



# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

MARCH 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](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)**

**See the web site for the club at [www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com)**

North Idaho Mineral Club Meeting notes for 2/18/10

The February meeting of the North Idaho Mineral club was called to order at 6:30 PM by President, Warren Price. The minutes of the last meeting were waived. Treasurer, Bill Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report

**Show information:** There are 14 confirmed dealers for the show. Ma and Pa Kettle cannot be accommodated in the building and we will have to look at other options for a vendor to sell food. Warren asked for suggestions.

Dealer Report: Bev Bockman is out of town and no dealer report was presented.

Raffle: Warren Price has offered to donate a star garnet with an appraised value of \$600.00 for the raffle.

Field Trips: Bill Johnson reported that there are several field trips coming up. Some of the trips discussed were: Saddle Mountain on April 17-18; the Federation trip to Blue Forest, May 29-30; Heather Creek and Lake Wenatchee on July 17. Other possibilities included: the Panorama site; Usk, W A. for blue agate, calcite, pyrite and antimony; Yellowstone River for Montana agate; Madras, Oregon at the end of June for thunder eggs, agate and jasper; Bill also mentioned that the Plush site for sunstone will open in mid-May; the Hollywood Ranch for petrified wood; and Glass Mountain for obsidian.

Other shows: Warren reported that the Rock Roller Show is still asking for any available members to help with the silent auction or set-up. Set-up starts at 8AM on Tuesday and goes through Wednesday about noon.

Old Business: We do not have a Federation delegate. Warren asked for a member to volunteer for the position.

New Business: The N.W. Federation of the Mineral Society may not be hosting a show in 2011. The next show is scheduled in Hillsboro, OR. on October 18.

Also discussed was the possibility of combining our show with the Rock and Rollers of Spokane. The obstacles and advantages were discussed. Moving to another site may not be a good idea due to the experience of others that show a decrease in income.

Dean Younge has offered to do a power point presentation at the show on goldmines of Alaska. He also has gold samples and maps for display purposes. Dean will be showing his power point presentation at our April meeting.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned. Maria McDonald, Secretary.

To: Shirley Leeson ALAA representative

Subject: Idaho

## GOOD NEWS: WASHINGTON RESPONDS!

Idaho's entire congressional delegation, consisting of Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch and Congressmen Mike Simpson and Walt Minnick, have formed a united front against the ARC and NFRA plan to increase fees to use public lands, and have sent a letter to USFS Chief Tidwell about this.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden has also publicly asked the Forest Service to continue the discounts that were promised to seniors and the disabled when they obtained their lifetime passes.

Having the entire Idaho delegation united on this issue is very impressive, much like the bi-partisan sponsorship of the bill to repeal the R.A.T. (Senator Crapo, R-ID with Senators Baucus and Tester, D-MT).

Senator Wyden (D-OR) plays a pivotal role as Chairman of the subcommittee that oversees the Forest service. Such agreement, pretty rare these days, reflects voters' opinions on the Public Land fee situation very well: we're all in this together. Chief Tidwell would be wise to heed the advice of these five powerful members of Congress.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO: if you are from Idaho, write and thank your Senators and Congressmen for their united opposition to increasing the fees for seniors and the disabled.** If you are from Oregon, write Senator Wyden and thank him for supporting the public over the Forest Service and the private profits of concessionaires. **Webforms can be easily found at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).** If you live elsewhere go to the Web forms of your own congressional delegation and ask them for their position on this issue. Urge them to join Senators Crapo, Risch, and Wyden and Congressmen Simpson and Minnick in standing up to the Forest Service!

**Here is the letter sent to Tom Tidwell, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service by the Idaho Senators and Representatives.**

"We are writing to express concern with a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) proposal to allow a decrease in discounts for senior citizens and the physically disabled on USFS lands, as proposed in the Federal Register on December 1, 2009.

As you know, the USFS is a participant in the Interagency Pass Program, authorized by Congress in December 2004. Congressional intent in establishing this pass program was to continue the multiple benefits of an earlier fee program (Fee Demo Program) by simplifying and standardizing the fee types and providing for public input in establishing fee locations and amounts, among other things. However, that authorization also provided the Forest Service with authorities - unused up to this point - to reduce discounts for senior citizens and the disabled in some circumstances.

Under the aforementioned proposed regulations, some pass holders will find the cost of recreation on their public lands prohibitive. Of equal concern to the actual economic impact is the demographic groups that it will effect; the recession has been especially hard on senior citizens and the disabled, who already must shoulder the burden of high healthcare costs and depleted retirement savings.

