



# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

**OCTOBER 2011**

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

667-4628 6:00 P.M. Visitors Welcome 3rd Thursday of month

See 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)

MEETING ON OCTOBER 20– 6 P.M.

PROGRAM: PICTURE ROCK

ALL MEMBERS who have them—BRING SAMPLES OF  
PICTURE ROCK —TELL WHERE FROM and what you  
have done with the rock that you show.

Examples encouraged!!!

Refreshments will be provided by Tammy Madland and Bob Bockman. Rock Auction by Bill Johnson. Look and BID at your convenience. Donated door prize for some lucky member.

Last newsletter had the new address for **Jim Rauch**—since I got back from Oregon I have not been to see him, but I know some of you have managed to visit.

**Bertha McPherson** has also relocated to the **Loyalton**. She was hospitalized briefly in August, and instead of moving back home decided to put the place up for sale and seek a more congenial and safe atmosphere. She is in **apartment 232** at **205 E. Anton**, 83815. cell phone 704-9253. The number at the main office is 666-8879. When I spoke with her she was liking it a lot.

North Idaho Mineral Club minutes from Sept. 15. 2011 meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Warren Price at 6:25 PM

4 guests were introduced; Dale Ruperd, Pat Thomson, Hiram and Tammy Madland—all from Coeur d'Alene. Mr Ruperd later joined the club. They found the club in the Nickels Worth ad so it seems that is good place to advertise. We had a letter from Linda Anderson who would like to visit the club if she had a ride.

No minutes from the August picnic meeting. Treasurer reports that the bills are up to date and the storage unit is paid for the year. The Senior Center wants brochures about the club for the center.

The field trip for thunder eggs near Burns, Oregon was announced, sponsored by the Mt Hood club.

NIC requests someone from the club to appear in the paper with a "BIG CHECK", with the recipient of our scholarship or the person in charge of scholarships from NIC. This would appear in the CdA Press.

The Hells Canyon Club from Lewiston asks if anyone from our club would like to put in a display at their show. Entry forms were available as well as a flyer. Their show is at the fairgrounds in Lewiston on **Oct. 15 and 16**. It is always a good show and members are encouraged to attend. Displays must be in place on the 14th.

Warren presented Mike Burton with 3rd place in the American Federation web design contest.

For the next meeting juice will be provided by the club and treats by Tammy Madland and Bob Bockman. The meeting was adjourned for the rock auction, which closed after 10 minutes, and the program which is a DVD from the NFMS library; WONDERFUL WORLD OF AGATES: Parts 1 & 2.

Respectfully submitted: Diane Rose, Secretary Pro-Tem

**Try to get to the Lewiston show this weekend. It's always a good show and we have many friends in the club. Carpooling works! Bob and I are going down on Saturday. We could take one person.**

From APS Bulletin—March 2007

Predator: Brittle Star: Prey: Crinoid

Crinoids possess an endoskeleton composed of calcareous plates covered by a thin skin. Each plate is a single, porous calcite crystal. Unfused plates are held together with ligaments. Four basic parts are the holdfast, the stem, the calyx (internal organs) and as many as 200 feeding arms to gather food. Fossil crinoids are occasionally found with a brittle star entwined around the crown..... Some paleontologists believe the brittle star may be predatory rather than a partner—with a symbiotic relationship—and fed on the crinoids themselves.

The picture shows a brittle star deeply embedded in the calyx of the crinoid..



**"THE CLUELESS ROCKHOUND VISITS BATHTUB MOUNTAIN"  
[ONE OF A VERY SHORT ONGOING SERIES .... ]**

A year ago a prominent gem dealer brought up the odd idea of how easily he might secure lots of staurolite twinned crystals, said to be found at a remote site in southeastern Shoshone County, Idaho. The means of reaching that place on "Bathtub Mountain" seemed unclear, but a couple months ago I located instructions in a text, *Rockhounding /daho.1*

The author wisely warned that the site might need to be visited only during August through early September with 4WO vehicles. Of course The Clueless Rockhound would disregard such warnings ....

