

# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

**MARCH 2013**

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

See the NFMS web site at [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) See OUR web site for the club at [www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com)

MARCH 21 2013 6. P. M.—8 P. M.

MINERALS—MACRO TO MICRO—AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

PRESENTED BY KAREL MRAZEK.

Refreshments-Bev /Tommie (& ?)

Silent Auction

Hope you all received e-mail or phone notification of the show meeting on Saturday, March 16 and the second “field trip” to the Rock Ranch on March 17. Mike Burton is leader. 1 PM Sunday.

As show time draws nearer there will be other meetings, so please plan to attend when you can. It is so much easier to put on this event if people have an idea where their efforts will be most appreciated. And it is much less difficult for the show chairman to know that individuals will be responsible for certain jobs. Your input and suggestions are welcome!!.

Plan to go to the Panorama Gem and Mineral club show in Colville on the 29 OR 30 of March. This is the first year they have had it at the Ag. Building at the Fairgrounds. (Anyone who is free, and willing to arise at an early hour can help set up on Thursday. From 8 AM on-.)

Dale Ruperd has already planned to help, so if anyone else can go maybe you can ride with Dale. Talk to him at the next meeting (on the 21st). They are a great group of rockhounds and very knowledgeable! And it is good practice for setting up for a rock show if you are new at it! They always help at our show!

**North Idaho Mineral Club minutes**

2-21-13

Meeting called to order by President Bev Bockman @ 6:00 PM .. Members and guest stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Guest Carla Jayal was introduced. No new members present for introduction.

Minutes from the last newsletter, approved. Web link to Federation news on our website. New appointment--Federation Director, Dale Ruperd. Federation Delegate is Bill Johnson.

Treasurer's report: Mike indicated that we have received about half of registered Dealer's fee for our show this spring, at the Fairgrounds. Deadline for all fees is April 30.

Committee report on Show: Diane and Mike Rose have purchased an Amethyst Geode for the grand prize at the show. Regarding the question posed to the club last mtg.; Tommie Erst suggested that if we opted to feature a member showcase that the display would not disclose owner names, citing security issues. Next Show Committee mtg. to be announced in Newsletter. Everett volunteered his house for the next mtg. Thanks!

Old Business: Last weekend's field trip was attended by 12 club members. Many favorable comments regarding the Steve Livingston Rock Ranch. "Lots to see" remarked Bev. There is a link to his Website on our website. He is starting a business selling equipment by Covington and Lortone and incidental lapidary supplies.

ALAA report: Everett reported that the Nez Pearce forest is going to be combined with the Clearwater forest. A series of mtgs. will be taking place. Subjects covered: revision process, time lines, closing roads, etc .. Closest mtg. is in Moscow, Mar. 4, ,6:00-8:00 PM. He will find out where and let us know.

New Business: Bev reported that the Ice Age Flood Institute will be having a field trip. News of that and others usually can be found in the Newsletter. Also, dates announced for the Yakima 52 Parade of Gems, Apr. 20-21, and Kalispell show Apr. 27-28. Shelton Rock and Mineral Society show will be in August.

President Bev requested 4 autobiographical sketches from our members for next Newsletter. Don't be shy!

Dennis Elson commented on finding interesting stones in the North Fork of the CDA river. Some have been cut and turned out quite nice!

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted Secretary pro-tem, Cindy Yates

**FOR SALE:** Rock saws (24 inch, 16 inch and 10 inch)— BB some grinding wheels, black lights and miscellaneous equipment (some never used at all). Also assorted slabs, and rough rock by the bucket full. Best offers. Call [659-4021](tel:659-4021) for times to come and see what is available. (The 24 inch saw needs a blade, so it will be discounted—the 16 inch and 10 inch have good blades.) All cleaning and transportation will be up to the buyer. Thanks. BB

(Am putting ads in the local papers next week.) Bob is no longer able to continue with the heavy parts of this hobby. There comes a time and now is it.!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: No contributors to our members page this month, so I will introduce Bob and Bev later in the paper. I know everyone is busy—but help me out here! Please. I will be a good example and wear my badge to the meeting! I put them all in the glove box-so have no excuse. If you do not have a badge please see Mike Burton. Bob will be in Life Care Center of P.,F. for another couple of weeks at least but is doing much better. BB

## FAMOUS PETRIFIED FORESTS

Author Unknown

Our petrified forests are generally of three types. The first type has been showered and completely covered with volcanic ash leaving the trees standing in an upright position. The Petrified Forest of Yellowstone National Park is an example of this type. The trees are standing in their original state where they grew *millions* of years ago. The forest of Yellowstone covers more than 40 square miles which is the largest area known. Another unusual feature of the Yellowstone Petrified Forest is that many thousands of fossilized leaves, needles, cones, and seeds of over one hundred different kinds of trees and shrubs have been found there. It is the only place in the world where 27 successive layers of petrified forms can be seen.

