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**Dusty Rocks  
June  
2017**



**ROCK AND ARROWHEAD CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1803  
KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97601  
[www.klamathrockclub.org](http://www.klamathrockclub.org)**

# OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Laura Limb, 541-273-7503, 1528 Dayton St., Klamath Falls, 97603

**Vice President:** Kristin Sayles, 541-539-1452, 11575 Spring Lake Rd., Klamath Falls, 97603

**Secretary/recorder:** Cheryl Lee, 503-867-4112, 2226 Applegate Ave., Klamath Falls, 90601

**Treasurer:** Vacant

**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.

## 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

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- ▶ Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
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Visit us at [www.klamathrockclub.org](http://www.klamathrockclub.org)

Please e-mail [nicee1214@gmail.com](mailto: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*

Fellow Rock hounds,

The weather has been fantastic here in Southern Oregon. Rock hounding is in full swing. Our club has two field trips that sound amazing planned in June. I would like to remind everyone to be safe in driving, sunscreen and water as a minimum. I know that I have been very intense in collecting rocks and forgot the sunscreen.

It is with sadness that I inform the club that Mike Milem, Kathi Milem's brother, passed away peacefully on June 5 with family by his side. Please take a moment to add Kathi and her family to your thoughts and prayers.

As we collect rocks this year, please bring two extra rocks for the silent auction table at our March show.

Happy rock collecting,  
Laura Limb, President

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***Next meeting:*** June 12, 2017

*Refreshments: Sam and Chris Chance*



## General Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2017, 7 p.m. Location: Klamath County Museum

The meeting was called to order by President Laura Limb, at 7 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Birthday greetings to all born in May.

27 Members in attendance. Three door prizes were drawn.

Welcome to guests – Benny Graves from Florence, Az., visiting member Roy Nederbock.

Review of the minutes: It was moved by Kristin Sayles and seconded by Don Perryman to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Position still open. Report was given by Leah Stump.

Northwestern Federation (NWF) Report: Kathi Milem, in preparing to attend the May 19 annual meeting at Hamilton, Mont., submitted registration, lodging, and gas expenses for the trip. Marvin Stump moved that a check be written to cover these expenses and seconded by Rachel Limb. Motion carried.

Sunshine Report: Chris Chance not in attendance. Update was given on Larry Phillips, with additional news from Marv that Pat Phillips had broken her arm. Thank you note from the Phillips was shared. It was reported that Chuck Newnham had been in an accident and has five broken ribs and a broken collar bone.

Webmaster Report: Denise Sebastian not in attendance. Member list is in process of updating. The program for blocking hacks and viruses is working well. In case you missed it last month, the log in for website is: id = member password = rocks2017

Newsletter: Lacey Jarrell requested that anyone with articles or photos with caption to email or text them to her.

Club member field trips: Don Perryman reported that he keeps finding stones taped to his classroom door. Laura Limb went mushroom hunting and found an interesting rock outcropping. Tom Endicott made a trip to Richardson’s Ranch for petrified wood — he recommends wearing gloves when going through the piles of samples as the peacocks leave their droppings all over. Garwin Carlson attended the Roseburg Rock Show, good attendance and large number of vendors.

Club Field Trips: Marvin Stump – Potential schedule of field trips:

May 26-28: Hampton Butte east of Bend – petrified wood. Marvin referred everyone to the Hampton Butte article for directions and recommendations.

June 17-18: Rye Patch Reservoir, Nev., with the Prospector’s Club for quartz, agate, jasper, tungsten, possibly turquoise and metal detecting for gold. There are two campgrounds at end of reservoir. Details to follow.

June 23-25: Plush, Ore. – sunstone claim

July 14-16: Lassen Creek/Davis Creek, Calif. – obsidian

Aug. 11-13: Virgin Valley, Nev. – opals

Sept. (pending) Tuledad – agate

Sept./Oct. date pending potential gold panning at Beaver Creek in California. Needs to be coordinated with Prospector’s Club.

Oregon Rock Shows:

June 15-18: Prineville Rockhound PowWow – Crook County Fairgrounds

June 16-18: Reedsport, Ore. - Lower Umpqua Gem and Lapidary Society

June 22-25: Madras, Ore. - Annual show; All Rockhound PowWow Club of America

June 30-July 4: Sisters, Ore. – Sisters Round Up of Gems – Creekside Park

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Program: Laura Limb discussed safety while out rockhounding in remote areas.

