

# DUSTY ROCKS

**JUNE  
2011**



**ROCK AND ARROWHEAD CLUB**

**P.O. BOX 1803**

**KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97601**

**[www.klamathrockclub.org](http://www.klamathrockclub.org)**

# ~ DUSTY ROCKS ~

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2011 ~ Rock and Arrowhead Club ~ Klamath Falls Oregon

## OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**NFMS Director:** Kathi Milem  
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**NFMS Junior Delegate:** Alyssa Carnes

**Past President:** Doris Newnham

**Member @ Large:** Marvin Stump

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[charlie@klamathrockclub.org](mailto:charlie@klamathrockclub.org)

### Committee Chairs

↔

Sunshine.....Chris Chance  
 Program.....Marshall Curran  
 Greeter/Door Prize.....Holly Zumbun  
 Refreshment.....Chris Chance  
 Historian.....Heidi Eli  
 Librarian.....Jessica Limb  
 Charity .....John Long  
 Claims Rep.....Garwin Carlson  
 Field Trips.....Marshall Curran  
 Black Light Display .....Chuck Newnham  
 Show Chair.....Jennifer Zimmerlee  
 Asst Show Chair .....Marvin Stump  
 Safety Officer.....Jeff Eastburn  
 Publisher/ Webmaster.....Charlie Wyckoff

Meetings are held at the Klamath County Museum Meeting Room – Main & Spring Streets, using the *West* entrance. **Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 pm** with the exception of December when we have our Christmas Luncheon and Party and April after the show.

### Visitors are cordially invited:

Dues are \$10.00 per year per adult (\$18 for couples), \$7.50 ages 16-18 and free for juniors ages 15 and under whose parents pay dues.

### General Objectives of the Club:

To promote popular interest, knowledge and understanding in the various earth sciences, as in Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology and Lapidary and other related subjects. To sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons interested therein.

### Helping Others:

The club participates in the NFMS stamp program, saving large commemoratives, airmail, pre-canceled, and foreign stamps of all values. Proceeds from stamp sales will be used to benefit any charity deemed worthy by the NFMS Endowment Fund.

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**THE NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER** is published 11 times a year. Copies are sent to each member's household. The cost is included in your annual dues.

Two free copies of the **AFMS NEWSLETTER** are mailed to each member club. Subscriptions are available at \$3.50 for 9 issues. Send payment to:  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
PO Box 26523 Oklahoma City, Ok. 73126.

- We are affiliated with**
- Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
  - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
  - Oregon Council of Rock & Mineral Clubs

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Please e-mail [Charlie@klamathrockclub.org](mailto:Charlie@klamathrockclub.org) to get on our email list.

**June 2011**

**Inside this issue:**

- Inside Cover ~ Club **1**
- Birthdays **2**
- May Minutes **3**
- The Rock Pile **4**
- Sunstone trip **5**
- About Sunstones **6**
- Sunstone Mines **7**
- Map **8**
- Mao **9**

**From The Editor**

So this month its my Birthday. So come the meeting I have to remember to bring a buck and donate to the club on my birthday. I want to make sure that new members understand that on your birthday we ask that you donate a \$1 for the club and at the end of year we use the money donated to buy the turkey for our Christmas party. Speaking of Birthdays, if I haven't printed yours in the newsletter are you sure we have your birthday? Hopefully next month we will have the membership list and we ask you to take a moment make sure everything is right and if we are missing anything like your birthday let us know. Also June is my favorite field trip to our Sunstone claim so this is the sunstone issue. One of the best reasons to be a member of our club is to go out to our own claim and find the Oregon State Gem. We hope to see you there. Please don't forget to email me [jlazys@hotmail.com](mailto:jlazys@hotmail.com) with your field trips and pictures. Keep rocking!

*Jennifer Zimmerlee*

**NEXT MEETING:**

**June 13th**

- 7:00 pm
- Refreshments:
- The Zumbrun's
- Program: Silent Auction



Happy Father's Day!