The story behind the Yellowstone Petrified Forest is that an old volcano began to erupt and continued for some twenty years. Mineral-bearing waters had begun to petrify the once-living forest. In the span of a couple of hundred years, a new forest began to appear and grew for the next five hundred years. Then the old volcano erupted again. This process reoccurred twenty-seven times as twenty-seven distinct layers of buried forest have been exposed in the Fossil Forest on the south side of Lamar River Valley. An example of a well-preserved stump can be seen a few feet from the highway along "The Petrified Road". Along the northern slopes of Specimen Ridge, there are many layers of petrified tree trunks. About two-thirds of the way up on the eastern edge is a group of upright standing trunks of unusual beauty and size just as they grew millions of years ago. The largest of these petrified stumps is a redwood over five feet in diameter and believed to be approximately one thousand years old when burned by volcanic debris.

A second type of petrified forest is believed to be the result of logs jamming at the mouth of a river, sinking into the mud, and becoming petrified. The Petrified Forest of Arizona is an example of this type. Driftwood may be deposited on the shore by the winds. Generally fossil wood, which at one time was driftwood, does not have bark. This fact may account for the lack of bark on the wood in Arizona. The Arizona forests are between one hundred and two hundred million years old. One stone log, twenty feet wide and forty feet thick, flung across a ravine forms a natural bridge - the famed Agate Bridge. The Arizona Petrified Forests are composed of different forests varying in coloring. The Rainbow Forest is a multiplicity of colors; the Blue Forest is mostly carbonized sections, and the Black Forest is brilliantly black. Many logs of white, some almost transparent, make up the Second Forest, while the Third Forest displays large specimens - as long as one hundred sixty feet.

The fossilized wood is of three general types:

- (1) Jasperized wood, predominately bright red, some translucent and variegated with a riot of color;
- (2) Small amounts of bright red wood are found often with areas of nearly colorless quartz;
- (3) Sections of dark or nearly black wood.

The opalized wood forests of central Washington run a close second to the famed forests of Arizona. An outstanding feature in Washington is the only fossilized ginkgo trees known in the world. The well-known Ginkgo Petrified Forest is of the driftwood type. Of the ten thousand fossilized trees in this forest, only six have been identified as Ginkgo trees. The Ginkgo is one of our oldest and most primitive types of trees, a direct ancestor of our modern tree, and is remarkable in that it has survived through millions of years while other species have died out.

Nevada boasts of the largest petrified tree known in the world. It is fourteen feet in diameter, and nearly three hundred feet long. Another distinction in Nevada is the woods of Virgin Valley which are fully opalized with the -fire- of the opal fire.

A third type of petrified forest is that of scattered woods that may be covered in some manner, to become solidified later. For instance, rising waters in a lake may completely cover a forest and protect it from decay. Later on, petrification may preserve the trees permanently. Some of the woods in California, Nevada, Oregon, and Central Washington have this origin. (i.e.-Saddle Mountain)

*via the Rockhound Speciat August 2004. et al*

**MEMBERS:** Bob and Bev Bockman have been members of this club for about 15 years, members of the Rock Rollers for 16 1/2 years and the Colville club (Panorama Gem and Mineral ) for about 11 years. Before meeting Bev, Bob had been a fossil hunter but latter expanded his interests to massive tumbling (constructed a 10 barrel tumbler from steel) and sawing—the bigger the rock the better! Also built a steel drag saw and a hoist to lift heavy rocks into the saw or even bigger ones into a truck.. —Bev has concentrated on cabochons, faceting and tumbling and jewelry making with wire wrapping, beading around cabs, intarsia, etc. Petrified wood is a favorite!! Participated in three of the rockhound retreats in the John Day area—an annual event. (Wonderful way to get an education!) Held several offices in the Rock Rollers over the years . Both have helped with over 24 shows and have both been show chairmen.

