



# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

**FEBRUARY 2013**

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY 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](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) See OUR web site for the club at [www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com)

FEBRUARY 21 2013 6. P. M.—8 P. M.

DVD PROGRAM ON TUMBLING ROCKS

Provided by MIKE BURTON

SILENT AUCTION — REFRESHMENTS THIS MONTH BY MIKE  
BURTON AND THE FITZPATRICKS'

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

The tour of the Rock Ranch last Sunday (the 10th) was enjoyed by 12 club members. Steve showed us the classroom he has built for the use of the big school groups and other organizations. He gives geology talks to the kids and then there is the museum which is marvelous, and the outstanding fluorescent display. The gift shop features many items for sale that are all rock related, including a nice selection of books. He is now associated with Covington and Lortone for lapidary equipment from rock hammers to saws and tumblers, etc. (We have really needed a dealer closer than Spokane.) He has a large stock of rough material, and has several saws in a shop along with supplies of rocks for the kids groups that come to dig rocks in the spring and summer. Check out his web site—(under Rock Ranch Spokane)

Several people who wanted to go on Sunday were not able to, and we may be permitted to go up later this month or early March. Sign up at the meeting if you are interested and tell me how best to contact you.

BB

**NIMC Minutes January 17, 2013**

Meeting called to order by President Beverly Bockman at 6:05 pm.  
Members introduced themselves. New members: Wayne and Sandra Fitzpatrick and family. Welcome!  
Also, Welcome to our visitors: Liz and Nathan Arakelian

TREASURERS 'report: Adequate funds in bank

SHOW COMMITTEE Report by Mike Burton, Show chairman.  
Organizational meeting was held at Bockman's. (All club members are invited to the next meeting-date?)  
Question to Club: Should the Club have a showcase in the show June 1 & 2, 2013? Seems to be consensus the Club should have a showcase.

We have a Food Vendor for the Show. Mica Flats Grange will provide the food for the Show.  
Demonstrators will be: Tommie Erst with a different Facet Machine from the Jim Cotant estate. [Not sure of the particulars, sorry) Others will be added at a later date.

The Committee would like to have an Amethyst Cathedral for the grand prize. Mike and Diane Rose are going to check for one in Tucson and get back to Mike Burton and the Committee.

FIELD TRIP: #1) Suggested the Club go to The Rock Ranch owned by Steve Livingstone who is a member of the Club. Great for Kids, of all ages, should enjoy the time at his museum. MUST make appointment by second week of February.  
PLEASE CALL ASAP for the opportunity to go: Beverly 208-773-5384

#2) Everett and Erna Headrick have a friend in North Dakota that has invited the club to come to his property [private) to collect petrified wood and agates. Several members have traveled there previously and it was a wonderful trip. We camped in a meadow along the Little Missouri river. It is very peaceful there. He is a wonderful host. The trip is approximately 2000 miles round trip. It is north of Medora, ND.  
It is recommended late August after the show in Butte, MT August 15-16. The river is usually low then unless it rains (which it did while we were there.) We had no rain on the land we were on but off in the distance there was a spectacular thunder and lightning storm that raised the river I'm guessing about one foot over night. Mike Burton gave an email list to Everett

PROGRAMS: A man from Coeur d' Alene has copper specimens. [sorry, did not hear name) pursue this later.  
Karel Mrazek offered to bring his microscope and show some of his beautiful mineral specimens. They are spectacular!  
(HE HAS AGREED TO DO THE PROGRAM IN MARCH!)

ALAA Report: Everett Headrick advised everyone to get involved in the ALAA [American Lands Access Association) on the web. Andy Johnson the NFMS Public Lands rep. has a pertinent article in the Jan- Feb. NFMS Newsletter. Everett reported: Must get involved, constant need of input to keep lands open for recreation of all kinds, including Rock hounds  
Joan Gundluch donated several beaded necklaces to the Club to earn money. They are beautiful! Thank you Joan!  
SHOWS in our area: Mt Hood Portland, OR Mar. 22-24  
Panorama Club Colville, WA NEW Location Ag Center at Colville Fairgrounds Mar 29-30

REFRESHMENTS for February: Mike Burton and Fitzpatrick's'  
March: Erin Keuter-Laughlin and Carl Chapin

NO OLD BUSINESS

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose, Secretary

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There has been a remarkable and welcome response to the idea of introducing members to one another by means of a "write up" in the newsletter, and I have received four which will be included in this paper. More next month!!

