



# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

**NOVEMBER 2013**

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

VISIT 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)

## PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2013

### IDENTIFICATION GAME.

About 25 specimens will be set out for silent identification, with score sheets and pencils. After all participants are through you must self score the ID lists and prizes will be given for most right and least right. There may be additional categories with additional awards. This should be a learning experience as well as fun, so please plan to take part. Discussion of the game will follow.

Refreshments *Cindy Yates and Tammy Madland*

Silent Auction

Thanks to Bill Johnson for purchasing the DVD on BUTTE: THE ORIGINAL from the convention and show that he attended. It is long enough for two programs, having a length of 84 minutes. See the suggestion for club LIBRARY in the body of this newsletter. BB

**Nominations for officers will be presented at the November meeting. If anyone is to be nominated from the floor, make sure that the person has agreed to serve if selected. Election will be done during the meeting.**

**Also, consider where to meet for the December meeting/Christmas event. That will be December 19. See the minutes from October.**

**North Idaho Mineral Club Minutes Sept. 19, 2013 (printed for reference)**

**In the absence of the Club President, our Vice President Dale Ruperd called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Guest were: Susan Gordon, Everett and Erna Headrick's daughter visiting from Durham, North Carolina. Don and Faith Heitmann moved from Lewiston, ID to the Worley, ID area and joined our membership tonight. They go to Oro Valley, AZ for the winter and will leave before our next meeting. Welcome to them as well as our new members.**

**Treasurer's report: All bills are paid up to date. Mike Burton announced he will not be Treasurer for 2014 because he will be Show Chairman. Both jobs were too much for one person and hopes others will step up and be officers for 2014. He stated it helps to grow a healthy Club by spread duties around.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Dennis Elson has FREE magazines and they are on the counter by the silent auction. HE also stated he had an amplifier system he wishes to donate to the Club. There is no microphone but maybe someone else has one to donate. He hopes it will be more efficient than the one we pay for from the Fair Grounds Thank you, Dennis!**

**Donate to anyone: A 10 inch saw it needs works and sprays water or oil so needs a new shield. Someone in the Club received it! Thank you again Dennis!**

**Mike Burton announced that the Department of Transportation Department of Auto Licensing is planning on ending the GEM STATE Earth Science and Lapidary Special interest License Plate at the end of the calendar year if more interest is not taken in it. The Gem State Plate honors Idaho's nickname and gemstone the Idaho Star Garnet. The program supports Education Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Earth Science and Lapidary. BUY Now at DMV or [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov)**

**The Missoula Show is this weekend September 21 and 22 in a new location.**

**Check out our website: [northidahomineralclub.com](http://northidahomineralclub.com) for a new video that Mike Burton produced and placed on line. It features a star garnet sphere made by Scott Jackson of the Panorama Club. Scott lives in Chewelah, WA. Mike and Diane Rose had Scott make it for them.**

**OLD BUSINESS: None at this time. Diane Rose called the Bockman's and Beverly stated she had forgotten the meeting and they would leave right away to join us.**

**Everyone introduced themselves and told a little about themselves.**

**Patric' Hutchinson shared their treasures they have collected. Thank you for sharing Patric'!**

**The Bockman's arrived and Beverly took over the meeting. She announced there will**

(continued—Sept. 2013 minutes-) there will be a field trip for thulite and the information was available on the table. The by-laws are being reviewed and a copy was furnished to everyone at the meeting. They will be acted upon at the next meeting. A current membership list was also furnished to every household present. One correction should be made. Karel Mrazek's e-mail was wrong. It should be [mrazekoskar@gmail.com](mailto:mrazekoskar@gmail.com) His physical address is correct.

The nominating committee will have slate of possible officers for 2014 by the November meeting.

Please take a look at the silent auction and the findings that are pre-priced for sale—also the free magazines. Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose Secretary

### **NIMC Minutes October 17, 2013**

Meeting called to order at 6 PM by V President Dale Rupert. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were no guests. The minutes were read with the addition of the Nominating Committee: Everett Headrick, Karel Mrazek and Wayne Fitzpatrick. Wayne said he would be willing since Joyce Kendra will leave for AZ shortly. The committee will present a slate of officers at the November meeting. Treasurer's report by Mike Burton All bills are paid. The books were reviewed by George Rekow who is an accountant. George said that an actual audit would be around \$1500 if done by an Accounting firm and suggested the By-Laws be changed to read: A competent person shall review the books. George also suggested a couple of changes be made in the accounting system used by the Club but Mike Burton did not elaborate on those changes.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Burton reported on the progress for the NIMC 2014 Show with the show date being June 7 & 8 and set up being June 6. Mike said he will again be show chairman. The Kootenai County Fair Grounds deposit is paid as well as the insurance. Previously the insurance was due just before the show date. The Fair Ground has raised their rates for 2014 by \$175. Mike asked for comments from the members on how the Club show cover the new expenses.

