



LAKE CITY ROCKHOUND NEWS

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC

P.O. BOX 1643, HAYDEN, ID. 83835

SEPTEMBER 2015

MEETING AT LAKE CITY CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE 667-4628—IN LIBRARY
6 PM TO 8 PM, THIRD THURSDAY OF MONTH—VISITORS AND GUESTS WELCOME

See www.northidahomineralclub.com

REGULAR MEETING—SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 6-8 pm

PROGRAM FROM THE FEDERATION LIBRARY—

GARNETS—AN OVERVIEW (2014 AFMS Winner)

REFRESHMENTS Dale and Pat Ruperd and Betty and Bruce Holmes

SILENT AUCTION— AND SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING

(NEXT DRAWING IN DECEMBER.) BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY

OUTDOOR IDAHO CHANNEL 12—PBS

ROCKHOUNDS

AIRS THURSDAY, SEPT. 24 AT 8 P.M.

REPEAT ON SUNDAY SEPT 27 AT 7 p.m.

A growing number of rockhounds of all ages are seeking gem stones and fossils at sites around the state. This new episode follows the hunt in the Panhandle, the Owyhee County area and eastern Idaho.

Producer Melissa Davlin said she visited the North Idaho sites—Clarkia Fossil Bed and Emerald Creek Garnet area—while she was in college. These sites encompass one of two places in the world to find star garnets as well as 15 million year old fossils.

“The thing that surprised me this time was how excited I got when I found a specimen.—

(Continued next page)

(continued from page 1)—I’ve learned a little about the appeal,” Davlin said, “and it took us to some pretty spots, too.”

Davlin said she learned more about the appeal from experienced rockhounds who polish the stones to make jewelry from their finds, and from three-year olds who were “just thrilled to be picking up sand and rocks.”

OUTDOOR IDAHO cameras also took in jasper hunting in the Owyhee County area and the search for opals in eastern Idaho.

(I received a call from Brent Stewart of the Idaho Gem Club, and also involved in Stewarts Gem Shop in Boise, to make sure we knew about this program. It should be good! BB ed.)

NIMC minutes for August 20, 2015

Meeting called to order by President Dale Ruperd. Guests were introduced—Ken Bailey, Mike McConnell, Michiko Minette and Steve Minette, Anthony Liles and Krysta Bell. A sincere welcome to all. 24 regular club members were present.

The treasurer’s report was given as well as a proposed budget for the 2016 show and a rundown of expenses incurred during the 2015 show, and the income above expenses. After discussion, the decision of the board was adopted and we will be sponsoring a scholarship to a geology student at NIMC during this year and also in 2016. Carl Chapin presented the information and the motion to approve was made by Bob Riley and seconded by Mike Rose.

No old business discussed at this time. Pending are workshops to build and repair items for the show next year.

New business: (1) Mike Burton suggested he lead a cabochon class. 12 people signed up for the class. Since there is a space limit in the Roses’ garage, the class will be split into two events—the first taking place on Sept 13 and the second taking place at 8:30 AM. on Sept. 20. The first class on Sept. 13 has Hiram Madland, the Holmes’ and the Andersons. On Sept. 20 will be Mike McConnell and the Minettes. Instructors for class #1 –Mike Burton, Dale Ruperd and Mike Rose. For class #2 will be Dale Ruperd and Mike Rose. Both classes will begin at 8:30 AM and run till finished. The Holts have agreed to meet with Bev Bockman at her shop

If the students have slabs they would like to make a cab from, or a cab already preformed, please bring them. If you do not have any, they will be provided. Bring a lunch. Bottled water and coffee will be provided by Mike and Diane Rose. Directions to the garage will have been provided. Any questions please call 659-4021.

(2) We will need to have a workshop to repair some of the items for the Kids Corner at the show. Thanks to those who volunteered.

Scholarship drawing awards will be made at the meeting on the 17th of Sept. Get your last tickets before the drawing. There will be a last drawing for 2015 at the December meeting. Those “prizes” will be on display at the October meeting. The field trip to the Pitman’s for the rocks available from the Panorama club had to be postponed due to the high fire danger in their area at the time. The possibility of such a trip will be discussed at the Sept. meeting.

Adjourned for silent auction and refreshments and program AGATES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE.

Respectfully submitted. Diane Rose, Secretary

Our long time member, Erna Headrick, has suffered a fractured hip and is at present at Life Care in Hayden where she will remain for a time having Physical therapy. Cards should be addressed to Erna in room 215. Life Care is at 500. W. Aqua Ave.



From the Council Reporter, Oct. 2012

HEMATITE (Fe₂O₃)

Hematite is the mineral form of iron, one of several iron oxides. Hematite crystallizes in the rhombohedral system, and it has the same crystal structure as ilmenite and corundum. Hematite and ilmenite form a complete solid solution at temperatures above 950 degrees.

