



Lake City Rockhound News

Newsletter of the North Idaho Mineral Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

July, 2016
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We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Lake City Center, 1916 Lakewood Drive, Coeur d'Alene in the Library, from 6:00PM to 8:00 PM. Visitors and Guests are Welcome.

Our web site: <http://www.northidahomineralclub.com>

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This Month's Meeting

Regular Meeting – July 21, 2016

The Meeting Program:

Potluck picnic at the park in Dalton Gardens

Refreshments: Drinks courtesy of NIMC.

There will be a silent auction and scholarship raffle
(New raffle starting at this month's meeting). Buy your tickets today.

June 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Pres. Dale Rupert. The Pledge was recited. We had 4 guests: Steve Hanrahan, Jean Gordon, and Wendy and Fred Jenkins. A new member, Pat Mellon, was also present.

Carl Chapin gave the Treasurer's report. All bills have been paid. He will give a detailed report on the gem show at the upcoming meeting.

Carl would like the club to change banks. He has had some trouble with our current bank and would like to switch because of that trouble. A motion was approved for him to look into that.

Dean Hutchinson will fill out the fairgrounds comment sheet, detailing our problems with food and parking at the gem show.

We received several thank you notes from students receiving our scholarships.

Our next meeting is our annual potluck picnic. It will be held on Thursday, July 21 in Dalton Gardens park, on the corner of 4th Street and Hanley Avenue. It will start at 6pm. The club will supply the main dish and members will

supply all else.

The June raffle drawing was postponed, as there were insufficient ticket sales. It will be held at the picnic.

Submitted by Michael Burton, newsletter editor.



Annual Mineral Club Picnic

In place of our regular meeting, we will hold a potluck picnic on July 21, 2016. The picnic will start at 6pm and will be held at Dalton Gardens City Park, on the corner of 4th St and Hanley Ave in Dalton Gardens.

The club will provide fried chicken and drinks. Our members should bring a side dish.

At the picnic we will also hold a special silent auction with some of the pieces from the Riley collection. This was a big success the last time we did it, so be prepared for this auction.



How To Cut Obsidian

via Owyhee Gem, 1/01, Via RockCollector 3/01

Gold Sheen: Saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates and you wish to unstack them. Watch for "fire spots" in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opal-like colors do occur.

Rainbow: Cut parallel to the flow layers. These can be seen by looking at fractured surfaces using a single lamp directly overhead. Note the bands are not always straight, it may be necessary to turn the stone slightly between cuts. Examine each slab set with either water or saw oil to see if the correct angle has been obtained.



Iridescent: In cutting the two types of iridescent obsidian, orientation is important. One type is banded and the color lies in the bands. On the other type, the surface has to be chipped to find the color in the conchoidal fracture surface. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands. To get rainbow-effects, cut the stone at about 15 degrees across the bands.

Midnight Lace: Lace-pattern obsidian should be cut across the surface pattern that you want to reproduce. Sand out all scratches with grit and wet sanding (to reduce heat) before going to polish. For final polish, use felt with cerium oxide.



Birthstone of July – Ruby

From Cabber Gabber, 7/12

Ruby is red corundum, all other color varieties of corundum being referred to as sapphire.

The ruby color range includes pinkish, purplish, orangey, and brownish red depending on the chromium and iron content of the stone. The trace mineral content tends to vary with the geologic formation which produced the ruby, so original place designations such as Burmese and Thai have come in later years to be sometimes



used in describing color.

Most authorities expect a medium to medium dark color tone in a ruby, naming stones lighter than this, pink sapphire – but there is no general agreement exactly where the line is to be drawn. The old joke about questionable stones goes: "Whether it's a ruby or a pink sapphire depends on whether you're the buyer or the seller."

All corundum gems including ruby have a long history of enhancement. Unless the seller specifically states the stone is unheated, you should assume that some kind of heat treatment has been used. Usually high temperature heating and controlled cooling is done to clarify the stones, especially by dissolving "silk" (rutile); but it can also improve tone and saturation of color. Such treatments can only be detected in stones whose residual inclusions show signs of heat stress; truly clean stones will give no clues and cannot be verified as natural color. The general view at present seems to be that simple heating, being indistinguishable from Nature's own heating processes, and stable, is acceptable -- as long as it is disclosed. For this reason such enhancement does not radically lower the value of ruby gems. Not so for other more recently invented treatments such as diffusion coloring, or polymer or glass filling.

Corundum was first synthesized in the early 1900's by a simple flame fusion process. Many jewelers and gemologists have had the unpleasant task of telling the proud heir that Grandmother's treasured ruby ring or brooch contains a flame fusion More complex synthesis processes have been developed in recent years. These so closely simulate natural formation conditions that colors and even inclusions look extremely natural and such stones are difficult for all but the most highly skilled professionals to identify as man-made.

