

Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

January 2012

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President's Message

Hello Rockhounds,

As we begin the new year I hope we all have the time to reflect on the joys and sweet memories of the past and take the opportunity each day to say what a beautiful day this will be! Positive attitude goes along way!

As many of you knew from the December meeting, I left the following morning for Highland Beach in Florida to visit with fellow club members, Sue Melazzi and Kathy Kerrigan (who flew in from Vegas). We had a wonderful time! The weather wasn't the greatest, but the sunshine and warmth from friends was all we needed! We laughed over some long time events with club members such as Edith Heinlein, John Garceau and Anna and John Andersen. That was the time we all were down at Wildacres in North Carolina!

Then I told them about last years' visit to Wildacres with Janet Zenk and Pat O'Rourke and the wonderful time we had as well!

Then I tried to convince them it would be nice to meet in the Spring in the mountains of North Carolina (still working on that!)

Finally, I always say when opportunity knocks, open the door. This is a great opportunity!!! So please do not delay if interested! The allotment gets filled rather rapidly!

Cheryl Neary, President

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2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

January 28

Rutgers Geology Museum

Forty-fourth Open House

10:00-11am- The Search for Oil fact vs. Fiction

11:30-12:30- New Discoveries from the Age of Fishes:

Explorations in the Late Devonian of North America

1:30-2:30- The Paleocene of NJ: Impact, Extinctions, Recovery & Methane Bursts

3:00-4:00 –Cannibalism in the South Pacific: The Bioarchaeological Evidence

Mineral Sale- Scott Hall Rm 135 9:00am-4:00pm

March 23-25

Island Rock Hounds Annual Show

April 10 -15

Wildacres : *The speaker-in-residence and making a return visit, is none other than world renowned photographer Jeff Scovil. You've seen his fabulous work in all the mineral and gem magazines, books and calendars. Jeff's bound to enhance his talks with really wonderful photographs!*

Tuition for the week will be \$350 per person.

September 3 – 9

Wildacres: *Our speaker-in-residence will be Julian Gray, of the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA. This will be Julian's first visit to Wildacres and we're excited to have him. Like Jeff in spring, Julian will be giving 6 talks during the week.*

Tuition for this session will be \$370 per person.



**Happy
Birthday**

**To Our
January
Babes!**

Tom Heckhaus

Pat O'Rourke

Elfride Schoendorf

Nancy Walordy

**Dues \$ \$ \$
Are Due**

Dues have been increased to the following amounts for the 2012 Year (and is still quite a bargain!):

Individual\$15.00

Family\$ 25.00

Janet Zenk is collecting dues this month. Remember, dues must be paid no later than Feb, 2012. Since Janet will be in Florida either bring to the Jan. 2012 meetins or send to her home at:

194 West Islip Ave
West Islip, NY 117

BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE:

A SYNOPSIS OF DECEMBER'S MEETING:

Thanks again to Elfreide and Walter Schoendorf for handling the Holiday Party! Every year they do a wonderful job! Thanks to Nancy Colburn for the lovely assortment of table decorations which were won by many! Thanks also for the many contributions of appetizers and desserts; as well as those for the successful Chinese Auction. I hope everyone had a great time. I know I did!

NEW BUSINESS:

JANUARY MEETING: 01/11/12

Necklace Creation

By club Members Gail & Rich Sienna

Bring a towel, tools and for those that require one - a magnifier!



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2012**

A TIME TO REFLECT ON
THE PAST AND ENVISION
A FUTURE!

AS A REMINDER:

Please start wearing your IRH badge at the meetings! We have new members and it would help everyone with matching the names with the faces! Also, as an incentive, if you wear our badge you will be eligible for an additional chance to win the monthly raffle.

If you misplaced your badge, the cost of the replacement badge is \$1.00. Please speak to Janet Zenk (Membership).

AUCTION:

Please start donating specimens, jewelry, etc. for this years' auction to be held in the month of June.

Cheryl Neary

Editor, Island Rockhounds Newsletter
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Tidbits!

The NY Times opened their new headquarters in 1903 at a building, which at that time was NYC's second largest building in Longacre Square. Adolph Ochs, the NY Times owner, convinced the City to change the name of the "triangular Square" after the newspaper, which occurred in April 1904, to "Times Square". In celebration of the opening of the company's new headquarters, Adolph provided a midnight fireworks show on the roof of the building with close to 200,000 people in attendance on December 31, 1903. This event displaced the traditional celebrations normally held at Trinity Church. For four years the firework shows took place. In 1907, the newspaper's chief electrician, Walter Palmer constructed with iron and wood and one hundred 25-watt bulbs, a time ball, weighing 700 pounds and, measuring five feet in diameter, which would be lowered from the flagpole on the roof of One Times Square. It dropped that year one-second after midnight.

