



# Lake City Rockhound News

Newsletter of the North Idaho Mineral Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

April, 2017  
Volume 16, No. 4

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Lake City Center, 1916 Lakewood Drive, Coeur d'Alene in the Library, from 6:00PM to 8:00 PM. Visitors and Guests are Welcome.  
Our web site: <http://www.northidahomineralclub.com>

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## This Month's Meeting

**Regular Meeting** – April 20, 2017

**The Meeting Program:**

**“Meteorites” presented by Steve Handrahan**

**Refreshments:** Patric Hutchinson and Michael Burton  
There will be a silent auction and scholarship raffle tickets will be sold.  
Buy your tickets today.

## Meeting Minutes for March 2017

Meeting called to order by President Marilyn Kohler. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. We had three guests: Susan & Hal Young and Matt Brook.

Minutes were approved as printed in Newsletter. Dean Hutchinson, Seconded by Patric' Hutchinson, passed.

**Treasurers report.** We have changed to Potlatch 1 Federal Credit Union. Carl Chapin will transfer the last of the Club funds 3/17/2017.

Motion to approve moving last of the Club funds from WA. Trust to P1FCU, made by Dean Hutchinson, seconded by Dale Ruperd. Approved. Carl Chapin has been Treasurer for three years and we have not had an audit. Diane Rose will ask George Rekow to do it ASAP. He has been the person that does our IRS non-profit filing as well the required State filings.

Carl asked if the Club felt we should move \$8000.00 into a savings account with no penalty to move it back if needed, except \$35.00 required to stay in savings.

Motion made by Patric' Hutchinson, seconded by Bill Johnson. Approved.

Last payment to be made to Fairgrounds after the Show.

The first installment for the Scholarship of \$1000.00 will also be after the Show.

**Show Report:** Dean Hutchinson went through line by line the required information needed by the Fairgrounds. We are waiting for the answer for the Food Vendor.

As of 3/23/2017 we have Rob's Snack Shack. He will be inside the building in small room off of the Building #1 in hallway between building #1 & #2.

Great to smell the fresh cinnamon rolls he will be baking! Breakfast/snacks/lunch as well as drinks. This is for Saturday and Sunday.

Set-up EARLY CREW: Diane and Mike Rose dealer space layout; Corey Brenner, Steve Handrahan will do Set-up table spaces/wires.

8:00 am Trucks to/from Storage: 1] Dale Ruperd, 2] Mike Austin, 3] Bill Johnson, 4] Hiram Madland 5] Carl Chapin. Great Crew!

Needed still: People to skirt tables, someone to make coffee, treats? Usually donuts.

Set-up 8 Show Cases across front. Set-up Show Entry area north side of doors: Hourly prize Show case.

Set-up Grand Prize Show case on south side of Entry door.  
Set-up Silent Auction tables for Potluck.

Traffic control: download/ cycle out to parking lot  
RV spaces are between Dealers and Fairgrounds. Need to  
pre-register with Fairgrounds.

Mike Burton said he would again handle Advertising. He  
will create a coupon for \$1.00 off of the \$3.00 entry fee.  
Thank you, Mike!

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** We need to change meeting date for May  
meeting from 3rd Thursday to the 2nd Thursday. MAY 11,  
2017 meeting!

Motion made by Steve Handrahan/second by Jean Gordon,  
approved.

President Marilyn Kohler mentioned that we do not have a  
designated Board of Directors.

They should be: President, Vice President, Secretary,  
Treasurer and one or two Club members.

We have followed this format but just not called it a Board  
of Directors.

**Treats for April:** Patric' Hutchinson and Mike Burton

Other Clubs with Shows this month: Panorama is  
tomorrow, Friday March 17 and Saturday 18

Rock Rollers: March 23-26 at Spokane Fairgrounds.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose,  
Secretary



### ***Tumbling to Polish Cabs***

**by Rick Copeland,  
President, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society.**

I use vibratory tumblers to polish about 90% of my cabs. I  
rough out the cabs on a 100 grit lap. Then I put them into  
the vibratory tumbler with 150/220 grit with ceramic media  
and run it for a day or two. Then I clean it out and run it on  
600 grit for a day or two. Then the cabs are cleaned with  
soap and water and put into a separate vibratory tumbler  
with tempered glass shards that have been through a

150/220 and 600 grit cycle to take the sharp edges off (you  
can also use ceramic media sold at jewelry supply websites  
and stores for tumble polishing jewelry). I use Tin Oxide  
for polish. I let it run for at least 3 days, usually 5 or more.