Also, be sure to look at the **field trips** planned by the Rock Rollers of Spokane. We are invited to attend any of them with notice to Mike Shaw for particulars. Any questions let me know, as Bob and I are members of that club also, as are Dale and Corey. List appears below..

See you later this month. Wear your badges please, and if you do not have one let Mike Burton know!!  
THANKS!! Bev B

Rock Rollers field trips—2013 Leader is Mike Shaw— we are welcome to join them.

**Mario and Son**

We have a field trip to Mario's planned for Tuesday, March 5th. His business is Mario and Son Marble Granite and Quartz. Mario and his son Joey have a state of the art facility in Liberty Lake for cutting and finishing countertops that is fantastic. Check out their website: <http://www.marioandson.com/>. Mario is a very active member of the club and was primarily responsible for getting the flintknapping classes started.

Everyone is invited to go on the tour of his facility, (and maybe the best part, looking through his scrap pile). BUT we need to know how many will be attending, so contact Mike Shaw at **mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com** or 509-251-1574 to go along.

**Saddle Mountain Petrified Wood!!!**

It's not too early to start planning our first trip of the season out into the field. Last year we went to Saddle Mountain for the first time April 21 and the weather was perfect! It was between 60 to 65 degrees, sunny, and lots of fresh wood exposed on the surface. Hopefully with all the exposure this year at the school science fairs and the show, we'll have lots of people going along with us to enjoy it! this year we'll either go April 20th or 27th, depending on how many people contact me and vote for one or the other. There's always some who can't go, but this way we'll be able to have a little leeway. let me know if you can't go on either of those days, both Saturdays, and the majority wins. We generally go up 3 or 4 times a year as a group, so don't be disappointed if you can't go the first trip.

Summer Field Trip season

We're also planning our regular proven trips to:

**Burns, OR for Buchanan Thundereggs**

**Emerald Creek for Star Garnets**

**Lolo Pass for Smokey Quartz Crystals**

**Red Top Mt. Near Ellensburg for Blue Agate Thundereggs**

The **Chewelah area** to explore their abandoned mines for serpentine, peacock ore, magnesite, etc

The **Republic area** for Quartz crystals on Horseshoe Mountain

Possibly a long trip to the **Owhyee** area in Eastern OR near Ontario for jaspers, petrified wood and plume agate

Maybe **Saltese** again if there's interest in the beautiful blue and green material up there.

And as usual, suggestions are appreciated, and sometimes acted on immediately!

**Let's Go!** are my favorite words to hear!

Some suggestions I've had:

Glass Butte Obsidian— Oregon Sunstones— Maury Mountain Moss Agates —

Montana Moss Agates

**MEMBERS PAGE—INTRODUCING:**

**ROBERT CALLAHAN.** I am a Cd'A resident, married, and currently employed M-Th as a process engineer and business consultant. My health is good, and I like outdoor exploration, stream dredging, archeological investigation, abstract reasoning, spatial relations and technical writing. My interests include conglomerates, fossils, and mineral prospecting....but do not include lapidary such as cabs & jewelry construction. I have an ATV, a small motor home, 12" saw, White's Goldmaster II, 3 inch dredge and digital microscope. I enjoy equally the outdoor exploration and quest for new finds and the potentially subsequent scientific exploration, characterization, and draft publication of the finds.

I joined North Idaho Mineral Club to foster rock-related connections with paleontologists, paleozoologists and geologists; and with those senior members who may be uncertified, yet experientially adept in any of those fields. It is my intention to contribute an amount of time, energy, and creativity equal in amount or greater than what I may gain from club membership, excluding the duties of office.

