



Lake City Rockhound News

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

October, 2017
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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 – October 19, 2017

The Meeting Program:

Collecting Earth's Natural Treasures (DVD, 51 min)

Refreshments: Pat Hutchinson and Tammy Madland

There will be a silent auction and scholarship raffle tickets will be sold.

Buy your tickets today.

Meeting Minutes for September 2017

Meeting called to order by President Marilyn Kohler. There are 19 members present and two guests. They are father and son, Ralph Scott and Tim Scott of Hidden Valley area in Rathdrum. Welcome. One new member: Ramona McConnell, so glad you have joined us!

Treasurer's report read by Diane Rose. Motion to accept as written by Steve Handrahan seconded by Bill Johnson/ passed.

There was no Old Business.

New Business: Nomination Committee: Diane Rose, Corey Brenner and Beverly Bockman Election of Officers next month for 2018.

Show Committee: Mike Rose, Chairman said things are covered so far. Steve Handrahan brought samples of rocks he had painted for Kids Corner Show prizes and Jean Gordon has been making bracelets for Kids prizes as well. Steve has purchased rocks @ \$3.50 per bucket from Rockhound on Highway 41.

Mike McConnell has been in contact with CDA Rocks and asked them to put a display case in the Show. They are excited to be invited. There are over 4000 members on Facebook, no meetings. They plan on donating rocks to the

Club for the Show.

FYI: There is a Bead Show in Hamilton, MT this weekend. Also an animated Dinosaur Exhibit is at The Convention Center also this weekend. [We really enjoyed it! 80 animated life sized Dinosaurs]

DUES ARE DUE at the October meeting. \$10.00 single person or \$17.50 for a family.

TREATS will be provided by: Patric' Hutchinson and Tammy Madland. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose, Secretary



Brad's Bench Tips for October

Brad Smith <brad@greenheart.com>

LAYOUT TOOLS

Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision on a piece is important, good layout techniques are essential.

These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes in the right place, to achieve correct angles, and to cut pieces the

correct length.

I like crisp sharp lines to follow, so I often coat surfaces with a dark marker and scribe my layout lines onto the metal. A square makes quick work of checking right angles or marking where to cut, and the thin center punch helps me mark a place to drill holes exactly where I want them.

Finally, a good set of dividers is probably my favorite layout tool. They let me quickly mark a strip for cutting, swing an arc, and divide a line or curve into as many equal segments as I need. I keep at least one set of dividers in every toolbox.



INVENTORY RECORD

In an ideal world each of us has a complete pictorial record of all pieces of jewelry in our inventory. We use the pictures for marketing, and we use the record for insurance. We use it to remember which items have been sent out on consignment, or we use it to mark which items we're taking to a show. And eventually, we note in the record the pieces that have sold.

Unfortunately, we don't always have time to take good pictures of each piece for a detailed inventory. In situations like this I've been able to make a quick group shot with the help of a smart phone, a camera, a scanner, or a color copier. The quality is more than sufficient to accurately identify the pieces.

See all Brad's jewelry books at <http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



Jade: Chinese Stone of Heaven

Since at least 2950 BC, jade has been treasured in China as the royal gemstone, *yu*. The character for jade resembles a capital I with a line across the middle: the top represents the heavens, the bottom the earth, and the center section, mankind. The word *yu* is used in Chinese to call something precious, as in English we use gold. Jade was thought to preserve the body after death and can be found in emperors' tombs from thousands of years ago. One tomb contained an

entire suit made out of jade, to assure the physical immortality of its owner. For thousands of years, jade was a symbol of love and virtue as well as a status symbol.

In Central America, the Olmecs, the Mayans, the Toltecs all also treasured jade and used it for carvings and masks. The Aztecs instituted a tax in jade, which unfortunately led to the recycling of earlier artworks. The history of jade in Europe is not quite as distinguished. Although prehistoric axes and blades carved from jade have been found by archeologists, most Europeans were unfamiliar with jade as a gemstone for jewelry use until the sixteenth century when jade objects were imported from China and, later, Central America. The Portuguese, who brought home jade pieces from their settlement in Canton, China, called jade *pedre deilharga*, or stone of the loins, because they believed it to be strong medicine for kidney ailments. Jade objects brought back to Spain from the new world were called by the Spanish version of this phrase *pedra de hijada*. This became the French *ejade* and then, finally, jade.



The ancient jade carved in China was what we today call nephrite jade: an amphibolite mineral. (Interestingly enough, the word nephrite comes from the Greek word for kidney, *nephros*, and a bit more scholarly version of the same thing.) In the 19th Century, it was discovered that the material from the new world was not the same mineral as the jade from China. The mineral from Central America, a pyroxene, was called jadeite to distinguish it from the original nephrite.

The Chinese knew about jadeite, travelers had brought back some jadeite from Burma as early as the thirteenth century. But China was turning inward at that time and this foreign Kingfisher Stone, as they called it, referring to the brightly colored feathers of the bird, was not considered to be real jade. It only became popular in the eighteenth and nineteenth century when trade with Burma opened up again.

Today it is jadeite jade that is considered the real jade, commanding prices much higher than nephrite because it comes in much more vivid green colors and finer translucency than nephrite jade. Jadeite jade is produced in Burma, which is now known as Myanmar. Every year, the state-owned Myanmar Gems Enterprise holds the Myanmar

Gems, Jade, and Pearl Emporium where boulders are sold by tender to the top jade dealers from around the world.

