



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

January 2014

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

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

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 16, 2014

**FROM A DVD , (THE SECOND HALF OF) LAPIDARY, CUTTING AND POLISHING
AND A SHORT FILM ON HOW TO MOUNT A CABOCHON.**

REFRESHMENTS, Dale Rupert, Bev Bockman and Everett Headrick

BEGIN THE 3 MONTH SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING —TICKETS ARE 50 CENTS

SILENT AUCTION

THE CABOCHON CUT

SIMPLE CABOCHON: It has a flat back and a simple, curved top. The stone may be round, when looked at from above; or it may be elliptical oval, rectangular, or any other shape.

LOW CABOCHON: This has a much flatter top than the simple cab. It is suited for softer stones, such as turquoise, where a high protruding top is apt to be chipped and worn dull in a comparatively short time.

HIGH CABOCHON: It has an especially high top and is thus particularly suitable for a hard stone. Translucent material such as chalcedony or rose quartz is well adapted to this style because it preserves the greatest depth of color and at the same time acquires a deep glow from within the stone in addition to a high surface polish.

HOLLOW CABOCHON: The hollow cab has a concave bottom or back. This style of cutting is used for transparent stones which are so dark in color that light is largely lost in passing through unless the gem is cut in this way. Carbuncles, or deeply colored garnets, have their beauty materially enhanced when cut this way.

DOUBLE CABOCHON: This is a style where both top and bottom are convex; the curvature on the back is less than

(See page 2)

DECEMBER MEETING WAS HELD AT THE TOP OF CHINA, AND FAIRLY WELL ATTENDED. No minutes were made at this meeting which was our Christmas “party” with a Santa distributing rock gifts (thank you Dale and Diane).

We even were able to enjoy a special Christmas tree made entirely from beads by Diane Rose, lit with tiny lights. Really special!

New officers for 2014 were introduced with the exception of Carl Chapin who will assume the duties of Treasurer at the January meeting. It was nice to be able to visit for a change—thanks to all who came to the “party”!

Tommie Erst added an additional flair to our evening by presenting some identification challenges to the retiring officers. These were faceted stones. (I got out my best books, and finally decided what I thought mine were—so now I’ll find out at the meeting next week.) BB

INTER-REGIONAL FIELDTRIP IN TERRY, MT./ JULY 31 THROUGH AUG. 3 2014

There will be more about this trip in every newsletter. Four great days— ammonites, Dinosaur fossils and more in Eastern MT. —numerous trips everyday to collect Montana agate, Petrified wood, Coral, Stromatolites, Ammonites, Dinosaur fossils and more. Some of the collecting areas are with private access. Field trip leader is Doug True of Billings, MT. NFMS and AFMS Field Trip Chair. The little town of Terry has set aside its city block park with swimming pool, showers and rest rooms.—MORE LATER. **MAKE PLANS NOW!!!** Please read the Northwest Newsletter on the web site—www.amfed.org/nfms to keep informed about this event and others, and if you do not have access to the internet you should be receiving your newsletter by mail. If you are not—**please** let me know .(Bev B)

(from page 1) that on the top. It is useful where the stone is translucent or where it has certain inclusions, as in a moss agate, which will add to its beauty if retained rather than cut away by flattening the bottom. Double Cabochons should always be polished on both sides.

LENTIL CABOCHONS: A lentil cab is one which has identical curves on top and back. Opals, when cut this way, often present two sides which may be equally beautiful and yet quite different. Such stones when set in a pendant can be worn with either side presenting, as the wearer's fancy dictates. Hearts, as well as other pendants, are favored by many cutters for this style of cutting. These should always be polished on both sides.

(“Gem Cutting” by J. Daniel Williams—via Grindings 6/94, Owyhee Gem Delvings 10/05, Rock Rollers 1/06)

It’s frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

Only in America can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance, and why are there handi-capped parking places in front of a skating rink? Just wondering.

NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT;

LABOR DAY WEEK— SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2014 AT THE OMSI CAMP AT THE HANCOCK FIELD STATION about halfway between Antelope and Fossil, Oregon. A week long event of learning and sharing.

Several of our club members have participated in this event, and it is a terrific learning experience—besides the chance to get acquainted with other clubs and their members. There is only room for 50 people at the camp, and reservations must be made early. If 20 are not signed up by June it will not proceed. Last year there were 47 at the camp. If more than 50 apply there will be a waiting list in case of cancellations.

For board and room and classes it will cost participants around \$300—what a deal!! See info in the Northwest Newsletter. I will write more about this next month. (You would not get any other vacation for this price!)