The instructions for travel into the Forest Service-maintained graveled roads were easy enough to at least get one into the general locale. The trip via Idaho 456 from Wallace to Avery over Moon Pass was fine, and challenging as always. The 7 tunnels and half-dozen bridges, all one-lane of course, especially added to that. Not a wise place for MP3 players or other audio-video distractions. Even rubber-necking at the displays of spring and summer wildflowers can be dangerous. An exceptionally snowy winter meant more washouts and road edge peril on 456; far worse down on the roads below 10 FS 50.

The vital info as to which bridge to turn south onto from eastbound 50 was only discernable from the text; FS 509 was not marked on the bridge anywhere. It was following the instructions via the longer route past Mammoth Lakes Campgrounds which nearly derailed getting up to the site; there were several tons of snow over the road in a couple shaded spots near the campgrounds. Yes, minivans without chains and studded tires tend to get stuck .... Others anxious to get the damned thing out of their way graciously pitched in and pushed the Kia uphill slightly and let the journey continue, briefly. A front right tire was now flat, and had to be changed, with only the most basic tools at hand. A fellow heading up to the same general area was crucial to complete the journey to the "Snow Peak" site, as he hooked up the tow rope this clueless one had in the back and pulled at least 2 trees partially off the road, using his modified VW bug no less!! More spots of snow and fallen branches made continuing the last couple miles even more risky. It's a shocking realization that one has possibly been the first rock collector of the new season fool enough to venture to such a remote area! The one refreshing compensation was that the site was virtually free of human litter. Even Jay Silver Heels couldn't cry up there.

Romaine(ibid.) does cite GPS coordinates; of course this Clueless One doesn't have a GPS unit; so he safely remained on the horse lovers trail descending east for over 600 yards, well past the suggested main area.

Just about 25 yards from the road- side parking is a strange uplift of rock, clearly metamorphed to schist-like form, perhaps four by six yards by eight yards in height. It's left from the horse trail by about ten yards. Most probably this unusual formation and a mostly vegetation-barren area about ten yards downhill was the spot to dig, and I did take a modest sampling from there, but really spotted no twinned crystals. The tiny garnets embedded in mica bearing schist were plentiful, so no doubt a few larger garnets, albeit almandine in species like their cousins to the west at (See next page)

1 *Rockhounding Idaho*. Garret Romaine. 2010 Helena, MT: Falcon Guides. nn4il ,\1-?

Emerald Creek, can be found in this area by extended screening and digging. These garnets were under 1 millimeter to perhaps 3mm in diameter, most quite orange-red.

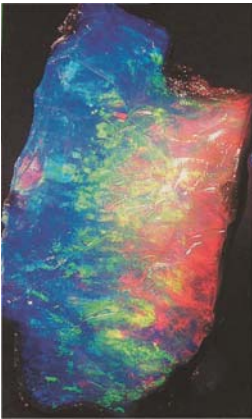
Travel past the designated area proved impossible for the day, as another tree likely weighing over five-hundred pounds blocked the Forest Service road just around a left turn uphill from the Snow peak parking area. It would lead further NE and may offer substantial additional collecting opportunities.

Rocks found at the site which still require testing and confirmation of identity include a not plentiful but meaningful quantity reddish rock, often in layered pieces 30-40mm thick, seemingly coarse-grained orange-red; slightly bluish-gray rock with characteristics of both kyanite and quartzite in that it has a grainy-look in some directions, but not too much obvious cleavage; the grayish schist" already referred to, which is not particularly Tough, ends breaking away at a right angle to the cleavage, an orange-reddish material, and a reddish material like the "schist" but of lower density and toughness (perhaps this is the "staurolite" ).

