



Lake City Rockhound News

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

September, 2016
Volume 15, No. 9

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 – September 15, 2016

The Meeting Program:

**Once again, we will attempt to play the
Cinderhill Method of Wire Wrapping**

Refreshments: Dale Ruperd and Maryann Smith

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

August 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order. Pledge was recited. We have 19 members and 2 guests present.

Bill Johnson gave an overview of the Albany, OR Federation meeting. The Federation Show will be held in Hamilton, MT. May 19-21, 2017 and the 2018 Show will be in Yakama, WA.

Treasurer's report: Carl Chapin reported the auction at the picnic in July brought in \$278.00 and the chicken cost \$58.58. All bills are up to date. Carl Chapin made a motion to donate \$1000.00 for the spring semester and an additional \$1000.00 for the fall semester to NIC for Geology related scholarships. Seconded by Mike McConnell, passed.

Carl would like to change banks since the Club makes no interest on any account but charges the Club \$2.00 for having an account with them. Consensus, change.

Old Business: Need to inventory what is left of the Riley Collection for the October meeting. Dale Ruperd, Carl Chapin and Diane Rose will do that ASAP.

Dean Hutchinson stated that there is a gentleman [Loren Mead] in Tensed wanting to sell his entire rock collection worth in Mr. Mead's estimation, \$100,000. Dean will

contact him to see what he has and Dean and Patric', Carl and Linda Chapin, Mike and Diane Rose will go check it out to see if it is something the club could purchase a portion of for the Club to have quality products for our Club meetings as well as annual Shows. The Board will decide how to proceed.

New business: none

Field trips: Suggestions on where the Club members would like to go. Be ready to make suggestions at September meeting.

Adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose, Secretary

Additional information: The group, (Dean and Patric', Carl and Linda, Mike and Diane) went to Tensed and saw some of Loren Mead's collection. He was open to purchasing "lots" and it was decided by the Board, that met at the Storage on Labor Day, to purchase lots #1 and lot #3 for \$5150.00 total. It was decided by the Board that lots #2 (large rocks) and #4 (high end material) were not a good buy for the Club. Mr. Mead has used equipment for sale as well. Two large saws #1] 24 inch \$200.00 and an 18 inch \$1400.0, a trim saw 6 or 8 inch \$450.00 and large 40 pound vibration tumbler with extra drum \$1800.00. There is also a Titan cab machine with extra wheels \$3000.00. Carl Chapin, Bill Johnson, Mike and Diane Rose went to

Tensed and purchased the collection. Dale Rupert and Corey Brenner assisted in the downloading into the Storage unit. All is in storage unit. Inventory will need follow for everything within the collection. Lots of great “stuff” in everyone that has seen its estimation. It will have to be priced checked before it is ready to be presented to the Club. Mr. Mead is leaving shortly for Arizona, by the end of the month at the latest.

Second, Scott Jackson from the Panorama Club donated 26-28 buckets of tumble rock and pieces to the Club FREE! Scott had called Diane Rose and asked Mike and Diane to “just come pick it up” which we did. There is “ sort of pictures” of this for the Club to view. It is sitting on our back deck by our garage currently. There will be a Thank you card for Club members to sign at the September meeting.



Jade Is A Magic Gem

Chips & Splintery 4/04 and others Via Beehive Buzzer June 2007



Jade is a Happy stone. It loves to be handled. It does not sparkle, but it glows, Jade loves water. Almost all good pieces of Jewel Jade come from pebbles which have been in water for many years. Jade pieces will definitely improve with wearing as

pearls do, and although naturally cold, will take on warmth from the body.

Jade absorbs oil from the skin and constant contact with the body will enhance the luster and bring out latent color. The people of the Far East value jade more than any other stone because they believe it brings them good luck. That is why an individual chooses a stone by appeal rather than price tag.

It is believed that a traveler wearing a piece of jade will come to no harm in an accident, but the jade will crack. All jade varies in hue according to the impurities present Pure jade is white. Almost all colors of the spectrum are shown in different shades. White streaked with brilliant green; grey speckled with black; misty blue 'nettled gold; reds; browns; lavenders, etc.

In ancient China, jade was a ritual insignia symbol of authority. Jade represents benevolence. Its translucency, revealing the inner markings, is like the honesty of righteous Its penetrating, resonant tone is like the clarity of

wisdom. Like a man of courage it can be broken, but cannot be scratched. Like justice, it has sharp edges but will not cut.