As the recession has gone on, more American families have turned to our public lands for vacationing and recreation purposes than they had in the past. In part to address this rising demand, Congress has provided funding increases for the National Forest System activity in recent appropriations bills. Furthermore, the Forest Service received \$650 million for capital improvement and maintenance in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As such, we are confused as to why the Forest Service would find it necessary or appropriate to levy increased fees on seniors and the disabled.

We urge you to maintain these discounts at their current levels. In this economic climate, we cannot eliminate the opportunity for our senior and permanently disabled citizens to enjoy our public lands. "

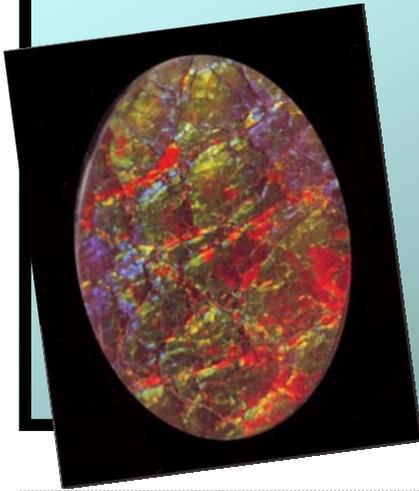
*Knowing that many of our club members are not yet seniors, I thought you should be aware that it **does do good** to correspond with our Congressional representatives—Senators or/and Representatives!*

On MARCH 18 WE WILL HAVE A REAL TREAT!!!

AMMOLITE—WHAT IT IS—HOW TO CREATE A STUNNING  
JEWEL

PRESENTED BY NEAL ADAMS

MEETING AT 6:30—SILENT AUCTION—  
REFRESHMENTS AND PROGRAM—In  
whatever order they fall. Everyone try to come!!



March 1, 2010

GOOD NEWS FROM THE McPHERSON FAMILY

“This is Tiffany, Bertha's granddaughter. Grandma had her surgery a few weeks ago (skin graft) and it looks like it was a success. We are expecting her home March 4th. She is able to use a walker with assistance although when she's tired she still needs a wheelchair. She's vastly improved just from a month ago. Today I took her to Dr. Mullen in Post Falls that had done the skin graft surgery on her and he stated that it looked really good and is taking well. One of the physical therapists from the Life Care Center was also there and heard this.

We are going to have to do a few changes to her home in the next few days. We have already had someone install a ramp over the steps leading to her front door, and we are going to have someone put grab bars in the bathrooms. We are also going to install non-skid mats to the ramp outside.

So far, things are looking good and it won't be long (as long as nothing happens) before she is back home.”

Note from Bev

I stopped by the Life Care Center March 2 to see Bertha and she was so much better than before I left in late January. She sends her greetings to her rock club friends, and thanks for your get well wishes. She will be glad to have visitors at her house if anyone can call ahead. It has certainly been a long road from a cat scratch last August to this “going home” after all she has endured. A non-healing infection—arterial grafts and finally skin grafts—I asked about the cat and she is still a member of the household though she no longer has claws.

Having recently flown I saw these with new eyes—bear with me....**From travel agents:** A client called in asking about a package to Hawaii. After going over all the cost info, she asked, “Would it be cheaper to fly to California and then take the train to Hawaii?”

A businessman called and had a question about the documents he needed to fly to China. After a lengthy discussion about passports, I reminded him he needed a visa. “Oh no I don't, I've been to China many times and I don't have to have one of those!” I double-checked and sure enough his visit required a visa. When I told him

this he said, “Look, I've been to China four times and every time they have accepted my American Express!”

A man called furious about a Florida Package we did. I asked him what was wrong with the vacation in Orlando. He said he was expecting an ocean view room. I tried to explain that is not possible because Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, “Don't lie to me. I looked on the map and Florida is a very thin state.”



Will identify the locations of the meeting if anyone wants to know where to go. BB

**AWAY FROM THE WINTER THAT NEVER WAS! By Bev B.**

A visit to my sister ,Janet, in Green Valley, AZ. was the focus of my journey, as we see so little of each other—and we squeezed a lot into the time we spent together. No rock hunting. Two days after my arrival we went to Oracle, north of Tucson, to a museum featuring pottery for sale from a village in Mexico called Mata Ortiz—where the entire village creates these pots from local clay and decorates based on ancient designs. Gorgeous!

