

July 2022



OCMS SHALE MAIL



**Welcome to an in-person meeting Friday
July 8th, 2022 at 6:30 pm!**

See you at: 81 Laroe Rd Chester, NY (Town of Chester Recreation Senior Center), (From KINGS HWY, Turn left on Laroe Rd by UPS office building)

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July 8th in Home Meeting!

Our speaker will be Doug Francisco.



Doug Francisco worked as a miner for the New Jersey Zinc Company at the Sterling Hill mine in Ogdensburg NJ up until the mine closed in 1986.



Doug is currently retired but is a Trustee on the board of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. He still works part time at the mine creating new exhibits as well as maintaining the current exhibits and facilities.



Doug's presentation will be Mining at Sterling Hill.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE!

By: Mike Tedford

Please join our July Meeting this Friday at the senior center. Activities will include discussion of our 2022 and 2023 Mineral show and sales, presentation by miner Doug Francisco on Sterling Hill Mine, planning that field trip, raffle, refreshments, committee reports, rock barbecue/pot luck, and more.

Mineral Show

Only 47 weeks until our next annual mineral show. Let's brainstorm a bit on ideas for next year: signage, advertising, vendor recruitment, etc.



CONGRATULATIONS on the most successful show in OCMSNY history! You all helped make this happen. Highest attendance, even surpassing the 2019 show wherein we hosted the EFMLS convention. Vendors and visitors commented on our show being their favorite, appreciating the hospitable and courteous hosting activities of OCMSNY. Thank you OCMSNY.

Blue Mustang Picture Jasper!

By: Eugene Mueller

Oh my, look at that pile of rock on the driveway all washed off and wet so that you can see its colors and patterns. One of the most pleasurable experiences associated with mining is washing the rock off and actually seeing it clean after you get back.



This was the deepest that we followed the vein down. The bottom and last piece removed was about 37 ft under the original surface.



Wild Horse Picture Jasper and Rocky Butte Picture Jasper. The Rocky Butte and Owyhee picture Jasper claims have also been mined this year by Dale Hewitt and John Cook of West Coast mining. Hans Gamma's book 'Picture Jaspers from the Northwest' shows the location and pictures of most of the Jasper deposits in the area.

Background:

In the early 1970s jasper deposits were discovered in the Owyhee mountains in far Eastern Oregon. Most of these Jasper deposits were fine grained and exhibited patterns that resembled landscapes. The abundance of these Jasper deposits resulted in the name or category of Jasper's known as "Picture Jaspers" and now any Jasper that has patterns that resemble landscapes is categorized as a 'Picture Jasper'.



Wildhorse pit in the upper right hand corner. Rocky Butte about a half mile to the left and Original Owyhee about a mile to the right. Beautiful country with beautiful jaspers!



Kevin and Tim.

The Blue Mustang claim was filed in the early '70s by Everett Simpson and is located adjacent to the Rocky Butte picture jasper claim. It was mined several times in the '70s with a small dossier. The Gem Shop, Inc. acquired the claim in the early 1980's and tried mining it for a week soon after the acquisition. The claim has not been mined again until this year. As a result, there has not been any new Blue Mustang Jasper produced for over 35 years.



This was our camp and shows the general view of the Owyhee mountains looking south. The Wild Horse Picture Jasper claim is to the right and about a mile away.

The area where the Jaspers are found is also known for its wild horses and wild horses still exist there today. The 'Wild Horse' and 'Blue Mustang' Picture Jasper claims reference the wild horse population of the area. The three deposits that have been mined the most, are all within 3 miles of each other, and are known the world over. They are Owyhee Picture Jasper,

Blue Mustang Picture Jasper! - Cont.

Mining operation 2022. May 16 - June 24

This mining operation used a 323 excavator with a hydrolic hammer attachment. The use of the hammer essentially doubles the rental cost of the operation but allows for breaking hard rock without the use of explosives as was done in the past. It is also faster than explosive use and I believe doubled our production.



Pictured below are photos of the operation, the area, and the deposit. The deposit is much more extensive than previously thought. We followed the exposed vein into the ground 37 ft. and the vein continues to go down. Some more extensive large Jasper areas were uncovered up higher on the hill. These seem to be similar to the Rocky Butte deposits on the adjacent claim. While these Jasper deposits only produced about 10% acceptable material in the beginning or near the top, they continue to get better as the deposits are followed deeper.



Reclamation viewed from the Rocky Butte claim.

Reclamation note:

All of our mining disturbance was reclaimed as well as all the disturbance that had been produced since the early '70s. This required considerable effort and expense. Mining disturbance prior to 1976 was not required to be reclaimed, so minimal or no reclamation activity had taken place on the claim. Efforts were made to recontour the claim as close to its original shape as possible for all the disturbance that has occurred.

The Gem Shop, Inc. allows collecting on its claims with written permission. While a little hard to see now, after the next rain Jasper is going to be visible everywhere.



Eugene Mueller

I would also like to personally thank Gary, Tim, Kevin, and Veronica, who composed our mining crew, for this wonderful experience.

I think I'll leave this one. It's not very good and I don't think I can lift it in the truck.



OCMS members are covered by Society-sponsored insurance.

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