



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

December 2008

Club Mailing Address—P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

Meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM

At Post Falls Senior Center, in the Dougall Room— 1215 E. 3rd. St. Post Falls, ID

Those with internet access- go to www.amfed.org/nfms **DOWN**
LOAD YOUR NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER.....

Minutes for Meeting on November 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Bob at 6:40 PM

Guests: Introduced were Gary and Anna Provost from Rathdrum, Ralph Noyes from Post Falls, and Linda Wright from Coeur d' Alene.

There were no changes to the minutes as they were printed in the newsletter. Treasurers report by Susan Rekow, indicates that Mike paid us up for the next year at the storage facility and the Senior Center for our meetings, before turning the books over to the new office holder.

Show Committee: - Steve and Bev submitted 25 contracts to dealers. It's still too early for any to be back. Fair-grounds is assured for next show.

No more regular meetings will be scheduled till January 15, 2009.

Field trips will resume in April, 2009, and probably the first will be to Saddle MT.

Everett is willing to have another Precious Metal Clay workshop at his house if there is interest. This would take place in Jan. or Feb.

May 20-25 in 2009 will be a Rockhound Rendezvous Inter-regional Field Trip to Northern California, and sites in Southern Oregon. Bev mentioned it would be a Northwest Federation/California Federation sponsored one like the one to Jackpot, Nevada. (Article follows in this newsletter on page 2) Bev mentioned that there could still be snow on the higher elevations that early in the year..

Everett said that Jim Rauch went in for an operation to ease the symptoms of his Parkinson's and it was successful, but that same day his wife Lu had a massive stroke and passed away on November 25. (There will be a service at 11 AM on December 13 at Yates Funeral home. bb) Cards appreciated.

Rock and Gem is now the official magazine of the Rock Clubs of America.

Bev is going to be calling around to find out how many and who are going to come to the holiday lunch on December 20th. The luncheon will be at 1 pm at Michael Ds, a restaurant on Sherman just before the Sherman Exit on I 90. This is not a pot luck and

Bev will be e-mailing and calling members to get an idea how many will be attending the Christmas lunch on December 20. The management of the restaurant would like us to have at least 20 individuals, for the space we have reserved....more would be better. We will meet at Michael D's just off Sherman to the east. Access is easy from the Sherman freeway exit. Go to Sherman and cross Sherman about half a block and you are there. This is not a pot luck! Order from the menu individually.

There will be no meeting in Post Falls in December. At the luncheon, Bob will pass the gavel to Warren Price—the newly elected Vice President who will conduct the meetings till the Rose's return from their travels.

We are planning a gift exchange. Bring a small rock related item so that each person who brings something will get a gift in exchange.

We are collecting dues for 2009. When we held our rock raffle tonight, due to the generosity of members we had more rocks than tickets sold.! Meeting adjourned at 7 PM for the refreshments provided by Warren and Susan. (And is she ever a good cook.) The Program was a on a new way of wire wrapping, on DVD. . Bill, Johnson, Secretary

INTER-REGIONAL ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS by Richard Pankey, Inter-Regional Field Trip Chair

Our next Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous is scheduled for May 20-25, 2009 (Memorial Day Weekend) to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for **OBSIDIAN!!!** The Rendezvous is hosted by the NFMS and the CFMS.

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is the premier California obsidian collecting area with an abundance of a great variety of beautiful obsidian. This area is noted for sheen obsidian: multi-colored rainbow, electric blue, green, mahogany-gold, silver, gold and pink sheen. Also to be found is mahogany, lace, double flow and needle obsidian. This area is located on Buck Mt. in the heart of the Modoc National Forest. The altitude ranges from 5000 to 7000 feet. A free permit is required for collecting which will be available at camp. In addition to the collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, speakers, evening campfires, knapping demonstrations, tailgate displays, map exchange, and a great rockhound get-together.

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is in the extreme northeastern corner of California on Highway 395, between Alturas, CA, and Lakeview, OR. The collecting area is in the mountains behind the little town of Davis Creek, which is 22 miles north of Alturas. Some supplies and gasoline are available at the general store; also ice cream on a hot afternoon. The people at the store are very helpful and prices are reasonable. They can give advice on the road conditions and other local information.

There are two established campgrounds convenient to the collecting areas, although you can camp in many locations throughout the mountains. The Plum Valley Campground has many trees and a stream, but the interior roads are somewhat rough and narrow .. Large trailers and motor homes may have difficulty. A much larger campground that can handle any size rig is the Lassen Creek Campground. This is the campground we will use for our rendezvous. This is a beautiful, spacious campground with enough room for our group and all of our planned activities. There is a stream and big tall pine trees. No facilities are available at any of the campgrounds, except for well maintained pit toilets. All trash must be carried back out. Motels and full hook-up campgrounds are available in Alturas and Lakeview.

