

THE HARDING PEGMATITE MINE FIELD TRIP with Dr. David Gonzales, Dr. Chris Heine

On this two-day trip, FCGS members will be accompanying Dr. David Gonzales and his Petrology class to explore the Proterozoic to Pliocene geology from Taos to Cuba, New Mexico. One of the primary stops will be the Harding Pegmatite mine that was worked intermittently from 1918 to 1958 producing lithium, tantalum, and beryllium. We will examine and discuss this wonderful example of a lithium-tantalum pegmatite and the current demand for lithium resources. Participants will have the opportunity to photograph and collect a variety of minerals in the pegmatite. There will be additional stops to discuss the Rio Grande rift, Proterozoic geology along the Rio Grande basin, Valles caldera, and the Nacimiento mine (search for azurite, malachite, pyrite and copper as a replacement mineral in petrified wood), and the Lybrook badlands (similar to Bisti).

Trip dates: Saturday-Sunday, April 20-21st
Leaders: Dr. David Gonzales, Fort Lewis College and Dr. Chris Heine
Organizer: Jim Corken
Transportation: Carpooling for members / college vehicles for students
Limit: 20 members / 12 FLC Students plus Dr. Gonzales
Registration Opens: **Friday, March 15th**, 9am on the FCGS website. Once the limit is reached the registration form will close and direct applicants to use the website link for the waiting list instead.

Fee:

- **\$75.00** which includes Saturday & Sunday lunches, a group dinner in Los Alamos and a Drop Box link to a literature trove, as well as a write-up of each stop by Dr. Gonzales.
- **Hotel:** Participants must make their own lodging reservations. The trip leaders and students will be staying in Los Alamos. We have reserved a block of rooms for participants at the Holiday Inn there at the rate of \$177/2 queens or 1 king, including taxes and fees as well as breakfast on Sunday. This rate offer expires on April 1st and you can cancel up to 2 days before the trip with no fee. Other lodging options in Los Alamos are the Comfort Inn, the Hampton Inn and the North Road Inn B&B, which is holding 6 rooms for us until April 1st. Registrants will receive lodging contact information.

Cancellation:

- Those who cancel by end April 12th will get their payment back minus our payment processing fee (~3.5%).
- Those who cancel after the 12th will get \$35 back.
- If we cancel due to weather or other unforeseen events all registrants will get their payment back minus our payment processing fee (~3.5%).
- Participants must cancel their own hotel reservations.

Conditions: Participants should expect to take short hikes at road side stops and to hike in uneven terrain around the mine site, possibly in variable weather. Elevations in the area range from 6,000-7,300'.

Contact: Please contact Jim Corken (rjcork@aol.com / 970-759-2567 cell) if you have any questions about the trip. Please contact Kim Gerhardt (kim@mydurango.net / [970-779-7689 cell](tel:970-779-7689)) if you have any problems with registration.