



# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

November 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](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)**

**DOWN LOAD YOUR NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER.....**

To all the club members who did not get the news—**PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AND GIVE ME SOME INPUT . [www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com) B.B.**

Mike Burton has offered to help get me educated as to maintenance—and making changes as needed.

North Idaho Mineral Club Meeting      October 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Minutes approved as printed in the newsletter. Treasurers report was read by Diane.      No old business.

New Business: Discussion on location of the Christmas party. Suggestions were made of Michael D's and Wagners Haufbrau and voted on by the members present. It was a tie broken by a flipped coin and we will have our party at Michael D's. (Directions will appear in next months newsletter) The Christmas Party will be on Saturday Afternoon at 1 pm, December 20th, at Michael D's, on East Sherman . Everett made the motion with Bev seconding and the motion passed.

( If you go out the freeway to the Sherman exit, the restaurant is directly across Sherman about 1/3 block. There will be a banquet room, you can choose your meal from the menu, and we will be provided with decorations and privacy. bb)

Nominating committee presented the slate of potential officers for 2009 and the nominations were unanimously accepted after the motion was made by Erna and seconded by Bev .

Mike Rose for President; Warren Price for Vice President; Bill Johnson for Secretary; and Susan Rekow for Treasurer

Susan Rekow and Warren Price will provide refreshments at the meeting in November.

Bob Bockman talked about the special license plate for recognition of Idaho as the Gem State with a display of crystals, that was proposed by a member of the Boise club who is on the committee.

(The proposition was printed in its entirety in the Sept. newsletter) All the Idaho clubs are being asked for a contribution to get the project in the works. The plan is to have reimbursement to the clubs as the plates are sold. ( We would join the elk hunters, skiers, and fishermen with our rockhound plates.) Bob proposed sending \$100.00 to the committee and after further discussion Ev moved to send the money, seconded by Karel, and approved by the members.

The web site has been designed and is up. It's URL is: [www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com). Bev encourages all (members and non-members) to drop in to the site and visit. The first page has the club history, 2nd page is the members page, there are links to American Federation web page, the North west Federation web page and the Washington Mineral Council web page, room for pictures or articles about our workshops and other events like field trips and the rock show. The domain host is 1&1. ( It takes about 6-8 weeks before it will appear in the internet search sites like Google and Yahoo.) Mike Burton works on web sites and will check it out.

Show Business: Bev and Steve Livingstone will be co-chairing next years show, and the roster for volunteers will be on the table at the next meeting.

Programs: Help is needed to provide a variety of programs for members and guests for the next year. Karel Mrazek has offered to preset the program next month (Nov) — a DVD on a gold in quartz mining operation.

Diane encourages all who can to attend the show in Lewiston this weekend—18 and 19th.

Bob says some visitors in the area wondered where to go rock hounding this time of year. Some suggestions were Stone Rose or maybe Saddle Mt. Most garnet areas are already closed by weather. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 for refreshments and a DVD on Sedi-mentary and Vein Agates from the Federation library. B.J.

The show won the 2004 Program award from the American Federation (The American Federation is considering eliminating the program library . Everett suggests we use it more.)

**CAROL CIMOLINO WAS FORCED TO GIVE UP OUR WORKSHOP ON INTARSIA DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES. She deeply regretted having to cancel the workshop—almost as much as we hated for her to have to do it!! Maybe in the Spring????**



DUES ARE DUE IN NOVEMBER SO PLEASE TRY TO PAY UP AT THE NEXT MEETING. THIS EXCLUDES THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2008. We must get our current information in to the Federation by the end of December. Thanks!!! (\$10 individual—\$17.50for family membership. Any problem—just speak with Bob!)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2008

PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED BY **KAREL MRAZEK**

**A GOLD MINING OPERATION, ON DVD**

Refreshments will be provided by Susan Rekow and Warren Price

## November Birthstone

November Birthstone: Citrine  
Birthstone Color: Yellow Gold

November's gemstone, Citrine, is as warm as a Van Gogh painting of sunflowers. The name Citrine comes from an old French word, "citrin", meaning lemon.

One of the more rare forms of quartz, this gemstone ranges in color from the palest yellow to a dark amber named Madeira because of its resemblance to the red wine.

Perhaps because of its scarcity, there is little mention of Citrine used as a gemstone prior to the first century B.C. The Romans were thought to be the first to wear the yellow quartz, crafting it into cabochon, or highly polished but unfaceted cuts of stone set into jewelry. Citrine became more popular during the Romantic Period, when artisans often favored these warm colored gems to enhance gold jewelry. Citrine, like all forms of quartz, was believed to have magical powers and was worn as a talisman against evil thoughts and snake venom. It was also considered to have medicinal properties and was commonly used as a remedy for urinary and kidney ailments.

