



Lake City Rockhound News

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

May, 2016
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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 – May 19, 2016

The Meeting Program: No Program This Month. The Board decided to bring some of the Riley Collection to the meeting May 19, 2016 for Club members to **purchase**. Bring your checkbook or cash!

Refreshments: Susan Rekow and Diane Rose
There will be a silent auction and scholarship raffle
(next raffle drawing will be in June). Buy your tickets today.

April 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Vice President Corey Brenner.

The Pledge was recited. No guests.

Carl Chapin gave the Treasurers report. He paid the storage for the year. Told we will get only one month free at the new rate and the agreement is for one year. Paid \$935. He also paid April, May and June room rent for meetings. It was required we also paid the Scholarship 2016-17 now so it can be given with others rewarded for this fall.

Dean Yongue gave a report on the Gold Show. He said there were about 500 on Saturday and about 400 on Sunday.

Show Chair Dean Hutchinson wants a Show Board meeting May 5 at the Rose's garage at 1 P.M. All are welcome.

Mike Burton reported the CDA press raised their prices this year by \$300? or \$100, not sure what he reported. He did not follow up on the email received from the new person in charge of advertising, the way I understood it. Sorry! The price for the Press will be \$928.00 Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for the week before and the week of the Show.

Mike also stated he would put a coupon for \$1.00 off on

Craig's List for 2 weeks. Nice job on the ad I saw in an email after the meeting. I do not know how to include it in the minutes.

Print ads will be in Nickel's Worth, Penny Saver, Money Saver, Exchange, and Giant Nickel.

Suggested put on radio Station 590 am News Talk Radio. Suggested by Dean and Patric' Hutchinson.

Beverly reported we have 7 new dealers with 50 tables spoken for. We need to have 57 for all spaces to be filled. [7 times \$110 equals \$770] Beverly also stated we have TWO Grand Prizes. One a semi-precious stone picture the Club paid \$75.00 for according to Carl Chapin. The second is a piece of Amethyst.

Dean Yongue announced he will speak on Saturday 4/ 23 at Usk. Ask him for information if you are interested after the meeting.

Dean Hutchinson would like more information on Diamonds in Idaho and Montana. There was discussion from several about the geology in both states.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose Secretary



May 5, 2016 Show Board Meeting

People present: Dean and Pat Hutchinson, Hiram and Tammy Madland, Bob and Beverly Bockman, Carl Chapin, Dale Ruperd and Diane Rose.

1. Dealer update: We have all the dealers needed for Show!! Great job, Beverly!
2. Lay Out: Karel Mrazek and Diane Rose. Possibly Corey Brenner
3. Pickups needed for Set Up coming from Storage: Dale, Carl and Hiram with Bill Johnson
4. Cords into ceiling for Dealers and Showcases Johnnie Pitman, Dean and possibly Corey.
5. Showcases: [8 in front]: Ampersand (2), J.J. Johnson Brazilian agates (1), Dana faceted gems (1), Club Showcase (1), Marilyn Kohler, Copper (1), Marilyn Kohler, Lake Superior agate (1), Mike Austin (1) his creations Showcase liners should be in good order.
6. Silent Auction: More items needed for long term portion of Auction. [generally 2 hours long/ though out both days]
7. Advertising: Mike Burton was not at the meeting
8. Flyers/posters in car windows one week before show. We need more coverage with small flyers.
9. Tickets: Need 2 new rolls, have 1 new one Dale Ruperd will purchase 2 rolls of different colors.
10. Grand Prize: Hiram will sell tickets again this year.
11. Membership: Mike Burton had 100 membership flyers printed and ready.
12. Security: Carl Chapin has contacted Northern State Security. Rate has gone up from \$16/hour to \$18/hour.
13. Kids Corner: Suggested purchase 5 foot table for Pirate Treasure with folding legs. After meeting found out these were no tables available with adjustable legs. Dale took the top home and has

created a table and used the legs from one of the tables from storage that have adjustable legs. There is a list of items available for Kids Corner prizes. Wheel of Fortune is being reworked by Corey Brenner. Grab Bags: Beverly has donated all the tumbled stones and the bags for 83 more [now have 83]

14. Banners: (have 3) Yellow banner and 2 white ones. Will be in fences at Fair Grounds, by sign board on Government Way, second on round-about and third down by Sheriff Office.
15. New small signs: Dean has ordered 50 signs, 18 inches by 24 inches, 4 mm plastic for \$196.50. Plus 15 inch stakes at \$0.75 each. Signs with be two sided with: Gem & Jewelry Show, Kootenai Fairgrounds, Saturday & Sunday. No date so they will be good for years.
16. Board has voted to go through the "Riley Collection" for items to use for: (1) Long term auction at Show (2) monthly Club auction (3) Scholarship Auction. [Also other items from other "Collections"]

Respectively submitted, Diane Rose, Secretary



National Monument Designations

From ALAA Informational Alert email

The threat of more national monument designations that will restrict our access and ability collect rocks and minerals is not going away especially in the closing months of the Obama Administration. The Chairmen of three House committees have written to Administration officials requesting up-to-date information about further monument designations under consideration by the White House. This effort follows an initiative led Rep Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and 30 other House members requesting that the House Appropriations Committee insert in the 2017 appropriations for the Department of the Interior restrictive language on how a President can use the 1906 Antiquities Act for the designation of more monument areas.