June meeting Garwin Carlson will do a presentation on sunstones.

Next meeting: June 12, 2017 - 7 p.m. at the Klamath County Museum.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Silent Auction was held during refreshments.

Refreshments: Marshall Curran and Garwin Carlson. Thank you for providing the evening refreshments.

Refreshments List for the rest of the year:

June: Sam and Chris Chance

July: Bob and Barbara Massey

August: Denise Sebastian and Dennis Sly

September: Tom and Cheryl Endicott with Jerry and Averil Anderson

October: Brian and Clarisa

November: Laura Limb and Denise Sebastian

December: Christmas Party

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl Lee  
Recorder

Holley blue agate (also spelled “Holly blue agate”), is a blue-ish agate only found near Holley, Oregon.

Source: Pinterest



# June birthstone: Pearl



June is one of only two months that has three birthstones associated with it, giving the lucky people born in June a choice of gemstones between pearl, alexandrite and moonstone.

June's birthstones range from creamy-colored opalescent pearl and moonstone to the rare color-changing alexandrite – one of the most valuable gems on earth.

Pearls are the only gemstones made by living creatures. Mollusks produce pearls by depositing layers of calcium carbonate around microscopic irritants that get lodged in their shells—usually not a grain of sand, as commonly believed.

While any shelled mollusk can technically make a pearl, only two groups of bivalve mollusks (or clams) use mother-of-pearl to create the iridescent “nacreous” pearls that are valued in jewelry. These rare gems don't require any polishing to reveal their natural luster.

Appropriately, the name “pearl” comes from the Old French perle, from the Latin perna meaning “leg,” referencing the leg-of-mutton shape of an open mollusk shell. Because perfectly round, smooth natural pearls are so uncommon, the word “pearl” can refer to anything rare and valuable. Source: [www.americangemsociety.org/en/](http://www.americangemsociety.org/en/)



**June 12** - RAC meeting, 7 p.m. at the Klamath County Museum

**June 14** - Flag Day

**June 18** - Father's Day

**June 23, 24, 25** - Sunstone field trip



Alyssa Carnes  
Ken Davis  
Christy Dugger  
Tera Eastburn  
Jayden Eastburn  
Ron Skog

(And Happy \*belated\* Birthday to Averil!)

## The RAC dinner table set up at the Lakeview rock show in May





## SUNSTONE FIELD TRIP TO THE CLUB'S SUNSTONE CLAIMS 65 MILES NORTHEASTERLY OF LAKEVIEW JUNE 23, 24, 25, 2017

By Marv Stump

**G**arwin is the field trip leader for this event. The club has three sunstone claims covering 57 acres located in the middle of sagebrush country, no trees, no shade unless you bring your own, and primitive camping. Make sure you bring lots of water. Sunstones can be surface collected, screened, or hard rock mined in the pit.

Maps should be available at the June meeting. Also, Garwin will give a short session on sunstones at the meeting. It is approximately 165 miles one way from Klamath Falls to the claims. Make sure you fill up with fuel in Lakeview.

### General directions to the claims are:

From Plush go northerly on County Hogback Road #3-10 approximately 9 miles, then take a right on County Flagstaff Road #3-11, go ½ mile and turn left on BLM Road #6155. At approximately 9 miles you will come to the road junction to the public sunstone area, do not turn here but continue straight ahead 2.3 miles.

Here you will find yourself at the road junction where you turn left to go to the club's claims, approximately 3.4 miles. This is a primitive unimproved road and is marked with a large yellow arrow on a metal fence post. There are several primitive roads crisscrossing this road, but the road to the claims will have yellow arrows showing the way, so "follow the arrows." In addition, the road to the claims will be marked with either yellow and/or orange flagging when you get close to the claims.

BLM Road #6155 was in great shape the end of April, the best condition we have ever seen it in. Also, BLM has improved the road from the Public Sunstone Road junction north past the road entrance to the club's claims. BLM has graded and added gravel surfacing to this section of the road that makes for smooth traveling.