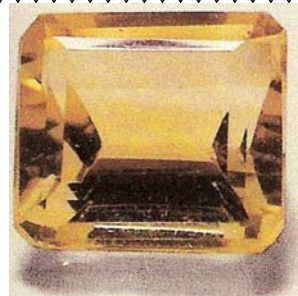
Sister stone to the purple quartz known as Amethyst, Citrine crystals are found in igneous metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. It is believed that some Citrine may have actually begun as Amethyst, but heat from nearby molten rock changed it to the yellow form of quartz. Citrine is known to change color when subjected to heat and is routinely heated in the jewelry making process to intensify its color. For this same reason, though, this gemstone should not be left in direct sunlight for a long time because it will permanently alter the color. Most Citrine is mined in Brazil, but other sources of the quartz are Bolivia and Madagascar.

A gift of Citrine is symbolic for hope and strength. With its sunny brightness, this gemstone is ideal for helping anyone to get through the tough times in life!

### Alternate Birthstone

Yellow Topaz is an alternate gemstone for those born in November. It's golden color was believed by the Egyptians to be the glow cast by the sun god Ra. Yellow Topaz ranges in color from a peachy blush to a deep cognac. A gift of this gemstone is said to symbolize friendship and to strengthen one's capacity to give and receive love. It has been claimed to have strong ties to human emotions. It is considered by many as the stone of faithfulness, fruitfulness, and conferring cheerfulness on the wearer, calming passions, and preventing bad dreams. It is also considered to drive away sadness, to strengthen the intellect, and bestow courage.

In ancient times, the Chinese used Topaz in amulets. They believed an amulet of diamond, ruby, sapphire, emerald, pearl, coral and topaz was able to combine all the protective influences of the different gods presiding over them. It was supposed to lengthen the life of the person wearing it. Also, if these gems were hung over the entrance of a home, they would protect all the persons living in the home. (from various sources)



**"Hopeful" shop hints: TRIM SAW BLADES**—Trim saw blades can be worn or damaged by force feeding of slabs. An indication of too much pressure is a little dry area on the surface of the slab just in front of the blade. Sparks may also indicate too much pressure. An easy way to align the blade to the marked slab is to have the spray of coolant hit just outside the line. *Oregon rockhound2/78...Rock Rollers 8/04* \*\* Transparent stones should be polished on both front and back. Otherwise, saw marks can show through and appear to be cracks. *Chips 'n splinters June/Jul. 2004* \*\* When epoxying a small job, dip a toothpick into the resin tube or bottle and another toothpick into the catalyst. Twist toothpicks together and you will have enough for the tiny repair job.

*The Hellgate Mineral club show at Missoula, Montana SEPT 2008. (submitted by James Finckbone)*

The wide open spaces of the Big Sky state seem to focus into the college town of Missoula, just about 200 miles from Spokane. A history of gold mining along the Clark Fork River west of Missoula, the Lolo Pass collecting sites & the famed Phillipsburg sapphire mining sites must further enhance rockhounding in that area, so the activism of the Hellgaters is not unexpected. For the past decade, they've filled the convention hall of Ruby's Inn with a dozen or so select dealers, and offer a couple dozen competition and dealer-sponsored cases upstairs to view and vote on.

Show chair Bob Riggs and the club again had cabbing & facet cutting demos set up at the entrance. Rock Rollers members Bonnie & Leon Agee featured their mix of rare custom faceted gems, jewelry and inviting slabs. Many other dealers seen at Spokane's show are at Missoula, along with some specialty minerals & fossils dealers seldom seen this side of the Bitterroots. Pat Curry's Pacific Galleries shows a plethora of wondrous sea shells & other ocean treasures, all marked with scientific names. MT. dealers like Mac's, Montana Within, Montana Gems & La-Combes seem to have a bit more of the rough & slabs featuring their state's unique agates & corundum gems than we get to see over in Spokane.

Bolivian Gems, Jay Barkley, West Coast and others add to the especially high level of cabbing rough choices at this show. Upstairs displays included one featuring a MT blue agate rivaling Holly Blue, found near Avon, not far from US 12. If planning an early fall trip over to Glacier Park, or the general region, consider adding this show to your travel plans next year.

**HELLS CANYON GEM CLUB SHOW, LEWISTON, ID., OCT. 18-19th.**

This was a really good show, with some outstanding displays—mostly from members, including their large junior group. Attendance this year appeared very good in spite of our economic woes! The club members always have a good Silent Auction with some more than ordinary rocks to be had. Our club was well represented. Steve Livingstone was one of the vendors, Dennis and Pam Hicks from Worley were there with a five gallon bucket, traveling back and forth to their car (and they were going down to Biggs after the show for more rocks.) Diane, Everett and Shannon Granger rode down together, and Bob and I brought Sharlyn. I think we all had a great time. The members of this club are all active in the show and they look like they having fun as well as working hard, and they area always very friendly. We wouldn't miss this one! Look forward to it every year. We saw some familiar faces among the dealers, and hope to see some of them next spring at our show.

