



# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

JUNE 2011

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

Meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM — Guests Welcome

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 AT LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER

1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE 667-4628 6 P.M. JUNE 16, 2011

## PROGRAM FOR JUNE 16

FEATURES A **DVD ON THUNDEREGGS** FROM THE  
FEDERATION LIBRARY (bring your favorites!!)

SILENT AUCTION, SHOW AND TELL, and bring written suggestions  
how we could improve on the show next year.

Refreshments — Mary Sheard, Mike and Diane Rose

Regarding the 51st show of the North Idaho Mineral Club—it is another one “under our belts” so to speak. Hopefully we can reserve discussion on the events and improvements that need to be made till the bills are paid, etc. There are many people who worked **really** hard all three days and many days before that to make this a success, and others who did their part when they could — and some that did not make an appearance at all. (You know who you are and why. )

And once again we have to give sincere thanks to the Pitmans who sacrifice their weekend and spend three days helping us through the show! They come from their home in Colville and camp out just to be good neighbors! What a pair! And it was great to see Bob Riley back at the faceting machine!! As well as putting in long days setting up and tearing down. (BB-ed.)

North Idaho Mineral Club May 2011 Coeur d' Alene Sr. Center

Meeting called to order by President Warren Price at 7:05 PM

Minutes approved as written in the Newsletter.

Treasurer Mike Burton gave the treasurers report. All bills are paid and our bank account is looking good. Show expenses will need to be paid from it in June.

Field trip report: The van that was rented to go to Saddle Mountain worked out well and it was felt that it should be used on other trips as well.

Possible trips are for garnets at Emerald Creek later on this summer and for thulite over in Omak, W A area.

\*\*\*\*Secretary note\*\*\*\*

**Diane Rose spoke to Jim Lawson that runs the tours for thulite. He said Rock Rollers are going over June 25 for the day. We can come with them but if not we can make arrangements with him to go on our own with Panorama club at a later date for those that can not make the June 25 date.**

**If we go there is another site NOT on the Rock Rollers trip schedule for Zebra rock and serpentine that is also available if we were to stay over on Sunday later this summer. The ground is freshly dug and "good" color is now available. Diane has contact information and phone numbers.\*\*\*\*\***

Show report:

All deposits to Kootenai County Fairgrounds have been made. The Insurance also has been paid.

Set-up is done on paper. Displays need more cases filled, contact Bev Bockman for space availability. Bev also needs assistance in making liners for the new showcases.

Bob Bockman made lights for the new club showcases.

Vinyl has been purchased for skirting by Bob Bockman.

Potluck: Joan Gundluch is in charge and will call for food items. The chicken will be purchased at Super One as in years past.

Scholarship: Warren has contacted North Idaho College concerning the scholarship.

There is a Foundation that handles scholarships. They have strict guidelines and the club only has some input in the process the rest is out of our hands. One of the guidelines require a 3.5 gpa or better. There is a filing deadline of July 1 and our funds would go directly to the Foundation. Erin stated she was a recipient of a scholarship while attending North Idaho College.

There is plenty of material available for Treasure Dig, Ring Toss and Wheel of Fortune.

Bob Bockman has donated many tumbled rocks to the Children's Comer. There is a lot of material still available from years past as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Refreshments will be provided by Mary Sheard and Mike and Diane Rose

Picnic will be held on July 14 at the Dalton city Park at 6 PM, as we have the last couple of years. We need someone to go early to "reserve" the picnic shelter since it is first come-first served.. I believe Everett said he would try to do that for us since they luive close by. Thank you Everett and Erna!

Do not forget the Silent Auction. The meeting was adjourned for the program. Respectfully submitted by Diane Rose, Acting Secretary.

The following is a news release from BRC... and notice that once again our Idaho Senators are involved in looking after us. Please keep in touch with them about all lands issues that you can. They are doing their best and need our help.

Dear BRC Members,

There has been some significant movement on several key public lands and recreation bills in Washington DC and we wanted to send you a quick update.

As you will read, the news is generally good. BRC will have more info on each of these bills soon. So, as we so often say, stay tuned!

And, as always, call or email if you have comments or concerns.

Brian Hawthorne  
Public Lands Policy  
BlueRibbon Coalition  
208-237-1008 ext 102

Ric Foster  
Public Lands Manager  
Blue Ribbon Coalition  
208-237-1008 ext 107

### **WSA Release Act to be introduced in US Senate?**

BRC has received the good news that preparations are underway for Senator Barrasso's office to introduce the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011 in the U.S. Senate.

