



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

JANUARY 2011

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 OUR web site for the club at www.northidahomineralclub.com

If your dues have not been received you are no longer on the membership list—so please renew now, if you have not joined since Sept. 1. 2010

*FIRST OF ALL THE **BAD NEWS**—OUR MEETING ROOM AT THE SENIOR CENTER HAS BEEN FLOODED, AND SINCE REPAIRS ARE GOING TO TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS OUR MEETING PLACE HAS BEEN CHANGED for at least the January meeting.*

WE WILL MEET AT THE COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH AT THE CORNER OF HANLY AND RAMSEY, AND WILL BE ABLE TO

USE THE YOUTH ROOM FOR TWO HOURS—FROM 6:30 pm TO 8:30 pm. They will rent us the room for a total charge of \$30 although they usually rent the space for \$40 per hour, "BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY ONE'S MISFORTUNE".

January 20, 6:30 to 8:30 PM

PROGRAM WILL BE A ROCK AND MINERAL IDENTIFICATION COMPETITION DIVIDED INTO ADVANCED, INTERMEDIATE AND BEGINNER. Excellent prizes for all three .

Hot coffee and juice and refreshments, plus our silent auction (if we have room)

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB MEETING NOTES FOR December 16, 2010

The December meeting of the North Idaho Mineral Club was called to order by President Warren Price at 6:45 PM. The minutes from the last meeting were amended and approved. Bill Johnson presented the treasurers report and stated that all bills had been paid and that the budget was balanced. Bill asked that dues be paid, if possible, at the end of the evening for this coming year.

Old Business: None presented at this time.

Elections: Were held for the club officer positions. President, Warren Price (457-82260; Vice-President, Bill Johnson (cell-771-2687); Secretary, Maria McDonald (828-2072); and Treasurer, Mike Burton (cell-818-6317). We thank you for agreeing to serve our club for 2011.

No further business pending at this time, the meeting was adjourned for the Christmas potluck dinner.

Maria McDonald. Secretary

Ages of Ambers

Amber has long been appreciated and traded by the Syrians, Phoenicians and even the Vikings. The Greeks believed it was solidified sunshine, considered it a precious stone, a jewel, but called it Elektron for its ability to attract bits of material if rubbed on cloth. Nero emperor of Rome, sent expeditions to buy Baltic Amber, to cut as gemstones or to powder for medicines to treat inflammations and muscle spasms.

Amber is a polymerized compound of hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon and contains varying ratios of succinic acid, several resins, and brown volatile oil (amber oil). Polymerization is the process wherein the molecules of sticky resin are linked into larger molecules. This is unlike the fossilization or lithification processes of other organic materials. Amber has a hardness of 2, a specific gravity of 1, **and can be melted** at 100 degrees C. It can be cooked down to black colophony, or amber pitch. **Amber varies in color**, being found in blue, red, green, and honey-colored.

Pinus succinifera, the trees which produced amber resin, existed through the Miocene Age, but not all amber is the same age. Amber occurs in sedimentary rock, or is weathered out of it.

Bavarian	225 million years ago
Lebanese	115-135 million years ago
Siberian	80-115 million years ago
British Columbia	100 million years ago
New Jersey	90 million years ago
Alaskan	80 million years ago
Canadian	70-80 million years ago
Arkansas	60 million years ago
Dominican Republic	25-40 million years ago
Baltic	40 million years ago

Via The Tumbler 5/04 ,Dust and Grit 9/02, West Seattle Petroglyph, 8/02, the Agatizer—original source unknown

Fire Obsidian

Did you know that the chunk of black obsidian you have, just might have a gold sheen, fire, or moon glow in it, if you orient it correctly. Take it out into the sunshine and try to locate a spot that shows something more than just black. If yours has a rind on it, take a small chip off here and there. Then wet the piece and turn it slowly in all directions so the sun will reflect any unusual coloring. If you are fortunate enough to find color, orient it by using a single light bulb over your head so the light just grazes your forehead. Mark your piece and saw it. Check before sawing each time to make sure you are keeping the color on top. Fire obsidian can be so colorful that you will think you are looking at a black opal.

Via The tumbler 5/04, the Puget Sounder, 12/01, via Pebble Trail, 12/00 from Ore bits

OBSIDIAN In Oregon **GLASS BUTTES**— INFORMATION HAS BEEN AROUND FOR AWHILE, BUT ON OUR LAST TRIP TO THESE AREAS WE FOUND THE INFO VERY HELPFUL

(Lester Willman —author, Spokane)(deceased)

TIPS TO BRING BACK THE BEST AND LEAVE THE REST.