GARNET

As it was in ancient times garnet is January's birthstone. In those years all red stones were collectively called carbuncle, but through the centuries classifications proceeded to distinguish one from the other. Now by analysis of chemical and structural composition the word garnet refers to a group of six isometric crystal forms and their numerous colored varieties. Garnets occur in all colors but blue. They are found in a variety of rock types but crystallize most often in metamorphic rocks—especially mica schists, and gneisses. Because they are so hard they are impervious to most types of chemical weathering, and are found abundantly in areas near weathering rocks rich in garnets. Since they are heavy they tend to settle down through detritus and concentrate at the bottom of the “pile”. The crystal forms range from 12 sided dodecahedron to even an 84 sided crystal. Through most garnets are found as distinct crystals they can be found as rounded grains, granular masses and sometimes as “snowball garnets”.

If the garnet is of excellent color and clarity all forms of garnet (except for uvarovite which is tiny drusy crystals). Deep colored garnets are cut as cabs and called carbuncles. Pyrope and rhodolite garnets are generally flawless and make beautiful gemstones, while almandine stones are likely to be flawed and contain inclusions. Garnets containing closely packed inclusions of oriented rutile are called star garnets when they have been cut to enhance the brilliance of the inclusions. The most valuable gem garnet is the green variety of andradite called demantoid, which rivals the clarity and fire of a diamond.

Garnet has been used throughout history as a decorative stone as well as a metaphysical tool and an astrological charm but is also used widely as an abrasive and has been for thousands of years for finishing hardwood projects and grinding softer stones and glass.

Reference; program prepared for a meeting of the Panorama Club in 1996 by Leonard Neyens, Jr. (Permission to reprint from this newsletter not available.)

WHY POLISH? Via Breccia, January 1998

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; 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.

Phrases to live by: If you must pick between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before. It's easier to get forgiveness than permission. If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip! Age is a very high price to pay for maturity. (my favorite) My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

POLISHING COMPOUNDS (FROM Gem Cutters News, January 2010)

A complete group of polishes for lapidary applications from inexpensive tumbler to the best gemstone polishes that bring up a bright, high shine of gems. For economy, dedicate a buff, lap pan or a barrel to a particular polish and simply recharge with fresh polish as required to maintain effectiveness.

CERIUM OXIDE—the best gemstone polishing compound for most uses, a mixture of rare earth oxides rich in cerium oxide. Best with opal, agate, quartz, obsidian, etc. And not as effective with very soft material or stones that tend to undercut. For lap or tumbler. Mix with water and apply paste to your buff.

MICRON ALUMINA—a 5 micron polishing powder developed for computer discs. It is the best polish for sea shells and pretty good for soft stones such as malachite and onyx, and excellent as a pre-polish in vibratory tumblers and laps, but not rotary tumblers.

ALUMINUM OXIDE, MAP—preferred by many to Linde A, this is a slightly faster and more economical rare earth polish that we call Miracle Atomic Polish.

ZIRCONIUM OXIDE—a rare earth polish that is especially good for tumblers and laps. The most economical effective polishing media. White and will not discolor gemstones.

LINDE 'A'—Tremendous favorite with gem cutters whether faceting or polishing cabs. Relatively expensive so you should consider polishing the stone and then giving it a quick hit with Lind A to attain a super polish. Available as powder to mix with water or an emulsified cream with the consistency of hand lotion which does not separate in solution.

OXALIC ACID—Used for polishing carbonate type onyx when mixed with another polish such as Tin Oxide. In a strong solution with water it is used to clean iron stain from specimens—i.e. quartz. Mix with hot tap water by stirring in oxalic acid crystals until the water is supersaturated and will not dissolve any more. Crystals forming along the sides of the container indicate a saturated solution and should they disappear you should add more. **WARNING:** While this is a relatively mild acid, you should take all precautions to keep it out of eyes and mouth.

A FEW JEWELRY POLISHING COMPOUNDS

In general —Tripoli is highly suited for cutting down metals to remove scratches and get a relatively smooth surface. Bobbing compound is made of finely ground flint for cutting down, it is very greasy and particularly suited for use with brushes,. Rouges are used to produce the final high luster

RED ROUGE—imparts the highest possible luster to your precious metal work when using at speed with a muslin buff.

YELLOW ROUGE—a dry compound for metals such as stainless steel, nickel and platinum. Good all around polish, in regular or extra fine

WHITE PLATINUM ROUGE—superior for gold and platinum—ok for silver too. Muslin buff at high speed.

GREEN ROUGE—another hard metal polish for stainless steel, platinum and gold.

