

PEBBLE PUPS PERIDOT FIELD TRIP

Field Trip Leader:	Roger Pittman
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Name of Field Trip:	Pebble Pups Peridot
Location:	Herring Park Area East of Salida, Colorado
Limitation on Number of Participants or Other Issues:	This Field Trip is especially for Pebble Pups and their Parents. (Another Peridot Field Trip is being planned for later this year for the general membership.)
Brief Description of Field Trip:	This field trip is a surface collecting field trip. The peridot crystals (green in color) are generally visible on the surface of the ground. Because of their size collection is often done with tweezers and a small container such as a prescription container or film container. You can cut an "X" in the top of the film container so that crystals don't dump out as you crawl around.
Are there any Special Costs such as Admission Charge or Charge for Transportation on a Bus:	None.
Collectible Materials, if any: NOTE: SPECIFY IF COLLECTING CANNOT BE DONE	Peridot crystals are the primary material, but you may find some vermiculite in the area as well as other crystalline material..
Date of Trip:	Sunday, August 10, 2008
Meeting Place:	McDonalds in Salida on US-50 just west of the intersection of US-50 and SH-291(east end of town).
Time to Meet:	9:00 AM (at McDonalds in Salida)
Est. Time of Return to Original Meeting Place:	12:30 PM
Vehicle Requirements, if any:	A 4wd with high clearance will take you all the way into the collection area and is recommended.
Physical Limitation Concerns, Including Accessibility to Handicapped Individuals:	The collection area is above 9,000 feet and the terrain is rolling and somewhat rough. If you have problems with altitude be advised. Be advised that it especially easy to get dehydrated so bring and drink adequate liquids.
Equipment or Tools Recommended or Required:	Tweezers, a collecting container (prescription container or film container work well), lots of water, food, a hat, knee pads (highly recommended), gloves and sunscreen. An alternative way to collect the peridot is to use 2 sieves to concentrate the material. To do this you need a 1/4 sieve and a 1/8 inch sieve in combination. Generally the peridot is smaller than 1/4th of an inch, so you sift the material though the 1/4th inch sieve onto the 1/8th inch sieve. Make sure you check the 1/4th inch sieve for larger crystals. The crystals along with small pieces of basaltic rock will collect on the 1/8th inch sieve. Then you can use your tweezers to pick out the crystals. The only problem occurs when the material is moist and the sieves get clogged and the shaking causes the crystals to be coated with mud making them difficult to see. In that case, bring the concentrate home and wash (and let dry) the material to reveal the crystals. It can rain in the mountains and temperatures can drop so bring clothes for a weather change. Also, an insect spray such as Off.
Availability of Water and Sanitary Facilities:	None, this is in the middle of nowhere, bring anything you need.
Additional Comments:	Salida is a little over 100 miles from downtown Colorado Springs and according to MapQuest takes more than two hours if you take SH-115 to US-50 through Canon City. It seems to take longer than MapQuest says so it is recommended that you give yourself more time. If you get there early you can get another cup of coffee, a snack and a last "potty break" at the McDonalds. On August 8, 9, &10 there is a large rock swap/sell event (the "Contin-Tail") taking place at the Rodeo grounds in Buena Vista. There is no charge to shop/buy, and there hasn't been a charge to dry camp in the past. I (Roger Pittman) am going up either late Friday night or early Saturday morning. I will have my cell phone and it does work usually in the city areas. I highly recommend that you visit the event before or after the field trip.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A FIELD TRIP CONTACT:

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