

**Return Bulletins to:
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**Dusty Rocks
August
2016**



**ROCK AND ARROWHEAD CLUB
P.O. BOX 1803
KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97601
www.klamathrockclub.org**

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Laura Limb, 541-273-7503

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NFMS Director: Kathi Milem, 541-892-7371, 4045 Altamont, Klamath Falls, 97603

NMFS Delegate: Alyssa Carnes

Past President: Allen Hart

Member at Large: Marvin Stump

Club mailing address:

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Rock and Arrowhead Club meetings are held at the Klamath County Museum Meeting Room @ Main and Spring Street, using the **West** entrance. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m., with the exception of December when we have our Christmas Luncheon and Party and after the March show.

Visitors are cordially invited: Dues are \$13.50 per year, per adult, and \$7.50 for ages 16-18. Families can join for \$25, plus \$1 per child.

General club objectives: To promote popular interest, knowledge and understanding in earth sciences, such as geology, mineralogy, paleontology, 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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Committee Chairs

- Sunshine Chris Chance
- Program Doris Newnham
- Greeter/Door prize
- Refreshment Chris Chance
- Historian Don Perryman
- Librarian
- Claims Rep Garwin Carlson
- Field Trips Marv Stump
- Black light display Marshall Curran
- Show Chair Garwin Carlson
- Asst Show Chair Marvin Stump
- Safety Officer Jeff Eastburn
- Webmaster Denise Sebastian

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

Newsletter Editor

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lacey.jarrell@gmail.com

Visit us at www.klamathrockclub.org

Please e-mail nicee1214@gmail.com to get on our e-mail list.

Reference to use of arrowheads within our club is limited to flint napping activities during workshops, annual shows, and personal creations. No gathering of arrowheads on field trips is authorized or suggested by any club member.

DUSTY ROCKS

~ Rock and Arrowhead Club ~ Klamath Falls, Oregon ~



From the President

Club Members,

Where did the summer go? If you feel like it has just breezed by, then we agree. It seems just like last month that we were planning the Memorial Day field trip. Now it's time for the Virgin Valley trip and it is August. Very soon we will be planning our November Arts and Crafts weekend. Time is flying by.

A safety reminder for everyone: Please carry a pointed shovel, gallon of water, and a polaski (big pick) with you just in case a spark might get away from you. Keep in mind that the foliage is dry and easily ignited by a truck muffler or a spark from breaking a rock for example. Check with the BLM or Forest Service for burn restriction guidelines before you venture out to rock hound.

Your President,
Laura Limb

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Next meeting: September 12, 2016, @ 7 p.m.

We will have a special program featuring:
To be announced

August refreshments: Tom and Cheryl Endicott



Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2016, 7 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Tom Endicott, at 7 p.m., followed by a flag salute, led by Tom.

July birthday greetings.

Attendance: 22 members and three new members, Becky and Hope Chase and Brett Leub.

Door Prizes: Ed Haas, Ethan Kirk, Cheryl Lee and Ken Davis selected from the door prizes

Welcome to guests: Ethan Kirk and Michelle and Tim Distefano.

Review of the minutes: Marshall Curran moved and Garwin Carlson second the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Marolyn Davis.

Northwestern Federation (NWF) Report: Kathi Milem - she and Alyssa will be attending the NWF show in Albany on July 29–31. Kathi submitted a quote for the motel room for \$430. Garwin Carlson moved that RAC cover this expense. LeRoy Bieler second the motion. Motion carried. Marvin and Leah Stump will deliver and pick up the RAC dinner table display to the NWF show. They requested that RAC cover gas expenses to and from Albany. LeRoy Bieler moved and Ken Davis second the motion that RAC cover the gas expenses. Motion carried.

Upcoming shows:

- July 16–17: Oregon Geo Show, Eugene, OR
- July 29–31: NFMS/AFM Treasures of the Northwest, Albany, OR
- August 6 – 7: Prineville Rock Field Trips, Prineville, OR
- August 20: Shelton Rock and Mineral Society Tailgate Swap, Shelton, WA
- August 27–28: Ashland Gem and Mineral Show, Ashland, OR

Sunshine Report: Chris Chance - No new illnesses that she is aware of.

Webmaster Report: Denise Sebastian – Threat to RAC website appears to be solved and fix-it program is doing its job. Membership is off so she can find a better model to use.

Newsletter: Lacey Jarrell – Lacey has announced her plans to retire as newsletter editor as of Jan. 1, 2017. She is willing to split duties with whomever volunteers to be the editor.

Club member field trips:

LeRoy and Perry Bieler went to Stinky Water SE of Burns, OR. Had a great trip.

Ken and Marolyn Davis went to Eagle Point to purchase from Wes and Bunny Riley's collection. They are selling due to a move to a smaller place. Special Club dates are July 23 and 24.