In 1920 a 5-ft. diameter iron ball weighing 400 pounds replaced the original ball. The descending of the ball was discontinued during WWII due to wartime lighting restrictions. For those years a moment of silence and the chiming of bells brought in the New Year. The third ball, 5 ft. in diameter, weighed only 150 pounds and was constructed from aluminum. During the 1980's, the ball was decorated in honor of the "I love New York" campaign with red bulbs and green stem to give the appearance of an apple. In 1991, the ball was decorated with bulbs of red, white and blue to salute the troops of Operation Desert Shield.

A new ball, 6 ft. in diameter and weighing 1,070 pounds was covered with 504 Waterford triangle crystals, with many of the triangles inscribed with messages for hope and peace. The ball had 168 halogen lights on the outside with 432 internal bulbs of clear, red, blue, green and yellow colors.

In honor of the 100th anniversary, a fifth ball manufactured by Waterford Crystal, 6 ft. in diameter, weighing 1,212 pounds, with LED lighting by Philips (producing 16.7 million colors) was used only once and is on permanent display at Macy's in Herald Square.

The ball used today is a icosahedral geodesic sphere 12 ft. in diameter, weighing 11,875 pounds which required the flagpole to be enlarged, now rising 475 feet above Times Square. This ball was first used NY Eve's 2009 and is the first ball displayed year round outdoors.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1- *Happy New Year!*

Schedule 2011-2012:

January 11- Beaded Necklace taught by Gail & Rich
February 8- Treasures Unlimited (Bellmore) Lecture- Metal Detecting/Black Waters
March 14- "ShowPreparation"
April 11- Tom Gangi - Lecture- Metal Working
May 9- Hands-on project
June 13- Annual Auction

On The Road Again..... Lewis & Clark Trail

Well, it has been awhile since I discussed the Lewis & Clark expedition. During the last article I mentioned that the death of Sergeant Floyd was the **first** casualty of the Corps of Discovery. Janice mentioned at the last meeting that in fact he was the only casualty of the expedition. So let me clarify this a little bit further. There were three human fatalities during the whole expedition. Sgt. Floyd, who died from what they believe was appendicitis, and two Blackfeet Indians who were fatally shot by Meriwether Lewis during the return trip to the "United States". Considering the amount of time the Corps of Discovery was exploring; the harsh environment; the general fear of the unknown; and the lack of medical supplies, the number of unfortunate deaths could have had the potential for being multiplied. This story continues though with the final casualty (in a sense) for one of the members of the Corps and that is: the demise of the beloved partner and pet of Meriwether Lewis.

Seaman, a Newfoundland type breed, was purchased by Meriwether for a price of \$20.00. Lewis purchased the dog somewhere in the East, a month prior to meeting Clark on the Ohio River. Throughout the journals of the Captains, there is mention of their large companion, who caught squirrels, beavers and even an antelope providing food for the food-deprived members of the expedition. There is also mention of how their dog gave timely notice of the visits of grizzly bears and buffaloes, patrolling constantly throughout the night. Just like everyone else, Seaman also suffered in the summer heat of what is now South Dakota; a beaver bite, which severed his artery in his hind leg; and the wrath of the mosquitoes and bugs which also plagued the men. Lewis described in his journals that the expedition's greatest "curse", was the mosquitoes. For Seaman, the prickly pear cactus pierced the pads of his feet and made him bite and scratch "as if in a rack of pain". Just as landmarks were named after the members of the expedition, the creek now known as Monture Creek was originally named Seaman Creek. The journals mention that the size and intelligence of the dog impressed many of the tribes met by the expedition. Noteworthy is the fact that many of the western tribes survived on dog meat and in fact during the ordeal of near starvation in the Bitterroot Mountains, the expedition members purchased dog after dog from the Indians along the Columbia River. A mystery continues, as the last mention of the beloved dog is two months prior to reaching St. Louis, July 15, 1806. Lewis and a number of the men were at Great Falls (Mt.) and noted that the mosquitoes "continue to infest in such manner that we can scarcely exist"... but "my dog even howls with the torture he experiences." So..... Why did he not return with the expedition?

Now back to the expedition, and a quick (considering the length of time the expedition occurred!) summary of the expedition's time line:

A lifelong curiosity about the land west of the 13 original colonies, fueled by Thomas Jefferson's broad scientific interests and his hopes and dreams for the future of the newly formed nation, was the drive behind a transcontinental exploration. In 1783, while serving in Congress, Jefferson was declined by the frontier Revolutionary War hero, and older brother of William Clark, George Rogers Clark, to consider leading a privately sponsored expedition to the explore the West. At least two more times Thomas Jefferson tried to find the shortest and most convenient route of communication between the US and the Pacific Ocean, and "to learn such particulars as can be obtained of the country through which it passes, its productions, inhabitants

and other interesting circumstances.” Due to a number of political events occurring, in the late 1790’s through early 1800’s and the fact that Jefferson became President, the realization of such an exploration began to become apparent. Meriwether Lewis, born in Virginia in 1774, would be chosen by Jefferson for a number of reasons: he had some experience with wilderness travel; well read; and importantly, he had scientific interests which paralleled those of Jefferson. He fit the image of Jefferson’s of a person who showed courage, prudence and familiarity with the Indians, knowledge of botany, natural history, mineralogy and astronomy. Lewis and Jefferson agreed that a second-in-command competent to carry on the mission would be required. Lewis chose William Clark, an army friend who also served on the frontier. This union of friendship, partnered with the quest for scientific knowledge would forever be immortalized.