*Happy Birthday!*

Elinor Taug - Fairview, OR

Jennifer Zimmerlee - Bonanza, OR

Lori Zumbrun - Klamath Falls, OR

Kira Brux - Klamath Falls, OR

Alyssa Carnes - Klamath Falls, OR

Larry Crawford - Klamath Falls, OR

Chris Hawkins - Klamath Falls, OR

Rachel Limb - Klamath Falls, OR

Jon Mixell - Klamath Falls, OR

Ron Skog - Jacksonville, OR

**Refreshment List 2011**

June	Lori & Holly Zumbrun
July	Doreen Chase & Charlie Wyckoff
August	Linda Watson & Robert Gresham
September	Fairisine Fore
October	??? (your name here)!
November	??? (your name here)!



## May 9th, 2011 Meeting Minutes *Submitted by Linda Watson & Doreen Chase*

Meeting called to order by President Jeff Eastburn at 7:05PM - Pledge of Allegiance - Guests: Dwayne Hart & Robert Pickett, Brian & Melody Cushman - Birthday Contributions

Door prize won by Ed Haas, Sonora Sunrise donated by Garwin Carlson

Minutes approved. Motion made by Leroy Bieler, seconded by Garwin Carlson.

Treasurer's Report

Correspondence: Magazine – Rock & Gem

Sunshine Report: Pat Bennett's M-I-L passed away, sent sympathy card.

Charity Report: No report – Longs not here. Librarian Report: Books are out. Black light is out again – where is it?

Historian Report: No report. Heidi wants to be replaced as she is not in good health.

NWF Report: Hampton Butte Field Trip is the meeting place. Meeting is the end of July in Chehalis WA with Alyssa and Kathi.

Old Business: First Aid kit discussed. Trailer will go over to Marv's house after Memorial Day weekend and he'll start on measurements. Marshall will check at DMV for possible lost title.

Executive Board will start meeting to address bylaws and nonprofit status. Thursday meeting at 6:00 at Leah & Marv's.

New Business: Future Rockhounds of America Badge & Award for those under 18. Laura is the contact person.

Newsletter was awarded 6<sup>th</sup> in Website Design. Possibly another person will handle the website.

Marshall went to school: Sage School in Chiloquin asked for a presentation (1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades). Garwin has been going to Ferguson School for the past 15 years or so. Rock On!

Garwin has a Sunstone Display at the Midland Rest Area.

Dinner table will be displayed at the Lakeview Show. Crystal Terrace would like the table at their place for a couple of weeks.

T-shirts are ordered. Laura wants Office Suite 2010 for Treasurers use – Leah Stump motioned, Don Perryman seconded it.

Rocks for the Silent Auction – need to follow up. Chuck & Jeff each have some – need to get centralized. Leah & Marvin also have some. Mike & Lori will gather them and sort them.

Tumbling of the small rocks for the Wheel of Fortune needs to start now.

Field Trips: Marv talked about Tuledad/Cedarville area. June 24-25-26 Sunstone trip with Garwin. July 16-17 – Lassen Ck/Obsidian, Doris Newnham. Sept 17-18 – Juniper Ridge with Chuck Newnham. Aug 20-21 – Virgin Valley Opal – Marv Stump. Gold panning/Jade possible field trip.

Tom Endicott: Homedale Idaho field trip, lots of agate, marcasite and jasper.

Garwin Carlson: Hart Mountain, didn't find a lot, but had a good time. Invite to new members to come over to Garwin's place to visit from 1:30 – 4:00. Will show what he does.

Roger Regness: Nevada & Arizona, Lost Dutchman Mining Assoc., permits now required for most gold activities moving over 25 yards of material (except panning).

Program by Marshall. Refreshments were by Chris and Sam Chance Meeting Adjourned at 8:15PM.



June 2011

# The Rock Pile



Rocks in the News

*Let's go to a show!*

- June 11-12 Butte, MT
- June 7-8 Reno, NV
- June 18-19 Newport, OR
- June 17 -18 Ontario, OR
- June 23-26 Prineville, OR
- June/July 29-3 Madras, OR



Juab County Utah — In Utah's western desert rockhounds from around the world come to find stones, gems and fossils buried under the surface. Millions of years ago volcanoes covered parts of the Juab County's West Desert. Chemicals in the lava left behind minerals.

