

# FIELD TRIP GUIDE

All of these credits may not be completely accurate as most were taken from a huge file of clippings from many bulletins and some listed many sources. If the original source is in error, please forgive me and drop me a line on a postcard so that it may be corrected.

Thank you,  
Larry E. Bigley  
6126 Hartley  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
68507

### RECOGNITIONS

The American Federation Code of Ethics  
Roger Pabian - President's Letter & President's Field Trip  
General Safety Rules for Field Trips (this was found on a single sheet of paper with no author or origin)  
Don Carter - for a fine Rock Swap and allowing me to help by providing the field trips  
The Art of Swapping, By Phyllis Fleming  
Old Miners Rule, Via "The Prospector"  
Skagit Rock & Gem Club of Mt. Vernon Washington (the field trip reports are a modified version of theirs)

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## FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I would like to start by thanking all who have helped and encouraged me to compile and complete this Field Trip Guide. First the Board of Directors for appropriating the money to publish. Jim and Phyllis Parks - Jim for allowing me to have part of Phyllis's time from his business and Phyllis for helping me to print and teaching me to run the printing machine. Don Carter for his encouragement and contributions to the Guide. Roger Pabian for changing his Presidents Trip (whatever his reasons) so my family and I can take our vacation. And last and most my wife Marita for encouragement, typing copy, typing stencils, correcting my spelling and just for being close when I needed her. Thank you one and all.

After being a member of this club for just a short time I have come to realize what a family affair the field trips are. So please let us continue to help each other out on our trips and let's not forget to help and instruct the youngsters who accompany us.

I would like to ask that all of the members be especially courteous to the land owners, after all it is only with their permission that we are there. Also while on a trip please follow the instructions of the trip leader whether it be myself or someone subbing for me that day. This I'm sure will make the trips so much more enjoyable for everyone.

While on the field trips we may find it necessary to caravan from one location to another. When on public roads we will probably travel at a speed lower than the posted limit. So when we are in caravan please leave ample room for faster moving traffic to pass between us. Remember, trucks are traffic too and they need plenty of room. Don't worry, no one is going to get lost. When making a turn the proper method is for the vehicle ahead to slow down after his turn and make sure that the vehicle behind can see where he has gone. Another bonus that our club has is that several members have two-way radios and by properly spacing them in the caravan everyone can be kept in close contact with one another.

The Field Trip Report pages are being provided for you to use on field trips other than the club trips. Any trips that you take on your own, you can make a duplicate copy and at the end of the year turn it in to the field trip chairman. This will certainly make planning future trips easier and much more profitable to fellow club members. Also, after our club trips the trip leader will fill out a complete report to be put on file. It will also be his responsibility to write up the trip for our bulletin, "The Pick & Shovel".

A special message to any fellow rockhounds who may receive a copy of our Field Trip Guide, if you wish to contribute please mail the yellow sheet back to us. The address is - Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505. Please don't forget your name and address and that of your club.

Thank you,

Larry E. Bigley  
Field Trip Chairman

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION

CODE OF ETHICS

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owners permission.
- I will keep informed of all laws, regulations, or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundry lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no fircarms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no wilful damage to property of any kind -- fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material -- matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
- I will cause no wilful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter, Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those designated in authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resourses.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

LET'S ALL FOLLOW THESE RULES...ON CLUB TRIPS AND WHEN WE ARE ALONE!

THE ART OF SWAPPING cont.:

them, and if they are just taking the easy way out you won't be bothered by them again.

Beware of the "sharpie" that snatches a good specimen when you are busy trading with someone and says that he wants this and to come down to his table and pick out something when you have time. Just take it out of his hand and set it back down, and tell him you will be there in a minute to see what he has. Nine times out of ten, he has crud on his table. He is operating on the idea that "Possession is nine tenths of the law" and gambling that your too well mannered not to let him keep it even if it isn't an even trade.

Don't let actions like this discourage you. People are people, no matter where you are or what you're doing. Just learn to cope with them pleasantly.

ROCK SWAP CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

On August 4th & 5th the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club will have its annual Rock Swap at the National Guard Park 10th & Military Road.

Our Field Trip Chairman Larry Bigley has two fine field trips lined up for Saturday and Sunday Afternoons. One for fossils and one for cutting material. Saturday night we will have a watermelon feed also entertainment by Olivers Polka Band.

