



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

MAY 2014

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

Download the Northwest Newsletter at www.amfed.org/nfms

OUR web site for the club at www.northidahomineralclub.com

PROGRAM FOR THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014

GEMS AND GEOLOGY (of Idaho)

SCHOLARSHIP —TICKETS 50 CENTS— DRAWING IN JUNE

SILENT AUCTION—refreshments by Tammy and Joyce

The weekend of May 3 and 4 doing prep work at the shop of Mike and Diane Rose was very successful. The “kids workshop” on Saturday brought out some unexpected talent in creating prizes for the activities planned for the younger crowd.. Bill Johnson, Mike Burton and Mike Rose, Diane, Bev, Marilyn Kohler, Donni Moen , Tammy and Hiram Madland, Dale Ruperd —and I hope I have not forgotten anyone! On Sunday Mike B. worked up a good sweat doing the box cutting on some really stiff cardboard for the liners, helped by Hiram, Mike Rose and Bill Johnson. Then Bev, Roxanne and Tammy worked on putting the material on the forms—so we have two new sets of liners for the two recently acquired cases. The rest will be checked as we need them at the show.

MANY THANKS TO MIKE AND DIANE FOR OPENING THEIR SHOP FOR THESE ACTIVITIES!

MARILYN KOHLER may be giving a class on painting on rocks later this year. It looks like a lot of fun, and something new to exercise your artistic talents on. Done with acrylic paints. More later. This would also be done in Roses’ shop.

NIMC meeting—APRIL 17, 2014

Meeting called to order by President Dale Ruperd. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Motion made to accept minutes as written by Karel Mrazek and seconded by Dean Hutchinson. Passed.
TREASURERS REPORT: made by Carl Chapin, Treasurer.

Storage paid for one year for \$675. Lake City Center was paid \$100 for the months April May and June. Motion made to accept Treasurers report by Karel Mrazek, seconded by Beverly Bockman. Passed.

SHOW CHAIRMAN: Mike Burton Need to make new display case liners. There will be a workshop on May 4 [Sunday] at Roses garage at 10AM [1029 N. Hill Drive, CDA. phone 208-659-6173]

Need for more Kids Corner prizes. There will be a workshop on May 3 [Saturday] at Roses garage at 10 AM same address and contact number as above.

Case Labels will be created at the Show by Mike Burton.

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS FOR SHOW:

Admission desk: Mike Burton and Marilyn Kohler Kid's Corner: Tammy Madland. Kid's corner needs: MORE small slabs offered by Bill Johnson and Beverly Bockman. Night Security: Northern Lights Security.

Riser for Announcements etc.: Dale Ruperd will get risers. Karel Mrazek and Mike Rose will create a top for the stage/risers.

Name Badges: Diane Rose will create badges. Members as well as Dealers and their assistants. Please advise if you have need of a badge. ALL members working at the show MUST wear badges.

Grand Prize Tickets: Beverly will print them Also, Advance tickets will be available at May meeting.

THE CLUB NEEDS A MICROPHONE FOR THE SHOW.

Potluck Dinner: Pat Ruperd and Beverly Bockman will coordinate. Joyce Kendra will order and purchase the chicken for the Potluck on Friday June 6, 2014 at 6 PM. All members please plan to bring food for the dinner. Sign up will be available at the next meeting.

Storage unit pickup for show: Bill Johnson will coordinate. No rocks or anything extra for the Silent Auction. Everything is already for the Auction and is presorted. Assistance will be needed getting tables and show cases to Fair Grounds.

Startup Money: Carl Chapin has the money boxes and the itemized list of funds for each Money box: #1] Entry #2] Grand Prize #3] Kid's Corner #4] Silent Auction

Tear Down Sunday after Show. EVERYONE that is available, PLEASE!!! Banner and Signs: Need to have someone do this PLEASE! Volunteers??? DEMONSTRATORS: Cabochons: Terry Deal and Gale Diener: Faceters: Tommie Erst and Dale Ruperd: Beading: Becky Tallman(??) and maybe Boyd Merkley Decided not to change Show date. Always make it the first full weekend of June. Diane Rose purchased a used cash box for Admission area for \$15.90. Motion made to purchase cash box made by Patric Hutchinson seconded by Bruce Holmes. Passed.

