	435-230-0403

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

NFMS DIRECTOR -----	David West	STEAK FRY -----	OPEN
NFMS DELEGATE -----	OPEN	CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025 -----	Margie Miller
SHOW CHAIR - 2024 -----	Rod & Margie Miller	ROCKHOUND of the YEAR -----	Board of Directors
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P.L.A.C. -----	Evan Day	PARLIAMENTARIAN -----	Evan Day
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PROPERTIES -----	Les Tryon	PUBLIC RELATIONS -----	OPEN
MEMBERSHIP -----	Interim: Bruce Blake	REFRESHMENTS -----	Ken & Donna Bloom
FACEBOOK CHAIR -----	Diane Collins	EDUCATIOAL OUTREACH -----	Dianne Ingle
FIELD TRIP CHAIR -----	David West		

The **GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS**
is the official club publication. It is published monthly.

☀ THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES ☀
☀ IS THE 24TH DAY OF EACH MONTH ☀
☀ FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S ISSUE ☀

*Permission to Reprint All or Any Part of this Bulletin is Hereby Granted,
Provided, Credits and Citations are Maintained.*

ADVERTISING

Members may have an advertisement of "¼ Page" for one issue at no cost.
We charge non-members, and members for subsequent issues, at the following rates:
1 Page \$15.00 - ½ Page \$10.00 - ¼ Page \$5.00
Payment for advertisement must be received prior to publication.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds!

Another new and entertaining month ahead. I hope most of you had fun at the Steak Fry. There were a few glitches but most seemed to have a good time. I personally really appreciate all the help club members gave on that day and want to thank all of you.

September is really going to be fun. Northern Utah Prospectors Association (NUPA) will be providing our Program. It should be a fun night for information and demonstrations. Also at the September Meeting we will repeat the slate of officers, for voting in October. Apologies to Rich Dunaway, our Treasurer, somehow I missed his name on the slate of officers.

The Field Trip scheduled for October 19th has been **CANCELED**. It conflicts with the Rock Bag Fill. Gary Warren will be at the club meeting to see if our members would like to reschedule it. Keep ideas in mind for further trips if you liked tripping this year.

We are in serious need of rock for the Rock Bag Fill. Thanks to the board we should have it covered this year but that leaves nothing for next year. Rocks should be between about 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches in size. One easy way to tell is to use a toilet paper roll. If the rock goes through easily it will be the right size for the rock bags.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO. HAPPY HUNTING!

Deborah Blake, GSG&MS President (2024)

I look forward to our meeting and hope to see all of you there.



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**GOLDEN SPIKE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 17, 2024**

Welcome: Vice-President Mark Hirschi **WELCOMED** everyone to the club meeting.

Silent Auction: The monthly Silent Auction was held prior to the meeting.

Minutes: Motion by Ken Bloom to accept the June 2024 General Meeting Minutes as published, 2nd by Buck Frost. Passed.

Announcements:

Sign-up sheet for the August Steak Fry is available. The club will provide steak or chicken. Please sign-up for a side dish. Please plan on bringing your own plates and utensils.

Sign-up sheet for the July 27th field trip to Western Box Elder County is available. Please make sure to bring a signed release form. Gary Warren, field trip leader, went over details of the trip. The club will be leaving The Flying J Truck Stop in Snowville, UT at 8:30 am.

August 24th Field Trip will be to “Last Chance” for agate. Details to be announced.

Ken Bloom has sign-up sheets for refreshments at the upcoming General Meetings.

Door Prize Winners: Mabel Alters, Adelaide Alters, Pyper Jarrett, Dan Macfarlane, Dianne Ingle, Mike Rhodes, Brenda Watkins, Ken Bloom

Program: Moroccan fossils by David Wonderly, owner of Bryson’s Rock Shop

Meeting Adjourned.
Diane Collins, Secretary



**GOLDEN SPIKE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 3, 2024**

Welcome: President Debbie Blake **WELCOMED** everyone to the in-person-Board-Meeting.

Attending: Margie Miller, Rod Miller, Dianne Ingle, Debbie Blake, Evan Day, Chris Howell, Rich Dunaway, Jeannette Parrott, Diane Collins

Minutes: Motion by Margie Miller to accept June 26, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Evan Day. Passed.

Treasurer's Reports: Will be given in September

New Business:

“Thank You” for Ron Nerdon: Motion by Diane Collins to purchase a \$50 gift card to The Greenery restaurant to thank Ron Nerdon for all the extra work he does at Eccles Dinosaur Park for the club meetings. After discussion, motion amended by Diane Collins to purchase a \$50 Amazon gift card, 2nd by Dianne Ingle. Passed.

