

**Return Bulletins to:
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**Dusty Rocks
August
2017**



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

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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.

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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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

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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

Fellow Rock Hounds,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. This year the rock hounding has been fun and exciting. Nothing like the smell of sagebrush in the morning. I love the Great Basin desert and enjoy the flora and fauna that abounds. Thank you to all who included our members in their prayers. Please include Kristen Sayles and her family as Kristen's Mom passed.

By the time this newsletter is to print, we will have gone on the obsidian trip. I can tell you it was dirty fun. New members attended for the first time and the weather was spectacular.

We are planning our August trip to Virgin Valley for opals. If this is a rock that you like, details are included. Remember to be safe and prevent fires.

Your President,
Laura Limb

Table of Contents

Officers	Page 2
President's note	Page 3
Minutes	Page 4
Birthdays	Page 5
Tumbled rocks	Page 5
Virgin Valley	Page 6, 7
Ashland show	Page 7
The Grinder	Page 7
Lassen Creek	Page 8



Next meeting: August 14, 7 p.m.

Refreshments: Denise Sebastian and Dennis Sly



General Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2017, 7 p.m. Klamath County Museum

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

Birthday greetings to all born the month of July.

36 Members in attendance. No door prizes were drawn.

Welcome to guests: Mark and Joyce Chadderdon and Hayli Dehart.

Review of the minutes: It was moved by Art and seconded by Marolyn to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Report was given by Leah Stump. Robert Stroope, new Treasurer, requested an audit prior to assuming the position. Kristin Sayles, Vice President, to arrange audit. She needs three people to volunteer. The bank signature cards will be changed end of August.

Northwestern Federation (NWF) Report: Kathi Milem – nothing new to report. NWF is still trying to convince the club to host NWF Show. Marvin says NO. The Stamp Program needs stamps. The stamps are sold to collectors and the funds go to Breast Cancer for knitted artificial breasts known as Knitted Knockers and the Endowment Fund. Save your postage stamps and give them to Kathi.

Sunshine Report: Chris Chance – not present. Healing thoughts and prayers are sent to all not doing well.

Tick Warning! Ticks are numerous this year, be sure to check yourself after an outing in the wild or around grass and brush. Keep hydrated in these high temperature days.

Webmaster Report: Denise Sebastian – nothing new to report.

Newsletter: Lacey Jarrell – requested articles from members about their individual field trips.

Club member field trips: Tom Endicott attended the Prineville PowWow as a vendor and participated in the show's field trips. Robert and Linda Stroope visited the Polka Dot Mine. Laura Limb collected agates on beaches of Newport, Ore.

Club Field Trips: Marvin Stump

Reports:

Rye Patch Reservoir, Nev., Glen Denrow reported it was hot, no gold found, but a lot of quartz was found and some crystals.

Plush, Ore.: Sunstone claim - Garwin Carlson : Seven people collected sunstones. No wind and very hot.

Dennis Sly found a few sunstones at the Double Eagle mine.

Yadenite - A well attended event of 75 to 100 people of all ages. The site was on city property and very hard to dig. Garwin Carlson gave polished yadenite to the kids attending. Todd Kepple of the museum did a fine presentation.

Next Trips:

July 14-16: Lassen Creek/Davis Creek, Calif., – obsidian. See Newsletter article for directions

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

Sept, late (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:

August 4-6: North Bend, OR - Annual show; Far West Lapidary and Gem Society, North Bend

Community Center; 2222 Broadway; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$1, Children under 12 free;

August 26-27—Ashland , OR: Annual show; Scott Blair, First United Methodist Church; 175 North Main Street, Wesley Hall; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5; Admission \$2, Children free.

September 1-4: Canby, OR - Show and sale; Sari Trevarthen, Clackamas County Event Center; 694 NE 4th Ave.; Daily 9-5; Free Admission.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Leah Stump to take over maintaining the membership list.

Program: Garwin Carlson gave a presentation on sunstones. Most common stone at the RAC mine is called a schiller " pink to red metallic shimmer flashes from within the stone.

Next meeting: Monday, August 14, 2017, at 7 p.m. Location Klamath County Museum.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Silent auction was not held.

Refreshments: Provided by Bob and Barbara Massey

Refreshments List for the rest of the year:

August: Denise Sebastian and Dennis Sly

September: Tom and Cheryl Endicott with Jerry and Averil Anderson

October: Brian & Clarisa

November: Laura Limb & Denise Sebastian

December: Christmas Party

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl Lee

Recorder

The English word jade is derived (via French l'ejade and Latin ilia "flanks, kidney area") from the Spanish term piedra de ijada (first recorded in 1565) or "loin stone," from its reputed efficacy in curing ailments of the loins and kidneys. Nephrite is derived from lapis nephriticus, a Latin translation of the Spanish piedra de ijada.

Source:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jade





Archi Cummings
 Roy Nederbrock
 Doris Newnham
 Chuck Newnham
 Ray Ruddall
 Bruce Vait

August birthstones

Source: www.americangemsociety.org

The American Gem Society has announced a birthday present for those born in August: the stunning spinel has been added to your month's birthstone lineup! August now joins June and December as the only months represented by three gems.



The original birthstone for August was Sardonyx, and then peridot was added, becoming August's primary gem. Now spinel adds its multitude of color choices!

