

Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

JANUARY 2010—FEBRUARY 2010

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

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

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

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

Christmas meeting in December

The pot luck was well attended by former and present members of the club. Everyone was given a Christmas “rock gift” put together by a crew before the Roses’ went south. A brief business meeting was concerned mainly with getting ideas for field trips for the coming rock hunting season, and taking care of some small details of our meetings. Some suggestions made for field trips were: 1. taking advantage of the Tri-Federation trip to Wyoming led by Doug True, and 2. to the Plush area of Oregon for sunstones. Bill may have other trips in mind also, which will be revisited at the January meeting.. Dues were due by the 31st.



for **January 21, 2010**

A short program about **JEWEL CAVE** in South Dakota.

Meeting starts at 6:30. After the meeting will be **refreshments** provided by Warren and Bob during which the program will be presented. The **Silent Auction** will be available for bids all evening till called by the president.— great offerings from the bounty obtained from the Riley’s last summer. **Show and tell** welcome—**what have you been up to???**



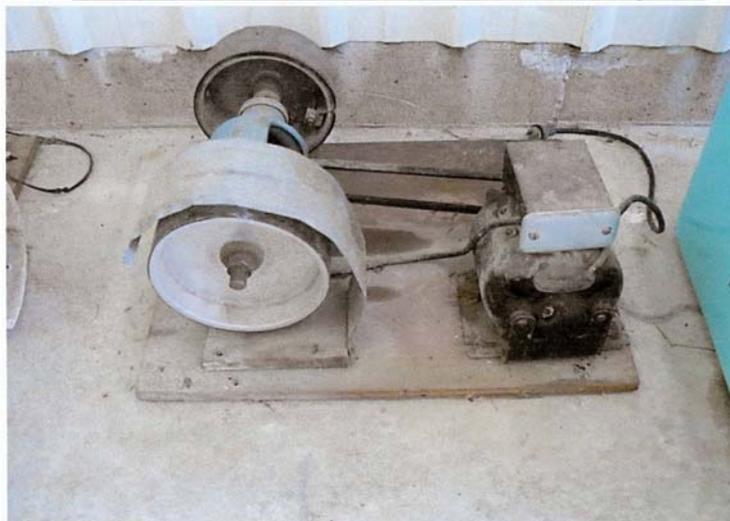
PLEASE EVERYONE MAKE SURE TO SIGN THE GET-WELL CARD FOR BERTHA WHO IS HAVING SURGERY TODAY (January 21) TO RESTORE CIRCULATION TO THE LEG THAT WAS INJURED LAST AUGUST. She still is facing a long recovery period and after the hospital will be returning to Life Care in Coeur d’Alene. Send cards but no flowers.

Welcome back for Yolanda Rosales after her ordeal in California. Things are looking up.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Sellers name is David Monroe, Phone number is 208-755-6267, e-mail is bajamandave@aol.com

If you are interested in any of this, please contact Mr. Monroe as he is somewhat anxious to clear his shop space. These items were from his mother's estate. She was an avid rockhound and lived on the Oregon coast..



From top left is a 20 inch rock saw (unable to scan the picture of the saw closed, but it is very clean and bright)—top right looks like a high speed sander?, left again a 20" leather buffer—then grinding wheels, and sanders on the lower left.

Strange fact—in the Portuguese Azores is Flores Island. On top of a mountain there are twin lakes, about the same size and shape, separated by a thin wall. The water in both appears to be almost as thick as paint. And what is so peculiar is the water in one is turquoise blue and in the other a ruby red.

Via Flints & Chips, and Hellgate Breezes 5/04

LOOK AT THE NEW WEBPAGE FOR THE PANORAMA CLUB! It is **GREAT** !!! <http://panoramagem.com/>

From the AFMS newsletter of 11/2001 comes this article from which I learned a great deal. BB

A BOLT OUT OF THE BLUE by Mel Albright (Safety chair for AFMS at that time.)

(As a note . Just as I was typing this we were suddenly without power and my computer is still not online. Hopefully not for long.) (Talk about a bolt from the blue!!~!) (Actually two trees toppled in a big wind gust onto the lines as they come up our hill . We were "powerless" for a few hours—but not from lightning.)

There are thunderstorms around and lots of thunder and lightning. But the storms aren't over you, so relax and carry on. You'll just duck into the car when it gets to you. Guess what—you may be about to die from lightning. The old phrase "A bolt from the blue" as conveying surprise didn't come from imagination. It came from real lightning strikes.

But a bolt from the blue is misleading. Lightning NEVER comes from a clear blue sky. It is always caused by thunderstorms. But the "from the blue" part may be true. Lightning can hit as far as 10 miles from a thunderstorm where the sky may indeed be blue.