Hematite is colored black to steel or silver gray, brown to reddish brown, or red. It is mined as the main ore of iron. Varieties include kidney ore, martite, iron rose and specular hematite.

While the forms of hematite vary, all have a rust red streak. Hematite is harder than pure iron,

but much more brittle. Maghematite is a hematite and magnetite related oxide mineral. *(I will bring illustrations of these forms of hematite to the meeting as I cannot duplicate them BB)*

Huge deposits of hematite are found in banded iron formations. Grey hematite is typically found in places where there has been standing water or mineral hot springs, such as those in Yellowstone National Park. The mineral can precipitate out of water and collect in layers at the bottom of a lake, spring, or other standing water. The finding of grey hematite on Mars fuels speculation about water and life on the red planet. Hematite can also occur without water, however usually as the result of volcanic activity.

Opportunity Rover found that the soil at Meridiani Planum was very similar to the soil at Gusev crater and Ares Vallis, however in many places at Meridiani the soil was covered with round, hard spherules that were named “blueberries”. These blueberries were found to be composed almost entirely of the mineral hematite. It was decided that the spectral signal spotted from orbit by Mars Odyssey was produced by these spherules. After further study it was decided that the blueberries were concretions formed in the ground by water. Over time, these concretions weathered from what was overlying rock, and then became concentrated on the surface as a lag deposit. The concentration of spherules in bedrock could have produced the observed blueberry covering from the weathering of as little as one meter of rock. Most of the soil consisted of olivine basalt sands that did not come from local rocks. The sand may have been transported from somewhere else.

The name hematite is derived from the Greek word for blood, because hematite can be red, as in rouge, a powdered form of hematite. The color of hematite lends it well in use as a pigment.....

Ochre is a clay that is colored by varying amounts of hematite—between 20 and 70%.

Red ochre contains unhydrated hematite, whereas yellow ochre contains hydrated. The principal use of ochre is for tinting with a permanent color.

The powdery mineral was first used 164,000 years ago by the Pinnacle –Point man—for social differentiation. Hematite residues are also found in old graveyards from 80,000 years ago. In Poland and Hungary Paleolithic red chalk mines have been found that are from 5000 BC

Rich deposits of hematite have been found on the island of Elba that have been mined since the time of the Etruscans. Ancient slag heaps were re-smelted using modern techniques during both world wars.....

Hematite Healing Properties:

Hematite grounds and protects us. It strengthens our connections with the earth, making us feel safe and secure. It endows us with courage, strength, endurance and vitality. A “stone for the mind” Hematite stimulates concentration and focus, enhancing memory and original thought.

(From the last sentence it appears I could benefit from a large dose of hematite!! What a deal!! **Memory and original thought!!!**

Your old editor!!)

Some things to think about—Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission. (Eleanor Roosevelt)

I’m not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I’m not dumb and I’m also not blonde. (Dolly Parton)

RUTILATED QUARTZ (SPECIMENS OF SEVERAL WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE MEETING)

First off, quartz is the most common mineral on earth. It is found in nearly every geological environment and is a component of almost every type of rock. I'll bet somewhere in your collection you have at least one piece of quartz. ...It makes up about 12% of the earth's crust, occurring in a wide variety of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. It is also the most varied in terms of variety and color. Quartz is 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness.....The name comes from the Saxon word *querkluftez*- which meant cross vein ore.

Rutilated quartz (sometimes referred to as Cupid's darts, Venus hair stone, and *fleches d'amour*) is quite simply stone with rutile enclosures. Rutile is a mineral that is made up mostly of titanium dioxide or TiO_2 . As a mineral, rutile is very high on the refractive index and disperses more than almost any other mineral.

This means when rutile appears in other minerals, it almost always appears in long, thin shots of color. Rutilus is, in fact, the Latin word for red. The mineral gained this name because some specimens are a lovely deep red color. Rutile, however, can also appear in brown and gray tones. Rutile often forms needlelike crystal inclusions inside quartz and this form of quartz is known as rutilated quartz and it looks like small bars of embedded gold. Rutile is a 6 on the Mohs scale. Because of the difference in hardness between the two materials and because of the way rutile forms inside, this can be a difficult stone to obtain a smooth surface without pits.

Rutilated quartz is found in Australia, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Norway, Pakistan and the United States.

From a mythical perspective, rutilated quartz is believed to bring forth each person's strengths, originality, aids sleep, relate to others. Rutile itself is said to intensify the metaphysical properties of its host crystal and to enhance one's understanding of difficult situations. It is also said to enhance creativity and to relieve depression and loneliness. Rutilated quartz is also believed to slow down the aging process and is said to be a strong healer.

(You may see me wearing my old rutilated quartz necklace more often. Won't hurt—might help! BB)

From CMSeTumbler 11/12, via Rocky Trails 11/11



SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE IS SAPPHIRE

Believed to attract divine favor to their owners. It is the gem of autumn and of the soul, with a long history of being used in church regalia.