RAINBOW, SILVER, GOLD, ROYAL PURPLE, FLAME, BLUE, PINK, SHEENS AND IRIS, LACE AND MAHOGANY.

LOOK FOR SMOOTH GLASSY SURFACE WHEN CHIPPED, NO DIMPLES, PITS, DULLNESS. AVOID A GRAY OVERCAST THAT DULLS THE COLOR PLAYS.

ORIENT THE SHEEN IN FULL SUN (BUT WORK IN THE SHADE), CHECK THE MATERIAL ON THE DUMP PILES, CHECK FOR THE BEST CHIPS, ETC. AND TRY VARIOUS SPOTS LIKE THIS— AND "THEN DIG" AFTER FINDING THE BEST CHIPS AND PIECES. GO FOR THE BIGGER STUFF UNDER THE GROUND.

OBSIDIAN IS SOFT, CUTS FAST: USE 220 AND FINER WHEELS TO GRIND WITH. COARSER MAKES IT CHIP. DO NOT GET IT HOT WHEN SANDING OR POLISHING. CERIUM OXIDE ON LEATHER BUFF JUST WHEN BUFF IS DRYING MAKES GOOD POLISH. WHEN HOT, SURFACE SPALLS-& ORANGE PEELS. WHEN TOO HOT, SO TOSS IT OUT.

SHEEN SHOWS BEST ON **A BRIGHT SUNNY DAY BUT DIG IN THE SHADE MADE BY A TARP AND ALSO USE SMALL 6 X 9 TARPS TO THROW THE DIRT ON.** ITS EASY TO GRAB THE CORNERS AND DUMP—REFILL THE HOLE WHEN DONE.

LOOK FOR FLOW LINES: MANY FINE LINES=GOOD COLORED MATERIAL. NO FLOW LINES OR VERY FEW=MOSTLY PLAIN BLACK, NO SHEEN OR COLOR:

SCRUB THE DIRT OFF AND DIP IN WATER. CLEAN THE ROCK.

THE FLOW LINES ARE FINE GROVES, STRAIGHT AND PARALLEL ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ROCK.. A SCRUB BRUSH HELPS.WE DO THIS TO "AVOID" BREAKING UP A REALLY NICE LARGE PIECE, SO WE CAN CUT LARGER SLABS.

TO VIEW THE SHEEN , IT MUST HAVE A CLEAN SURFACE.. A GOOD PIECE SHOWS SHEEN THROUGH UNCHIPPED SURFACE. TURN THE PIECE AND EXAMINE ALL SIDES. IMAGINE THE FLOW LINES ARE LIKE EDGES OF A STACK OF DINNER PLATES IF THE COLOR SHEEN STILL CAN'T BE SEEN, THEN, CAREFULLY CHIP A WINDOW, AT ABOUT A SLIGHT ANGLE OF 30° OR LESS TO THE FLOW LINE. STAND WITH THE SUN AT YOUR BACK, OVER THE SHOULDER AND REFLECT ON THE ROCK AND BACK TO YOUR EYES. MOVE IT SLOWLY TO FIND THE RIGHT ANGLE AND THE TOP OF THE PLATES WINDOW CHIP WILL SUDDENLY FLASH BRIGHT SHEENS OF COLOR.

THIS WAY YOU END UP TAKING HOME THE BEST AND THE SIZE PIECES BEST FOR YOUR SAW AND NOT DAMAGED PIECES.

ALSO TRY CHIPPING 3 WINDOWS AT 90 DEGREES TO EACH OTHER, ONE WILL SHOW THE SHEEN, IN THERE IS ANY.

(BLUE AND PURPLE SHEEN AT DAVIS CREEK SHOW AT RIGHT ANGLES.TO FLOW AND SOMETIMES AT OTHER ANGLES TO THE FLOW LINES.)

FLAME, ONLY FOUND AT GLASS BUTTE. CHECK FOR A VERY BRIGHT LINE OF COLOR, THAT CUTS AT AN ANGLE ACROSS THE FLOWLINES.

MOSTLY THERE IS ONLY ONE IN THE WHOLE PIECE. IT USUALLY SHOWS AS A THIN GRAY LAYER, BUT WHEN THE ANGLE IS CORRECT, THE FLAME LAYER WILL FLASH WITH COLOR MOSTLY AS A SINGLE LINE.

PLENTY OF GOOD MATERIAL CAN BE FOUND IN AND ON THE TAILING PILES BECAUSE OF WINDOWS IN THE WRONG PLACE AND EXAMINED FROM THE WRONG ANGLE. ONCE YOU USE THESE TIPS, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A **"GOOD TIME"**.

