



LAKE CITY ROCKHOUND NEWS NORTH

IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC. JUNE 2014

P. O. BOX 1643, HAYDEN, ID. 83835

**MEETING AT LAKE CITY CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE — 667-4628 - IN LIBRARY
6 PM TO 8 PM THIRD THURSDAY OF MONTH — VISITORS AND GUESTS WELCOME**

JUNE 19, 2014 6 P. M.—8 P. M.

PRESENTATION BY KAREL MRAZEK

DVD—GOLD FEVER

EXPLOSIVE UNDERGROUND MINING

Scholarship Drawing and silent auction

Refreshments by Bev B. and Marilyn Kohler

NIMC meeting May 2014

Meeting called to order by President Dale Rupert at 6:10 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Treasurers report by Carl Chapin was read and approved. The minutes were approved as appeared in the news letter. Mike Burton gave the report on the coming show and encouraged members to sign up for jobs that must be done before, during and after the show. This includes the pot luck to be “headed” this year by Bev B. and Pat Rupert. Sign up sheet for the potluck for hosting our vendors. Joyce has volunteered to pick up the chicken at Super One. Volunteers are needed for the tear down after the show, and should involve everyone who can possibly be there. Case labels (identification) will be done for all who need them at the show. Refreshments for next meeting—volunteers Bev Bockman and Marilyn Kohler. Submitted by Sandra Fitzpatrick, Secretary (Ed. BB)

SHOP TIPS:—JADE POLISHING TIP. Wonder why the jade cab you are working on won't reach the high degree of polish desired? The glaze caused by sanding on a worn sanding cloth prevents the high polish. Try washing the cab in Acetone, then washing it two or three times in detergent, scrubbing well with a toothbrush. Rinse it well and try again on a new sanding cloth (or wheel). Via The Tumbler, Nov 05

Denture cleanser is useful for cleaning out the inside of geodes. No rubbing or scrubbing. They will sparkle like diamonds. It also removes powder residue from cabs after polishing..

PLEASE EXCUSE THE WEIRD FORMAT OF THIS NEWSLETTER!!! CANNOT CONTROL THE NEW PROGRAMS. So hunt for the beginnings and endings of the information provided. I'll try to learn by next month!!!! Your Weary Editor. BB

BELOW IS THE ARTICLE BEGUN ON WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PAGE 2 AND TURNED INTO 3 WHICH IS WHAT THIS IS ALSO??

(continued) MOONSTONES—————moonstone an ideal gemstone for jewelry with a sensual feminine aura. This gemstone was very popular around 100 years ago at the time of Art Nouveau. It adorns many of the jewelry creations by the French master goldsmith Rene Lalique and his contemporaries.

This gemstone is surrounded by a good deal of mystique and magic. Especially in India it is regarded as holy and magical, and regarded as a "dream stone" which brings the wearer beautiful visions at night. In Arabic countries, women often wear moonstones sewn out of sight into their garments as a symbol of fertility.

This gemstone belongs to the large mineral group known as feldspars of which almost 2/3 of all the rocks on earth consist. The moonstone is feldspar variety known as "adularia", a potassium aluminosilicate of gemstone quality which is also found near the Adula group in the European Alps—hence the name.

Until they are properly cut and finished moonstones don't look like much! Classical moonstones are always cut as cabochons—the most important thing being the correct height of the stone. The cutter must align the axes of the crystal precisely into the zenith of the stone to get the desired light effect.

Traditionally, the almost transparent moonstones with their bluish shimmer come from Sri Lanka, but are also found in the USA, Brazil, Australia, Myanmar and Madagascar. Much more scarce than before, the price has gone up sharply. Colored moonstones have been on the market also, some with cat's eye or four ray star as well as the shimmer of light. The cause of this "adularisation" is the lamellar inner construction of the gemstone. Incident light rays are refracted and scattered in the stone. The weak point of the moonstone is the relatively low hardness of only 6 on the Mohs scale. They should be handled with care. When worn for sometime they may show minor flaws and can be repolished to restore the shimmer like new.

ALEXANDRITE is a rare gemstone named after the Russian Tsar Alexander (1818-1881). The first crystals were discovered in 1834 in emerald mines in the Urals. It shows both red and green—the chief colors of old Imperial Russia and became the national stone of Russia. This stone in top quality is very rare and is hardly ever seen in modern jewelry. Tiffany's master gemologist George Frederick Kunz (1856-1932) was fascinated by the stone, and the firm produced beautiful series of rings and platinum sets at end of 19th and beginning of 20th century. Some also were made in England with smaller stones.