Ruby is hard (9) and tough, making it a superb jewelry stone. (Of course, a heavily included or fractured stone will be less stable.) For reasonably clean stones, no special wear or care precautions are necessary. Ruby shows pleochroism which means that the color varies with the direction of viewing. Most stones show purplish red and orangey red, although the presence or absence of trace minerals can dampen either of these. The overall color can often, but not

always, give a clue to a stone's geographic origin, with Burmese stones tending to purplish red colors and Thai stones appearing more brownish red. In addition, many rubies will fluoresce in long or short wave UV and this property can often be used to help identify a stone's geographic origin. Burmese rubies often fluoresce so strongly that the effect is noticeable even in sunlight, such stones seem literally to glow, and are greatly admired. Thai stones generally lack this property. Although Asia has historically been the major producer of ruby gems, there are many other sources including the USA, Australia, and most recently Africa.

Ruby rough of lower quality is used in great quantities to make beads, carvings, and other ornamental objects. The silk, which is so common in corundum, can, if sufficiently abundant, and precisely arranged, lead to asterism. With proper cutting, this creates star rubies. Today there are heating and diffusion processes that can increase the rutile content and improve such gems. Synthetic star corundums were very popular in the 1950's under the trade name "Linde Stars" and are still under production.

Value: Rubies are the most valuable members of the corundum family. Large gem quality rubies can be more valuable than comparably sized diamonds and are certainly rarer. There is a relative abundance of smaller, (1-3 carat,) blue sapphires compared to the scarcity of even small gem quality rubies, making even these smaller stones relatively high in value.

Burmese stones in 1/2 to 1 ct sizes with slightly purplish red color and light inclusions range from \$300 to \$3000/ ct, for example. The price survey done by the International Gem Society reports that clean, top color gems in the 1/2 to 1 ct size range are being sold, retail, on the Internet with a range of \$1000 - \$3000/ct.



Finding a Star in a Garnet

From Hounds Howl via Rock Buster News. 9/99, via Golden Spike News 10/99

Cut both ends out of a 3-pound coffee can. Put a light with a 300 watt bulb inside the can. Make a cover with a 1 inch

hole in it and put over the can with light inside. Make a bar with holes ranging from 1/4 to 1/2 inch. Place the garnet in the appropriate sized hole. Rotate the garnet over the light coming through the 1 inch hole until the dark spot in the garnet shows up in the middle of the garnet. Mark this spot with fingernail polish. Dop on to the spot marked and shape and polish the garnet. The star should be exactly opposite the spot you marked. You can also dop exactly opposite the spot marked and work the stone accordingly. Either side should produce a star.



Lapidary Tips

Cabochon Polishing Tip, From Rock Chips, 12/11

If you suspect that the rock you are about to cut will absorb oil (some softer rocks do this) try the following before you cut it. Soak the rock in water for 24 hours or longer (longer is better). In the summertime put the container of the soft rock in the sun where it can warm up (the warmer the better). Keeping it warm helps the rock absorb more water. Next put the rock in the slab saw and cut it as soon as possible. The oil will slowly replace the water in the rock. Now is a good time to wash the slab with acetone. Anytime you cut slabs in your slab saw you should always place your slab in kitty litter (which is a great way to suck out the unwanted oil), wash your slab in warm soapy water. Dawn dish soap is one of the best to use.

Polishing Cracked Stones, From <http://caglu.com/>

Use medium cyanoacrylate glue to fill in and bond the cracks in a slab before trimming out your cabs. The slab will then work up just like normal material. The glue will buff to a good polish just like the stone and will remain clear.

Cracked and broken cabs can be saved with medium cyanoacrylate glue. Place a small amount (usually one or two drops) on one piece. Then press the other piece into place. Place waxed paper beneath the item if it can be set down. Ten to twenty-five seconds later, the parts will be bonded and ready for buffing.

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First Class Mail

<p style="text-align: center;">NIMC Officers</p> <p>President: Dale Ruperd (208-664-2712) Vice-President: Corey Brenner (208-640-4743) Treasurer: Carl Chapin (208-772-9049) Secretary: Diane Rose (208-659-6173)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Positions</p> <p>Show Chair 2016: Dean Hutchinson Newsletter: Michael Burton (208-772-9347) Federation Director: Dale Ruperd Federation Delegate: Bill Johnson (208-765-3099) Webmaster: Michael Burton Programs/Membership: Bev Bockman (208-773-5384)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Affiliations</p> <p>AFMS – American Federation of Mineralogical Societies NFMS – Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies S.C.R.I.B.E. ALAA – American Lands Access Association</p>	Gem Show Schedules			
	Jul 29-31	10:00-6:00 10:00-6:00 10:00-4:00	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society (AFMS & NFMS Mtgs)	Linn Cty Expo Ctr, Albany, OR
	Aug 5-7	10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society	North Bend Comm. Ctr, 2222 Broadway, Bend, OR
	Aug 13-14	9:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Maplewood Rock & Gem Club	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196 th St SW, Edmonds, WA
	Sep 10-11	9:00-6:00 10:00-4:00	Clallum Cty Gem & Mineral Assoc.	Vern Burton Community Ctr., 308 East 4 th St, Port Angeles, WA
	Sep 10-11	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Soc.	Walla Walla Cty Frngds, 363 Orchard St., Walla Walla, WA
	Sep 17-18	10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Southern WA. Mineralogical Society	Castle Rock Frngds, 120 Fair Lane, SW corner of Hwy 411 and Cowlitz River, Castle Rock, WA