Tom and Cheryl Endicott went to the Prineville/Madras Powwow. They were able to purchase some picture jasper from mine owners.

Garwin Carlson reported on the Klamath Museum/RAC Yadenite field trip. Forty-five people attended, with approximately 15 to 30 pounds of yadenite and other stones going home per person. Christine Chance provide some jean bags she made for everyone to use and fill.

Garwin Carlson also reported on the sunstone field trip, June 25. Approximately 30 people attended, some camped. All had a good time, especially Ed Haas as he dug deeper in the pit. There is a possibility with advance notice and a small fee of \$10 per person that a jack hammer could be "rented" to break up the pit.

Club scheduled field trips:

Marvin Stump talked about future field trips. Marv referred everyone to the newsletter for details.

July 15-17: Lassen Creek – Food feast at Davis Creek Store Friday evening – starts at \$12. Collection permit also available at store.

August: Virgin Valley, fee dig.

August 27–28: Gold panning field trip near Yreka, CA

Rhodenite/Gold panning: Date TBD

Other Business: None.

Program: Silent auction

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Refreshments were provided by Linda Dill and Jon Hughes. Everyone loved the cowboy cake.

Refreshment sign-up sheet:

- September: Cheryl Lee and Chris Chance
- October: Denise and Laura
- November: Kristin Sayles
- December: Christmas Potluck

Next Meeting is Aug. 8, 2016, 7 at the Klamath County Museum.

Respectfully submitter¹



2016 BEAVER CREEK GOLD PANNING FIELD TRIPS

By Marv Stump

OUR club has the opportunity to have two gold panning opportunities the last weekend in August, August 27-28. The Klamath Prospectors have invited our club to their gold claim on Beaver Creek, and Ron Skog has invited the Grants Pass club and our club to his claim on Beaver Creek the same weekend. Both claims are located close to each other. Both claims are located northwesterly of Yreka, California. It takes about 2½ hours to get to the claims. There is a U.S. Forest Service campground about 4.8 miles north on 48N01. The only facility at the campground is a pit toilet. The campground is within easy commuting of both claims. These trips will be discussed in detail at the regular August meeting.



Club members panning for gold.
Photo submitted by Marv Stump.

We would meet Saturday morning at 6 a.m. at the K. Falls Wal-Mart parking lot, adjacent to the Payless Shoe Source, and then convoy to the gold claim. The route would be south on Highway 97 over Mt. Hebron to Siskiyou County road A12, then westerly 18 miles on A12 through Grenada to Interstate 5, then northerly 10 miles on I-5 to Exit 776, then left into Yreka.

Turn right (north) on Highway 263, go eight miles to California Highway 96. Turn westerly on HWY 96, go approximately 15 miles to the community of Klamath River where we turn right (north) on Beaver Creek Road (Forest Service road 48N01). From HWY 96, the approximate mileages are: campground is approximately 4.8 miles, end of pavement/bridge 6.9 miles (stay to the right after crossing bridge), the Klamath Prospector's claim 6.9 miles, and Ron Skog's claim, 8.5 miles.

Ron Skog lives in Jacksonville so we will have to find our own way to his claim. Fortunately, this is easy to do as his claim is only 1.6 miles northerly of the prospectors claim on the same road. Ron will have the claim marked.

Leah and I have been to both claims and they are both easy to get around on. Items to bring would be a small pick and shovel, a bucket, a gold pan, and a small vial to put your gold in.

There are small crevices that hold the gold and Ron suggested bringing a basting syringe that you can insert into the cracks to suck out the material, and then pan it. Both the prospectors and Ron will have gold pans and sluice boxes available for members to use.

POSSIBLE RHODONITE FIELD TRIP

By Marv Stump

The rhodonite claims are owned by the Grants Pass club and are located close to the Oregon Caves. Any rhodonite field trip will need to wait until fire season is over, probably late September or October. Arrangements for getting into the claims will probably be on short notice, so we will just wait and see how this field trip develops.

There is a charge of \$20 per 5-gallon bucket. The claims are located away from the road and the material needs to be carried out to the road. Not too far if I remember correctly! More later.



RAC member Ed Haas having fun.
Photo submitted by Marv Stump.

VIRGIN VALLEY FIELD TRIP FOR OPAL (PRECIOUS & FIRE) AND CARNELIAN AUGUST 12, 13, 14

By Marv Stump

This field trip allows members the opportunity to dig and collect opal. Virgin Valley is located within the Sheldon Wildlife Refuge and opal can only be mined on private land and mining claims on a fee dig basis. Virgin Valley is located in northwest Nevada just south of the Oregon border, approximately 95 miles east of Lakeview via Highway 140. Travel time from Klamath Falls is around 3½ to 4½ hours depending on the type of vehicle you are driving and if you are pulling a trailer.