- 1] Raise the table rates from \$104 to \$110 per table. Our show prices are the same as they have been for at least ten years and no doubt longer. (Gale Diener stated he did not make money at our show last year. Other dealers told me [Diane Rose] it was a good show for them.)
- 2] Charge \$3 instead of \$2 for entry into the Show. We had over 700 paid attendance at the 2013 show \$1400 plus paid in admissions making it \$2100 if we were to raise \$1.
- 3] Cut back on advertising and try to use some electric sign boards. Everett Headrick, Gale Diener and Mike Rose all stated advertising is the heart of getting people in the door and it would be a HUGE mistake to cut that area of the Show budget. On a personal note: I, [Diane Rose] spoke with a couple of businesses that said they do not rent their sign boards for such activities. Period.
- 4] Patric suggested maybe we have our logo on member's car windows as well as information for the show in our vehicle windows. With the logo identifying with all our advertising with same logo in newspaper ads.
- 5] PBS ad? Is it possible?
- 6] Sell Grand Prize tickets ahead of show as well as at the show. Members having numbered tear apart tickets with a photo of the grand prize available. It worked once in years past

7] Maybe Northwest Travel Magazine as well. Needs to be done ASAP for their publication. [Nwtravelmag.com or 253-432-4682]  
The Board will discuss these possibilities at their next meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

The By-Laws were accepted with the changes as proposed by the Board [enclosed with minutes] and wording change for the review of books of the Treasurer. Motion to accept changed as outlined by Board was moved by Erin Keuter-Laughlin and second by Marilyn Kohler. It passed with a unanimous vote.

Again a reminder that the Specialty plates for motor vehicles need our members support. The program with the GEM STATE Earth Science and Lapidary special interest License Plate will end December 31, 2013 if more interest is not taken in it. The program supports K-6th grade as well as Earth Science and Lapidary. Buy new plates at: [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov) or at one of our local Department of Vehicle Licensing Departments.

Refreshments for November: Cindy Yates and Tammy Madland

Christmas meeting and dinner: Suggestions please. Top of China and Elmer's were mentioned. It will be our regular meeting night, December 19, 2013.

Lewiston ID show this weekend. October 19 and 20

ALAA: Everett Headrick stated he is also a member of the Idaho Recreation Council.

Everett briefly discussed the exchange explaining opposition to the exchange isn't what it was at first but there is still opposition. The problem is either the US Forest Service is going to do the exchange (they want the Lochsa lands) or it will be done legislatively. If it is done through Congress, the recreational community will get easement for perpetuity giving them access to every trail, road, and riding area that exists today. With the US Forest Service, you get travel planning. Anyone thinking that is a guarantee of anything more than gates and more closures? Following a brief discussion, Everett moved that we support the legislative exchange of the lands. Tommie Erst seconded the motion, and there was a unanimous vote by the membership supporting the motion.

Please remember the silent auction will close in 10 minutes and refreshment supplied by: Tommie Erst, Dale (Pat) Ruperd and Patric and Dean Hutchinson. Thank you for the yummy treats!

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose, Secretary

**We need a Library folks!** Without a place of our own to meet and store things it must be a portable one for the time being, and Bob and I are going to start one in a wheeled container that we can bring to meetings and then back home. I know we all have materials that would be of interest to others in our club.

I can devise a method of keeping track of what is loaned out for period of one or two months, and hope that the honor system is enough to accomplish that. We have a number of DVD's that are for the club library that will be available as well as hard and soft back publications. **This will be started in January if there is enough interest expressed at this November meeting. LET ME KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.**

**Bev B.**

**North Idaho Mineral Club Board meeting Thursday October 31, 2013**

Board members present: Beverly Bockman, Dale Ruperd, Mike Burton, Carl Chapin, Bill Johnson and Diane Rose. Meeting held in the Rose's garage.

A bill for fuel for picking up the show cases donated by Norm Radford in Osburn, ID. was presented and paid.

SHOW 2014 Show Date: June 7 and 8, 2014

Mike Burton is Show Chairman. Beverly Bockman is Dealer Chairman

After some discussion it was decided that the Dealer fees of \$104 per 8 foot table would remain the same. Mike Burton stated he had already completed the contract with the Fair Grounds and it said the entry fee for those attending would be \$2.00 as it was in the past as well. The only way we might make up the difference is pre-sell Grand Prize tickets. Diane stated it worked well in a previous year.

There should be tickets left over from previous printings since there were 1000 tickets printed with no show date or year- just Grand Prize drawing with a \$1 price preprinted on tickets. They are/were prenumbered tickets. Not tickets from a roll as we have used in recent shows.