Passing through Tucson on the way back we stopped for our first visit to part of the Gem Show and bought a crystal. (For any one who has not been to Tucson it is hard to explain a gem show that covers an entire city.) During the next week we went to the Gaslight Theatre for a riotous production of the Cisco Kid, went to Electric Park and the Holidome more than once. As Janet has a business license we went to 'wholesale only' places. In spare time visited Madera Canyon east of Green Valley. Birds all over the place!! And saw all the amenities in the education and recreation centers —13 in all—that are available to residents of G.V. The pools are lovely, and the lapidary shops are amazing. You can “play“ from 6 AM to 10 PM every day. We went to a concert by the Tucson Symphony and saw first run movies .

Our favorite place in Tucson was Electric Park. What a blast! An entire large parking area is covered by huge tents and filled with vendors. We were engrossed in looking at findings one day and heard a roar —What? Water was pouring down the outside of the tent walls and right underneath and there was about an inch of water flowing across the “floor”. One of the two heavy rainfalls that happened while I was there had arrived. The vendors that were prepared for this event had all their wares off the floor on pallets out of the reach of the rivers of rain. Everyone just kept slopping and shopping. The ones that suffered were the outside vendors, some of whom didn't have any shelter at all.

There was so much to see and do we concentrated on just a few spots. The Tucson Club Gem Show at the Convention Center was awesome! Impossible to describe! It is on for 4 days and is huge! We spent most of one day and didn't ever get to see it all. The big attraction in one wing was the marble woman, carved out of a single huge block of white marble. The sculptor started at her head and worked down. She and the grand piano that she is seated on are all one piece. He was there, with his wife and daughter, signing autographs, and has displayed this work in 26 cities

It is humbling to consider that human beings have created all these marvels of lapidary arts from the raw materials provided from the very structure of our planet. The minerals, the gems and jewelry and the fossils displayed were just unbelievable. Of course I took lots of pictures to show others, but I have indelible memories also. If it is worth remembering you really don't need a picture.

I loved the desert plants, manzanita, palo verde, ocotillo and palms (that are not native.) I did not realize there are 18 different kinds of prickly pear cactus. The Santa Rita is my favorite. It is a lovely pinky-purple with tiny needles and gets quite big. The birds were wonderful. Even saw several cardinals. And we made a special trip to see the large flocks of migrating sandhill cranes. My brother-in-law saw a bobcat in the road as he was heading for swimming, there are javelinas everywhere (fortunately mostly at night), and the next door neighbor had a mountain lion on his wall the week before got there. The Santa Rita Mountains with snow on them are visible from the house. (con't next page).

Con't from 5

We visited two small towns south of Green Valley—Tubac, —many beautiful shops with expensive arts and crafts and many gems, and Tumacacori where there is an ancient mission. That was a very wonderful afternoon. The museum and the garden were great, and the staff so pleasant. Felt like we'd been invited to a party. Then dinner at Wisdom's, and I won't try to explain that! Unique!

And I must not forget the weather—Iffy part of the time but then the 70+ kicked in and was that ever nice. ( I think I could live there year round, but am not planning on moving——yet).

I had not been on a plane for 15 years, and I thought I had it all under control, but taking wire wrapping equipment in my on-board bag was interesting. It all got turned out going and coming. The optivisor seemed to be a puzzle, as well as the wire, and the stones got unwrapped both times. I had put my tools in my suitcase, but coming home that was opened also.

On the trip home I enjoyed a window seat all the way and got to see a lot—San Diego, Catalina, the Channel Islands and up this way, from 40,000 feet the giant ripples over part of the Palouse. It was beautiful. Great holiday!

## Formation, occurrence, and extraction of Ammolite

Korite International's mechanized mining operations are fairly basic, involving the excavation of shallow pits with backhoes.



Ammolite comes from the fossil shells of the Upper Cretaceous disk-shaped ammonites *Placentoceras meeki* and *Placentoceras intercalare*, and (to a lesser degree) the cylindrical baculite, *Baculites compressus*. Ammonites were cephalopods, or squid-like creatures, that thrived in tropical seas until becoming extinct along with the dinosaurs at the end of the Mesozoic era

The ammonites that form ammolite inhabited a prehistoric, inland subtropical sea that bordered the Rocky

Mountains—this area is known today as the Cretaceous or Western Interior Seaway. As the seas receded, the ammonites were buried by layers of bentonite sediment. This sediment preserved the aragonite of their shelled remains, preventing it from converting to calcite.