There is a campground with toilets, a naturally heated (70 degrees) artesian shower and swimming pool, and several small trees for limited shade (if we get there first). Make sure you fill up with fuel in Lakeview. There probably won't be any fuel available in Denio Junction. We will be a long way from "civilization" and food and fuel are not available in the area.

Again for ease in club members enjoying the different mining adventures in Virgin Valley, Saturday will be available for members to go to the Fee dig(s) they desire, see below. Friday will be a travel day that will allow members to arrive at Virgin Valley on their own schedule. A brief description of these fee digs is given below.

In the past on Sunday, John Church (club member and owner of Swordfish Mining), has taken us to one or two of his claims to play in (or on) on Sunday. We may not have that opportunity this year due to the status of his claims. We probably won't know until we get closer to the field trip.



Camping at Virgin Valley. Photo submitted by Marv Stump.

ITEMS TO BRING: Most important is water. In most places there is little or no shade and it is easy to dehydrate. For working the ground, suggested items are: sun block, shade hat, gloves, small pick, small garden rake, small shovel or trowel, spray bottle with water, buckets for collecting specimens plus an extra one to sit on, and a large umbrella works well if the wind isn't blowing (to hard). Tools are available at the mine.



HOW TO KNOW WHERE TO TURN OFF HIGHWAY 140: Traveling from Lakeview on Hwy 140, it is about 68 miles from Hwy 395 to the Oregon/Nevada border. The road going into Virgin Valley is approximately 20 miles after entering Nevada. There is a rest area on Hwy 140 just prior (west) of the Virgin Valley access road. There is also a sign on the highway inviting people to come into the opal mines and collect "black fire opal."

Four mines are open for fee digging:

BONANZA OPAL MINE: Open May 23–Sept. 7. Tailing digging only \$75/person per day. 12 and under free with paid adult. Phone: 775-941-0111 or 775-375-5955. Website: bonanzaopals.com. Pay with cash or check, no electricity at mine. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

RAINBOW RIDGE OPAL MINE: Open May 22–Sept. 13. New material (large front end loader) is \$600/day for one or two adults. \$100/person a day for tailings. Children 10 to 15, half price on the tailings. Phone: 541-312-2679 or 775-941-0270. Website: nevadaopal.com. Closed Wednesday and Thursday.

ROYAL PEACOCK OPAL MINE: Open May 15–Oct. 15. Bank digging is \$190/person per day. \$75/person a day for tailings, 12 and under free with adult on tailings. 17 space RV park with full hook-ups \$35/day. Dry tent camping \$7/night. Laundry room and toilet/shower room. Gift shop. Bag ice, cold pop, pure well water, grass picnic area. Credit cards and cash accepted. Phone: 775-941-0374. Website: royalpeacock.com. Open daily.

KOKOPELLI OPALS: Bank digging for ages 12 and under is free. Ages 13-18, \$125/person per day. Digging for ages 19 and older is \$160/person per day. Ten percent discount for seniors.

Opal fee digging continues on Page 9

Opal fee digging continued

55 and older and military, with proof. Reservations required, reservation form available on website. Open Friday through Monday. Dry camping is available.

SWORDFISH MINING: Does not offer fee diggings, but John Church does have a wealth of information and knowledge of the Virgin Valley opal. His website (virginvalleyopal.com) offers web links to all the mines in Virgin Valley and lots of great information. I recommend that you visit it just to visit.

There is a mini-dig mine called Opal Negra Mines owned by Scott and Pat Ryals, it is located on the road to the Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine. Negra stands for black, so we are talking black opal. They like folks to stop by and chat, and view their fine display of opal from their mines. This is the place to visit if you want to see what the Virgin Valley Opal looks like. Their website is: www.thegemdealer.com.

The Ryals have graciously supplied the following terms for different types of opal:

Precious Opal with any play of color, either reflective or contra-luz.

Common Genuine Opal with no play of color.

Contra-luz Opal with a color play only when sunlight shines through it.

Cachalon Opal has color play when dry, but becomes transparent when wet.

Cones Opal formed from fossilized cones.

Cellfire Conk Opal with precious opal in individual opalized cells.

Dendritic Opal has inclusions of algae or roots.

Hydrophane Opal displays color when wet or clear, but loses most of color play when dry and opaque.

Jelly Opal with a play of color yet transparent.

Moss Opal that has moss-like inclusions.

Potch Common Opal may have color but without any color play.

Wood Opal combined with petrified wood.

In the past, most of the club members have gone to the Rainbow Ridge mine and dug in the tailings. The tailings dig allows folks to dig close together or go off by yourself. This is a chance to socialize while digging and to see what is being "discovered" by other members. Amazingly, the tailings have provided some nice opal. I encourage everyone to check the websites so you can get an idea of what the country is like and what to expect.

