



# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

**MAY 2012**

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY SENIOR 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)

MEETING ON MAY 17 6:00 PM

PROGRAM: DVD Provided by Diane Rose

## Petrified Forest

Refreshments and Silent Auction follow the business meeting.

The May 17th meeting will concentrate on show plans and identifying the members that will be responsible for certain aspects of the show.

This show is what keeps our club afloat for the next year, and if we all work hard on promoting the event to our friends, neighbors, businesses, etc we may even earn a little extra for the scholarship program at NIC. Flyers—large and small will be at the meeting. **Please take as many as you need for your area.**

As you recall, last year we were able to help two students in the geology program at NIC.

The pot-luck supper on Friday at 6 PM is an important adjunct to the show, and this year Dean Yongue will be doing a power point presentation. Joan Gundlach will be committee head. Sign up for two of three choices—salad, side dish, breads or dessert and let Joan know what you plan to bring. Chicken will be provided by the club, as well as all the tableware. Also the club will provide beverages and water. ( contact Joan at 667-3339 or [b-jgundlach@hotmail.com](mailto:b-jgundlach@hotmail.com))



**If you have e-mail please read the Northwest Newsletter for MAY [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) — either read on line or download and save. If you are a member of this club and would like to have a mailed copy of this newsletter please see Mike to make sure that your name has been submitted to the circulation chairman.**

**This spring is starting out with a bang! The first trip to Saddle Mt. is history, and I did not get any report on the event, but saw some pictures taken at the time, and the weather seemed to be ideal. I hope some material was found that is usable, and that you had a good time.**

**Next is the NFMS Annual show and meeting at Kennewick—May 18-19 and 20. In addition to the rock show and convention activities, there are 13 speakers on various topics, field trip to Hanford, a visit to a mammoth dig in Coyote Canyon, and a two day petrified wood seminar the Monday and Tuesday after the show by one of the most knowledgeable paleobotanists in this country. (Reservations required for the seminar)**

**The Tri-Federation field trip has been postponed till 2013**

**The same weekend as the federation show there is a show in Hamilton, MT. By the Bitterroot Gem and Mineral society, and two more shows on the coast (see last page of newsletter) before our show in June. The weekend after our show there is one in Butte, MT.**

**I heard a rumor about some trips to Emerald Creek for garnet and the Sunstone area in Oregon. Be sure to talk to our sunstone vendor who has just opened his claim to fee digging this year. (Randy Reinikka)**

## A CLIQUE?

Way to go Judi. Our NFMS President.

(This bit of information was taken from the March issue of the EFMLS News. It was written by their Federation's President, R. J. Harris. I felt it might be worth sharing, as we all need to be reminded that people develop impressions by the way we present ourselves. Judi Allison)

Clique is a noun defined as a small, exclusive group. When you are on the outside looking in, it is easy to see why it looks that way. Most of us have trouble getting folks to come forward to truly help. So the same old diehards, who get the job done, keep things working, happy if we can add another solid contributor to the list. I was surprised when I heard the same thing mentioned by two convention attendees this past summer. To them it looked like a small clique that ran both the AFMS and EFMLS

... To me the lesson is two-fold.

One: we as leaders have to be aware that sometimes people are not instant joiners and we have to go out of our way to make them feel welcome. Our biggest complaint is lack of help. We need to make them feel at home so they want to become contributors.

Two: the folks who believe that this organization is run by a clique need to take a longer look at the years of enthusiasm and hard work the folks who are involved have given. It is amazing!

Not unlike the leaders in your home clubs. I have made a personal commitment to myself to make sure to mingle with new members at every local club meeting. I will be a better rockhound as a result. Hope you do the same.

From your editor—this field trip report was so entertaining and well written that I am printing it for you. The descriptions are so vivid I felt like I was there and wouldn't I love to have been. (except for the ATV—not for me—I'd have to walk and climb). Enjoy!!

### **From the Field -Janel Lacey, Field Trip Coordinator (Walla Walla club)**

Ah Spring! My favorite time of year. Not only because it's gardening season once again, but because it also heralds in a new rock hunting season. I had a very promising start this past week when my eldest son, Nick, and I headed to the Alvord Desert for spring break.....The Alvord is on the east side of Steens Mountain in the southeastern part of Oregon. It is a wide open place of sagebrush and jackrabbits, with a desolate beauty all its own. At the base of Steens Mountain is a vast salt playa where world speed records used to be set because it is so flat. Between the road and the playa is a hot spring with a cement basin and wind protection built long ago by local sheepherders for bathing. Just south of the playa is Borax Lake, which is where 20-Mule-Team Borax was once mined—you can still see some of the old equipment. This is also home of the Borax chub, a minnow-sized fish that only occurs in that one lake. In the Reagan era there were plans to develop a geothermal electricity plant here, but thankfully the chub—as an endangered species—prevented this.

