



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

NOVEMBER 2009

Club Mailing Address—P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

Meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM — Public Welcome

At Post Falls Senior Center, in the Dougall Room— 1215 E. 3rd. St. Post Falls, ID

See the NFMS web site at www.amfed.org/nfms (there might be a test!!!)

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

FRIENDS IN AMERICA'S GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETIES

We need YOUR help! Read the newspaper article below, and then contact your Congressional Representative and Senators and ask them to press Interior Secretary Salazar to not interfere with congress's work on H.R.1925 and S.799. Utah's delegation is fighting as hard as they can to oppose the extravagant provisions of the "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act". But they can't do it alone, since all of the sponsors of the bills are from outside of the Rocky Mountain and Desert Southwest states!

Sincerely, Evan Day,
Utah Director, American Lands Access Association

WASHINGTON - Eighty-nine House members sent a letter Tuesday to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar asking him to protect 9.4 million acres of red rocks lands in Utah while Congress works on legislation. The letter also asks Salazar to rescind an agreement reached between the Bush administration and the State of Utah that prevents the Bureau of Land Management from designating new wilderness study areas. The wilderness study designation discourages uses of the land that might alter its natural character.

Rep. Maurice Hinchey, a New York Democrat sponsoring the Utah wilderness bill, said that a consensus has developed that millions of acres within the state should be protected even if there remains disagreement on how to do that.

"It makes sense for the Interior Department to step in and temporarily protect these lands while Congress and state officials sort out the best way to protect these precious acres for this and future generations of Americans to enjoy and admire," Hinchey said in a statement. Kendra Barkoff, a spokeswoman for Salazar, said the department is reviewing the letter.

The bill has 151 co-sponsors, but only seven are Republicans. It is opposed by the Utah congressional delegation, who say decisions on which lands should receive the protective wilderness designation are best made locally.

"Since they can't achieve their goal of locking up millions of acres of western land through an open and transparent democratic process, they're now trying to use back door, undemocratic regulations to lock up public lands," Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said in a statement. "If Congressman Hinchey was serious about protecting lands in Utah, he should try to work with Utahans instead of trying to go around us."

At a hearing before a House Natural Resources Committee subcommittee last month, some witnesses from Utah said the bill would prevent development of the lands, hurting the state's economy. However, former Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson and a Utah outdoors equipment maker told the subcommittee that protecting the lands will draw more visitors to the state, boosting the economy.

AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT S.799 & H.R. 1925

What are the chances of passing America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in the 111th Congress? Very good if we take no action!

The American's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009 will designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah. This bill, if enacted, would designate 9.4 million acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Utah as Wilderness.

According to a Congressional Research Service report, 5.7 million BLM acres is nearly 3 times the BLM wilderness recommendations and 75% more than the BLM's Wilderness study acreage. **The 5.7 million acres amounted to 26% of all BLM lands in Utah, and 11 % of the entire state.**

The core of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act remains the same. It still proposes to designate roadless wilderness for BLM public lands in Utah. The areas considered for closure are:

Great Basin Areas - 2,240,827 acres
Zion/Mojave Desert Areas - 160,000 acres
Grand Staircase-Escalante Areas - 1,771,717
Moab-LaSal Canyons Areas - 256,815 acres
Henry Mountains Areas - 444,204 acres
Glen Canyon Areas 906,446 acres
San Juan-Anasazi Areas - 520,606 acres
Canyonlands Basin Areas - 689,884 acres (Moab Jeep Trails)
San Rafael Swell Areas - 1,098,773 acres
Book Cliffs/Uinta Basin Areas - 1,015,821 acres

There is no question that our access to Rockhounding sites would be severely curtailed, if not totally destroyed, by these bills. **Sec. 209 withdraws entry and disposition of minerals, so we can't pick up anything anyway.**

In Sec. 204, the Dept of the Interior will grab **all the water rights in the wilderness areas, regardless of existing downstream prior rights.** This is a crucial issue in a desert state with ranching, farming, industry and homesteads dependent on seasonal water.

We need to proactively pursue a unified effort that keeps Public Lands open for all public use. This is an important compliment to our legislative goals.

Senator Bennett is a new Member of the Public Lands Subcommittee in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and a contact website is listed below. <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/person.xpd?id=300007>

We need you to write to Senator Bennett asking him not to support S 799 and that we are in support of his effort in keeping Utah's Public Lands open to all Public Users and not the Special Interest Groups who want to close 9 million Acres for their own usage.

Utah's political representatives need to know that the majority of Utahans and concerned people from all across the United States oppose this bill, and they need to hear it from you. **Today please.**

John Martin
ALAA Internet Committee
AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee CFMS PLAC South 2005-2008
Palmdale Gem and Mineral Club webmaster@amlands.org
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pgmc@antelecom.net

Editors message: All of our club members are members of ALAA since we joined as a club his year. Write, phone or e-mail the Senators and Representatives from Idaho (as well as Senator Bennett from Utah).