Possible Dealers were also discussed-The retired Geologist that was at the Lewiston show and the man from Tacoma selling frog skin agate were suggested.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

We will have at least 1 {one} scholarship for Earth Science and possibly 2 {two} of \$500 each and will see if it is possible to put it in the works for the new semester beginning January 2014. The Scholarships will be given to a North Idaho student [or students in case of 2] studying Earth Science. Mike Burton said he would go right away to check on how to proceed.

We also discussed starting a separate account for Scholarship with \$100 for the beginning balance. Mike said he would do that also. We will initiate a monthly scholarship ticket sale for a desirable item or items to be awarded every three months, with the proceeds to be added to the account set up for that purpose.

Meeting adjourned, Diane Rose, Secretary

Age doesn't always bring wisdom—sometimes age comes alone!  
 Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.  
 Politicians and diapers have one thing in common: They should both be changed regularly and for the same reason.  
 I plan on living forever.....so far so good.

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC  
 2013 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
 PRESIDENT—BEV BOCKMAN -773-5384 OR  
 CELL 659 4021  
 VICE-PRESIDENT—DALE RUPERD 664 2712  
 SECRETARY—DIANE ROSE 659-6173—MAY- JAN  
CINDY YATES 660-7588 FEB- APRIL  
 TREASURER—MIKE BURTON 772-9347 OR  
 818-6317 (ALSO SHOW CHAIRMAN 2013  
 MEMBERSHIP AND WEBMASTER )  
 BULLETIN EDITOR— BEV BOCKMAN  
 PROGRAMS—CLUB MEMBERS AND BEV  
 ALAA-EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643  
 FEDERATION DIRECTOR-DALE RUPERD  
 FEDERATION DELEGATE-BILL JOHNSON  
 REFRESHMENTS AND HOSPITALITY—TOMMIE

**IF THERE IS ANYONE AMONG YOU WHO HAS EXPERIENCE WITH PRINTERS AND SCANNERS I DESPERATELY NEED HELP. NEW EQUIPMENT THAT DOES NOT DO WHAT I CAN FIGURE OUT IT IS SUPPOSED TO DO!! TAKING THREE OR FOUR TIMES TO GET THIS NEWSLETTER INTO YOUR HANDS THAN USUAL, AND I HAVE A BIG HEADACHE!!! BEV. B. No pictures till I can deduce how to make them. PHOOEY!!!**

## OPAL

The following article was derived by your NFMS Editor from [www.opalDine.com](http://www.opalDine.com) via NFMS Newsletter 6/06

### How Opal is Graded

Rough opal parcels are sorted into three grades: tops, middle, and low. Each *tops parcel* has a King Stone, which is the best stone in the parcel. Some parcels have several King Stones. Color is the primary criteria for grading, but the graders also take into consideration the number of imperfections and faults, and whether a stone is the right shape to be cut into an oval or one of the other popular shapes.

### You Can Buy Rough Opal in Several Different Conditions.

**Mine Run.** Direct from the mine. The stones have not been cut or ground down. This means that there is more guess work in the cutting. Purchasing mine run opal can be risky if you are not very experienced.

**Off Cuts.** The miner has removed whatever opal he has a market for and sells you what's left. With off cuts, you can usually tell what you are going to be able to cut. You must still watch for cracks in the opal because once a crack becomes obvious, a stone can lose half its value.

**Rubs.** This can often be the best way of buying rough if you are not very experienced. The miner has cut and ground the stones into basic shapes, after having removed most of the rubbish. What you have left is the stone nearly ready for the dopping and polishing process.

- You have the satisfaction of cutting your own stones without the high risk of buying mine run rough. Opal is *officially* sold in troy oz. There are 20 d.w.t. (**dead weight ton**) pennyweights to a troy oz. There are approximately 30 grams to a troy oz and approximately 30 troy oz to a kilo.

General Hints and Tips

Here's an assortment of hints and tips you may find helpful when buying or working with opal.

1. Not all opal is valuable. Potch, sometimes called "common opal" does not reflect colors. Potch does have its use, however, as a backing for doublets and triplets. When there is color mixed with potch it's called "potch and color."

2. Some classes of rough opal are unsuitable for making gemstones. Some are very porous. Others have a chalky appearance. Still others can lose their color in a short period of time. And yes, it is common for certain types of opals to shatter in a dry atmosphere when the water from the gel evaporates. The best protection for buyers is to purchase opal from a knowledgeable and reputable dealer who accurately details exactly what you are purchasing and is willing to guarantee the stones. **Note:** If you buy rough opal, there is no guarantee that it will not crack. This is the calculated risk you take and is part of the "excitement" of opal cutting.

3. When examining opal jewelry, look at the stone from the side to determine whether it's a triplet. Solid and doublet opal domes are simply the opal formed into a curved dome shape. Triplets have clear crystal domes to protect the flat opal surface.