The bill was originally introduced in the U.S. House on April 15, 20011, by Representatives Kevin McCarthy (CA), Rob Bishop (UT), Steve Pearce (R-NM) and 19 other U.S. Representatives.

Among other things, the bill releases Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that were determined as not-suitable for wilderness designation and directs BLM to manage released lands in accordance with multiple-use and sustained-yield provisions.

The bill also terminates Secretarial Order 3310 with regard to the released WSAs and prohibits the Interior Secretary from issuing a national regulation that directs how released lands will be managed.

See BRC's previous release for more info:

#### **BRC Encourages Members to Support WSA Release Legislation**

<http://www.sharetrails.org/releases/?storv=734&filter=media>

### **Epic Mount Jefferson snowmobile area removed from Montana Wilderness Bill**

When Montana Senator Jon Tester first released his Forest Jobs and Recreation Act it was touted as completely consistent with the recently finalized Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Plan. That was only partially true. The bill had one significant deviation from the Forest Plan—it closed the popular Mount Jefferson to snowmobile use.

Mount Jefferson is one of the last high alpine snowmobile areas left open in the rocky mountain west. It is often described as the Crown Jewel of snowmobiling and attracts visitors from across the Midwest. After almost two decades of wrangling, the U. S Forest Service removed a Wilderness recommendation, finding that snowmobile use is a socially valuable and economically important activity.

On May 25, 2011, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resource Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests heard testimony on the bill and it **appears the bill now actually does mirror the new Forest Plan. And according to E&E News, recreationists can thank Idaho's Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch for this positive development.**

**PUBLIC LANDS: Tester's wilderness, logging bill draws administration praise**

[http://www.sharetrails.org/public-lands/?section=EandE News 32](http://www.sharetrails.org/public-lands/?section=EandE%20News%2032)

### **Government Litigation Savings Act introduced**

Wyoming Senator Barrasso and Wyoming Representative Lummis have introduced the Government Litigation and Savings act. This bill will put a halt to the abuses of the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), legislation originally designed to help individuals, small businesses and no-profit organizations recover attorney's fees and costs associated with suing the federal government. Sadly, environmental groups used the EAJA to create a gravy train of taxpayer funded litigation that advances their own radical environmental agenda. Indeed, court documents reveal that these environmental groups repeatedly sue the federal government not on substantive grounds, but on canned procedural motions. A small sample of environmental groups have sued the government **over 1200 times** and received upwards of \$35 million dollars of taxpayer money. **Congressman Mike Simpson (ID) is directly involved in promoting this legislation. SUPPORT HIM ALSO.**

Welcome new members: Both of LIBERTY LAKE, WA. —ANGELA PRATT AND BILL THOMAS.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR MEETINGS, AND THE JULY PICNIC!!



Picture from a geology site on the internet. Thought for those of us who do not know much about thundereggs—in advance of the program on June 16 I would put in some information for all of us—also gleaned from the internet. Articles edited, but information intact. Would appreciate some stories or articles from any member of this club!! At any time!! BEB

A Thunderegg is not actually a rock. It is a structure, sometimes a nodule, sometimes a geode, occurring in rhyolite, welded tuff, or perlitic rocks. However, without question, the Thunderegg is by far the most popular "rock" in Oregon.

Scientists do not agree on the processes forming Thundereggs. Some insist that the characteristic and unique internal pattern of typical Thundereggs is due to expansion and rupture of rock by gases. Others claim the pattern is due to... drying of a colloid or gel. Whatever the process, after the cavity that contains the egg is formed, further development is extremely variable in the amount of time needed to complete the egg, degree and type of infilling and physical characteristics.

Thundereggs range in size and weight from less than an inch and under one ounce to over a yard in diameter and over a ton in weight. Most eggs collected are between two and six inches in diameter...

Typically, an egg has a russet-colored outer shell that is often knobby and often has a characteristic ribbed pattern. Frequently, the inside of the outer shell has a relatively thin intermediate or transitional lining. This is sometime composed of an iron or manganese compound, often with a thin coating of opal or chalcedony. Sometimes only opal or chalcedony is apparent. Finally, the center of an egg is usually filled with chalcedony or opal and may... have inclusions, pattern growth, or crystals. Sometimes the egg may be hollow or may have a thin layer of chalcedony coating the interior.