**MIKE AND DIANE ROSE.** We became members of the NIMC in the early 1990's for a couple of years for something to do with our young granddaughters. The girls soon became interested in T ball so we backed out until they were older. The club was very small, only about a dozen active members.

We returned late 1990's and became active members of NIMC and later the new Panorama Club in the Colville area.

Mike has been President, Vice President, Show Chairman, Treasurer and we both have been on many committees. We both were Field Trip coordinators for several years. Diane has been: Show Chairman/dealer/advertising all rolled into one, as well as Dealer Chairman for a couple of years. Diane is currently Secretary and has been for a couple of years. Diane has been active in the W A State Mineral Council [WSMC] and held several offices including President. Diane has retired from that position and from taking part in WSMC.

We have sponsored many activities in our shop building for club members. We have hosted meetings for committees as well as workshops. Some of the workshops, to name a few: intarsia, precious metal clay, wire wrapping, cabochons, beading, rock cutting, creating things for the "Kids Corner," making and filling grab bags, making signs for advertising and well as other prep work for the Clubs yearly show. We hosted the Club picnic one year in our back yard and garage. We enjoy sharing what we know with others and spending time with fellow "rockhounds" and mineral collectors.

**CARL CHAPIN Hi Everyone—**

My name is Carl W. Chapin. I was born in Sandpoint, Idaho on 09/16/1943, raised in Priest River, Idaho, and moved to Cd' A with my wife, Linda, and our first daughter in 1965. Since then we have had 2 more daughters, ten grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. I've seen much of the U.S., Canada, and some of Europe, but never anything any more beautiful than this area.

I've always been adventurous and pursued many occupations, both for the challenge and to survive in a financially depressed area. I was educated in accounting, worked as a banker, ran the shipping for Louisiana Pacific, had a masonry business, supervised at Bunker Hill, had a sporting goods business, did a building project at Prudoe Bay, Alaska for Atlantic Richfield Oil Co., built homes, and finally have been doing investments for New York Life for 28 years. Wow, that's adventure! I've had a good life and no regrets.

At age 62, I partially retired but I needed activity because I've always been very physically on the go, so I went to Emerald Creek to dig garnets and I was hooked. I wish now I had become interested much younger because there is so much pleasure in exploring for and finding gems. I joined the gem club in March of 2012, hoping I could increase my knowledge and meet people who had similar interests. I love to find gems, but beyond that I don't know what to do with them. I have no expectations of becoming wealthy with gems, but I would love to someday give my family gems they could use in jewelry and I plan to stay active as long as the good Lord allows.

Thank you, Carl

**MEMBERS PAGE—CON'T:**

**ERIN KEUTER-LAUGHLIN.** To share a little about myself, I must start with the fact that I am the mother of Jacob who has autism. This always presents new experiences.

Currently, I work at the U.S. Bank call center in customer service. Also, I am the President and Treasurer for Spectacular Spud Museum, Inc. This keeps me very busy. I create the newsletter, do all bookkeeping, maintain the website and organize field trips, projects, events and handle all marketing and fundraising. Education and children are very important to me. The museum is a memorial to my younger brother and should have a location very soon.

I am a published author of a children's book and have several other writing projects on the way. My A.A. Degree from NIC is in Sociology, Art History and English. One field of study was not enough. I participate in art and photography.

Over ten years ago I was diagnosed with an illness that was supposed to put me in the grave. Despite all the doctors determinations, I am still kicking (and last summer acquired my alligator handling license. )

I was attracted to the rock club as at one time I had a large collection and Jacob loves to pick up rocks and minerals. It is so important for him to have interaction with others and this does fit the bill to help him learn better communication and more about what he picks up. ( He walked to school with a backpack and came home with 30 lbs of rocks from along the way when he was 9.)

([www.spectacularspudmuseum.com](http://www.spectacularspudmuseum.com)) check out this web site!