ZAM—An exceptionally fine crocus based white compound for a high finish on silver, nickel silver and stainless steel. **BROWN TRIPOLI**—Mild abrasive to use with a felt or muslin buff to remove scratches. Use with a bristle wheel for satin finishes (free of scratches but dull)

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT SILVER by
Jenifer Adams..via Rock Scoop (con't next issue)

Although silver was discovered later than gold and copper it has been known and used by humankind since prehistoric times. Herodotus, the Greek historian, knew of silver used to make coins and beads found in the river sands of the Pactolus in Lydia. The Chinese wrote of silver metals in 2500 B.C. In the earliest prehistoric strata at the site of Troy, considerable deposits of silver and gold treasure have been excavated. Among the artifacts, silver bracelets and gold earrings, ornaments placed in a silver cup and more than 8000 beads were buried in the ancient city 2000 years B.C.

The most ancient silver mines of importance were in Asia Minor and on islands in the Aegean Sea. The Romans obtained most of their silver from Spain until supplies became scarce during the Middle Ages. After the discovery of the Americas in 1492, Mexico became the largest silver producing country in the world.

Silver is a lustrous white metal, widely distributed in nature. In ores, it is commonly associated with gold, lead and copper. Much of the world's silver is obtained as a by-product of smelting these other metals. Horn-silver (AgCl) is found in the oxidized portions of ore-bearing lodes near the surface. Small amounts of silver in the oxidation zone form as the more complex compounds weather and erode. At deeper levels silver occurs as sulfides, arsenides, antimonides (compounds of silver with sulfur, arsenic and antimony). In these deposits, formation is the result of deposition from primary hydrothermal solutions. Argenite occurs in low temperature hydrothermal veins in association with other silver minerals or sometimes in the cementation zone of lead and zinc deposits.

When found in a metallic state, it is called "native silver". This usually occurs in dendritic and wire-like forms which are aggregates of minute crystals.

Still cannot use scanners to help with this newsletter so will seek professional help- before next month!!! This letter has taken me three days to make-counting hours spent in trying to get help from Adobe ExportPDF!!!!

SHOW TIME! It is not too soon to consider all the things that we must do as a club and as individuals to get ready for the annual show in June. Mike Burton will be needing volunteers for many jobs as the weeks go by. Those of you who were helpers last years ,and before, know what goes into making a good show, and we need a success to "pay our bills" over the year, as well as maintain the scholarship that we have begun to fund at NIC. YOU ARE ALL PART OF A "COMMUNITY" that we have created—take pride in what we can do.

All members who are working on lapidary projects plan to display some of your results in the display cases at the show. We were so fortunate last year to have some very special displays from other artists, but we need more of our own members to show the public what we do as a club. Start planning!!

Display case hints: if showing specimens that need washing do it several days in advance as the lamps will cause moisture on the glass... Items must be clean, without finger marks—use thin gloves to arrange them. Don't crowd the case. Arrange the items so the eye travels from one piece to another or from one group to another. Labels are important— what it is, where it came from, etc. Typed or printed. When you set up bring polishing cloth, glass cleaner, paper towels, push pins or tacks, scotch tape, lint free gloves, scissors (All but gloves may be provided by the person in charge of setting up the cases.)

OFFICERS FOR 2014: NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB,

PRESIDENT—DALE RUPERD 664-2712

VICE PRESIDENT—WAYNE FITZPATRICK 449-2215

TREASURER—CARL CHAPIN 772-9049

SECRETARY—SANDRA FITZPATRICK 449-2215

Committee chairs:

Mike Burton-SHOW CHAIRMAN 2014 AND WEBMASTER
772-9347

Bev Bockman- NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND MEMBER-SHIP 773-5384

Bill Johnson-FEDERATION DIRECTOR 765-3099

Field Trip—Open

Programs—members

Lake City Rockhound News

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CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

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

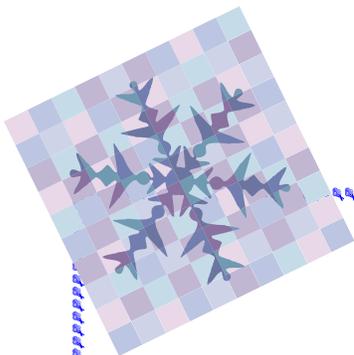
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S.C.R.I.B.E. **ALAA**



2014 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.

FEB. 8 & 9 WHIDBEY ISLAND GEM—OAK HARBOR, WA

FEB. 14-16 OREGON AGATE AND MIN. SOC.-PORTLAND, OR. OMSI

MAR. 1 & 2 EAST KING CO. CLUB—ISSAQUAH, WA

****Consult www.amfed.org/nfms for show details.**

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND CLUBS