Significant deposits of gem-quality ammolite are only found in the Bearpaw formation that extends from Alberta to Saskatchewan in Canada and south to Montana in the USA. The best grade of gem quality ammolite is along high energy river systems on the eastern slopes of the Rockies in southern Alberta. Most commercial mining operations have been conducted along the banks of the St. Mary River, in an area south of and between the town of Magrath and the city of Lethbridge. Roughly half of all ammolite deposits are contained within the Kainah (Kainaiwa) reserve, and its inhabitants play a major role in ammolite mining. Since its founding in 1979, Korite International has operated primarily within the reservation. The company maintains an agreement with the Kainah (Blood) tribe, with Korite International paying the tribe royalties based on how much land the company has mined.

Commercial extraction is mechanized but fairly basic: (continued next page)

shallow open pits are dug with a backhoe and the excavated material is screened for its potential gem contents. The pits are further examined by hand, and commercial production is supplemented by independent persons who sell their surface-picked findings to Korite International and several other producers. Approximately 50% of the ammolite mined is suitable for jewelry.

The ammolite deposits are stratified into several layers: the shallowest of these layers, named the "K Zone", lies some 15 meters below the surface and extends 30 meters down. The ammolite within this layer is covered by siderite concretions and is usually cracked-this is the *crush* material. It is the most common and (generally speaking) the least valuable of ammolite. Beginning twenty meters below the crush material is the "Blue Zone"; ammolite from this zone, which extends 65 meters, is usually compressed with a thin layer of pyrite rather than siderite concretions. This is the *sheet* material; due to its depth it is rarely mined. It is also much less fractured, and therefore the more valuable type of ammolite. Korite International had only mined 30 acres (120,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of the Kainah deposit by 2003.. As part of their agreement with the tribe, the company must refill areas once exhausted to mitigate environmental degradation. Prospectors who wish to mine ammolite deposits on Crown land must apply to the Alberta Department of Energy for a lease. These are not regularly offered and are very expensive.

The above information has been taken from an article on the internet (Wikipedia) almost verbatim, as background for the presentation Neal Adams is giving our club on March18. I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait. Been a long time coming!!!

I recommend for you internet users — look up **Korite ammolite**— and when you get the site, click on **“The Korite Ammolite Mine** for some interesting information and pictures.

Shop Hints and stuff: (from the Tumbler 2/04)

- When cutting rutilated Quartz, watch the heat. When cutting this material, try to keep the needles from being on the surface-they could pull away. Polish both the top and the bottom, and have the stone as high domed as possible. Otherwise, follow cutting and sanding procedures for agate.
- Repolishing cabs that have become dull by wear without removing from the mounting. Cut 1/4 inch diameter soft leather discs and put three of them on a dremel or screw type mandrel. Use this tool with Linde A or diamond paste and you can work carefully

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

**OFFICERS FOR 2010**

- Warren Price—President
- James Finckbone—Vice Pres.
- Secretary - Maria McDonald
- Treasurer — Bill Johnson
- Federation director—Everett Headrick
- Federation Delegate—open

**Committees for 2010**

- Hospitality – Sherla Francis
- Field Trips—Bill Johnson
- Membership- Bill Johnson
- **Show Chairman-2010 Warren Price**
- Newsletter Editor—Bev Bockman ARTICLES WELCOME
- Program Chairman-Bev Bockman AND CLUB MEMBERS PLEASE !!!!!!!~

*Lake City Rockhound News*

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

**CLUB WEB SITE**

***www.northidahomineralclub.com***

Affiliated with; SCRIBE  
  
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**

**MAR.12-14 TUALATIN VALEY GEM CLUB—HILLSBORO, OR**

**MAR. 12-14 ROCK ROLLERS CLUB— SPOKANE, WA**

**MAR 13-14 MAGIC VALLEYGEM CLUB—FILER, ID.**

**MAR. 26-27 PANORAMA GEM AND MIN. CLUB, COLVILLE, WA**

**APRIL 11-12 MT. HOOD ROCK CLUB SHOW —GRESHAM OR.**

**APRIL 17-18 YAKIMA ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB— WA.**

**APRIL 17-18 LAKESIDE GEM AND MINERAL-KENNEWICK, WA**

**April 24-25 GRAYS HARBOR CLUB—ELMA, WA**

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND ROCK CLUBS.

**CONSULT *www.amfed.org/nfms* FOR SHOW DETAILS**