By having the swap at this time of year we should have alot of people back from vacation with alot of material they have collected. So bring some of your goodies and join us for two days of fun. For more information contact Don Carter, 1101 Driftwood Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska 68510, or phone 489-3442.

DESTINATION: Weeping Water, Nebraska  
DATE: August 4, 1973                      TIME: 10:00 A.M.  
REGISTRATION SITE: Rock Swap Site  
MATERIALS TO BE OBTAINED: Fossils and possibly some minerals  
EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Rock picks, sledges, chisels, cracking hammers, hard hats, safety glasses, and containers for specimens.  
POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Rock overhangs, steep inclines & water  
COMMENTS: Please be careful as some of these sites are being worked and some are old and have decaying limestone. Remember DON'T TOUCH WIRES!

DESTINATION: Beatrice, Nebraska  
DATE: August 5, 1973                      TIME: 10:00 A.M.  
REGISTRATION SITE: Rock Swap Site  
ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 100 miles  
MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: We will be searching gravel pits for agates, wood, and bones  
EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Small boxes, buckets or should bags  
POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: These are working sand and gravel pits so stay away from the waters edge because of slide possibilities.

## THE ART OF SWAPPING

By Phyllis Fleming

Swapping can be lots of fun if you know how. Most rockhounds swap with friends and club members all the time but get cold feet at the very thought of swapping with strangers at shows or swapfests. This can be the most fun of all if you know how to go about it. Aside from the fun, it is one of the most painless ways to recognize cutting material, minerals, etc., that I have ever found.

The first rule is: Leave the crud at home..... . If you don't want it, what makes you think somebody else does? Take a good variety of material with you, and a few extra pieces. Your first thought is "I'll be taken; I don't know the value of what I have". You're right, you'll probably get the short end of a lot of trades! But you will also come home with several extra nice slabs or specimens to add to your collection. Chalk the first one up to the price of learning. It's worth it, and you now know which is your most desirable material.

You don't need to know the dollar value of a piece of material unless you are a dealer. What you do need to know is the quality and/or rarity of the material being offered to you. Once you have learned this there will be no hesitation in your decisions. You can't afford to dwaddle because someone else will have that good piece before you make up your mind.

Bring at least three grades of material. Take one plastic dishpan full of slabs. Some cabbings quality, some good only for tables. Trade this group one for one. Forget about value. This keeps trading active and helps the beginners gain confidence in themselves. The second group, be a little more particular about. The third group, which is your premium group, should be traded for something outstanding and something you want. Try not to duplicate something you have in your collection.

Now you have arrived at the swapping area and have been assigned to a spot. What will you do now? Put your materials out, but keep your prizes in the car? Then look over the tables and see if there is anything you want to trade your prizes for? Well, I've got news for you. You're not as clever as you thought. Ninety percent of the ones there have done exactly the same thing! Put all of your material on display and learn to say "No" if you are not satisfied with the trade offered. After all, it is easier to tell a stranger "no" than a friend. Then soften the blow by telling him you will trade anything in group 1 or 2 for what he has. Don't let the pitiful old man in the baggy overalls fool you. He'll pick out a prized slab of plume agate and offer you an Apache tear for it and it will nearly break your heart. Keep him digging in his knapsack until he comes up with something you want or until he decides that he just might have something better in his camper. Then set aside the things he wants and wait until he gets back before you trade them off. You'll be amazed at the lovely crystals he'll come back with... Then, trade!!!

I prefer to do my swapping with rockhounds and my buying from dealers. If you are a beginner or for some reason couldn't bring material with you, buy a few slabs or etc., from a dealer and start swapping. I know a girl that bought two slices of Brazilian agate and two nodules (Mexican) which she had sawed free in the working exhibit and traded all afternoon in a federation show.

When you're swapping, swap. Don't sell. Then everyone is on an equal footing. When you are approached by someone who wants to buy, give him your name and address and offer to trade by mail. If they are sincere, you will hear from

## GENERAL SAFETY RULES FOR FIELD TRIPS

### PREPARATION

1. Do not start short of rest on your trip - sleepy and with nerves all jangled and on edge.
2. Check car for possible defects; check water, oil, battery, and tires.
3. Carry plenty of water--at least one (1) gallon per person per day.
4. Carry food for entire trip plus some extra for emergencies.
5. Have warm as well as cool clothing, first aid kit, snake bite kit, and sun tan cream.
6. Always have your identification with you and on some of your gear.
7. Miscellaneous equipment should include a shovel, car jack (hydraulic), and tow rope or chain, pocket knife, matches, and possibly an axe or hatchet, and police whistle.
8. NOTIFY SOMEONE WHERE YOU ARE GOING AND WHEN YOU EXPECT TO RETURN.

