



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

OCTOBER 2008

Club Mailing Address—P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

Meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM

At Post Falls Senior Center, in the Dougall Room— 1215 E. 3rd. St. Post Falls, ID

Those with internet access- go to www.amfed.org/nfms

DOWN LOAD YOUR NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER.....

North Idaho Mineral Club September 18th meeting opened by Bob B. at 6:40 PM

Secretaries report was included in the newsletter, was voted on and approved. Treasurers report was read, voted on and approved.

Show committee has not yet been formed. Everett said he has not had time to work on it.

Looking for field trips. The Hicks' had gone to a claim near Hershey Bar, 40 miles east of St Maries, for garnets. Said it costs around \$30 for the day, and they got a lot of material.

Also suggested going to Freezeout Ridge 15 miles east of Clarkia, and Huckleberry 40 miles east of St Maries for garnets. Emerald Creek is closed for the year.

Bev Bockman has been looking into getting a web page for the club put together. She asked for and got permission to pursue this with professional web page specialists.

Bob Bockman talked to Jim Peterson and Jim asked if he could purchase some of the 300 pounds of 60-90 grit that the club owns. After discussion it was agreed that the club president could sell grit for \$3/pound. A number of other members said they would also be interested in purchasing some.

Pictures from the week-long retreat in Oregon along with specimens were displayed during the meeting. Everett Headrick gave a brief synopsis of the retreat. Classes included Beading, Faceting, Wire Wrapping, Silver Smithing, Silver Casting and Cabochons, intarsia and judging ..

People from all over came to the retreat, including Alaska and B.C. There were 50 present along with 19 instructors. People who attended this year have first chance at signing up for next year.

Bev noted that there are no radios, TV s or cell phone service there. Showers are available as well as regular facilities, but also in use are outhouses. The cabins are A-frames and hold 2 - 3 people. Cost was \$245 for the retreat and \$45 for the classes.

Three meals a day were provided, and the students did K P at breakfast and supper. Some brought trailers and motor homes, but it was dry camping.

Classes in PMC may be added next year because there was a lot of interest expressed. Everett might have the job, if it comes to be.

James Finckbone noted that there is a mineral show in Missoula this weekend for those who wish to attend.

He also mentioned meeting someone from a small mineral club in Shoshone County and will look into meeting them. New members tonight were Dennis and Pam Hicks, and Shannon Granger.

Meeting adjourned at 7 with refreshments, a silent auction and a video from Idaho Public Television on "Idaho- The Gem State" featuring star garnet, gold, Spencer Opal and Bruneau jasper.

Saw Coolant

Tired of the high cost of oil for your big saw, or little saw? Well we hear all sorts of things to use so I might as well add another.

I have been using a concentrated water additive in my 18 inch Highland Park and my 24 inch Hillquest . It is called Cim Cool, It is a Metal working "fluid and you mix it 1 to 25. The product is alkaline so disposing of the sludge does not become a problem. My Highland Park has a metal lid and if I do not have enough coolant to keep the blade cool and a mist rises in the tank, the hood may appear to form small rust spots . So I make sure that my coolant level is about 1/2 inch up on my blade. My Hillquest is fiberglass and plastic so I do not have that problem but I still keep my blade in approximately 1/2 inch of coolant. I find in my small trim saws that it makes my work a lot easier to clean so I have a better polish. The best part I believe is that I can use my saws in my basement and not have the smell of oil in my house. I can also move my saw into my driveway after I have removed the rock sludge and clean it with my garden hose.

Another great factor is the cost, instead of \$11.00 a gal, how about \$2.00 a gallon as diluted..

If you are interested, e-mail me at [rm711@tgi.net] Be sure to make the subject line say Saw Coolant so I don't throw you out with the bath water. ROCKY McCALL

1 pint saw coolant to 3 gallons of water . Price is \$6.50

1 gallon makes 25 gallons

1 quart of saw coolant to 6 gallons of water. Price is \$12.50

If anyone is interested in this product, talk with Mike Rose as he is using this in his saws with apparently excellent results. You do have to leave the saw lid down to prevent evaporation. bb

INTARSIA CLASS WITH CAROL CIMOLINO

LIMIT 12 STUDENTS-----NOVEMBER 15 AND 16, --ALL DAY!!!!

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME--(DEPENDS ON WEATHER OVER THE PASS)

\$50.00 FOR THE WEEKEND, UP FRONT!!! SIGN UP AT NEXT MEETING!!

PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 16, 2008

SEDIMENTARY AND VEIN AGATES (video)

(AFMS Program Competition Winner 2005)

Meeting begins at 6:30 PM

SILENT AUCTION AND REFRESHMENTS PRECEDE VIDEO

Refreshments provided by Erna and Bev

The following article has been taken from the Metal Clay Connections on-line magazine, for the members who have been able to do some Precious metal clay classes and create some of their own jewelry. Many of us have used garnet as a fail safe stone for firing in place. This article is by Mary Ellin D'Agostino, current editor of the on-line magazine. (If any of the new members would like to be introduced to this medium, please let us know at the meeting. Everett Headrick is a certified instructor.)

“Garnets have been one of the mainstays for natural stones that can be fired in place. True, they tend to darken (especially Rhodolite Garnets), but many of us have had great success in firing them. Unfortunately, some people have experienced garnets having a metallic sheen after firing. The first reports I had of this were always in conjunction with stones fired with cork clay and I hypothesized that something in the cork clay (possibly iron) was causing the problem. Now, further reports find that this is not be the only problem with firing garnet. Tests by Yvonne Padilla and Kevin Whitmore of Rio Grande..... show a greater instability in these types of garnet than previously thought---the exact composition of individual stones may be the dominant factor whether the stones remain clear or gain a metallic sheen when fired.

The discussion on the MetalClay list further reveals that the problem has more to do with the chemical composition of Pyrope-Almandine garnets [(Fe,Mg)3Al2Si3O12]. While Pyrope garnet contains Magnesium, garnets of the Almandine family contain Iron. Rhodolite garnet is an intermediate form of garnet in the Pyrope-Almandine series and contains varying amounts of Iron. Zora Monster hypothesizes that the iron content of the stone is the culprit. When heated the chemical bonds may weaken and break, allowing the iron to form bonds with oxygen and create Hematite (Fe2O3) on the surface of the stone. This suggests that torch firing or firing in a kiln with a reduction atmosphere (without oxygen) may minimize the likelihood of this happening.

On a happier note, Spessartite, Grossular, and Andradite Garnets (including yellow, gold, green, Tsavorite, Hessonite, and Demantoid garnets) don't contain iron in their chemical composition (unless it is an impurity) and shouldn't have this problem. However, I did once have a gold garnet become muddy when fired for an extended time at 1650 (cork clay may have been a factor), so it is probably a good idea to fire all garnets at the lowest practical temperature and test them before firing them in place in silver clay. To read the full discussion, go to the MetalClay Yahoo Group's discussion.

Additional Source: Simon & Schuster's Guide to Gems and Precious Stones, New York, 1986. “

(next month I may publish an article on bezel setting cabs with PMC)

For the information of those rockhounds who can't quit for the winter we have received this from our friends in B.C. via the Wa. Mineral Council reporter:

Report, September 2008

Upcoming trips for the fall - Field Trip winter season.

October 18 (Saturday) MacAbee fossils near Cache Creek. This field trip is to a

location where you may find leaf fossils, and occasionally insects, or small fish. The fossils are sandwiched between layers of between layers of old compressed mud.

This is a claim, so there is a small fee of \$20.00 per person to dig.

Tools you will need are a rock hammer, small chisel, old butter knife, and so on. Bring something to carry the delicate pieces, such as flat boxes,. some old towels and paper towels. Newspaper is NOT recommended as the ink can ed as the ink can rub off onto the specimens.

This is an exposed hillside, so dress warm, in layers, with some beverages and snacks.

The meeting place will be the Husky Truck stop parking lot in Cache Creek. The official leader for this trip is Gord Pinder. 604-Gord Pinder 604 870-4779

November 1 and 2: "Silver-Pick" rock sale Saturday and Sunday, 10:00AM to 4:00PM Everyone is welcome to the garage sale of Rene Pernat from the Richmond club. As a bonus Harley Watson will be selling some of his surplus rock and slabs.; At this driveway sale will be rough jasper, agate, petrified wood, slabs, tumbled rock, and some equipment including a 10" and a 24" saw. Location will be 10740 River Drive

Mapquest link: <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Richmond&state=BC&address=10740+River+Drive>

Easy to find! North end of Shell Road in Richmond!

December: No trips planned.

January 11: Sunday January 11 Yale Bar. Meeting place will be the Bridal Falls Coffee Shop at 9:00AM. This will be a Fraser River gravel bar trip, so the appropriate tools are a rock hammer, squirt bottle, and something to carry your finds! For clothing, dress warmly in layers

with the expectation of rain, and wind. Good hiking boots are strongly suggested for walking over the rocky gravel bars. A thermos of your favourite warm beverage is also a good idea.this As this is the winter time, we may get snowed out, so if it's snowing, stay home. If there is no snow we will probably go to Yale bar, or perhaps a downstream bar if the Yale bar is covered. Finds on this bar can be Jade, Serpentine, Sillimanite, jasper, agate, and other assorted rocks.