Hints and Tips

Cutting Geodes in the right place can be tricky. Try rolling the geode on a flat floor several times and mark the “up” side each time. Then cut on a plan parallel with the floor. Crystal growth inside the geode is probably most developed at the top and bottom of its resting position. **Original source unknown from Choo-Choo Chatter, 3-4/04 via Rock Writings 09/04**

To open geodes, soak a string in kerosene, tie it around the geode. Burn the string, then plunge the geode in cold water. In many cases, this will crack the geode and a light tap with a hammer will finish the job. **Original source unknown from Breccia 06/98 via The Nugget 01/99**

Gold’s worst enemy is chlorine. Continue exposure to chlorine in swimming pools, chlorinated cleaners, etc., can eventually cause it to weaken and break. **From World Gold Council via Drywasher’s Gazette 01/99**

To recycle dirty oil from your trim saw, pour the used oil in a disposable container, e.g., a coffee can. Add hot water and stir. The hot water warms the oil and lowers its viscosity so that the trash can settle out more easily. Water, being denser than the oil, sinks to the bottom. The dirt that suspended in the oil, settles out and sinks to the bottom of the water, leaving clean oil on top. Put the whole works in the freezer. The water will freeze. Pour off the clean oil and throw away the dirt and water. **Dick Rathjen, Backbender's Gazette, 06/96 via Rocky Review 01/99**

To judge the size of a jeweler’s saw blade to use, figure two teeth should touch the material being cut. Lubricate the blade before using (beeswax is good). **Al Klein AFMS Newsletter 10/98 via The Nugget 01/99**

Measuring Grit

Most tumbling instructions tell you how much grit and polish to use per pound of rock, and is most often given in ounces. An easy way to arrive at ounces is to use a standard measuring spoon and level off with a knife.

- ONE OUNCE-of Equivalent (ONE TABLESPOON = 3 TEASPOONS)
- Course Grit-4 TEASPOONS
- Medium Grit-4 TEASPOONS

- Fine Grit-4 TEASPOONS
- Polishing Powder-8 TEASPOONS

From The Agatizer via Del Air Bulletin 01/07

Bicarbonate of Soda is one of the most reliable aids for outings. It

- Takes the itch out of bites and stings
- Soothes the irritation caused by poison ivy, poison oak or nettles
- Relieves sunburn and windburn and is also effective for any burns
- Sweetens ice chests as well as stomachs
- Removes odors (such as onion, garlic and fish) from hands or preparation surfaces
- Loosens bug spatter from windshields
- Helps snuff out camp or car fires.

From Drywasher's Gazette via The Rockhounder 02/99



Lapis Lazuli

By Sherry Gingery, From Rockytier, Oct. 2005 via Gem Cutters' News, Nov 2006

Merely the name "lapis lazuli" brings to mind thoughts of far off and exotic places. From the ancient royal Sumerian tombs of Ur which were found to contain more than 6,000 lapis carvings to Egyptian burial sites dating before 3000 B.C. where lapis was used to adorn the sarcophagi of ancient Pharaohs.



This rich blue stone has been sought after and adored for centuries.

First mined 6,000 years ago, the rock was transported from the remote mountain valley called Kokcha in Afghanistan to Egypt and present day Iraq.

Later advancing to Europe, lapis was used in jewelry as an ornamental stone and even ground to make a powdered pigment for paints.

Today lapis is mined in Chili, Russia, Canada and the United States, though Afghanistan still produces the finest quality material.

Lapis lazuli is mostly lazurite, but contains pyrite among other minerals. It was because of these small crystals of pyrite that Pliny the Elder described the stone as a fragment of the starry firmament.

Lapis, being a 5-6 on the MOHS scale, must be worked carefully and without undue pressure on the wheel.

While being polished the stone will commonly give off a foul odor, this is due to sulfur that is inherent in the structure of lazurite.

To protect the finished piece from dulling with wear the surface may be sealed with colorless wax or a synthetic resin. Even with this precaution the stone should be protected from acid based substances and overexposure to sunlight.



Tumbling Tips

From the July 2008 issue of The Mountain Gem via Rock Chips 7 & 8/00

How do you know when to change grit size?

In a vibratory tumbler you start out with medium (220) grit, not course (100), then go to 600 grit then polish. If you ever buy a grit kit, make sure it's for vibratory, no 100 grit. You can add a step and go to 320 or 400 before 600. It saves a little time, not much. The way you know when to change is when you've gotten them as smooth as you want them to be. That means remove pockets, chips, etc. If most of the pieces you are tumbling look good but there are just a few that need more work, go ahead and switch to the next grit. Run the ones that need more work through the next batch to finish them. You want the stones to be pretty good before switching from the 220 grit or they'll take forever in the 600. This is the long step.