My sincere thanks as newsletter ed. and president this year to these four people, who have conquered the reluctance we all have to talk about ourselves! Hope for four more next time!! Please, and thank you in advance. BB

**Please all club members with computers—access this months newsletter for the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies ([www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)) and read Andy Johnson's article beginning on page 9. I would print it here, but it is long, and of such importance that I urge you to read it!!!**

**If you do not have a computer you should be on the mailing list for the NFMS newsletter. If you do not get it by mail, PLEASE let Mike Burton know. It is part of your dues!**

On a Lighter Note—

No more mosquitoes—Place a dryer sheet in your pocket and it will keep the mosquitoes away.

Reducing static cling—Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same for slacks—put pin in seam of slacks and static is gone.

Foggy windshields—But a chalkboard eraser to keep in the glove box. When the windows fog wipe with the eraser. Works better than a cloth.

## Fossil Meat Found in 380-Million- Year-Old Fish

Australian scientists say they have found morsels of fossilized muscle—the oldest vertebrate tissue ever known—in the remains of two fish that lived 380 to 384 million years ago.

Unearthed in western Australia 20 years ago, the specimens belong to two species of an extinct group of primitive, armored fish known as placoderms.

The fish's remarkably well-preserved soft tissues include bundles of muscle cells, blood vessels, and nerve cells. They were found during recent electron microscope scans, the research team reported in the British journal *Biology Letters*.

Fossilized muscle is quite rare, and the new finds are even more exceptional, because they weren't flattened but rather preserved with their three-dimensional shape intact, the researchers say. The remains shed light on the evolution of placoderms, which ruled the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes for 70 million years until they died out about 360 million years ago.

The fossil fish's muscle tissue grew in W-shaped blocks—a trait also seen in lampreys, a modern-day remnant of other primitive fish—the scans revealed. "There has been some discussion as to whether or not placoderms were the most primitive fish or whether sharks were more primitive," Trinajstić said.

"These muscles show us that placoderms were the most primitive fishes *and* the most primitive jawed fishes."

Ranging in length from 6 inches to 6 feet (15 to 180 centimeters), placoderms lacked bony, internal skeletons and were put together a bit like lobsters.

The fish had thick plates that interlocked like suits of armor over their heads and bodies, while shark-like tails sprouted from their backs.

Heavy jaws added to the placoderms' thuggish appearance, leading paleontologist John Long of Museum Victoria to compare the animals to "some gothic monster ... pretty awful and pretty strange." Long is one of the co-authors of the new study.

The site of an ancient barrier reef, the Gogo formation has yielded a rich trove of well-preserved, three-dimensional marine fossils, including 25 placoderm species.

During an expedition to the area in 1986, Long found the original, 380-million-year-old fossils of a placoderm fish called *Gogonasmus-remarkable* for its many features resembling those found on modern land animals.

He says the *Gogonasmus* fish fossils "changed and revolutionized" our understanding of evolution.

Most people have the "Hollywood view of evolution," in which a fish morphs into an amphibian, followed by a reptile, then a mammal, then a primate, and finally a human, he said.

"But when we look at the Gogo fish, we see that so much of the human body plan is pushed back into the fishes. So that the origin of all our anatomical systems—90 percent of it—happened within fishes," he said

Via Hellgate Breezes, Missoula 4/07

### Stromatolites

Stromatolites are the fossil remains of a type of blue-green algae which thrived in shallow seas from about two billion to half a billion years ago. In fact, they were the dominant organisms on the earth during this period. Like plants, they manufactured food from sunlight, carbon dioxide and water, and released oxygen into the atmosphere. Thus they prepared the earth for animal life which arose about 500 million years ago.

Their fossils consist of layered mounds of limestone which the algae precipitated as they grew. The rosette pattered on the surface have been likened to petrified cabbage or cauliflowers which the fossils are sometimes called. Good exposures of Stromatolites can be seen in Glacier National Park and along the Kootenia River below Libby.

