

Name of Field Trip:	<b>Topaz Claim</b>
Date of Trip:	Saturday, September 26, 2009
Meeting Place:	Topaz Mountain Gem Mine parking lot
Time to Meet:	Be at claim by 9:00 AM sharp.
Field Trip Leader:	Yam/Joe Dorris
Field Trip Leader's Address:	
Telephone Number:	Yam - (719) 488-5526
Cell Phone Number:	
E-Mail Address:	<a href="mailto:ron.yamiolkoski@aecom.com">ron.yamiolkoski@aecom.com</a>
Location of Field Trip:	North of Lake George, Colorado, base of Pilot Peak Tarryall Mountains. Take U.S. 24 West to just past Lake George. Turn north on Park Co. 77 and go about 7 miles. Turn right at Stagestop Campground sign onto dirt road (F.S. Road 211 also known as Matakak road). Go about 2 miles. You will go through cattle guard and F.S. information turnout will be on right. This is the Topaz Mountain Gem mine. Park in lot.
Limitation on Number of Participants or Other Issues:	Limited to 20 people, CSMS members first. Kids are welcome and don't count against the 20. However, there is a limitation of about 8 parking spots at the claim site. People should plan to car pool. You can drive onto claim to drop off gear, then park in parking lot.
Brief Description of Field Trip:	This is a trip to a private commercial mining claim owned by Joe Dorris where you will have the opportunity to help Joe collect topaz. Read about the topaz claim at Joe's web pages: <a href="http://www.pinnacle5minerals.com">www.pinnacle5minerals.com</a> . Also note information under "Visits" on his Glacier Peak mining pages. It has a safety briefing (SEE BELOW), equipment to bring, and directions.
Are there any Special Costs such as Admission Charge or Charge for Transportation on a Bus:	You are encouraged to buy a bag of gravel with topaz to help defray mining costs. Bags are \$40. Purchase one per family. Joe adds topaz so you will be sure to get some good ones. If Joe is operating equipment, you are helping him and will share in topaz found. Otherwise, you can rake the ore piles for topaz. You will be given a chance to buy any "killers" at a very reasonable price. Most of the other stones you find you can keep. Joe will assess your finds. You can also keep all the smoky quartz you find.
Collectible Materials, if any: <b>NOTE: SPECIFY IF COLLECTING CANNOT BE DONE</b>	Topaz, although smoky quartz, some with tourmaline inclusions and attached phenakite or small topaz are also found.
Est. Time of Return to Original Meeting Place:	Mine closes at 4 PM
Vehicle Requirements, if any:	Standard vehicle. F.S. Road 211 is dirt, but easily traveled except for possible mud holes if we get an early snow.
Physical Limitation Concerns, Including Accessibility to Handicapped Individuals:	The trip it is at a higher altitude than Colorado Springs (approx. 10,000 feet) so those who have a difficulty with altitude should not participate. Joe will put the shaker where you can easily walk to it. Other parts of claim are difficult walking.
Equipment or Tools Recommended or Required:	<b>Bring your own screens. 1/4 inch will work. Bring a garden rake and shovel. Also, a small hand rake and rock hammer are helpful. Sunscreen. Water. Appropriate weather gear. Camera. The fall foliage should be great.</b>
Availability of Water and Sanitary Facilities:	Port-a-let is available. Bring Lunch, snacks and plenty of liquids
Additional Comments:	The weather can change between morning and afternoon at this altitude and this time of the year. Wear appropriate clothing (layered) and hiking boots. Sunscreen is recommended. <b>It is important that you arrive on time and you follow the schedule. Contact Yam by phone or e-mail to reserve a spot for this Field Trip.</b>

**SAFETY ORIENTATION FOR VISITORS TO GLACIER PEAK CLAIMS,  
INCLUDING TOPAZ MOUNTAIN GEM MINE**

**REMEMBER! SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT**

Though visiting Glacier Peak mining claims should be enjoyable and educational, there are inherent dangers associated with active mining operations. Please read the following and agree to abide by these procedures and rules.