My two vibratory tumblers usually take about 3-4 days on 220, 12 hours on 400, 1 to 1 1/2 days on 600 & 1 day (change polish at 12 hours) for the polish. I change the grit/polish every 12 hours, washing the muck out into a 5 gallon bucket to settle/evaporate. You can pour off the clear water on top after it sets several days. You don't want to dump the muck down the drain unless you like plumbers. The rest will evaporate and can be put in the trash.

Can you save the grit and use it again for the next batch of rock?

If you are doing it right there won't be much grit left to save. The grit should break down as you tumble the material. I always had a little grit left on the 220 run that just didn't go away until I paid a little extra for a graded 220 from Ebersole's in Wichita, Kansas. It's about 50 cent a pound more than ungraded and worth it for me.

Other vibratory tumblers may not have this same problem. You'll find out, I buy 5 pound boxes, which do quite a few loads and only pay about \$3/pound. Not worth saving any doesn't break down. If you try to use coarse (100 grit), it will sink to the bottom and stay there in just about every vibratory I've seen.

Why do they recommend that a separate barrel be used for polishing?

Contamination from the grit. Somehow you almost never get it all, no matter how hard you try washing it out. Contamination between grit size changes isn't as crucial but try to wash your stones & barrel well anyway.

Do you put polyethylene pellets in the final polishing stage with a vibratory tumbler?

You can. Always change the pellets between different grit sizes. Re-use the pellets only with the same grit size. The grit becomes imbedded in the pellets and, again, you get contamination. I bought a bag of pellets several years ago. Before I started to use it. I mentioned to a dealer friend that I'd bought them. He went out in his garage &, came back with a gallon milk jug full of 1/4 to 1/2 in pieces of agate screened from the good stuff.

I have yet to open the bag of pellets. You want small stuff to help the tumbling, as long as you have that, you don't need pellets. I've added to the gallon jug and my wife sifts through & takes out stuff to make things like gem trees if I let her near it. It gives you a reason not to throw away the small pieces when you are out hunting. You may never need the pellets. The chips don't have to be changes between grits. One caution, you should always tumble stuff of like hardness. Don't tumble obsidian with agate, etc. The most common thing people tumble are quartz-based; agate, jasper, quartz, etc. which are all pretty much the same hardness.



The Bola Tie

Via The RockCollector 11/01

The bola (not bolo) tie though known in much of the world is most prevalent in the Southwestern U.S. There are many stories as to the origin of the bola tie, but the one that is normally accepted started in 1949 with Victor E. Cedarstaff of Wickenburg, Arizona.

Cedarstaff was riding horseback when the wind blew his hat off; the band had come loose. Instead of putting it back

on the hat, he put the band around his neck. A friend saw this and remarked, Nice tie you're wearing!

That gave Vic an idea. He was a silversmith and had taught leather craft, so he made a tie from leather lacings and attached silver balls at the ends. Then he made a silver slide with a piece of turquoise on it and slipped it on the lacings. This attracted attention and he began to get orders to make them. He was unable to get a patent on the tie because such a slide arrangement was already in existence.

One problem was to make the slide so it would slip but not damage the leather. Eventually, he designed a yoke which held the leather properly and eliminated the necessity of having to slip the tie over the head. Now he had something new and on this modification he was issued a patent.

He needed a name for the tie which would help popularize it and first called it a Piggan Necklet after the piggan string that cowboys used. Sometime later, a friend who had been to Argentina showed Vic a device he had brought back called a bola. This was used in Argentina for catching cattle and it reminded Vic of what he had made. The initial name never caught on and Vic decided to call his tie a bola. It is now the official neckwear of Arizona.



Idaho Gem Club Experiences in Attracting (and Retaining) New Members

**By Philip S. Neuhoff, Ph.D.
Outgoing President, Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

Northwest Federation President Hidemi Kira set me a note a little while ago commenting on our club's strong membership gains in the last year and asking if I could share how we accomplished such a feat. To be honest, I have rarely counted our members during my time on our Board of Directors and as President. Like Hidemi, I was surprised when I saw the data...our club had grown from just under 200 members to nearly 400 in one year. I was also pleased, as like most clubs, we work hard to recruit and retain new members.

In part, our strength in numbers is partially a function of good circumstances. The Idaho Gem Club, Inc. is one of the oldest clubs in the country, and we have a long history of contributions to the hobby. We are located in an area with abundant collecting opportunities, and through the club's history we have protected some of the more storied localities for collecting by claiming them (examples include

the Whangdoodle opal deposit, the Beacon Hill agate nodule locality, portions of the Graveyard Point agate district, and the Queenstone jasper deposit). We are also situated in a reasonably large Metropolitan Statistical Area with around 650,000 people...more people means more potential members. Despite these advantages, recruiting new members, and even more important: retaining them so they continue to be part of a strong club, is a never-ending effort. Based on our experiences in the last few years, I will try to share a few approaches that have served our club well.