There are a lot of other rockhounding opportunities within 100 miles of our Rendezvous site: sunstones, opal, petrified wood, other obsidian sites, geodes and more. The Rendezvous is a good way to start your summer collecting tour. So mark your calendar - **May 20 to 25, 2009.** watch for the trip flier for all the details and start making your plans to join us for another great Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous. The trip flier and other information for the Rendezvous will be posted on the CFMS web site, www.cfmsinc.org in December and other federation web sites.



Christmas “party” (Lunch)

At michael D’s eatery where Sherman meets the freeway.

Saturday, December 20 at 1 pm

Rock & Gem
THE EARTH'S TREASURES, MINERALS AND MORE

OFFICIAL" MAGAZINE! from Shirley Loeson, AFMS past president

I'm delighted to share some exciting news with all of you. The AFMS Officers and Directors have selected *Rock & Gem* Magazine as the official magazine of the American Federation! *Rock & Gem* is published by Miller Magazines and our own International Relations Chair, Bob Jones is its Senior Editor. He and his "boss" Lynne Varon, Managing Editor of the magazine have been actively promoting the AFMS and several of its activities for the past year and plan to continue doing so in years to come.

Rock & Gem is the last of the true “rockhound” magazines now that *Lapidary Journal* has been morphed into *Jewelry Arts/Lapidary Journal*. *Mineralogical Record* and *Rocks and Minerals* of course continue as outstanding publications, but their focus is on minerals, not on rockhounds. Each issue of R&G contains articles on field trips, minerals, projects and a series of kids activities.

The November issue includes an editorial by Lynne Varon entitled "Find Your Voice" touting the AFMS Conservation & Legislation program, plus information about our efforts to get the U.S. Postal Service to produce a series of commemorative stamps featuring birthstones and an early plug for the AFMS 2009 Convention in Billings, MT by Bob Jones.

If you're not already a subscriber, and thus a supporter of the magazine you can easily get information by visiting their website <www.rockngem.com> or by calling them at 760-291-1549

Not yet had the opportunity of meeting our international Relations Chair Bob Jones? He's always at the club show in Tucson each February, the Denver Show each September, the Springfield show each August in W Springfield, M.A., and many, many local club shows. He's also scheduled to be the speaker at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop in 2010.

Our association with *Rock & Gem* can truly be a symbiotic relationship - we subscribe and the magazine supports the efforts of the American Federation and our local clubs.

(Forgive me for this. I could not help it!)_—Two fellows came upon a mine shaft. “How deep do you think it is?” asked one. “Gosh, I don't know—let's drop a stone in and listen for it to hit bottom.” They did that and waited,, but there was no sound. They threw in a larger rock without result. A little way away there was an old railroad tie, and with great difficulty they dropped it in. Still no sound! As they waited, a goat ran right between them and jumped into the hole. They were standing there scratching their heads when a third fellow came along and asked, “Have you seen a goat?” “well, yes, as a matter of fact,” replied the first guy. “We just had a goat run past us and jump into that hole!” “Oh, it couldn't have been my goat,” said the third fellow. “Mine was tied to a railroad tie.”



DUES are overdue in December SO PLEASE TRY TO PAY UP AT THE DEC. MEETING. THIS EXCLUDES THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2008. We must get our current information in to the Federation by the 31 of December. Thanks!!! (\$10 individual—\$17.50 for family membership. Any problem—just speak with Bob and we'll work something out) (Or mail to club P.O.Box 1643, Hayden, ID 83835) THANK YOU!

NEWS FROM ARIZONA— Mike and Diane Rose

Mike and I have had a couple of adventures on our trip to Arizona so far. We spent 5 days with Jim and Ramona Peterson and went out with them twice.

Once to California near Needles finding: Jasper, Fairy Geodes, chalcedony roses and saw some neat country. We also went to Burro Creek just below the mine at Bagdad, AZ. There we found a really nice area along the Burro Creek . We also found some pastelite, some agate, along the way on this trip.

After leaving Lake Havasu City and the Peterson's we went onto to Quartzsite for a couple of days. We rode our ATV around Bouse, AZ [that is north east of Quartzsite]. We saw a mining area and had a great ride as well.

We then went on to Yuma for a visit with Mike's Mom and Step-dad Jene that some of you met at the club picnic a couple of years ago.

Mike and I continued our adventures by going to the Proving Grounds north of Yuma to go for a ride and possibly find the area where Jim and Lu told us about to find petrified wood. It was not to happen on this trip though. It began to sprinkle, then rain. It got harder so we turned around as the rain continued getting even harder and the road began to wash and the washes turned into rivers. We were trapped two washes out of Senators Wash behind the raging water for three hours. Once the water subsided we got across the wash and proceeded on. A pickup met us and the driver advised that the "big wash" was really a "Big Wash". They went down and talked to family and the Ranger and returned to tell us that there was at least a three foot drop off and it would not be possible to go across. We went on to their camp and stayed with them for about an hour. The Ranger opened the gate normally opened only for the service vehicles and allowed us to return to Yuma.

