

METEORITE CHELYABINSK: continuation of the story

Sergei V. Kolisnichenko,

Verkhnyaya Sanarka, Chelyabinsk oblast.
sanarka@mail.ru

On February 15th, 2013 a massive 6 x 8 meter hole was discovered in the thick ice of Lake Chebarkul. Scattered around the lake were tiny stone fragments that contained the mineralogical characteristics of chondrite. Evidenced by the size of the hole in the ice, it was inferred that an object weighing half a ton, and with a diameter slightly less than one meter, impacted the surface at terminal velocity. Subsequent examinations of the bottom of the lake by geophysical methods gave various results, but it was generally agreed that a large extraterrestrial body was lodged in the lakebed.

In those early days of discovery in February the idea of lifting the meteorite out from the bottom of the lake seemed quite feasible; after all, it was only under about 12 meters of water and 7 meters of silt!

Chelyabinsk's regional administration assumed the cost of this historic mission, assessing the work at three million rubles. The company *Aleut* from Ekaterinburg quoted the job at approximately half that amount, and was hired to manage the project.

By the beginning of September 2013, all preparations were complete and *Aleut* was ready to begin work toward lifting the meteorite. On September 4th divers began to clear

1. The main body of meteorite *Chelyabinsk* freshly lifted from the bottom of the lake Chebarkul, South Urals, Russia. October 16th 2013. Photo: A. Kocherov.



6. Sergey V. Kolisnichenko has the meteorite available for study meteorite right in the showcase of the museum.



body has brought to Chelyabinsk will remain and that the people will recall when a historic and common goal elevated them to greatness.

One is only left to wonder: When in the future will the frosty morning sky be rent with a bright flash and a smoky trail?

References

7. Meteorite on display at Chelyabinsk Regional Museum, South Urals, Russia. Photo: S.V. Kolisnichenko.

Kolisnichenko S.V. (2013) Meteorite Chelyabinsk // Mineral Observer. Mineralogical Almanac, volume 18 issue 3. Moscow. P. 8-23.