The most sensational thing about this stone is the color change—green or blue green in daylight and a soft shade of red or raspberry in incandescent light. This property makes it one of the most valuable gemstones. (Following is a direct quote-source newsletter of Hellgate Breezes)

Alexandrite is very scarce: this is due to its chemical composition. It is basically a chrysoberyl, a mineral consisting of colorless or yellow transparent chrysoberyl, chrysoberyl cat's eye and color changing alexandrite....It differs from other chrysoberyls in that it not only contains iron and titanium but also chromium as a major impurity. It is this element which accounts for the spectacular color change. Rarely vanadium may play a part.....Like many other gemstones, alexandrite emerged millions of years ago in a metamorphic environment. But unlike many others, its formation required specific geological conditions. The chemical elements beryllium (a major constituent in chrysoberyl) and chromium (the coloring agent in alexandrite have contrasting chemical characteristics and do not as a rule occur together, usually being found in contrasting rock types. Not only has Nature brought these contrasting rock types together, but a lack of chemical element silica (the second most common element in the Earth's crust) is also required to prevent the growth of emerald. This geological scenario has occurred only rarely in the Earth's history and, as a result, alexandrite crystals are very scarce indeed.

Russia had remained the primary source of alexandrite and when the deposits seemed exhausted interest in the stone decreased since crystals from other places demonstrated less color change and the colors were "off". Then in 1987, alexandrites were discovered in Hematita in Minas Gerais, Brazil. They showed good color change, and good clarity and color but they do not have as strong a green. This is the most important deposit economically but Tanzania, India, Burma, Madagascar and Zimbabwe have found more since the 1990's.

THE BIELBY LAYER

There are two basic ways of polishing stones. The first is by abrasion, sanding with finer and finer grits until the remaining scratches are invisible to the naked eye (but still there). Faceted stones are polished this way, as are many cabochons.. Stones polished by abrasion are subject to staining and can be dyed if they are porous, as many stones are.

The second method is by polishing the stones on a disc made of leather, felt, etc., or synthetic materials having similar characteristics. So-called rare earths, such as cerium, tin and aluminum are applied in paste form to the material which is kept moist. The polishing action is quite different in this case. Intense heat is momentarily generated by friction where the stone contacts the disc and causes a layer of the stone, a few molecules deep, to turn to a fluid state. This molecular depth is called the Beilby layer after its discoverer. The flow produces a scratchless finish. Diamonds cannot be polished in this way because the temperatures generated are not high enough. Via Ted Roberts, Skagit Gems

JUNE BIRTHSTONES

For those born in the popular month of marriages there are three gems—all of exceptional beauty but in different ways. Pearl, always the gem of brides, the translucent “lucky moonstone” and the rare and lovely alexandrite.

The Hindus call the pearl “the gem of wealth” and also believe that wearing it will bring a woman enhanced beauty. The Latin name for pearl is “Margarita”. The early Romans prized the pearl and even today it has no rival for there is nothing like it. It is unique, and also differs from other gems because it is of organic origin. Only three others are organic: amber, coral and jet.

During the latter days of Rome many shipments of pearls were sent to its leaders.. One of the most valuable pearl collections in the world was once owned by the Gaekwar of Baroda. (a large part of old India) (ed). The collection included a pearl rug over 10 feet long and several feet wide made entirely of pearls. The Gaekwar inherited this fabulous rug and it may have stimulated his desire to own more pearls. He possessed a belt of 100 rows of pearls and the “Paragon” which weighed 48 grains, of exceptional luster. Among his jewels were 35 necklaces each of several strands of fine pearls. On important occasions the Gaekwar wore a necklace of seven strands of pearls, each made of 250 lovely gems.

Sir Henry Thomas Hope (of Hope Diamond fame) once owned a fabulous pearl weighing 1,860 grains.....

Pearls tend to lose their luster if they are in contact with the body too long. Natural pearls can have the outer layer of nacre peeled away restoring their beauty.

Pearls were widely used during the 16th century by goldsmiths and, since they came from the sea, craftsmen fashioned mermaids, tritons, sirens and even monsters of the deep. One of the most famous of these creations is a triton fashioned from a single baroque pearl with a tail of brilliant yellow, green and blue enamel. In one hand is a weapon, and in the other, a mask in the form of a satyr's face.

President Van Buren was given a necklace of 148 pearls by the Imam of Muscat. During the 1920's many American Women owned pearl necklaces whose value was over a million dollars.

The moonstone is characterized by an enchanting play of light. It owes its name to the mysterious shimmer which always looks different when the stone is moved and is known as “adularescence”. In earlier times, people believed they could recognize in it the crescent and waning phases of the moon.

Moonstones from Sri Lanka shimmer in pale blue on an almost transparent background. Specimens from India feature an interplay of light and shadow on a back-ground of browns, green or orange. These discreet colors, with the fine shimmer, make the

(continued from page 3) ALEXANDRITE———With its good hardness of 8.5 alexandrite is a good stone to wear. A fine alexandrite should show a vivid blue green in daylight and a purplish red in artificial light. If the stone can be proved to be of Russian origin it is a real rarity. Finely faceted alexandrines above one carat are among the most expensive gemstones in the world, more rare than fine ruby, sapphire or emerald..