Peridot: Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gem's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word "peridot" is derived from the Arabic faridat which means "gem," but some believe it's rooted in the Greek word peridona, meaning "giving plenty." Perhaps that's why peridot is associated with prosperity and good fortune.

Sardonyx: Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped stone with white bands.

Spinel: The spinel is often assumed to be other gemstones because it tends to resemble either a ruby or sapphire. But its distinguishing features, like its octahedral crystal structure and single refraction, are what sets it apart from other gems. Spinel also has a lower Mohs hardness than ruby and sapphire.



In search of: TUMBLED ROCKS FOR THE 2017 MARCH SHOW

For the members who have tumblers and would like to provide tumbled rocks for the March show, we need: approximately 600 hundred pounds of tumbled small rocks (1/2 to 1 inch) for the wheel of fortune, 100 pounds tumbled of 2- to 3-inch rocks for the toddler sand box, and 150 pounds tumbled of 3- to 5-inch rocks for the treasure hunt. This is a lot of rocks, so please help.

There were no tumbled rocks left over from the 2016 rock show, so we need as many members as possible to tumble rocks. It is easier if everyone starts now and not have to rush when we get close to show time, which is the second weekend in March 2018.

Thank you, Marv

VIRGIN VALLEY FIELD TRIP FOR PRECIOUS AND FIRE OPAL

AND

CARNELIAN

AUGUST 11, 12, 13, 2017

By Marv Stump

This field trip allows members the opportunity to dig and collect opal. Don

Perryman plans on being there and will guide folks around. The club generally gathers northerly of the pool. Leah and I will not be able to make it this year.

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. John Church says that fuel is now available in Denio Junction, some 30 miles east of Virgin Valley, however it will cost quite a bit more than Lakeview fuel. We will be a long way from “civilization” so come prepared.

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). John says that he will be available to entertain us on Sunday, he will probably discuss that either Friday or Saturday evening at the campground.

There are other rock hounding opportunities in the area. Carnelian is located close, just north of Highway 140 and north of the camp ground, and small obsidian can be found about 10 to 15 miles northwesterly of the camp ground close to Highway 140.

I would encourage you to check out the websites and become familiar with each fee dig. Type in “Virgin Valley Opal” in the search engine and read what each mine has to offer and to make sure the following information is still correct.

There are currently four mines that I know of that are open for fee digging. They are:

BONANZA OPAL MINE: Open May 23 – September 7. Tailing digging only, \$75/person/day, 12 and under free with paid adult. Ph: year round 775-941-0111, after May 23, 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–September 13. New material (large front end loader) is \$600/day for one or two adults, \$100/

person/day for tailings. Children 10 to 15, half price on the tailings. Ph: year-round 541-312-2679. After May 22, 775-941-0270. Website: nevadaopal.com. Closed Wednesday and Thursday.

ROYAL PEACOCK OPAL MINE: Open May 15–Oct. 15. Bank digging \$190/person/day, \$75/person/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. Ph: 775-941-0374. Website: royalpeacock.com. Open daily.

KOKOPELLI OPALS: Bank digging: ages 12 and under free, 13-18 \$125/person/day, 19+ \$160/person/day. Ten percent discount for seniors 55 and older and military, with proof. Reservations required, reservation form available on web site. 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.

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. If they are open, 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. They 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 that 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 that has inclusions of algae or roots.

Hydrophane-Opal that 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.

Virgin Valley continued on page 7


Virgin Valley continued from page 6

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 you can expect.

ITEMS TO BRING: Most important is water. Ice can be purchased at the Rainbow Ridge Mine. 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.”



The Ashland Rocks! Gem & Mineral Show is this month!

Show dates are Aug. 26 and 27. Hours are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Location is 175 N. Main Street in Ashland (corner of Laurel and Main). It's the Methodist Church, Wesley Hall.

Cost is \$2 for adults. Children 13 and under get in free.

More info at www.scottsrocks.com.

The Grinder

WANTED: Stone bases for the March Rock Shows Wheel of Fortune mini trees. They may be cut slabs, interesting shapes and sizes and/or polished or not. We also need tiny tumbled stones for making the “leaves.” Bring your donations to the next meeting or contact Cheryl Lee at 503-867-4112 or e-mail ladymcnamara@hotmail.com.

Thank you,
Cheryl/Sherry

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 Homedale. - 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 and have your items listed for other club members to see.



LASSEN CREEK

Words by Chris Chance
 Photos by Linda Stroope

The Rock hounds came out in force the weekend of July 15, 2017. All the wagons (RVs) were parked around the big campfire and after a big pot luck, and we all sat around the leftovers reminiscing of better weather and bigger finds and all their friends that use to be with them.

If we would have taken a vote on the best rock hound in our group, Leah and Marv would have been crowned Queen and King. Out at the dig for Pink Lady obsidian, Leah was the first to find a nice piece and carried it around to show us what it looked like, then Marv let out a whoop and he also showed the diggers the beautiful piece about the size of a cantaloupe just full of color. This got us all encouraged to keep digging, or were they bragging to us? It is not easy to see color when you are seeing green with envy. Here is to, true rock hounds. No matter what color they are looking for, they will always come out on top, in our club.

Back to planning our next field trip, while we are still hot and dusty. Bring on the (cold beverage of your choice).

- Chris Chance, member RAC