[to be continued when some further identification on these rocks is possible]

Submitted by James Finckbone

(THANK YOU James., BB)



**OPAL—the stunning October birthstone. ...the accepted one** but definitely not the only one! For the calendar month of October the birthstones also include tourmaline, jasper, aquamarine, coral and beryl. Two Zodiac signs also span October, allowing those born under the signs of Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 23) and Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22) to include peridot, sapphire, lapis, agate, topaz, garnet, ruby and amethyst. How about that—all our favorites in one “month”!!

Precious opal shows a variable play of internal color dictated by its internal structure. The silica spheres of which opal is composed are arranged in a close packed lattice which cause light to be diffracted through the structure. If the packing of spheres is tight color play may be slight, and if the spheres are larger and the packing is not so snug more play of color is seen. (This is a vastly simplified explanation.) Australia produces 97% of the worlds opal. The most famous site is the town of Coober Pedy. Mintabie Opal Fields produces the rarer black opal as well as the crystal type usually found in Coober Pedy. Andomooka (So. Australia) is also a major producer of matrix opal, crystal opal and black opal. Boulder opal is that found in concretions and ironstone. Also many types of opalized fossil remains are found—including tree roots, marine creatures and dinosaur bones.

The Virgin Valley opal fields of Humboldt Co. in Nevada are famous for the black, crystal, white, fire and lemon opal. Some of the opal has a high water content and may dry and crack.. Anointer source of white base opal is the Spencer Mine in Idaho.

There are also many kinds of common opal, and other varieties include fire opal. The most famous site is in Mexico in the state of Queretaro. They display green flashes and are usually faceted. Without color play they may be called jelly opals. I hope you all saw the article in Rock and Gem this month about the opal from Ethiopia. (con't next page)

2011 OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.

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SHOW 2011—WARREN PRICE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—BEV BOCKMAN

PROGRAMS—BEV BOCKMAN AND Club Members

WEBMASTER—MIKE BURTON 818-6317

The name of opal is from the Roman term *opalus* adapted from the Sanskrit word *upala*. The term first appears in Roman references about 250 B.C. when the stone was valued above all others. At that time it is supposed that opal was coming from India.

During the Middle Ages opal was thought to provide great luck as it was supposed to have all the virtues of each gemstone whose color could be seen in the colors of the opal. It was also said to make a person invisible if wrapped in a fresh bay leaf and held in the hand! After Sir Walter Scott published his book *Anne of Geierstein* in 1829 it's reputation took a dive! In the book Anne wears an opal with supernatural powers and when a drop of holy water fell on it it turns into a colorless stone and Anne dies shortly thereafter. Because the book was such a hit! people began to associate opals with bad luck and the sale of the stone dropped by 50%! (The power of the written word and superstition.) Even in the 20th century it retained a reputation as possessing the "evil eye". BB ed. (from many sources)

**BRIEF REPORT ON THE BUCHANAN RANCH ROCK TRIP IN OREGON THAT WAS MENTIONED LAST MONTH..... Hank Moseley of the Rock Rollers had some samples of the thunder eggs that he found while on this trip. They are gorgeous and unlike any I have ever seen. He said that there were three times as many people as were expected and so they were split into groups to go to the beds which were easily accessible and had been prepared for digging. While some were digging eggs others were seeking other treasures in which the area abounds. The rancher expects to expand the access to possible three separate times next year. Dry camping was enjoyed by many and the campground was good. The fee was .75 per pound, and the rancher had some already dug also for sale. Hank said the allowance was generous. He was very pleased with the trip.**

**DOOR PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED AT THE NEXT MEETING—BE SURE TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE RECORD.**



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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.**

**OCTOBER 15-16 HELLS CANYON GEM CLUB-LEWISTON,**

**OCT. 22-23 CLACKAMETTE MINERAL—CANBY, OR.**

**OCTOBER 22-23 BELLEVUE ROCK CLUB—BELLEVUE, WA.**

**NOV 12-13 MAPLEWOOD CLUB- EDMONDS, WA**

**NOV. 11-12-13 NW OPAL ASSOC. AND BOEING CLUB-PUYALLUP**

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

CONSULT [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) for show details.

**SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND CLUBS**