Jadeite dealers must be some of the world's biggest gamblers because of the way they buy. Boulders are sold intact, with only a tiny window cut in the side to expose a small section of the interior. The buyer has no idea what lies inside: valuable green jadeite or perhaps only white or brown-stained inexpensive material. He has only his instinct, and on that basis he pays hundreds of thousands of dollars for what may turn out to be the deal of the year or a huge loss.

The top jadeite jade is usually cut into smooth dome shapes called cabochons. Jadeite bangles are also very popular in Asian countries. Beads are also very beautiful and some important jadeite necklaces made during the art deco period have fetched hundreds of thousands of dollars at auctions in the past few years.

Because of its smooth even texture, jade has long been a preferred material for carving. The most common shape is the flat donut-shaped disc called a pi, which is commonly worn as a necklace. The Emerald Buddha, the sacred image that is enshrined at Wat Phra Kaeo in Bangkok, Thailand, is actually beautiful green jadeite.

Jadeite jade is most treasured for its vivid greens, but, it also comes in lavender, pink, yellow, and white. Nephrite is found in less intense dark spinach greens, white, browns, and black.

While jadeite is mined today primarily in Myanmar, small quantities can be found in Guatemala. Although Neolithic jadeite axes were found in Europe, it is not known where this prehistoric jadeite was mined, although it is possible that the material came from a deposit in the Alps. Nephrite is mined in Canada, Australia, the United States, and Taiwan.

Jade is most often sold by the piece rather than per carat. Although the overall color is the most important value factor, attention is also paid to translucency, texture, and also to pattern. Certain patterns, including moss in snow, are highly valued.

Both jadeite and nephrite are very durable and tough, although jadeite is slightly harder than nephrite due to its microcrystalline structure.

There are two types of Jade: Jadeite and Nephrite. Jadeite is rarer and the highest quality is known as imperial Jade.

Jadeite comes in many colors: red, yellow, green, lilac, black, orange, white, pink, blue and brown. Jadeite has a hardness of 7.

Nephrite Jade is more common and is often used in Chinese carvings. Nephrite Jade comes in various tones of green -- mostly with an olive green tone. It has a hardness of 6.5.

- Be aware that Serpentine is often sold as Jade.
- Reputable dealers will not use the following misleading terms. However, for your protection, I am listing them here:
 - "Amazon jade" and "Colorado Jade" is really Amazonite (green feldspar).
 - "American jade" is really the Californite (green variety of idocrase).
 - "Imperial Mexican jade" and "Mexican jade" are really green-dyed calcite.
 - "Indian jade" is really aventurine.
 - "Korea jade" and "New jade" are really Serpentine.
 - Jadeite is from Myanmar, Japan, and USA (Alaska and California). Nephrite Jade is from Myanmar, Russia, China and USA (Wyoming).

**From Sierra Pelonagran, 12/04
via Chipper's Chatter, 11/06
via Via The RockCollector 11/06**



Obsidian Tells Time

Time (in age) can be measured with obsidian. It is emerging as a promising tool for dating and tracing prehistoric culture. What makes it useful for dating is that it continuously absorbs moisture from the air. The moisture penetrates the stone at a constant rate and leaves a telltale mark on the obsidian, which is visible under a microscope. By examining the watermarks, the age of a piece of obsidian can be calculated with extreme accuracy. This is valuable because the measurements can be extended half a million years into the past, well beyond the 40,000 year limit of carbon dating.

A most important use of obsidian is in dating glacial periods in the United States. Stones that were carried along by advancing ice have confirmed that a major ice age began 180,000 years ago, and their final retreat came around 12,000 years ago.

(From Rockhound Ramblings via THE ROCKBOUND RECORD 7&8/03)



North Idaho Mineral Club
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First Class Mail

NIMC Officers			
President: Marilyn Kohler (208-967-2545)			
Vice-President: Mike McConnell (406-360-4944)			
Treasurer: Carl Chapin (208-772-9049)			
Secretary: Diane Rose (208-659-6173)			
Other Positions			
Show Chair 2017: Dale Ruperd/Dean Hutchinson			
Newsletter: Michael Burton (208-772-9347)			
Federation Director: Dale Ruperd			
Federation Delegate: Bill Johnson (208-765-3099)			
Webmaster: Michael Burton			
Programs/Membership: Bev Bockman (208-773-5384)			
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			
Oct 21-22	10:00-6:00 10:00-4:00	Hells Canyon Gem Club	Nez Perce Cty Fair Bldg, 1229 Burrell Ave, Lewiston, ID
Oct 28-29	9:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club	Clackamas Cty Frgrnds, 694 NE 4 th Ave, Canby, OR
Oct 28-29	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Bellevue Rock Club	Vasa Park, 3560 W. Lake, Sammamish Pkwy SE, Bellevue, WA
Nov 11-12	9:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Maplewood Rock & Gem Club	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196 th St SW, Edmonds, WA
Nov 11-12	9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Skagit Rock & Gem Club	Sedro Woolley Comm. Ctr, 703 Pacific St, Sedro Woolley, WA
Dec 9-10	9:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Maplewood Rock & Gem Club	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196 th St SW, Edmonds, WA
Feb 24-25	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Idaho Gem Club	Expo Idaho, 5610 Glenwood, Boise, ID