4. It is very difficult to tell whether a stone is a doublet or a solid if it is in a setting. It helps if the back of the setting is open, but it is still no real indication because the back of a doublet and a solid looks very similar, although a doublet is usually perfectly black on the back whereas a solid black opal usually has some imperfections. So if the back of a stone looks too perfect, you have to be a little suspicious. For this reason it's best to buy opal from reputable dealers who know what they are doing because, unfortunately, many jewelers also are not experienced in opal.

5. When buying opal over the Internet, ask the seller to give you a summary of how close the graphic sample is to the real thing. Opal is very difficult to photograph and the appearance on the computer screen may give it a different look. Particularly this is the case in regards to size. Graphics come out in all different sizes, usually a lot larger than actual...so make sure you get your ruler out and actually draw the size on a piece of paper so that you will know in your own mind's eye the actual size of the stone.

**(OPAL - continued from page 6)**

6. The same thing applies to the color of the stone.

Make sure you get the supplier to give a commentary on the color so that you will know pretty well what you are getting. The camera sometimes picks up colors that are only minimal, while ignoring the feature colors.

**Cutting, Grinding, Sanding and Polishing Tips**

1. Opal is one of the easiest stones to cut. The trick is chasing the color to make sure you approach the color from the right direction. Lapidary clubs are a good resource for new opal cutters. Ask experienced members for advice on the basics of cabochon cutting.

2. Your first task is to search an opal for any hint of color. Then, you use a wet grindstone to grind off the potch until you can see where the color is going. When you've exposed enough color, you can choose the top and bottom for your stone based on where you see the best color contrasted against the background color.

3. Let the stone dry then check for cracks and imperfections. Everyone wants to cut a big stone, but two or three smaller perfect stones are a better choice than one big stone with imperfections. Remember too, if you're planning to make a jewelry piece, settings come in standard, calibrated sizes. Unless you'll be making a completely custom setting, you're better off sticking with a common size.

4. A diamond blade, 10 thousandths thick is a good choice for cutting an opal stone to size. Many lapidaries will tell you to run the diamond blade slowly with opal. This is a big mistake. Opal is not a hard material. Like agate, for example. Opal shaping is best done either in water or with water passing over it at the speed achieved from an ordinary 1440 RPM\*, 1/4 H.P. motor with a .6" pulley on the motor and a 1 & 1/2 pulley on the shaft. If you don't force the stone and you have plenty of water passing over it, you will not cause any damage. In fact your diamond blades will last longer because they will not buckle as easy.

5. After you've cut the stone into the basic shape, use a wet grinder to finish shaping and remove rough edges.

6. The final step is sanding. Begin sanding with a 320 grit paper. If the paper is new, you may rub it on some potch\*\* or a sheet of glass to

dull its sharpness a bit. You can then use either a 600, 700, or 800 grit wet and dry sandpaper to gradually take out the finer scratches and bring up a matte finish.

7. Finally, on a leather lap, use a paste of cerium or tin oxide (mix with water) to bring up the final polish. Your finished opal should have a nice, high dome for easy mounting. Save the chips! You can use those bits of opal to create stunning mosaic patterns. If you have a piece of opal jewelry that has become scratched or dull, just use the finer papers (700 or 800 grit). You can try to work the above process by hand by cutting small strips of the sandpaper and just rubbing them back and forth across the stone until the scratches are taken out. If the paper is too harsh, just tone it down by rubbing it on a piece of glass.

Next step is to get a piece of old sheet or pillow slip (cloth) and vigorously polish

with tin oxide or cerium oxide. If you want to polish the gold or silver at the same time, use some metal polishing paste. Most of these items can be purchased from the hardware store, with the exception of the oxides which may only be available at Lapidary supply stores or at workshops that polish gravestones. (Stone masons) (Check in your yellow or pink pages on the telephone directory for locations.) \* RPM is based on 50 Hz cycles. Most (if not all)

U.S. Electrical sources are 60 Hz cycles. Pulley size should be adjusted accordingly.

\*\* potch is unformed opal

**(Editors Note: *Potch* is a term that has had several different meanings over the years. At times it has been used to describe the matrix in which one finds opal, and also to describe *common opal* (opal w/o fire or *play of light*). Common opal is now sometimes referred to as *gem opal* if it has excellent lapidary qualities such as translucency and deep rich color, differentiating it from precious opal that has fire or play of light.)**

**Source.-- Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society - July 2006, Rock and Chips 8/06, Gems of the Rogue 10/06**

Lake City Rockhound News

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**Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-search-bring to meeting, and give to Dale Ruperd**

**CLUB WEB SITE**

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

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THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

S.C.R.I.B.E. **ALAA**



2013 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.

No Rock Show Information till the "New season"

WHICH BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

\*\*Consult [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) for show details.

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND CLUBS