### ENROUTE

1. Drive carefully--don't take chances.
2. Don't follow too closely--rocks flipped up by the car ahead may break your windshield and dust may obscure your vision and choke your breathing--stay back a safe distance.
3. Have a companion act as navigator--this leaves the driver free to concentrate on his driving.
4. Slow down during inclement weather.
5. If in a caravan, keep the car behind in sight so as to keep together.

### AT THE SITE

1. Park so that all cars can get out--don't block the exit.
2. Don't camp in washes or dry stream beds (flash floods).
3. Wear well-broken-in ankle high shoes or high boots which support the ankle and provide protection against sharp rocks and snake bite. Heavy wool stockings will prevent blisters. Gloves, sun glasses or glare and/or other protective glasses for use when breaking rocks.
4. Wear long trousers or slacks and a shirt with long sleeves, and a hat for protection against sunburn, insects and vegetation.
5. If camping on the ground, inspect shoes and clothing for insects before putting them on in the morning.
6. Do not shoot firearms in the area of the field trip. Bullets ricochet and may hit someone over the hill out of your sight.
7. Keep a look-out for rattlesnakes and/or scorpions. Never reach or tread where you cannot see.
8. Break all matches in the fingers before discarding.
9. Break your cigarette before discarding and then crush it out on the bare ground.

### AN OLD MINERS RULE

While a miner's tools, equipment and personal property remain in or next to a digging, that digging is his until he relinquishes it either by removing said property or announcing that he is finished digging in that area. Furthermore, any material, specimens or rocks cached on or near with said personal property are also the property of the miner, and shall not be touched or removed without his express permission. Via: The Prospector.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE -- 1973

DESTINATION: Weeping Water, Nebraska  
DATE: April 29, 1973 TIME: 10:00 A.M.  
REGISTRATION SITE: Weeping Water Park  
ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 180 miles  
MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: Fossils and possibly some minerals  
EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Rock picks, sledges, chisels, cracking hammers, hard hats, safety glasses, and containers for specimens  
POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Rock overhangs, steep inclines & water  
COMMENTS: Please be careful as some of these sites are being worked and some are old and have decaying limestone. Remember DON'T TOUCH WIRES!

DESTINATION: Beatrice, Nebraska  
DATE: May 6, 1973 TIME: 9:00 A.M.  
REGISTRATION SITE: Indian Creek Mall on the north edge of Beatrice  
ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 100 miles  
MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: We will be searching gravel pits for agates, wood, and bones.  
EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Small boxes, buckets or shoulder bags  
POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: These are working sand and gravel pits so stay away from the waters edge because of slide possibilities.

DESTINATION: Cherokee, Oklahoma  
DATE: May 26 - 29, 1973 TIME: 7:30 A.M. May 26, 27, & 28th  
REGISTRATION SITE: City Park in Cherokee  
ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 850 miles  
MATERIALS TO BE OBTAINED: Selenite Crystals  
EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Shovels, cans for washing sand, suntan lotion, sun-glasses, old clothes, hats for sun  
POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Hot glaring sun & salt--take plenty of water to site. Also be sure to take jackets as I understand a cloudy and rainy day can be quite cool. Be sure to wash your vehicles as soon as you possibly can because of the salt.  
COMMENTS: Round trip mileage was figured using these routes. I-80 Lincoln to York, U.S. 81 South to Minneapolis, Kansas. Then I-35W South to Wichita where you will pick up the KTA Turnpike (toll road) continue South on interstate to Blackwell, Oklahoma turn off. Take Oklahoma Hiway 11 West to intersection of Hiway 8, take Hiway 8 South 2 miles to Cherokee.

For those who want to camp out, camping is available on the east side of the Great Salt Plains Reservoir. This is a Federal camp site grounds.

A call to the Plains Motel has given us this information for those who need accomodations: Single - color T.V. - \$7.00  
Double - color T.V. - \$9.00 B&W T.V. \$8.00  
2 Double beds T.V. - \$14.00  
BAC accepted

There are 20 units at this motel. Anyone wishing to make reservations call Mr. Harms at 112-405-596-3311 in Cherokee, Oklahoma.

