



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

NOVEMBER 2011

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

667-4628 6:30 P.M. Visitors Welcome 3rd Thursday of month

See the NFMS web site at www.amfed.org/nfms See OUR web site for the club at www.northidahomineralclub.com

MEETING ON NOVEMBER 17 2011– 6:30 PM

PROGRAM: “CHIRICAHUAS”–

“MOUNTAIN ISLANDS IN THE SKY”

Silent Auction

Refreshments provided by Donni Moen and Dale Rupert

JIM RAUCH HAS A NEW ADDRESS! HE HAS RELOCATED TO THE GUARDIAN ANGEL , AND IS IN CRAFTSMAN #5. His phone number is 619-0455, and address is 150 E Mullan. (Right east of the Peak Gym and the Super One.) Call him or stop by!

The meeting in October featured a nice display of picture rock—some “WOW” specimens from Gale Diener—and some great specimens from other club members as well. Thank you everyone for joining in. Also, it became painfully obvious that the room that we have been given at the Senior Center is woefully inadequate for our needs. Other places to meet are now under consideration, and we will present them to you soon.

Dean Yongue was a guest at the October meeting, as well as Teresa Holt and Richard Petrovic.

**Minutes for North Idaho Mineral Club
October 20, 2011**

Meeting called to order by President Warren Price at 6:10 PM

One guest [from the show] Teresa Holt

Mike Burton gave the Treasurers report

New Business:

Should we have a show in 2012? After some discussion, there was a vote and the Club will have a show in 2012.

Old Business:

The Coeur d' Alene Press has a directory coming out with upcoming events.

I believe Everett said he would make sure the 2012 Show was listed as well as Club meetings. North Idaho College requested people to be in a picture with the recipients of the Club scholarships of \$1000 each. Several people agreed to be in the photo that will be in the Coeur d' Alene Press.

The radio station KVNI is now Sports Now and is no longer appropriate for doing the Show live broadcasts as in previous years. Several suggestions were made to replace KVNI. This needs to be followed up.

There are membership cards available for all members according to Bev Bockman. Bev Bockman also had two very nice books she wished to share with club members. They are available to view after the meeting.

Election of Officers: Warren and Everett are to call all members to see who is willing to be officers for 2012. An email will be sent as well. Mike Burton will send a new membership list to Warren and Everett.

The Senior Center is not an option for our Christmas meeting. Possible different sites are: KROC Center, the Methodist Church on Ramsey & Hanley where we met after the pipes broke at PFSC, Post Fall School District, Post Falls Senior Center where we have met previously until pipes broke. Decision will be made at the November meeting.

Advertising for the Club: Adding Port Falls Press, Rathdrum Star as well as the Nickels Worth and Coeur d' Alene Press which we use now. **ESPECIALLY NEEDED IF WE CHANGE MEETING PLACES AGAIN!**

Refreshments provided at the November meeting: Dale Ruperd and Donni Moen volunteered.

Warren announced that there are FREE Crystals from Arkansas, Moqui Marbles from UT and Obsidian available from a friend of his that needed to reduce his collection

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose Secretary Pro Tem

Many thanks to the providers of the wonderful goodies we enjoyed at this meeting!!! Thanks to Tammy and Bob and Bill and more!!! And a special thank you to Diane Rose who has been such a good secretary for us these past few months. You are anything but "pro-tem" Diane.

TOPAZ— NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE

The name topaz was derived from the Greek—Topazios—the ancient name for St. John's Island in the Red Sea where a yellow stone was found, now believed to be chrysolite—(yellowish olivine). The name is also related to the Sanskrit "tapas" meaning fire. Topaz came to be allied with the sign for Scorpio because it is a gem representing strength and a firm balance of emotions.

Citrine is often confused with topaz, but citrine is a variety of quartz—color range from yellow to brown. Natural citrine is very rare and most citrine is heat treated amethyst. The name is from Latin meaning yellow.

Pure Topaz is colorless and transparent, but is usually colored by impurities—it may be wine, yellow, pale gray, orange or blue-brown. It also can be made to be white, pale green, blue, gold, pink, reddish-yellow or opaque to transparent.

Imperial topaz is yellow, pink (rare) or pink/orange. Brazilian imperial topaz can have bright yellow to deep golden brown. Blue topaz is the U.S. state gemstone of Texas. Naturally occurring blue topaz is quite rare and is usually colorless-gray or pale yellow, and blue material may be heat treated and irradiated to make it a darker blue. Mystic topaz is colorless topaz which has been coated to produce a rainbow effect.

Topaz is usually associated with igneous rocks of the granitic and rhyolite type. It typically crystallizes in granitic pegmatites or in vapor cavities in rhyolite lava flows like those at Topaz Mt. in western Utah. Some clear topaz crystals from Brazilian pegmatites are boulder size and weigh hundreds of pounds. The American Golden Topaz measured a massive 22,892.5 carats. This latter stone has local history!

(from Wikipedia) The American Golden Topaz a 172 faceted topaz weighing 22,892.5 carats (4.5785 kg), is the largest cut yellow topaz in the world, and one of the largest faceted gems of any type in the world. Originating from Minas Gerais, Brazil, it was cut by Leon Agee over a period of two years from an 11.8 Kg (26 lb) stream rounded cobble owned by Drs. Marie and Edgar Borgatta. It was contributed jointly by the Borgattas and by Rockhound hobbyists of America to the Smithsonian Institution in 1988 and is displayed in the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

(IF YOU WOULD ENJOY SEEING HOW THIS STONE WAS FASHIONED I THINK I CAN GET LEON AGEE TO SHOW HIS SLIDE PROGRAM. I'LL ASK AT THE NOV. MEETING.) Bev B

All members and guests with internet access—**download the Northwest Newsletter from the web site www.amfed.org/nfms. Great information and this is FOR YOU!**

How to Make Doublets

Cabochons made of more than one piece are called assembled stones. They have been used for years by opal workers who want to make cabochons from thin slices of opal. However, many soft stones such as the copper minerals have attractive colors but don't take a polish. So what can be done with them? . The answer is to make a doublet. This consists of a thin slice of stone, capped by a slice of clear quartz. Glass can be used for a cap instead of quartz. It is cheaper and easier to get but it shouldn't be used for a cabochon that is exposed to wear and scratches such as a belt buckle.