Names and contact information are on page 5. Do this for us as well as for Utahans—who knows when we will need help here?

Meeting notes for October 15th 2009 meeting.

Mike handed out ballots for election of officers for 2010.

Linda Simpson from Corpus Christi, Texas was a visitor tonight. She brought a U.S. Map of surface minerals for the club. Also a brochure of other maps that are available from her company.

After the ballots were counted—[-Officers for 2010 are:

President: **Warren Price**. Vice President: **James Finckbone**. Secretary: **Maria McDonald**. Treasurer: **Bill Johnson**.

Field Trip Co-coordinator is Bill Johnson. Show Chairman is Warren Price. Dealer Chairman is Bev Bockman. Hospitality is Sherla Francis. Membership is Bill Johnson

Dues for 2010 will be due at November meeting, prorated for those who paid at other times of year. An example is for someone who paid in June, instead of \$10.00 for 2010 they would owe \$5.00 and then be paid up for 2010. We're trying to get everyone paid up for the same time and not having people's dues come up at all times of the year.

American Lands Acts Association, Blue Ribbon Coalition and American Rights Association keep us informed on Land legislation and do a grass roots effort to change the laws to make them land use friendly. (PLEASE READ PAGES 1 & 2—. **To paraphrase Pogo—"we have met the grass roots and we are them!" Ed.**)

Lewiston, ID is having its gem show this weekend and quite a few of us plan to go down for their always good show. Also, Everett is taking part in the show at the Jacklins Cultural Center this weekend starting with the reception for the artists Friday evening.

Bertha McPherson is still hospitalized after several weeks from the massive leg infection she got from a cat scratch. (Fortunately she is in the Life Care Center on Aqua and Highway 95 at this date—11/14— in room 101. Ed.) Yolanda Rosales is recovering from medical problems in California at this time but should be back in 2010. Our best wishes to both.

Tonight's program is a rock quiz by Johnny and Ginger Pitman of the Panorama Club in Colville. They are honorary members for their help and involvement in our shows for several years. The quiz consisted of three tables of mineral and rock examples with numbers and a sheet of 100 rock descriptions. You had to put the number next to the correct description. The first table was easy stuff, the second was moderately hard and the last table was hard stuff.

Bev Bockman got the most right and won 1st prize.

Donni Moen got the next most right and won 2nd prize.

Diane Rose got the third most right but the third prize went a different direction.

The people who got all of the easy ones right and got the most of the moderate ones right were Warren Price and Bill Johnson. Of them Bill Johnson got the most hard ones so he got 3rd prize.

We would like to thank the Pitmans for an educational and entertaining quiz.

After the meeting was adjourned at 7 PM. we enjoyed the refreshments provided by Sherla and Maria and took part in another great silent auction, as well as doing the identification game. BJ

NO MORE FREE CAMPING OR ANY CAMPING AT ALL AT RICHARDSON'S RANCH—DUE TO RECENT THEFT AND PROPERTY DESTRUCTION. DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO ASK. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. A FEW DUMBHEADS RUINED A GREAT LOCATION FOR EVERYONE. Can't blame the owners—they have always been really generous and obliging. So go and dig thunder eggs but don't plan to camp.

At the Jacklin Cultural Center on October 16-taken by Diane Rose, of Everett demonstrating PMC.



8 or 9 club members found their way down to Lewiston on the 17th of October for the good show put on by the Hells Canyon club—Mike and Diane, Everett, Karel. Mike Burton, Warren Price and the Bockmans, and we had a great time! I'm going to bring some "show and tells" from my finds at the show. Of course, I need more rocks than another hole in my head! But it's like going to a candy store would be for some other folks—(eh? Everett??) **The displays were outstanding!!!**

LAPIDARY POLISHING COMPOUNDS

For economy dedicate a buff, lap pan to a particular polish and simply recharge with fresh polish as required to maintain effectiveness.

Cerium Oxide - the best gemstone polishing compound for most uses. Best with opal, agate, quartz, obsidian. Not as effective with soft material or stones that tend to undercut.

Micron Alumina - a 5 micron polishing powder developed for computer disks. It is the best polish for seashells, pretty good for soft stones and excellent as a pre-polish in vibratory tumblers and laps - not rotary tumblers.

Aluminum Oxide, MAP - preferred by many to Linde A, this is a slightly faster and more economical rare earth polish that we call Miracle Atomic Polish.

Tin Oxide - a long time favorite. Use on leather for polishing turquoise and all soft stones.

Zirconium Oxide - a rare earth polish that is especially good for tumblers and laps. The most economical effective polishing media. White and will not discolor gemstones.

