



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

AUGUST 2012

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

667-4628 6:00 P.M. 3rd Thursday of month Visitors Welcome

See the NFMS web site at www.amfed.org/nfms See OUR web site for the club at www.northidahomineralclub.com

MEETING 6 P.M. TO 8 P.M. AUGUST 16, 2012

–Johnie Pitman will present a DVD program illustrating some of his slabs and specimens. You will be amazed at the beauty. The program is on “INCLUSIONS”

REFRESHMENTS AND SILENT AUCTION–THE BEST IN THE WEST!!!

Picnic meeting in JULY. I was in Oregon helping my family (I hope) with some difficult issues, and Diane was laid up from surgery— I hope everyone there had a good time and got some good rocks. at the auction.. Bob got a complete record in the meeting book of those attending, and I’m glad so many turned out during such hot weather. (It was the same in Milwaukee and Oregon City!!!) But hasn’t it been beautiful! lately! I sat out on the deck for an hour this morning just enjoying the sun, the breeze through the poplar leaves and listening to the birds. It was so peaceful I want to keep the feeling!!!

THE ROCKHOUND'S CODE OF ETHICS

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations and rules governing collecting on private lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind, such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning materials - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no 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 in designated 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 and for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of Natural Resources.
- 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.

**FIELD TRIP SEASON
KNOW YOUR ROCKS**

Leaverite: Also known as Dropite, Junkite and erudite. This type of rock should be discarded immediately. It constitutes 90% of most rocks. This includes Sourgrape Agate and Mutilated Quartz.

Sack Rock: This is material that is stuffed into a sack but fall from the top as the bearer struggles back to the car. If taken home, it will be tossed into a corner and forgotten.

Wonder Rock: You always wonder why you brought it home, and where you found it.

Braggin' Rock: Also called Pocket or Eating Rock. This material is licked, rubbed, spit upon and fondled until it assume a near polish and is frequently passed around for admiration.

@#%&+ Rock: A large heavy, possibly angular rock that falls on your foot as soon as you have removed your hiking boots.

From - Gem Time 06/98
Via - MWF Newsletter 12 / 02

WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

Ever wonder about the differences between an agate, a geode or a thunderegg? Although similar in origin, there are important variations in the final form of each.

Agates form by fluids moving into the vesicular cavities formed by gas escaping in lava and precipitating chalcedonic quartz. Usually temperatures are around 100 Celsius or less.

Geodes (cavities lined with quartz crystals) form from a vapor phase, also at low temperatures.

Thundereggs are round nodular bodies formed from spherulites in silica-rich lavas and ash flows, like rhyolites and dacites. They never occur in basalts. They have fillings of star-like cavities which may form by gas expansion as the volcanic rock cools.

Filled cavities are called amygdules and, besides quartz, may contain calcite, zeolites, chlorite, native copper and silver, etc.

From - Pebble Press 02/95

**If you have e-mail please read the Northwest Newsletter for August-
www.amfed.org/nfms — either read on line or download and save. If you are a
member of this club and would like to have a hard copy of this newsletter please
see Mike to make sure that your name has been submitted to the circulation chair-
man so you can receive yours by mail..**

DRILLING HOLES IN AGATE SLICES

Equipment:

You will need a sturdy drill press that will turn fast, about 10,000 rpm. Don't use the new Dremel drill press as they flex too much. The old metal ones are good, also the Foredom drill press is good, if you have their tool. I use an old Dunmore. Your drill press doesn't have to cost a lot. I purchased a metal drill stand at a yard sale for \$2.00 and mounted my Black & Decker rotary tool in it, and that also works well. Do not buy the Covington gem drill to drill agate, as it goes too slow. It is meant for soft stones, not hard rock like agate.

Drill Bits:

I start with a small hole. If it needs to be bigger, I ream it out. It is much easier to drill a small hole than a big one. I start with a 1.4 diamond bit, then I ream it out with a 1.8 triple ripple diamond bit - this bit is fluted and tapered. I only use it as a reamer.

Coolant:

I use Kingsley Tool Cool to keep the bit cool. You will need a shallow container to hold the stone to be drilled and the coolant. I put a think wood backing under my stone so that the bit does not puncture my container as the bit comes through the back of the stone. Put just enough coolant in the container to cover the stone.

The Method:

Now, here is the secret:: Use light pressure and a rapid up and down motion. This will keep the diamonds on the bit cool and lubricated. Too much pressure and you will fry your bit or break your stone. If you do not go up and down fast enough, you will burn the bit up. You will find there is a rhythm to it, and within a few slabs, you should be onto it.

Yield:

I get 8 to 12 holes out of my 1.4 mm bits, and about 100 holes with the 1.8 mm triple ripple bit. Remember, this bit is just used as a reamer, not as a drill bit. I use the Kingsley North bits - their cheap ones - if you can call them cheap!

Tip by Steve - on LA-Rocks, May 2008
Via The Pegmatite, San Diego, CA, August 08

HINTS & TIPS

FOR THE SILVERSMITHS

The success of the final polish on silver depends on the number of buffing wheel threads - not the amount of rouge used. A cheaper buff will not give the same results as a quality one.

Plain old-fashioned whiting moistened with ammonia water makes an excellent agent for polishing tarnished silver. Wipe the paste on; allow it to dry; then rub with a piece of lemon. Wash and dry thoroughly. The silver will stay brighter longer than with ordinary cleansing.

To rub smooth the high points of a gold article, use sodium bicarbonate with a minimum of water.

To antique silver jewelry, paint the pieces to be darkened with raw egg yolk. Rinse off the egg and rub highlights with Linde A.

Glue your pattern on the silver with rubber cement. It removes easily.

