



Lake City Rockhound News

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

March, 2016
Volume 15, No. 3

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 – March 17, 2016

The Meeting Program:

DVD about Butte, Montana

Refreshments: Betty Anderson, James Finckbone
There will be a silent auction and scholarship raffle
(next raffle will be in March). Buy your tickets today.

March 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Dale Rupert.

Leon Agee presented a slide show of photo inclusions, taken for a collection of three massive books, *Photoatlases of Inclusions in Gemstones*.

There were 16 members and 4 guests present.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited, led by Dale Rupert.

The treasurers report was given by Carl Chapin. All finances are in balance.

Old Business:

The old pressed wood tables need to be removed from storage. That was originally brought up last June, but the tables are still taking up room in the storage shed.

New Business:

Dean Yongue will present seminars at the Gold Prospectors Show in April. He will also take old-time photos there. Mike Burton talked about participating in the gold show. We have a free booth space there and should take advantage of it.

Gem Show:

The club is starting to get table reservations from dealers. We have identified a need for volunteers. We need to fix the wheel of fortune. Mike Burton will set up the local advertisement, but Bev Bockman will hand out fliers for the show. We need more kids prizes and Bev will work on this. All tasks connected with this are open. We have a need for show demonstrators. The Coeur d'Alene library will allow us to display items as well as advertise for the show. The Hayden library may also do this; Carl Chapin will ask them.

Minutes submitted by Michael Burton.

Newsletter Volume Number Change

The Volume number for last month's newsletter does not match the one for this month. Last month, we took a guess at what the volume should have been. This month, we looked at old printed newsletters in our storage unit, and we now have a better estimate of the true life span of the newsletters.



Items included in March scholarship raffle drawing

Jewelry Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon

Identifying Unmarked Solders

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.

Inexpensive Electric Wax Pen

You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at Radio Shack, a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight. As an example of the components, see www.harborfreight.com items #43060 and #47887.

File the tip of the soldering iron into the shape you prefer or even better get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks. Set the dimmer control just hot enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke.

A tip design that I find ideal for some work is a length of

small gauge wire that lets me reach in around the model to melt some wax. The wire is about 15mm long and 18 or 20 gauge. To conduct heat all the way to the tip, I use Sterling wire and silver solder it into a hole on the end of a copper or brass rod that will fit into the soldering iron.

17th Annual Gold & Treasure Show

April 2nd & 3rd, 2016

Come and join us at the 17th Annual Gold & Treasure Show. Learn all about small scale mining, gold prospecting & the exciting hobby of recreational gold panning. See the latest in small scale mining equipment and metal detectors. Try your luck at our panning booths. Learn how and where to prospect for gold or look for treasure. Get ideas on how to turn your treasures into keepsakes and collectibles. Visit our gold display and talk to our members about their equipment display and experiences. Vote in our homemade/modified equipment contest. Food and beverages will be available. Admission \$5 per person, children 12 & under are free. Fun for the WHOLE family. Saturday, April 2nd, 2016 (9AM to 5PM) & Sunday, April 3rd, 2016 (9AM to 4PM) in the Jacklin Building #25 at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds at 4056 N Government Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID For info call 208-699-8128 or email: bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com.

YouTube Videos

The other day, your editor stumbled across some excellent videos on YouTube. They were all produced by the same lady, who runs a business called CSL Designs. I found that eight of her jewelry design videos apply directly to our club members. They are



5 Strand Braid Wire Wrapped Cabochon (33 min)

Bezel Set Wire Wrapped Cabochon (37 min)





Caged Wire Cabochon (43 min)

Love and Heart Design Wire Wrapped Cabochon (48 min)



Prong Set Wirework Cabochon (54 min)

Rose Wire Framed Cabochon (41 min)



Wire Wrapped Cabochon Netting Technique (42 min)

Wireframed Cabochon (78 min)



If you want to learn how to create these designs, go to YouTube.com and search for the CSL Designs channel. Or you can wait for the videos to be played at one of our future club meetings.

What to Take Rock Hounding

Source: <http://www.rocks4u.com/rockhounding.htm>

Rock hounding experience (our own and tips and hints

from colleagues, customers, and friends) has led us to compile the following list of things you won't want to be without.

1. **FIRST AID KIT.** We hope the reason for this one is obvious. A friend and fellow rock hound says "Rock hounding is like hockey; it's not fun until you see blood." We won't go that far, but we often get scrapes and bug bites.
2. **SPARE TIRE & TOOLS TO CHANGE A FLAT.** Rocks wreak havoc on soft rubber tires. We don't even want to go into the story of the day we were out in the desert with our flat, our spare and no lug wrench.
3. **GAS.** Make sure you have enough gas to make the trip into the desert and back out. It's a good idea to take an extra can full.
4. **WATER.** There is no potable (drinkable) water in the desert! Take lots.
5. **TOILET PAPER.** More uses than you think; the standard "paper work" and to wrap specimens. Make sure you take enough for both.
6. **GARBAGE BAGS.** Also dual purpose. The obvious choice for this item is hauling your trash out. They also make great wrap for specimens.
7. **HAND LENS.** A small, high quality magnifier, also known as a loupe. You will want to look at ALL the crystals you find, large and small, and you won't see the small ones without a hand lens.
8. **IDENTIFICATION GUIDE.** There are many guides from the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals and Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals.
9. **MAPS & GUIDE BOOKS.** Not only will you want to know how to get where you are going, you will want to know how to get home again. There are currently several guide books on Utah. All have their pros and cons. We haven't found a guide book yet that didn't contain its fair share of wrong directions. Most people end up with and use all the books to find great rocks, minerals & gold.
10. **NOTEBOOK & PENCIL.** Your specimens are much more valuable if you know where they came from. And you may want to go back and get more from a specific location. If you do not keep track of this information you won't have