Living Stromatolites declined when animal life became common because snails fed on the algae. Today they occur in only a few locations such as Shark Bay in Western Australia where high salinity if the water makes it unsuitable for snails.

Via Hellgate Breezes 5/08

## Various Lapidary Tips (VIA Hellgate Breezes 2/2002)

Some find polishing obsidian difficult. If you like to flat lap, we had very good results with a four step process: 80 grit, 220 grit, 600 grit, then polish with tin oxide (be sure it's 99.9% pure). Take your time on each grit step, and make sure there is no contamination between grit steps. If you notice any swirls or scratches on the flat, you are not completed with that grit stage.

Save money & time and get thousands of lapidary tips by getting a copy of "**Gem Cutting, A Lapidary's Manual**" by **John Sinkankas**, copyright 1984. This wonderful 365 page book has so many useful tips and suggestions covering information on sawing, grinding, lapping, sanding, polishing, drilling, cabochons, faceting, equipment, spheres, beads, tumbling, carving, engraving, mosaic, inlay, and much more such as how to make your own tools, how to polish difficult materials such as jade or rhodonite which tend to undercut, etc. **(I have a copy to loan\*\*Bev B.)**

When working with jump rings, do you have trouble getting the jump ring to close properly? Remember to use two pliers and twist the jump ring ends in opposite directions.

Drilling stones: soft stones such as howlite can be drilled with a regular steel drill. Drill on a flat slab first for easier drilling before shaping the stone. Back the item to be drilled by cementing the stone (use water glass or dopping wax) to a piece of wood or glass to keep from chipping the back of the stone. Place a dam of clay around the spot to be drilled to hold the coolant (water or light oil) and silicon carbide grit (size 220). Remember to lift the drill every few seconds to allow coolant and grit into the drill spot. Some use eye droppers to add coolant or grit.

Read the instructions with your new saw blade. Break in a new blade by cutting a soft stone or a 220 grit grinding wheel, to expose the diamonds.

To remove saw oil from your slabs, immediately place the slab in kitty litter or any type of oil dry and completely cover the slab for at least one half hour, then wash with soapy cool/warm water (not hot or possible fracturing of your slab will occur) and then scrub with a brush. If the oil is still noticeable, use a cleansing powder and brush again and rinse.

For safety, when working with obsidian slabs use an obsidian slab and with the slab edge, scrape the edge of another obsidian slab to remove the sharp edges.

Do you have a glass cutter for making your slabs into shapes or more manageable size pieces? The glass cutters can score your slab with a straight line which can then be broken with pressure. Make sure the score line goes completely across the slab and across both edges. Place the slab on a bench with the score line just hanging over the edge slightly and press the over hanging edge down. Some types of material are harder to break with pressure. Try scoring first, then place in a vise, with the score line just above the vise jaws. Hold onto the slab piece exposed and with a hammer, lightly tap the protruding slab at the top of the slab, and the break should follow the score line.

When making cabochons, grind a bevel around the bottom sharp edge of the stone which could otherwise chip when setting.

For slabbing heels that are odd shaped and hard to clamp, glue them on a clean, oil free board with sodium silicate (water glass), available at your pharmacy. Clamp the board into the vise and then slab your material. To remove the last slab, place board and rock in warm water.

Lake City Rockhound News

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**Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-  
search-bring to meeting,  
and give to Dale Ruperd**

**CLUB WEB SITE**

**[www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com)**

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S.C.R.I.B.E. **ALAA**

**2013 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.**

**MAR. 2-3 EAST KING CO.- ISSAQUAH, WA.**

**MAR. 2-3 OWYHEE Gem & Min.--CALDWELL, ID.**

**Mar. 8-10 TUALATIN VALLEY GEM- HILLSBORO, OR.**

**MAR.9-10 MAGIC VALLEY GEM-TWIN FALLS, ID.**

**\*\*MARCH 22-24 MT. HOOD ROCK CLUB PORTLAND, OR**

**\*\*MARCH 29-30 PANORAMA GEM AND MIN. COLVILLE, WA.**

**Consult [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) for show details.**

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