So take care to protect yourself wherever you can hear thunder. Sound travels about a mile a second. So thunder from 10 miles away may seem unrelated to any lightning you see—in fact, you may not be able to see the lightning strike. When you can see a flash start counting "one thousand one, one thousand two, "etc. until you hear the thunder. Divide that number of seconds by 5 and you will know about how far away the storm is. I've been near two lightning strikes. It isn't fun.

On one, I was driving a tractor around an alfalfa patch, Suddenly my hair stood on end and electricity began sparking back and forth between the strands of a barbed wire fence 50 feet away. Guess who was the highest object around! I shut off the tractor and dived for the ground, which I didn't reach before the lightning hit the fence about 100 feet away. The cloud was NOT overhead. Another time we were playing miniature golf when our hair stood up on end and sparks started flying around the wire for the lighting system. A huge cottonwood tree was in the middle of the course. We squatted and ducked our heads. Lightning did strike then, but it hit a chimney 2 blocks away and two power poles— 3 bolts! The thunder was deafening!

So remember—you can indeed be hit by a bolt from the blue. If your hair starts standing up, you are in trouble and have little time.—seconds at most to protect yourself. Do not be the highest object around. Squatting with your head down is considered by many as the safest position, but stay well away from anything that stands tall. If you are in a boat, ball up with only your bottom touching the boat.



TSAVORITE GARNET—THE GREEN OF AFRICA

You who are having birthdays in January—look at this different garnet!

When you close your eyes and think of East Africa, you probably see the brown hills of the Serengeti, the untamed herds of wildlife, the blue of the African skies. What you probably don't imagine is the color green. But in the savannah, some of the most brilliant green is right there--hidden underground. In Tanzania in 1968, a handful of brilliant green pebbles were discovered to be a totally new gemstone. It was first thought to be a strange gemological fluke, Then the lush green and brilliant grossular garnet was also discovered on the Kenya side of the border in 1971, in the Taita Taveta district.

Since this garnet was far from the dark red of bohemian garnet as most imagine, it deserved a name of its own. In 1974, the green garnet was named "Tavorite," after the famous Tsavo National Park game preserve in Kenya by Tiffany & Co in New York, who simultaneously introduced the gemstone to the world market.

Tsavorite has a beautiful vivid green color, is bright and lively with a high refractive index, and has a garnet's durability and high clarity. Tsavorite comes from the East African bush: all the mines currently producing are in an arid grassy area with bare dry hills that runs across the border from Kenya to Tanzania. This area is home to snakes and an occasional lion.

Hundreds of millions of years ago, this land was covered by the ocean. Layers of organic sediment were deposited, eventually forming shale. Then the land was subjected to intense heat and pressure, folding and uplift, metamorphically changing the ocean floor into new minerals. This twisting and torturing of the rocks gave birth to the unusual gemstones of East Africa, many colored by the vanadium which is plentiful in these rocks because of their organic history in the ocean floor.

The geology which produces tsavorite is graphitic gneisses, rich in calcium from the seams of marble which lace through them. Tsavorite is often found in pods with a coating of quartz or scapolite, which the miners call "potatoes." The green color is most often due to vanadium from the host rock but some tsavorite is also colored by chromium, the element that greens emeralds.

The heat and folding of the rock hundreds of millions of years ago which formed tsavorite also shattered most of the crystals. It is very rare to find tsavorite in sizes larger than five carats, and most faceted stones are below two carats. Many deposits of tsavorite are small and unpredictable: seams suddenly narrow and disappear, giving no indication where to look next.

How Rare is Too Rare?

Tsavorite is cut mostly in Tanzania, Kenya and in Idar-Oberstein in Germany. Idar is known for innovative cutting and tsavorite is no exception. The cutting industry in Kenya has also started to offer fancy shapes and a larger range of sizes.

Tsavorite's rarity, as well as its beautiful green color, calls to mind the lost queen of the garnet family: demantoid garnet, discovered in Russia's Ural Mountains in 1868. Demantoid was also available mostly in small sizes. Mining of this exquisite, brilliant green garnet exhausted supply after only about 30 years and fine examples are exceptionally rare prizes for gem connoisseurs.

Perhaps the association with demantoid has hurt tsavorite: The rarity of the stone has led jewelers around the world to treat tsavorite as a specialty item, a rare stone for collectors, not a beautiful gem to highlight in design jewelry. But better jewelers and designers have begun to explore tsavorite's potential, and some of the results are truly special. (this article from a presentation done at Colville, WA. by a local jeweler who worked with these stones.)

In 1974 Tiffany began a campaign to bring this stone to international attention. It worked. This stone does not need heat or oil to increase its color or appeal. It is a very brilliant stone, and tough so it tolerates many settings and wear levels.

It also ranges in price approx. \$1000 plus per carat, and stones as large as 5 carats are rare.

It would be a Happy Birthday to get one of these!!~!



Your editor will be away for three weeks so no newsletter in February. This is a combined issue. You will be reminded by phone or e-mail of the February meeting.