Both went on many field trips —garnets and agates and wood in ID., sapphire digging in MT., crystals in MT., wood in Nevada, Wyoming, AZ., WA. and Oregon. Agates where ever we found them—two trips to the Yellowstone River in MT. Fossils in Oregon. Many of the trips were with other friends of the same persuasion. Now we are slowed by the natural progression of years—but the memories are good—and tangible. You are welcome to visit our “rock shop” anytime.

Bob was a worker in the mill that was located where Riverstone is now for most of his entire working life after the army and 2 years at the University in Moscow. Beverly spent 60 years as an ICU nurse and Hospice nurse, besides going to school for many years—a perennial student- and got a BSN in Nursing and a lot of fun going to college as an adult student!! (Also married to another rockhound for 26 years—) (That’s us in a nutshell!)

## Apache Tears

By Shirley Greenberg

From *The Garnett Gazette*, 3/94

If you have a specimen in your collection labeled "Apache tear" and want information about it, you could have a problem. Not all rock and mineral books have a listing for "Apache tears." This is because "Apache tear" is not a valid mineral name, but is a well known nickname for some obsidian nodules. Obsidian is a rock, not a mineral. As you probably have guessed, these nodules are found in locations where Apache Indians lived in the U.S. Southwest. "Apache tears" have been found primarily in Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico.

All "Apache tears" are obsidian, but not all obsidians are "Apache tears." Obsidian is natural volcanic glass. Don't look for crystals of obsidian because you won't find any. The hot lava forming obsidian cooled much too quickly to allow crystals to form. "Apache tears" are found in grayish white volcanic material called "perlite." Perlite is obsidian that has weathered and altered until it has become porous and lightweight. Each "Apache tear" lump will have an uneven coating of perlite clinging to it after being pried or dug from a mass of perlite. Tumbling and polishing will reveal a shiny glass pebble that

smoky in color. Hold the "tear" to the light to see how translucent or transparent it is. It is interesting to note that the "Apache tear" and perlite surrounding it have been formed from the same volcanic material and yet the "tears" are dark in color and its coating of perlite is light in color.

Perlite is used in making lightweight concrete and is also used in the manufacture of insulation.

Obsidian, with a hardness of 5 to 5.5, is brittle and chips easily. Nevertheless, it has long attracted gem cutters and gem carvers. Obsidian was used for bowls and cups as early as 3200 B.C. in Mesopotamia. Jewelry set with obsidian made about 1352 B.C. was found in the tomb of King Tutankhamen. "Apache tears" are cut by faceters today because they are plentiful and inexpensive.

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC  
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FEDERATION DELEGATE-BILL JOHNSON  
REFRESHMENTS AND HOSPITALITY—TOMMIE  
ERST AND CINDY YATES 277-8840 AND  
660-7588

## MORE APRIL SHOW DATES—

**APRIL 13-14 IDAHO FALLS GEM AND MINERAL-IDAHO FALLS**

**APRIL 19-21 WILLAMETTE AGATE & MIN.-RICKREALL, OR**

**APRIL 20-21 YAKIMA RICK & MIN. YAKIMA, WA**

**APRIL 20-21 LAKESIDE GEM & MIN.-KENNEWICK, WA**

## Aquamarine March Birthstone (excerpted from Hellgate Breezes, 3/2007)

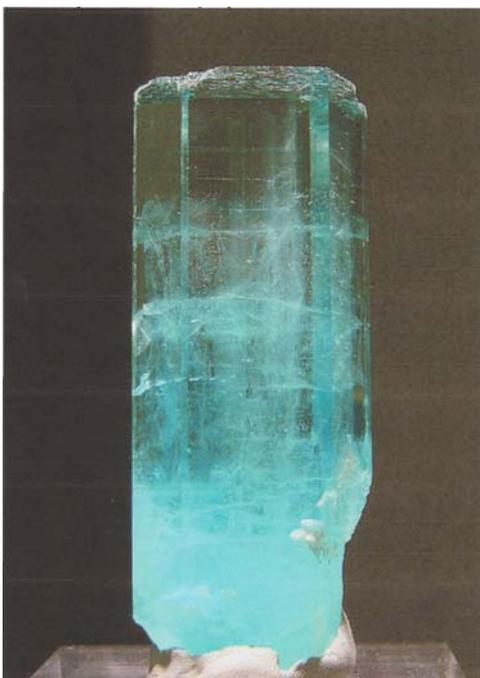
From the light blue of the sky to the deep blue of the sea, aquamarines shine over an extraordinarily beautiful range of mainly light blue colors. Women the world over love it for its fine blue shades which can complement almost any skin color, and creative gemstone designers are inspired by it as they are by hardly any other gem.