This layer sometimes is topped with a coating of small quartz crystals. Growths of algalike tubes, or plumes, or "moss" of manganese or iron compounds or of clay may be free standing or partially or wholly embedded in chalcedony. Some eggs with plumes ("flowers") in chalcedony are among the most valuable specimens. Several zeolites have been observed or reported in Thundereggs...

Thundereggs are sometimes found with fortification banding just inside the shell, then an area of horizontal layering, with the remaining central area filled with clear chalcedony or inward pointing quartz crystals. Banding and layering vary in color, thickness and content. In some eggs that have a filling of opal it is often fluorescent because of a low content of uranium. One collecting site in Oregon has carnelian filled eggs. (WOW—ed) Others have filling colored red with cinnabar from pink to intense red. Some have pastel jaspers. Others have opal fillings that may exhibit many different beautiful colors and a small percent have precious opal! (con't page 5)

**2011 OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.****PRESIDENT** WARREN PRICE 446-4902 (c)**VICE-PRESIDENT** BILL JOHNSON (771-2687 C)—765-3099**SECRETARY** YOLANDA ROSALES 667 7073 DIANE ROSE, 659-6173**TREASURER** MIKE BURTON (818-6317 C)**FEDERATION DIRECTOR** EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643**FEDERATION DELEGATE** BEVERLY BOCKMAN 773-5384**WSMC DELEGATE** OPEN**REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN** OPEN**HOSPITALITY** BOB BOCKMAN 773 5384**FIELD TRIP** OPEN**MEMBERSHIP** MIKE BURTON & Bob Bockman**SHOW 2011—WARREN PRICE****NEWSLETTER EDITOR—BEV BOCKMAN****PROGRAMS—BEV BOCKMAN** AND Club Members**WEBMASTER—MIKE BURTON** 818-6317

Some eggs have well-developed calcite crystals encased in chalcedony, and others contain pseudomorphs of chalcedony after calcite. Some eggs have layering that is fanned from one edge, because the egg was rotated by movement while the filling was being deposited. This and other features suggest that the complete development of some eggs may have taken considerable time, and the filling-in of the egg may have recorded a series of geologic events. Some eggs contain brecciated rock fragments, while others show faulting, offset, and healing. One of the most unusual Thunderegg variants is up to 3 feet long and 2 to 3 inches in diameter and looks much like a fat gray worm. In some areas, it is common to find the characteristic chalcedony core weathered out of its shell. If a complete egg is sawed in the right orientation, one or more conduits through which filling materials flowed may be found. The beauty and complexities of many of the cut and polished eggs explain why

**Where to Find Thundereggs in Oregon**

Thundereggs can be collected at many sites in Oregon. Some localities occur in beautiful forested hill country, others in dry, desertlike terrain. Some are "free sites," while others are "fee sites." As Thundereggs have been collected in Oregon for fifty years, collectors on "free sites" must expect to dig and work for the eggs. Proper equipment, including shovel, pick, and bar, makes the job much easier. The "fee site" will almost always have some overburden removal done. Eggs often may be purchased and equipment rented at the site office.

Conditions change, so collectors should contact sites for current fee status and appropriate authorities for permission to dig.

For information on places to collect in central Oregon, contact

Madras Chamber of Commerce, 197 SE 5th St., Madras OR 97741, phone 541-475-2350;

Prineville Chamber of Commerce, 390 North Fairview, Prineville, OR 97754, phone 541-447-6304,

Richardson's Recreational Ranch, Gateway Route, Box 440, Madras, OR 97741, phone 541-475-2680 or 475-2839. (This is a commercial site.)

Lucky Strike Mine, PO Box 128, Mitchell, OR 97750 Phone: 541-462-3073, commercial site. (Has web site)

In Southeastern Oregon contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 100 Oregon Street, Vale OR 97 phone (541) 473-3144,

White Fir Springs

Thundereggs from this spot contain both Agate and Jasper filled cores. The cores also have the shape of a diamond (biconic). Head east from Prineville on US 26 to MP 41. Turn left on 3350 and head up the road about 5 1/2 miles ... don't turn on any of the spur roads. Once you reach a sign saying Chamber of Commerce Claim you are at the jasper core locality. For agate filled thundereggs turn right on the road just before you reach the jasper deposit.

*Lake City Rockhound News*

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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.**

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

JULY 15-16-17 LOWER UMPQUA CLUB REEDSPORT, OR

JULY 23-24 WA . AGATE MIN. SOC. TENINO, WA

**JULY 29-20-31 REGIONAL SHOW, NFMS CONVENTION AND AN-NUAL MEETING—CHEHALIS, WA**

**SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND CLUBS**