LACE OBSIDIAN OF THE BEST KIND HAS CONVOLUTED FLOW LINES THAT CAUSES THE LACY PATTERNS. IT HAS A *FEW* EYES AND LINES OF MAHOGANY IN TRANSLUCENT MATERIAL WITH THIN OPAQUE LAYERS.

CUT ACROSS THESE LAYERS TO REVEAL TRANSLUCENT PANES WITH BLACK LINES AND MAHOGANY PATTERNS. WHEN THE OPAQUE LAYERS ARE FOUND TO SWIRL IT LOOKS LIKE FINE LACE AND SURFACE OF GOOD PIECES SHOW THE SWIRLS.

THE LACE IS CUT ACROSS THE FLOW LINES, THE EDGES OF THIN OPAQUE LAYERS IN TRANSLUCENT TO CLEAR PIECE OF OBSIDIAN.

I'LL TRY TO MAKE THE MAPS THAT THE REST OF THIS ARTICLE REFERS TO—UNABLE TO SCAN THEM! You can pick them up at the next meeting, if anyone wants one.. STARTING AT “A”

SPIDER WEB MAHOGANY HAS SPIDERY WEBBED PATTERNS IN IT.

IRIS, CUT AS IRIS AGATE, PARALLEL TO THE FLOW LINES.

- A. SOME OF THE BEST GOLD SHEEN OBSIDIAN AROUND. DEEP PIT DOZED SHUT. PLENTY FIST SIZE PCS LEFT. FIND FINE LAYERS OF MAHOGANY, ORIENT THE SUN LIGHT ON THE TOP OF THE LAYERS. BEST MATERIAL IS IN CERTAIN DIRT LAYERS. TRY DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE PITS TO GET THE RIGHT LAYER AND THE BEST GOLDEN SHEEN. ENTIRE HILL HAS VARIOUS GRADES OF MAHOGANY AND GOLDEN SHEEN.
- B. LARGER, COARSER, (NOT CAB) GRADE. BOOK ENDS, TABLE TOPS, SOME CLOCK FACES, ETC. FURTHER UP HILL IN SOLID PCS AND SEAMS. HEAVY DIG TOOLS, FAIRLY SHALLOW, DIG DOWN TO TOP OF SEAM AND PRY OUT.
- C. MINOR SITES OF GOLD SHEEN
- D. SILVER SHEEN—BEST GRADE
- E. MIDNIGHT LACE, SPIDER WEB, MAHOGANY OBSIDIAN. FENCE LINE ROAD MAY BE ROUGH WITH NO WAY TO GO BUT UP. 4WD ONLY FOR NO TROUBLE
- F. MAHOGANY HILL—VERY STEEP. OTHER SITES BETTER
- G. SILVER SHEEN—D— IS BETTER
- H. RAINBOW SHEEN BEST HERE, BE SELECTIVE AND LOOK AROUND . A LOT OF GRAY CAST DULLS THE COLOR, BUT TRY TO GET THE MOST BRILLIANT WITH NO CAST. DIGS GETTING DEEP AND HEAVY WORK MAY BE NEEDED. EDGE OF SITE MAY BE BEST
- I. RAINBOW AREA—SOME LAVENDER SHEEN IN SMALLER PIECES.
- J. OVERLOOKS THE CATTLE POND. FLAME SHEEN, FIST SIZE— VERY ROUGH ROAD TO SITE—BEST TO WALK. HARD TO FIND—FIND THE RIGHT AREA TO DIG—CHIP WINDOWS TO CHECK THE BRIGHT LAYER. Well worth the effort.

OBSIDIAN DEPOSITS OF DAVIS AND LASSEN CREEKS, CALIF.