Rock Bag Fill: Diane Collins will contact Eccles Dinosaur Park to reserve the meeting room on a Saturday in October to hold the upcoming rock bag fill.

September meeting: Dianne Ingle: the club needs a program for the September meeting.

School STEM Days: Dianne Ingle: Dianne has a geology presentation scheduled at Orchard Springs Elementary School on Oct 4, 2024. She needs some volunteers to help out.

Motion to Adjourn by Evan Day, 2nd by Margie Miller

Meeting Adjourned

Diane Collins, Secretary



Rock Bag Fill

Date: Saturday, October 19TH, 2024

Time: 8:30 am to 2 pm.

Where: Ellen Eccles Dinosaur Park, our normal meeting room

Light refreshments but not lunch will be served.
Many hands make light work, we hope to see you there.

We would appreciate any rocks you feel you can donate.



UTAH GOLD

LODE AND PLACER DEPOSITS

Geologic processes concentrate gold into two principal types of deposits: **LOAD** (or primary) deposits where gold is deposited by gold-bearing solutions within rock formations; and, **PLACER** (or secondary) deposits where gold-bearing rocks are eroded and the free gold is concentrated in stream beds. Most prospectors began their search for gold by looking for *placer* deposits because they offered quick returns with simple equipment. The discovery of placer deposits often led to the discovery of lode deposits. In Utah, **LOAD** (primary) gold deposits have proved to be more economical than placer deposits.

WHAT IS A PLACER?

A *placer* is a sand or gravel deposit, such as a beach or stream bed, containing concentrations of heavy minerals like gold. Gold is very resistant to weathering. As a rock containing gold is eroded, the gold is freed and carried downstream as dust, flakes, grains, and nuggets. During high-flow periods when the sand and rocks in the stream are moving, gold settles downward and concentrates at the base of the stream bed or in depressions in sand and gravel bars where the current is slower. Most of the placer gold in Utah is very fine grained (flour gold) and is difficult to recover.

More information can be found online at the Utah State Geological Survey site and also through the **Northern Utah Prospectors Association** (www.nupagold.org) The Association (located in Ogden, UT) is dedicated to the teaching and development of its members while prospecting for metals and gems in an environmentally sound way



See *Next Page* for more information on Utah's placer sites.

UTAH GOLD CONTINUED:

WHERE ARE UTAH'S GOLD PLACERS?

Utah's *placers* are usually associated with areas of igneous rocks. Gold-bearing solutions deposited gold within the surrounding rock formations (*lode* or *primary* deposit). As these gold-bearing rocks are eroded, the free gold is deposited and concentrated into placer (or secondary) deposits. Finding gold is possible in any stream or river that crosses a gold-mineralized area. However, since the known placer deposits have been worked and reworked for over 100 years, the chance of finding large concentrations of gold in Utah's streams is small.

A gold placer in the *Mercur District* (previously Camp Floyd) in Tooele County was discovered in 1870. A few prospectors staked claims but soon abandoned their endeavors due to the scarcity of both water and gold that could be panned. Silver ores kept the district alive until around 1880. About 1883, gold-bearing ores were found, but the gold could not be separated from the rock. Disappointed, prospectors again left the district. Then, in 1889, these ores were rediscovered and the gold successfully recovered using the newly developed *Cyanide Leaching Process*. From 1890 to 1900, almost 2 million tons of gold ore were treated, producing over 380,000 ounces of gold worth about \$8 million. Utah *placers* have been reported in the following areas:

1. **Abajo Mountains** - Along Johnson and Recapture Creeks.
2. **Oquirrh Mountains** - Bingham Canyon - Was the largest gold placer in Utah. The original topography has been altered by the open-pit mining operations.
3. **Colorado River** - From the mouth of the Dolores River south to the Amasa Back Bend west of Moab. Most placers were from the Dirty Devil River south to the Utah-Arizona border and are now under Lake Powell.
4. **Green River** - From Flaming Gorge Reservoir down to Horseshoe Bend.
5. **Henry Mountains** - On the east flanks of Mount Ellen in Crescent Creek and Mt. Pennell along Straight Creek.
6. **House Range** - In Amasa Valley and Miller Canyon.
7. **La Sal Mountains** - In glacial deposits and streams of Miners Basin, Wilson Mesa, Bald Mesa, and around North Mountain.
8. **San Juan River** - From the mouth of Montezuma Creek west to Lake Powell. Tushar Mountains, In Mill Creek on the north flank of Signal Peak and near the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek in Bullion Canyon.