### Name: Sunstone

Color(s): Orange-red/brown

Mineral Information: Sodium calcium aluminum silicate, Feldspar group

Chemical Make-up:  $\text{Na}(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8)\text{Ca}(\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8)$

Hardness: 6 – 6-1/2

Where they are found: India, Canada, South Norway, Russia, in the United States in Oregon.

About stone: Believed to be a piece of the sun. Sunstone was prized by ancient magicians, who used it to attract the strength of the sun and its associated power and wealth. It is commonly associated with the Phoenix that appeared at the first sunrise.

Zodiac association: Leo

Metaphysical properties: Energizing, empowering; it honors the male/god energies while strengthening the life force. Helpful for clearing chakras, general health, and empowering self worth. It's beautiful glittering rays help to ease depression and invigorate physical energy. Sunstone is excellent for increasing sexual energy as well as healing sexual dysfunction.

Source: <http://saracura.com/gemstones-saracura/sunstone/>

# Mining Oregon's gem

Written by Kurt Liedtke for the Herald and News.  
Published June 3, 2017.

It may not have the historic allure and Americana nostalgia of the great gold rush, but tucked away in a quiet corner of Lake County is a place where novice and expert collectors alike work side-by-side in pursuit of one of the most unique and rare gemstones – the Oregon Sunstone.

Declared the official gemstone of Oregon by state legislative decree in 1987, sunstones stateside are only found in specific parts of Pennsylvania, North Carolina and the small nook known as the Plush Sunstone Mining Area in Oregon. They have also been discovered in Norway and Siberia, and a commercial mining operation also exists in neighboring Harney County.

Sunstones are a rare volcanic creation, a feldspar crystal formed in lava infused with copper, then covered by water. An eruption of the Steens Mountains estimated to have occurred around 14 million years ago created Oregon's lone deposit of these identifiable gem stones, the area being below a vast lake for thousands of years until eventually drying up and revealing loose stones. The result is a gemstone that can appear orange, red, green or transparent, though they are most commonly found with a yellow or orange-ish hue, hence the sunstone moniker.

Gaining the nickname "Plush diamonds," sunstones were collected and used by Native Americans, and eventually gained favor by white settlers as well. The area where sunstones can be found covers approximately 7 square miles in the Rabbit Basin of Warner Valley sandwiched between Lake Abert and the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, about 25 miles north of Plush.

As interest in sunstones grew, in 1970 a collective of avid collectors discovered a method of retrieving larger more-intact sunstone deposits, and multiple mining claims were established. Today around 370 claims

exist. In a somewhat unusual move, the Bureau of Land Management assured the mining area wouldn't be completely privatized, removing roughly half of the sunstone mining area from private claims to establish a public collecting area. Roughly 20 acres of private mining claims are scattered within the public collection area.

In addition to the public collection area, several of the private mining claims allow collecting on-site for a base fee. Mechanized digging equipment is prohibited, but shovels and picks are encouraged for a day of sifting through rocks seeking out

jackrabbits.

For local rock hounding clubs in Lake and Klamath counties, the Plush Sunstone Mining Area is — pardon the pun — the gem of locales to visit. The Tallman Rock Chippers, Lake County's regional collective of rock and mineral collectors, make routine field trips to the site, and coordinate trips for the uninitiated during their annual Jewelry and Gem Show. This year's Tallman Rock Chippers show is set for Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21 at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

Klamath County's equivalent, the

Klamath Rock and Arrowhead Club, also coordinates trips to the site, albeit a much longer trip — a testament to the inherent value found on-site in the search and discovery experience of seeking out Plush diamonds. At their annual Rock, Gem and Mineral Show, held in March annually at the Klamath County Fairgrounds, Plush sunstones are among the most popular items on display from vendors.

But the collection area's appeal, as remote as it may appear, is a huge draw beyond local experts. Tourists commonly come from hundreds of miles away for a day of digging. Spectrum

Mine, Double Eagle Mine, Dust Devil Mine and several others encourage digging on their private sites for a fee, though alternately visitors can often sift through unprocessed soil and piles for free on the hunt for sunstones that may have been missed by the mining operations. Dust Devil Mine allows free digging, but charges a percentage of the wholesale value of whatever is collected.