Continued on page 5

- A. BEST ON SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD IS OLD ROYAL PURPLE DIGS, BUT MOST IS NORTH OF THE ROAD IF ANY CAN BE FOUND. VIVID ELECTRIC BLUE SHEEN THAT BLAZES IN THE SUN. SILVER AND RAINBOW HERE ALSO. IF GETTING GRAY CAST DIG DEEPER FOR BETTER STUFF AT PIT AT LOWER END.
- B. RAINBOW FINE SHEEN, FIST SIZE TO TOO HEAVY TO CARRY. COLLECT UP THE HILL FROM THE ROAD BY THE 4EWD TRAIL THAT TAKES OFF WHERE THE ROAD CROSSES A SMALL CREEK. 1/4 MILE TO DIGS. IF GETTING A GRAY CAST (SEE ABOVE) DIG DEEPER AT LOWER END OF THE PIT AT THE WEST END OF THE DIGS. DEEP HOLE. BE CAREFUL.
- C. NEEDLES IN ROAD CUT—SMALL TO LARGE
- D. PINK LADY. BRIGHT SHEEN. ORIENT IT PROPERLY. IT IS SOUGHT AFTER BY ROCKHOUNDS MAY FIND SOME PILED AROUND THE COLLECTING AREA.
- E. GOLD SHEEN. FIRST DIG AS YOU TURN IN FROM THE ROAD. EASY DIGS. BEST IS BRILLIANT GOLD VEILS THROUGH IT. A PIECE SHOWING PARALLEL LAYERS OF MAHOUGHANY WILL OFTEN SHOW GOOD SHEEN WHEN ORIENTED WHERE THE SUN SHINES DOWN ON THE TOPS OF THE LAYERS. GO FURTHER UP THE ROAD FOR SPIDER WEB. ROAD IS LONG AND ROUGH.
- F. IRIS IN AREA ALONG ROAD ON TOP OF SMALL HILL—SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE AREA. CUT PARALLEL TO FLOWLINES.

The Obsidian Management Policy for the Modoc National Forest.

Low volume commercial operator may obtain permission to get obsidian from this area. The areas that they are working must be clearly marked. (When we were there a commercial person was working an area of obsidian needles.) Free use will be authorized by obtaining a certificate—which (when we were there) could be obtained from the general merchandise store at Davis Creek. No charge. Only hand tools may be used. Limited to 500 pounds per year....approximately 6 —5 gallon buckets. Authorizations may also be obtained from the Modoc National Forest Supervisor's office in Alturas in advance.

Surface disturbance will be by use of hand tools only

Digging under trees or their root systems is prohibited. The District will remove hazard trees as needed.

No standing trees may be cut down by rockhounds

Horizontal or underground tunnels will not be permitted. Remove overburden and allow no overhanging banks.

No unauthorized use of motorized equipment.

ONE MORE WORK OF ADVICE TO OBSIDIAN HUNTERS—THESE AREAS ARE RATHER HIGH IN ELEVATION—NOT SO MUCH GLASS BUTTE WHICH IS OPEN EARLIER THOUGH IT IS HIGH DESERT, BUT DAVIS CREEK COLLECTING AREAS REACH 7000 FEET—SO GET THE ACCESSIBILITY FIGURED OUT BEFORE YOU GO. If it a late spring you may not reach the higher collecting places. When we got to the Pink Lady the snow was still about 2 1/2 feet deep over the digs, though the other areas were fine. BB

See the web —**look for Davis Creek Obsidian (SAMPLES OF TYPES OF OBSIDIAN AT MEETING)**

We welcome several new members as of our October meeting: (a list of our current members will be forwarded to each member individually, as we do not post this information on the web site.)

Erin Keuter Laughlin, Todd Laughlin and son, Jacob R.W. Keuter from Coeur d' Alene and Tom Grady who is from Hayden. Should mention that Tom is going to be a vendor at the show in June. He is an accomplished silversmith. And (I believe that) Harris and Cherie Frisque from Spirit Lake rejoined the club.

The GEOLOGY LECTURE SERIES next presentation in the Lair at Spokane Community College on Mission Street will be by Dr. Micky Gunter—professor of Geology at the U. of Idaho “My mineralogical and geological lessons learned from a decade of asbestos issues in Libby, MT.” This will be at 7 PM on January 19 2011, and is free to the public. (Hope to see some of you there.)

BAD NEWS FROM MARIA! While visiting California over the holidays, to top off a year of precarious health, she had a fall. Now she is under treatment here at home for a broken arm which is severely curtailing her activities and her interest in club activities for the time being. Call or send a card if you can and let's pray for her speedy recovery. Some times it seems like one person just has been given too many things to face! BB (818-2072)

Show board meeting—held JAN. 8 at 10 AM at the home of Everett and Erna (and thank you again!)

Attending were Ev and Erna, Bev and Bob, Mike Rose, Bill Johnson, Mike Burton, and Warren Price. The meeting was conducted by Warren. Discussed contacting the catering company and security that we have had last year. Bev and Warren will take care of these.

We will be arranging to make liners for the cases and refurbish some of the old ones sometime during February—probably on a weekend or whenever we can arrange with the Senior Center to use the Dougall room as we'll need table space. Keep you all posted and hope to have a crew of 5 or 6 to make things go quickly. Materials (cloth, cardboard, foam, masking tape and some wood needed—the latter- thin pieces to be used for bracing.)