a way to return. Write down the location and draw a picture of the area or draw your own map.

11. **ROCK HAMMER & SHEATH.** No, a nail hammer is not good enough. Rock hammers are a solid piece of steel. Therefore, the head cannot be broken. Not only are they safer, but they will last you years of rock hounding. That is, they will last you for years if you carry them in a sheath. We consider Utah's deserts to be a large rock hammer exchange. We've left a few and collected a few. Now we carry them in a sheath so we don't set them down and lose them. Painting them construction orange helps to locate misplaced tools.

12. **CHISELS.** In addition to your rock hammer, you'll want other tools. Chisels help remove rock or crystals with a little more precision. We recommend Estwing brand tools. They are also the best!

13. **SAFETY GOGGLES.** Eye protection is a serious concern when you are breaking rock. If you want to enjoy your specimens after you collect them, wear goggles or safety glasses.

14. **GARDEN TROWEL.** Very useful for small digging.

15. **ROUND POINT SHOVEL & HOE.** These tools are very handy especially for digging especially at geode beds.

16. **SPECIMEN CONTAINERS.** We've used all the following; cardboard boxes, milk crates, wooden crates, 5 gallon buckets, canvas sacks, egg cartons, Tupperware dishes, cookie tins, film containers.

17. **A BUDDY.** We do not recommend rock hounding alone. Use the buddy system and two cars.

18. **FOOD & SNACKS & MEDICATION.** Besides your meals, take along plenty of snacks. It's better to have too much than not enough. Never leave for a collecting trip without medication you may need!

19. **HAT & SUNSCREEN.** You will get a sunburn without these.

20. **CAMPING GEAR.** When rock hounding, nine times out of ten you will not be near any facilities. Be a good scout and go prepared with some basic camping supplies.

21. **PATIENCE, COMMON SENSE, & COURTESY.** We've noticed that the most successful rock hounds are those who patiently keep looking around until they find

something really great. Always use common sense when in the field. Never trespass. Respect others and their property.

Help for Constituents in Central Washington

From: Shirley Lesson, ALAA

Dan Newhouse needs to be contacted by a lot of Washington State and NFMS Rockhounds to convince him to add "Recreational Rockhounding" to any Public Land Use legislation going through the House... Now is the time NFMS Rockhounds need to Speak up and make their voices heard!

“If you have any thoughts or need assistance on issues affecting veterans or other federal agencies, please do not hesitate to contact my [Dan Newhouse] office locations in Yakima and the Tri-Cities. These offices are 'constituent service centers' for you when you have a question, comment, concern, or need assistance with a federal agency. My staff members are also available to meet with the anyone who needs help with a federal agency or has questions or comments on federal issues during regular mobile office hours in Okanogan, Grant, and Adams counties.”

And Here Is Why!..... He seems to be on the side of the "Rockhound" but just does not know it, yet!

“The House recently passed, with my strong support, the Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act to improve federal land management and protect public access and opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. I was pleased that the SHARE Act included my amendment to require the U.S. Forest Service to publish a notice in the Federal Register, along with a justification, for the closure of any public road on Forest System lands. The SHARE Act would also protect Second Amendment rights and the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle. The bottom line is that no bureaucrat should arbitrarily block access to public roads. Federal agencies must be held accountable to notify the public and justify any road closures that have an outsize impact on local communities, residents, and recreational groups who rely on access to those roads.”

“Thank you for taking the time to read this E-news update.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you in Congress.”

Sincerely,



Dan Newhouse

Member of Congress

Tumbling Tips

By Dan Imel, via The Rock Collector, Sept 2008

How do you know when to change grit size?

In a vibratory tumbler you start out with medium (220) grit, not course (100), and then go to 600 grit then polish. If you ever buy a grit kit, make sure it's for vibratory, no 100 grit. You can add a step and go to 320 or 400 before 600. It saves a little time, not much.

The way you know when to change is when you've gotten them as smooth as you want them to be. That means removing pockets, chips, etc. If most of the pieces you are tumbling look good but there are just a few that need more work, go ahead and switch to the next grit. Run the ones that need more work through the next batch to finish them. You want the stones to be pretty good before switching from the 220 grit or they'll take forever in the 600. This is the long step.