SHOP HINTS (No guarantees! Most not personally tested)

- The process of flat lapping is so simple that anyone can do it even if you don't have a flat lapping machine. So go to it and polish the bookends you want, or that clock face. Just get a piece of aluminum about 12-14 inches square. Place it on a flat surface. Take a teaspoon of 120 grit. Mix your grit with Vaseline or water. Now take your slab to be polished and dop a piece of wood to it so that you have a handle and can hold it down on the grit. Be sure that your grit is always under the slab. Don't run it over dry aluminum. Move the slab in any pattern you wish, adding grit as you feel necessary. Keep at it until all the saw marks are all gone. Wash the stone and aluminum between grades of grit using progressively finer grits as you go. The slab should now be ready for polishing. To polish, use a piece of leather about 12X12 inches. Stick it to a board and keep it for polishing only. Don't tack it down because the tack heads can scratch. Put your favorite polishing mix all over the leather and start polishing your stone. This is the oldest way to polish slabs and it still works well, if slowly. *Via Pickin's & Diggin's 12/02; Clackamette Gem 4/03*
- Although my tumbled rocks looked okay after the polish stage, I was not pleased with the results I was getting with the clean and burnish stage. I had been using only Ivory Snow Flakes in the final run, so as an experiment, I added a dollop of car wax. The rocks came out cleaner, and had a really bright finish. I have tried this on several batches, and it has helped every time. For the record, I used about two teaspoons of Turtle Car Wax (cream, not liquid) in my 5 pound tumbler. *By Don Shurtz via SCFMS Newsletter 4/03*
- Try tumbling a geode or nodule for a sphere effect to bring out the beauty of the exterior of your rock before cutting it open .. You'll be able to determine your saw cut easier, or you may not want to cut your beauty at all. *ia Petrified Digest 8/01; West Seattle Petroglyphs*
- It is possible to polish almost any material to a high polish in the tumbler, including the stubborn apache tears, by using one pound cerium oxide with dry com meal for the final polish. Use dry tumble for three days. *Via Northside Gem & Hobby News 3/03*
- You can enhance the reds in Brazilian agate by placing it in an oven and bringing the temperature very slowly over a two hour period to 550 degrees. Keep at this temp for 1/2 hours, and then let the agate cool overnight without opening the oven door. (Opening the door will crack the agate). Deeper reds may be obtained by using a 640 degree oven. *Grindings 2/94, Owyhee Gem 8/98*

Referring to the first hint—yours truly has used this method successfully (with plate glass), for opal. Works well to preserve color layers preparing to make triplets or doublets. BB

Contacting congress:	D.C. phone	email
SENATOR MIKE CRAPO (R-ID)	202-224-6142	http://crapo.senate.gov/conact/email.cfm
SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH (R-ID)	202-224-2752	http://risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email
REPRESENTATIVE WALT C. MINNICK (D-01)	202-225-6611	http://minnick.house.gov/contact-zip-auth.shtml
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE SIMPSON (D-02)	202-225-5531	http://simpson.house.gov/Contact/

<u>OFFICERS FOR 2010</u>	<u>Committees for 2009</u>
Warren Price—President	Hospitality – Sherla Francis
James Finckbone—Vice Pres.	Field Trips—Bill Johnson
Secretary - Maria McDonald	Membership- Bill Johnson
Treasurer — Bill Johnson	Show Chairman-2010 Warren Price
Federation director—Everett Headrick	Newsletter Editor—Bev Bockman <u>ARTICLES WELCOME</u>
Federation Delegate—open	Program Chairman-Bev Bockman <u>AND CLUB MEMBERS PLEASE !!!!!~</u>

Lake City Rockhound News

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CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

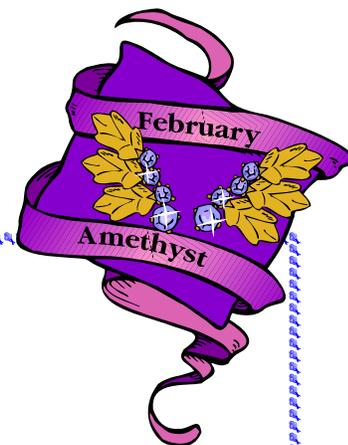
Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer research-bring to meeting, and give to Everett H.

Affiliated with;

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL



2010 Rock and Gem Shows in

WA., OR. , ID. & MT

Feb. 12-14 Oregon Agate and Mineral Society, Portland at OMSI

Feb. 13-14 Whidbey Island Gem Club— Oak Harbor. WA.

Feb. 27-28 Idaho Gem Club Boise, ID.

March 6-7 Owyhee Gem and Min. Soc. Caldwell. ID

March 6-7 Rock and Arrowhead Club Klamath Falls. OR

Mar 12-14 Tualatin Valley Gem Club Hillsboro, OR

March 12-14 Rock Rollers Club, Spokane,

WAwww.amfed.org/nfms FOR SHOW DETAILS

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