Dealer chairman report. Discussed possible demonstrations. Table with club information to include info on ALAA issues. Need a written budget for the show. Discussed possibility of school demonstrations, library display cases.. Advertising from last year gone over—some free ads may be available through local media. Need prizes for a the kid games. Mike R. will look in AZ. Meeting adjourned at noon. Bev B.

(Diane has been having some problems with knees, etc, but better now.)

Program for February 17!

DEAN YONGUE WILL BE PRESENTING A PROGRAM ON THE PHOENIX STAR MINE ABOVE WALLACE IN THE SILVER VALLEY. He filmed a survey in the mine prior to it's re-opening and it sounds like a really interesting talk with films. His enthusiasm is contagious. More later.

Message from your Editor and Program provider—

I KNOW THAT MANY OF OUR MEMBERS ARE OUT OF TOWN AND SOME ARE ILL AND CANNOT COME AND SOME DO NOT LIKE TO COME OUT IN BAD WEATHER, BUT I AM PLEADING FOR YOU TO ATTEND THE January meeting at the Methodist church. Our attendance is declining, and we can't continue to have a real club without members. Please come with some suggestions for improving the programs and correcting whatever you think needs to be addressed. After all—the club belongs to you. Get involved!!! **We need to elect a new secretary for 2011, and pick the vendor to provide the next grand prize. 4 are eligible.**

2011 ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.

PRESIDENT WARREN PRICE 457-8226

VICE-PRESIDENT BILL JOHNSON (771-2687 C)—765-3099

SECRETARY

TREASURER MIKE BURTON (818-6317 C)

FEDERATION DIRECTOR EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643

FEDERATION DELEGATE BEVERLY BOCKMAN 773-5384

WSMC DELEGATE

2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

HOSPITALITY

FIELD TRIP

MEMBERSHIP

SHOW 2011—WARREN PRICE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—BEV BOCKMAN

PROGRAMS—BEV BOCKMAN

WEBMASTER—MIKE BURTON

ALAA—EVERETT HEADRICK

SHOP HELP AND TIPS: When cutting rutilated quartz, watch the heat. Try to keep the needles from being on the surface—they could pull away. Polish both the top and back and have the stone as high domed as possible. Otherwise—handle as any agate. (Via Sho McGeode, Agate Licker 12/04, and Rock Chip Reporter 12/04)

———"How do you clean your quartz crystals?"—Use Iron Out. From the hardware store. IRON OUT contains sodium hydrosulfite and sodium bisulfate. Keep away from children and pets and be careful when using. Follow instructions on the bottle, use rubber gloves and plenty of ventilation. Via Ft. Lewis Rock Club News, Magic Valley Gem News 7/04, Golden Spike News 8/04

To remove dop wax from your sanding wheel get a small piece of new 100 or 200 grit sanding cloth and hand rub the contaminated area. A few strokes in a circular motion removes all traces of wax. Via Rock Rollers 11/03

Make your own odd shaped templates from plastic lids (such as coffee cans). Cut off the lip so a flat piece remains. Lay out desired shapes on the plastic and cut around the shape with a sharp knife. This template is oil and water resistant, and after using can be saved for further reference. Via the Burro Express 1/90, Rock Rollers 11/03

7-up can be used to clean silver and gold findings. Just dip, shake, but rinse well and rub with soft cloth. Use different solutions for gold and silver. Via Oregon Coast Agate 11/02, Snoopy Gems 1/04, Rockhound Special, 7/05

Use a piece of organdy on the polishing wheel if you are having trouble getting a good polish on turquoise. Via Rockytier 7/05, Snoopy Gems 10/04

Candle your Montana agate as you would eggs. Punch a small hole in the bottom of a two pound coffee can, turn it upside down and place a light inside. It is surprising how the light will show the dendrites. This saves cutting time, and can direct your cut. Via Rockytier, 7/05, Stoney Statements, 9/04, and Rockhound Special, 7/05

Lake City Rockhound News

Bev Bockman, Editor, bockbb@aol.com
P.O.Box 1326 ,Post Falls. ID 83877

CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

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

Affiliated with; SCRIBE

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

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



**2011 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND
MT.**

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUDS AND CLUBS

FEBRUARY 12-13 WHIDBEY IS.GEM CLUB- OAK HARBOR

**FEBRUARY 26-27 EVERETT ROCK AND GEM CLUB—EVERETT,
WA**

FEBRUARY 26-27 IDAHO GEM AND MINERAL BOISE, ID

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