Bon Ami applied with a toothbrush will give a satin finish.

One of the most useful and versatile tools on your workbench should be the orange-wood stick. This tool is sold for the purpose of working on cuticles and is available in all cosmetic departments. The orangewood stick is soft enough not to mar gold or silver, yet is hard enough to use as a pushing tool in setting prongs. It will not scratch gems and will reach into impossible places.

From The Lodestar - 11 /92

WIT AND WISDOM

In these days of uncertainty, the only thing you can count on is your fingers.

The end really never justifies the meanness.

No vice is so bad as advice.

Be sure to sign in at the meeting....there will be a door prize awarded

This is a test! And you will be glad you read this note. Bev B.

ROCK TIPS TUMBLING

To tumble soft material that is hard to polish, start with the second coarsest grit. Fill the tumbler $3/4$ or $7/8$ full so the stones will roll and not fall. About $1/4$ the normal amount of cerium oxide polishes better than the usual polishes. from Owyhee Gem

Get more out of your tumbling by adding specially shaped stones to your regular stones. Hearts, crosses, and elongated triangles made by cutting a rectangular slab across the diagonal are some of the possibilities. From Quarry Quips

BEADS

The best thread for beads depends on what the beads are. Use strong, not-abrasive resistant silk on nonabrasive beads such as pearls, turquoise, mother-of-pearl, and lapis. Use abrasive resistant nylon on beads such as onyx, metals, and quartzes. Before using nylon, prestretch overnight with a weight.

From New & Views

LAPIDARY

Renovate brittle dop wax by adding a piece of bees wax the size of a pea to $1/4$ pound of dop wax.
via T-Town Rockhound 7/98

Try cementing three pieces of tiger eye together so that the grain is perpendicular to the next. Cabochons and other stones can then be cut with interesting chatoyancy effects.

via T-Town Rockhound 7/98

Line the bottom of your rock saw with a double thickness of burlap sacking. When it is time to clean again, pick up the corners and lay it on the saw vise and carriage to drain overnight. This way you dispose of all the 'gunk' easily and the oil is clean for continued use.

via T-Town Rockhound 4/01

HIDDEN TREASURE

Cubic Zirconia or Diamonds ... how can you tell?

1. CZ (cubic zirconia) doesn't have the sharp edges of a diamond.
2. A line drawn on a sheet of paper is visible through a diamond.
3. CZ will be transparent if dropped in water; a diamond will remain visible.
4. Take it to a Jeweler!

from Roc-Tok 2/97

Via - Telephone City Crystal 02/09

A house is a place to store furniture.

A home is a place to store memories.

A Rock Room is a place to store TREASURES.

Jasper or Agate: A Simple Distinction

by Dave Olsen

In - the Rock Rattler 12/97

Jasper and agate are the rocks we hobbyists deal with the most often in pursuit of our goals as lapidaries and collectors. Do we really understand the differences between the two?

Often confusion arises when attempting to describe a specimen as either jasper or agate. Both jasper and agate are composed of extremely fine interlocking quartz crystals called cryptocrystalline quartz. As such, they are both members of the fine-grained quartz family referred to as "chalcedony". Chalcedony occurs throughout the world in beds, bands, nodules, geodes, botryoidal masses, as a replacement of fossils, wood tissues or other minerals, and as a cementing material. It is deposited from silica-rich waters, often carrying other mineral impurities. It is the presence of these mineral impurities which stain the micro-quartz grains to produce the wide variety of colored patterns, banding effects and inclusions that differentiate the basic "gem" forms of cryptocrystalline quartz-jasper and agate-from ordinary drab chalcedony.

So what is the difference?

In general, agate is a transparent to translucent form of chalcedony in which the coloration takes the form of regular bands, rings, clouds, wispy inclusions or distinct groups.

Agate containing straight or concentric bands is referred to as a fortification agate. Moss agate contains wispy or lacy inclusions of coloring materials, often the green mineral chlorite which penetrated cracks in the silica gel matrix prior to hardening. Now they remain as fine picture-like images. Agates are usually named by employing the geological area where it is found with a descriptive adjective, as : Priday Ranch Plume Agate".

Jasper, on the other hand, can be somewhat translucent but is most often opaque. The coloration of jasper is usually much darker than that of agate and is totally random with respect to distribution and pattern. Finely divided hematite gives the color to reddish jaspers, and another iron mineral - goethite- is responsible for yellows and browns. Chlorite and nickel minerals contribute to green conjuration. As with agate, jasper comes in many colors and displays almost an infinite variety of patterns. Because of these properties, it is an extremely versatile material for cabs, scenic "pictures" to be framed, and other functional and decorative purposes. It is truly the bread and butter "gem" of our hobby.

Via - Telephone City Crystal 02/09

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WSMC DELEGATE OPEN

REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN OPEN

FIELD TRIP OPEN



SOME PICTURES FROM THE "BEADING AROUND CABS" CLASS WE HAD EARLIER THIS SUMMER.

Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-search-bring to meeting, and give to Everett H.

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CLUB WEB SITE

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2012 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.

Consult www.amfed.org/nfms for show details.

SEPT. 8-9 UMPQUA GEM AND MIN. CLUB—ROSEBURG. OR.

SEPT. 8-9 CLALLAM CO. GEM AND MIN. PORT ANGELES, WA.

SEPT. 8-9 MARCUS WHITMAN GEM 7& MIN.-WALLA WALLA,WA

SEPT 15-16 SO.WA. MIN.SOCIETY CASTLE ROCK, WA

SEPT 22-23 HELLGATE MIN. SOCIETY MISSOULA. MT

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND CLUBS