Field Trip: Succor Creek area April 24-27. Dale Ruperd is planning on going. Anyone interested please contact Dale for more information. Bruce and Betty Holmes will follow Dale on the trip. Mike Shaw from the Rock Rollers Club requested assistance for the 4th of July through 6th in Kellogg. Suggested 6 people to give out our club information and assist with the Kids Activities the Rock Roller have planned. There is an Ice Age Flood Workshop and tour scheduled for May 10, 2014 7:30 am to 6 pm.

Information is available as well as registration forms from Diane Rose after the meeting or on table. Refreshments for May 15 meeting: Joyce Kendra and Tammy Madland will supply. Thank you Ladies.

Bob and Carla Riley wish to liquidate his final inventory of: Prime cabochons and lots of new findings, premium slabs and minerals. Sell the whole thing- not pieced out. \$750 to \$1000. Congratulations on their recent marriage!

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM. Don't forget to do a final check on Silent Auction. It will end in 10 minutes. There are FREE items also. See Bill Johnson for these items.

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Rose, Secretary Pro Tern.

APACHE TEARS by Shirley Greenberg

From the Garnett Gazette, March 1994—(9th Place AFMS 1995 Adult Article)

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 it is not a valid mineral name, but a well known nickname for some obsidian nodules. Obsidian is a rock, not a mineral. As you have probably 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 may be black or 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 Tut. “Apache tears” are cut by faceters today, because they are plentiful and inexpensive. Via Rockhound Special-Bellingham, WA.

SHOP HINTS: Plume agate undercuts easily since the “plume” is softer than the agate. This problem can often be remedied by reducing the speed of the sanding and polishing operations. If you can reduce the speed to about one half of normal, this can be eliminated. Also, it is suggested that you use cerium oxide on leather for the final polish. Avoid excessive heat.

Experiments have shown that it is possible to polish almost any material with a high polish in a tumbler—even stubborn apache tears—by mixing cerium oxide with dry cornmeal for a final polish. Use 1 pound for a 12 pound tumbler. Use dry. Tumble three days. (Both hints from The Rockytier 9/04)

Lipstick as a Metal Cleaner—If you want an excellent cleaner for gold, silver or other metal, try lipstick—any shade. Use a soft cloth to apply and another to remove it and then buff. The results are unbelievable. It also works on copper and brass. (via The Geode 11/99)

Listen to your diamond saw. If it slows down or stops during a cut, turn it off right away. Place a finger on the motor to see if it is warmer than normal. If so, back the saw out of the cut. Check the blade to see if discolored by heat (blue/black) or metal damage to the diamond layer. Check both sides of the blade for shiny spots that might indicate that the saw is not cutting true or the material has shifted in the vise. If OK take a look at the coolant—may need changing.

Use a modern cutting agent—use proper amount—follow recommended cutting speeds from blade manufacturer. Cut a brick or a piece of fired ceramic every so often when you cut really tough stuff like jade. Leave saw closed for five minutes after a cut is finished to cut down the amount of oil mist in the shop. Save your lungs!. (adapted from a hint in the Tumbler Aug/2004)

OBSIDIAN TIPS/TRICKS

Safety Tip: After obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) got into your eye, it would be hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass, and the edges may cut your eye before it could be removed. Grinding Obsidian Cabs: approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a "shattering" experience as obsidian fractures conchoidally, and this is a sure way to do it.

Polish on Obsidian: Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polishing wheel will result in blisters and scratches.

From the Pseudomorph, via The Tumble Rumble 5/08

REMOVING LACQUER

Ever want to remove a lacquer coating from an otherwise nice piece of lapidary material? Want to avoid using harsh chemicals? Here is a tip for you. Obtain some apple cider vinegar, the brown colored kind. Submerge the lacquered object in it, leave it for a week, then remove and scrap off the lacquer with your thumbnail or other appropriate blunt tool. Repeat if necessary.

DRILLING HOLES IN AGATE SLICES

Equipment: You will need a sturdy drill press that will turn fast, about 10,000 rpm. Don't use the new Dremel drill press as they flex too much. The old metal ones are good, also the Foredom drill press is

good, if you have their tool. I use an old Dumore; your drill press doesn't have to cost a lot. I purchased a metal drill stand at a yard sale for \$2.00 and mounted my Black & Decker rotary tool in it, and that also works well. Do not buy the Covington gem drill to drill agate, as it goes too slow. It is meant for soft stones, not hard rock like agate.