(This excerpt is from an article on the Utah Geological Site and is printed by permission)



SEPTEMBER MEETING

When: Wednesday, September 18TH

Where: Ellen Eccles Dinosaur Park

Time: Silent Auction starts at 6:30 PM, Meeting at 7:00 PM

Presentation by:

Northern Utah Prospectors Association (NUPA)

Come and learn about gold panning from our friends at NUPA. They have a fun meeting planned for us and it will be interesting.





CLUB BULLETIN BOARD



SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2025:

- Deborah Blake President
- Mark Hirschi Vice President
- Diane Collins Secretary
- Rich Dunaway Treasurer
- Rod Miller Historian

Elections will be held in October. Nominations can be accepted from the floor **IF** the person nominated has agreed to the nomination beforehand.

Field Trippin'

September 28TH: Aragonite, Utah. Meet at the Delle Service Station at 8:30 am.

October 19TH: **CANCELED! This trip will not be held due to it conflicting with the Rock Bag Fill**

☀ **HELP** ☀

☀ 'STAMP' OUT CANCER ☀

SAVE YOUR *USED*
POSTAGE STAMPS

GIVE or SEND THEM TO
TOM BURCHARD

E-BULLETIN ANYONE?

FASTER
and in

LIVING COLOR

SAVE OUR TREES
AND HELP OUR CLUB
SAVE SOME \$\$\$

SIGN UP FOR THE

GOLDEN SPIKE "E-NEWS"

Contact: Tom Burchard at
club@goldenspikegem.org

**INFORMED CONSENT/ASSUMPTION OF RISK/WAIVER OF LIABILITY
GOLDEN SPIKE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**

NAME _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please read the following information, Sign and Date the form to acknowledge that you have read and understand the information presented below.

I understand that field trips and activities that I am participating in, of the above named Club, may include one or more of the following hazards that may result in personal harm.

Unpredictable and dangerous environmental conditions/hazards, including but not limited to snow, rain, wind, very cold and/or very hot temperatures, lightning, altitude, loose rock, falling rock, rock slide, avalanche, mudslide, river hazards, mud, ice or other slippery conditions and contact with poisonous reptiles, wild fauna, and toxic plants. _____ (Initial)

I understand the risks inherent in all outdoor activities (including high altitude activities) existing in the environment, either natural or man made. _____ (Initial)

I understand that I am required to use appropriate safety equipment pertinent to the field trip activity in which I will be participating. I accept full responsibility for my actions and accept any liability for any resulting damages or injuries. _____ (Initial)

By participating I am assuming the risks inherent in this field trip or activity and am releasing the above named society, their officers, director and individual members, from any liability for claims or lawsuits by the undersigned participant, his or her heirs or assignees arising out of this field trip or activity. I have read all the aforementioned information on this form and understand any and all of it. Any questions which have occurred to me have been answered to my satisfaction. I am participating in these activities of my own free will and choice.

If the participant is under 18 years of age, this form must be read and signed by a parent or legal guardian before participating in a field trip or activity.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Children: (any additional children may be listed on the back of this form)



ALL ABOUT GOLD!

Gold has been the most prized *metal* that is a *chemical element* with the symbol *Au*. It is opaque, has a highly attractive metallic golden yellow color, is extremely malleable, and is usually found in a relatively pure form. It is remarkably inert, so it resists tarnish. These qualities have made it exceptionally valuable. It usually occurs as treelike growths, grains, and scaly masses. It rarely occurs as well-formed crystals, but when found these are octahedral or dodecahedral. It is mostly found in hydrothermal veins with quartz and sulfides. Virtually all granitic igneous rocks in which it occurs as invisible, disseminated grains contain low concentrations of gold. Almost all of the gold recovered since antiquity has come from *placer* deposits, weathered gold particles concentrated in river and stream gravel.

- It has been widely used throughout the world as money, for efficient indirect exchange (versus barter), and to store wealth in hoards. For exchange purposes, mints produce standardized gold bullion coins, bars and other units of fixed weight and purity.

- After World War II it was replaced by a system of *nominally convertible currencies* related by *fixed exchange rates* following the Bretton Woods System. Gold Standards and the direct convertibility of currencies to gold have been abandoned by world governments. Led in 1971 by the United States refusal to redeem its dollars in gold. *Fiat currency* now fills most monetary roles. Switzerland was the last country to tie its currency to gold; it backed 40% of its value until the Swiss joined the International Monetary Fund in 1999. Central banks continue to keep a portion of their liquid reserves as gold in some form, and metals exchanges such as the London Bullion Market Association still clear transactions denominated in gold, including future delivery contracts. Coins or bars as a hedge against inflation or other economic disruptions, though its efficacy as such has been questioned; historically, **has not** proven itself reliable as a hedging instrument.

It has been used as a symbol for purity, value, royalty, and particularly roles that combine these properties.