Jefferson believed that expedition would discover the presence of woolly mammoths, erupting volcanoes and a mountain of pure salt. Discovered instead were over 300 species unknown to science and nearly 50 Indian tribes, unfamiliar to any Europeans (French or Spanish who had contact with the Indians during the fur trade) and a series of mountains known today as the Rockies.

From the time period of 1803 through 1806, over four dozen men prepare for and travel to the Pacific Ocean and back, mapping the lands describing the terrain (and terrane) and the people they encountered and forever change the history of this young nation .At this point, I like it interject an interesting point. The men were from varied backgrounds, many served in the army. All the men, except for one, were free white men. William Clark brought with him his slave, York. According to many writings, York was willed to Clark by his father, John Clark in 1799. York and William Clark grew up together in Clarksville (Indiana) across from Louisville (Kentucky). Clarksville was the home of George Roger Clark, who also founded Louisville (in honor of King Louis XVI of France in 1778 who supplied help to the Americans during the Revolutionary War). York would become a member of the team during the exploration; partaking in hunting (slaves were not allowed to carry a rifle, except in the frontier), work the sails, prepare the food, to name a few. York was a curiosity to the Indians, with an account of one of the Chiefs trying to rub the black off of his skin. He danced with them and they were in awe of him.

The majority of the expedition, Clark would stay with the keelboat, chart the course and create maps of the terrain; Lewis would be ashore studying the soil, rock formations, animals and plants.

On May 14, 1804, at 4:00 in the afternoon, under a gentle breeze the Corps of Discovery set off from their camp of huts built on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, upstream from St. Louis and sailed across the Mississippi and four and half miles up the Missouri. After two months they were still in Missouri. By the end of July they traveled over 600 miles up river and were disappointed in not meeting any Indians.

The expedition first encountered Missouri settlements when the Indians were away buffalo hunting and their villages were empty. For more than a hundred years the Missouri Indians lived in earth-covered homes along the Missouri River. Six years prior to the arrival of the Corps of Discovery, the Sauk and Fox Indians defeated them. Late July one of the corpsmen met a

Missouri Indian who told Lewis that his band had recently joined the Oto Indians, whose population had been recently stricken with smallpox. In August, the first meeting with western Indians occurred at the present day Council Bluffs in Iowa. Late August marked the death of Sergeant Floyd from natural causes near present day Sioux City, Iowa and a second council with the Yankton Sioux at present day Yankton, South Dakota.

Early September 1804, the Corps entered the Great Plains and discovered a multitude of species never known in the Eastern United States, the prairie dog a favorite. By late September they have a tense encounter with the Teton Sioux, (although not surprised because they were warned by the Yankton Sioux of their aggressive nature). This occurred near present day Pierre, South Dakota and the conflict was averted by one of the Sioux chiefs.

Late October, near present day Bismarck, North Dakota, the Corps arrived at the villages of the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians. These tribes lived along the Missouri River and hunted buffalo. The Corps began building Fort Mandan for their winter quarters. In November, Lewis and Clark hire a French-Canadian fur trader Toussaint Charbonneau and his Shoshone wife, Sacagawea to act as interpreters on the journey ahead. Also traveling with Sacagawea is their infant son, Jean Baptiste. During this time, the corpsmen recorded temperatures at 45 degrees below zero!

The expedition members spent December 1804 through the early part of April 1805 at Fort Mandan, repairing equipment, hunting buffalo and trading with the Indians. During this time, Lewis & Clark record what they have seen to date and what they have learned about the West from the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians. Before leaving the fort, they dispatched approximately a dozen members on the keelboat to bring eventually to President Jefferson the discoveries to date which included 108 botanical specimens, 68 mineral specimens and Clark's map of the US.