On a different note, it is considered a stone of very good omen. In critical situations it strengthens the wearers intuition—finding new solutions when logic fails, and also reputed to aid creativity and inspire the imagination.

IF ANY ONE KNOWS WHERE I CAN BORROW ONE OF THESE TO HELP ME WITH PUBLISHER 13, LET ME KNOW SOON!!!!

Above articles compiled from several bulletins from other clubs, but primary source Hellgate Breezes from Missoula, June 2007, also The Umpqua Gem (Year unknown) and Rock Scoop-Sutherland, OR.7/07

⇒ Some words of ?Wisdom?—

Yakima Gem and Mineral News 12/01

- ⇒ Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.
- ⇒ Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- ⇒ Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- ⇒ Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- ⇒ Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its troubles—it empties today of its strength.

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- * Cell phones are everywhere. The convenience of instant communication is wonderful...and addictive. Unfortunately, most rock collecting occurs well outside city (and phone transmission) limits. You can increase the range of your phone in two ways. 1) Increase your altitude—climb a hill or drive to a higher point of land. 2) Get an external antenna. Try Radio Shack-take your phone to match up connectors.
 - * Always carry a rock hammer with the pick down. In steep rugged terrain, a slip of the foot can cause a nasty spill, broken ones oar even cost a life. By carrying a hammer with the pick down, If one loses his footing, he can simply pitch the hammer forward (while holding it) and snag a rock, shrub or clump of grass. It is surprising how much power a pick hammer has when thrust into dry sand. Via The Tumbler 7/05

Cutting Mexican Jelly Opal:

When cutting Mexican opal with transparent or clear (that's most of it) base color, cut a high dome on the top side and a moderate dome on the back side. 1.)If you get the top and bottom domes just right, the light will refract within the stone as it does in a properly cut faceted stone. The effect will be as though light is trapped within the stone and the color will glow in a seemingly bottomless stone. It works great with or without play of color. 2) Polishing the back of the opal helps the stone to last longer. A polished surface tends to retard water loss from the opal over time. A rough surface has many times more actual surface area per given dimension than a polished surface, thus increasing the potential for physical and chemical interaction. Via Magic Valley Gem News, 12/01—Lapidary Digest 12/98—Rockhound Ramblings 10/01-Gem Time 11/01

The Confession Session

The new priest is nervous about hearing confessions, so he asks an older priest to sit in on his sessions. He hears several confessions, then the old priest asks him to step out for a few suggestions. He suggests, "Cross your arms over your chest and rub your chin with one hand." The new priest tries this. Then he suggests, "Try saying things like, 'I see, yes, go on, and I understand, how did you feel about that?'"

The new priest says these things, trying them out. The Old priest says, "Now, don't you think that's a little better than slapping your knee and saying, "No way! What happened next?"

HOW TO FIND THE FIRE IN FIRE AGATE

Fire agate is a quartz-based rock with layers of iron oxide in chalcedony, which results in iridescence. It occurs in nodules of milky or grayish translucent chalcedony. Sometimes it is found in botryoidal growths in geodes and in chalcedony roses. Fire agate appears as a dull, reddish brown layer, but when the surface layers are removed, the rainbow colors of iridescence are exposed. The fire is brought out by tumbling, trimming and grinding off the outer layers to expose the iridescence. Polishing magnifies the fire.

1. Remove the matrix, then tumble polish it.
2. When polished, remove excess stone around the edges—then polish and set.
3. Allow the stone to retain its irregular shape and polish slowly so you don't go through the fire layers. The graceful natural shapes are superior to those cut to calibrated sizes, as the best fire does not always fit a mold.
4. To set it off, mount it in a custom made gold or silver setting. Via Magic Valley Gems 12/01, Chips 8/01, Gem Time 11/01

BRAZILIAN AGATE

Most agate used today is from Brazil and Uruguay. Most is color treated right there, so getting untreated specimens is quite difficult. The Brazilian deposits go for about 400 miles along the border with Uruguay, with the bulk of the deposits being in Brazil. The source is a big basaltic lava "sandwich" of more or less porphyritic material. There is a quartzite layer sandwiched within the flows and this is a source for most of the agate. Nodules are of all sizes, with the largest measured at some 30 feet across, an amazing quantity of agate.

In natural form, the agates are mostly gray banded with some minor brown coloring as well. Bands of white material contrast nicely with the darker colors. On treating, the agate tends to take on the richer brown color of varying shades, and fine Brazilian agate is highly prized. The very finest agates, some 10% of the total take, are not treated and are used for the finest carving and gems. The Brazilian deposits have been known since 1576, but Idar Oberstein in Germany dominated the gem market at that time using local supplies till they were depleted.

Via The Tumbler 10.04, Rock Rollers 4/02, Rock Scoop 5/99 et al

TRIVIA—A duck's quack doesn't echo. No one knows why.

Then there was the homeowner who told his decorator that he wanted his bathroom done in Early American. "OK", said the decorator. "How far from the house do you want the thing?"



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