**ROCKHOUND BOOK REVIEW:**

*ROCKIN' AROUND MONTANA*, by Phil Walsh

(no date nor publisher, paperback, octavo/100pp/numerous maps)

An interesting little compendium of western & central Montana collecting sites was stocked by Montana Within and perhaps another dealer or two over at the Missoula Hellgate club show. Several sites listed don't seem to be referenced elsewhere, e.g. *Roadside Geology of Montana* (Mountain Press) & *Rockhounding Montana (FaJcon Guide)*.

For all locales, GPS/US Forest Service coordinates are noted. Sites on private and public lands are included, including road conditions at time of writing, which regrettably wasn't specified. Minerals & metals for collecting as well as gem/cabbing materials have been covered to pique the excitement of rock-hungry visitors to the Big Sky state.

(submitted by James Finckbone, member, Rock Rollers of Spokane & North Idaho Mineral Club.

**Cowboy Boots**

The teacher was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots. He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on. Finally, when the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool, as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. And, once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. And no sooner than they got the boots off, he said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear 'em." Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry, but she mustered up the grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots."

Her trial was September 25, 2002.

*From Hellgaate Breezes, Missoula, MT. De. 2003*



### PRESERVING PETRIFIED WOOD

To have the greatest possible beauty in petrified wood is a special reward which comes with a bit of special effort. The fractures and open cracks which are natural, especially in full rounds of medium to large size, requires special treatment to prevent further breaking. To permanently preserve a specimen will produce the needed results.

1. Place cross section "round" in cold oven. Set temperature at 225 degrees. Heat until the entire piece is that warm. This may require several hours, depending on size.

2. Remove from the oven. Using a very narrow metal spatula or rod put Opicon 224 Fracture Sealer only along the fracture on the top side of the stone. The heat of the rock causes the Opticon to be absorbed quickly. Repeat this until all the cracks are filled. It is necessary to have the first application drawn into the rock because this is the strengthening, stabilizing seal. Avoid letting any Opticon get into large holes, which would give the finish a filled appearance. Leave the holes as natural holes.

3. Repeat this process on the reverse side where one need not use as much detail care. On large pieces with major cracks to repair, brush a thin layer of Opticon over the surface to within about one-half inch from the edge. Keep the narrow border absolutely clean and clear. There must be no evidence of sealant on the outer edge or rim of the specimen. Over this thin layer of Opticon, place a layer of fiberglass which you have precut to proper shape. Cover the fiberglass with another layer of Opticon, brushing the sealant on and making sure that all threads of the fiberglass are saturated. Here again, be very careful not to let any sealant on or drip over the edge of the rock. The natural outer surface of the specimen must be retained and Opticon just cannot be removed without scarring that surface. 4. Put the piece back in the oven and let cool for several hours.

5. Polish the flat surface to the natural edge. My procedure is with a high speed sander with a 7" disk in horizontal position. This means that the piece must be a size that I can hold up to the sander. I enjoy seeing the polished surface developing with the hands on process. The sander running at 3400 rpm, I use 36,100,220 and 320 grit sandpaper. For the final polish, I use cerium oxide on a leather buffer.

6. A flat lap is the machine to use when polishing large rounds. I use 220,400, and 600 grit. For the final polish change the lap plate to one covered with indoor/outdoor carpet or felt. Apply cerium oxide and stand by, keeping the surface moist but not wet (the same principle as polishing a cab). Time required is dependent largely upon size and quality of the specimen.

A piece permanently sealed and with a well done surface revealing the unique features of the specimen is a real beauty to appreciate and for everyone to enjoy.

Bill Hall, Contributing Author *Oregon Rockhound Bulletin/Feb. 2008*

#### OFFICERS FOR 2008

Bob Bockman—President

Kelly Hanson—V.P.

Secretary Bill Johnson

Treasurer — Mike Rose and Donni Moen

.....

Federatio9n director—Bob Bockman

Federation Delegate—open

WSMC Delegate-Open

#### Committees for 2008

Hospitality – Bertha McPherson

Field Trips—Mike and Diane Rose

Membership-Diane Rose

Show Chairman-Bob Bockman and Everett Headrick

Newsletter Editor—Bev Bockman

Program Chairman-Bev Bockman

Lake City Rockhound News  
Bev Bockman, Editor  
1750 N. Havichur Loop  
Post Falls, ID 83854

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

Affiliated with;

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGI-  
CAL SOCIETIES

THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERA-  
LOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

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

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

**Nov 22-23 KITSAP MINERAL CLUB—BREMERTON**

**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.**