I use a spray bottle to add water so as not to add too much. I  
start the tumbler and give it 4 or 5 squirts of water. Then I  
add a couple of tablespoons of Tin Oxide and watch the  
action. When it slows down, I give it 4 or 5 squirts. Once  
it's rolling pretty good, I add another two tablespoons of  
Tin Oxide. Again I watch the tumbling action and when it  
slows down, I give it another 4 to 5 squirts. You want the  
Tin Oxide to be covering your stones and media. Now let it  
run an hour and come back and check. If the rolling of the  
stones and media is sluggish or the paste Tin Oxide has a  
dull look to it, give it 4 to 5 squirts of water. You should  
have just a bit of white liquid showing on the inside edge of  
the bottom of the mass of stones and media.

**Via The RockCollector 3/08**



### ***Making Filigree Wire***

**Brad Smith <[brad@greenheart.com](mailto:brad@greenheart.com)>**



Making wire for filigree is quite simple.  
Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver  
wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a  
bit. While the basics are straightforward,  
here's a few tips that will quickly make  
you an expert with filigree.

Filigree looks best when the wire has a  
very tight twist. The way I do this is to  
start with dead soft wire and twist it until  
it breaks. It always seems to break on one  
end or the other. I like to use a screw gun, although a  
Foredom also works well. Be sure to keep a little tension on  
the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I  
anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it  
slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The  
amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to  
reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff  
at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to  
make the filigree shapes.

**See all Brad's jewelry books at  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)**

**Color In Minerals**

The recognition of colors in minerals goes back to our prehistoric ancestors who used charcoal and iron oxides to color cave paintings which still retain their original intensity.

Idiochromatic minerals are "self colored" due to their composition. The color is a constant and predictable component of the mineral. Examples are blue azurite, red cinnabar and green malachite.

Allochromatic minerals are "other colored" due to trace impurities in their composition or defects in their structure. In this case, the color is a variable and unpredictable property of the mineral. Examples are the blue in amazonite (orthoclase), yellow Heliodor (spudomene) and the rose in rose quartz.

Pseudochromatic minerals are "false colored" due to tricks in light diffraction. In these cases, color is variable but a unique property of the mineral. Examples are the colors produced by precious opal and the shiller reflections of labradorite.

Source: The RockCollector 4/08 via The Rockhound Record, 9/2007, via Blue Agate News, 3/2008

**Important Note**

The NIMC meeting for May will be held on the second Thursday of the month instead of the third Thursday. We will see you all at the meeting on May 11.

**Brad's Bench Tips for April**

Brad Smith <[brad@greenheart.com](mailto:brad@greenheart.com)>

**BEZEL PROBLEMS**

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.



In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the

bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

**CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE**

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.



An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



**"Remember, we agreed. I'd carry the canned goods in if you'd carry the rocks out."**

by Ebners from Dust & Grit 2/00 via Golden Spike News 3/00

North Idaho Mineral Club  
 P.O. Box 1643  
 Hayden, ID 83835



**First Class Mail**

<b>NIMC Officers</b>			
President: Marilyn Kohler (208-967-2545)			
Vice-President: Mike McConnell (406-360-4944)			
Treasurer: Carl Chapin (208-772-9049)			
Secretary: Diane Rose (208-659-6173)			
<b>Other Positions</b>			
Show Chair 2017: Dale Ruperd/Dean Hutchinson			
Newsletter: Michael Burton (208-772-9347)			
Federation Director: Dale Ruperd			
Federation Delegate: Bill Johnson (208-765-3099)			
Webmaster: Michael Burton			
Programs/Membership: Bev Bockman (208-773-5384)			
<b>Affiliations</b>			
AFMS – American Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
NFMS – Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
S.C.R.I.B.E.			
ALAA – American Lands Access Association			
<b>Gem Show Schedules</b>			
Apr 22-23	10:00-6:00 10:00-4:00	Yakima Rock & Mineral Club	Centrl WA St. Frngnds, 1301 S. Fair Ave, Yakima, WA
Apr 22-23	10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club	Benton Cty Frgrnds, 1500 S. Oak, Kennewick, WA
Apr 22-23	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society	Idaho Falls Rec. Ctr, Memorial Dr & B St, Idaho Falls, ID
Apr 28-30	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Mt. Hood Rock Club	Jackson Armory, 6255 NE Cornfoot Road, Portland, OR
Apr 29-30	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	West Seattle Rock Club	Alki Masonic Temple, 4736 40 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Seattle, WA
May 6-7	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Everett Rock & Gem Club	Everett Comm College, Walt Price Student Fitness Ctr, Everett, WA
May 6-7	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Everett Rock & Gem Club	Everett Comm. College, 2206 Tower St, Everett, WA
May 6-7	9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club	Douglas Cty Frngnds, I-5 Exit 123, Roseburg, OR