At the Spectrum Mine, for an hourly fee, tourists can pick sunstones directly off the belt as mechanized screens sift away dirt and debris. While this garners a higher fee, the amount of sunstones typically retrieved by day-trippers tends to equal



Digging pits are a common site at the Plush Sunstone Mining area, where multiple private claims surround a public collection area in which visitors can search for Oregon's official gemstone. Photo submitted to the Herald and News.

sunstones. While there are no fees for collecting sunstones within the public collecting area, they may not be collected for trade or commercial purposes. For those seeking to profit off their discoveries, several of the private claims permit collections on their portion, for a base use fee.

The site has become a popular stop for regional rock hounds, school field trips, and curious travelers trying their luck at finding a real gem among the debris. Amenities are at a bare minimum on-site, though camping is available, so visitors are strongly encouraged to dress appropriately and bring plenty of water. The land may seem inhospitable, but wildlife is common, from roaming antelope to jumping

## TAKE ROCK-COLLECTING SAFETY SERIOUSLY

In "Collecting Rocks, Gems and Minerals," author Patti Polk offers these safety guidelines for hunting rocks and minerals in the field:

- Never go alone. Always let someone know where you will be.
- Never enter open mineshafts or adits.
- What is the difficulty of the terrain? What will the weather be like? Are you prepared? Do you have enough food and water in case of emergency? Is your vehicle in good operating condition? Do you have a spare tire?
- Know the status of the land you're collecting on. Is it public or private? If private, you must get permission to enter.
- Don't litter or leave open digging holes, and close all gates behind you.
- Know your limitations and don't ever take any unnecessary risks. No rock is worth it.

*Sunstone continued from page 8*

that of three to four days spent digging free-hand, making it worthwhile for the passive novice giving it a go on a whim.

While sunstones are growing in popularity for jewelry due to its easily malleable structure, that also is a drawback. As a softer gem compared to diamonds, rubies, sapphires and topaz, sunstones are more susceptible to scratching. Still, value is there, and with an expert cutter handed a quality raw stone, a small stone's value can go from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Most stones though are valued around \$5 to \$10 a carat, though rarer red and green ones can be 10 times as valuable.

A word of caution to those excited to start digging in the dirt, though, as the site can be difficult to reach on good days for its dry, unpaved roads. During times of bad weather, the mud makes it nearly impossible to reach, leaving the mining area serviceable only during certain times of year.

The arduous trek to reach the site and labor needed once on site doesn't deter the adventurous, with BLM estimates placing annual visitors to the site around 10,000 per year. Grab a shovel, and give it a go.

## The Grinder

### SHOW DATES

**Reedsport, Ore., May 16-18:** Annual show. Lower Umpqua Gem & Lapidary Society in Reedsport, Ore., 451 Winchester Avenue. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. The show will be held on Father's Day Weekend, concurrent with the Chainsaw Carving Event and the Downtown Artwalk. Kids' Day is on Saturday with the highlight being a Kids' Treasure Hunt. Great family event. Raffles, door prizes, displays, vendors, lapidary demonstrations. Thunder eggs, fossils, gems, agates, rough rock, jewelry, gold mining equipment, petrified wood. Free gift to the first 75 people through the door each day. Contact Bill Hendrickson at 541-271-6816 or by email, [irlindabarr@hotmail.com](mailto:irlindabarr@hotmail.com); Website: [ReedsportRockandGemShow.com](http://ReedsportRockandGemShow.com).

**Madras, Ore., May 22-25:** Annual show. All Rockhounds Pow Wow Club of America, Madras, Ore., Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission. Daily field trips, swap tables, kids' rock toss, auction, and more. Contact Sandy Vess at 253-432-4712 or by email, [Madraspowwow@hotmail.com](mailto:Madraspowwow@hotmail.com). Website: [allrockhoundspowwowclubofamerica.com](http://allrockhoundspowwowclubofamerica.com).

**C-2 HYDRAULICS MAY HAVE O-RING TYPE BELTS FOR SMALL EQUIPMENT (TUMBLERS, TRIM SAWS, ETC.). WE HAVE USED THEM ON GY-ROC TUMBLERS AND THEY WORK GREAT.** They are located at 5156 Harlan Drive, between Hope and Hometown. - Marv & Leah Stump

Have an item you don't want anymore?

Having a yard sale next month?

Contact newsletter editor Lacey Jarrell at [lacey.jarrell@gmail.com](mailto:lacey.jarrell@gmail.com) and have your items listed for other club members to see.