In the south of Juab County in the Thomas mountain range, numerous stones are found, including topaz and a black mineral called bixbyite. The same mountain range also hides amethyst — which is harder to find — several colors of garnet and red baryl, which looks like a ruby. garnet, topaz and geodes in the area.

Geodes are found in the [Dugway geode beds](#), in the north end of Juab County or if you're into fossils, head into Antelope Spring in Millard County to uncover trilobites, an invertebrate that roamed the sea floor millions of years ago.

Bring rocks to the meeting for a silent auction to pay for porta-potty for the field trips!



Chris made a cake for the release of local author Rick Steber's newest book.



Mystery Rock from Tuledad Field Trip

Thank you to Marv and Leah for stepping up and driving 2 cars to the Tuledad trip so we could have a porta-potty

July 29-31 the NFMS Annual Meeting and Show, Chehalis, WA

July 7-10 the AFMS & EFMLS Annual Meeting, Syracuse NY





June 2011

## **Sunstone Field Trip, Plush Oregon**

### **June 24th, 25th, & 26th**



On Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> in the morning Garwin will be going to the claims and putting our yellow flagging on the upper part of the road into the claim. There will also be yellow arrows pointing the way to the claim. Watch for the yellow arrow on the main road. You are welcome to come out to the claim at any time.

Camping at the claim is dry camping with no hook-ups available. If anyone wants to bring along a porti-potty you are welcome to do so. The area around the claim is mostly sagebrush. There are very few rattle snakes, scorpions and black widow spiders. Garwin has never seen a rattle snake on his many trips to the claim, but always be careful and aware of your surroundings when at the claim. Restroom and regular camping are available at the public dig area if there is space available.

If you have never been to the claim make sure you have good tires and a good spare, flat tires can be a problem. The road is 10-15 miles of rough gravel which makes for dusty travel. When driving down the road help keep the dust out of your car by keeping your windows closed and open vents or turn on air conditioning to pressurize the inside of your vehicle and keep the dust out.

The collecting area is about 56 acres and there are several ways to collect sunstones. You can just pick up sunstones on the surface (having polarized sun glasses will help you to see them on the surface). You can hard rock mine the stones trying to get a larger piece or the brighter colors. Plan on bringing shovels, sledge, picks, hammers, wedges and screens.

Bring plenty of water and other cold drinks, lunch, sunscreen, bug spray, gloves, chairs and shade if want to make a day trip of it and your camping gear if staying overnight. You are welcome to come out at any time to the claim.

Road to the claims begins in Plush, OR. Take the road heading north out of Plush. First 8 miles is good blacktop changing to gravel. Turn left on road 3-11 going about ½ mile. Turn left on 6155 heading north going about 9 miles of rough gravel road. Turn right where road 6155 and 7145 split. (Road 6155 goes to public dig area.) Follow 7145 for 2.3 miles to yellow arrow on right side of road. Continue on side road about 3.4 miles. If you get lost stop at other mines in the area and ask for directions. Don't follow road 7145 north of road into claim you will take you 100 miles into Bruns, OR.

About 2 sq. mi. of the Lake County sunstone area have been withdrawn from mineral entry and established by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a free public collecting area. This sunstone area is located off the northeast flank of the Rabbit Hills about 25 mi. north of Plush and 80 mi. northeast of Lakeview. Maps, directions, and information on road conditions are available from the BLM District Office in Lakeview.

Medical help is available at the commercial mine the Dust Devil on road to public area.

If you have never gone to the claim or dug sun stones, it is a long drive but well worth the trip for a fun day for all ages and skill levels, bring a friend and open their eyes to fun of rock hounding. If you have any questions call Garwin at 541-882-8276 and we hope to see you there.



*Sunstones continued.....*

Oregon sunstone, also known as heliolite, is a transparent feldspar with colors ranging from water clear through pale yellow, soft pink, and blood red to (extremely rare) deep blue and green. The color appears to vary systematically with small amounts of copper and may depend on both the amount and the size of individual copper particles present in the stone.

Pale yellow stones have a copper content as low as 20 parts per million (ppm) (0.002 percent), green stones contain about 100 ppm per million (0.01 percent), and red stones have up to 200 ppm (0.02 percent) copper. Some of the deeper colored stones have bands of varying color, and a few stones are dichroic, that is, they show two different colors when viewed from different directions.