The many canyons on the flanks of the mountain are crisscrossed with old mining roads—cinnabar (mercury ore) being the primary attraction. Nick and I explored a number of these roads on our quads. Many were steep and narrow, with sections eroded away or collapsed, challenging the limit of my skills and nerve. After traversing one particularly steep and gnarly trail that took us high on an exposed, windswept slope I admitted I could not go on riding, so we decided to walk a bit. It was up a canyon where I had previously found scraps of chalcedony with botryoidal crystal formation and soon I recognized nuggets in the roadbed. While Nick walked on, I began to search the slope above the road and quickly found a bonanza. In 20 minutes I had two sizable specimens (one white, another light blue) and numerous small ones. Nick was impatient to get moving again, so I made note of the location then jolted and bucked my way back down the slope on the quad. (Note to self, NEVER think you can keep up with a young person doing a young person's sport). Back at camp Nick pointed out that one of the other sites was occupied by a truck with a sticker advertising a rock shop on the tailgate. I dropped in for a visit and learned they were down from The Dalles hunting for thundereggs. The shop owner generously pointed to the spot high in the rim rock where he had found his best material. So the next day I gasped my way up to the area indicated and found thundereggs from as small as a marble to almost volleyball-sized. One was broken open and showed white crystals. I filled my day pack, as well as packs on both dogs with material in a little over an hour. I can't wait to get some sliced open so I can see what surprises they hold. After several days at the playa, we moved camp east to Willow Hot Spring, another popular bathing spot. There are three types of rock I have hunted in this area: bog agate, opalized wood and sunstone. On the final day of our trip, the sun finally decided to show its face so I headed to the sunstone spot. There are two small pits at this location where people have previously dug and sifted for the gems, but we have always just searched for float by looking for the shine when the sun hits the rock. I already have 2 gallons of material at home, so I wasn't much interested in accumulating more. Instead I hoped to find some with color, as I now know a little more about what to look for. I found a couple small pieces with a coppery tone and one with a pinkish yellow caste. Nothing spectacular, but it made me wonder what I might find if I dug in the pits. Then, when the wind had tugged at my hair for so long my scalp hurt, I found a large sunstone about an inch and a half long, by an inch wide and  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch thick. A fine ending to the trip, and a promising beginning to the 2012 rock hunting season. I'll see you in the trenches!

Many thanks to Janel Lacey for this great article.!!! ED.

2012 OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.

PRESIDENT—BILL JOHNSON (771-2687 C) 7653009

VICE-PRESIDENT JAMES FINCKBONE 208 752 1838 SECRETARY DIANE ROSE, 659-6173 (May-? )

TREASURER MIKE BURTON (818-6317 C)

HOSPITALITY BOB BOCKMAN 773 5384

MEMBERSHIP MIKE BURTON Show Chairman 2012

BILL JOHNSON 765 3099

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—BEV BOCKMAN

PROGRAMS—CLUB MEMBERS & BEV

WEBMASTER—MIKE BURTON 818-6317 c

ALAA—EVERETT HEADRICK - FEDERATION DIRECTOR EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643

FEDERATION DELEGATE

DALE RUPERD 664-2712

WSMC DELEGATE OPEN

REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN OPEN

FIELD TRIP OPEN

## Show meeting May 12, 2012. 10 AM

Mike and Diane Rose hosted the meeting in their “rock shop”. Many aspects of the coming show were discussed, and some committee heads selected. All members please let us know when we can count on you for help setting up on **Friday from 8-12**, contributing food and help setting up the potluck supper for 6 PM. If you are planning to set up a display case see Bev Bockman for liners and help if needed. The case must be finished by noon, and labels to identify the materials should be furnished.

Those attending this meeting were Rich Petrovic, Dale Ruperd, Warren Price (in charge of laying out the floor plan); Everett and Erna Headrick (tickets and information table; Mike Burton, treasurer (will have many jobs and needs your help); Tammy Madland helping Joan with the potluck, Hiram Madland doing the door prize drawings each hour and making announcements for the silent auction if needed; Bev Bockman—signs, and help where needed in addition to cases and liners; Diane -badges and silent auction; Mike Rose in charge of transporting goods from warehouse to show site if he is not working—Bill Johnson show chairman will also be unloading the warehouse. More help needed for this big job. Tommie Erst, Dale Ruperd (and Bob Riley) will be demonstrating faceting at the show.

13 club members met and most stayed to help make “kid prizes” for the show. We made quite a few. We will be running the treasure dig, wheel of fortune and the ring toss. Helpers are needed for those also. Susan Rekow up from AZ where she now lives, will help at the show. She has remained a member.

Show questions welcomed at the next meeting.....BB

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

Lake City Rockhound News

Bev Bockman, Editor, bockbb@aol.com  
P.O.Box 1326 ,Post Falls. ID 83877

**CLUB WEB SITE**

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

Affiliated with:

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

S.C.R.I.B.E.



2012 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND  
MT.

MAY 18-20 NFMS SHOW IN KENNEWICK / WA

CONSULT [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) for show details.

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND CLUBS