Linde "A" - A tremendous favorite with gem cutters whether faceting or polishing cabs. Relatively expensive, you should consider polishing the stone then giving it a quick hit with Linde A to attain a super polish. Available as powder to mix with water; or an emulsified cream with the consistency of hand lotion that does not separate in solution

Oxalic Acid - used for polishing carbonate type onyx when mixed with another polish such as Tin Oxide. In a strong solution with water, it is used to clean iron stains from specimens, i.e. Quartz. Mix with hot tap water by stirring in oxalic crystals until the water is saturated and will not dissolve any more. Crystals forming along the sides of the container indicate a saturated solution and should they disappear you need to add more. **WARNING;** While this is a relatively mild acid all precautions must be taken to keep it out of eyes, mouth, etc.

Selecting materials for Cabochons A beginner is often confused by the great variety of cabochon material offered for sale. Selection should be based on quality. Carefully inspect the material of your choice. It must be solid, free of any cracks or holes, and be uniform in texture. Certain kinds of jasper contain soft spots because all the pores did not fill up with the silica bearing solutions.

Check slabs of this kind by wetting the surface and watching to see if water remains on top or is soaked up. The material with soft spots will not polish. Many slabs are displayed at dealers' tables in flat pans of water. Porous spots will soak up the water so it is best to allow the selected slab to dry thoroughly. To check it for uniformity in texture, hold it up to a strong light at an angle. When the beginner chooses a material for his/her first attempt at gem cutting, agate, such as Montana, Mexican or Brazilian, is a good choice. These agates are hard and tough enough to allow for mistakes that will be made and corrected. It is wise to make the first cabochon about one half inch in size and gradually work on larger cabs as one gains experience. *From the Pegmatite 12/03 the Rock Collector 4/03/ Opal Express 10/03*

Next meeting November 19 at 6:30 pm

the columbian emerald—green fever

stories of fate and fortune

REFRESHMENTS —WARREN AND BEV

AND ONE OF THE BEST SILENT AUCTIONS IN THE NORTHWEST!!!

Ask to see the map of Glass Buttes and hear about the decision recently made about collecting. **Good news for a change!!! Bev (no room to put it in this newsletter)**

Contacting congress:	D.C. phone	email
SENATOR MIKE CRAPO (R-ID)	202-224-6142	http://crapr.senate.gov/conact/email.cfm
SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH (R-ID)	202-224-2752	http://risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email
REPRESENTATIVE WALT C. MINNICK (D-01)	202-225-6611	http://minnick.house.gov/conntact-zip-auth.shtml
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE SIMPSON (D-02)	202-225-5531	http://simpson.house.gov/Contact/

CUTTING JADE

Jade will clog a saw blade. After citing this material, clean the blade by cutting obsidian or a brick.

MAYBE IT'S TRUE —that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out ,fall out or spread out.....and another thing, of course I'm against sin: I'm against anything I'm too old to enjoy!!!

REALLY BIG ROCKS: Opals—the largest known opal is a yellow-orange one of 220 troy ounces unearthed by a bulldozer at Andomooka, South Australia in January 1910. It is valued at \$210,000. The largest recorded stone of gem quality was a 520,000 carat (229 pound) aquamarine found near Marambais, Brazil in 1910. I yielded over 200,000 carats of gem quality stones. The largest lump of gold ever found was in the Holterman reef, New South Wales, Australia, in 1972. It weighed 7,560 ounces. The largest pearl weighs 14 pounds, 1 ounce. It is 9.5 inches long by 5.5 inches in diameter. It was found in Palawan, Phillipines, on May 7, 1934, inside the shell of giant clam. In the good old USA was found a turquoise weighing 218 pounds found in Riverside County Dalifornia on Jan. 17, 1975.

Via Golden Spike News 4/01, via HyGrader 6/01

Committees for 2009

Hospitality – Sherla Francis

Field Trips—Bill Johnson

Membership- Bill Johnson

Show Chairman-2010 Warren Price

Newsletter Editor—Bev Bockman

Program Chairman-Bev Bockman AND CLUB MEMBERS

The diamond is the simplest gem-the chemical composition-being all of carbon and crystallized isometric ally. Tourmaline is the most complex. It is said that it's chemistry is more like a doctor's prescription than the makings of a respectable material.

Via Hy grader 10/01

OFFICERS FOR 2010

Warren Price—President

James Finckbone—Vice Pres.

Secretary - Maria McDonald

Treasurer — Bill Johnson

Federation director—Everett Headrick

Federation Delegate—open

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CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

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

Affiliated with;

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

2009 Rock and Gem Shows in WA., OR. , ID. & MT

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND ROCK CLUBS.

NOV. 21-22 KITSAP MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY FESTIVAL

“Fall Festival of Gems”—Bremerton, WA.

(no new shows till February)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!

CONSULT www.amfed.org/nfms FORSHOW DETAILS