Many stones appear to be perfectly transparent at first, but when they are viewed in just the right direction, a pink to red metallic shimmer flashes from within the stone. This effect is called "schiller" or "aventurescence" and is caused by light reflecting from minute parallel metallic platelets suspended in the sunstone. When viewed along their edges, the platelets are invisible to the naked eye; when viewed, however, perpendicular to their surfaces, they reflect light simultaneously from each platelet, creating a mirror effect. Earlier studies of the Lake County feldspar suggested that the platelets were hematite (iron oxide), but the most recent research concludes that they are flat crystals of copper metal.

The terms "sunstone" and "heliolite" (from Greek helios, meaning sun, and lithos, meaning "stone") have been used for at least two centuries for feldspars exhibiting schiller. The Lake County occurrence was first reported in 1908, and the presence of the schiller effect was the original reason for naming the stones sunstones. For decades, however, the term "sunstone" has been used for these Oregon gem feldspars both with and without schiller.

Oregon sunstones are a calcium-rich variety of plagioclase feldspar named labradorite, a common mineral in basaltic lava flows. All three known sunstone occurrences are in small basalt flows that superficially resemble basalt flows elsewhere in the state that contain large feldspar phenocrysts or megacrysts. However, feldspars in those flows are typically cloudy to opaque and relatively small compared to those in the sunstone flows, which are clear, glassy, and can be up to 2 or 3 in. in one dimension.

-No detailed information has been collected on the geology, petrography, or chemistry of the known sunstone flows, so no meaningful comparisons can be made between them or with other flows in the area. The sunstone flows appear to be small; the Lake County occurrence covers about 7 sq. mi., and the two Hamey County occurrences are probably less than 1 sq. mi. each. Considering the regional geology and the wide separation between the flows, it is probable that there are more sunstone occurrences in the area.

Sunstones are mined from the soil and partially decomposed rock formed by weathering of the lava flows. The surface debris is dug with pick and shovel and sieved through a quarter-inch screen, and the sunstones are separated from rock fragments by hand. In some local areas, the lava flows are weathered to a depth of several feet, and good stones have been recovered from pits dug into these zones. Hard-rock mining techniques have been used on unweathered parts of the flows, but the sunstones are often shattered along with the lava, and recovery of large unbroken stones is difficult.



Check out this month's Rock & Gem for an Article on a Sunstone Field trip

Also in Rock & Gem an article on a Sunstone Collecting trip the same weekend by the International School of Gemology, check out their website for more info.

[www.schoolofgemology.com/RushToPlush.html](http://www.schoolofgemology.com/RushToPlush.html)



Sunstones continued.....

**The Mines.....**

Explore some of the other sunstone mines or at least check out their websites. (all info taken from their websites)

**The Spectrum Mine**

[www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com/html/spectrum\\_sunstone\\_mines.html](http://www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com/html/spectrum_sunstone_mines.html)

High Desert Gems & Minerals currently owns over 40 sunstone mining claims in the Plush and White Horse Ranch area of Oregon. We are very active in prospecting and exploring the Plush sunstone area for new sunstone deposits and have discovered more Oregon Sunstone mines than any other company in the world.

**The Dust Devil**

[www.dustdevilmining.com](http://www.dustdevilmining.com)

Dust Devil Mining Co. was founded by rock hounds who believe everyone should have access to good quality cutting rough at a reasonable price. We believe the Oregon Sunstone is on the threshold of becoming a very popular gemstone and that demand will cause the price to increase considerably over the next few years.

**Double Eagle Mine**

[www.doubleeaglemine.com/](http://www.doubleeaglemine.com/)

We are one of only a few full time mining companies of Plush Oregon Sunstone, which is a rare top gem quality Copper Bearing Labradorite, Feldspar. Giving the world a great opportunity to buy direct from the mine one of the rarest gemstones.