To make a doublet, take a thin slab of the selected stone somewhat larger than the finished cabochon and smooth one side by rubbing it on a flat piece of glass with 400 silicon carbide grit and water until all saw marks or other imperfections are removed.

Next, take a slice of clear quartz or glass (a piece of ordinary window glass will do for a small stones but thicker plate glass is needed for larger cabs with higher domes). This will be the cap or top of the finished cabochon. Then rub one side of the quartz or glass cap piece on the large smoothing glass piece with 400 grit and water until it is well-frosted. Wash and dry the stone slice and cap piece thoroughly and cement them together (Epoxy 330 works well.) Mix the epoxy and apply it to the smoothed side of the stone slice and the frosted side of the cap piece. Press the pieces together and slide them around on each other to eliminate air bubbles in the epoxy. These show up as silvery spots under the cap. Let the cement set thoroughly (a few hours, or less in a warm place).

Next, saw the assembled piece with a trim saw to remove excess material. Then take it to your arbor and grind and sand the edges and cap to the desired shape and size. Grind the periphery of the cap until it is very thin, but be careful not to grind into the stone slice. Polish the cap side. If the cabochon is too thick, grind down the back (stone) side to the desired thickness. Rough grinding can be done without dopping your stone, but finish-grinding sanding and polishing work best if you dop your stone on a wooden dopstick with wax. This gives better control of the stone and prevents grinding your fingers! When dopping, don't heat the assembled stone too much as this may cause blemishes to appear in the epoxy bond .

I have used this technique on soft pieces of variscite, malachite and other copper minerals with good results. It also works well with rhodonite which is often difficult to polish.

By Reuel Janson

Hellgate Breezes, Missoula MT.

March 2007

Rockhound riddles

1. Name a likable rock
2. What Mineral is always hungry?
3. How do geologists measure water?
4. What should all geologists know?
5. What mineral catches thieves?
6. What is an opening in a fence?
7. How do you keep a boat from drifting?

8. What vegetable is used to weigh gemstones?

9. Where does a skeleton sleep?

10. Name a citrus rock?

11. What is a teen age snake?

12. A through F paid. What about G?

(answers on page 5)

2011 OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.**PRESIDENT** WARREN PRICE 446-4902 (c)**VICE-PRESIDENT** BILL JOHNSON (771-2687 C)—765-3099**SECRETARY** DIANE ROSE, 659-6173**TREASURER** MIKE BURTON (818-6317 C)**FEDERATION DIRECTOR** EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643**FEDERATION DELEGATE** BEVERLY BOCKMAN 773-5384**WSMC DELEGATE** OPEN**REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN** OPEN**HOSPITALITY** BOB BOCKMAN 773 5384**FIELD TRIP** OPEN**MEMBERSHIP** MIKE BURTON & Bob Bockman**SHOW 2012—BILL JOHNSON** 765 3099**NEWSLETTER EDITOR—BEV BOCKMAN****PROGRAMS—BEV BOCKMAN** AND Club Members**Riddle answers**

1. Gneiss
2. Apatite
3. With quartz
4. Their faults
5. Copper
6. Agate
7. Ankerite
8. Carat
9. In a bone-bed
10. Limestone
11. Serpentine
12. Geode

From Calgary
lapidary Jour-
nal May 2009

CUTTING A STAR STONE;

If you're cutting star stone and are looking for the star, white Karo syrup works better than anything. A single drop on the stone under a strong light will show where the star is located. (via The Tumbler 5/04, Rock Licker Nov/2004)

Fake Hematite Jewelry

By Dave Millis, ROCK DOC

It has come to my attention through a friend's disappointment that there is a new variety of fake hematite jewelry on sale. As a reminder, here are a couple of old techniques.

Most common fake uses of magnetite which is magnetic and easily detected. The process is to grind up the minerals, mix them with some kind of plastic or epoxy binder, and extrude them into finished shapes. The shapes quickly harden; beads already have holes and no drilling is required! If molds are used you can sometimes spot beads with incomplete areas where the mold did not fill completely: In general, the finished jewelry looks great and is often less than a dollar per necklace; sadly some dealers buy them for 50 cents and resell for over \$10 with the implication that they are not fake. It is virtually impossible to find true hematite necklaces nowadays. The first test should be the magnet test; hematite is not magnetic.

The earlier fakes used hematite without magnetite, so in a sense, it was real hematite jewelry, but the hematite was never cut to shape and/or drilled to make beads. You can check this with a 10X magnifier. Drilled beads will always have small imperfections around the edge of the hole.

The new fake uses no hematite at all! The bead in question is actually molded copper. The surface is some kind of anodized coating which looks like the steel-gray hematite color. The coating is however quite thin and can wear away. My friend and I also suspect that salt in ocean breezes speeds up the process.

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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.

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



2011 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.

NOV. 19-20 KITSAPMIN.AND GEM—BREMERTON, WA

LAST CLUB SHOW TILL FEBRUARY

CONSULT www.amfed.org/nfms for show details.

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND CLUBS