VIRGIN VALLEY OPAL GEOLOGY

By Marv Stump

Virgin Valley, Nevada, is believed to have been formed over 16 million years ago due to a series of rhyolite volcanic flows. This created what is called the Canyon Rhyolite. It was a large basin enclosed by low hills.

During the following 1.5 million years, the area underwent a series of volcanic eruptions. The basin contained a succession of lakes and rich forests which were periodically buried by this volcanic activity. Canyon Rhyolite was slowly filled with layers of volcanic ash, lake sediments, and debris from pyroclastic flows. Pyroclastic flows produce a devastating effect on the land. Hot rock, ash and gases are ejected in an explosive eruption which can travel across the land at great speed, wiping out and burying everything in its path.

Over time, a great lake formed in the area and deposited large amounts of diatomite, a form of silica. This silica would someday contribute to the formation of opal in the area. (Opal is cristobalite silica.) The basin continued to fill with sediments and volcanic ash. About 10 million years ago, a basaltic flow covered the area, capping the basin and its layers of ash and buried forests.

Over time, hot ground water seeped through the layers of ash, picking up silica rich deposits and permeated the buried wood. The carbon molecules were slowly replaced by the hydrated silica creating perfect opalized replicas of the original material. Occasionally, the silica gel would form in pools which completely immersed the wood, preserving it perfectly. Limb casts formed as the gel filled the cavities left by previously buried wood, long decomposed. Under the right conditions, some of this opalized wood may develop into precious opal. This requires a stable, quiet environment which allows the cristobalite spheres to line up in formation. This unique alignment of the hydrated silica molecules creates reflection and refraction as white light passes through. This is the secret to the rainbow effect of the precious opal.

The entire area has been uplifted and eroded, exposing the opal deposits in certain clay beds of ancient volcanic ash. The precious opal bearing layers may be as much as 10 to 30 feet below the surface and range in thickness from 2 to 12 feet. Common opal is abundant throughout the successive layers of clay and ash, but only specific conditions produce the spectacular play of color which characterizes the precious opal.

Source: www.goldnuggetwebs.com



Jake Jones
Chuck Newnham
Doris Newnham
Crystal Renslow
Diana Robinson
Bruce Vait
Carol Wiley
Tina Fisher
Scott Sergi

July RAC yadenite outing with the Klamath County Museum

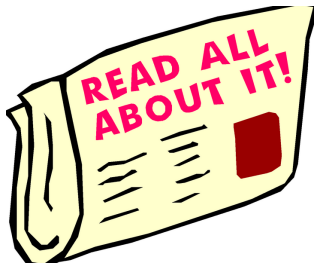


Photo submitted by Chris Chance

Photos submitted by Averil Anderson



The Grinder



Your Rock and Arrowhead Club is in search of a new newsletter editor! The new editor will begin publishing the newsletter in January 2017. Contact current editor, Lacey Jarrell, or President Laura Limb for more information.

Lacey: 541-401-4652
 Laura: 541-273-7503

SHOW DATES

Seaside, Ore., Aug. 19-21: Annual show. Jean Miller, Seaside Convention Center, 415 1st Ave. Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free Admission. Seaside Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show Free Admission, wheelchair accessible, raffle prizes, and fun for the whole family. Free strand of pearls for the first 75 women through the door each morning. Free tumbled stone for each child through the door! Great times to be had shopping for and experiencing a wide variety of gems, minerals, crystals, enhydros, beads, petrified wood, slabs, rough and polished rock, sunstones, lapidary tools and equipment, stone carvings, opals and more. Treasures from all over the world. Contact Jennifer Macias by phone at 619-261-8765 or by e-mail at karmicbeadsandgems@yahoo.com.

Ashland, Ore., Aug. 27-28: Annual show. Scott Blair, First United Methodist Church, 175 N. Main St. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission \$2; kids get in free. Quality crystals, minerals, beads, hand crafted gemstone jewelry, fossils, precious opals, and much more. Silent auction. Free field trip on Monday, Aug. 29, after the show. Contact Scott Blair by phone at 541-621-2558 or by e-mail at scottsrocks@scottsrocks.com. Website: www.scottsrocks.com.

Have an item you don't want anymore?

Having a yard sale next month?

Contact newsletter editor Lacey Jarrell at lacey.jarrell@gmail.com and have your items listed for other club members to see.



August 2016

August birthstone: Peridot

Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes.

Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona, other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. This gemstone comes in several color variations ranging from yellowish green to brown, but most consumers are attracted to the bright lime greens and olive greens. In smaller sizes peridot is often is used in beaded necklaces and bracelets.



Source: www.americangemsociety.org/en/birthstone

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 RAC meeting, 7 p.m., Klamath County Museum	9	10	11	12 Virgin Valley field trip	13 Virgin Valley field trip
14 Virgin Valley field trip	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Gold panning field trip
28 Gold panning field trip	29	30	31			