**The Sunstone Mining Company**

[www.sunstonemining.com](http://www.sunstonemining.com)

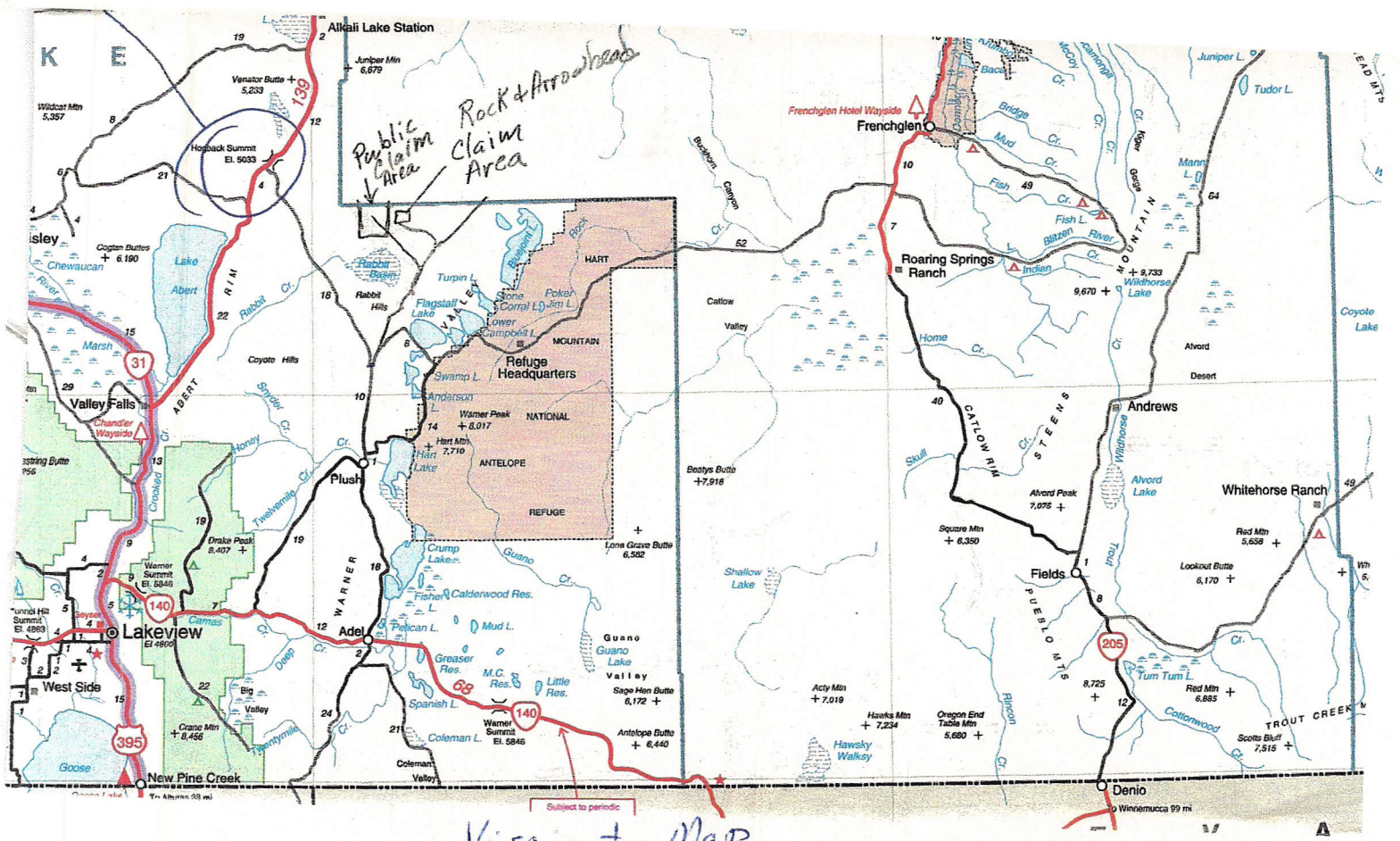
The Sunstone Mining Company produces natural Oregon Sunstone from the High Desert of southern Oregon. We operate an extensive number of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) mining claims. The sunstone mining area is approximately 27 miles northeast of Plush, Oregon. Sunstone Mining Company is owned and operated by Gary Kratochvil.



About 30 people including lots of new members and 14 dogs braved the cold, rain and snow to have fun at our Memorial Day field trip. Thanks to all who came!







Vicinity Map