Sapphire is a corundum gem, its hardness second only to diamond. It rates 9 on the Mohs scale. Cut gems are hard and tough and wear extremely well in all jewelry. Some of the most famous sapphires come from India high in the Himalayas and are of fine blue color.

Mining is carried on for only a few months each year. Australia produces a very dark blue and blue-green sapphires from Queensland. Gem corundum in the U.S. comes from North Carolina and Montana. Gems from So. Carolina are generally of poor quality, but those from Yogo Gulch in Fergus County, MT. are fine quality though under 3-4 carats. Corundum crystallizes in six-sided forms. Inclusions of other minerals may occur, one being rutile (titanium dioxide). These crystals within corundum orient themselves according to the six-fold symmetry of the host material. Light is reflected from the rutile needles producing the phenomenon of asterism and a six rayed star.

The value of sapphire depends on color, clarity and the quality of the cutting. The most highly prized color is medium blue with a slight violet tinge. In star sapphire the color, the centering and sharpness of the star and proportion of weight above the girdle are factors in valuation.

Corundum has been synthesized in the lab, and millions of carats are made annually. Buyer beware that bargain prices are likely to be synthetics. By Helen Dombrovskis (Magic Valley Gem News 9/04)

COLORS IN FLUORESCENT MINERALS

Some of the elements that produce identifiable colors in minerals can be influenced by several factors. In decreasing importance these are:

1. The valence state (chemical reaction state—amount of (+) charges) of the fluorescent element. An example of this is the use of phosphorus in laundry compounds where the charge (PO₄) is in the 'plus-five state'. Chromium is usually +3. Valence state of a fluorescent mineral has a great deal to do with the color that the mineral will display under UV light—long or short wave.
2. The presence of other trace or constituent elements that interact with, or interfere with the energy levels of the fluorescent-element valence electrons. These are called "co-factors" or "activators".
3. Crystal structure and imperfections (dislocations) at the boundaries of the grain structure of a mineral that interact with UV light.

Note: Under regular light, the 'fire' of opals is due entirely to this phenomenon. (In #3)

Phosphorus (P) nearly always-bright bluish white under SW and LW

Uranium (U) always bright lime-green under SW and dull-green under LW

Via The Tumbler by Gerry Naugle 7/05, Quarry Quips, 4/01, from Flatiron Facets, 4/01

"APACHE TEARS" Don't bother looking this name up in your rock books as it is a nickname for polished obsidian small nodules. They are usually found in locations where Apache Indians lived in the Southwest. They are usually found in grayish white volcanic matrix called "perlite". Perlite is obsidian that has weathered and altered until it has become porous and lightweight. Each "Apache Tear" lump usually has an uneven coating of perlite clinging to it after being pried or dug from a larger mass of perlite. Tumbling and polishing will reveal a shiny glass pebble that may be black or smoky in color. If you hold the stone to the light it will appear translucent. It is interesting to note that the stone and the perlite have been formed from the same volcanic material, and yet their form is so different. Perlite is used in making lightweight concrete and in the manufacturing of insulation. Obsidian has long attracted gem cutters and gem carvers. Obsidian was used as material for bowls and cups as early as 3200 B.C. In Mesopotamia jewelry set with obsidian made about 1352 B.C. was found in the tomb of King Tutankhamen. Apache tears are cut by faceters today because they are plentiful and inexpensive and take a brilliant polish. Via Pebble Trails 2/05, The Tumblewr 5/05

NOW THAT YOU HAVAE BEEN THOROUGHLY "EDUCATED" IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE LEVITY !! (but all true!)

A rat can last longer than a camel can without water.

A raising dropped into a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.

Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he downs't wear pants.

Because metal was scarce during World War II , the Oscar's given out were made of wood.

The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you could not beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb. (So there, too!!) BB

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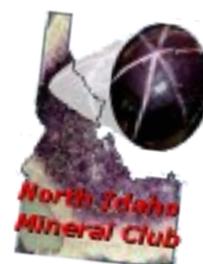
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2015 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.

SEPTEMBER 19-20 So. WA. Mineralogical Soc. CASTLE ROCK, WA

OCTOBER 9,10 &11 PORTLAND REGIONAL GEM & MINERAL ASSOCIATION SHOW, HILLSBORO, OR.—WA. CO FAIR COMPLEX

OCTOBER 17 & 18 HELL'S CANYON GEM CLUB LEWISTON, ID.

OCTOBER 17-18 HATROCKHOUNDS GEM & MIN—HERMISTON, OR.

OCTOBER 24-25 CLACKAMETTE MIN. AND GEM CLUB—CANBY, OR.

FOR DETAILS SEE NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER OR CHECK WWW.AMFED.ORG/NFMS