FIELD TRIPS cont.:

DESTINATION: For what we have to do...

DATE: September 1, 2, 3, 1973

MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: This trip is to obtain material for favors for the 1974 show. As time progresses I will know more of what the other clubs throughout the state will be contributing. This is a Holiday weekend & I realize some of you will be in areas that materials will be needed from. I would like to ask that those of you who are planning trips for this weekend to please contact me and donate a small part of your time on this club project.

DESTINATION: Fairbury, Nebraska

DATE: September 16, 1973 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION SITE: Fairbury Park

ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 150 miles

MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: Selenite crystals & clusters, marcasite - nodules & massive, carbonized limb casts & leaf fossils

EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Containers large & small, paper & tape, hard rock equipment

POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: This location is directly off the Hiway so please look twice for oncoming traffic. Also there is a high bluff and soft steep inclines in the area. Be extremely careful of footing and falling chunks of hard dry clay. Hard hats and safety glasses are definitely recommended!

MORNING DESTINATION: Odell, Nebraska

DATE: September 30, 1973 TIME: 8:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION SITE: Hiway 8 intersection at Odell

ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: 110 miles

MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: Barite roses, Odell diamonds

EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Tweezers, small containers, clothing per weather

POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Water shed lake & dam, sore knees

AFTERNOON DESTINATION: Wymore, Nebraska

Leave Odell - 11:30 A.M. Arrive Wymore for lunch - 12 noon

One hour lunch, rest break & registration at park

There are two sites at Wymore:

Site 1 - The Old County Quarry

MATERIALS TO BE OBTAINED: Various colored calcites, & other minerals

POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Rock overhangs, sore backs, hard hats and safety glasses a must

Site 2 - Emerson Farm (this is a fee site, approximately \$1.50/person)

MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: Blue celestite geodes

POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Poison ivy, a creek, sore backs

EQUIPMENT FOR THESE TWO SITES: Sledges, rock picks, pry bars, wedges, paper to wrap specimens, containers & tape

FIELD TRIPS cont.:

DESTINATION: Norfolk, Nebraska

DATE: June 16-17, 1973 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION SITE: Johnson Park in Norfolk

ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 250 miles

MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: Wood, brown chalcedony, Indian artifacts, mammoth bones and teeth

EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Shovels, rock hammers, chisels, containers, and/or shoulder bags

DESTINATION: Plattsmouth, Nebraska

DATE: June 24, 1973 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION SITE: Road intersection on Hiway 34 one mile east of Hiway 75 South of Plattsmouth

ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 125 miles

MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: Trilobites, assorted fossils, & colored calcites

EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Hard rock equipment & carrying containers, hard hats and safety glasses

POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Rock overhangs, steep inclines, & rough roads

DESTINATION: Fullerton, Nebraska

DATE: July 8, 1973 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION SITE: Fullerton Park

ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 225 miles

MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED: Petrified wood, common opal, & jasper

EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Collecting containers

POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Sand & gravel pit area - stay away from waters edge because of slide possibilities.

DESTINATION: Marysville, Kansas

DATE: July 21, 1973 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION SITE: Port of entry station on Hiway 77

ROUND TRIP MILEAGE: About 180 miles

MATERIALS TO BE OBTAINED: Pink gypsum & satin spar

EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TRIP: Rock hammers, chisels, pry bars, large containers

POSSIBLE SITE HAZARDS: Fee site - \$3.00/bushel, creek fording, make sure all gates are closed because of livestock. Dense underbrush, old clothes because we will be working partially in the creek. If owner will join us we'll have the possibility of seeing a log cabin, if not please do not trespass. For lunch we have a beautiful meadow to eat in. Please do not litter!

August 4, 1973 Please see the Rock Swap section. I request help on these trips as they are for out of towners who are visiting us. All members are welcome to accompany us.

August 15 - 19, 1973 Please see the President's Trip page for information on this outing.

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club  
Box 5342  
Lincoln, NE 68505

Member: Community Arts Council

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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LINCOLN, NE  
PERMIT NO. 176

"THE PLACE TO GO IN 74"  
Nat'l Gem & Mineral Show  
June 13 - 16 Lincoln, Nebr.

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FOR THE FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN  
ADDITIONAL NOTES ON YOUR FIELD TRIPS