Hazards and dangers are both manmade and natural and can result in injury, loss of limb, or even death.

Some of the natural hazards and dangers, but not limited to these, include severe weather, including snow, rain, hail, and lightning. Lightning is especially dangerous at the relatively high elevations where the claims are located. Wind, even moderate, can knock off tree limbs and topple trees, especially since many of the claims are located in burned-over areas. A falling tree no more than 4 inches in diameter can kill you and can fall with no warning. The recent fire also created potholes where roots have burned out, leaving holes covered by only an inch or two of soil. You can easily step into one of these and twist an ankle or worse. Rocks on upper slopes can also loosen and slide or roll without warning. Be cautious whenever walking across slope. It's plenty easy to turn an ankle on loose rocks or logs. Additionally, you may be exposed to intense sun and heat. Biting flies may also be present. Mosquitoes, especially, love the topaz claims. Bring proper protective clothing and gear for the season. Good boots and a hat are essential. Do not take nature for granted.

Manmade dangers mostly include moving equipment and excavation highwalls. I will limit access to areas where equipment is operating. You will be escorted in these situations and personally be briefed. Otherwise, you are prohibited from being within 50 feet of any operating equipment. This includes pneumatic tools, backhoe, trackhoe, compressor, pressurized lines, etc. A safe zone will be designated around all equipment. You will be asked to leave if you violate this safe zone.

You are not allowed in any excavation which is over the height of your head without specific clearance and proper safety equipment. Minimum equipment is a hardhat, gloves, and steel-toe boots. Do not place yourself within 8 feet of any wall higher than your body height. Rocks can and will fall without warning. Wind can loosen small rocks above you and blow dust and sand into your eyes. Unstable banks can collapse. The 8 foot rule will not protect you from every danger, but it might give you sufficient time to react.

If you are allowed to collect a pocket found within a high wall or dig for topaz in an excavation, we will bring in equipment to make the wall safe before allowing you access. Afterwards Glacier Peak personnel will supervise your actions. Generally, you will be allowed to assist Glacier Peak personnel in helping remove and wrap specimens. If possible, you may be allowed to remove a specimen. Although many of you have experience in collecting pegmatite pockets, Glacier Peak personnel will assume otherwise and will give redundant instructions. We cannot afford to lose a great specimen because of an assumption.

In general, while digging, always be aware of others around you. Never toss a rock behind you without first checking for people. Never shovel dirt without looking. Assume someone will be there, because when you don't, that's where they'll be. Likewise, never allow a rock to roll down a hill. Be cautious with tools. Make certain persons are at a safe distance whenever using any tool--crack hammer, gadbar, shovel, etc. Use the proper tools. Don't pry with a shovel, use a prybar, etc and use proper lifting techniques to protect your back. Do not place tools where they might cause a tripping hazard. Account for all your tools at all times. Especially be certain to return any tools which have been loaned to you. Additionally, ensure you wear proper protective gear--safety glasses, gloves, hard hat, etc.

Similarly, maintain a safe distance from all persons using tools, to include shovels and picks and never enter their operating space. If it becomes necessary to do so, notify the person and make certain they acknowledge your presence before moving into their operating space.

Especially, especially, be watchful of any children on site. Although we get excited while digging, they especially get excited.

When we get caught up in collecting a pocket or pulling out a nice crystal, the excitement can overcome our good judgment as well. Like driving, even if our judgment is sound, the other guy's might not be.

Upon your actual visit to Glacier Peak mining claims you will be asked if you understand these dangers and be required to sign a liability waiver release. Persons under 18 must have a parent or guardian present to sign their waivers.

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**NOTICE: VISITORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ONTO MINING SITES DURING BLASTING, BUT WILL REMAIN BEHIND THE "DANGER, BLASTING IN PROGRESS" SIGNS IF BLASTING IS BEING CONDUCTED DURING YOUR VISIT.**