My two vibratory tumblers usually take about 3 - 4 days on 220, 12 hours on 400, 1 to 1-1/2 days on 600 & 1 day (change polish at 12 hours) for the polish. I change the grit/polish every 12 hours, washing the muck out into a 5 gallon bucket to settle/evaporate. You can pour off the clear water on top after it sets several days. You don't want to dump the muck down the drain unless you like plumbers. The rest will evaporate and can be put in the trash.

Can you save the grit and use it again for the next batch of rock ?

If you are doing it right, there won't be much grit left to save. The grit should break down as you tumble the material. I always had a little grit left on the 220 run that

just didn't go away until I paid a little extra for a graded 220 from Ebersole's in Wichita, KS. It's about 50 cent a pound more than upgraded and worth it for me. Other vibratory tumblers may not have this same problem. You'll find out. I buy 5 pound boxes which do quite a few loads and only pay about \$3/pound. Not worth saving any that doesn't break down. If you try to use course (100 grit), it will sink to the bottom and stay there in just about every vibratory I've seen.

Why do they recommend that a separate barrel be used for polishing?

Contamination from the grit. Somehow you almost never get it all, no matter how hard you try washing it out. Contamination between grit size changes isn't as crucial, but try to wash your stones & barrel well anyway.

Do you put polyethylene pellets in the final polishing stage with a vibratory tumbler?

You can. Always change the pellets between different grit sizes. Re-use the pellets only with the same grit size. The grit becomes embedded in the pellets and, again, you get contamination. I bought a bag of pellets several years ago. Before I started to use it, I mentioned to a dealer friend that I'd bought them. He went out in his garage & came back with a gallon milk jug full of 1/4 to 1/2 in pieces of agate screened from the 'good stuff'.

I have yet to open the bag of pellets. You want small stuff to help the tumbling, as long as you have that, you don't need pellets. I've added to the gallon jug and my wife sifts through & takes out stuff to make things like gem trees if I let her near it. It gives you a reason not to throw away the small pieces when you are out hunting. You may never need the pellets. The chips don't have to be changes between grits. One caution, you should always tumble stuff of like hardness. Don't tumble obsidian with agate, etc. The most common thing people tumble are quartz-based agate, jasper, quartz, etc., which are all pretty much the same hardness.

North Idaho Mineral Club
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First Class Mail

<p style="text-align: center;">NIMC Officers</p> <p>President: Dale Ruperd (664-2712) Vice-President: Corey Brenner (640-4743) Treasurer: Carl Chapin (772-9049) Secretary: Diane Rose (659-6173)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Positions</p> <p>Show Chair 2016: Dean Hutchinson Newsletter: Michael Burton (772-9347) Federation Director: Dale Ruperd Federation Delegate: Bill Johnson (765-3099) Webmaster: Michael Burton Programs/Membership: Bev Bockman (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>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gem Show Schedules</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Mar 19-20</td> <td>9:00-6:00 10:00-5:00</td> <td>Hellgate Mineral Society</td> <td>Hilton Garden Inn, 2730 No Reserve St, Missoula, MT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar 26-27</td> <td>10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00</td> <td>Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club</td> <td>Bloedel Donovan Comm. Ctr, 2214 Electric Ave, Bellingham, WA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar 26-27</td> <td>10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00</td> <td>Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society</td> <td>Sweet Home HS gym, 1641 Long St, Sweet Home, OR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 8-10</td> <td>9:00-6:00 10:00-6:00</td> <td>Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society</td> <td>Golden Spike Event Ctr, Weber Cty Fairgrounds, 1000 N 1200 W, Ogden, UT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 9-10</td> <td>10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00</td> <td>Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society</td> <td>Idaho Falls Rec Ctr, Memorial Dr and B St, Idaho Falls, ID</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 15-17</td> <td>9:00-5:00 9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00</td> <td>Willamette Agate & Mineral Society</td> <td>Polk Cty Fairgrounds, 520 S Pacific Hwy W, Rickreall, OR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 16-17</td> <td>10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00</td> <td>Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club</td> <td>Benton Cty Fairgrounds, 1500 S Oak, Kennewick, WA</td> </tr> </table>	Mar 19-20	9:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Hellgate Mineral Society	Hilton Garden Inn, 2730 No Reserve St, Missoula, MT	Mar 26-27	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club	Bloedel Donovan Comm. Ctr, 2214 Electric Ave, Bellingham, WA	Mar 26-27	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society	Sweet Home HS gym, 1641 Long St, Sweet Home, OR	Apr 8-10	9:00-6:00 10:00-6:00	Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society	Golden Spike Event Ctr, Weber Cty Fairgrounds, 1000 N 1200 W, Ogden, UT	Apr 9-10	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society	Idaho Falls Rec Ctr, Memorial Dr and B St, Idaho Falls, ID	Apr 15-17	9:00-5:00 9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society	Polk Cty Fairgrounds, 520 S Pacific Hwy W, Rickreall, OR	Apr 16-17	10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club	Benton Cty Fairgrounds, 1500 S Oak, Kennewick, WA
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