Official leader for this trip is Harley Waterson, 604-590-3289. Con't next page

GO TO LEWISTON--HELLS CANYON SHOW IS OCT. 18-19. car-pool...let's go!!!

Do you remember Will Rogers??? According to him//There are two theories to arguing with a woman .neither works.....Always drink upstream from the herd.....There are three kinds of men: the ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation and the rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.

February 8, Sunday: Wahleach Bar, or perhaps Yale bar if we get snowed out in January. The meeting place will again be the Bridal Falls Coffee shop at 9:00AM, and the tools, and potential finds are the same as the above Yale bar trip.

Official Field Trip Leader is Walt Pinder, 604-826-2342

The Wagon Masters will have a meeting at the Maple Ridge Show in February, so we will have additional trips for the spring

Apri119, Harrison Lake Fossils: This is always a popular trip, as this is a clam and belemnite fossil location, where everyone gets some clams! This is located approx 30Km up the west side of Harrison Lake, so this will take most of the day to go in and back out again, so please pack a lunch or some snacks.

The meeting place for this trip is the Sasquatch Inn parking lot in Harrison Mills on highway #7, again at 9:00AM

*****DO NOT GO TO THE TOWN OF HARRISON LAKE***** This restaurant is at the turn-off for the Hemlock Valley Ski area.

If you are not familiar with this area, please refer to a map. The optimum way to get to the meeting place, would be Highway #7 from Mission.

Make sure that you have ample fuel for your vehicle.

Tools for this can be nothing but some gloves to pick up samples, or rock hammer, chisel, and larger hammers for those who wish to break up larger pieces. Bring your kids, and the camera, as there are some great views of Harrison lake along the way!

As always, any US rockhounds in good standing with their clubs are invited to join our field trips! Also, please see what the Washington State Mineral Council has for trips, just in case something interests you! Thanks!

[http://www .mineralcouncil.org/](http://www.mineralcouncil.org/)

LAPIDARY HINT: Remember to sand wet whenever possible. We know that in most cases dry sanding produces better results faster. But consider the hazards to your health. Many of the materials that we work with are toxic or just plain poisonous. The less dust we inhale, the better, Water also helps keep the shop cleaner. Be sure to clean out the sanding machine after each use. The dregs from wet sanding will dry out and become available for a real dispersion. Dust To Us!!!

Rock Pile via Dusty Rocks 1/91

CONTAMINATED BUFF

If scratches develop on your cabochons after polishing with a felt buff, it is sometimes because the buff has gotten contaminated with grit, sometimes even one grain of grit will be the culprit. Take a soft block of wood, such as balsa wood, turn on the wheel, and while the buff revolves, hold the wood firmly against the buff. The soft wood will pick up the offending grit. Then keep the buff covered with an old shower cap or plastic bag when not in use.

Via The Stonecutter, Dusty Rocks 9/94

DON'T LOSE THE LAP POWDER: to keep from losing a large share of heavy grinding powder off of the lap and into the drip ~ try beeswax. Before starting heavy lapping of flats, cover the surface with a thin coating of melted beeswax applied with a brush. One coat will last for several lappings and can be reused for final lapping. It is necessary only to rub the lap with beeswax to hold the powder.

MEASURING GRIT

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

Coarse grit = 1 oz is 4 tsp. Medium grit = 1 oz. is 4 tsp.

Fine grit = 1 oz. is 4 tsp. Polishing Powder = 1 oz. is 8 tsp.

Via Coral Geode 9/89

POLISHING STONE IN SETTING

To hand polish a stone in a setting, use a piece of chamois skin, suede or soft leather. Apply polishing compound and some water. Dip stone in water, rub on polishing powder. Via Gem-N-I (Dec. 89)

Lake City Rockhound News
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**Save ALL your cancelled
stamps for cancer re-
search-bring to meeting,
and give to Bob & Bev B.**

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S.C.R.I.B.E.

2008 Rock and Gem Shows in WA., OR., ID. & MT

Oct 18 , Eureka Gem Club, Mountain Home, OR.

Oct. 18-19 Hells Canyon Gem Club. Lewiston, ID.*****

Oct. 25-26 Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club--Canby, OR.

Oct 25-26 Bellevue Rock Club, Bellevue, WA

2009---JULY 29-30 AUG.1-2 BILLINGS MT. AFMS/NFMS SHOW

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND IN 2009

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND ROCK CLUBS.

CONSULT www.amfed.org/nfms FOR SHOW DETAILS