

used to be a fee involved. Beverly Bockman and Dean Hutchinson think we should stay where we are. We will pay rent for January at the present meeting place and decide when more information is made available. Motion to pay rent for January made by Patric' Hutchinson, seconded by Everett Headrick, and carried.

We have a wire wrap class planned for January?? At the Hayden Library. Marilyn Kohler, Bill Johnson and Steve Handrahan will be the instructors. There was a sign up list sent around.

We will have a cabochon class in January as well in the Rose's garage. Mike Rose, Mike Burton and Steve Handrahan will be instructors. There is space in this group for four students. They are: Mike McConnell, Al Martone, Dean Hutchinson, and Austin Parent .

The Club owns 8 heavy 8 foot tables. There is a request to replace them with 8 new fold-in-half 6 foot tables like the others we already own. Hey are much lighter. One person can handle them. Easier to load for the Show. They will take up less space. Motion made by Steve Handrahan, seconded by Bill Johnson, carried. Carl Chapin would like all of the tables.

Marilyn Kohler mentioned that there are still vests available. Name tags [magnetic] are \$12.50 each, Beverly Bockman will order them and must have the money at the time the order is placed.

The current officers have agreed to continue as officers in 2018. Motion to elect made by Dean Hutchinson, seconded by Tammy Madland, and carried.

Field trips: Steve Handrahan has offered to lead field trips in 2018, after the winter is over. Some suggestions for POSSIBLE field trips before all the snow is gone are: Moscow, Idaho, University of Idaho and Pullman, Washington to see their Geology Departments. James Finckbone suggested the Sheppard Collection and NASCO in Wallace, ID but they are only available weekdays. James will check in to it farther. Sierra Mine tour, Wallace, ID in the spring.

FYI: CDA Rocks group has more than 10,000 members or at least followers on Facebook now. They paint rocks and hide them all over the area.

Meeting adjourned, Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose, Secretary.



Brad's Bench Tips for December

Brad Smith <brad@greenheart.com>

Marking Your Tools

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.

But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron ?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.

I formed my initials from a couple 4mm wide strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.



See all Brad's jewelry books at <http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



Inside An Agate

Agates with solid inclusions are some of the most beautiful agates in the world. Solid inclusions may be shaped as sagenite, plume, dendrite, or moss. Inclusions occur where iron oxide, manganese oxide, or other oxides are present when the agate is formed. The oxide minerals grow in the agate when it is in a liquid or gelatinous state. The inclusions grow and are supported by this liquid medium.



SAGENITIC AGATE is any agate having acicular or needle like mineral growths. These hair like filaments are often arranged in fans or sunbursts. The inclusions come in a wide array of colors. Sagenite has been found in over 250 different agate deposits worldwide, a little in most agate fields, probably less than five percent of the available agate in most fields.

PLUME AGATE has fluffy inclusions which often appear to be soft and have depth. Sometimes plume agate inclusions resemble feathers, plants, or flowers. Colors may vary as in sagenite. Plume is surprisingly more common than most of us might believe. Many collectors know of Priday Plume, Graveyard Point, Del Norte (Colorado), West Texas, and Mexican Plume.

DENDRITIC AGATE has thin, two-dimensional, treelike growths, usually black or dark brown, as is the case with Montana Agate. Often dendrites form between flat “waterline” bands of agate. Dendrites may also occur in limestone, talc, and sandstone, and in beryl, corundum, and other minerals.

MOSS AGATE has inclusions in the agate random in pattern, often creating the appearance of seaweed or moss. Moss agate comes in many colors and is often green. Moss is the most common type of inclusion in agate.

via Golden Spike News 9/10



Hints & Tips

via Canaveral Moonstone, 6/08

To tumble soft material that is hard to polish, start with the second coarsest grit. Fill the tumbler ¾ or 7/8 full so the stones will roll and not fall. About ¼ 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 arc some of the possibilities.

From Quarry Quips

Other Tips

When working Obsidian, always work from the center out. Small fragments tend to chip off and are picked up in the wheel causing scratches in the middle of the stone if worked from the outside.

Heat darkens stones which are Iron stained. Be careful sanding and polishing. Take it slow and do rests!

DO NOT use laundry detergents to clean rocks. Use dish washing liquid instead.

One reason for polishing a stone all over – front, back and edges, is that the polish acts as a sealer. It seals and keeps the water in opal; it prevents natural corrosion in Rhodonite, which corrodes to a black ore called wad; it helps stop the absorption of harmful substances such as perspiration and perfume into the stone.

When sawing geodes, look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in an upright position while the specimen was formed. Saw through the largest dome and it is likely you will get the best picture.

Bezel remover: Have you ever needed to remove a cab from a bezel cup once it was set? Here is an easy tool to make for this purpose. Grind the end tip of a diamond fingernail file to a thin edge. Curve slightly with round nose pliers. You now have a nice thin tool for gently re-moving a stone from the bezel cup.

Third hand for forming bezels: Cut a 5x5” (or whatever size you want) piece of particle board. Glue 2 Popsicle sticks at right angles along 2 edges. You now have a nice corner to mold your bezel to your stone, leaving your hands free to shape.

Source of the above: Gems of the Rogue – Feb. 2008
Via Rock Chips 2/08



North Idaho Mineral Club
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First Class Mail

NIMC Officers			
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)			
Other Positions			
Show Chair 2018: Mike Rose (208-659-6173)			
Newsletter: Michael Burton (208-772-9347)			
Federation Director: Dale Ruperd			
Federation Delegate: Bill Johnson (208-765-3099)			
Webmaster: Michael Burton			
Programs/Membership: Bill Johnson (208-765-3099)			
Affiliations			
AFMS – American Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
NFMS – Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
S.C.R.I.B.E.			
ALAA – American Lands Access Association			
Show eMail: Showchair2018@gmail.com			
Gem Show Schedules			
Feb 10-11	9:00-5:00 9:00-4:00	Whidbey Island Gem Club	Oak Harbor Sr Ctr, 51 SE Jerome, Oak Harbor, WA
Feb 23-25	9:30-5:30 9:30-5:30 9:30-5:30	Oregon Agate & Mineral Society	OMSI Auditorium, 1945 SE Water Ave, Portland, OR
Feb 24-25	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Idaho Gem Club	Expo Idaho, 5610 Glenwood, Boise, ID
Mar 3-4	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	East King Co. Rock Club	Pickering Barn, 1730 10 th Ave NW, Issaquah, WA
Mar 3-4	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society	O’Connor Field House, 2200 Blaine, Caldwell, ID
Mar 10-11	9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Magic Valley Gem Club	Twin Falls Cty Frgrnds, 215 Fair Ave, Filer, ID
Mar 10-11	9:00-5:00 9:30-4:00	Rock and Arrowhead Club	Klamath Cty Frgrnds, 3531 So. 16 th , Klamath Falls, OR
Mar 10-11	10:00-6:00 10:00-4:00	Northwest Montana Rock Chucks	Flathead Cty Frgrnds Expo Bldg, 265 No. Meridian Rd, Kalispell, MT