Drill bits: I start with a small hole. If it needs to be bigger, I ream it out. It is much easier to drill a small hole than a big one. I start out with a 1.4 mm diamond bit, then I ream it out with a 1.8 mm triple ripple diamond bit. This bit is fluted and tapered and I use it only as a reamer.

Coolant: I use Kingsley Tool Cool to keep the bit cool. You will need a shallow con-

tainer to hold the stone and the coolant. I put a thin wood backing under my stone so that the bit does not come through the back of the container as the bit comes through the back of the stone. Put just enough coolant in the container to cover the stone.

The method: Now here is the secret: use light pressure and a rapid up and down motion. This will keep the diamonds on the bit cool and lubricated. Too much pressure and you will fry your bit or break your stone. If you do not go up and down fast enough, you will burn the bit up. You will find there is a rhythm to it and within a few slabs you should be on to it.

Yield: I get 8-12 holes out of my 1.4 bits and about 100 holes with the 1.8 triple ripple bit (remember, this bit is just used as a reamer, not as a drill bit. I use the Kingsley North bits—their cheap ones—if you can call them cheap. (All reprinted from the Blue Agate News—Needles Gem and Mineral Club 3/2010)

RECLAIM CUTTING OIL

To reclaim cutting oil, pour old oil in half gallon cartons and add a small amount of water. Let the sludge settle for a few days. Put the cartons in the freezer. The water will freeze and the oil will rise to the top. All you have to do is pour it off.

(blue agate news-2/2010)

(and then you have to explain to your spouse what in the H—you are doing with oil in the freezer!)(ed

COPPER AND BRASS POLISH can be made from equal parts of salt, flour, and lemon juice or vinegar. Coat with the paste, leave an hour, and polish with a soft cloth.

(Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.)

CRYSTAL

A CRYSTAL IS ONE OF THE STRANGEST OBJECTS OF NATURE. It is not alive, yet it grows. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical forms, cements the parts together and holds them. If you place a crystal in a liquid or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal, the process of accumulation immediately begins. If a crystal was broken in two parts and placed in a bath of liquefied crystal, the broken surface will be repaired and each part will grow into another crystal, provided that the other conditions favorable for crystal growth are present. Even after a crystal has been worn until it is but a rounded grain of sand, it will speedily become a crystal again if placed in a solution containing the ingredients of which it is composed. There is no known limit to the ability of a crystal thus to repair itself and resume its growth. Under a microscope a crystalline solution can be seen forming into crystals, and it is a wonderful sight. First, innumerable dark spots form in the fluid; they stand still and then begin to move. It is soon seen that the movement arranges the spots in straight lines, like beads. The beads speedily coalesce into rods, and the rods arrange themselves into layers until a crystal is created. The process proceeds so rapidly that it is almost impossible to follow closely.

FROM PRESCOTT G&M CLUB "TAILINGS", Rock Scoop 2\01 via Dusty Rocks 7/01/via Golden Spike News 8/01

Cutting malachite: Saw about 10 degrees away from directly parallel to the grain. This way, when you dome the stone, you will get a bulls eye effect. Malachite is a fairly soft stone, so try to leave the slabs a little thicker than other materials. When grinding, we recommend always wearing a breathing mask. Malachite can be toxic and can make you very ill. After grinding first on a new 600 sanding belt, then finish sanding on a much worn out 600 (Wet sanding). For polishing use ZAM on hard felt. Give the stone a little extra time and the polish will keep coming up better. (blue agate news-2/2010)

Topping Malachite:

Working with malachite is a messy operation, so I stop as soon as I can. I make doublets with malachite on the bottom and quartz on the top. This makes the malachite look even better than it would with polish, plus the quartz cap magnifies and accentuates the pattern. I use the synthetic quartz made for space shuttle windows. It is tougher than natural quartz.

By Jerry Harr/The Geode 4/03

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well

OFFICERS FOR 2014: NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB.

PRESIDENT—DALE RUPERD 664-2712

VICE PRESIDENT—WAYNE FITZPATRICK 449-2215

TREASURER—CARL CHAPIN 772-9049

SECRETARY—SANDRA FITZPATRICK 449-2215

Committee chairs:

Mike Burton-SHOW CHAIRMAN 2014 AND WEBMASTER 772-9347

Bev Bockman- NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND MEMBER-SHIP 773-5384

Bill Johnson-FEDERATION DIRECTOR 765-3099

Lake City Rockhound News

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CLUB WEB SITE***www.northidahomineralclub.com***

Affiliated with:

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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