ALAA was supportive of the Gosar letter and was glad when other House members joined with him in signing the letter. It's too early to know what action, if any, the House Appropriations Committee will take on this request, but we are encouraged that more and more members in the House and the Senate are actively exploring various ideas on how to curb presidential excesses when utilizing the 1906 Antiquities Act for the designation of national monuments that closes our rights to access and the collecting of rocks and minerals for personal and educational usage.

As more information on National Monument designations becomes available ALAA will attempt to keep members informed through the ALAA Website and Electronic media notification.

"Happy Rockhounding and Enjoy Your Public Lands"



Brad's Bench Tips for May

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

Drilling Small Items

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid



band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over the jaws of the pliers if needed to avoid scratches.

Drilling A Stone

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a

diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and does not cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.



Chuck up the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris.

Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.



Petrified Wood Floor in Museum

The East Benton County Historical Museum in Kennewick, Washington was built in 1982 from the design of a local architect. It houses some very nice historical artifacts, including a floor constructed of petrified wood, which is valued at one million dollars

The floor was originally built by Gordon Maxey of

Kennewick and was donated to the museum after his death. It took Maxey almost 16 years to collect the petrified wood, cut it and polish it, then build the floor. The rocks were cut into 28 inch squares and patterned into the floor using marble dust as mortar. Maxey collected rocks from all over the world for the floor.



The East Benton County Historical Museum is located across from Keewaydin Park, 205 Keewaydin Drive, Kennewick, WA. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, from Noon to 4:00 PM.



The Beauty of Amber

From Amethyst Galleries

Amber is a beautiful stone that is cut and polished and used as a valuable gemstone. It is very light in weight which allows it to be used in a large jewelry piece without discomfort. Amber, or fossil tree sap, has been known since antiquity. A fossil itself, it can contain many preserved insects and other animals and plants that are tens of millions of years old. These frequent fossil inclusions were made famous in the movie "Jurassic Park". The odd inclusions that are often seen in amber usually add to amber's unique look and in many cases greatly increase its value.

The fossils that are encased in amber probably got there when they flew or crawled on to the fresh seeping sap and then got stuck. The sap oozed over the trapped animals and perhaps fell to the ground and was later covered by dirt and debris. The sap later hardened and became a fossil.

The fossils are mostly insects such as gnats, flies, wasps, bees and ants. Occasionally more exotic insects are trapped in the amber such as grasshoppers, preying mantises, beetles, moths, termites, butterflies, etc. Other non-insect animals are found in amber too such as spiders, centipedes, scorpions and even frogs and lizards. No really large animals like mammals or birds are seen in amber but feathers and fur have been seen. Invaluable plant remains have also been found in amber including flowers, mushroom caps, seeds, leaves, stems, pine needles and pine cones. The rarity of the trapped fossils controls the value of the amber more so than the quality of the amber.



Remember these are fossils and are not the same species that are alive today. Amber has greatly increased the knowledge of the evolution of insects and plants as well as enlivening the interest in paleontology in general.

Amber is often imitated by plastics, colored glasses and some modern tree resins. However, its hardness is usually greater and it is tougher than other resins. Its low specific gravity (amber can float on salt water) and inclusions can distinguish it from plastics and glasses.



Cryptic Quote
 Clue: Replace each S with a T

LFNSMRK FN C SMME JNUQ OK VMEFSFZFCIN

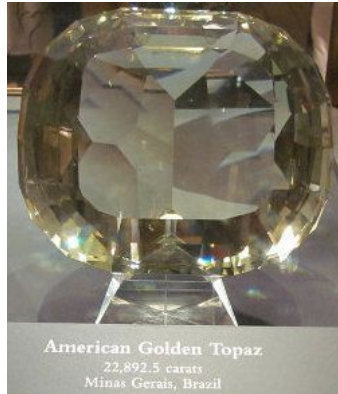
SM TJNSFWK SLUFR FISUISFMIN.