Have a strong regular program of activities: People look to join a club for the benefits. In the case of a club like ours, they are hoping to learn more about the hobby and have the opportunity to go on collecting trips, etc. We have a very active field trip program during the months that permit it, and open these trips to guests in order to attract new members. Our club owns a nice collection of lapidary equipment, and access to that equipment is another great benefit (to be fair, like other clubs, workshop space and access have been challenging at times, though we hope a new home we have found for our workshop will provide even more incentive to be in the club). We also have monthly meetings like most clubs. It is these meetings that I think have the biggest impact on decisions whether to be in the club.

Let's face it, meetings can be boring. Because our club is a non-profit corporation, we have a certain amount of "business" that must be presented at the meetings. We also have door prizes, a program, and refreshments. These features have been part of the meetings as long as I have been in the club. What we have changed, if anything, is that the program and other parts of the meetings are now much more focused on members sharing their knowledge about the hobby, and less about the business stuff. What we have found is that new members in particular wanted more sharing and learning time.

Be family friendly: A strong and long-lived club requires a broad, healthy age distribution. Older members (who are often, but not always, long-time contributors to the hobby) are an essential resource for a club: they bring wisdom, the ability to volunteer when others have to work, and charm (among other things). Kids (and their parents who tend to fill in the age gap) are the future of the club. Our club has worked very hard to attract families with kids and provide exciting activities for the kids. ALL club functions are family friendly and kids are welcome to join field trips, use our workshop, and join our meetings. At meetings, we have a special concurrent program where the kids learn about

Earth science and come away with treasures donated by club members. I don't have hard data, but I suspect a significant portion of our members retained past the first year have children that benefit from our programs.

Be visible: For people to join the club, they need to know about it. Our club maintains a nice website, and that certainly helps (that is how I learned about the club). Nothing beats face to face exposure, though. Our club hosts an annual Gem Show, and we have certainly stepped up efforts to recruit new members from the nearly 3000 adult + 1000 youth attendees we see every year (they are a good captive audience that is already interested in the hobby at some level). We have also spent a lot of time reaching out to interest groups that dovetail with our hobby. Examples include a local gold prospecting club, local science teachers, and the metaphysical community. It is also important to follow up when they contact you as well. For instance, a local group that decorates gourds (often with lapidary materials) contacted us about exhibiting at their show; we did, and made a lot of great contacts and some new members.

There is one other avenue for recruiting that has been especially valuable for us: our local rock shop. People new to the hobby often visit a rock shop to get started and ask questions. We are fortunate that our local shop, Stewart's Gem Shop, is owned by a family of long-time members and club founders. They have a stack of applications, and take the time to sell their clientele on joining the club. They recruit a lot of members for us. Similar relationships with other points of entry to the hobby (museums, teachers, bead stores, etc.) would be equally effective if there is personal contact and recruitment.

So what is the secret to our success? It is probably all of the above. Of the things I mentioned above, probably the two most important are 1) making sure that club activities meet the needs and desires of current and potential members (especially those with kids), and finding ways to increase your face to face recruitment activities. I hope that the rest of the clubs in the Federation can find similar success...each other's strength makes all of us stronger.



I know the answer! The answer lies within the heart of all mankind! The answer is twelve? I think I'm in the wrong building.

Charles M. Schulz (1922 - 2000)

North Idaho Mineral Club
 P.O. Box 1643
 Hayden, ID 83835



First Class Mail

NIMC Officers			
President: Dale Ruperd (208-664-2712)			
Vice-President: Corey Brenner (208-640-4743)			
Treasurer: Carl Chapin (208-772-9049)			
Secretary: Diane Rose (208-659-6173)			
Other Positions			
Show Chair 2016: 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			
Sep 17-18	10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Southern WA. Mineralogical Society	Castle Rock Frgnds, 120 Fair Lane, SW corner of Hwy 411 and Cowlitz River, Castle Rock, WA
Oct 1-2	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Marysville Rock and Gem Club	Totem Middle School Gym, 7 th St and State Ave, Marysville, WA
Oct 15-16	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Hells Canyon Gem Club	Nez Perce Cty Fair Bldg, 1229 Burrell Ave, Lewiston, ID
Oct 22-23	9:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club	Clackamas Cty Fairgnd, 694 NE 4 th Ave, Canby, OR
Oct 22-23	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Bellevue Rock Club	Vasa Park, 3560 W. Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE, Bellevue, WA
Nov 12-13	9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Skagit Rock & Gem Club	Sedro Woolley Comm Ctr, 703 Pacific St, Sedro Woolley, WA