We are now in Sierra Vista until Jan. 8. Our address here is: Mike and Diane Rose, Vista View Resort, 526 S. Club House Lane, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Continued adventures to follow. See all of you in the spring.



Roadside where we turned around.....>>>>



Below—Road in front of us (flooded) and the wash filled with at least 6 feet of water—taken through the wind-shield



Road beside truck while we waited for the water to go down. (above)

December birthstones

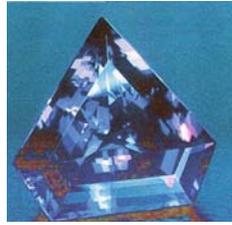
I had fun with last months topic-so thought I'd try it again, and you would not believe how many birthstones have been appointed to honor Decembers babies.—probably many occur because of commerce, so I'm going to concentrate on the old ones. Out of the 13 birthstones for December that are deemed traditional are (blue) Zircon and Lapis. The modern ones are Turquoise, Blue Topaz and Tanzanite.



Turquoise



Topaz



Tanzanite



Zircon



Lapis

Before the days of CZ, zircon was often used as a substitute for diamond—if it was colorless. Electric blue zircon is relatively uncommon, is not produced synthetically, and all stones are sold out of Thailand. It is generally heat treated to intensify the color. The cut is usually a zircon brilliant cut which is not completely round. It is very hard and durable.

Lapis lazuli is a “rock” because it is composed of several minerals: lazurite, calcite, pyrite and other smaller amounts of other minerals. The best quality still comes from Afghanistan where it has been mined since antiquity, and much smaller amounts are found in Siberia, Burma, Pakistan, Angola, the U.S. and Canada. The distinctive deep blue color sprinkled with minute crystals of pyrite give it an unmistakable appearance. It is one of the most valuable semi opaque materials worth about the same as good quality turquoise and the better jades.

Turquoise is a valuable mineral and possibly the most valuable opaque mineral in the jewelry trade. It has been mined since at least 6000 B.C. by early Egyptians. The finest comes from Iran, but is challenged by specimens from the Southwestern U.S. It is still very popular today. The color varies from greenish blue to sky blue shades, hardness is 5 to 6, and the structure allows it to be affected by oils and light. It should never be cut or worked with oil, and skin oils can affect the color overtime. It is often imitated by “fakes” such as the mineral chrysocolla, and poorer turquoise material which is dyed or color stabilized with resin. These are acceptable in the market if properly identified and are of course much less expensive. A gift of turquoise represents friendship and good luck and may be protective against all manner of evil and ill health.

Blue Topaz is created when Topaz is heated whether by Nature or engineered by man. Pure topaz is colorless but minor changes in elements in the stone result in a variety of other colors. The blue hues of Topaz are Sky, Swiss and London, the latter being the deepest and sometimes used as a less expensive substitute for Sapphire. Topaz is found mainly in Brazil, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Pakistan, China and the U.S. A gift of Topaz is symbolic of love and fidelity.

Tanzanite has only been “on the market” since 1967 when it was first discovered, its unique lavender color has made it very popular. When first mined, most stones are a muted green color and it takes heat treatment to produce the marvelous violet-blue the stone is known for. The only known source is a five square mile hilltop at Merelani, ten miles of Killimanjaro International Airport in Tanzania. It has been my personal experience that Jewelry made from this beautiful stone is a bit fragile, the setting must be designed to shelter the stone from damage, and it is not suitable for pieces that are going to be heavily worn (such as a ring). Also, the color may fade if exposed often to strong light. It is the gem variety of the mineral zoisite

OFFICERS FOR 2008

Bob Bockman—President

Kelly Hanson—V.P.

Secretary Bill Johnson

Treasurer — Mike Rose and Donni Moen

Federation director—Bob Bockman

Federation Delegate—open

WSMC Delegate-Open

Committees for 2008

Hospitality – Bertha McPherson

Field Trips—Mike and Diane Rose

Membership-Diane Rose

Show Chairman-Bob Bockman and Everett Headrick

Newsletter Editor—Bev Bockman

Program Chairman-Bev Bockman

Lake City Rockhound News

Bev Bockman, Editor, bockbb@aol.com
1750 N. Havichur Loop ,Post Falls. ID 83854

CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

Save ALL your cancelled stamps
for cancer research-bring to
meeting, and give to Bob & Bev B

Affiliated with;

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

S.C.R.I.B.E.



2009 Rock and Gem Shows in WA., OR. , ID. & MT

No Club shows till February 2009

2009--JULY 29-30 AUG.1-2 BILLINGS MT. AFMS/NFMS SHOW

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND IN 2009

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND ROCK CLUBS.

CONSULT www.amfed.org/nfms FOR SHOW DETAILS