-SUQ YMVVUE

American Golden Topaz

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

While researching the November birthstone issue, I stumbled across a stone named the American Golden Topaz that is on permanent display at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. It is the world's largest cut topaz weighing in at 22,892.5 carats. The plaque that is displayed with the stone reads "As you move around this remarkable gem, watch how light flashes off its 172 facets. At 4.6 kg (10.1 lb), it is one of the world's largest gems. Gem-cutter Leon Agee fashioned it over the course of two years in the late 1980s from an 11.8-kg (26-lb) crystal". Below this inscription, in a smaller font, the plaque reads "Gift of the Rockhound Hobbyists of America through the efforts of the six regional federations of mineralogical societies and Doctors Marie and Ed Bogatta, 1988." I wondered what the "Rockhound Hobbyists of America" was and further wondered if it were not somehow the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) since it referenced the six regional federations. It was almost too much of a coincidence that the AFMS is composed of six regional federations in 1988.



American Golden Topaz
22,892.5 carats
Minas Gerais, Brazil

First I looked on the AFMS web site for a history of the federation to see if at one time (say in 1988) it was named the Rockhound Hobbyists of America. However, that search indicated the AFMS had been named the AFMS since its inception in 1948. Further searches of the Internet for information about the "American Golden Topaz" and "Rockhound Hobbyists of America" did not yield any further insight into the organization (but did give a lot of information about the gem). However, I was still convinced that the Rockhound Hobbyists of America had to be tied to the AFMS. My next step was to ask the AFMS – an email to central_office@amfed.org resulted in a really great reply from Steve Weinberger – thank you, Steve. He included an article written by Fred Schaefermeyer and published in

Rocks & Minerals, December 1988. The article had a very complete history of the stone.

The story started in 1987 when John White, curator of the gem and mineral collection at the Smithsonian, approached the AFMS with a plan to acquire a large gem to replace the Brazilian Princess which was then the largest gem in existence at 21,327 carats. Mr. White knew of a stone that would likely cut to a larger gem than the Brazilian Princess, but needed \$40,000 to acquire the gem. Mr. White's plan was taken to the directors of the AFMS at their 1987 meeting in Oklahoma City with an added inducement that the gem could be displayed at major shows, but the plan was rejected; the directors did not feel that the AFMS could undertake another fund raising program at that time. However, after the meeting the idea was still being discussed and resulted in an ad hoc committee with members from each regional federation. The "Friends of the Smithsonian Topaz Fund" was formed and reached their goal of \$40,000 in April 1988. At the same time, the stone, owned by Doctors Maria and Edgar Bogatta of Seattle, was being cut on a special machine by Mr. Leon Agee of Walla Walla, Washington.

The cut stone had a finished weight of 22,892.5 carats which exceeded the weight of the Brazilian Princess making it (at the time) the world's largest gem. On May 4th, 1988 the American Golden Topaz was officially presented to the Smithsonian museum by Mr. William Maloney, executive vice president of the AFMS. Mr. Schaefermeyer's article indicates the gem was donated "in the name of the hobbyists of the AFMS and its six regional federations." The plaque for the American Golden Topaz picked up on the "Rockhound Hobbyists of America and the six regional federations," but did not specifically name the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. As the American Golden Topaz was not on permanent display at the Smithsonian they initially made good on its "added inducement" by allowing clubs to borrow the gem for display at club shows. However, the Smithsonian opened a new hall in 1997 and the American Golden Topaz was put on permanent display, thus loaning the gem to AFMS clubs was no longer possible.

North Idaho Mineral Club
 P.O. Box 1643
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First Class Mail

NIMC Officers			
President: Dale Ruperd (664-2712)			
Vice-President: Corey Brenner (640-4743)			
Treasurer: Carl Chapin (772-9049)			
Secretary: Diane Rose (659-6173)			
Other Positions			
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)			
Affiliations			
AFMS – American Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
NFMS – Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
S.C.R.I.B.E.			
ALAA – American Lands Access Association			
Gem Show Schedules			
Jun 3-5	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club	Swiss Park, 9205 198 th Ave E., Bonney Lake, WA
Jun 4-5	9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	North Idaho Mineral Club	Kootenai Cty Fairgrounds, 4056 Government Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID
Jun 11-12	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Butte Mineral & Gem Club	Butte Civic Ctr Annex, 1340 Harrison Ave, Butte, MT
Jul 16-17	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Darrington Rock & Gem Club	Manford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave, Darrington, WA
Jul 29-31	10:00-6:00 10:00-6:00 10:00-4:00	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society (AFMS & NFMS Mtgs)	Linn Cty Expo Ctr, Albany, OR
Aug 5-7	10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society	North Bend Comm. Ctr, 2222 Broadway, Bend, OR
Sep 10-11	9:00-6:00 10:00-4:00	Clallum Cty Gem & Mineral Assoc	Vern Burton Comm. Ctr, 308 E 4 th St, Port Angeles, WA