The rest of the expedition leaves the Fort via dugout canoes and pirogues, into a part of the continent never explored by any American. They traveled through Grizzly Country and near the end of May of 1805 they sight the Rockies, the mountain barrier they would need to cross in order to reach the Pacific Ocean. Progress was slow along the frequently bending, shallow river. On June 3rd the expedition came upon a fork in the river. Both the captains believed the southern fork was the Missouri while the rest of the expedition disagreed. After sending out scouting parties up each branch, there was still no answer. Lewis, along with three members proceeded further up the southern branch in search of the Great Falls, which the Indians had spoken in reference to finding the path across the Rockies. On June 13th this expedition discovered the Great Falls is actually comprised of five individual falls which span a twelve-mile stretch. Rejoining Clark and crew, the expedition proceeds to the Great Falls in a month long portage. By late July they reach the Continental Divide on the Montana and Idaho border. Early August they meet the first Indian since leaving Fort Mandan, a Shoshone, who leads the expedition to his chief, Cameahwait, who turns out to be the brother of Sacagawea. Through translations by Sacagawea, the expedition purchases horses, and although in poor condition they were necessary for the expedition to reach the Pacific. Additionally, an older member of the tribe informed the captains that there is a trail that leads across the Continental Divide, utilized by the tribe of the Nez Perce, who lived on the far side of the Rockies.

During September of 1805, snow began to fall on the Continental Divide as the expedition passes over and down into the Bitterroot Valley. Near starvation were both the horses and the men. They finally made contact with the Nez Perce who provided them with dried fish and roots. During the period of October through early December, the expedition traveled the Clearwater- to the Snake- to the Columbia River, crossing the Cascades, the last mountain range prior to the Pacific.

Finally, by mid-November they made it to the Pacific! With bad weather battling them, they resigned to the fact that they would spend the winter along the coast and built Fort Clatsop, named after the local Clatsop Indians, located in the present day Oregon side of the Columbia estuary. Take note that the Captains took a poll from the members where to spend the winter, and both York (slave) and Sacagaewa (Indian & woman) participated in this event! (Concluding that both of them were treated as part of the team- a member of the expedition!) The journey from Fort Mandan to the mouth of the Columbia River was land only known to the native inhabitants. When they entered the mouth of the Columbia River they reentered the world of known geography and were eager to make contact with any ship. They met no ships, although there was abundant evidence of white contact with the local inhabitants. Here they learned to make moccasins and buckskin clothing and accomplished a sizable amount of scientific work involving ethnology and natural history. By the third week of March 1806, the expedition was ready to retrace their steps back to the US. In preparing for the return journey they purchased a fourth dugout and stole the fifth!

Less than a month after leaving Ft. Clatsop, the canoes were abandoned due to arduous trip around the falls. Horses were acquired from the Walla Walla tribe. For the following month the expedition stayed with the Nez Perce, in Idaho, eating a diet of dried fish and roots, and on occasion an elk, deer, horse or dog. Against the advice of the Indians, the expedition sets off in early June to cross the Bitterroots again, a month long journey through three feet thick snow. On June 30th they reached an area where Lewis & Clark decided to part ways in order to explore more of the area; Lewis and nine men would explore the Marias River (Montana) to the north, while Clark and the others headed to the Yellowstone River in the south. It was on the Marias that the expedition led by Lewis had a tragic encounter in which two Blackfeet Indians were killed. On August 11th a member of Clark's group shot at what he thought was an elk and instead shot Lewis through his left thigh. Hence the groups reunited in North Dakota and continued their journey home. The expedition stopped back at the Mandan villages where the Captains parted company with some of their members including Sacagawea. On the last leg of their trip down the Missouri River, they traveled at a speed of almost 80 miles per day. The Captains began to meet traders who informed them that the expedition members were believed to be lost or dead at the hands of Indians or Spaniards.

Two years, four months and ten days after they left St. Louis, they returned on September 23rd to a crowd of over a thousand people greeting them with gunfire salutes!

So that is the expedition in a nutshell! The subject is quite interesting and although I would like to share many of the interesting events that had occurred, I just couldn't – there isn't that much time or room in the newsletters. However, we will be speaking about the terrain/terrane identified by Lewis & Clark in the coming issues.

Start 2012 by Being SMARTER than a 5th Grader!!

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have '*the rule of thumb*'.

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled '*Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden*'.. and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred & Wilma Flintstone.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better!

Coca-Cola was originally green.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: *Alaska*

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: *28%* (now get this...)

The percentage of North America that is wilderness: *38%*

The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: *\$ 16,400*

The average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour: *61,000*

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: *Tom Sawyer*.

The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades - King David, Hearts - Charlemagne, Clubs - Alexander the Great, Diamonds - Julius Caesar

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, John Hancock & Charles Thomson. The rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what? *Their birthplace*

Q. Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested?

A. Obsession

Q.. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find

the letter 'A'? *One thousand*

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in

common? *A. All were invented by women.*

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil? *Honey*

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?

Father's Day

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase... 'Goodnight, sleep tight'

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer & because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints & quarts... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints & quarts, & settle down.' It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'.

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM LAS VEGAS TO ALL MY
ROCKHOUNDING FRIENDS
FROM KATHY & TOM**