Its light blue arouses feelings of sympathy; trust, harmony, friendship and good feelings. The blue of aquamarine is a divine, eternal color, because it is the color of the sky, it is also the color of water with its life-giving force, and it really does seem to have captured the lucid blue of the oceans. When you consider that according to the saga it originated in the treasure chest of fabulous mermaids, and since ancient times, has been regarded as the sailors' lucky stone. Its name is derived from the Latin 'aqua' (water) and 'mare' (sea).

It is said that its strengths are developed to their best advantage when it is placed in water which is bathed in sunlight, and according to the old traditions the aquamarine promises a happy marriage and is said to bring the woman who wears it joy and wealth.

Aquamarine is one of the most popular and best-known gemstones, and distinguishes itself by many good qualities. It is almost as popular as the classics: ruby, sapphire and emerald. In fact it is related to the emerald, both belonging to the beryl family. Much more often than its famous green cousin, aquamarine is almost entirely free of inclusions. Aquamarine has good hardness (7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale) and a wonderful shine. That hardness makes it very tough and protects it to a large extent from scratches. Iron is the substance which gives aquamarine its color, a color which ranges from an almost indiscernible pale blue to a strong sea-blue. The more intense the color of an aquamarine, the more value is put on it. Some aquamarines have a light, greenish shimmer; that is a typical feature. However, it is a pure, clear blue that continues to epitomize the aquamarine, because it brings out so well the immaculate transparency and magnificent shine of this gemstone.

The various color nuances of aquamarine have melodious names: the rare, intense blue aquamarines from the Santa Maria de Itabira mine in Brazil, which make every gemstone lover's heart beat faster, are called 'Santa Maria', Similar nuances come from a few gemstone mines in Africa, particularly Mozambique. To help distinguish them from the Brazilian ones, these aquamarines have been given the name/Santa Maria Africana'. The 'Espirito Santo' color of aquamarines from the Brazilian state of that name is of a blue that is not quite so intense. Yet other qualities are embodied in the stones from Fortaleza and Marambaia. One beautiful aquamarine color was named after the Brazilian beauty queen of 1954, 'Martha Rocha'.



It can be seen from the names of aquamarine colors just how important Brazil is among the countries where aquamarine is found .. Most of the raw crystals for the world market come from the gemstone mines of that large South American country. Some large aquamarine crystals of immaculate transparency are found with a magnificent color, a combination which is very unusual in gemstones. And occasionally, sensationally large aquamarine crystals come to light in Brazil, such as the crystal of 110.5 Kg found in 1910 in Marambaia/Minas Gerais, or for example the 'Dom Pedro', weighing 26 Kg and cut in Idar-Oberstein in 1992 by the gemstone designer Bemd Munsteiner, the largest aquamarine ever to have been cut. (Look it up on line!)

The beryl mineral family along with emerald and aquamarine contains golden beryl (heliodor), Goshenite, Bixbite and Morganite (or pink beryl.) Sources are Brazil, China, Madagascar, Nigeria, Zambia and the U.S. and Russia. Over 99% of all aquamarine is irradiated to stabilize and enhance the color and eliminate "green". This is a permanent process that does not harm the durability of the gemstone, so do not worry when this disclosure is made. Avoid ultrasonic or steam cleaning of jewelry containing beryl —use only warm soapy water and a soft brush.

PART OF ARTICLE FROM [AwesomeGems.com](http://AwesomeGems.com)

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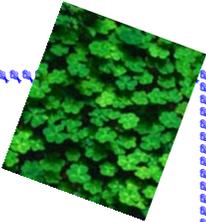
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**Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-search-bring to meeting, and give to Dale Rupert**

**CLUB WEB SITE**

**[www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com)**

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WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL  
S.C.R.I.B.E. **ALAA**



**2013 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.**

**\*\*MARCH 22-24 MT. HOOD ROCK CLUB PORTLAND, OR**

**\*\*MARCH 29-30 PANORAMA GEM AND MIN. COLVILLE, WA.**

**MARCH 30-31 SWEET HOME ROCK AND MIN. —SWEET HOME OR.**

**MARCH 30-31 MT. BAKER ROCK & GEM— BELLINGHAM, WA.**

**APRIL 6-7 S.E. IDAHO GEM & MIN. POCA TELLO, ID**

**APRIL 12-14 GOLDEN SPIKE GEM & MIN- OGDEN, UTAH**

**Consult [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) for show details.AND MORE**

**APRIL DATES**

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